



# Dixon's Independent Voice

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## A New Salon Look

*COVID restrictions allow reopening*



Peter Hoang has been cutting hair at Pro Clips Salon for 19 years. The salon has recently reopened with a newer, contemporary look. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Peter Hoang doesn't look like he's been cutting hair for nearly 20 years but he has, and he's happy to be at it again at Pro Clips in the Safeway Plaza Shopping Center. The salon re-opened recently after the COVID restrictions were eased in the most recent reopening phase and after renovations gave them a whole new contemporary look.

"I spent the time taking online classes and educating myself," the Hoang said. He also helped with the salon renovations. "Our salon stations have beautiful, brand new, top quality Belvedere chairs, properly separated with six feet social distancing," he said. Hoang has been working at the Dixon salon even before he moved to Dixon 10 years ago.

"I really appreciate the family town (atmosphere)," he said. "I really enjoy Dixon because it is simple." His family all works in the industry but Hoang takes it all a step further by attending hair shows and studying more about collagen and hair products.

"Hair provides an outlet for your own creativity for art," he explained while sweeping dollops of hair into his fingers and quickly snipping the

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**Candidate Forums Available Online for Replay**

MPG Staff

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Three candidate forums occurred this week on social media to help Dixon residents know the views of potential elected officials who may lead this community for the next four years. They can be easily replayed on one's computer.

Offered on a Facebook site dubbed Dixon 411 as well as Dixon 411 - Political, "Admin/Owner" Tiffany Fabiani worked in conjunction with the Dixon Chamber of Commerce to present the first with Mayoral candidates Steve Bird, Thom Bogue, and Ted Hickman.

Issues of growth, housing, traffic, town maintenance and the Parkway Boulevard Overpass were part of the talks. The forum was moderated by former City Councilman and former School Board Rep Herb Cross.

"Live, extemporaneous, unedited, and answering your questions. Yes, even the nasty ones," posted Councilman Devon Minnema who is a Mayoral candidate and who conducted a separate forum. Minnema took more than 20 questions from email, texts, and live stream for nearly two hours.

Minnema chose to create a separate Facebook Live forum due to concerns about the "legitimacy of the non-Chamber organizer" and also did not want to "lend legitimacy to a non-competitive candidate who seeks to derail the event and election."

Questions of the job of mayor, Measure B, the city budget, funding for the Parkway Boulevard Overpass, and jobs, were some of the topics covered. To see Minnema's forum, you do not have to be a member of any group. Go to [www.facebook.com/minnema2020](http://www.facebook.com/minnema2020).

The District 4 City Council candidates were offered the forum on Monday and the live stream can be replayed by clicking on one of the links posted on Fabiani's Facebook site. Participating District 4 Council Candidates were Jerry Castañon, Sr. former City Councilman; Don Hendershot, Planning Commissioner; and Logan Legg, UC Davis Policy Commissioner.

Planning Commissioner Chair Kevin Johnson is running for District 3 Council seat and James P. Ward, Jr. is running for City Treasurer. Both are unopposed. ★

## County Board Approves COVID-19 Grants for Small Businesses

**Solano County Administrator's Office**

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Beginning Tuesday, September 15, 2020, small businesses and employers in Solano County that are facing financial impacts and layoffs due to COVID-19, are urged to apply to the County's Rebuild Solano's Small Businesses Grant Program; designed to support businesses and employers impacted by the ongoing pandemic health emergency.

On Tuesday, August 25, the Solano County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved \$2 million in CARES Act funding to establish the Rebuild Solano's Small Business Grant Program. The Rebuild Solano's Small Businesses Grant Program, administered on behalf of the Workforce Development Board (WDB) of Solano

County and the Solano County Small Business Development Center (SBDC), will collaborate to administer grant funding to approximately 400 small businesses throughout Solano County. The grant funds are designed to help prevent layoffs and closures, all while giving employers the opportunity to pivot their business operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic health emergency.

"The last six months have been brutal on many of our small businesses," says Tim Murill, Director of the Solano Small Business Development Center. "This \$2 million in grant funding from the County will provide a much-needed boost to help businesses weather the COVID-19 storm."

To qualify for the COVID-19 Rebuild Solano's Small Businesses Grant Program, eligible

applicants are for-profit businesses, locally owned in Solano County, in good standing with the State and County and can demonstrate a need for funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic health emergency. Awards will be given based on eligibility criteria and the demonstrated needs of the business. Priority will be given to businesses that have 20 employees or fewer and who have not received grants from other locally-funded COVID-19 small business programs.

The WDB of Solano County, in coordination with the SBDC, have partnered with local cities and chambers of commerce to provide technical assistance and targeted outreach to small businesses and industries that have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic health emergency.

"We want to maintain a strong Solano County

base of small businesses that represent the diversity within our community," says Heather Henry, President and Executive Director at the WDB of Solano County. "Small businesses are the essential component of our business community."

The Rebuild Solano's Small Businesses Grant Program funds will be used to reimburse qualified expenditures between March 1, 2020 and November 30, 2020 can be used for the following, including:

Purchasing computer equipment or software that allows remote work capabilities; Paying for services or tools to convert to online or outdoor sales or delivery; Purchasing cleaning or sanitation supplies/services that reduce exposure and transmission; New marketing strategies to engage clientele under the impacts

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# Learning What Really to Care About: Family

By Debra Dingman

### Go to the Library

Since the pandemic, you might be unsure about when you can go to the public library or if, in fact, you can go at all. Well here is some good news: They are open and allowing six patrons at a time and the person can stay up to one hour, according to Catherine Wesenfeld, Supervising Librarian. They are open Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 6 pm and Fridays till 5 pm but are not open on Saturday or Sunday, though, so plan accordingly.

If you are wanting to use the computers there, you do have to make an appointment because there are only three of them. The library is located at 230 North First Street and the phone is (707) 678-5447.

### Honest Perspective

It was a Sunday evening and the Dixon air was still suffering from the smell of fires in northern California. I had just started getting things out for dinner when I heard my phone ring.

“Hi my love... sad news... mom passed away today... quietly... quickly... I'm so lost... she's with all the family now.” The heartbreak was felt between every one of those dot, dot, dots.

This was from my cousin about her mom, my aunt BobbieJo, two weeks shy of her 91st birthday. My cousin and I were the same age and played all the time together when we were young. When my family moved far away to Tracy, we were pen pals through high school and even during our young married days. My sweetest memory was surprising the whole family by showing up at my cousin's high school graduation and asked if Uncle Johnny would please move



The new and improved Dixon Independent Voice office is settled at 100 North Adams in the Motley Building on the edge of downtown Dixon. The City Editor is almost always in on weekdays and can be reached at (707) 678-8917. Photo by Debra Dingman

his wheelchair so I could watch, too. After they figured out I was ‘Debbie,’ Aunt BobbieJo and Uncle Johnny couldn’t stop hugging me.

It’s interesting what happens psychologically when one hears very sad news. It became very quiet in my house. It also became empty. If I were showing that moment via videotaping, I would show my kitchen table disappearing; the rooster pictures on the walls fading into black; the hum of my ceiling fan falling silent; and me sitting on a chair by myself shrinking like Alice in Wonderland.

She was the last Beasley of her generation... and now, my generation is next to pass. We all had a fun, long visit with this most spunky little woman just a couple years ago and planned another this spring but then COVID came. It didn’t help that my cousin had moved her to a nearby care home and we worried if we’d ever see her again.

We planned on seeing her in June, which turned to July, which turned to August due to the pandemic. Both women are widows so my cousin and their little family face-timed regularly and this past couple months, my cousin got to visit her mom every couple days. I find comfort in that.

I watched many photos flow by on my Facebook, but the most tender one was one of my aunt leaning onto her 5-year-old granddaughter’s head as the young, red-haired child smiled broadly. Her eyes were the eyes of any loving grandmother anywhere in the world and the child’s twinkled with love.

The tears were instant and I allowed her text to sink. I’ve learned to feel things as they occur instead of bottling them. It just isn’t worth the drop in sadness or tears later. My husband came in and sat with me.

The newspaper phone rang and it was Shirley Humphrey who was exasperated with our Candidates Forum and the candidates who were sending emails that they were dropping out of our special coverage. I listened. I responded. I listened some more and then when she was all done talking, she said “Doesn’t this really bother you, Debra?”

For a split second, I said nothing. Then out of my silence came the truth.

“No, Shirley, what really bothers me is that my sweet cousin just let me know that my 91-year-old aunt died and she's hurting terribly so no, none of this is important at all. None of those men and their hateful words or mean-spirited emails mean a thing to me. They are not important to my life.”

I knew Shirley had no idea and her apologies and sympathy were perfect. I knew she understood.

The really great thing about getting older is that you can clearly see people's purpose. You can tell which ones are genuine and which ones are devious. You can love and support people like Shirley Humphrey who is completely dedicated to helping her beloved Dixon whether it is through revealing political views from candidates or not, or preserving the generations of Dixon through the Historical Society.

All in all, my brothers and sisters are next in line and I want to make sure every moment is spent on the moving forward of my family and good people toward God. Okay, if I can bring that to happen through continuing to write good things about Dixon and its people in this newspaper, then that's a noble endeavor as well. I'd appreciate it if you'd share this newspaper with neighbors so they see the genuine effort our staff puts in to bring it your way. ★

# Showcase in the 57th Annual Nor-Cal Regional Juried Art Show

### Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association Press Release

**FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG)** - On September 23, the Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association will begin accepting entries into the 57th Annual Nor-Cal Regional Juried Art Show. Artists from all over Northern California are welcome to enter and will be able to submit their artwork until Friday, October 23, 11:59 pm. Artwork will be accepted in 14 different categories: Acrylic, Oil, Watercolor, Color Photography, Glass, Ceramic Vessel, Black and White Photography, Digital Art, Mixed Media and Collage, Fabric Art and Textiles, Pastel and Drawing, Printmaking, Sculpture and Assemblage, and Jewelry.

