



## What's Next for California's Job Market

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# Dixon's Independent Voice

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## PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM FRAUD



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## A Houseplant Boutique



Above: Shar Agvateesiri is opening 'Mother: A Plant Boutique' after being a research scientist at UC Davis. Right: The boutique sells several species of miniature plants. Photos by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - They are everywhere: In your living rooms, next to your kitchen sink, on shelves, or in the center of your table. Small ones may be tucked inside bathrooms and bedrooms and really large ones grow in the corners of medical offices. They are indoor plants – and they are experiencing a massive boom in popularity.

In the recent months of shut downs and restrictions, people have had to find an outlet for their nurturing side and sought Mother Earth's natural remedies for soothing us in difficult times. For Shar Agvateesiri, her plants brought a kind distraction

from her grief over her father's death. This 30-year-old was a research scientist at UC Davis and opens 'Mother: A Plant Boutique.'

"I worked in pediatrics, particularly with preemies, so there was high mortality," she said. "By the time I got involved, they were terminal." Although her work brought significant findings, she admitted it was a difficult place to be working in. Then recently, when her father died at age 63, "the mortality issue made it really hard to go back," she said.

She wanted to keep the ones that

came in honor of her Dad and she had picked up houseplants over the years but now she really sunk herself into them.

"It was therapeutic," she said and her idea of 'Mother: A Houseplant Boutique' started forming in her mind.

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## Festival of Trees Latest to Succumb to Trying Times

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Not one happy face was visible at the Kiwanis Club of Dixon Board Meeting via Zoom when discussing the potential cancellation of their beloved Festival of Trees. The event was slated for the first Saturday and Sunday in December and normally involves more than 30 business sponsors and hundreds of volunteers who decorate trees, sing, dance, and perform for the community at the Veteran's Hall.

The organizers worked on a miniature version involving less trees and less performances but club members felt it took away too much of the feel of the Christmas endeavor.

"It will be quiet this year, but under the circumstances of the Coronavirus, the fires, and everything that has been so devastating, I don't think we have a choice but to cancel this project this year," said Past President Patti Sousa. "This decision is so sad for our club as it is our major fundraiser which affects the many grants and scholarships we give to others."

The officers are looking at other fundraisers that will allow social distancing and have continued to do service projects with many of those on their own time instead of in a group.

"Hopefully, by the time Breakfast with the Bunny rolls around next spring," said Sousa, "everyone will be back in the swing of things and we'll have a super pancake breakfast the Saturday before Easter."

During the shutdowns, Dixon Kiwanis supported the development with a new Spanish version of a Little Free Library on A Street, spruced up the Veterans Memorial Building on First Street, wrote letters to patients in nursing homes, donated Spanish books, volunteered at fire relief events for both humans and animals, and have done clean-ups around town individually or in family groups.

Several of the Board members also attended division-wide leadership training over the summer as well as a national convention also via online sources.

They currently meet together via Zoom on the fourth Monday of each month. Kiwanis is a global organization improving the lives of children one community at a time. For more information, email dixonkiwanis@hotmail.com or call Sousa at (707) 635-3303. ★

## Valley Glen Construction Causes Unwanted Slithering Visitors

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - After a Valley Glen resident killed what he thought were two rattlesnakes in less than two weeks in his front yard, he started making phone calls to protect children and families in the nearby Veterans Park that is just on the other side of a large area under construction for new homes.

"When they're doing construction in a field you'll have everything that is living out there coming your way. They are basically evicting these creatures from their habitats. So they have to go somewhere," said Joe Lam of RNW Reptile Rescue.

"Both snakes were juveniles and rattled their tails and had a diamond pattern down the top of their



New home construction displaces animals from their natural habitats. Photo provided by Debra Dingman

backs," said Bill Higgins who estimated that each of them were about ten inches long. He called the Solano County Human Animal Services who told him if he could keep his eyes on

them, they'd come out but if a snake can slither away, they can't take the time for a check. Rattlesnakes are large, venomous snakes that are found throughout North and South America.

If you can see it under a house or on a roof, they'll come out, dispatch said. They were able to refer him to Lam and his wife, Wendy, owners of a Vallejo

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# Finding Relevance Somewhere Other than Facebook

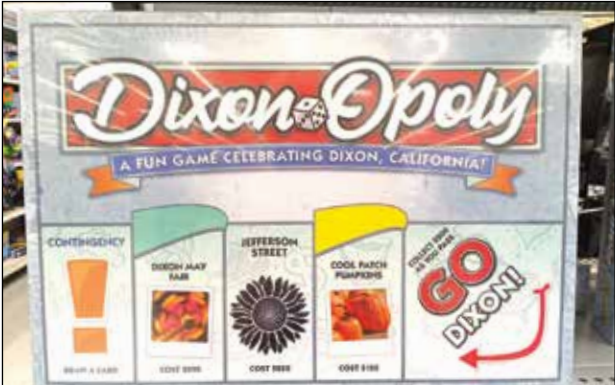
By Debra Dingman

I’ve been wanting to write on the topic of finding relevance because I’ve noticed an increase in the number of people that seem to have lost their purpose during the pandemic. It’s like watching someone start to slip off a slippery rock and grabbing at tree limbs to hang on. It is sad. I want to shake them up and say, “Hey, there is a HUGE need out there! Just START!”

I know this topic well because twice in the last five years, I had to leave Dixon and go to an entirely different town. The first time was to Dallas and I tried so hard to fit in. It was painful not to feel relevant. My children were back in California with my grandchildren living life to the fullest and not needing me at all. So, you might say I created my own relevancy: I wrote my first book.

If there is anything that helps a person feel that they lived a life worth living, it is looking back at your past and seeing how much road you’ve travelled and how much you’ve learned. That is what the book did for me. I felt sure that someone, somewhere might learn my lessons without having to experience them as painfully as I had – if they chose to read my story. I was hopeful it would be helpful.

Then while it was being published, I became despondent again. I’m certain I pestered my hubby at work way too much lamenting about how humid it was or how the storms frightened me or how I cleaned the apartment in 20 minutes. I did not feel I was important to anyone. Okay, maybe hubby... So, I got a job I loved at a hospital and that made me feel valued to the other workers and certainly our customers who always



This limited edition of DixonOpoly is brought to you courtesy of Derek Wensky, Manager of the Dixon Walmart, who worked with staff and the Dixon Historical Society to bring it about. The board game sells for \$19.98. Photo by Debra Dingman

needed something. I found joy even in the hard work of re-stocking or working Sundays.

I sought out other downtown associations, civic organizations, and Chambers to get ideas that maybe Dixon could someday use. Then we moved to El Segundo, California, for a year and I spent another several months improving me, taking online classes to build my skills and going through intensive counseling to re-connect to my voice, desires, and goals. No one can take away who I am and what I’ve accomplished. Other’s rejection cannot diminish me.

The greatest thing I learned from those classes was that feelings are what make us uniquely human. It is okay to have them and definitely okay to express them; just say it nicely. And, if someone responds aggressively or reacts with a mean spirit, you can bet it is his or her problem; not yours.

Of course, I visited El Segundo Kiwanis Club and frequently flew or drove to Dixon but I also found another job I loved and the children there gave me the best sense of self-worth ever.

There are some people in this town that seem to suffer from lack of relevance. If you are on social media daily and/or drink a lot in the evenings, and/or if you

moved away from Dixon but still hang out on Dixon social sites, you are probably suffering from loss of relevance.

If you are wondering how do you keep the respect you once had or the sense of purpose you once knew as you retire or sit at home during the pandemic restrictions, please volunteer or be willing to work for low pay just to help our little city go forward. I can promise you that there is much need.

