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Dixon's Independent Voice

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Falling for Fall

Join the Fun of a Decorating Contest



One of many decorated vignettes that can be used in the Falling for Fall Decorating Contest sponsored by the Dixon United Methodist Church Women and co-sponsored by the Independent Voice. Other sponsors and organizations are being sought for involvement. Photo by Suzanne Galloway.

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Decorating Dixon for fall and giving all ages an opportunity to do something creative during the pandemic is the goal behind the wonderful women at the Dixon United Methodist Church. 'Falling for Fall' is an invitation for the front of homes and businesses to be decorated with gourds, pumpkins, or scarecrows where people can drive-by and enjoy now.

Returning from a trip to the East Coast, Suzanne Galloway, President of the group, was inspired by the 'Pumpkin People' contest in Jackson, New Hampshire, a state in the New England region known for their astonishing array of colorful trees.

"They celebrate autumn really big back there," she said, showing many pictures she took of their trip which included Vermont. "People come

from far and wide to view the harvest season." The idea struck her that Dixon would probably have a lot of fun with this kind of thing with two pumpkin patches, Silveyville and Cool Patch, right here in town.

Individuals or families and businesses are invited to decorate in front of their house or business so the rest of our residents can drive by and see them while maintaining social distancing. People can decorate their doorways or create vignettes in their yards using Halloween or fall themes.

"The possibilities are endless," Galloway said. The Independent Voice will publish a map and list of locations. "If they are a business, it would create extra exposure to let the rest of us know they are still open... or will be soon when conditions allow," Galloway said. This long-time Dixon High School teacher, now retired, and decorator for the DUMC

entry for the annual Festival of Trees is certain displays could be left up through Thanksgiving – maybe even Christmas with the addition of pretty ornaments.

The displays can go up any time in September or early October but the final map will be published in time for a Harvest Celebration over the weekend of October 10-11. Clubs are encouraged to have special activities those days.

"This will be a fun way to get us out of our homes and walking, biking, or driving around town," she said. Other groups are being contacted.

"We are hoping other organizations will participate, join in the fun, and spread the word to all of their members," she said. For more information or to register your display, leave a message at the Dixon United Methodist Church phone (707) 678-2191. ★

Newsom's Plan Imposes Risk-Based Restrictions



Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, a statewide, stringent and slow plan for living with COVID-19 for the long haul. The plan imposes risk-based criteria on tightening and loosening COVID-19 allowable activities and expands the length of time between changes to assess how any movement affects the trajectory of the disease.

Like every aspect of California's response, data and science are the North Star, and as a result, this new framework makes a number of changes to the state's previous resilience roadmap.

Californians can go to covid19.ca.gov to find out where their county falls and what activities are allowable in each county.

"This Blueprint is statewide, stringent and slow," said Governor Newsom. "We have made notable progress over recent weeks, but the disease is still too widespread across the state. COVID-19 will be with us for a long time and we all need to adapt. We need to live differently. And we need to minimize exposure for our health, for our families and for our communities."

The Blueprint builds on lessons learned from the first six months of the disease – and the new scientific understanding that has been collected – to create a new system for regulating movement and COVID-19 transmissions. It includes:

- (1) At least 21 days to expand activities beyond the initial tier to ensure California better limits the spread of the virus;
- (2) Mandatory metrics – case rates and test positivity – to measure how widespread COVID-19 is in each county and guide what is allowed;
- (3) A uniform state framework, with four categories instead of 58 different sets of rules;
- (4) A more nuanced way of allowing activity: Instead of open vs. closed, sectors can be partially opened and progressively add to their operations as disease transmission decreases;
- (5) A new process for

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New Leader Anxious to Rev Up Chamber

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Forget the stereotypes of older women with cats. Shauna Manina, the new Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer may be both of those but she is also a proud "Biker" and a skilled marketer who already coordinated her first virtual mixer.

"I have rescued kitties and 127 potted plants but I'm a biker," she said with pride. "I very strongly support anything that helps veterans or children." Manina comes with nearly 20 years at the Vacaville Reporter as a Special Events Coordinator. That may have been the longest stint of being in the same place after growing up in an Air Force family that lived in 40 different states by the time she started taking college classes at age 14. She



Shauna Manina, New Dixon Chamber President/CEO. Courtesy photo

worked in Europe for a few years for the Air Force and studied at Cambridge for five years in New York but then moved to Vacaville to be closer to family.

This driven woman has a long list of successful endeavors including starting Merriment on Main, the Downtown Vacaville Business Association, the

Creek Walk, Fiesta Days, and KidzFest to name a few. She worked briefly at the Vacaville Chamber as Member Relations Director but got shut down with the pandemic. With that kind of background, Dixon may appear as a blank slate for her.