Artwork will be judged on Sunday, October 25 and the accepted artists will be notified by email on October 26-27. Plans are in the works for a possible Virtual

Awards Ceremony. Jurors’ names are not available at this time and will be released at a future date.

Accepted artwork must be hand-delivered on Saturday, November 1, 11 am to 6 pm to the Solano Town Center Gallery. Artwork that is shipped will not be accepted.

Artwork will be displayed at the Solano Town Center Gallery, 1350 Travis Blvd., Fairfield, Suite D-8. The Show runs November 11 through January 2, 2021 at the STCG and will also be available to be viewed as a virtual show online on our website, [www.fvaa-arts.org](http://www.fvaa-arts.org).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Gallery is temporarily closed but we anticipate it to be opened for this Show.

For additional information, please visit [www.fvaa-arts.org/juriedartshow](http://www.fvaa-arts.org/juriedartshow) or contact Dennis Ariza, FSVAA President / STCG Director at (707) 688-8889. ★

# Tamika Hamilton Says She'll Travel to Garamendi's Home to Hold Debate



From Tamika Hamilton for Congress

**FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG)** - Air Force Sergeant and candidate for Congress Tamika Hamilton again challenged incumbent John Garamendi to a

series of debates concerning issues impacting California’s third congressional district.

“I’m hoping Mr. Garamendi isn’t planning to use these extraordinary times as a backdrop to escape having meaningful debate,” said Hamilton.

“More than a week has gone by and no one has heard from him. I can make things easier for him by showing up to his Walnut Grove home to get things moving. The residents and families of

the third district deserve to hear the positions and issues of both candidates and time is of the essence.”

Hamilton’s recent statement is the second debate challenge issued to John Garamendi in the month of September. As of press time, Hamilton’s campaign team has not received notification that Congressman Garamendi has accepted the challenge.

For more information about the Tamika Hamilton for Congress campaign, contact Janae Grant at [janae@mbainc360.com](mailto:janae@mbainc360.com). ★

# Dixon Man Dies in Solo Crash

### MPG Staff

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Jose Villegas Garcia, a 26-year-old Dixon man, died Sunday when his blue Honda Accord went off a roadway and into a canal southeast of Dixon, on Pedrick Road near Maine Prairie Road in Solano County according to the California Highway Patrol.

The fatal incident that investigators believe may have involved alcohol and/or drug impairment happened as the man was driving southbound on Pedrick and did not stop at the stop sign at Main Prairie Road, CHP Officer David Harvey said.

The Honda went through the intersection, over the dirt shoulder, and into a canal, where the front of the car hit the south embankment of the canal, Harvey said. The driver, who was alone in the car, was pronounced dead at the scene.

“Impaired driving is being investigated as the cause of this collision,” Harvey said.

The CHP has not yet determined what time it was Sunday other than it was late at night when the fatal incident took place.

Anyone with information pertinent to the crash investigation is asked to contact the CHP Solano Area Office at 707-428-2100 and ask for Officer Burks, who is handling this investigation. ★

# St. Peter's Catholic Church News

This Sunday, we celebrate the Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Gospel of Matthew highlights this Sunday’s Gospel reading, preceded by Isaiah and St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians. These readings proclaim God’s mercy. Isaiah 55:6-9 reminds us that God is generous in forgiving, while psalm 145 proclaims that “the Lord is gracious and merciful.”

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus tells his disciples the parable of the landowner who goes out throughout the day, hiring laborers to work his vineyard. The landowner goes out first thing in the morning, and then repeatedly throughout the day. Each time he goes out, he offers work to those seeking work. Jesus tells this parable to portray the kingdom of heaven. Just as the landowner seeks out laborers throughout the day, God seeks us out as well. A key distinction at the end of the Gospel is that the landowner pays each worker the “full day’s wage,” even those who had only worked an hour. Hence, all are worthy of the same reward. Just as each worker was sought out and paid in full, God also desires for each one of us to experience His reward of divine love and mercy. The prophet Isaiah mentions this some six hundred years prior to the birth of Jesus. “...turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God who is generous in forgiving (Isaiah 55:7). Psalm 145 proclaims this as well. It is more important to recognize

that we are also called to be configured to Christ. St. Paul tells us that “life is Christ” (Philippians 1:21).

In last week’s Gospel, Jesus taught Peter how it is just as important to be merciful and forgiving as God is, and to forgive “not seven times, but seventy-seven times,” meaning to always be willing to extend our forgiveness (Matthew 18:22). It seems forgiveness and love for one another is much needed in our social climate. Our current-day levels of discourse seem to be extreme polarization at best. With so many atrocities and wrongs evidenced in our daily media, it appears civil discourse is absent. This is especially important when civil discourse is so desperately needed since it paves the way to revealing truth in such confusing matters. It is important for us to remember that God’s love is for all humankind. It is His divine will for us to extend His love selflessly to others. Christ’s feet are now our feet. The hands of Christ are now our hands that serve, and Christ’s heart is now our hearts that extend His love to others. May we see the face of Christ in everyone we meet, and may everyone we meet see the face of Christ in us (ancient Celtic prayer).

Please check the Church’s Facebook page at St. Peter Catholic Church or the Church website for more information at [www.stpeterschurchdixon.com](http://www.stpeterschurchdixon.com). ★



## Dixon Churches Invite You To Worship

You are Invited To

*Loving God. Loving Others. Sewing Our World*

**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**  
**185 W. Cherry St. • Dixon • 707-678-5234**  
**[www.cornerstoneindixon.com](http://www.cornerstoneindixon.com)**

**Fr. Hector Monotya**  
*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*

**105 South 2nd St., Dixon • 707-678-9424**  
*One Church, 221,055 Locations. Join us this Sunday!*



A New Salon Look

What District Do I Live In?

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ends over and over.

“I have become a brand ambassador for ‘Marco,’ a true hair care product,” he said flipping open charts with lively enthusiasm to explain hair to the writer. “If you looked at a strand of hair under a microscope, it looks like it has pot-holes,” he said.

“With collagen, the holes get filled up and the hair is more elastic. I’ve not seen a better product. I like the challenge of educating each client because everybody’s hair is different.” Hoang stopped to greet a regular client by name as she came through the door. One customer, who hadn’t had a haircut since the pandemic started, praised Hoang for staying open



Marco Pelusi of Hollywood, California and creator of the hair product line 'Marco' recognizes Peter Hoang of Dixon's Pro Clips as an official brand ambassador at a hair show last year. Courtesy photo

late to take him and then gave him a great cut. They are open 9 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday and 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday. For more information, call (707) 678-1154. ★

County Board Approves COVID-19 Grants for Small Businesses

*Continued from page 1*  
of COVID-19 ; Machinery or equipment needed to reduce exposure or pivot product sales; Replacing product or inventory lost or spoiled due to the COVID-19 shut down; Activities that address supply chain challenges or to acquire new bids; Other creative approaches and strategies to reduce or eliminate the need for business closure.

Grant funds cannot be used to pay for rent, employee wages or benefits.

The WBD of Solano County and SBDC will host three community webinars on the Rebuild Solano’s Small Businesses Grant Program, including two in English; Wednesday, September 17 and Tuesday, September 22 at 10 a.m.; and one in Spanish; Thursday, September 18 at 11 a.m. Applicants can register for webinars, apply for and submit grant applications by visiting [www.SolanoEmployment.org](http://www.SolanoEmployment.org), [www.SolanoSBDC.org](http://www.SolanoSBDC.org). Businesses can also register for webinars by emailing Brianna Boyd at [BBoyd@SolanoWDB](mailto:BBoyd@SolanoWDB).

org and by calling (707) 863-3500 for more information. Please note, recordings of the community webinars will be made available on the WBD of Solano County and SBDC websites.

In-person grant application assistance is also available on the WBD of Solano County, located at 500 Chadbourne Road in Fairfield between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. No Appointment necessary. Visitors are required to wear a face covering and implement social distancing best practices.

The Rebuilding Solano’s Small Businesses Grant Program application period starts Tuesday, September 15. Applicants are encouraged to apply by or before September 30, 2020. Grant recipients will be notified of their award in October. For more information, follow the Workforce Development Board of Solano County on social media @SolanoWBD, the Solano County Small Business Development Board @SBDCSolano and #RebuildSolanoBusiness. ★

**By MPG Staff**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - One of the most common questions asked by potential voters in this town is, “What district am I in?”

A bit of history first: It was in 2016 that City Attorney Doug White first proposed the council divide into districts because Los Angeles area communities had begun to do this with the goal of avoiding lawsuits due to claims of “stacking and packing” Latino votes in an attempt to suppress their representation. In older times, this was referred to as “gerrymandering.”

White was convincing and the Council at the time agreed to the idea. Via a consultant, three options were given for boundaries and the decision was made on the present borders that were built around the then/current elected council members. We offer this here courtesy of the City of Dixon website.

Since the District divide decision, the last couple elections have shown that as far as ethnic divide, the plan was ineffective and has yielded only one council member of racial minority status. Dixon Latinos who make up about 41 percent of the 2016 records, like all ethnic backgrounds, live in all neighborhoods because Dixon is a small town of only seven square miles.

Currently, District 1 Council Rep is Scott Pederson; District 2 is Jim Ernest; District 3 is Steve Bird; and District 4 is Devon Minnema.

A big issue in Dixon is the fact that there is not a fair gender divide. All candidates are males. Although there have been two women appointed to city council, there has been no woman campaign and elected since Jill (Disney) Orr in 2000 when City Councilwoman Mary Ann Courville was elected to Mayor.