Don’t spend too much time on Facebook; that’s called being a troll. If you must, only post things that are truly helping our community move forward. The best site for that is called ‘Live in Dixon.’ You are only required to live in Dixon and be nice. I can’t believe how ugly some other sites have become and how people throw words out into the air desperate for any attention--like arsonists hoping to light a fire.

### DixonOpoly

I was traveling around the long and wide aisles of the Dixon Walmart looking for a grandchild’s birthday gift when I came across a large display of DixonOpoly board games. Store Manager Derek Wensky loves to offer this kind of local pride item and has special ordered things like Ram Pride green folding chairs, shirts and sweatshirts with the high school logo on it as well.

He worked with staff and Dawn Jamison, Digital Assistant Manager, to create it and even called the Dixon Historical Society to get more input. I had fun going through the box to see what was on there. It even includes the Dixon May Fair and Cool Patch Pumpkins. Price is \$19.98 and there is a limited number available so get yours now.

On another Walmart note, they just opened their auto service center again. Hours are noon to 6 pm, Monday through Friday. Thanks for reading. ★

# Unwanted Visitors

Continued from page 1  
non-profit dedicated to educating about snakes.

“We asked him to send us pictures and they turned out to be two harmless gopher snakes,” said Lam, “that actually offer free rodent control.” The gopher snake mimics the rattlesnake. They shake their tail and they act up but they have no rattle. People will say they are babies so they don’t have a rattle but baby rattlesnakes are born with rattles, he explained.

“It’s just that when they are born their tails are still so soft, so you can’t hear the rattle,” he said. “The distinguishing feature of the baby gopher snake is its pointy tail. The rattlesnake has a blunt tail. The other way you can tell is that the gopher snake has a peanut butter tone to it. The rattlesnake is darker in color.”

Higgins was relieved to hear the news because he was poised to call the City to ask signs be posted near the playground warning families.

The diamond back design on the two Higgins killed seemed to give him certainty of a rattler and the neighbors agreed. Lam was happy to get Higgins’ call. He sees it as another opportunity to educate.

“Western diamond-backs do not live in this area.” explained Lam. “They are located in southern California. I



Although gopher snakes mimic rattle snakes, gopher snakes’ pointy tails don’t have the rattles. Baby rattlesnakes are born with soft, blunt rattles. Photo courtesy RNW Reptile Rescue

have never got a call out of Dixon that was for rattlesnake.” But, he gets calls all the time from Benicia and removes a lot of gopher snakes there.

“I’ve been out there by the lake or in people’s yards and never saw a rattlesnake there and I’ve been doing this for over 31 years. If I get a call for Benicia, it’s a gopher snake,” he said. In any case, the Lams do not want the snakes killed. They developed their non-profit to save snakes because they are so valuable.

“Rattlesnakes do beneficial things and they use the venom to cure

diabetes, and for controlling pain, and blood pressure. Doctors use snake venom for a lot of medical purposes and there’ll probably be more in our future – maybe not in our lifetime – but you never know,” he said citing that the Copperhead venom from back east is used for breast cancer and offers a cure.

“That’s why we tell people please do not destroy them. If you think you see either kind, back up, just walk away and call us,” Wendy said. For more information or to schedule a group educational talk, call (707) 557-5213. ★

## St. Peters Catholic Church News

*Simple and faithful trust, humble and joyous assurance are the proper dispositions for one who prays the Our Father. (CCC 2797)*

“Simple and faithful trust” - to achieve this disposition, in the midst of our hectic, modern lives filled with distractions, fears, desires, and worries can be very difficult. To dispose ourselves rightly, Mother Church here asks us to be simple .. like children.

To be like children, we need to stop insisting on our way, stop judging, and most of all, we need to become silent. “Silence strips man and makes him like a child: pure but frail, innocent, and without provisions.” (Cardinal Robert Sarah, The Power of Silence).

To have simple, faithful trust is to keep running toward Him until we are swept up in his arms. “And he said, Amen I say to you, unless you change and become like little children you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3)

“Humble and joyous assurance” - to be humble is to be aware of our nothingness, our fragility, our need for Him. To be humble is to ask for help. “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.” (Romans 8:26)

What about joyous assurance?

“My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” (John 10:27-29)

St. John’s assurance is joyous and hopeful, but not absolute. Owing to His infinite love and fathomless mercy, God is unable to forsake us, yet we can turn away from Him by rejecting Him and His commandments. We are all capable of giving in to temptation, of turning toward sin, of even living a habitual life of sin, which, unless we repent with contrition and resolve to sin no more, can ultimately lead to our perdition.

Yet, by turning to God in patient prayer and devotion, by forsaking ourselves, picking up our cross, and following Him, He will give us the graces needed to resist the devil, the flesh, and the world. He will give us the graces to live joyfully, to bear our sufferings out of love for Him, and to pray devoutly in the joyous assurance of eternal life.

Please check our website at [stpeterschurchdixon.com](http://stpeterschurchdixon.com) for information on our mass and confession times. ★

## Dixon Churches Invite You To Worship

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Our sermon topic this week will be as follows:  
**“Becoming a Peacemaker”**  
Matthew 5:9

Sunday - Bible Study 9:00 am • Worship 10:30 am  
Small Groups meet throughout the week.  
Tuesday Children’s Adventure Bay - 6:30 pm  
**Frank Salamone - Pastor/Teacher**  
**Sheila Dybdahl - Children’s Minister**  
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[www.cornerstoneindixon.com](http://www.cornerstoneindixon.com)

Fr. Hector Monotyra  
Pastor  
Deacons  
Daniel Blanton, John Fio

Confessions  
Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
6:00 - 7:30 pm

Youth & Teen Groups  
Bible Study  
Religious Education  
Holy Sacraments  
*Please call the office for more info.*  
[www.StPetersChurchDixon.com](http://www.StPetersChurchDixon.com)

**Mass Schedule**  
Saturday  
7:30 pm Spanish  
Sunday  
8:30 am and 10 am English  
6:30 am and 7:30 pm Spanish  
Weekday Masses  
M-T-F 8:00 am English  
T, TH 8:00 am Spanish and Friday 7:30 pm  
First Saturday  
First Saturday Bilingual Mass at 8:00 am

Every First Friday of the month, Adoration from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm and Bilingual Mass at 7:00 pm

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# A Houseplant Boutique

Continued from page 1

People have kept plants and trees in pots for thousands of years, dating back to the hanging gardens of Babylon, according to the Houseplant Resource Center. Most of us know, there is something really magical about noticing your plant has a new leaf or that your plants are growing right before your eyes because of your care.

Agvateesiri showed off Baby Toes, Bear Paws, and String of Pearl – all miniature plants that look exactly like their name and then showed some plants that had large, dark spots on them. If something starts to go wrong like leaves curl in or turn black, you can really get help.

“I wanted to create a space for the community to come and enjoy the plants and experience them,” she explained about choosing the green house at 350 West A Street for her store’s location. “I wanted customers to feel there was a place they can talk about their plant’s leaves turning brown or black and I can be a resource for them.”

“Clearly, I am a crazy plant lady. These plants have opinions of their own,” she said with a wry smile. “Ironically, I thought I was going to die in my plant biology class. But, especially now in these challenging times, people can learn to channel their energies in a positive way with plants.”

With houseplants, no matter where you live, you can carve out your own little arden or relish a touch of nature, inside your home.



Shar Agvateesiri says plants help people find an outlet for their nurturing side. Photo by Debra Dingman

“Even if you have a brown or black thumb,” she said. Agvateesiri thinks she will eventually host classes and is looking forward to cross marketing with other downtown businesses such as Barn & Pantry as well as the Uptown Collective. Plants also make great gifts, she said and plants are priced from \$5 to \$60.

