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Grocery Outlet Hosts Grand Opening



Crista and Joe Bruch were proud they were able to hire 90 percent of their staff from Dixon. There are 39 new staff members at the new Grocery Outlet Store including five high school students. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Just a year ago, Joe Bruch was working for a deli and produce chain, living in Manteca, and dreaming about opening his own business and this week, he and his wife, Christa live in Dixon, and are partners in the Grocery Outlet in Dixon at 2400 North First Street.

"I'm feeling the butterflies," Christa admitted about the culmination of ten months of management training for her and Joe. "This was really fast!" Their grand opening was Thursday morning.

Joe has been in the retail grocery business for 30 years starting in Manteca and helping to establish SaveMart Stores in Tracy and surrounding cities. But, it wasn't until these latter years of experiencing long commutes and stresses of working for someone else that made him start to think outside the

— excuse the pun — grocery box. He said the idea began to churn inside him and when he approached his wife, who had waited many evenings for him to come home to dinner, she was clearly open to the idea.

"You mean I get to do this, too?" she remembered saying. "We could work together and involve the kids; we have a couple 20-somethings and they'll work in the store," It went over well.

"But, we really wanted a small town. When Dixon came up, we knew that was it." Until then, they had only driven past Dixon but now both seem enthralled and moved here six weeks ago.

"She's not waiting up for me anymore," Joe said with a laugh.

"Yes, if he's working late, I'm right here with him working late, too," said Christa.

They also hired 90 percent of their

staff from Dixon, boasting all 39 employees except three live right here in town and five of those are high school students. They have also been members of their hometown Moose Lodge and saw that the local Dixon Moose are very active.

They have found the town very supportive including Dixon Family Services where Cookie Powell allowed their hiring event and also getting the regular updates from Larry Burkhardt the City of Dixon Economic Development/Grants Manager.

"There are a number of facets that I like about this project," said Burkhardt. "It is their first self-employment endeavor and they have a thirst for getting involved in the community; they put together a beautiful store; and, they are emphasizing whole, healthy food."

"It's all been extremely positive," *Continued on page 14*

CHP Asks Parents to Be Role Models for Teen Drivers

CHP Special Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Teen drivers can face challenges with every new experience. During National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 18-24, 2020, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) joins the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to encourage parents and guardians to discuss driver safety with their young drivers.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States, ahead of any type of injury, disease, or violence. According to preliminary data from the CHP's Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System, 255 people in California were killed last year in crashes involving drivers aged 15-19.

"Teen drivers do not have the experience needed when confronted with new challenges on the road. This can create a potential danger to themselves and others," CHP Commissioner Warren Stanley said. "Through open communication and by setting an example with their own good driving habits, parents and guardians can help keep their young drivers safe." Discussions about safe driving include avoiding distractions such as cell phones, using seat belts, obeying speed limits, not driving impaired, and limiting the number of passengers. Parents and guardians must be aware that their own driving behavior and following the same rules is as important as any conversation they may have with their teen.

The CHP provides education to help keep teen drivers alive in its Start Smart course, offered by all CHP offices free of charge. Participating in Start Smart will help parents and guardians learn how to effectively discuss the importance of driving safely with their young drivers. Start Smart also teaches driver responsibility, the Graduated Driver License program, and collision avoidance techniques. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Start Smart classes are being held online. Contact your local CHP Area office for information on how to enroll. The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★

Historical Society Wants Downtown Museum

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Bill Schroeder is known to take a minute and turn it into a long-history lesson for anyone who will lend an ear. His ancestors, originally from Germany, came to Dixon in 1866 and are considered a pioneer family here according to historical archives in the Dixon Public Library.

He can tell you all about the downtown 'Ice House' like — who built it, whether or not it was a union shop, who bought it later, and even how the ice was loaded into cars or trains. If you have more time, he'll tell you where that ice was shipped across the country and across the world and for keeping what fruit cool and what farm that fruit came from. He will make a great docent at the new Dixon Museum which is firmly envisioned in his heart.

That vision will hopefully become a reality soon at 125 West A Street in the



Back row L-R: Gary Erwin, Diane Schroeder, Front Maria Cornejo-Lopez, Loran Hoffman, Bill Schroeder, and Nelson Sparks are part of the team leading the Dixon Historical Society to (hopefully) its new location in downtown Dixon. The site is a historical building known as the Ice House and was formerly occupied by The Barn & Pantry. Photo by Debra Dingman

historic Coast Ice House building formerly occupied by the Barn and Pantry as lease negotiations are underway with landowner

Connie Lewis. "We have been getting great support," said Board member Nelson Sparks. "A museum in this building

not only shares the history but would serve as an attraction for downtown. This museum would *Continued on page 2*



Local Happenings Show 'Recovery Optimism' in the Air

By Debra Dingman

Demaray Hosts Chamber Mixer

Getting back to 'normal,' the Chamber of Commerce has announced they are hosting an in-person Mixer this month. It will be hosted by Demaray Chiropractic at 805 North Lincoln on Wednesday, October 28 from 5:30 to 7 pm.

Mixers are for the business community to meet and support others doing business in Dixon. Almost all of the civic organizations in town are also members of the Chamber as they also support businesses and needs of the community. For more information, call Carla Demaray at (707) 455-8655 or Shauna Manina at (707) 678-2650.

Charity Shop Wholesale Relocates

Charity Shop Wholesale has moved to a new location. This is the company I wrote about several issues ago headlined 'Busting out of the box.' It's in the former Goodwill/Evolution Fitness building next to CVS on North Adams Street. Grand Opening November 6 through 8

from 10 am to 5 pm.

They run a wholesale/retail customer return liquidation company and used to be on Adams Street. They have big rigs that deliver huge boxes of returned merchandise from stores like Lowe's and Home Depot and also from companies like Amazon. You can check out their Facebook page or go to CharityShopWholesale.com for more information.

DDBA Needs Reboot

The Downtown Dixon Business Association has an amazing opportunity to make good on the membership dues collected this past new year with perhaps organizing a meeting to hear from merchants on the upcoming holiday season and work on a collaborative campaign to entice shoppers downtown.

After learning that another key leader on the board resigned leaving only three gals, one now living and working in another town, I called a past DDBA President of many years ago, who recently opened a vibrant shop downtown, and we both agreed there is no better time than now to get

re-organized. She offered to step in and lead and I'm hoping the three people left on the Board see the opportunity in that.

Jill Orr, also a former President, told me there would be a decorated tree with lights in the park, but not a 'lighting festival' but I haven't heard of any official Board meetings yet so that could change when they do get together. She has no idea how the community could do a safe gathering with the COVID restrictions. Our citizens normally smash in wall-to-wall people to celebrate the Christmas tree lighting. And, there won't be a Holiday Open House at the Dixon Florist – another place people like to squeeze in to share in the holiday spirit.

But, that doesn't mean a group effort could not be coordinated with the merchants and restaurants to get the word out that they are open and will have beautiful selections for gift-giving or some kind of discount specials on gift certificates. There is still much that we could do!

Signed, Ever-optimistic Debra ★

Cool Patch Pumpkins Contribute to Downtown Decorations



Cool Patch Pumpkins farmer Mark Cooley, in sunglasses, showed up with helpers Niko Torres, right, and Armando Rubio, left, to give Susan Motley a huge number of pumpkins that she and Jill Orr would use to decorate downtown Dixon for fall. Each year this great guy takes time out of his busy World's Largest Corn Maze season to donate hundreds of dollars' worth of pumpkins to the downtown Dixon Business Association. Motley and Orr, both downtown merchants and both past DDBA Board members, sometimes have helpers but mostly, do an awesome job of decorating our downtown on their own. Dixon thanks you all! Cool Patch Pumpkins is located at 6150 Dixon Avenue West. Photo by Debra Dingman

Historical Society Wants Downtown Museum

Continued from page 1

especially complement the existing businesses here."

The inspiration for a Dixon museum was sparked in 1987 for years, and while the leadership strength waned for a bit in the 1990s, the group's goals to "preserve and protect Dixon's heritage" has remained steadfast and moving forward, said First Vice President Loran Hoffman who helps lead the all-volunteer effort.

The enthusiasm came back strong in 2000 and in addition to Bill and Hoffman, Second Vice-President Carol Abrams, Secretary Maria Cornejo-Lopez, Treasurer Diane Schroeder and Board Member-at-large Sparks are bolstered by as many as 120 members, pre-pandemic. Kayla Nelson is an intern history major who is helping get online sources updated.

The excitement at a recent gathering was readily apparent with Bill sharing dreams of the old Milk Farm sign someday topping the building and the old giant orange off A Street from George's Orange being part of the front exterior.

"We plan to model ours after the Winters Museum and have changing exhibits that the whole family can come and see," said Hoffman. If the lease goes through for this location, they plan hours of 10 am to 3 pm Monday through Saturday and 2 to 5 pm on Sundays but can extend to accommodate school field trips.

"Exhibits will be diverse, multi-faceted, and contain photos, videos, print and tactile elements. The California School curriculum standards will be used to develop exhibits and study guides for school age children," Hoffman wrote to Scott Greeley, City of Dixon Associate Planner.

The Planning Commission unanimously supported the request for a conditional

use permit since museums were not specifically designated in the 'downtown commercial' zoning. The commission also approved their sign that will be designed in the same look as the ice house sign on the building now. The request has also passed fire and engineering without issues.

"The building has approximately 2500 square feet, is all on one level and has an ADA-approved restroom. The location in the middle of town with restaurants all around, would be a plus for opening a new history museum because of foot traffic and events held downtown," Hoffman told members in the newest quarterly newsletter.

During the pandemic, the group has been able to focus on several projects including a cookbook of old family recipes which is morphing into a 'culinary heritage' of this area according to volunteers Shirley Humphrey and Mary Savage. It begins as far back as the Native Americans and the Spanish land grant recipients.

Another project is a collection of information on historic homes and buildings. While gathering information for the cookbook, Savage and Humphrey learned about many of the local businesses that were in town over the past century or longer so they recruited historian Alan Schmeiser and Bill. All together, the history and photos were transferred to the website and can be easily accessed and read.

"We have been gathering museum material for years and have it in storage," said Bill. "We are looking for things people might have in their home they can loan us [for display.] We're really looking forward to sharing all of it with the community."

For more information, email: dhs.DixonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com or see their website: <https://DixonHistoricalSociety.org> ★

Sen. Dodd: Lao Report Shows Strong Wildfire Safety Investment

By Paul Payne, Press Secretary

SACRAMENTO, CA. (MPG)

- With record wildfires raging across California, Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, issued the following statement on a Legislative Analyst's Office report detailing California's significant investment in wildfire prevention, response and recovery.

"We have done more to

address wildfires in just the last few years than has been done in all the last few decades," said Sen. Dodd, who has written more than a dozen wildfire safety bills since 2018. "But because climate change is driving more frequent and destructive blazes, we must redouble our efforts. I'll be working on that in the coming months with the governor and my legislative colleagues. Our

investment today will help save lives, homes and money for tomorrow."

The LAO report issued shows California is dedicating an estimated \$3.3 billion dollars to wildfire safety measures in 2020-21, up from \$800 million 15 years ago. A link to the report is here: <https://lao.ca.gov/handouts/resources/2020/State-Spending-on-Wildfire-Prevention-and-Mitigation.pdf>

Key areas of investment include wildfire response, with the state devoting nearly \$500 million to purchase more air tankers, firefighting Blackhawk helicopters and state-of-the-art fire engines. At the same time, the state is allocating \$230 million to prevention by funding forest management programs and grants, controlled burns and vegetation clearing programs.

Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Yolo, Sonoma, Solano, Sacramento and Contra Costa counties. More information on Senator Bill Dodd can be found at www.senate.ca.gov/dodd. ★

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Sunday
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6:30 am and 7:30 pm Spanish
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T, TH 8:00 am Spanish and Friday 7:30 pm
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New Subdivisions Now Selling Sign



Jeff Martin and Joe Orlando of Sign Tech recently installed this large sign announcing that the Homestead development is now offering homes for sale in three new subdivisions between South Lincoln and Pitt School Road. Homestead is planned to include 1,168 single-family homes of varying sizes that will appeal to first-time home buyers, families, empty nesters and seniors. Of those, 274 are for residents age 55 and older. Also included in the project are a commercial site for community serving retail businesses; 31 acres of parks, open space and trails; a fire-station site; and new roads and improvements to existing transportation infrastructure. Builders include D. R. Horton and Richmond American Homes. Photo by Debra Dingman

Literacy Gets Wheels; Dixon's First Bike Mobile

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon's first mobile Little Free Library, La Bici Rosita, will definitely be visible as RK Van Every rides a fluorescent pink electric bike around town to share even more books. Besides the stand-out color, the 3-wheeler also is fitted with a GPS and decked out with signs on either side of the book basket that say "La Bici Rosita LFL Bookmobile."

As stewards of Dixon's first LFL in three categories, first in the community, first bilingual and first bookmobile, RK and Greig Van Every clearly demonstrate their passion for reading and for increasing the opportunities for literacy in our community.

"These LFLs don't belong only to us; they belong to everyone in the community," said Greig. "It's our hope that they will bring a little more joy, a little more connection and a whole lot more reading enjoyment to our community. They welcome you to stop by 680 West A Street and to watch for the Bookmobile as it travels around Dixon."

While riding to local neighborhoods, RK follows cautionary measures



RK Van Every will be pedaling around town on 'La Bici Rosita' distributing books. It is Dixon's first Bookmobile. Courtesy Photo

established during the pandemic, including running a UV wand over each book which kills germs, scheduling deliveries, wearing a mask, and social distancing.

There came a special reward for maintaining the receptacles in front of the Van Every home recently. While cleaning and restocking one, RK discovered the book "Freckles" by Gene Stratton Porter. It was published over 100 years ago, was in perfect condition and recognized it immediately as her mother's favorite. Interestingly, it was discovered within

days of the five year mark of her mother's passing.

"I hope the individual who left the book will learn what an incredible offering it turned out to be for me," she said.

If you can contribute to this endeavor by donating books, especially Spanish-English, the help is welcome. The books don't need to be new, just clean and in good condition. Folks may order from Amazon.com and have them sent directly to: LFLs at 680 West A Street in Dixon, CA 95620.

Source: Little Free Library of Dixon ★

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MPG

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Together We Can Break the Cycle of Violence

By Monica Martinez, Solano County District Attorney's Office

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Solano County District Attorney's Office recognizes that awareness and response to domestic violence has greatly increased over the years, however there is still work to be done. We honor this time by recognizing the impact that domestic violence can have on all of our homes, families and communities. We would like to recognize all the survivors and those whose lives have been affected by domestic violence, and remember those whose lives were lost to domestic violence.

We thank all of our first responders, county partners, non-profit organizations, and all the individuals who work every day towards ensuring that victims of domestic violence are able to escape their abuse. "Our priority at the District Attorney's Office is to ensure victims are safe, their voices are heard and rights preserved in the criminal justice system, and that their offenders are held accountable," said District Attorney Krishna Abrams.

The current public health crisis has served as a reminder to us that domestic violence still exists within our community. So far in 2020, the District

Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Unit has seen a 30% increase in domestic violence victims seeking services, as compared to this time last year. As we know, this type of violence often occurs within the home, so isolated victims are especially vulnerable. We must continue to work tirelessly towards removing any and all barriers that stand in the way of victims' rights, safety, and justice.

The District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Unit is available to support victims with a wide variety of services. Please contact our Victim/Witness Unit at (707) 784-6844 for assistance. The District Attorney's Office also strongly supports a violence prevention approach and continues to engage in partnerships that provide a unique opportunity to strengthen victim advocacy efforts within Solano County. Many local resources are available to victims of domestic violence at the Solano Family Justice Center (SFJC) located at 604 Empire Street in Fairfield. Anyone in need of direct services as a result of family violence may call the SFJC at (707) 784-7635.

Let's all challenge ourselves to be more proactive by reporting what we see and reaching out to those in need so together we can break this cycle of violence. ★

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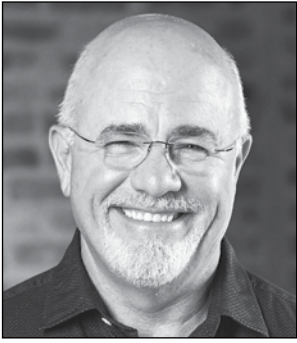
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Dave Ramsey Says

downs of the stock market to worry about.

Did you know the average monthly payment in America for a new car right now about \$554 a month? It makes my head hurt to think about that much cash flying out the window every month on something that's dropping in value like a rock. Even if you just stashed that kind of money in a shoebox you'd have over \$6,600 saved in just a year. And despite what some people say, that's enough to buy a dependable, pre-owned car.

Stick with the plan, Corey!!

-Dave

Relationships and Giving

Dear Dave,

Do you have guidelines for giving when it comes to helping family members? My wife and I are both 52, we're debt-free, and we have savings along with about \$750,000 in retirement. We agree with you that it's a bad idea to loan money to relatives, but we were hoping you could give us a little extra guidance.

-Samuel

Dear Samuel,

I love that you have a helping and generous heart toward your family. Wanting to help is a noble and caring thing. Wanting to help in the best way possible for all concerned in a sign of maturity and

wisdom.

The big thing is to make sure you're helping someone get back on their feet, and make positive changes in their life. You're not helping anyone when you give a drunk a drink, so you have to ask yourself if your generosity is really helping them or if you're just enabling bad behavior. Also, you can't give to a point where you're putting your own household at risk. You have to continue to be responsible with your finances where your own family is concerned, as well.

This isn't about being a control freak, Samuel. It's about using the resources God has given you in a wise and responsible manner. In human terms, that means helping someone get out of a mess they're in, while at the same time ensuring they're working to make sure they never end up there again!

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. ★



Amy Coney Barrett for Health Care Czar?

Amy Coney Barrett has accomplished many things in her career. Becoming an authority or a policy maker on health care isn't one of them.

At Notre Dame, she was a professor at the law school, not at the Eck Institute for Global Health. She's written for the Cornell Law Review, not The New England Journal of Medicine. She's up to replace the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the Supreme Court, not Dr. Anthony Fauci at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

No one would have guessed it, though, from listening to Democratic senators on the first day of her much-anticipated confirmation hearings. They acted as if Barrett has been nominated to become the nation's health care czar, responsible for everything from the fate of Obamacare to the country's coronavirus response.

This tack underlined political themes that

Democrats are hammering home in the final weeks of the election, but they have little or nothing to do with Amy Coney Barrett, a judge seeking to sit on the highest court in the land.

The proximate cause of the Democratic assault on health care is the imminent arrival of an anti-Obamacare lawsuit in the Supreme Court. The Democratic theory is that Barrett is being sent on a not-so-secret mission to destroy the health care law. Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois says that this is her "assignment." Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island says that she is a "judicial torpedo" aimed at the Affordable Care Act.

The lawsuit emanates from a prior Supreme Court ruling on Obamacare. To keep the law from being struck down over its individual mandate, Chief Justice John Roberts interpreted the penalty for not complying with the mandate as a tax. Subsequently, Congress zeroed out the tax. Now, Texas and other states are contending that this tax that no one pays cannot truly be considered a tax, and must be struck down - as well as the rest of the law.

It's hard to see how the suit succeeds. One hurdle is standing. The plaintiffs need to demonstrate a

harm, which isn't easy when the offending provision is a tax or penalty of zero. Even if the Court throws out the penalty, it would have to conclude that this unenforced provision is so central to the ACA that the rest of the law has to go, too. This would be a stretch.

If the Democratic case against Barrett isn't landing any blows, it is telling, nonetheless. As always, progressives don't view the Supreme Court as a neutral body devoted to interpreting the Constitution and the law as written, but as a supra legislature that should protect and advance their policy goals.

Barrett has a more modest and appropriate view of the Court's role. After getting lectures for hours about the benefits of the ACA, she rightly said in her opening statement: "The policy decisions and value judgments of government must be made by the political branches elected by and accountable to the People. The public should not expect courts to do so, and courts should not try."

In short, if she wanted to create health care policy, she would have gotten into a different line of work.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Saving for a Car

Dear Dave,

I decided a couple of years ago to start following your plan. Part of getting out of debt for me included paying off my car. I'm taking your advice, and saving up to pay cash for my next vehicle. I know you like mutual funds, so should I put the money I'm setting aside for that purchase in a mutual fund?

-Corey

Dear Corey,

I'm glad to hear you've decided to get control of your money. Mutual funds are great for long-term investing, and by long-term investing I'm talking about a bare minimum of five years - preferably 10. But I wouldn't recommend them as a way of saving up for a vehicle purchase. The problem with mutual funds, in the type of short-term scenario you're talking about, is they can go up, or down, in value.

I'd suggest a simple savings or money market account when it comes to stashing the money you're saving for a newer car. They don't pay much in terms of interest, but your money will be safe, and you won't have the ups and

St. Peter's Catholic Church News

Jesus said to him: "You shall love the Lord your God from all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. (Matthew 22: 37-38)

To obey the first commandment, we need both knowledge of God and the will to love Him above all else. This is not just a one-time assignment, but rather a life-long effort.

Knowledge of God - in order to love Him, we need to know Him. Scripture, church tradition, prayer, and the Sacraments reveal to us that He loves us deeply. He respects our dignity and free will. He generously feeds us in the Eucharist, gently corrects us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, sends us consolations to encourage us, and allows trials to help us grow in holiness. As far as our crosses, He is not cruel. He does not attempt to test us beyond our strength or to destroy us. Rather, He seeks to bring us closer to Him and puts us in reach of His graces. He patiently prompts us and waits for us to respond. He listens to our petitions and mysteriously answers us in prayer, while giving us hope in His promise of eternal life.

The will to love him above all else - He

does not ask us to stop loving our family, our children, our friends, or our favorite hobbies and pursuits. Rather, He asks us to rightly order our loves. He asks us to love Him first in order to be sustained and refreshed by Him. Then, He asks that we go forth and glorify Him by loving all else, save sin, and everyone else for His sake. As we start to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind, He gives graces to drive away sin and grow further in love. Let's praise Him, love Him, and give thanks to Him each day for our blessings. Let's thank him for everyone in our lives, including those that try our patience and our enemies, perhaps especially for them. Let's walk in the faith knowing that all that we encounter is in fact divinely placed before us. All, even our crosses, are evidence of His love for us.

If you ask those that follow Him, you will hear of suffering endured for love of Him, joy and lightness, and of the peace the world cannot give. *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matthew 11:30).*

Please check our website at stpeterschurchdixon.com for information on mass and confession times. ★

Social Security Matters

I Need Guidance on Social Security and Medicare



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am turning 67 in October and as of today am still employed full time. I really do not plan on retiring unless I am forced to. But how do I arrange my Social Security and Medical care stuff. It seems this subject is like a color, and everyone has a different color they like. Is there any way for me to figure this out with help or on my own? I could really use some guidance. **Signed: Perplexed**

Dear Perplexed: Okay, let's look at your Social Security and your Medicare separately, because they're two totally independent programs.

You do not need to do anything about Social Security until you are ready to start collecting your benefits. Since you have already reached your full retirement age (FRA) of 66, you are now earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% per month. That means that your benefit in October, if you were to claim it then, would be 8% more than it would have been at age 66. If you continue to delay applying for SS benefits, you will continue to earn those DRCs up to age 70, when your



benefit amount would be 32% more than it would have been at your FRA. The choice of when to claim your Social Security is yours to make, considering your need for the money, your health, and your expected longevity. The longer you wait (up to 70) the more your benefit will be, and if you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for a man your current age) then you'll get both a higher benefit amount and more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting to claim your Social Security.