Another interesting fact about the Dixon

districts is that the voter turnout comes out unevenly by significant amounts. District 1 has 2,689 voters; District 2 has 2,401; District 3 has 2,989 and District 4 has the most with 3,008 voters. Could that be because more residents wanted in on District 4 Councilman Devon Minnema’s annual Christmas cookie delivery?

Ballot packets will start arriving at the end of this month and about 40 percent will choose mail-in ballots. Some residents are adamant about using the polls because of distrust of the United States Post Office but if the ballot makes it to the post office, there are still potential problems.

Though the average of disqualified ballots are about five percent, the Solano County Office of Voter Registrar’s is less than one percent, according to John Gardner, Assistant Registrar of Voters who has worked in the field for nine years.

“That is because we are on top of it!” he said. “We know this person is interested in voting.”

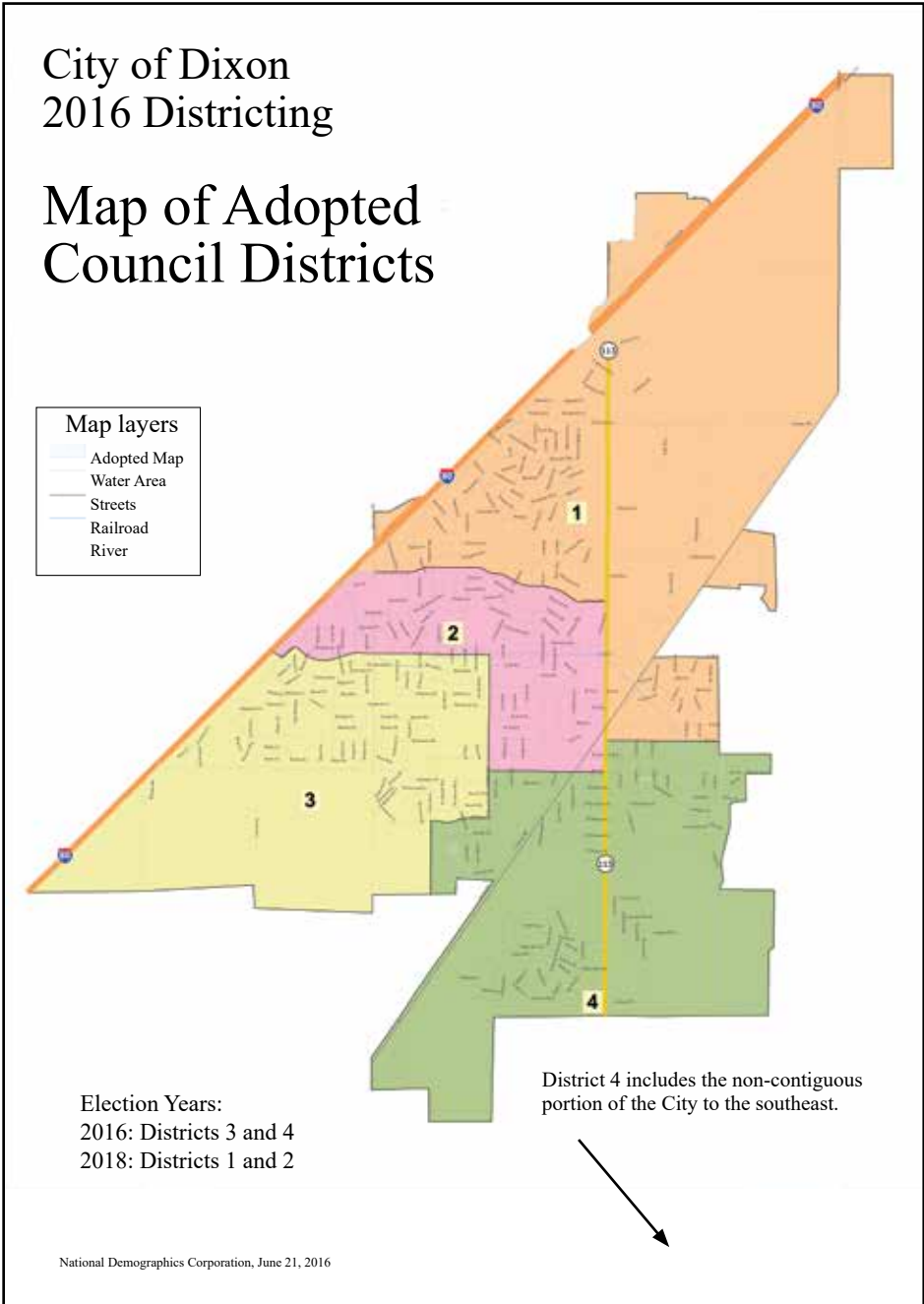
The number one reason a ballot is invalid is because they didn’t sign it with the second reason being that there is a signature “mismatch” from the signature on file, he explained.

Either of these reasons go into a ‘process of resolution’ beginning the day it is received which includes phone calls, emails, texts and lastly a letter to get resolution.

“People can resolve all things easily online,” he said. “We also have these tools to get alerts on your phone available that will inform the receipt of the ballot, or a problem, text the word SOLANO to this number: 28683 from your cell phone.”

He expects a high turnout this year not only because it is a presidential election but also because of the pandemic, there is “high interest.”

“Overall, I expect an 85 to 86 percent turnout,” he said. ★



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# No Pandemic Shutdown for Scammers, They Are Still on the Prowl

By Ashley Pontius

COVID-19 may have shut down portions of the economy and put restrictions on Americans’ daily lives, but cyber scams and other efforts to defraud people continue to thrive.

“Scammers are tapping into the uncertainty related to the global pandemic,” says Chris Orestis, the president of LifeCare Xchange who is known as the “Retirement Genius” ([www.retirementgenius.com](http://www.retirementgenius.com)).

“They are using social engineering to target people with tactics that take advantage of today's technology. Seniors need to be especially mindful of the mechanisms that have been explicitly designed to target people in retirement.”

Some scams to be on the lookout for include:

**Dishonest retailers.** Many dishonest retailers and fake products are popping up, Orestis says. “The shortage of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, soap, and masks at the beginning of the quarantine resulted from people's panic,” he says. “The fear of scarcity created a gateway for scammers. Fraudulent online retailers are showcasing these items as bait, especially medical supplies.” But they don’t have any inventory, so stick with reputable stores, Orestis says. Scammers also try to sell products to prevent or cure COVID-19, even though they do not exist. “Anyone who receives a message from someone selling any of these items should not respond,” Orestis says.

**Phony advertisements.** Scammers also try to advertise hard-to-find products through social media, email or ads that pop up on certain sites. Avoid clicking on anything unfamiliar because cyber criminals may be trying to steal your personal information or infect your computer with a virus, Orestis says. “Be cautious of people who try to contact you under odd usernames and do not have a profile picture,” he says. “If anyone asks for your personal information or invites you to click on a link, block them immediately or report them as spam.”

**Government or organization disguises.** Is a government official or someone from the CDC or from the World Health Organization trying to contact you? Maybe, but probably not. Scammers often try to convince potential victims that they are with a legitimate agency or group, Orestis says. “For example, an email might claim that there have been

new COVID-19 cases in your area and ask for your personal information to see if you have been in contact with anyone infected,” he says. “Be suspicious of any COVID-19 related emails and use only official government websites to get information about the virus.”

**Fake charities and crowdfunding.** Criminals have also created counterfeit charities and crowdfunding sites. They ask for money in the form of cash, gift cards, and wire transfers. “Real charities will never use these resources,” Orestis says. “Be sure to use reputable sites and research the charities you want to donate to for coronavirus relief.”

**Phone scams.** Phones are still the No. 1 way scammers target seniors, both through calls and text messages. The Federal Communications Commission warns about these methods being used by people who claim to be the IRS or have coronavirus treatments, at-home testing kits, and vaccinations. “If you receive a robotic voice call, do not press any buttons or return any calls,” Orestis says. “Hang up immediately. If you receive text messages regarding this information, do not respond or click on any links.”

“It’s important to be wary of these and other scams, both off and online,” Orestis says. “The more conscious people are of how scammers are trying to trick them, the less likely they are to fall for one of those tricks.”

Chris Orestis, known as the “Retirement Genius” ([www.retirementgenius.com](http://www.retirementgenius.com)), is President of LifeCare Xchange and a nationally recognized healthcare expert and senior advocate. He has 25 years’ experience in the insurance and long-term care industries, and is credited with pioneering the *Long-Term Care Life Settlement* over a decade ago. Known as a political insider, Orestis is a former Washington, D.C., lobbyist who has worked in both the White House and for the Senate Majority Leader on Capitol Hill. Orestis is author of the books *Help on the Way* and *A Survival Guide to Aging*, and has been speaking for over a decade across the country about senior finance and the secrets to aging with physical and financial health. He is a frequent columnist for Broker World, ThinkAdvisor, IRIS, and NewsMax Finance, has been a featured guest on over 50 radio programs, and has appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, CNBC, NBC News, Fox News, USA Today, Kiplinger’s, Investor’s Business Daily, PBS, and numerous other media outlets. ★

# Supreme Court Makes Local Tax Hikes Easier



By Dan Walters  
CAL Matters

In a roundabout, passive way, the California Supreme Court last week handed a big victory to the advocates of higher taxes.

Without comment, the justices declined to take up a state appellate court decision that would allow specialized local government taxes to be increased by a simple majority of voters, if they are placed on the ballot by initiative petitions rather than by the governments themselves.

The victory for tax proponents, especially government worker unions, was an equally large defeat for anti-tax organizations such as the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. However, it also may bring more ballot box budgeting and indirectly weaken the role of city councils and other locally elected boards.