When the shop is up and running profitably, she wants to donate a portion of the profits to EmpowerYolo, a charity serving women victims of domestic violence.

The plant boutique will have a soft opening Friday, September 25, 11 am to 6 pm. For more information, call or text (707) 567- 4393. ★

# The Importance of Protecting Yourself from Fraud

## Solano County District Attorney's Office

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Solano County District Attorney's Office wants to alert residents who may have been impacted by the LNU Lightning Complex Fire to beware of potential construction fraud scams and price gouging during this difficult time. “As our community continues to deal with all of the devastation produced by the wildfires, our office remains committed to protecting our citizens as they rebuild,” said DA Abrams.

### Price Gouging

California's price gouging law (Penal Code §396) makes it illegal to raise the price of certain goods or services by more than 10% after a state of emergency has been declared. This includes food, emergency supplies, medical supplies, building materials, storage services, hotel accommodations, rental housing, gasoline, and repair/reconstruction services or goods/services used for emergency cleanup.

Anyone who believes they have been the victim of price gouging may report it to our Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit at (707) 784-6859 or [dacepu@solanocounty.com](mailto:dacepu@solanocounty.com).

### Construction Fraud

Construction Fraud is another area of concern in the wake of a disaster. Such fraud may occur when those impacted by the fire seek to repair or rebuild and an unlicensed or licensed contractor fails to complete the necessary work, the work done is of poor quality, the contractor uses substandard material, or overbills.

## Recommendations to Protect Yourself From Fraud

Talk to your insurance agent. They will provide you with an estimate for the cost to repair your property. Use this estimate when negotiating with contractors. If you have a question about your insurance or a dispute with your insurer, please contact the California Department of Insurance at (800) 927-4357 or through their website [www.insurance.ca.gov](http://www.insurance.ca.gov);

Check the references of the contractors you are considering, especially if the contractor is someone you are not familiar with or contacts you in an unsolicited manner;

Always verify that a contractor is licensed. Contractors licenses can be verified by contacting the Contractors State Licensing Board at (800) 321-2752 or [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov);

Beware of contractors that want you to spend money on temporary repairs. These repairs may count toward your total insurance settlement and end up reducing the amount of funds available to make permanent repairs;

Don't be rushed into signing a contract. The best practice is to interview several contractors and get several bids. Make sure you read the fine print on any estimate or contract prior to signing;

Try to hire a local contractor with a known reputation when possible. It is easier to work with a local contractor if problems occur;

Always get the job details in writing and make sure the contract is written in terms

you can understand. Any verbal guarantees or work to be performed should be spelled out in writing;

Never leave areas blank in the contract as they can be filled in later without your knowledge with unacceptable or unfavorable terms;

Never pay for an entire project in advance or before the work is completed. California law states that “If a down payment will be charged, the down payment may not exceed \$1000 or 10% of the contract amount, whichever is less.” (Bus. & Prof. Code §7159.5) Limiting the amount of payment a contractor receives up front will help to ensure that your work will be fully completed;

If excavation work is being done (including electrical, walls and sewers) make sure your contractor obtains all the proper permits and that a building inspector checks the work once it's completed;

Many resources remain available to those affected by the fires. Solano County has established a Local Assistance Center where individuals can get information on obtaining county services, as well as resource information from other state agencies. The Local Assistance Center is located on the first floor of the County Administration Center at 675 Texas St, Fairfield CA 94533 and will be open for walk-ins from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through September 15, 2020, or by appointment at (707) 784-1575. [www.solanocountyrecovers.org/agencies/local-assistance-center/](http://www.solanocountyrecovers.org/agencies/local-assistance-center/). ★

# Tickets Available For Lions BBQ!



Dixon Lions Club BBQ fundraisers support distinct activities for Dixon school and students. James Bounds and Chris Ford cook at January's event. Photo provided by Dixon Lions Club

By Scott Smitt, Dixon Lions Club

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Lions Club will be having their third annual BBQ Tri Tip Drive-Thru Fundraiser on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at the Tractor Supply parking lot between 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM. For only \$15.00 per meal you get sliced BBQ tri tip, potato salad, baked beans & dinner roll (potato salad & beans will be in a separate container within meal). You must present ticket on day of event when you pick up your meal. All proceeds help fund Dixon High School senior scholarships! For tickets please call Scott Smith 916-806-7451, Justin Ford 707-372-6654, Ryan Victorine 559-678-4606 or any Dixon Lions Club member!

Since the club's chartering in 1954, proceeds from past fundraising events have gone to Team Dixon, Dixon Unified School District, Dixon Toys for Tots, Dixon Schools Athletic Boosters, Dixon Relay for Life, Dixon High School scholarships, Wreaths Across America, Dixon Bids for Kids, Dixon Destination Imagination, Dixon Dolphins swim team, Dixon youth sports programs, DHS Open House, DHS Sober Grad Night, Dixon FFA, Dixon Elementary School outdoor education trips & Lions Club vision programs.

For more information about the Dixon Lions Club; Website: <http://e-Clubhouse.org/sites/DixonCA> Facebook: Dixon Lions Club ★

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# HUD: Prevent Evictions by Using Grant Funds

By Eduardo Cabrera,  
U.S. Department of Housing and  
Urban Development

WASHINGTON, CA (MPG) - Consistent with President Trump’s Executive Order “Fighting the Spread of COVID-19 by Providing Assistance to Renters and Homeowners”, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has reiterated the Trump Administration’s commitment to minimize displacement and evictions resulting from the COVID-19 global pandemic national emergency. HUD is reminding all grantees – states, cities, communities, and nonprofits – who received Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) or Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that they may use these funds to provide rental assistance or other aid to individuals experiencing financial hardship because of the pandemic and are at risk of being evicted, consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and guidance.

“From day one of this pandemic, the Administration has done everything in our power to ensure that the American people have a roof over their heads during these trying times,” said Secretary Carson. “Thanks to President Trump’s leadership we have secured the necessary resources and mechanisms to efficiently and

effectively combat this virus.”

HUD continues to provide technical assistance to grant recipients to prevent evictions and keep people in their homes throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Department provided virtual office hours for grantees to ensure relief funds are being used quickly and efficiently. HUD has issued a toolkit for landlords and Public Housing Authorities so they can work with their tenants during this difficult financial time. Additionally, HUD has extended its Single-Family eviction and foreclosure moratorium for FHA insured Single-Family homes three times, has promoted the Department’s Housing Counselor services, and issued guidance for lenders.

Homelessness service providers and Public Housing Authorities across the Nation have jumped into action to assist those they serve during this unprecedented time. Read more about their stories featured in HUD’s Neighbors Helping Neighbors campaign website. For more information on HUD’s response to the novel coronavirus pandemic and the actions the Department has taken, please visit [HUD.gov/coronavirus](https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus).

More information about HUD and its programs is available at [www.hud.gov](https://www.hud.gov) and <https://espanol.hud.gov>. ★



**Full Accounting of Fire Losses Will Take Some Time**

Timber, grazing and ranch lands appear to have borne the brunt of the agricultural impact so far from California’s destructive wildfires. A Cal Fire information officer says damage-assessment teams have begun their work, and county agricultural commissioners say a full accounting of the losses could take weeks or months. Smoke from the fires also threatens winegrapes, which can absorb chemicals that produce an off-taste in wine.

**Farm Bureau Coalition Supports Wildfire Bill**

A wildfire-mitigation bill goes before a U.S. Senate subcommittee Wednesday, and a coalition of Western state Farm Bureaus says the measure would help the region address its “catastrophic wildfire crisis.” Thirteen state Farm Bureaus and the American Farm Bureau express support for the bill, the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act. It would implement projects to manage forests, remove hazardous fuels and accelerate post-fire restoration and reforestation.