As for Medicare, if you are now covered by your employer's "creditable" healthcare plan, you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your current employer coverage ends (when you stop working). "Creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants. If you now have "creditable" employer healthcare coverage (including drug coverage) you won't be liable for a Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare (or a drug plan) later. If you are still working and know your creditable employer coverage will end soon, you can enroll for Medicare benefits to start coincident with the end of your employer coverage. Or, after you stop working, you can enroll in Medicare during

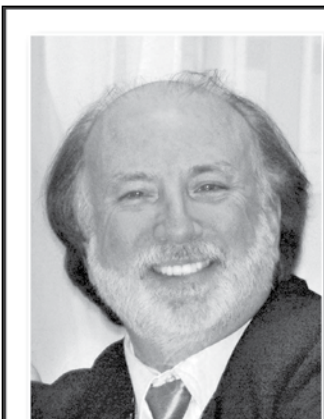
a "Special Enrollment Period" (or "SEP" for those transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare coverage). Your SEP for Medicare will last for 8 months after you stop working, but you only have 63 days after the end of your employer drug coverage to enroll in a Part D prescription drug plan.

The bottom line is this - you don't need to enroll in Medicare until your creditable employer healthcare coverage ends. And you don't need to apply for Social Security until you wish to start receiving benefits (just don't wait beyond 70).

One final point because you were born in 1953: if you are now married and your wife is already collecting her SS, you can file a "restricted application for spouse benefits only" and collect only a spouse benefit from your wife, while still allowing your own benefit to continue to grow until you are 70. But this option is only available to you because you were born before January 2, 1954.

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A Veteran Thank Today

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



Smaller, shorter, smarter.

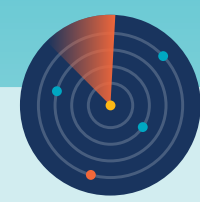
PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF (PSPS) is a statewide effort to prevent wildfires by proactively turning off power to communities when severe weather is forecast. As California battles historic wildfires, a Public Safety Power Shutoff is just one of many tools that PG&E uses to help keep customers and communities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

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



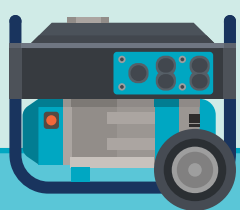
Installing over 600 devices that redirect power to limit the size of outages

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

5

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To learn more ways to prepare for a Public Safety Power Shutoff, visit safetyactioncenter.pge.com

Local Journalist to Lead Kiwanis



Dixon Kiwanis Renewed Board Commitments when formally installed for the new year at last week's Cattlemens dinner. (L-R) Cecilia Osladil, Devon Minnema, David Dingman, Patti and Mike Liu. Front: Debra Dingman and Kirsten Ireton. Photo by Justin Sousa

Dixon Kiwanis Press Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It's *deja vu* for most of the Kiwanis leaders who were installed at last week's annual installation dinner as most are repeating their commitments due to being on 'pause' during the pandemic. They were again officially installed at a Cattlemens dinner and are anxious to partner with other organizations in their endeavors this year.

Local journalist Debra Dingman, who isn't shy about promoting Dixon, will serve another term as President. Dingman is the City Editor for Dixon's "new and improved" Independent Voice and has written for Solano County newspapers for 40 years. She is also a published author. She has served two previous terms as President and has held every officer position since the club's founding in 2009 because, "I'm all about children and

so is Kiwanis," she said.

"My goals for this year are aligned with our Lt. Governor and our Governor of Kiwanis and that is to 'Ignite the Passion' and to 'Build Bridges.' We'll do both," she said, adding that the board members, Mike and Patti Liu, Devon Minnema, Raven Jackson and David Dingman are equally enthusiastic. They hope to connect with other organizations such as Scouts, Veterans, and churches to have more impact on Dixon.

"The club is in good shape and we added three new members, Kathy and Chris Wallace and Hayley Andrews who will bring fresh ideas for serving children and the community," said Patti Sousa, again serving as Immediate Past President.

The officers were installed amidst family and friends by Lt. Governor Kirsten Ireton of Sacramento area's Division 7 and witnessed by Lt.

Governor-Elect Cecilia Osladil from the Greater Sacramento Kiwanis Club.

Kiwanis was founded in 1915 in the United States and has grown to an international organization of volunteers. Members improve their communities, make lifelong friendships, and most importantly, help children thrive, prosper, and reach their full potential. It has over 700,000 members and more than 16,000 clubs in more than 79 nations and geographic areas who devote more than 18.5 million hours to service. The local Kiwanis (meaning friends) meets on the fourth Thursday of each month for a no-host dinner and will be socially distanced at Bud's Pub, 100 South First Street.

For more information, E-mail: dixonkiwanis@hotmail.com, leave message on the Kiwanis of Dixon Facebook site, or call (707) 635-3303. More information can be found on www.kiwanis.org. ★

America's Frontline Doctors Censored by Big Tech



Commentary by Harold Pease, Ph.D.

At least a dozen medical doctors from all over America assembled in front of the Supreme Court July 27 to counter the only message going forward allowed the American people with respect to the coronavirus. Many had already experienced the removal of their messages on Google, which owns 70% of most American media outside Fox News, including Facebook, and YouTube (Tucker Carlson Tonight, June 16, 2020).

Outside their COVID expertise they had one thing in common that made their contribution superior to those of Anthony Fauci (a vaccine-ologist), the CDC and WHO, they are the actual physicians of those with COVID-19. They also each had come independently to the conclusion that the 65-year-old drug hydroxychloroquine used so successfully in COVID-19 previously, also worked extremely well with its cousin COVID-19 "it's 78% similar to the prior version the COVID-1. Not surprisingly, it works."

These frontline doctors were seasoned physicians in the trenches with the virus. All knew that consequences against their speaking out would likely follow. All knew that what they had to share would be nuked by every media piping the approved media message - be afraid, stay afraid. All knew that what they would tell the American public would be opposite what most Americans were getting on establishment networks, but all were committed to tell the truth. All probably also knew that if they did not speak out now freedom of the press might be gone. If the medical profession could be silenced all other interests challenging the left side of the political spectrum could never survive. Doctors are among the most revered and least political part of our society.

They reasoned that with their combined story they might get through the wall of

ensorship already in place. They were wrong!! Google, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter de-platformed them within hours the same day but fortunately not before 17 million heard what they had to say. The establishment print press went after them immediately. It was difficult to find any press, outside Fox News, that did not undermine everything they said, our media is so controlled. It remains that none of the journalists, or fact checkers in these countering pieces were themselves physicians. They know nothing in comparison.

Here are some of the messages Google, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter refused to allow Americans to hear. This is every bit as big a censoring as burning books in the Middle Ages.

Dr. Simone Gold spoke of two phases of the virus, early and late, both treatable with present drugs. But physicians are confronted with a generated "spider web of fear...all around us and it's constricting us" and "draining the lifeblood of the American people," society and economy that "does not make sense." The virus is "treatable" now. "That's what we're here to tell you." "But we implore you to hear this, because this message has been silenced." "There are many thousands of physicians who have been silenced from telling the American people ... that we can manage the virus." Why? Because "it's 78% similar to the prior version the COVID-1" successfully treated with hydroxychloroquine. "Not surprisingly, it works."

Dr Bob Hamilton, a pediatrician from Santa Monica, California practicing for 36 years, told reporters that kids are almost entirely asymptomatic and can go back to school now, implying without social distancing or masking. "The mortality rates of children is about one fifth of 1%." Kids are "not passing it on to their parents or not passing it on to their teachers." He quoted a pediatric infectious disease specialist and epidemiologists from Scotland, Dr. Mark who said, "There has not been one documented case of COVID being transferred from a student to a teacher in the world, in the world." Dr. Hamilton continued, "We need to act out of science," not out of a generated fear. A fear respecting opening up the schools is driven mostly by the wants of teachers'

unions not the needs of the kids.

Dr Stella Emanuel, who works especially with compromised COVID patients as old as 92 with serious medical conditions: diabetes, high blood pressure and asthma told reporters, that "patients do not need to die." None of hers has and she has treated over 350 back to health. "I put them on hydroxychloroquine, zinc and Zithromax," she told reporters, and I've "not lost one." She also placed herself and staff on hydroxychloroquine as a prophylaxis as "we see patients, 10 to 15 patients every day...we only wear surgical masks, none of us has gotten sick. It works." Adding, "Nobody needs to die." Implicit in this comment and voiced by other physicians is that most of those who died could have been spared if treated with hydroxychloroquine in phase one as a prophylactic, and in phase two with the other two drugs.

And why does hydroxychloroquine work so well? Dr. Cole explained, "It concentrates in the lungs 200 to 700 times higher" than the bloodstream. The invading virus heads for the lungs but is blocked by the drug chloroquine from getting in. That is why the drug is so effective as a prophylactic. Should it get in it seeks to replicate. The addition of "Zinc will mess up the copy machine called RdRP."

Dr Stella Emanuel summed up why the frontline doctors were there. "I came here to Washington DC, to tell America. Nobody needs to get sick. This virus has a cure. It is called hydroxychloroquine, zinc, and Zithromax... You don't need masks, or shutdowns, there is a cure." Then adding, "It is time for the grassroots to wake up and say no, we're not going to take this any longer. We're not going to die." "When people are dying, it's unethical." We know how to treat this virus. We do it every day.

Dr. Harold Pease is a syndicated columnist and an expert on the United States Constitution. He has dedicated his career to studying the writings of the Founding Fathers and applying that knowledge to current events. He taught history and political science from this perspective for over 30 years at Taft College. Newspapers have permission to publish this column. To read more of his weekly articles, please visit www.LibertyUnderFire.org. ★

Out-of-Work Californians Urge Governor to Expedite Unemployment Benefits

By Nghia Nguyen, Office of Senator Jim Nielsen

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Standing in front of California's Employment Development Department (EDD) headquarters, seven residents of Northern California urged Governor Newsom to be more hands-on with helping those in need. Like millions of Californians, these residents lost their jobs after the Governor triggered a shutdown of businesses and ordered a shelter-in-place for all Californians.

"The experiences of out-of-work Californians and EDD's lack of action are shameful," said Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Tehama). "The Governor and his Administration must do better to serve the people who elected him. Californians deserve better."

Waiting for unemployment benefits has been a shared frustrating, infuriating and devastating experience.

Phone calls are cut off after hours of waiting on hold. Mails and emails gone unanswered. Endless requests for legal documents that are not always related to the applicant's claims, has resulted in a nerve-racking game of waiting.

With the support Senator Jim Nielsen, Sacramento area residents spoke up for the 1.6 million Californians who are still waiting for their benefits.

"Action must be taken now to help those who are waiting for their benefits," said La Toya Horne of Sacramento. "I don't want anyone else to deal with the humiliation and bureaucratic obstacles I had to endure. I lost my home. No one should have to lose their home while waiting for a benefit they have earned and deserved."

Ms. Horne owned a thriving salon in an upscale part of town. She applied for unemployment in March when salons were forced to close. Months later, a stranger contacted Ms. Horne through social media to inform her that mail from EDD arrived at his house. She had lived at that address 10 years ago. When she amended her application and updated her identification, EDD told her she needed a judge to resolve the issue. They later reversed their decision.

Resolved in her passion to help others, Ms. Megan Williams drove nearly 100 miles to urge the Newsom Administration to act swiftly to get benefits to applicants.

"It is very disheartening to see the lack of urgency. I feel bad for the people who are not as lucky to have others to lean on financially, or who have landlords that are not as understanding as mine. The stress of having to call

phone companies, credit cards companies, etc. to work out payment plans or shifting debt from one credit card to another, just to maintain on time payments, or keep things turned on, is unnecessary," Ms. Williams stated.