Proposition 218, approved by California voters in 1996, declares that local governments seeking more revenue must win voter approval. Proposals for general purpose revenue through increases in sales taxes or other levies need only simple-majority approval. However, if cities, counties and other local governments seek new taxes for specific purposes, Proposition 218 requires two-thirds votes.

Three years ago, the state Supreme Court issued a decision called “Upland” because it dealt with a ballot measure on taxing marijuana in that Southern California city.

Writing the 5-2 majority opinion, Supreme Court Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar declared, “Multiple provisions of the state constitution explicitly constrain the power of local governments to raise taxes. But we will not lightly apply such restrictions on local governments to voter initiatives.”

He thus implied that special purpose taxes placed before voters via initiative may not be affected by the two-thirds vote requirement for taxes sought by governments themselves.

Quickly, special purpose taxes placed on the ballot via initiative that garnered less than two-thirds votes were challenged by the Jarvis organization and other taxpayer groups, but trial court judges differed sharply on whether Cuéllar’s opinion did, indeed, validate them.

Two of the tests were San Francisco taxes placed on the ballot via initiatives personally sponsored by members of the city’s Board of Supervisors, one for early childhood education, the other to battle homelessness. Both received less than two-thirds votes, but a local judge, Ethan Schulman, validated them anyway.

In June, a San Francisco-based appellate court upheld Schulman on the homelessness taxes and the Jarvis organization appealed to the state Supreme Court, which last week validated the appellate court ruling by refusing to take it up.

The tax on business gross receipts for homelessness services will raise as much as \$300 million a year. “San Francisco voters have the right to direct democracy and self-government,” City Attorney Dennis Herrera said in a statement. “We’re pleased that this legal victory will free up millions of dollars to provide services, housing and mental health treatment for those who most desperately need it in our city.”

The Supreme Court’s action, or non-action, also may validate other disputed special purpose taxes, including another for early childhood education in San Francisco, an Oakland parcel tax for education and a Fresno sales tax for parks. Local judges had blocked the Oakland and Fresno taxes, declaring that Proposition 218 required them to have two-thirds votes.

Local government officials prefer to ask voters for general revenues because they are more flexible. But advocates for particular causes prefer special purpose taxes to prevent revenues from being diverted elsewhere.

The way is now clear for interests with the wherewithal to qualify and pass ballot measures, such as unions, to push for taxes that benefit their members, thus reducing the authority of local elected officials to set budget priorities.

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

# CLG NEWS UPDATES

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

**California Man Arrested for Firebombing Republican Women's Headquarters After Being Caught on Camera**  
Mon, 09/14/2020 - 22:13 – legitgov

A man has been arrested for a firebomb attack on the East Valley Republican Women federated offices in La Quinta, California, that took place in May, with authorities apprehending 23-year-old Carlos Espiru for the incident. Espiru can be seen allegedly striking the Republican office’s windows with a baseball bat and shattering them before deploying an incendiary devices against the offices in surveillance camera footage of the crime... The Riverside County Sheriff’s Offices confirmed that an arrest had been made in the arson attack on Thursday.

**Arson Probe Opened Into Deadly Oregon Wildfire - Police Chief**  
Sat, 09/12/2020 - 16:25 – legitgov

Arson investigators have opened a probe into the suspicious origins of a deadly Oregon wildfire that began in the town of Ashland and destroyed hundreds of homes in nearby communities, Ashland’s police chief said on Thursday. The remains of two victims have been found in ruins from the blaze, which erupted on Tuesday and roared through a third day in the midst of a spate of wildfires across Oregon, according to a spokesman for the state fire marshal. More bodies are expected to be discovered as search teams comb through the wreckage of dwellings that were engulfed during a chaotic evacuation of populated areas along the path of the swiftly spreading flames, Ashland police chief Tighe O’Meara said.

**Trump announces deal between Bahrain, Israel to normalize relations in push for Mideast peace**  
Sat, 09/12/2020 - 03:20 – legitgov

President Trump on Friday announced that Bahrain has agreed to normalize relations with Israel, another diplomatic win for the president coming after a similar agreement with the United Arab Emirates just last month. "This is really something special, very, very special," Trump said in the Oval Office, predicting that the region “will become more secure and prosperous” as a result of the diplomatic moves. “The sand was loaded up with blood, and now you’ll see a lot of that sand will be loaded up with peace,” he said. According to a formal statement issued by the three countries, they agreed to “the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain.”

**Trump nominated a second time for Nobel Peace Prize**  
Fri, 09/11/2020 - 21:40 – legitgov

A member of the Swedish Parliament on Friday nominated President Trump and the governments of Kosovo and Serbia for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize over economic cooperation and trade talks. “I have nominated the US Gov. and the governments of Kosovo and Serbia for the Nobel Peace Prize for their joint work for peace and economic development, through the cooperation agreement signed in the White House,” Magnus Jacobsson announced in a tweet. “Trade and communications are important building blocks for peace,” the Swedish elected official added in the post, along with a copy of the full letter supporting Trump’s nomination.

**Bombshell: Up to 90% of COVID-19 ‘positive’ test results are false, test kits matching dead viral fragments that pose no infection risk**  
Fri, 09/11/2020 - 16:41 – legitgov

The overwhelming majority of people who supposedly test “positive” for the Wuhan coronavirus (COVID-19) are actually virus-free, according to The New York Times. As it turns out, the PCR tests that millions of scared Americans have been hoodwinked into getting are a sham. They only pick up partial viral fragments rather than whole viruses, and are hardly the “gold standard” that proponents claim they are. While the Times says that PCR tests are “diagnosing huge numbers of people who may be carrying relatively insignificant amounts of the virus,” the fact of the matter is that PCR tests are diagnosing huge numbers of people who have none of the virus at all. Testing data from Massachusetts, New York, Nevada, and elsewhere shows that upwards of 90 percent of people who test positive for the Wuhan coronavirus (COVID-19) are not actually infected with it. ★

## DIXON POLICE LOG

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



**Thursday, September 10, 2020**

**0940** – Stolen vehicle reported in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.

**Friday, September 11, 2020**

**0724** – Traffic enforcement stop in the 1900 block led to the arrest of Robert Marez (32), of Sacramento. Mr. Marez had a warrant out of Sacramento for Probation Violation. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.

**1027** – Pedestrian stop in the 100 block of North Adams Street. Alexander Leon (19), of Dixon, was contacted and found to have a warrant out of Dixon for Failure to Appear. He was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.

**1053** – Late report of a traffic collision in the area of East Broadway Street and East Walnut Street involving a city vehicle.

**1910** – Warrant arrest report was taken in the 1000 block of North 1st St. Officers contacted (S) Juan Ortega (25) of Dixon. Ortega was arrested for an outstanding felony warrant from the California Department of Corrections. Ortega was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.

**Saturday, September 12, 2020**

**0045** – Narcotics for sales arrest report was taken in the 200 block of E. Dorset Dr. Officers contacted (S) Richard Higley (37) of Sacramento and (S) Samantha Skinner (28) of Fair Oaks. They both were arrested for possession of narcotics and narcotics for sales.

**0142** – Suspicious Circumstance report was taken near the intersection of West A. St. at Pitt School Rd.

**0831** – Warrant arrest in the 1100 block of Afton Way. Ismael Hernandez (23), of Dixon, was cited and released on a misdemeanor warrant out of Dixon for a traffic violation.

**0901** – Stolen motorcycle out of Fairfield recovered in the 400 block of West Chestnut.

**1045** – Domestic dispute in the 1300 block of Harth Court.

**1511** – Shoplifting reported in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive. Don Sanders (33), of Vacaville, was arrested for Shoplifting, Probation Violation, providing a false name to a police officer. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.

**1805** – Assault with a deadly weapon report was taken in the 300 block of S. 2nd St.

**2045** – Missing person report was taken in the 1000 block of Justin Wy.

**Sunday, September 13, 2020**

**0914** – Hit and Run report taken in the 700 block of North Adams Street.

**1500** – Vandalism report in the 1100 block of Jacobs Drive.

**1749** – Officers responded to a shiplifter in custody in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive. Officers arrested and took custody of Jagjeet Sandu (2/2/88) of Suisun City for entering the business with the intent to commit theft (459.5 PC). He was transported to the Dixon Police Department, where he was cited and released without incident.

**Monday, September 14, 2020**

**0935** – Theft report taken in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive.

**1321** – Fraud report taken in the Dixon Police Department lobby.

**1337** – Information report taken in the 400 block of West Chestnut Street.

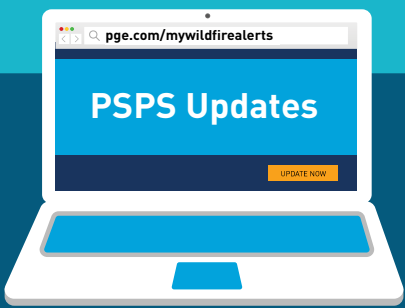
**1715** – Officers responded to the Ace Hardware for a report of fraud in progress. Upon arrival, officers contacted Mekylo Cordell (31). After further investigation, Cordell was placed under arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia. Cordell was transported and booked into the Solano County Jail.

**1903** – Officers responded to a call of a suicidal subject in an unknown part of the city. After a diligent search, officers located the subject near the railroad tracks north of North 2nd Street. The subject was taken into protective custody and transported to a local hospital for a mental health evaluation.

# PREPARING FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) is a statewide effort to prevent wildfires by proactively turning off power to communities when severe winds and dry weather conditions are forecast. While turning off the power helps prevent wildfires, we also know it will disrupt lives and cause hardship for our customers. That’s why PG&E does not make this decision lightly and will only call a PSPS to help keep customers and communities safe.