**Farmers Say They’ve Hopeful About Rice Crop**

Rice harvest will gain momentum in the Sacramento Valley this week. Rice farmers and marketers say they’re optimistic about the crop and its prospects, though they say the pandemic has created an unusual marketing situation. In the early days of the pandemic, Americans stocked up on rice and other staple foods. That trend has eased, and demand from restaurants and other food service businesses remains low, but most export markets for the crop look promising.

**Produce Business Responds To Pandemic Disruptions**

The fresh-produce business has shown resilience in response to pandemic-related swings in demand, according to a University of California professor. UC Davis assistant professor Kristin Kiesel says the pandemic caused “astounding disruptions” to the produce business, especially as sales to restaurants and other institutions mostly evaporated. She says the overall produce business is now operating at about 20% below pre-pandemic projections. ★

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 2020-001551**  
The following persons are doing business as: MYO FAMILY HEALTH  
**597 Rolling Oak Court Vacaville, Ca 95668**  
**Amy Rondoni, 597 Rolling Oak Court Vacaville, CA 95688 and Matthew Rondoni, 597 Rolling Oak Court Vacaville, CA 95688**  
Date Filed in Solano County: September 9, 2020  
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is Conducted by: A Married Couple  
NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration September 8, 2025. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.)  
Publish: September 18, 25, October 2, and 9, 2020 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 2020-001436**  
The following persons are doing business as: AMERIPRINT  
**230 S 2nd Dixon, CA 95620**  
**Saul Barzola, 230 S 2nd Street Dixon, CA 95620**  
Date Filed in Solano County: August 19, 2020  
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: July 30, 2020  
This Business is Conducted by: Individual  
NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration August 18, 2025. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.)  
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**A Veteran Thank Today**

# High Housing Costs Keep Californians Poor



By Dan Walters  
CAL Matters

Congratulations California, you’ve done it again.

The Census Bureau has once again found that California has the highest real-world poverty rate of any state, 17.2% over the previous three years and much higher than the national rate.

The “supplemental” poverty rate includes factors ignored by the outdated “official” poverty rate, such as living costs. And our sky-high living costs, particularly for housing, impoverish at least 7 million Californians.

We topped the poverty charts even as California’s overall economy was booming in the 2017-19 period. The state now is mired in its worst recession since the Great Depression, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, and poverty has surely increased.

A new report from the California Policy Lab at the University of California reveals that in August nearly 20% of California’s workers were drawing unemployment insurance benefits, calling it “startlingly high.”

Moreover, even before recession struck, the Public Policy Institute of California, using methodology similar to that of the Census Bureau, had calculated that as high as our “supplemental poverty

rate” may be, roughly the same number of Californians are in “near-poverty.”

Combining the two categories means that about a third of the state’s residents are struggling to keep their heads above water.

The major driver of California’s high poverty indices is, as mentioned earlier, that too many Californians must spend too much of their incomes on housing due to meager construction.

The reasons for the failure to meet housing demand are many but one long-ignored factor – the insanely high cost of building so-called “affordable” housing – is beginning to be recognized.

Last year, I wrote about a \$28 million city-financed project to rehabilitate 74 dilapidated, low-rent apartments in Sacramento and noted that it worked out to \$378,000 per unit, markedly higher than the median cost of a detached, single-family home in Sacramento at the time.

Last week, two more examples found their way into print.

The Los Angeles Times did a deep dive into the tortured history of a low-income housing project in Solana Beach, a wealthy seaside community in San Diego County. Times reporters found that it originally was to cost \$414,000 per unit, but by the time the developer pulled out after a decade of trying to line up financing and permits, it had exploded to \$1.1 million.

The Times called it “an alarming example of how political, economic and bureaucratic forces have converged to drive up the cost

of such housing at a time when growing numbers of Californians need it.”

“California leads the nation in the cost of building government-subsidized apartment complexes for low-income residents,” the Times said, reporting that its “analysis of state data found that apartments cost an average of about \$500,000. In the last decade, the price tag has grown 26%, after adjusting for inflation.”

Solana Beach is not alone. The Times reported that in Alameda, an island community in San Francisco Bay, a low-income development called Everett Commons cost \$947,000 per unit.

Meanwhile, back in Sacramento, city housing officials are still spending too much to get too little. The Sacramento Bee reported that redeveloping the downtown Capitol Park Hotel into tiny, 250-square-foot units for low-income residents costs more than \$445,000 per unit, higher than the median price for a detached single-family home. At \$1,100 per square foot of living space, it is double what a luxury suburban home would cost.

These are outrageous numbers, driven by bureaucratic tangles, misplaced environmental restrictions and high mandated labor costs, and unless state officials do something about them, we will never solve our housing shortage and we will continue to have shamefully high rates of poverty.

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

# California Reaches 21 Million Registered Voters

**From the Office of Secretary of State**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California officially surpassed 21 million active registered voters for the first time in history. This milestone comes 60 days before the November 3, 2020 General Election. The Secretary of State’s next official Report of Registration will be issued later this month with breakdowns of registration by party, political jurisdiction, and age.

“2020 is another record setting year for voter registration in California,” Secretary of State Alex Padilla said. “Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, our democracy remains strong and resilient.”

“If you’ve recently turned 18, recently become a US Citizen, or even if you’ve never voted before – don’t wait. Register to vote today at [registertovote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov). It only takes a few minutes to register and to make your voice is heard in one of the most consequential elections in our nation’s history. And if you’re already registered to vote, I encourage you to verify your registration status and to sign-up for ballot tracking.”

Starting on October 5, 2020 all counties will begin mailing ballots to every active, registered voter in California; Voters will be able to vote early, in-person at their county elections office.

**Tips for Voters**

Californians are encouraged to take the following steps to prepare for the General Election: Check your voter registration at [VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov](https://VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov); Update your voter registration if you’ve moved or changed your name at [RegisterToVote.ca.gov](https://RegisterToVote.ca.gov); Sign-up for automatic updates on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot at [WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](https://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov)

**Voter Registration Deadline**

October 19 is the traditional voter registration deadline for the November 3, 2020 General Election. If an eligible Californian misses the October 19 deadline, they can complete the same day voter registration process and cast their vote that day. However, this option is only available at county elections offices and in-person voting locations. ★

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# CANDIDATE FORUM

**QUESTION 4: FOR ALL CANDIDATES EXCEPT TREASURER.** “City of Dixon water rate payers have had two sizable rate increases over the past two years. 85% in 2019 and an additional 50% in 2020. Do you believe these increases are justified? And, what would you do, if anything, to reduce the costs of operating the water system and mitigate future planned increases?”

**QUESTION FOR THE CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER.** “The council has made significant changes to the duties of the City Treasurer over the past five years. Are you aware of the changes and what is your opinion of these changes?”



**THOM BOGUE**  
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

For many years there has been no increase to the rates to keep up with growing cost of maintenance or infrastructural improvements. While I can have deep awareness and sympathy for the hardship this causes for many within our community, understanding is needed for the necessity in keeping up with the growing cost.

Our Water District is an Enterprise Fund, for those who don't understand this

means it has to support itself, and payments collected can **only** go towards the maintenance and repair of this system. Not towards any other city expenses. If the rates do not keep up with the growing cost of maintaining the Water System, maintenance will become less, and eventually the system fails. to answer another misconception, no the city cannot spend other sources of revenue towards the upkeep of the Water District, we can lend to the enterprise fund, but it has to have the means to repay.