EDD just emerged from a two weeks closure that left an estimated 100,000 people unable to apply for benefits. The hiatus was supposed to "reset" its operations and implement a new system. However, Senator Nielsen's office was informed Tuesday that the backlog to review claims went from eight weeks to 11 weeks.

Understanding the financial and mental toll of waiting for EDD's sloth-like movements, Mr. Rick Walters of Yuba City joined the call to ask the Governor to immediately take action to help those who have lost their jobs due to the government-imposed lock-down.

"Government is supposed to work for us when we need help. We are law-abiding taxpayers. This experience was beyond stressful. As Governor, you need to act now to protect our citizens of this state," Mr. Walters appealed.

Like the 1.6 million residents still waiting for their benefits, Ms. April Carlton of Citrus Heights has been able to meet most of her financial obligations thanks to her close-knit family.

As an office manager and bookkeeper at a small business, Ms. Carlton's hours were reduced and she was later furloughed. EDD denied her claim based on a name change in 2018. Ms. Carlton provided EDD with judgment orders for the name change, immigration papers and proof of residence. Despite providing all legal documents, Ms. Carlton is still waiting for her backdated benefits.

"Thank God for the support of my family. Without them, I would not have been able to handle this financially straining and emotionally infuriating process," said Ms. Carlton.

Sherri Bailey of Rancho Cordova, along with her 82-year-old mother, joined the group to remind EDD officials of their commitment during the Great Recession to the public and lawmakers.

"They are not keeping the promise they made in 2008. They owe it to Californians to tell us what they did do to serve the public. Clearly, their system is still broken."

Elected to the State Senate in January 2013, Senator Nielsen represents the Fourth Senate District, which includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba. To contact Senator Jim Nielsen, please call him at 916-651-4004, or via email at senator.nielsen@senate.ca.gov. Follow him @CASenatorJim. ★



Farm Groups Pledge to Work with Biodiversity Collaborative

It will be up to a new California Biodiversity Collaborative to help enact Gov. Gavin Newsom's executive order to conserve natural and working lands. The order establishes a goal to conserve 30% of California land and coastal water by 2030. Agricultural organizations say they plan to participate in the collaborative, to assure state agencies recognize ongoing stewardship work by farmers and ranchers.

Proposals Would Expand Water Storage

Plans to expand two federal reservoirs in California would help the state adapt its aging water system to meet "significant and steadily mounting water insecurity issues," according to the California Farm Bureau Federation. The Farm Bureau and other groups say expansion of Lake Shasta and San Luis Reservoir would benefit the environment and economy. On Tuesday, the White House announced creation of a Water Subcabinet to streamline federal water management.

Pumpkin Patches Modify their Businesses

The pandemic has changed operations at California pumpkin patches. Many have closed altogether. Those that remain open require masks, have scaled back activities and revamped their spaces, for example by realigning corn mazes. Some pumpkin patches require advance ticketing to assure social distancing or have converted to a drive-through format. But farmers say customers appear grateful the patches offer a safe, family activity.

Kiwifruit Farmers Add New Varieties

New varieties of kiwifruit, with red or gold flesh in place of the traditional green, may allow farmers to expand markets for the crop. One San Joaquin Valley farmer has been working for more than 20 years to refine growing techniques for a red kiwifruit variety he says has a sweeter flavor. Others now offer gold-fleshed or extra-large green fruit. California farms produce nearly all the kiwifruit grown in the United States. ★

What UC Davis-Linked Ag Study Crops Revealed

By Kathy Keatley Garvey, UC Davis

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Sometimes distant relationships are better than close relationships.

Persimmons, asparagus, figs and other crops distantly related to native California plants attract fewer pests and diseases than the closer kin, and thus receive fewer pesticide treatments, according to a newly published article by two UC Davis-linked scientists in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS).



Ian Pearse

Co-authors Ian Pearse, research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey and a UC Davis alumnus, and Jay Rosenheim, UC Davis distinguished professor of entomology, analyzed the 2011-2015 state records of pesticide applications of 93 major California crops.

"We hypothesized that California crops that lack close relatives in the native flora will be attacked by fewer herbivores and pathogens and require less pesticide use," said Rosenheim, a 32-year member of the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology faculty and a newly elected fellow of the Entomological Society of America.

Rosenheim and Pearse examined the pesticide applications against arthropods, pathogens, and weed plants and compiled the data into a comprehensive analysis.



Persimmons are a good example "of the phenomenon we've studied: they have very, very few pests – almost zero in my experience – and that's probably because persimmons have no close relatives in the California native plant community." Photo UC Davis



Jay Rosenheim

Their findings appear in the PNAS article, "Phylogenetic Escape from Pests Reduces Pesticides on Some Crop Plants," published Oct. 12. "Phylogenetic relationship" refers to the relative times in the past that species shared common ancestors.

"It is well understood that many

of the insect pests and diseases that attack our crops are often invasive species that come from overseas," Rosenheim explained. "Almost all crops grown in California have been domesticated from wild plants whose area of origin is overseas, and many of the invading pests come from the original home of the wild ancestor of the now domesticated crop plant."

"In contrast, our study focuses on the roughly half of all herbivores and diseases that attack California crops and that are actually native to California. These organisms originally attacked members of the native California flora, but have now shifted to attack a novel host: the crop plant."

However, "host shifts aren't always easy," Rosenheim said. "It's relatively easy to shift to attack a close relative of a native host plant,

but it's relatively hard to shift to attack a very different host plant."

Said Pearse: "Our study shows that crops like dates, asparagus, figs, kiwis, or persimmons that are distantly related to native California plants – and thus separated by many million years of independent evolution – are colonized by fewer pests and diseases."

These crop plants, the scientists said, are "too different" to be attacked readily. As a result, fewer pesticide applications are needed to protect those crops. "Thus, we can capitalize on an understanding of the evolutionary relatedness of crops and native plants to find crops that will suffer less attack, and that can therefore be grown with less use of toxic pesticides," Pearse pointed out.

"The crops that require the most pesticide applications, Pearse said,"

are those, like artichokes, blackberries, and sweet corn, that have close relatives in the Californian flora and are of high economic value per acre.

California's top agricultural crops include almonds, grapes, lettuce, strawberries, tomatoes and walnuts.

Rosenheim said persimmons are a good example "of the phenomenon we've studied: they have very, very few pests – almost zero in my experience – and that's probably because persimmons have no close relatives in the California native plant community."

Pearse, a 2005 Fulbright scholar who received his doctorate in ecology from UC Davis in 2011, studying with Professor Rick Karban, joined the U.S. Geological Survey in Fort Collins in 2016. He focuses his research on invasive species and plant-insect interactions. Rosenheim researches insect ecology, with a focus on host-parasitoid, predator-prey, and plant-insect interactions, with direct applications to biological control.

Their abstract:

"Pesticides are a ubiquitous (found everywhere) component of conventional crop production but come with considerable economic and ecological costs. We tested the hypothesis that variation in pesticide use among crop species is a function of crop economics and the phylogenetic relationship of a crop to native plants, because unrelated crops accrue fewer herbivores and pathogens. Comparative analyses of a dataset of 93 Californian crops showed that more valuable crops and crops with close relatives in the native plant flora received greater pesticide use, explaining roughly half of the variance in pesticide use among crops against pathogens and herbivores. Phylogenetic escape from arthropod and pathogen pests results in lower pesticides, suggesting that the introduced status of some crops can be leveraged to reduce pesticides." ★

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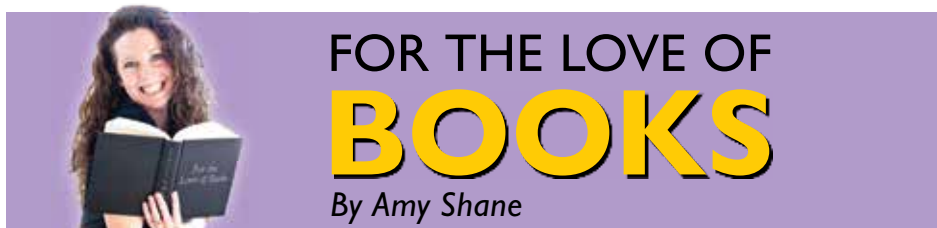
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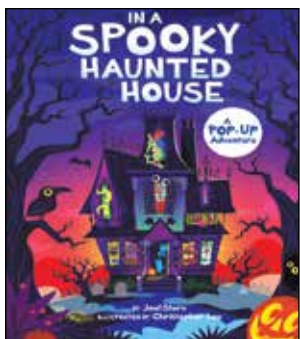


Get in the Halloween Spirit with these Spooktacular Books



The Little Kitten
by Nicol Killen;
Simon & Schuster Children's

One autumn day Ollie and her Cat Pumpkin go for a walk and discover a tiny kitten in the leaves. All three instantly become friends playing in the leaves, becoming explorers, and even napping under a tree. When the kitten awakes from its nap, it runs deep into the woods, and happily, Ollie runs after her and notices "lost kitten" posters. With Halloween night approaching, Ollie, knows she needs to help her kitten



friend find its way home, but then Ollie realizes that she is lost too. With a bit of Halloween magic in the air and a good friend, Ollie gets back home just in time for a Halloween surprise.

In this heartwarming story of friendship,

good deeds, and a little bit of autumn magic, *The Little Kitten* will instantly become a story time favorite. With beautiful pencil sketched drawings, foil embossed leaves, and peek through windows, this story is a delight.

In A Spooky House:
A pop-up adventure
by Joel Stern and
Christopher Lee;
Little Simon

Welcome to The Haunted House, where witches fly, ghosts are chefs, goblins live in the basement, and little monsters play with their mummies.

Take a pop-up tour through all the wonderful haunts in this spooky haunted house. Bright and engaging illustrations, rhyming story, and multiple pop-up scenes will keep little ones entertained as they look and search for all the Halloween delights.

She Wanted to Be Haunted
by Marcus Ewert and
Susie Ghahremani;
Bloomsbury Children's

Clarissa, the bright pink cottage, just wanted to be like her parents, looming dark and haunted. So, Clarissa sets off to make herself uninviting, but all her plans backfire. Will Clarissa ever be terrifying, grim and smelly like her parents, or will she learn an even more important lesson? In this adorable rhyming tale of a house that wants to be haunted,

readers will learn the most valuable lesson of, all that it's ok to be yourself.



The Girl and the Witch's Garden
by Erin Bowman, Simon
and Schuster

When Piper Peavy's father falls ill, she is sent to live with her grandmother at Mallory Estate. However, Mallory Estate is not a typical home; it is filled with foster children that have magical abilities, a garden that is host to many secrets, and her grandmother is rumored to be a witch. Now, it is up to Piper to wade through the secrets and lies to discover the truth in between. Yet, sometimes the truth is not all happiness, and sometimes believing in yourself can be the greatest magic.

The Girl and the Witch's Garden is a story that will enchant its readers with magic and adventure but also deals with hard truths and genuine emotion. A story that encompasses all-types of feelings, but also surrounds its readers with the possibility of magic. ★

Misusing Taxpayers' Money for Campaigns



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

California voters are not only voting on presidential, congressional, legislative and local government offices and a dozen statewide ballot measures but deciding the fate of 234 local tax and bond measures.

The California Taxpayers Association estimates that if passed, the local tax measures would raise about \$1.5 billion a year in new revenues. The proposed bond issues, mostly for schools, total nearly \$15 billion and their passage would automatically trigger increases in property taxes to repay lenders.

These are hefty financial stakes and the local officials that placed measures on the ballot have reason to worry about their passage. Voters rejected 62% of the 239 local measures on the March 3 primary ballot — and that was before the COVID-19 pandemic struck home, the state's economy plummeted and more than two million jobs were erased.