## HERE ARE 5 WAYS TO PREPARE FOR A PSPS:



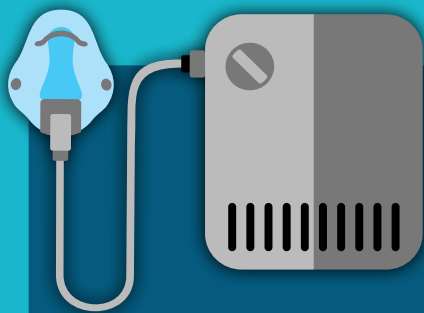
Make sure PG&E can reach you before a PSPS by updating your contact information at [pge.com/mywildfirealerts](https://pge.com/mywildfirealerts).

1



Pack or restock your family’s emergency kit including food, water, batteries, masks, radio and a first aid kit.

2



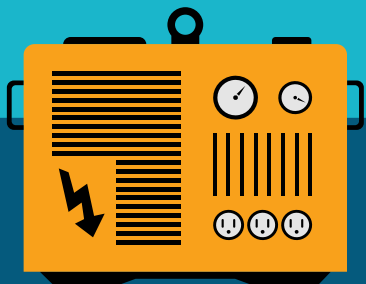
Make preparations for anyone in your family who depends on electricity for medical needs.

3



Practice manually opening your garage door (if you have a garage).

4



Ensure any backup power sources are ready and safe to operate.

5



For translated support in over 200 languages, please contact PG&E at 866-743-6589.



To learn more ways to prepare for a PSPS and any emergency, visit [safetyactioncenter.pge.com](https://safetyactioncenter.pge.com)

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Few of us would disagree that the year 2020 will be recorded as the worst year in recorded history. Fire, heat, ugly politics, the economy and the big one...COVID 19. Uncertainty about our elections, sorting out the truth about foreign interference, and the list goes on. Any one of these issues could overwhelm our coping skills when it's unrelenting.

All of us need a rudder to guide us through the storm, something we hold sacred to ground us and keep us hopeful. Our choice of religious, spiritual or other sources of strength gives us the ethical and moral compass to give our lives structure. But no one is perfect, not Trump, not Biden, not George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. Leadership and power carries a heavy responsibility to the voters who put our elected officials in office. It's reasonable to expect honesty and the will to do the right thing.

There are few situations that angers me more than to be personally accused of something that I'm innocent of, and when it happens to someone I call a friend, someone who has demonstrated loyalty, honesty and support consistently over the years...then you have poked the bear.

A week ago last Tuesday, September 1, 2020, also Mayor Thom Bogue's birthday, he was blindsided by several of his fellow council members with serious accusations against his character. Most Dixon residents have heard of the "dust-up" created by others in competition for Thom's seat as Dixon Mayor. It has nothing to do with which party you support, it's about council members using a live streaming format to broadcast and manipulate voter confidence in our mayor's use of his office to: commit conflict of interest, quid-quo-pro and interfering with a police action.

Let me provide a brief recap of events. Mid August, on a Sunday evening, Thom had a phone call from a distressed owner of a local Airbnb asking for help with a baby shower that was leased for an expected crowd of no more than 25 or 30 people. At the time of the call the crowd had exploded to around 600 people. English was not this callers first language an communication was an issue so Thom was asked to call the local authorities. Most officers, both the Dixon PD and the Solano Sheriff's, were on looting patrol in the fire areas so only 8 officers were available. Only 8 officers and 600 people! It's not like Thom to turn down a request for help so he went to the property as well to assist if possible with communication. The crowd was not playing loud music or otherwise causing problems, so my understanding is that both the officers and Thom left the property with assurances that next time the property owner would provide security.

On the night of the next city council meeting, and with no warning or discussion with the mayor, former councilman Rick Fuller, and vice mayor Steve Bird, brought charges against Thom along with a request that the DA investigate their allegations. It was obvious that Fuller and Bird had collaborated prior to the meeting, asking other council members to join in support of their claims.

Let me point out that this is an election year, and two members of the council are hoping to unseat Thom Bogue as mayor. Two days after the meeting Thom's picture was in the Vacaville Reporter with the lead that "Allegations against Dixon mayor lead to DA inquiry." We are less than two months from Election Day. Very little time to clear doubts about Mayor Bogue's integrity. For me, it raises doubts about the accusers integrity.

Both Rick Fuller and Steve Bird have connections to the Dixon Police Department and the Solano Sheriffs Department. How hard would it have been, to do their homework BEFORE the council meeting, by simply making a call to either department and gotten their facts straight? I have to ask about motive here. They could have asked Thom about his participation, if any, an make this an informal exchange of information. Instead, with no warning, on streaming live video, charges were made, and Thom's election chances held hostage to small town dirty politics.

The investigation will prove Thom's integrity is in tact, and his accusers behavior will be exposed. Mayor Bogue has struggled upstream since taking office, with an entrenched "good old boy" system of policies and pet projects that waste public funds. Infighting and ugly politics could not hold him back from doing the right thing. He, like all of us, is not perfect, but he gives Dixon voters the best he has, and that works for me.

How often have you heard the old phrase that, "nice guys finish last?" Let's help this nice guy finish first!

Katherine Manwarren  
Dixon Voter

## VA: "Be There" Campaign

By Will Martin,  
VA Northern California Health  
Care System

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - September is Suicide Prevention Month and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) wants to remind Veterans and their loved ones through the Be There campaign that small actions can make a big difference to Veterans experiencing difficult times.

During this and every month the Sacramento VA Medical Center and the entire VA NorCal Health Care System remain committed to spreading awareness of suicide prevention to Veterans and their supporters and connecting them to the resources they need.

"Veterans who access VA mental health services are much less likely to experience suicide than those who choose to struggle alone," said VA NorCal Director David Stockwell. "It's imperative, then, that Veteran caregivers and other supporters connect Veterans with VA health care so we can get these men and women the help they deserve."

Be There suggests several simple actions that can help make a difference for a Veteran to include:

Learning about the warning signs of suicide, found on the Veterans Crisis Line website; Watching the free S.A.V.E. training video to learn how to respond with care and compassion if someone indicates they are having thoughts of suicide; Contacting VA's Coaching Into Care program where a licensed psychologist or social worker will provide loved ones with guidance for motivating Veterans to seek support; Sharing stories of hope and recovery from VA's Make the Connection; Reaching out to the Veterans in your life to show them you care by sending a check-in text, cook them dinner or simply asking, "How are you?"; Northern California Veterans and their caregivers can get local support by contacting the VA NorCal Suicide Prevention Program Manager at 530-531-1408.

For more information and resources visit [BeThereForVeterans.com](#).

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, text to 838255, or chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](#). ★

## Dixon Church to Gather Together



Dixon Community Church Senior Pastor Michael Farias says it's been months since the congregation has been able to gather. Photo provided by Dixon Community Church

### Dixon Community Church

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon Community Church announced that they will be having in-person church services beginning this Sunday, September 20 at 10am.

According to Senior Pastor Michael Farias, in order to comply with the COVID-19 Guidelines, the church will

be meeting outdoors instead of indoors, in the backyard patio area on the church campus.

Said Farias, "it has been months since we have been able to gather together as God's people to worship him as the church. We have covered the patio area with shade screen, set up a stage and sound system and will have plenty of seating and space in order to safely meet together."

Farias said, "the entire community is invited to come and worship together".

Hand sanitizer and masks will be available as well as coffee from our coffee kiosk.

Included in the approximately 1 hour gathering will be a live skit for children put on by Children's Director, Christy Cuchetti.

The church will also continue to Livestream their services.

Dixon Community Church is located at 955 East A Street in Dixon.

[Dixoncc.org](#) ★

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Where are the Candidates?

America is about democracy and in America it's how the peoples voice is represented by the officials who elect to participate in an election and truly want to represent their community this is why they run. I was looking forward to reading the candidate forum the questions and their answers in the IV due to Covid-19. Many of us would not need to be exposed when reading their responses in the IV instead. In reading todays IV, it seems some candidates are concerned that there may be some unethical shenanigans going on behind the scenes because Mrs. Dingman the mother of Devin Minnema is the editor of the IV. What a bunch of hogwash when the two very honest persons Mrs. Shirley Humphrey and Mrs. Loran are the ones who are presenting this forum for the public benefit not Mrs. Dingman. All written articles are automatically sent to Mr. Paul Scholl for printing at Messenger Publishing Group. Then newspapers are sent to the IV in Dixon for distribution. Apparently, these candidate's words said they chose not to participate and says a lot to the public about their integrity when it comes to answer questions. At any forum questions are presented and are answered to the best of one's ability. They chose the easy way out by not participating and not letting the people ever know what their answers would have been.

Decisions that are made by our elected city officials that should represent the people with their utmost concern at heart for its citizens and our city. We the people are the ones who must take great care when choosing our city council representative. We the people have not received true representation by our council members instead they must follow whatever the city officials Mr. Lindley and the Mr. White prefer their vote and not on what the public has to comment.

Neighborhoods run candidates for office and donate to their friends believing they will do a good job well what have some of these former council or commission members done to prove that they are truly willing to represent the people. It's not about just the district you represent it is the whole of our town. Many neighborhoods are lacking with direction from our city council therefore, whose interests have they been representing in Dixon? We already have seen, and heard council persons at city council dais that blatantly have shown their disrespect and superiority over the people during meetings. These are not suitable candidates. It shows where their allegiance it's for whatever reason the city manager and the city attorney mandates. They do not know the people whom they are to connect with for the betterment of the community's needs to truly represent this community. I've attended many meeting and have heard the people speak and what they have to say is never acknowledged, only to be told your time is up! Do they even listen. If they don't want to participate it is on them. What candidate can read another person's response by email when it is Shirley and Loran who are the in charge and the ones who receive them? All I can say it's a poor excuse and poor judgement on the part of candidate's! We want to hear from all candidates. Read the answers voters and then make up your minds.