Some from the public have provided alternate solutions and ideas to assist in reducing future expenses: Sleeving Wells, Grants, etc. I have forwarded this information to our Engineering Department for consideration, and appreciate the public forwarding ideas in being part of the solution. Thank you



**STEVE BIRD**  
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

Chose not to participate



**DEVON MINNEMA**  
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

The City of Dixon water system needs significant repair and upgrades, and I think most people would agree with that. However I strongly believe there is a better way to pay for these upgrades, and hope that the voters will send the council back to the drawing board regarding the way these rate hikes were passed.

First, the repairs should not be financed using bonds, as bonds significantly increase the cost.

The council was given an option back to use a pay-as-you-go model or a bond model, and chose the latter, which massively increased the expense for a modest short-term savings. The pay-as-you-go model, however, was more expensive to rate payers off the bat, but then significantly dropped by year 3 or 4.

Additionally, we need to take a hard look at the list of improvements, and schedule these improvements so that they can be mitigated over a fairly short period of time. The goal of the Dixon water system should be to have rates that are approximately 10% less than CalWater, as that is the given margin expected by shareholders in a for-profit utility system, and the pay-as-you-go model will put the City's rates there within several years.



**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 think this issue compounds with many of the other costs of living expenses that impact our residents. With Dixon Circumscribing portions

between two entities, it has made it difficult to systemically address how we can revert water prices so that they are manageable and efficient. My understanding is these increases in pricing are too improve the infrastructure so that Cal Water can operate in a greater capacity. As a public utility, I think it is in our best interest to look out for the residents who are paying large amounts for water rates while the water quality is not great. We need to be better on both fronts, better pricing and better quality.



**DON HENDERSHOT**  
District 4 Council Candidate

Chose not to participate



**KEVIN JOHNSON**  
District 3 Council Candidate

This is a “MEASURE-S” question - **VOTE coming Nov 3rd...** This Ballot Measure, please understand, is NOT as simple as deciding to REPEAL and DECREASE Water Rates. This is about understanding the CONDITION of the Water System and the DIRE NEED for the Rate Increases/Additional Revenue inflow to the Dixon Water System ENTERPRISE FUND.

**The REASON why Voting No on Measure S is so important:**

Without the Rate Increases the Water System would return to operating at a LOSS and revenue flow for CRITICAL Repair/Maintenance needs would not be generated. A broken system cannot provide clean water to homes, or the water pressure needed to put out a fire. I cannot stress enough the responsibility of the DWS Rate Payers to understand the need to leave the rate increases AS-IS. Again, all Rate-Payer Revenue goes into an ENTERPRISE FUND that can only be used for Operational needs of the Water System. To Provide Water and to help mitigate COSTS in the Future, there must be an appropriately funded, consistently managed Maintenance and Repair system in place. The dire condition of the Water system is REAL!



**JAMES P. WARD, JR.**  
Candidate for Treasurer

I have not done the job of the City Treasurer yet and can only speak to what I have researched regarding a City Treasurer.

Under Chapter 4.01 Fiscal Administration, City Ordinance 19-007, on May 28, 2019, it states in 4.01.080 City Treasurer duties, responsibilities and powers. The City Treasurer shall have no duty, responsibility or power beyond those explicitly enumerated

in this code and shall not be precluded from performing those duties mandated by State law.

After reviewing a document which was submitted and received on April 2nd, 2012 to Judge Paul L. Beeman, Department #1 of the Solano Superior Court in which the City of Dixon Responded to the 2011-2012 Grand Jury Report Titled “City Treasurer Functional Review.” I read the findings and city responses. I do not know if these responses by the city were ever implemented.

My understanding from speaking with former Treasurers is that many of the job responsibilities of the position have been withdrawn by the city councils’ decisions. This is why I am campaigning on a “AT” platform. (Accountability & Transparency).



Social Security Matters

Can I Help My Friend with His Social Security



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I am trying to help a good friend of mine who lives in Indiana and is 80 years old. I am very concerned as he's not now collecting SS for some reason, and I have no idea why. Is there any reason that you know of that would keep him from getting his benefits? Is there maybe something he might have done to keep him from getting his money? He worked his whole life, is a retired electrician and was a long-time member of the Electricians' Union. I'm not sure if he knows how to apply for his benefits, but he's having a hard time making ends meet and could definitely use the extra money. He told me that an organization has offered to help him, but it will cost \$7,500 and there is no guarantee they can get it for him. He can't afford to pay that kind of money only to be told there is nothing they can do for him. I'm hoping you can give me some insight **Signed: Faithful Friend**

**Dear Faithful Friend:** If your friend has, as you say, worked and contributed to Social Security via FICA payroll taxes all his life, then he should be eligible to collect Social Security benefits. It only takes 40 quarters of credit (about 10 years of earnings) to be eligible for SS, so he should certainly be eligible if he paid SS FICA taxes for enough years.

Are there reasons why he might not be collecting? Sure, but they're not common, and here are a few:



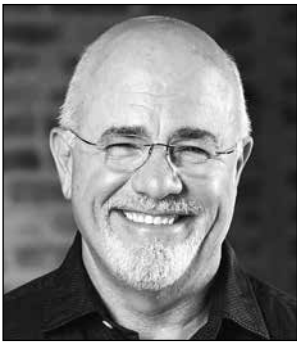
- Indiana is one of 26 states where some state employees don't participate in the Federal Social Security program. If your friend was a state employee for his whole life he may not have contributed to SS, so he may not have the requisite 40 credits needed to collect Social Security.
- Social Security benefits are generally exempt from garnishing, except for certain types of situations. Any U.S. government agency (such as the IRS if he owes back taxes) can garnish his SS benefit if he owes them money. His SS can also be garnished for unpaid alimony or child support. But usually such garnishment means only reducing his SS benefit, not completely eliminating it.
- If he were collecting Social Security at one time, but SS later found that he had been overpaid for any reason, they could withhold his benefits until they recovered the overpayment. Sometimes, the actions of someone else (e.g., a former spouse) can cause him to be liable for an overpayment, but SS would have sent him a letter informing him of the overpayment and giving him an opportunity to appeal it. In any case, SS would only withhold benefits until the overpayment was fully recovered.
- Social Security benefits are not automatically awarded. If your friend simply neglected to apply for benefits when he was eligible, SS wouldn't sign him up automatically,

regardless of his age. He will simply not get benefits unless he applies for them.

Your friend shouldn't pay anyone to find out if he's eligible for Social Security benefits. The answer is simply a phone call away by contacting the Social Security Administration, either at the national number (1.800.772.1213) or by contacting his local SS office (the local contact information is at [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator)). Generally, this type of transaction can be accomplished over the phone. He should call Social Security and tell them he wishes to apply for "Social Security Retirement Benefits." Once they have his Social Security Number they can tell immediately if he is eligible for benefits and, if he is, he should ask for 6 months retroactive benefits (SS will pay up to 6 months retroactively).

If your friend cannot, for any reason, contact Social Security himself to discuss his situation, he can appoint someone (such as you) to represent him in these matters. Here is a link to Social Security's rules on having someone represent him: [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10075.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10075.pdf). You are, indeed, a good and faithful friend.

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Get Practical When It Comes To Saving

Dear Dave, I'm having a hard time saving money. Do you have any practical advice for saving when you have an average income?

—Nikki  
Dear Nikki,

One thing I've learned over the years is that people only start saving money when they learn healthy money habits — like living on a written, monthly budget — and let their future needs become more important than their current wants. What I'm saying here is it will only happen when you make saving a priority.

Everything doesn't have to magically line up before you start saving, and there are plenty of easy, practical ways to save money and breathe a little extra air into your finances. The biggest one is by saying goodbye to debt. Monthly payments are the biggest drain I can

Dave Ramsey Says

think of when it comes to saving money, because debt robs you of your income.