The recession that's still raging is a two-edged sword for local government and school officials. It has cut their tax revenues sharply and also tends to make voters even more leery about paying higher taxes.

City council members,

county supervisors and school trustees are tempted, in their zeal to persuade voters to vote for new taxes and bonds, to violate a state law prohibiting them from using taxpayer funds for campaign purposes.

Government Code Section 54964 forthrightly declares, "An officer, employee, or consultant of a local agency may not expend or authorize the expenditure of any of the funds of the local agency to support or oppose the approval or rejection of a ballot measure, or the election or defeat of a candidate, by the voters."

In fact, such violations have become commonplace in recent years. Under the guise of providing "information," local officials routinely hire campaign management firms to design advertisements, mailers and other material aimed at persuading voters to pass the proposed taxes and bonds.

They have done so because they know that state and local prosecutors just as routinely refuse to prosecute violations of Section 54964 by their fellow officeholders.

The only investigative agency to interest itself in such violations is the California Fair Political Practices Commission and while the FPPC lacks authority to enforce Section 54964, it can treat agencies that step over the line dividing information from advocacy as campaign contributors.

Recently, for example, the FPPC targeted the County of Los Angeles,

which in 2017 spent a million dollars for an ill-disguised, but successful, campaign to pass Measure H, a quarter-cent increase in the sales tax. The campaign included broadcast commercials in English and Spanish that used the slogan "Real Help. Lasting Change."

County officials, without admitting liability, agreed to pay the FPPC a \$1.35 million penalty for failing to report their spending as a campaign contribution. However, that pales in comparison to the estimated \$355 million a year that Measure H's passage will generate.

Last week, the FPPC invited the public to use its "AdWATCH" program to monitor the materials local officials are using to promote their tax and bond measures and upload questionable items to the agency for examination and perhaps investigation.

"The public can play a vital role in helping our enforcement division in making sure campaigns and public agencies are following the rules and ensuring a level playing field," FPPC Chair Richard C. Miadich said in a statement.

The FPPC's efforts are welcome, despite being an indirect and relatively weak way of discouraging improper use of taxpayer funds for campaigns, but it's likely to be the only way as long as prosecutors refuse to enforce the law.

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



A Film and TV
Review by Tim Riley

Riley Reviews

"HONEST THIEF" THRUSTS LIAM NEESON INTO FAMILIAR TERRITORY

"HONEST THIEF" Rated PG-13

Honestly, Liam Neeson is closing in on being a septuagenarian but he appears to have the strength, energy and vitality of a person at least two decades younger, judging by his ongoing choice of action leading man roles that took off during his middle-age.

In "Honest Thief" Neeson's Tom Carter, a former Marine with experience in demolition and land mines, is a highly skilled safecracker who targets small-town banks that maintain vaults that are not exactly state-of-the-art.

Methodical in his approach, Tom seems to have patterned his heists on the modus operandi of the 1971 Lloyd's Bank robbery in central London that was popularized in the 2008 thriller "The Bank Job" starring Jason Statham.

In similar fashion, Tom locates empty space next to the bank, drills through the walls to gain access to air-conditioning vents, and drops into the bank unnoticed to crack the vault, doing all this work over a long weekend.

Stealing \$9 million from 12 banks in seven states in about eight years, Tom became a legend dubbed "The In-and-Out Bandit" by the media, a moniker that he abhors because it makes him sound like a random crook.

To counter the press narrative, Tom lets it be known that exercising precision in his work is a badge of honor. He probably thought it best not to be confused with the speed of a fast-food burger chain.

Pride in his craft is something that will be important to Tom when he decides to turn his life around by finding true love and settling down in a middle-class suburban lifestyle.

That day comes when he meets Annie (Kate Walsh) at the Boston self-storage facility where he stashes not just boxes of cash but the kind of household stuff usually abandoned and discovered in an episode of "Storage Wars."

After some flirting at the storage facility, the story jumps to a year later when Tom and Annie have solidified their relationship to the point that Tom wants them to live together after he finds a new home.

In the meantime, Tom has not divulged his past to Annie, but he wants to come clean and start a new life. Thus, he reaches out to the FBI with an offer to turn over the purloined loot in return for a lighter prison sentence.

FBI Agents Baker (Robert Patrick) and Meyers (Jeffrey Donovan) take the call but believe Tom is just another kook offering

up a false confession they've heard many times before. They turn the case over to younger Agents Hall (Anthony Ramos) and Nivens (Jai Courtney) to investigate.

Holed up in a Boston hotel room, Tom waits a few days for Hall and Nivens to show up and hands over the key to his storage unit. The savvy bank robber should have had a clue that things were about to go south.

Lacking any kind of moral compass, Nivens seduces his family man partner Hall to reluctantly go along with a ruse to keep the millions for themselves, and it gets worse when they able to frame Tom for a murder.

Of course, Tom has a few tricks up his sleeve that will keep him from being outwitted by a pair of unscrupulous agents that have not carefully thought through their nefarious scheme.

Being fingered for a crime he did not commit is not something the honest thief takes lightly from a pair of immoral lawmen who are too incompetent to cover their tracks. Just like in "Taken," Tom ominously tells the nasty Agent Nivens "I'm coming for you."

Meanwhile, Tom is faced with confessing his criminal past to Annie, hoping she'll understand that not only his love for her but his willingness to sacrifice his freedom would result in absolution for not being honest with her from the start.

Unfortunately, Annie is placed in danger from the fact that Hall and Nivens are aware that her storage facility computer has footage of the two agents packing the boxes of cash in their government vehicle.

While the honest crook Tom ends up playing a deadly cat-and-mouse game with the corrupt federal agents, including the obligatory car chase sequences, Agent Meyers starts to get the idea that something is amiss.

The serious tone of this action thriller is leavened by the wisecracking Agent Meyers and the amusing running gag of being accompanied on duty with the cute little canine inherited in his recent divorce.

Subject to a manhunt and with Annie ending up in the hospital, Tom might ordinarily be cornered by the law before clearing his name of murder, but then you can guess how everything is likely to get resolved in his favor.

To be completely frank, "Honest Thief" is B-movie grade material that is disposable entertainment but it is what I have come to expect and candidly enjoy ever since the "Taken" trilogy offered an action venue for Liam Neeson to exploit. ★

Tips for Newcomers to the Land of Zoom



Take time to notice how you are displaying as you are talking/presenting using Zoom.
Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

I've had at least five meetings this past month on Zoom. Zoom is that great computer app that allows us to have little window boxes of participants. You can see and hear them as if they are in the next room — if they know how to set up their camera and sound.

It is great for family get-togethers or any kind of meeting with others from your clubs to your business meetings. Some professionals have them daily and have become quite the expert so I thought I'd take the tips from Ian Ivey of The Leadership Institute and offer his technical tactics for web meetings here.

1. You should be facing the light. Most light issues are easily resolved if you have an overhead ceiling light that offers bright lighting to the room you're in. If not, a small lamp at the edge of your computer screen great. Be aware of what can be seen in the background such as an open closet door with a mess showing or things strung around the room. If you have the light behind you, it makes you look like a dark silhouette — kind of scary, you know.

2. Check the angle of the camera. The camera should be at eye level but the great thing about Zoom is that you can see yourself and how you appear so take

a minute at the beginning of the meeting and tilt or angle your computer as soon as you have access and you can see yourself on the computer screen. If you are leaning back on a couch and have your lap-top on a TV tray, this is not going to go well...the rest of us will simply see your knees with your tiny head in the background.

3. The top of your head should be near the top of the computer frame and your chest should be visible. Your head should consume most of the camera and if your computer/camera is too low, try putting a couple books underneath it to lift it up.

4. Audio - If you are a participant, you can put yourself on mute by clicking on the sound options. If you are a speaker, President of the club, etc., it is better to use a headset or better microphone to improve results. Also, it is best to "mute all" when you are talking/presenting.

5. There is a green box on the 'gallery' which indicates noise is coming from that particular person/source. That is how you'll usually discover that you are not on "mute" because you can hear your dog bark really loud...and so can everyone else!

6. Participants can laugh and use gestures just like any 'normal' conversation if they are not muted. If they are muted, that can look pretty silly. Watch for people cupping their ear — that is the international signal that someone can't hear you.

Lastly, if you are an older person, remember to smile as much as possible. As we age, our facial muscles sag and the muscles around our mouth are pulled downward at the corners. I was in my car driving one day when my grown daughter asked me what I was mad at. I was surprised and said "I'm not mad at all. What makes you think that?" She said my mouth looked tense. So much for concentrating on the road ... ★

Ask Toni

2021 Medicare Part D Deductible and Donut Hole Costs... Released!



Toni King

Toni,

This year, the 2021 Medicare and You handbook did not include all the information regarding the Medicare Part D deductibles and "Donut Hole".

I got in the "famous" Medicare donut hole in June of 2020 and do not know how I got there.

I know it is October, but I would like to get prepared and really cannot find the answer online or at the Medicare.gov website. Please inform me what are the 2021 Medicare Part D costs.

I look forward what you have to say.
~ Catherine from Nashville, TN

Catherine:

You are correct that the 2021 Medicare and You handbook did leave some information out regarding the 2021 Medicare Part D deductibles or out of pocket maximums.

But guess what?? For the Toni Says® Medicare newspaper column readers, we have a big surprise! I know what the Medicare Part D cost, copays, and Donut Hole out of pocket will be beginning January 1, 2021.

2021 Medicare Part D costs and copays are explained below:

Part D changes for 2021 are:

- **Initial Deductible:** will be increased by \$10 from \$435 in 2020 to \$445 in 2021.
- **Initial Coverage Limit:** will increase by \$120 from \$4,020 in 2020 to \$4130 in 2021 where the 2021 "Donut Hole" begins.
- **Out-of-Pocket threshold cost: or (TrOOP true out of pocket)** will increase from \$6,350 in 2020 to \$6,550 in 2021.
- **Coverage Gap (Donut Hole):** begins once you reach your Medicare Part D plan's initial coverage limit (\$4,130 in 2021) and ends when you spend a total of \$6,550 out-of-pocket in 2021.
- **Does the Donut Hole really go away?** In 2020, the Donut Hole began being called Donut Hole Discount.
- **What is the Donut Hole Discount?** Part

D enrollees will receive a 75% **Donut Hole discount** on the total cost of their **brand-name** drugs purchased while in the Donut Hole. The discount includes, a 70% discount paid by the brand-name drug manufacturer and a 5% discount paid by your Medicare Part D plan. The 70% paid by the drug manufacturer, 5% Part D plan discount combined with the 25% you pay, count toward your TrOOP or Donut Hole exit point.

- **Generic Drug** when one reaches Medicare Part D Donut Hole: pay a maximum of 25% co-pay on generic drugs purchased while in the Coverage Gap (receiving a 75% discount). For example: If you reach the 2021 Donut Hole, and your generic medication has a retail cost of \$100, you will pay \$25. The \$25 that you spend will count toward your TrOOP or Donut Hole exit point.
- **Lower costs** when one comes out of the Donut Hole and enter Catastrophic coverage until December 31 and then a new year begins. Then the Medicare Part D cycle begins again with a new deductible on January 1 of every year.

Toni's Tips:

1. During Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period from October 15 th to December 7 th be sure that all your prescriptions are covered by a new standalone Medicare Part D plan or a Medicare Advantage plan with prescriptions which will begin January 1st .
2. Remember you will pay 100% of the cost if any prescriptions (generic or brand name) are not covered on your Medicare Part D plan.
3. Talk to your doctor or doctors about which brand name drugs can be changed to generics.
4. Get samples from your doctor.

Do not forget ... There is a penalty for not enrolling in a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan when you first become eligible to enroll.

Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® is giving a \$5 discount on the Medicare Survival

Guide® Advanced book to the Toni Says Medicare column readers at www.tonisays.com. ★

Proposition 16 Promotes Racial Discrimination

Commentary by Bill Bird, Parents and Students for Racial Equality

Parents and Students for Racial Equality in California is opposing a measure that would result in legal racial discrimination in California. Proposition 16, an initiative on this November's ballot, threatens to introduce institutionalized and legal race-based admissions in our public universities, as well as contracting and hiring policies in all California government settings.

"Although recent polling shows that this measure is struggling to gain traction with California voters, organizations opposed to racial discrimination must remain vigilant," said organization spokesman and former California State Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff. "Proposition 16 represents a step backwards to the darkest days of this country, when racial discrimination was openly tolerated and encouraged. This is contrary to the fundamental principles upon which this nation was built and for which so many fought to secure. The Declaration of Independence tells us all men are created equal. Proposition 16 tells us that some are more equal and deserving than others."

Proposition 16 would allow supporters to impose across the board, racial guidelines for all California public school and public university admissions and settings. It would also allow schools, colleges and other government agencies to discriminate in employment,

promotions and contracting. The measure seeks to overturn Proposition 209, which appeared on the November 1996 ballot and passed with a strong 54 percent majority in support. Proposition 209 amended the state constitution to prohibit state government institutions from considering race, sex, or ethnicity, specifically in the areas of public employment, public contracting or public education.

Recent polling conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) revealed that barely one-third of the state's voters appear to support the idea of racial discrimination. Nearly half are opposed to the proposal and some remain unopposed. A second poll conducted by the Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies divulged nearly identical findings.

"No person in California should ever be told that they cannot be admitted to a university or not awarded a job or contract because they are the wrong color or sex," said Huff. "Discriminating on the basis of race, color, sex or religion represents the darkest part of California's history. Measures like Proposition 16 only serve to divide our state at a time when everyone is needed to work together to heal wounds and create a brighter future."

Parents and Students for Racial Equality is an organization that fights for the rights of all California citizens, regardless of race or color, and believes that government must judge all people equally, without discrimination. ★

How Has the Decline in Physical Activities Affected California Residents

By Elli Carrillo, QuoteWizard

SEATTLE, WA (MPG) - The lack of physical activity is found to be directly linked to mental health along with many health conditions deemed high-risk for serious COVID-19 illness. Physical activity during stay-at-home orders found 43% of people experiencing a significant decline, which came with an increase in stress.

Our team at QuoteWizard

analyzed CDC data and found, 79.2% of California residents were found to be physically active ranking among the most active states in the country - making those in California at lower risk of serious illness from COVID-19, but susceptible to adverse mental health. If you would like to learn more about physical activity and its effect on health during the pandemic, visit our full data report here: <https://quotewiz.com/news/posts/most-physically-active-states>

most-physically-active-states

Key Findings:

In 2019 there were 64.2 million US gym memberships, with an average attendance of 104 days a year per gym goer; On average 76% of American's have participated in physical activities in the last month; Nearly 88% of workers reported experiencing moderate to extreme stress over the first six weeks of the COVID-19 outbreak. ★

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.



Saturday, October 10, 2020

- 0215** - Warrant arrest and narcotic possession report was taken 1300 block of Commercial Way. Officers contacted (S) Joseph Nesbitt (40) of Dixon. Nesbitt was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.
- 1004** - Traffic enforcement stop resulted in the arrest of Katherine Beauregard (41), of Dixon, for Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Driving on a Suspended License, and Probation Violation.
- 1217** - Civil standby in the 600 block of North 1st Street.
- 1445** - Theft reported in the 600 block of North 1st Street.
- 1449** - Stolen vehicle reported in the 800 block of Woodvale Drive.
- 2317** - Drug paraphernalia arrest report was taken in the 1300 block of Commercial Way. Officers contacted (S) Jose Anaya Jr. (32) of Dixon. Anaya Jr. was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department. Once there he was cited and released.

Sunday, October 11, 2020

- 1000** - Theft report taken in the 1300 block of Stratford Avenue.
- 1640** - Burglary reported in the 1100 block of North 1st Street.

Monday, October 12, 2020

- 0158** - Welfare check in the 1000 block of North First Street for a vehicle with two subjects passed out inside. Officers responded to the scene, and after further investigation placed Leonardo Martinez (23) under arrest for DUI. The vehicle was towed from the scene and Martinez was booked into the Solano County Jail.
- 0853** - Traffic stop in the 2500 block of North 1st Street resulted in the arrest of Mitchell Timm (30) of Davis for Possession of marijuana for sales with prior convictions, transportation of marijuana, and violation of probation. He was taken to county jail.
- 0923** - Suspicious circumstance in the 200 block of North 2nd Street resulted in the arrest of Josef Pratt (26) of Dixon for possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, and probation violation. He was also taken to county jail.
- 0930** - Graffiti reported in Northwest Park.
- 1808** - Information report taken in the 10 block of Solano Drive.

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

- 1122** - Domestic dispute in the 200 block of West Mayes Street
- 1314** - Agency assist for Tulare County SO in regards to a missing person report.
- 1350** - Welfare check in the 1300 block of Stratford Avenue. Cherry Jackson (45), of Oakland, was contacted and arrested for Possession of a Controlled Substance, Identity Theft, and PRCs Violation. She was transported to the Solano County Jail.
- 1659** - Lost property reported in the 1000 block of Vaugh Road

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

- 1117** - Raul Delgado of Woodland was contacted in the 1000 block of North First Street during a vehicle stop and arrested for driving on a suspended license, no ignition interlock device, and no proof of insurance.
- 1500** - Stolen vehicle recovered in the 1500 block of Valley Glen. No suspect information.
- 1645** - Carlos Gomez of Suisun City was contacted in the 2300 block of North First Street and arrested for possession of methamphetamine.
- 2347** - Warrant arrest and narcotics for sale arrest report was taken in the 100 block of N. Adams St. Officers contacted (S) Jeremiah Kerbow (20) of Clear Lake and a 17-year-old juvenile. Kerbow had an outstanding felony warrant out of Oregon and the juvenile was in possession of narcotics for sale. The juvenile was cited and released to a parent. Kerbow was transported to the Solano County Jail.

CLG NEWS UPDATES

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

Senator Cotton to Big Tech After Censorship of Biden-Burisma Report: 'Winter Is Coming' | 16 Oct 2020 | Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) on Thursday warned Big Tech "oligarchs" that they will soon face regulation, after Twitter and Facebook censored reports from the *New York Post* that were unflattering to former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden. After the first of the series of articles published, Facebook reduced the articles' distribution and Twitter slapped a warning label on the stories and locked accounts belonging to the *Post* and those associated with the Trump campaign, claiming the stories violated their policy on hacked material... Republican senators requested subpoenas for the heads of Facebook and Twitter to testify before the Senate. "You have big tech oligarchs declaring war on Donald Trump, on the Republican Party, on conservatives across America," Cotton said on a Trump campaign press call on Thursday. "Refusing to allow people to post the url of a story, and then they just issue a mealy-mouthed apology saying that they could have communicated better...that is not exactly the standard that big tech oligarchs apply to every story about Donald Trump for the last five years," he said. "And for all of those tech oligarchs who think they can get away with this, I will simply say that winter is coming."

Rep. Ken Buck demands DOJ investigate removal of big tech protections after censoring of NYPost Biden article | 14 Oct 2020 | Rep. Ken Buck, R-Colo., sent a letter to the Department of Justice on Wednesday, asking the attorney general to look into accusations of censorship by Twitter and Facebook, after the big tech giants took steps to limit the exposure of a New York Post article critical of Hunter Biden. "I write to express my concerns regarding Twitter and Facebook's recent actions to censor a prominent American news outlet," Buck began. "These actions violate the platform's immunity under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act and threaten to chill free speech throughout our nation." The NY Post story, entitled "Smoking-gun email reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian businessman to VP dad," touched upon reports that the former vice president's son had unscrupulous financial and business ties to a natural gas firm in Ukraine - Burisma Holdings - and that his father later stepped in to have a probing prosecutor fired for looking into the matter.

Twitter Locks Trump Campaign Account Over Hunter Biden Post - Spokesman | 15 Oct 2020 | Trump's reelection campaign said Thursday that Twitter suspended its official account, claiming that Team Trump's post about Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and his son, Hunter, is a violation of its policy. "Your account has been locked," the Twitter message said. "What happened? We have determined that this account violated the Twitter Rules. Specifically, for: Violating our rules against posting private information." The account was active and posting on Twitter again hours after campaign officials first said it had been locked. The original campaign post which Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh said triggered Twitter to take action was apparently taken down. The incident came less than three weeks from the Nov. 3 election.

California wildfire that killed 4 may have been sparked by power line equipment - The Zogg Fire erupted in Shasta County in September and destroyed over 200 structures | 11 Oct 2020 | Investigators in California probing the cause of a recent wildfire that killed four people have taken possession of equipment belonging to Pacific Gas and Electric, the utility said Friday. In a filing with the California Public Utilities Commission, PG&E said investigators with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) have taken some of its equipment as part of the ongoing investigation into the Zogg Fire. The Zogg Fire erupted in Shasta County on Sept. 27 as high winds were impacting the region, quickly growing into a blaze that has consumed at least 56,338 acres. The fire killed four people in the community of Igo and later spread into neighboring Tehama County. ★

California Mailed "Massive" Number of Ballots in Error and Risks Voter Fraud

By Jordan Gurnett, Reform California

SAN DIEGO, CA (MPG) - Reform California releases a bombshell research study providing proof that Californians are being inundated with "bad election ballots" that have been sent by state election officials in error. This report includes results of a survey of voters revealing nearly one-out-of-ten California households have received some kind of "bad ballot" in the mail.

To provide concrete proof of the problems surfaced in the survey, Reform California also provides actual pictures of "bad ballots" and testimonials from voters who say they received duplicate or triplicate ballots for themselves or received ballots for dead people, illegal immigrants, or people who do not even live at their house.

"The evidence in this report is irrefutable proof that California's voter rolls are a complete mess and the risk of voter fraud in California's election has never been greater," said Carl DeMaio, Chairman of Reform California. "When almost one-out-of-ten households in an election in a state are receiving some form of bad ballots that is a massive problem that could impact races that are decided by fractions of a percent in vote totals," DeMaio warned.

The following are the results from a survey Reform California conducted between October 10-13 using online and text screens of 1251 registered voters (4.4% MOE) in California asking them if their household received any erroneous ballots in the mail:*

HH Received Multiple Ballots for Same Person-9 at .7%; HH Received Ballots for Wrong Person-98 at 7.8%; HH Received Ballots for Dead Person-8 at .6%; Total Error Rate Per Household-115 at 9.2%**

*Note:106 responses (8.5%) indicated no ballot had been received yet. **Numbers off due to rounding.

Duplicate Ballots Mailed to Individual Voters

Reform California compiled examples of multiple ballots individual voters received with the exact same name on the ballot but a different voter identification number. While California election officials check to see if a ballot is cast twice using the same voter identification number, systems are not in place to properly review for an individual to vote twice or three times using multiple voter identification numbers. As reflected in the attached examples of bad ballots, "Peggy Smith" in San Diego, CA received one ballot using her familiar name and also received a second ballot for her legal name of "Margaret Smith."

Receiving Ballots at Wrong Household

The most common problem identified by Reform California relates to the state mailing ballots to addresses that the individual does not live at. In some cases these erroneously mailed ballots were sent to an individual who no longer lives at the address in question - having moved away long ago. In other cases the ballots were mailed to homes where the current long-time residents had no idea who the individuals were. One individual in Jamul, CA reported and provided proof of receiving 11 extra ballots at their address for individuals who do not live there.

Ballots for Dead People

Reform California received several reports of deceased individuals receiving ballots - some having died long ago.

Ballots for Illegal Immigrants

Reform California even captured several examples of illegal immigrants receiving ballots. Detecting this problem is difficult as it requires someone to admit they are not a citizen and not eligible to vote, but several individuals courageously

reported these bad ballots to the study.