From a concerned citizen of Dixon  
Mary Zuniga-Savage, Dixon



### Farmers, Ranchers Deal With Aftermath Of Fires

In the wake of wildfires scorching parts of Northern California, affected farmers and ranchers work to rebuild irrigation systems and take other steps to save remaining crops and commodities. Farmers in the path of the wildfires face costs to rebuild or replace damaged structures and equipment. The fires have also burned thousands of acres of grazing land, leaving ranchers with difficult decisions about managing their livestock.

### Beekeepers Struggle With Wildfire Losses

Beekeepers in the region around Vacaville say the LNU Lightning Complex fire caused severe losses that threaten their businesses and their ability to provide pollination services to almonds and other crops. In part, that's because the fires hit at a time of year when beekeepers repopulate their colonies for almond pollination the following February. The fires also damaged or destroyed bee habitat and forage.

### Tomato Farmers Expect Heat To Reduce Yields Slightly

Heat waves during the growing season have reduced the size of the processing tomato crop, but crop estimators still expect the harvest to be slightly larger than last year's. Farmers say they believe the heat may reduce per-acre crop yields, but they still anticipate a good-sized supply for use in tomato products. Marketers say those products have sold well during the pandemic, as people seek foods to cook at home.

### Estimators Forecast Record Walnut Harvest

As they begin their harvest this month, California walnut farmers anticipate record crops from their orchards. The U.S. Agriculture Department forecast a harvest of 780,000 tons. Walnut marketers say they're preparing to sell the larger crop. The California Walnut Board and Commission says it will encourage Americans to eat more walnuts as snacks, while working to expand export markets in Europe and Asia. ★



### Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

Dixon's Independent Voice is a member of Messenger Publishing Group

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# CANDIDATE FORUM

**QUESTION 3: FOR ALL CANDIDATES EXCEPT TREASURER.** How should the traffic problem be addressed in the downtown area between the hours 7:30-8:30 am and 3:00-4:00 pm when school is in session? People avoid going downtown during those times because of the heavy traffic, and looking towards the future, what should be done to ease the congestion when the 600 CA Jacobs students move to the Old High School in January 2021?

**QUESTION FOR THE CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER.** What do you think the citizens of Dixon expect of the City Treasurer? What functions should he perform even though they may not be currently listed in the job description?



**THOM BOGUE**  
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

This is a valid question and an issue which also I have concerns for. After conferring with the Solano Transportation Authority in the best manner in which to address this issue with our current availability of streets, we were in agreeance to a solution: Close HWY 113 to all left turns going towards the High School during

hours of concern (there are alternative routes), open the back gate between the High School and Hall Park (which is already heavily used dropping off students). Create a one-way route into the High School and one-way route out by way of Hall Park and back into Downtown, which is the direction most want to go. I brought this before the City Council and it was declined.

So how do we improve the traffic situation with what we have to work with? Await the seating of a new council and see if they agree with the plan, or see by working together we can come up with an alternative solution.

The Parkway Blvd Overpass is too far away in development to consider it as an immediate solution.



**STEVE BIRD**  
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

Chose not to participate



**DEVON MINNEMA**  
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

Dealing with the South First Street traffic corridor has been a key part of my time on the Dixon City Council, however two major components must be implemented for any noticeable relief.

First and foremost, the city must get serious about funding the Parkway Overpass. This would allow residents, as well as first responders in times of emergency, on the west side of town to access the high school. This is not a

quick fix, as the funding for this project must be scrimped and saved over years to catch up to the funding requirements.

Second, we need a mayor who will get serious with CalTrans and Solano Transportation Authority about the decades-old plan to move the 113 truck route to Pedrick Road. Putting commercial trucks on Pedrick would slow the passenger traffic through town and still preserve the business gained from travelers who will actually stop for lunch or maybe peruse downtown shops.

We cannot have families and children trying to get across South First Street with tractor-trailers barrelling past. For my entire k-12 experience, I had to cross South First Street, so I know exactly how dangerous it is. We need new leadership to actually make this happen.



**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

The traffic issue has been bubbling for a while. As developments are built, as residency increases, as we move the middle school to the old high school, the

congestion downtown will only be exacerbated. For over 15 years, we've heard about the over pass being a solution to this perennial problem, and yet nothing. I do think that getting that done is paramount, as time will show, this is a necessity. Then we must address diverting trucks from the very same route and working in compliance with STA. When you look at all these components that theoretically would benefit the flow of traffic downtown to make it safer and more efficient, it's a wonder why we are still waiting.



**DON HENDERSHOT**  
District 4 Council Candidate

Chose not to participate



**KEVIN JOHNSON**  
District 3 Council Candidate

Chose not to participate



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

Citizens should expect their City Treasurers position to be to protect, preserve and maintain deposits, investments and any assets placed in his/her trust. To be held

to the highest ideals of honor and integrity and function within existing legal guidelines. Keeping in mind that the City Treasurer is a part-time job, elected by the citizens of Dixon and is a non-voting position within the City Council.

Working with the City Finance Manager your Treasurer should be more involved in the Dixon City Investment Advisory Committee, where we bank, what our reserves are, our short term and long-term investments.

Respectfully Submitted  
James P. Ward Jr.



# Social Security Matters

## Can I Claim My Widow's Benefit at Age 57?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** My husband passed away in 2001, and he paid into Social Security every year he worked, which would be over 30 years. If he were alive today, he would be 75 years old. I am 57 years old and still working full time. Am I able to collect his Social Security benefits now since I am still working? **Signed: Widowed Worker**

**Dear Widowed Worker:** You are not eligible to collect a survivor benefit from your deceased husband if you have remarried, and you cannot collect the survivor benefit until you are at least 60 years of age. And, if you claim at age 60, the survivor benefit will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be if you waited until your full retirement age (FRA) to claim it (your full retirement age is 67). Any time any Social Security (SS) benefit is taken before FRA, it is reduced.

You can claim only your survivor benefit (not your own SS benefit) at age 60, but whenever benefits are taken before full retirement age, and you are still working, you are subject



to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before Social Security takes back some of your benefits.

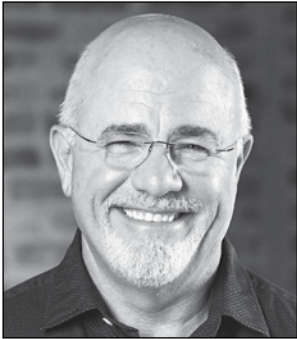
The earnings limit for 2020 is \$18,240 (it changes yearly) and if the limit is exceeded Social Security will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. Such lost survivor benefits are not recoverable. Social Security publishes next year's earnings limits in the fall of each year prior, so what the earnings limit will be when you reach age 60 isn't yet known, but it will be an amount that is more than the 2020 limit.

Assuming you will also be eligible for your own Social Security benefits from your own lifetime work record, you should evaluate which benefit, at maximum, will give you the highest benefit amount. If that is your survivor benefit from your husband (which, at your FRA, would be 100% of the benefit your husband was collecting when he died), then you should consider maximizing the survivor benefit by not claiming it until you reach your FRA. If money is needed earlier, you could claim your own SS benefit as early as age 62 and

allow your survivor benefit to reach maximum at your FRA. Conversely, if your own Social Security benefit from your own work record will be higher at maximum than your survivor benefit, then you could claim your survivor benefit first and delay claiming your own benefit until it reaches maximum at age 70 (your own benefit will be 24% more at 70 than it will be at your FRA). Your goal should be to get the highest possible benefit for the rest of your life and comparing these two options will permit you to do that. You can find out your estimated benefit amounts in both cases by contacting Social Security.

And remember, if you decide to claim your own benefit before your FRA that, too, will be subject to the earnings limit until you reach your FRA, after which there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn.

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



### Christmas in ... September?

Dear Dave,

I know it may be early to talk about Christmas, but do you have any advice on saving for the holiday season?

—Carlie

Dear Caarlle,

It's never too early to talk about Christmas! I'm glad you're thinking about things ahead of time. A lot of people wait until December to buy gifts and make plans. That's fine if they've got the money set aside to handle things, but most of them don't. Then, they panic and turn to credit cards. You don't want to end up in a situation where you're still paying off Christmas in April.

If you don't have anything put aside yet, I'd

## Dave Ramsey Says

suggest setting some spending goals now. Taking a close look at your income and living expenses should be part of this. If you're not doing it already, what I'm talking about here is living on a written, monthly budget. Look at how much you can afford to put toward Christmas each month, make a gift-giving goal amount, and stick to it. Along with this, you might consider opening a separate account just for your Christmas savings. Start looking for gift deals now, too. There are end-of-summer sales still going on, and you never know what you might find.

You don't have to spend a lot of money to have a wonderful Christmas or make the season special for others—even when it comes to giving. Thoughtful handmade items, meaningful photographs set in a frame, or special baked goods are great ways to show the folks in your life you're

thinking about them and how much you care.

Now, let's talk about next year. There's absolutely nothing wrong with including a line just for Christmas in your budget each month. Christmas doesn't sneak up on you. It's on December 25th every single year. Putting a little money aside all year long might just take some of the stress out of your Yuletide planning.