Most people are shocked when they realize how much they're actually spending at the grocery store. It's easy to walk through the aisles grabbing things on impulse, but it all adds up. Save money on groceries by planning out your meals each week. Here are some other good ideas:

- Buy generic. One of the easiest ways to save money is to give name brands the boot.
- Skip the coffee shop, and make coffee at home.
- Take your lunch to work, and eat breakfast and dinner at home.
- Cut your ties with cable, and try network apps or streaming services.
- Check your insurance rates. You owe it to yourself to have your agent look things over for you, and see what savings they can dig up.
- When buying, pay in cash and ask about discounts. You never know until you ask, and you should always ask.
- Declutter your home, garage, basement or attic. Get rid of things you don't need and are

willing to let go of for the sake of your financial future.

- Lower your cell phone bill by getting rid of extras like costly data plans, phone insurance, and useless warranties. Don't be afraid to haggle with your provider, or switch to another company.

If your goal is to save money, a vacation is just about the worst thing you can do. Finding fun close to home will save hundreds, if not thousands of dollars.

When it comes to saving, Nikki, how carefully and intentionally you spend can be more important than how much you make!

*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.* ★

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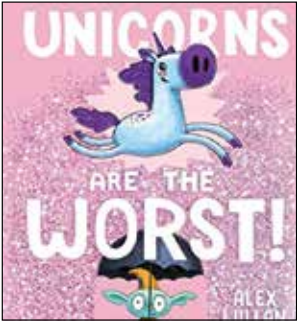


# Riley Reviews

## STYLISH “RATCHED” OOZES WITH MENACE; CABLE PREVIEW – PART 3

### Exciting New Children’s Books

With so many children learning at home, the need for great Children’s books is in great demand. September has some wonderful books releasing that is the perfect distraction and will provide the welcome giggles. These books are here to deliver the laughs and come with learning lessons that have great discussion points from cranky friends, glittery unicorns, and a rotten little potato.



**Unicorns Are the Worst**  
by Alex Willan,  
Simon & Schuster

After a herd of unicorns moves in next door, Goblin is determined to prove why “Unicorns are the worst. After all, magic is a serious business, and all unicorns want to do is have tea parties, play loud music, dance, and throw glitter! How is a goblin supposed to work? Then Goblin meets a new type of neighbor. Maybe unicorns aren’t so bad, after all.

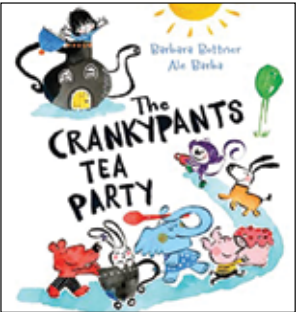
In a story of goblins and unicorns, readers are taken on a delightful and hilarious journey exploring all the horrible (or wonderful) things about unicorns, and a perfect addition to any unicorn library.



**Where Bone** by Kitty Moss, Page Street Kids

When Balthazar wakes up without his bone, he instantly goes on a search with disastrous results. From tearing apart the garden, tracking mud throughout the house, destroying the kitchen, and causing a tidal wave in the bathroom, he still can’t find his bone! Will he ever be able to find his best friend?

Readers will fall over in laughter as a dog searches for his beloved bone. Intricate and adorable illustrations explode across the pages giving readers hours of searching enjoyment.

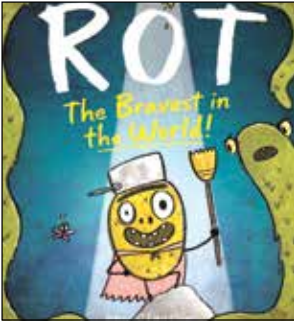


**The CrankyPants Tea Party**  
by Barbara Bottner and Ale Barba, Atheneum Books

It’s the perfect day for a tea party, but all of Clarissa’s friends are too cranky for tea. All of her friends are upset. Monkey is mad that his shoelaces were tied in knots, Rabbit is wet, and Bear was forgotten all week. Will Clarissa ever convince all her

stuffed animals to join her for a party, or will they all remain cranky pants?

A creative look at friendships and showing that sometimes everything is not what it seems. The cranky-pants also deliver a great story on solving problems and helping one another.



**Rot the Bravest In the World!**  
By Ben Clanton, Atheneum

Rot has returned, and this time he is out to prove that he is not only the cutest, but he can be the bravest. Mutants potatoes love mud, especially Rot. Mud is his favorite thing in the world.

Until the day his brother tells him about the squirm-monster. Now visions of the grimy, slimy squirm monster are all he can think about. Will Rot be able to be a brave super-spud and reclaim his mud pit, or will he be a scaredy-potato?

In the charming story of inner strength, Rot the potato harnesses all the strong things he can think of to make him the “Bravest In the World.” In this darling story that took over classroom reading circles and home libraries, Rot is here to charm his readers, once again, with his inspiring message. ★

**A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley**

**“RATCHED” ON NETFLIX**

Television show creator, producer and writer Ryan Murphy seems to have a penchant for sex, violence and the macabre, if one were to judge his work by the series “American Horror Story.”

That particular FX series might as well have included a whole new season of “Ratched,” now streaming on Netflix, a series based on the character in the Ken Kesey novel “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” and the movie of the same title.

The setting of “Ratched” is 1947 and Sarah Paulson’s Nurse Ratched may be intended to be an origin story for the character that Louise Fletcher delivered so brilliantly in “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” in a cold and heartless manner.

Fans of Ryan Murphy’s work may care little about any comparisons to the 1975 movie. In “Ratched,” there’s no Jack Nicholson’s R.P. McMurphy to rally scared patients in a mental institution to rebel against Fletcher’s oppressive Nurse Ratched.

The eight-episode series may be binge-worthy to anyone curious enough to learn how Nurse Ratched evolves from a conflicted character who shows signs of being alternately empathetic to calculating to downright malicious.

The series opens with a disturbingly gruesome slaying of four Catholic priests in their parsonage by Edmund Tolleson (Finn Wittrock), who is then committed to Lucia State Hospital to determine whether he is sane enough to stand trial.

Six months later, Nurse Ratched arrives at the asylum located in a gorgeous coastal California area that looks close to Big Sur. She brashly talks her way into an interview with hospital director Dr. Hanover (Jon Jon Briones).

After scheming her way into a nurse position, Ratched discovers head nurse Betsy Bucket (Judy Davis) suspicious of her intentions and not thrilled to have her joining the staff, leading to obvious tension between the two.

Ratched takes a keen interest in Tolleson, who has become a political pawn for blustery Governor Wilburn (Vincent D’Onofrio) during his re-election campaign that possibly hinges on the death penalty for the killer.

Meanwhile, the Governor’s aide Gwendolyn Briggs (Cynthia Nixon) forms a pressing attention to Nurse Ratched. Then there’s Sharon Stone’s eccentric wealthy matron with a visceral hatred of Dr. Hanover, such that she plots against him.

Whether the characters are intriguing or not, “Ratched” has plenty of beautiful Art Deco style and gorgeous scenery, which does not alleviate the menace oozing with every torturous therapy of the inmates.

**CABLE FALL PREVIEW – PART 3**

As far the biannual television press

tours were concerned, subscription cable giant HBO always operated independently even though it is part of WarnerMedia Entertainment.

The WarnerMedia umbrella includes TNT, TBS, and TruTV, but HBO remains the big elephant under the tent, and so it commands the most attention even though TNT’s “The Alienist: Angel of Darkness” also earned a spot on this summer’s virtual press tour.