Reasons for California's Election Problems

Reform California outlines three main reasons why California's voting system is a mess:

- (1) Flawed Motor Voter Program:** The State of California implemented a motor voter program in 2017 that automatically enrolled any individual who got a new driver's license as a voter. A separate bill passed the same session allowed illegal immigrants to receive new driver's licenses. California's motor voter program has been plagued by problems from the outset and state election officials have failed to properly review eligibility requirements for voters that are registered through this program;
- (2) Failure to Maintain Voter Rolls:** County election officials do not conduct proper audits or reviews of their voter rolls. A analysis of the voter rolls in California's 50th Congressional District in December 2019 found an 11% variance between the voter rolls for that district and the National Change of Address (NCOA) database used by the postal service to track individuals who move away from their previous address;
- (3) Failure to Check for Duplicates:** A simple way to check for duplicates would be to search every address on the voter rolls and examine any voters at that address who share an exact birth date. In some cases the voters may be twins or triplets, but in most cases this simple search would surface individuals who are registered more than once.

For more information visit <https://reformcalifornia.org/initiatives/voter-verification-petition/> ★

Over 2 Million California Voters Signed Up to Track Their Ballot

By Alex Padilla, California Secretary of State

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- More than 2 million registered California voters have now signed up for California's ballot tracking service "Where's My Ballot?" to receive automated notifications about their vote-by-mail ballots by email, text (SMS), or voice call.

"Signing up for 'Where's My Ballot?' is one of the most prudent steps Californians can take to protect their vote," Secretary of State Alex Padilla said. "Every active, registered voter was sent a vote-by-mail ballot for the General Election, and ballot tracking will play a critical role in strengthening transparency, accountability, and voter confidence during this unprecedented election. All California voters can quickly and easily sign up to track their ballot at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov."

"Ballot tracking has only been available statewide for a few months,

and we are seeing an incredible adoption rate. Nearly 1 in 10 registered voters has already signed up for the "Where's My Ballot?" tool. If you've already signed-up, encourage your friends and family to do the same," Padilla added.

Voters who sign up for "Where's My Ballot?" will receive automatic updates when the county elections office: mailed the voter's ballot, received the voter's ballot, counted the voter's ballot, and has any issues with the voter's ballot.

Voters who sign up for "Where's My Ballot?" will also receive communications from their county elections office about important election deadlines and critical updates such as polling place changes.

AB 2218, signed 2018, required the Secretary of State's office to provide a ballot tracking service to county elections offices. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom signed legislation to expand the ballot tracking tool statewide. ★



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Vote Yes on Measure S and T for a Better Future

I am one of the proponents of the Initiative that put the outrageous water rate increase on the ballot. We worked hard to bring education and awareness of this matter to the Citizens of Dixon and we collected more than enough signatures required.

(We only needed 605 signatures to qualify the initiative, but collected 1,432 good ones!)

First and foremost, I would like to thank the citizens that signed the petition. We need to stop this water rate increase and force the council to come up with feasible options. Most people are struggling financially due to Covid, and it could get worse. We need to be supportive of each other.

This last year, I attended City Council meetings and workshops about the water rate increase and I came to the conclusion that the City was not forthcoming with information thus, I decided to get involved.

As stated in the "Argument in Support of Measure S" that was to be included in the Voter Guide mailed to the Voters "City leaders did not justify why the three wells need to be replaced, including providing the results of any downhole video inspections and engineering assessments. They did not even explain why well rehabilitation measures, such as swaging, lining, hydraulic and chemical treatment, pump modification, or the use of in-well sand separators cannot be used to extend the service life of the wells in a cost-effective manner."

Did you know that all information on Measure S and Measure T were not printed in the Voter Guide in District 1 and District 2?? Those two Districts represent approximately fifty percent (50%) of Dixon Voters. Was this omission made because of incompetence or was a willful attempt to confuse the voters? Have you read anything about this mishap in the local newspapers? I have not!!! It is interesting that the most outspoken council member against Measure S and Measure T is council member Jim Ernest who represents District 2!! I have witnessed this council member displaying unprofessional behavior, with angry emotional outburst, towards citizens, who expressed their concerns in council meetings. This council member should apologize to any citizens of Dixon, who spent their time to exercise their Constitutional Right and collected signatures for an initiative, that is for the people. By not remaining poised, professional, and effective under pressure, and referring to its citizens as "Extreme political group," is uncalled for.

For this reason alone, of having a new system of "Checks and Balances", in our City, I urge Dixon Voters to Vote Yes on Measure S and Measure T and let's get more involved in our City for a better future, and to support each other during these hard times. "We are the people", in pursuit of happiness.

Shari Borkin

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Vote Yes on Measure S

Sir,

This is to address Measure S, finally placed on this ballot, November 3 for residents' consideration for the funding for the various maintenance components of the city water district deemed Immediate, near future, and then beyond. The current date is converging on the 6-month Anniversary of the imposition of the second-rate hike on both the water delivery fee at the meter and the water consumption fee post the meter. The ADDED 55% rate increased on April 1st. The City of Dixon elected to declare the rate increase with the June 2020 Billing. As a Concerned Citizen and resident of Dixon, I know that this Water system provides us excellent water for our families. Water rate changes WILL be needed to sustain and keep it that way. AND we don't have to provide for these projects with a Bond. We could be paying lesser monies into the dedicated Enterprise Fund even now for this to be a self-sustainable, self-financed Fund that will pay for ALL the engineering, replacement, ongoing the maintenance needs of our Water system. Dixon's residents will be sacrificing themselves to pay off the Bond holders \$35 M -50 M for the described ??? \$ 14 -\$18 M infrastructure replacements and maintenance. Self-financing

on rate increases that are 1/2 the \$\$ we're paying now; we don't pay Bond holders \$35 - 50 M, and in 15 - 20 years THE CITIZENS of Dixon accrue \$10 - 15 M in their fund above expenditures. So ,we can have money in the "Bank" and not paying out for the Bond capital and interest. And this does not include the new residential development water connections and their usage contributions. We need to defeat the current rate status ONLY so that a fair and equitable approach IS EMPLOYED. Our Dixon City Water District can continue to deliver and manage all its quality and quantity expectations without anchoring the district to being funded by use of a Bond funding. A Council member at the time, days before their vote in 2019 recounted to me that it was a preference "to have ALL the money up front or to wait to spend it when they had it ". And another Council member in a recent prior conversation between them said that "if someone didn't like it, that they could move out of Dixon." VOTE YES ON Measure S. Rate Payers of the City of Dixon Water District can end this Era of Error with voting YES on Measure S.

Michael Jones
Dixon, Calif

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

NO on Prop 15

"There is an exodus. California businesses are leaving the state in droves. In just 2018 and 19, which were economic boom years, 765 commercial facilities left, 13,000 between 2009 and 2016. Super-high taxes, potholes in the road, fires. I don't know what I'm getting for my super-high taxes." - part of recent interview of liberal Californian and HBO star Bill Maher!

Proposition 15 is one of the worst measures the legislature ever put on the ballot. It removes the long-standing protection of 1978's Prop 13 on taxing property. It allows counties to reassess large business properties every other year. The tax bite on them would be huge and unpredictable in the future.

Think about It. Higher property taxes will only accelerate the departure of many larger companies - jobs are lost from these companies that generally can afford to pay their employees better. Larger companies that remain will undoubtedly increase prices to cover the higher cost - passing it along to those they serve, no matter their size, and indirectly or directly to us. When prices rise, sales generally decrease and both large and small businesses suffer. We pay even more and more jobs are lost.

Even in the best of times, raising taxes on California businesses is not a smart idea. Even Bill Maher seems to agree. Vote NO on Prop 15.

Gary Eckman,
Member of Central Solano County Taxpayers Group
Fairfield, CA

CANDIDATE FORUM

QUESTION 8: FOR ALL CANDIDATES EXCEPT TREASURER. “Dixon is at a crossroads. If elected, you will be providing leadership during a period of rapid growth and change. Dixon’s population will be pushed to over 25,000 in the next five years as homes are completed in The Homestead Project and the “building out” of the south area near the new high school. What do you anticipate to be the most important issue facing the Dixon community during this transitional phase and how will you go about mitigating it?”

QUESTION FOR THE CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER. “Given the inevitable loss of revenue due to COVID-19 and business closures, what fiscally responsible steps would you recommend to the council to maintain city services given a revenue shortfall?”

This is the last question that candidates will answer before the election. We are grateful to the individuals that submitted questions for candidates to answer. The individuals who submitted questions were a cross section of the community: an

individual representing business, an activist, a young person, an educator, senior, educator, retired scientist, etc..

We grateful to Paul Scholl for providing the support and space for the question and answers. Five candidates running for office

answered the community’s questions each week – thank you to each candidate.

We were disappointed that three candidates chose not to participate. To us this was difficult to understand because you are who they will represent in their council

decisions. How you factor this in when you vote is your decision.

It has been a pleasure to provide this information to you.

DIV Columnists Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey



THOM BOGUE
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

It has always been my position that there is a need and a way to maintain our small town character. I have seen other communities develop in what I would call Brick and Mortar which causes them to lose their character. The manner of continuing development I believe should occur is making green belts around each new development, this in turns separates communities visually and also

inspires neighbors to meet neighbors.

In addition we need to increase our parks, street and landscaping maintenance departments to meet the standards we expect as our city grows. One of my goals in being re-elected is to do just that. We have increased our Police and Fire Departments to meet our city needs, and although personnel within these departments will need to increase overtime maintenance now needs to be the priority. 134

My other goals to meet our city needs are to support youth programs, find alternative means to address the needs of our Water District, and develop a manner to address the impacts Covid-19 is having on our community.

Thank you for the faith you have had and hope to continue that inspiration as your Mayor.



STEVE BIRD
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

Chose not to participate



DEVON MINNEMA
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

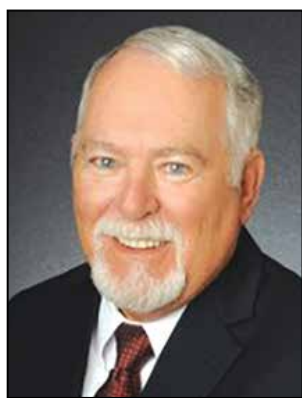
It is hard to choose one issue that is most important during this impending period of growth, however I believe that the City of Dixon must go back to basics. In recent decades, the local government has strayed from its basic obligations and, in doing so, wasted monumental amounts of time and money.

We must balance the budget, ensure the viability of our emergency services, and rebuild our

infrastructure in a way that will last for generations. We must also fundamentally adapt the structure of our city government to ensure the engagement of constituents, the timely maintenance of our assets, the economic opportunity of our residents, and the preservation of our sense of community.

A lot of politicians talk about being “proactive,” including myself, but I have learned that even that term implies an inherent loss of local control. If we are going to be a city that our children can be proud to call home, we must be intentional about designing a government that protects their rights, grows their opportunities, and provides quality commons for all of us to enjoy.

It is time for Dixon residents to claim their destiny, claim their home, and vote Minnema for Dixon Mayor



TED HICKMAN
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

Disqualified from participating



JERRY CASTANON
District 4 Council Candidate

Chose not to participate



LOGAN LEGG
District 4 Council Candidate

I don't think we can isolate a single variable when discussing how we can proactively remain ahead of the curve in regards to growth. I think a few of the issues that have been, and will only be exacerbated are those of affordable housing, diversion of traffic, and increase in crime. Our affordable housing issue has been prevalent for quite some time, although measures have been taken to help ameliorate the burden that increases in costs of living will have, without further

addressing this issue, there will be a greater number of homeless and empty plots of land. Mitigating this can be fixed through an analogous structure similar to that of the Yes in My Backyard initiative as well not comparing Dixon property prices to those of contiguous Solano cities and thus making Dixon real estate more representative of those living in town. The second is diversion of traffic; growth inherently means that more vehicles will be in town and with 113 still running through downtown along with both the middle school and high school being high density areas, it will magnify the dearth of alternative routes and streets that Dixon has.