Good question, Carlie!  
—Dave

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



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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)

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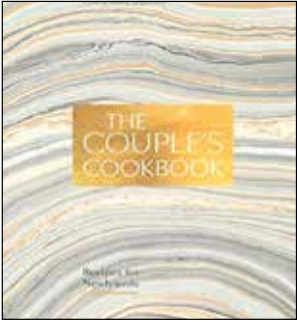
FOR THE LOVE OF  
**BOOKS**  
By Amy Shane

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

# Celebrate Fall with These Great Cookbooks

**The Couples Cookbook: Recipe for Newlyweds**  
by Cole and Kiera Stipovich; Ten Speed Press

For any couple that's been cooking for years or just starting, *The Couples Cookbook: Recipe for Newlyweds* is an



essential cookbook for couples who appreciate modern food pairings and exciting recipes. Recipes that tackle the common question of what's for dinner and elevates everyday classics into show-stopping masterpieces. Whether you have been cooking for years, just starting, or timid to jump in the kitchen, this cookbook lends all the success tools, complete with tips for everyone. With Sections on everything from explaining essential kitchen equipment and proper pantry organization to recipes that bridge breakfast to dinner, Cole and Kiera Stipovich know just how to get couples cooking with confidence while also creating a love for foods that are elevated and unique. With breakfast that makes you want to stay in and dinners that create

picture-worthy table settings, this book celebrates food and being together.

Upon receiving this book and testing many recipes, the Blackberry Crumble holds the test of time and is destined to be a family favorite. With a tip towards nostalgia, the addition of gingersnap cookies gives this recipe a timeless traditional feel, while also merging a flavor palette that has just the right crunch. While some recipes might have ingredients that aren't as familiar to new home chiefs, they are easy to follow and delicious and adaptable. While this book may be titled for newlyweds, the recipes pair just as well for any couple, as the authors compare the joy and celebration around wedding days and food and link it to the joy of carrying the traditions into your everyday life. The overall message resonates throughout this cookbook and makes this one worth returning to over and over.

**Share: Delicious Boards for Social Dining**  
by Theo A. Michaels; Grand Central Life And Style

Everywhere on social



media, charcuterie boards are taking over, displaying exotic and fanciful displays of fruits, nuts, meats, and cheeses. From simple wooden boards to stunning table layouts, Theo A. Michaels has elevated them to sophisticated finery in his cookbook, *Share*. Exposing readers to the world of sharing and displaying food for the ultimate visual and social dining experience, Theo A. Michaels gives his readers the tools and recipes to have their own boards to be genuinely unique. Michaels opens the door to a new dining experience while explaining the origin and psychology behind creating new dining experiences while also trying new cuisines. These boards can be prepared for a romantic picnic for two, an intimate gathering of a few couples, or set along with a banquet table for hundreds. No matter what the occasion, the concept behind sharing boards is all the same- beautifully crafted and prepared artisan cuisines, intricately set up for maximum visual appeal and interaction.

Break a meal down to a rudimentary concept and build it back up into the elegant, with clusters of hearty foods, meats, cheese, fruits, and nuts to make a colorful display. Every avenue is carefully explored and highlighted in simple chapters allowing any reader to create a show-stopping, culinary masterpieces. ★



A Film and TV  
Review by Tim Riley

**“TENET” RATED PG-13**

“TENET” RATED PG-13 With films like “Inception” and “Interstellar” in his portfolio, writer and director Christopher Nolan has established himself as an auteur of cerebral and existential thrillers that seemingly defy the typical time and space continuum.

Now along comes “Tenet,” an audacious journey through a twilight world of international espionage on a mission that will unfold in something beyond real time. Nolan resorts to inversion, reversing the natural order of things to move his story in a new dimension.

Time is an unalterable dynamic in our existence, but in the hands of Christopher Nolan, time becomes a compellingly controllable strand that is able to be bent, twisted, juxtaposed, or most tellingly, inverted.

In his own words as reported in the press notes, the writer-director of “Tenet” claims, “The story takes on ideas of time and how we experience it – interacting a science fiction component with the classic elements of the spy genre.”

As a reputed aficionado of the James Bond films, Nolan’s ambitious scope is to produce a global action thriller with one man in a secret organization trying to save the world from the deadly plans of an egomaniacal villain.

That singular agent is only known as The Protagonist (John David Washington), apparently a CIA operative recruited by a mysterious intelligence group that puts him through a test for a promotion to a top-secret assignment that would be challenging even for Agent 007.

The action begins with a rather startling terrorist assault on an opera house in Kiev. The Protagonist has embedded himself as a double agent within the terror group with the objective of retrieving an unknown valuable property.

The details of the mission are elusive but the execution of the heist is a pulse-pounding introduction to thrilling action that is heightened by the thunderous musical score of Ludwig Goransson that is every bit as bombastic as what you might expect from Hans Zimmer.

Following this heist escapade, The Protagonist is teamed up with new British partner Neil (Robert Pattinson), an enigmatic figure about whom we learn so little that his background and previous affiliations remain undisclosed.

The audience may wonder about Neil’s relationship to The Protagonist. Is he a comrade or a foe? How do we decide if this is someone to trust or should we be skeptical?

What is before the audience for consideration are complicated matters on many levels.

The one thing that is abundantly clear is

# Riley Reviews

## THE SPECTACLE OF “TENET” DAZZLES AS IT ALSO BAFPLES

that the malevolent antagonist in this espionage thriller is Andrei Sator (Kenneth Branagh), a vicious Russian oligarch dealing arms that expose the world to the threat of annihilation.

The quest to uncover sinister underground networks of international arms dealers and terrorists takes Neil and The Protagonist on journeys that may or may not be fruitful to the endgame.

One such venture has the duo traveling to Mumbai where they scale the exterior of a high-rise building to the penthouse lair of arms dealer Priya (Indian actress Dimple Kapadia) who holds vital information about the Russian villain Sator.

The Protagonist’s pathway to reaching Sator is through the oligarch’s estranged wife Kat (Elizabeth Debicki) who is residing in London and taking care of their young son who is attending a private school.

Now that we have arrived this deep into the plot, we must reflect that what has transpired seems confusing. Indeed, the story is convoluted on many levels, and it helps little that much of the dialogue is hard to hear due to poor sound.

The excitement is more visual than any conversation that takes place, with the possible exception of the chilling malice that oozes from the amoral, predatory Russian oligarch defined by his sadistic character.

When the action kicks in, it’s really great, even during the instances where the science-fiction is layered in. A jet airliner barreling along the runaway for a direct hit on a building is one of the more linear set-pieces.

However, when a scientist (Clemence Poesy) introduces The Protagonist to bullets that go back in time, she says, “Don’t try to understand it.” Well, we may not fully grasp the meaning of this inversion either.

Yet, the best part of non-linear action comes with an exciting car chase sequence on a highway with vehicles careening backwards and forwards, some of them flipping in the air and crashing spectacularly.

During these uncertain times when movie theaters remain closed in parts of the nation, the salient question is whether “Tenet” should be considered a fitting candidate for home viewing. Apparently not for Christopher Nolan, and there are valid reasons why.

In keeping with his asymmetrical technique of storytelling and to amplify the immersive moviegoing experience, Nolan once again relies on IMAX cameras and large-format film to pull the audience deep into the story.

“Tenet” is a sensory experience in visual and auditory terms that can only be gratified to the fullest extent on the big screen. Above all else, “Tenet” is a grand spectacle that is incapable of being downsized to a living room flat screen but it is still baffling. ★

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Toni King

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Why am I being charged the Medicare Part B penalty? I signed up before I turned 65. What is wrong? I thought I would be paying the monthly Part B amount that is around \$145. Any suggestions because this has placed an unexpected financial hardship on me? I am unemployed due to COVID-19.

~ Thanks, Dennis from Spring, TX

Dennis:

I have great Medicare news for you .... You are not being charged **EXTRA or a penalty!!** You have been charged for 5 months of Medicare Part B premiums because you are not receiving a Social Security check to have your Medicare premiums deducted. Security has lumped your months together in the bill which was sent.

Some that are paying their Medicare premiums monthly are having Medicare premiums deducted from their Social Security check. Social Security will automatically take the Medicare premiums monthly from a person’s Social Security check. Social Security will send a letter informing the Medicare beneficiary that Social Security is deducting the monthly Medicare Part B premiums from one’s Social Security check.

Dennis, if you divide your premium of

\$723 by 5 months, it is exactly \$144.60 per month. The average Part B premium for those with income of \$87,000 or less as an individual or \$174,000 or less as a couple is \$144.60 for 2020.

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One can GOOGLE “Medicare Easy Pay” online or search on the Medicare.gov website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) website for the Medicare Easy Pay form. It is not hard to set up Medicare Easy Pay to pay monthly, but it does take time.

Until you can set up a monthly payment from your checking or savings account with “Medicare Easy Pay” then you can pay your Medicare bill at your [www.MyMedicare.gov](http://www.MyMedicare.gov) account.

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*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](http://www.tonisays.com). Coming October 7 th Confused about Medicare Zoom Webinar discussing Medicare’s Annual Enrollment and what your Medicare options for fall’s Medicare Annual Enrollment can be.* ★



Hollywood's Shameful Kowtow to Beijing

Hollywood is accommodating a new era of McCarthyism, imposed this time by Red China.

It involves everything that Hollywood tells us that it hates – censorship, pressure to conform and blacklists. Yet the studios have seamlessly absorbed China's dictates into their operations.

This most iconic American business is now, literally, an agent of Chinese influence.

The latest outrage is Disney’s live-action remake of the animated movie from the 1990s, “Mulan,” based on Chinese folklore about a girl enlisting in the army. Disney filmed parts of the movie in China, and in its credits, thanks Chinese propaganda departments as well as a public security bureau in the province of Xinjiang, where Beijing is carrying out its hideous campaign against the Uighurs.

If you think Hollywood would be sensitive about associating itself with an ongoing atrocity, you haven't paid much attention to its priorities lately, which are all about pleasing Beijing.