Paul Rudnick’s comic satire “Coastal Elites” on HBO features Bette Midler, Issa Rae, Sarah Paulson, Kaitlyn Dever and Dan Levy as characters from New York to Los Angeles coping with politics and the pandemic.

“Coastal Elites” is produced entirely under quarantine guidelines, presenting contemporary stories of breaking down and breaking through that are intended to be funny, searing, and poignant, as far as we are told.

HBO’s “Lovecraft Country” got an early jump on the fall season when it was released last month. This ten-episode series follows Atticus Freeman (Jonathan Majors) as he journeys with his childhood friend Letitia (Jurnee Smollett) across 1950s Jim Crow America.

Joining these two is Atticus’ Uncle George (Courtney B. Vance) on the road trip from Chicago in search of Atticus’ missing father Montrose (Michael Kenneth Williams).

Their search-and-rescue turns into a struggle to survive and overcome both the racist terrors of segregated America and monstrous creatures that could be ripped from an H.P. Lovecraft paperback.

The six-part limited series “The Undoing” arrives on HBO in late October, starring Nicole Kidman and Hugh Grant as Grace and Jonathan Fraser, who are living the only lives they ever wanted for themselves.

Overnight, a chasm opens their lives: a violent death and a chain of terrible revelations. Left behind in the wake of a very public disaster and horrified by the ways in which she failed to heed her own advice, Grace must dismantle one life and create another.

No specific premiere date on HBO Max has been set for the comedic thriller “The Flight Attendant,” but we know that Kelly Cuoco in the starring role finds her entire life can change in one night.

As the titular character, Cuoco wakes up in the wrong hotel hungover from the night before, in the wrong bed, with a dead man – and no idea what happened. The miniseries is based on the novel of the same name by best-selling author Chris Bohjalian.

Ridley Scott’s “Raised by Wolves” on HBO Max centers on two androids tasked with raising human children on a mysterious virgin planet. With more humans on the planet, the androids learn that controlling the beliefs of humans is a treacherous and difficult task. ★

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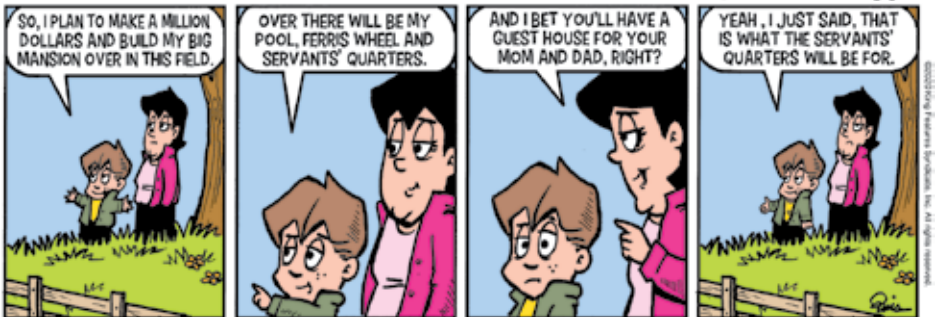






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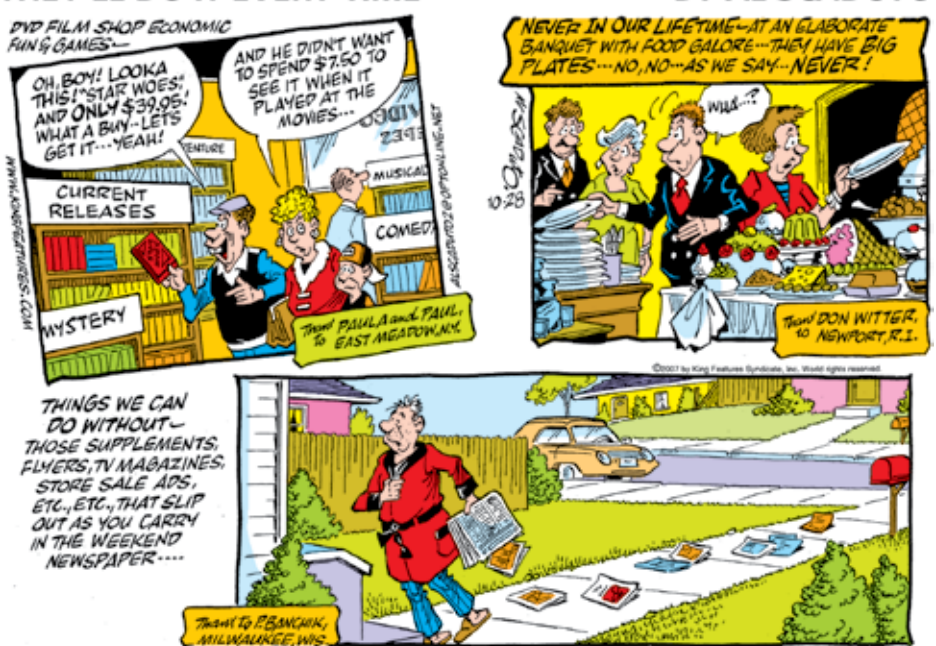
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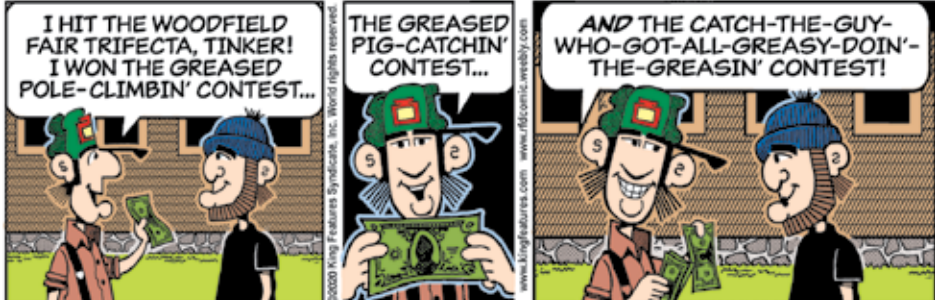
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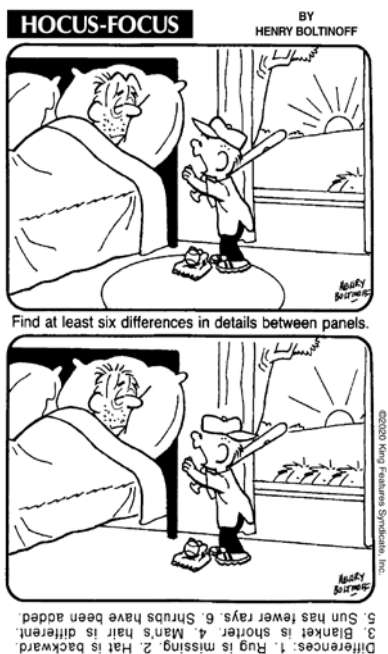
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# Robots, Veterans, Apprenticeships: What’s Next for California’s Job Market

By Lauren Heplers, CalMatters.org

It’s just one facet of California’s economic recovery, but the state’s unemployment rate is starting to drop after an unprecedented spike during coronavirus lockdowns.

The state’s jobless rate fell to 11.4% in August, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today, down from a record 16.4% unemployment this spring. The unemployment rate has dipped below the rate of the Great Recession a decade ago but remains more than twice the 3.9% rate in February.

The unemployment data is good news for California workers who have had to make do picking up side gigs, liquidating retirement accounts, skipping rent or meals – without new economic stimulus measures from the state or federal government. Yet more than 2.5 million people remain out of work in the nation’s most expensive state.