This salient issue can be fixed by improving our roadway infrastructure and diverting large vehicles away from residential zones.

(Remainder of response exceeded the word limit)



DON HENDERSHOT
District 4 Council Candidate

Chose not to participate



KEVIN JOHNSON
District 3 Council Candidate

This is a difficult question with the unknowns related to COVID-19 epidemic. We need to look inward and analyze our processes and services. Our initial focus needs to be on efficiency of services both related to delivery to our Community and our City Budget. If we may assume that we will soon have significant improvement related to COVID-19... What is next...?

As we grow, which appears to be well on its way in the south (Near High School and Valley Glen) and Southwest Master Plan – focus should be on infrastructure, safety and good decisions where still vacant development areas afford us the ability to still bring to Dixon critical economic/ industrial, retail uses lacking in our City. We MUST complete our General Plan Update. Traffic Flow, Parkway Overpass, Our Park & Recreation Areas, the addition of our 2nd Fire Station... We (Our Community) need to be on the same page and focused. With the GP update complete, we are very much overdue for a comprehensive review of our Short and Medium Goals as a City. Having an organized plan with synergy in a known direction this will create an efficiency of effort and a mitigation of waste.



JAMES P. WARD, JR.
Candidate for Treasurer

To remind businesses to take advantage of government loan programs and utilize SBA when possible. In budgets, there are three types:

- 1) A Surplus Budget
- 2) A Break-Even Budget,
- 3) A Deficit Budget.

Understanding each of the components of these types, allows one to plan the budget properly.

Monitoring budgets

monthly is a healthy financial process, but does not always give one a clear picture of the future necessarily. Asking what are the City’s priorities? And they must make well informed decisions that will maintain financial health.

I will be a trustworthy, impartial, methodical, practical, available and transparent as the Dixon City Treasurer.

I would like to thank Mr. Paul Scholl for space in the I.V. for all our responses during this selection cycle. And certainly last, but not least two women, Ms. Loran Hoffmann and Ms. Shirley Humphrey for all their reminders and work that they do.

Respectfully submitted,
James P. Ward Jr.

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 12

C	H	E	S	S		S	K	A		S	T	O	P	
R	A	S	T	A		N	I	L		F	L	U	M	E
T	R	A	I	T		A	R	P		L	E	P	E	R
	T	U	R	N	I	P		H	O	U	D	I	N	I
		S	A	C		R	A	C	K					
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R	A	T	E		N	O	T	E		S	A	U	T	E
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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 12

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

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Bobby Fischer's game
- Reggae precursor
- Octagonal sign
- Haile Selassie's disciple
- Goose egg
- Water-filled gorge
- Blue eyes, e.g.
- Jean of Dadaism
- Pariah, for medical reasons
- *Pumpkin's Halloween precursor
- *Famous magician who died on Halloween
- * mortuaire, or body bag in Paris
- Nordstrom's outlet
- * "Now or Never"
- Good or bad and felt by others, sing.
- Haiku, e.g.
- Equal to distance divided by time
- Post-it slip
- Quickly fry
- Type of mountain goat
- *Graveyard denizen
- Heart of the matter
- Tender spots
- Bailing twine, e.g.
- Icelandic epic
- Boss
- Greek muse's strings
- Up and down nod
- *Beware the ___ of March
- One of seven, in eponymous 1995 film
- *Dead one
- *Jordan Peele's scary 2017 film
- Dodge
- Freud's concern
- Pertaining to hours
- *Funereal feeling
- Swindle
- Boredom
- Adult elvers
73. Human digit
74. *What vampire does in a coffin

DOWN

- TV tube in days of yore
- Wagner or Powers in a TV classic
- Isaac's firstborn
- Mixes up
- Geo-spacial positioning system, for short
- Ginger cookie
- Crème de cassis plus wine
- Top dog
- Musher's ride
- Language of Tupi people
- *Black cat, possibly ___ wig or ___winkle
- Oopsie daisy moments
- Best part of cake?
- *Halloween month
- Alters to be more useful
- Type of coffee with alcohol
- Forbidden
- Howard of radio fame
- Physicist Niels ___
- Preakness, e.g. ___
- Like cottage cheese
- Piano student's exercise
- *Leatherface's state
- Biz bigwig
- ESPN award
42. To the point
45. *Scary story-related sensation
49. Lyric poem
51. Choice word
54. Upright
56. Nary a soul
57. Give up
58. Skin soothing gel
59. Boring
60. Fussies
61. Departed
62. *RIP pots
63. Like a bow string
66. Gunk
68. Fleur-de-___

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 12

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

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SUDOKU

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

Solutions on Page 12

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THE DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE

Assisted Living Facility to be Built on Gateway

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - For many years, Dixonites who made their home here have had little choice but to leave the community when they needed a bit of assistance to live healthy and safe while growing older. Within the next couple years, that will no longer be the case.

A long needed residential assisted living and memory care facility housing 88 beds and up to 100 residents in a contemporary, 2-story facility looking more like a hotel will be open on Gateway Boulevard. Plans submitted by Chronograph Properties and Caslon Management Company based in Vacaville got a unanimous vote for support by City Planning Commissioners this past week after a detailed discussion of the project and staff's recommendation to approve.

"This is not a nursing home," said Sam Thomas, Senior Specialist Architect. "The average age of our residents is 82 and our residents are still somewhat mobile." There will be a centralized dining facility, social activities, and 24-hour staff on site.

The development is led by Jason Reyes, owner of Vacaville-based Chronograph Properties, Caslon Properties, and Lenity Architect. Chronograph is a family-owned business and now owns several assisted living facilities in California including Courtyard in Vacaville.

"I'm a second generation operator. My mom has been an assisted living administrator since I was born," Reyes said. "I'm an only child and I would do BINGO and puzzles and activities which turned into volunteer time in high school then college." He recalled when he was in college, his mom called devastated that the community she worked at for seven years had been sold.

"I'm going to build you a community that you can work at," he promised. "I



Architectural rendering of what the Assisted Living and Memory Care Facility will look like when finished on Gateway Boulevard within two years.

was 22-years-old and had no clue what I was doing. I spent five to six years with a business plan, locking up land in Vacaville, and refining that. I eventually found two local [partners] and our first one was Cornerstone. That was ten years ago and today we have 17 communities that are operational, three being built, and we're opening one in Vallejo in December," he said.

"She's still my regional executive administrator, she keeps our business alive, and we work together everyday," he added. "She's the best and I have a great relationship with my father as well and I work with my wife and two aunts. It's very special. Being from Vacaville, this is one of my top priorities." Chronograph's philosophy, Reyes said, is to enrich their tenants' lives.

"Growing old doesn't mean you're closing the book on life," he said. "One of our biggest challenges with this generation in their eighties is that they still have a negative stigmatism of what [assisted living] is. We move people in all the time and soon, you can see them relax with a complete transition in four to five weeks. It takes time. As we move toward the baby boomers they are going to expect more because they are going to know what to expect."

The company plans to break ground in Dixon in the spring or summer of this next year and will be working on construction over that winter on two parcels that will be merged to one for the project on just over two acres.

"We are 100-percent confident about moving forward and we should close on the property in the next 90 days," Reyes said after an audience member questioned about a proposed similar facility in May by another company in another part of Dixon that failed to go through.

"I could not be more excited," said Commissioner Kevin Johnson. "For people who have raised their families here and I thank you for your willingness to invest in our town. Good luck - start digging!"

The project will back up to the Pheasant Run subdivision and there were no objections to it when notices were sent out via both email and through postal carrier. That is most likely because there is a 25-foot setback between those homes and the new building plus trees and attractive landscaping. The building will be set closer to the front of the parcel, rather than the back.

Reyes said there are "powerful statistics" to support the company's expansion/building plans.

"In 2016, there were 6.4 million Americans 85 and older. By 2040, it goes to 14.6 million. So, in a period of 24 years, it is a 126 percent increase," he said. "We have this aging population that there is not enough quality community in general let alone ones that offer the high level seniors deserve. In reality, we feel confident [building] two to three communities a year because we know how substantial that care and that need is going to be." ★

Grocery Outlet Hosts Grand Opening

Continued from page 1

said Christa. "It's made a huge difference in all our transactions." They also have been very pleased with the support from the Regional Merchandising Team folks like Roosevelt Kelly who was on hand stocking shelves all over the store this past week.

Founded in 1946, Grocery Outlet is a unique and simple business. The company works with many notable national brands to buy their overruns, surplus inventories, repackaged products, and perishable foods. They purchase the items in bulk and sell them to customers at deep discounts, often up to 60% below conventional grocery store retail prices.

"It's the T.J. Max of grocery stores," said Joe.

Annual sales at Grocery Outlet Bargain Markets climbed from \$500 million in 2001 to over \$2.5 billion in 2019. They have more than 350 stores nationwide and apparently don't plan on hitting the brakes anytime soon. It's



Joe and Christa Bruch are new Owner/Operators of the Dixon Grocery Outlet that opened Thursday on the corner of North First Street and Vaughn Road. Photo by Debra Dingman

no secret that they have plans to expand aggressively throughout their current footprint in five western states (California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Nevada) and the Mid-Atlantic region.

"Shopping at the Grocery Outlet is like a treasure

hunt," said Joe. "There's some great deals and sometimes we even get things before they've been introduced out into the public. It makes grocery shopping fun and entertaining." For more information, see their Facebook page or call (707) 676-5556. ★



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Parole Board Hearing for Inmate Natalee Brown

By Monica Martinez, Solano County District Attorney's Office

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On October 15, 2020, a parole hearing was held for Inmate Natalee Brown, who is currently serving a life sentence at California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) California Institution for Women - Chino. Chief Deputy District Attorney Sharon Henry appeared on behalf of the People and argued against her release. However, at the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Parole granted Inmate Brown's request for parole.

Inmate Brown had previously been found Guilty of First Degree Murder, Kidnapping, Kidnapping for Carjacking and Carjacking by a jury on April 26, 2002. Regarding the conviction, a family member of Mr. Ishida stated, "I have to find peace, but because my son was tortured for two hours, I may never find peace. This has changed all of our lives forever." Inmate Brown was subsequently sentenced to 25 years to Life for First Degree Murder and Life with the Possibility of Parole for Kidnapping for Carjacking.

Senate Bill 1437, which provides for the re-sentencing of certain persons convicted of First Degree Murder pursuant to a Felony Murder theory, went into effect in January 2019. Pursuant to this bill, Inmate Brown petitioned the Solano

County Superior Court for re-sentencing. On October 1, 2019, having granted Brown's petition, the Court vacated the murder conviction and re-sentenced her to Life with Possibility of Parole for the conviction of Kidnapping for Carjacking.

The evidence elicited at Inmate Brown's jury trial showed that Inmate Brown, together with Co-defendants Dante Love and Glen Green confronted a man, Kenneth Ishida, in his apartment complex in Berkeley, California. As Co-defendant Love pointed a gun at Mr. Ishida, Inmate Brown took his car keys and opened the trunk. The victim, Kenneth Ishida, was ordered to get into the trunk and his wallet and debit card identifying information were taken from him. Inmate Brown transported the victim in the trunk to a secluded location in Vallejo where Co-defendant Love removed the victim from the trunk and shot him several times killing him. Inmate Brown and Co-defendant Love drove to Richmond, Ca and continued to use the victim's credit cards after his death until they were arrested.

Solano County District Attorney's Office opposed the release of Inmate Brown, arguing that she still posed an unreasonable risk to public safety. Inmate Brown testified at her parole hearing in support of her request for release. The Parole Board granted her request for release finding that she does not pose an unreasonable risk to the community. ★