Hollywood hasn’t dared

to make movies offensive to Beijing in more than two decades. A trilogy of such movies came out in 1997, most famously “Seven Years in Tibet,” starring Brad Pitt. Ever since, Hollywood has considered kowtowing to Beijing the better part of valor.

In a chilling report released a few weeks ago about Hollywood’s subordinate relationship to Beijing, PEN America described the forces that have given China the whip hand.

First, there’s sheer market power. China went from having a market about the size of Peru in the late 1990s to a behemoth box office. Money talks, even if it is the money of a country hostile to the United States.

Then, there’s China’s comprehensive system of censorship that very much applies to foreign movies. It is rare that a studio or producer says “no.” To his credit, Quentin Tarantino refused to cut a comic scene featuring Bruce Lee from “Once Upon a Time in Hollywood.”

Otherwise, the changes are exacting. “Mission: Impossible III” cut a scene where tattered clothes hung from a clothesline in Shanghai. Chinese villains are out of the question. Notoriously, Paramount changed the invaders in a remake of “Red Dawn” from Chinese to North Korean.

Since Beijing can delay the release date of a movie

or demand that a scene be reshot, and studios don't want to deal with the uncertainty, Hollywood preemptively accedes to Beijing's wishes. PEN America notes that producer David Franzoni has said, “They have a lot of power so you want to try to be sure you have it all down the first time.”

Paramount removed patches with the Japanese and Taiwanese flags from Tom Cruise’s bomber jacket in the sequel to “Top Gun.” As PEN America points out, the changes had already been made when the trailer was released, meaning Paramount didn’t wait for Chinese censors to object.

The director of “Seven Years in Tibet,” Jean-Jacques Annaud, subsequently released a letter expressing slavish regret. He “solemnly declared” that he never supported Tibet independence and never had contact with the Dalai Lama. “Moreover,” he added, “becoming friends with him is out of the question.”

The upshot is that Hollywood is much more comfortable criticizing the United States than one of the most reprehensible regimes on the planet. The repression of the Uighurs? As far as Hollywood is concerned, it doesn’t exist and, at this rate, never will.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 10

S	A	Y	S	O		P	A	S		S	H	I	A		
I	C	E	A	X		O	R	C		M	E	A	N	T	
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N	E	E	R			Y	E	T		S	M	O	T	E	

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. One's arbitrary assertion

6. "Swan Lake" step

9. Not Sunni

13. Mountaineer's tool

14. Tolkien creature

15. Bebe Rexha's " \_\_\_\_ to Be"

16. Artificial or mannered

17. Snow runner

18. Nylon or Kevlar, in chemistry terms

19. Scooby-Doo's best friend

21. "Between order and genus

23. "Marine botany is study of plants living here

24. 35mm, e.g.

25. Public health agency, acr.

28. Partner of void

30. Small lynx

35. Stewart and Blagojevich

37. Grazing lands

39. Jawaharlal \_\_\_\_

40. g or cm

41. Smelling \_\_\_\_, athlete's pick-me-upper

43. No neatnik

44. Lay to rest

46. They are hairy on a hobbit

47. Hefty volume

48. One in line, during COVID-19 pandemic

50. In the middle of

52. "Grain-bearing tip of a cereal plant

53. Cattle meat

55. Fleur-de-\_\_\_\_

57. \*Pollinator attractors

60. \*Food for a pollinator

63. One there at the beginning

64. Famous T-Rex

66. Lowest deck

68. Forearm bones

69. Cassius Clay, \_\_\_\_ Muhammad Ali

70. Private instructor

71. \_\_\_\_-do-well

72. Thus far

73. Inflict a blow

DOWN

1. Female sib

2. "Hamlet" has five

3. Sure or uh-huh

4. "The Forsyte \_\_\_\_," pl.

5. \*Product of photosynthesis

6. One of a pocketful, according to Mother Goose

7. Genesis vessel

8. "The Matrix" genre

9. Highway hauler

10. Icy precipitation

11. Dr. Jones, fictional professor of archaeology, to friends

12. Filled up

15. Biblical personification of material wealth

20. Olden-day Celts

22. Priest's robe

24. Blank leaf in a book

25. "Seed holder

26. "Death, Be Not Proud" poet

27. Mine passages

29. \*Food manufacturer

31. Superlative of better

32. Actress Sevigny

33. Something in the air

34. \*Potato, e.g.

36. Proofreader's mark

38. \*Plant support

42. "...he found a crooked sixpence upon a crooked \_\_\_\_"

45. Sales lure

49. Electric fish

51. \*Not monocots

54. Piece of writing

56. Pull strings

57. Carpet attribute

58. Marine eagle

59. Russia's famous Peter

60. Sans mixers

61. Choir voice

62. \*Plant anchor

63. Good times

65. Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's guitar

67. Prefix for prior

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15

16 17 18

19 20 21 22

23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

35 36 37 38 39

40 41 42 43

44 45 46 47

48 49 50 51 52

53 54 55 56

57 58 59 60 61 62

63 64 65 66 67

68 69 70 71 72 73

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 10

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

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9 4 7

7 8 6 1

6 1 3 2

6 3

1 3 9 7

5 3 1 6

2 7

2 3 8

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solutions on Page 10



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# President Gets Briefed on Wildfires

By Laurel Rosenhall, CalMatters

This story has been edited to fit the available space in this issue

It was looking a little lonely on the tarmac when President Donald Trump arrived in California to be briefed about record-breaking wildfires that have burned an area the size of Connecticut, killed two dozen people and blanketed the West Coast with smoke. Not a single California state official greeted Trump as he stepped off the plane at an airfield in Sacramento County.

Gov. Gavin Newsom was in a hangar nearby, and promptly met with Trump and several fire officials. But his absence at the steps of Air Force One revealed the latest move in what's become the Democratic governor's delicate dance with the Republican president who is both a tantalizing political foil – and a key link to aid the state needs as disasters mount.

"We've been working very well with Gavin," Trump told reporters gathered on the tarmac.

"We're obviously from different sides of the spectrum, but we have a very good relationship."

Then, inside the hangar where Newsom (wearing a mask) and Trump (not wearing a mask) met with emergency officials, the governor also took a cordial tone.

"I want to thank you and acknowledge the work that you've done to be immediate in terms of your response," Newsom told Trump.

Newsom said they agree on the need to thin more trees and delicately lectured Trump about global warming driving the frequency and intensity of wildfires.

"Climate change is real and that is exacerbating this," Newsom said.

The dynamic between Newsom and Trump has turned out to be one of the major surprises of Newsom's short time as governor. Newsom won office in 2018 positioning himself as the antithesis of Trump, and pledged to lead a "resistance state." But his tenure has been marked by an extraordinary spate of disasters – catastrophic wildfires, the deadly coronavirus pandemic, a decimated state budget and record unemployment – that have required cooperation between two men who once cast each other as clowns.

Newsom has repeatedly praised Trump's disaster aid for California, saying he wants to put political differences aside when problems need to be solved. But it's involved a bit of whiplash. He recently called their relationship "very effective" in responding to emergencies



Trump supporters wait by the fence at McClellan Air Force Base runway. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner



Donald J. Trump supporters attended the president's visit at McClellan Air Force Base. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

– just the day after he dissed Trump for saying California wildfires were due to insufficient forest raking. He talked last week about a productive phone call with Trump, even as he criticized the federal government for a lack of action on climate change.

It's a fine line to walk, and Newsom has occasionally slipped, by being so nice that he gave ammunition to a political opponent. While heaping praise on Trump for sending a batch of coronavirus test kits in April, Newsom used one of the president's campaign slogans – "Promises made, promises kept" – and promptly found himself in an ad

for Trump's reelection.

Newsom's approach – meeting with Trump to discuss forest management and climate change, but not appearing in any chummy-looking photo ops in front of Air Force One – suggests that he is trying to thread the needle. On the one hand, he needs to demonstrate apolitical leadership amid disaster, but also avoid looking too bipartisan in an election year when he's campaigning for Trump's Democratic rival.

"It's a carefully-considered, carefully-orchestrated tango with the president that the governor has no choice but to participate in,"

said Nathan Ballard, a Democratic political consultant who worked for Newsom when he was San Francisco mayor.

Though Newsom disagrees with Trump "about almost everything under the sun," Ballard said, "it is vital for the governor's constituents that he continues to play ball with the president during these unprecedented disasters."

While Newsom and Trump kept things cordial, Newsom's environmental deputies got into a terse exchange with the president.

Wade Crowfoot, Newsom's secretary of natural resources, emphasized the unprecedented heat and warming trend, saying: "If we ignore that science and put our head in the sand...we are not going to succeed together protecting Californians."

Trump, smiling, said, "It'll start getting cooler, you just watch."

Crowfoot shot back, "I wish science agreed with you."

Trump responded, "I don't think science knows, actually," then briskly called on another presenter.

Demonstrators – of both parties – outside the meeting said they understand why Newsom plays nice with Trump.

Lance Caster said Newsom's approach makes sense to him, even though he doesn't like it. "It depends on what he wants. When he doesn't like what Donald's doing, he bad mouths him, and when he wants something, he's really nice," said Caster, a Republican who works as a truck driver and lives in the Sacramento suburb of Citrus Heights.

Most Californians believe climate change is "extremely important" or "very important" to them personally, according to a Public Policy Institute of California survey last month, and just one-fifth of the state's likely voters said they trust the federal government to handle environmental issues. Not surprisingly in this overwhelmingly blue state, 70% of voters said Joe Biden would be better than Trump on environmental policy.

Laurel covers California politics for CalMatters, with a focus on power and personalities in the statehouse. Her stories explain political dynamics in the Capitol and examine how money, advocacy and relationships.

CalMatters reporters Rachel Becker, Julie Cart and Barbara Feder Ostrov contributed to this report.

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