A turbulent job market also raises bigger questions about the future of work in the state. Beyond monthly employment ups and downs, how many workers are still being shut out of increasingly tech-centric high-paying jobs? And do the maze of state, local and educational programs focused on workforce development actually stand a chance in such a chaotic environment?

“This is an opportunity for the state to really grapple with, ‘What will work look like in California?’” said Soraya Coley, president of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, during a CalMatters and Milken Institute virtual event today.

The event was part of a series examining California’s response to the pandemic and its lasting economic implications. Moderated by CalMatters higher education reporter Mikhail Zinshteyn,



The need now is to collect more real-world data from employers on its impacts in different sectors, and to analyze those findings by region and type of job. “We want to upskill our Californians before they are displaced.” Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

the session explored workforce development efforts with four leaders: Soraya M. Coley, president of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Abby Snay, deputy secretary for the Future of Work at California Labor & Workforce Development Agency; Jessica Ku Kim, senior director of Workforce Development at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation; and Greg Nosal, senior director of talent acquisition at Northrup Grumman Corporation.

Here are five of the biggest takeaways for tomorrow’s job market:

### Quality vs. Quantity

In many parts of California, Northrup Grumman is hiring: 500 engineers and trade workers in Palmdale, 800 engineering roles in Redondo Beach and 100 people each in San Diego and Sunnyvale. “It’s a robust job market right now,” he said, despite the bleak overall economy.

For Snay, the challenge is ensuring that across California, the path forward is a “high-road recovery,” or one where scarcity

doesn’t overshadow factors like job quality, equity, living wages and safety.

“We want to address the inequity and the gaps that existed before the crisis,” Snay said.

In recent years, labor productivity has soared more in California than any other state. But inequality has also spiked, illustrating how income isn’t rising with employer gains. It’s a mismatch that has heightened concern that automation is about to make things a lot worse.

While it is wise to keep an eye on automation, Kim said the real question is how soon jobs will be impacted and the degree to which technology could displace workers.

### Don’t Fear The Robots – Yet

“COVID-19 has definitely accelerated digitization,” she said.

But the need now is to collect more real-world data from employers on its impacts in different sectors, and to analyze those findings by region and type of job.

“Are we talking about 25% of that job? 100% of that job?” Kim said. “We want to upskill our Californians before they are displaced.”

### The College Question

In a job market increasingly polarized between high and low-paying work, how important is a four-year degree? Very, the panelists agreed, but there are companies establishing more partnerships with community colleges, particularly for technical support or operations roles.

Longer term, the question is how looming budget cuts could affect those efforts, and whether students will be able to find upward mobility in the job market, since Coley said today’s grads will change jobs an average of 17 times across five sectors by the time they retire.

As of this fall, the pandemic has already cost the University of California system nearly \$2.2 billion (and counting) in lost revenues and new expenses – a number that has ballooned almost \$400 million since July. Next year’s state budget will provide \$300 million less next year for the UC system after cuts to address part of a sudden \$54 billion deficit. And that could be just the beginning if housing woes continue and schools are forced to cut jobs.

### Thinking Outside The Pipeline

While college is still king for

earning power in many industries, Snay said her agency is among those focused on forging other kinds of career “bridges” and “on-ramps,” including apprenticeships in fields like cybersecurity, health care and food safety.

Also not to be overlooked, Kim said, are small- and mid-sized businesses. In Los Angeles County, for instance, more than 90% of employers are small businesses, she said, and “we can’t take the paradigms that work for our industrial and manufacturing economy.”

### Turn Weaknesses Into Strength

For many economists, variables like high veteran homelessness, a “silver tsunami” of baby boomer retirements and California’s profound lack of affordable housing would be big negatives for the state’s labor market. But there are efforts afoot to reinforce weak spots with new job initiatives.

Northrup Grumman is experimenting with a job transfer program for veterans coming out of the military, who often already have the high security clearances that defense contractors need.

In government, Snay said many positions are poised to open in public transportation, building affordable housing and retrofitting hotels for homeless housing, which could benefit both younger workers and people who were formerly homeless themselves.

“There are many opportunities at the state level and, more importantly, at the local level,” she said.

Housing, for one, was a welcome suggestion: “Yes,” Kim responded. “Please build.”

Lauren Hepler  
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*Lauren covers the California economy for CalMatters. Her past stories have been published by the New York Times, the L.A. Times, the Guardian and others.* ★

## CLG NEWS UPDATES

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

**Trump to nominate successor to Ginsburg ‘without delay’** – President signals he will swiftly move to secure third appointment to US Supreme Court | 19 Sept 2020 | President Donald Trump has vowed to push ahead with a Supreme Court nomination “without delay” following the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Friday night. The US president tweeted on Saturday that he considered it an “obligation” to put forward a nominee, who if confirmed would tilt the balance of the court decisively towards the conservatives. Mr Trump tweeted: “We (Republicans) were put in this position of power and importance to make decisions for the people who so proudly elected us, the most important of which has long been considered to be the selection of United States Supreme Court Justices. We have this obligation, without delay!” ...The Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate and need a simple majority to secure a Supreme Court appointment. Mike Pence, the vice-president, would vote to break the deadlock in the event of a tie.

**Schumer: ‘Nothing is off the table’ if GOP moves forward with Ginsburg replacement** | 19 Sept 2020 | Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) told Democrats on Saturday that “nothing is off the table” if Republicans move forward this year with filling the Supreme Court vacancy created by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s death. “Let me be clear: If Leader McConnell and Senate Republicans move forward with this, then nothing is off the table for next year. Nothing is off the table,” Schumer told the Senate Democratic caucus, according to a source on the call. The rare Saturday conference call comes as Senate Democrats are trying to strategize ahead of a looming election-year Supreme Court fight sparked by Ginsburg’s death, which gives President Trump an opening to put a third justice on the court.

**Package containing the poison ricin and addressed to Trump intercepted by law enforcement** | 19 Sept 2020 | A package containing the poison ricin and addressed to President Donald Trump was intercepted by law enforcement earlier this week, according to two law enforcement officials. Two tests were done to confirm the presence of ricin. All mail for the White House is sorted and screened at an offsite facility before reaching the White House. The FBI and Secret Service are investigating the matter. Ricin is a highly toxic compound extracted from castor beans that has been used in terror plots. It can be used in powder, pellet, mist or acid form.

**Coronavirus isolation killing thousands of Alzheimer's patients** | 17 Sept 2020 | Some 13,200 more people than usual have died from dementia since March, and health care professionals are placing much of the blame on isolation (allegedly) intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19. According to a new report in The Washington Post, analysis of federal data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reveals that more than 134,2000 people have passed away from diseases like Alzheimer's since the coronavirus pandemic gripped the nation. Social and mental stimulation both play a critical role in slowing dementia, and doctors have reported increased backsliding in patients who had been stable for years... Although only a tiny portion of the U.S. population resides in senior care facilities, nursing home deaths have accounted for around 40% of U.S. deaths from COVID-19.

**‘Ivermectin can kill COVID-19 within 48 hours’, Monash University study finds** | 21 April 2020 | A collaborative study led by Australia’s Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute (BDI) with the Peter Doherty Institute of Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute), a joint venture of the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital, has shown that an anti-parasitic drug already available around the world kills the virus within 48 hours. The Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute’s Dr Kylie Wagstaff, who led the study, said the scientists showed that the drug, ivermectin, stopped the SARS-CoV-2 virus growing in cell culture within 48 hours. “We found that even a single dose could essentially remove all viral RNA by 48 hours and that even at 24 hours there was a really significant reduction in it,” Dr Wagstaff said. “Ivermectin is very widely used and seen as a safe drug. We need to figure out now whether the dosage you can use it at in humans will be effective – that’s the next step,” Dr Wagstaff noted. ★

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