"I think the Chamber has been doing great and has a solid foundation. I will build upon it," she said. "My motto is connect, communicate, and collaborate."

Manina talked about the ability to recognize other people's gifts that she feels God has given them and how to bring people together.

"It is only by the grace of God and good people who buy into the vision that these things were accomplished," she said. "I will take responsibility for giving them the

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Council Asked to Name MacDonald Grove



The 22-acre Northwest Park includes Northwest Park Grove, a grove David MacDonald helped protect in his teenage years. Inset: David MacDonald continues his father's legacy playing bagpipes. Courtesy photos

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Northwest Park was started over 40 years ago and was developed over three phases. It is the city's second community park, located at the intersection of West H and North Lincoln Streets, and is surrounded by residential development. Park facilities geared to the neighborhood include at least 22 acres of covered picnic areas, basketball court, two children's play areas, turf landscaping, walking paths, and barbecue pits. The park consists of large sports fields, park benches, and two restrooms, all connected by paved trails and shaded by full, sturdy trees.

The three large multi-purpose basins where children and adults play sports once served as water storage for the construction of the many new homes built in the area. In those days, David MacDonald would build boats with his buddies in the family driveway around the corner and sail them across the ponds.

Soon after Northwest Park was completed and when the trees were young, a group of teenagers stopped and decided to snap off the tops of the trees. David, then a teenager himself, stepped

in to stop the vandalism of the young trees. However, David did not stop there. He went on to care for those hapless trees until they recovered, took root, and began to thrive.

"It's absolutely very common for young trees to be vandalized," said former Parks and Community Services Director Randy Davis who has organized several occasions of volunteer tree plantings at the Veterans Park near his home. "You plant ten and hope seven will survive." He said that each and every tree has to be protected until it is eventually rooted well enough to thrive.

That particular grove of trees in Northwest Park is here today for all to enjoy thanks to young David's commitment for their survival.

"I was a step mom and got David when he was 15," said Marianne MacDonald, a long-time local Realtor. "I watched David and how he approached things; so organized and methodical. What impressed me about David was he always did what he said he would do. I mean always. If he said he'd pick up something or clean up something, he did it." David went on to serve as Student Body President at

Dixon High School, had lots of friends, and played soccer. Although he never took music, he plays bagpipes.

"His Dad played bagpipes," said Marianne. "David wanted to be a doctor. He had been accepted at other colleges but he wanted UC Irvine because of the medical school there and he wanted to stay in California and be able to drive his old pickup," she said.

David, now 58, did become a doctor. In fact, he is a Family Medicine Specialist and practices at Martinez Health Center, inside Contra Costa Regional Medical Center. His healing gifts never left him and he continues to give back, said Marianne. Besides being a doctor, David often plays the soothing sound of bagpipes at the bedside of patients in their last hours of life. She is still impressed.

At last Tuesday night's City Council Meeting, the Council was asked to authorize the placement of a plaque near the grove naming the area the David MacDonald Grove, to commemorate David's actions which "added to the beauty of the City of Dixon." He doesn't know about this, she said, and she is hoping for a surprise. ★

Chamber's Epicurean Cancelled

By Debra Dingman

One by one over the past few months we have seen many of Dixon's traditional events fall off the calendar. Now there is another one. The Chamber announced this past week that they will not move forward with their Epicurean Fete, a huge fundraiser for the organization which showcased dozens of local restaurants and many wineries.

The event is normally held in November but due to months of planning required, it has been cancelled.

"It was a hard decision. Even though we are still several months from when the event was supposed to take place, we cannot foresee what the COVID restrictions will be then," said Kay Cayler, Chair of the Chamber Board.

This is such a difficult time for many of us who are heavily involved in the community. I am facing a similar situation with the Kiwanis Festival of Trees which I chair. I feel like I've been hanging onto my re-written, pandemic-restricted vision of the annual event by my fingernails. Because restrictions were lifted once but too soon clamped back down, it would be easy to just put off the whole thing because of the uncertainty. It does take lots of planning and tons of work is behind the scenes.

Changes in life – and the world – like we have experienced actually open doors for new ways and new ideas as innovative people find ways to persevere in adversity.

Our deadline to make a decision is coming quick and I was optimistic a couple days ago when the Governor released three new counties and also made revisions for daycare for children. We will see...

GOODBYE AND HELLO

Pernell Colter has been a common sight as he drove around Dixon in his little white City of Dixon pickup reminding me of a bee collecting honey and going flower to flower. Only for Pernell, he was darting from parks, streets, and buildings, to the Public Works Maintenance Yard hiding at the end of East Chestnut and sandwiched by Hall Park and the Mayfair livestock area.

Pernell, the Streets and Utilities Maintenance Supervisor, has retired after

40 years with the City of Dixon and I want to shout out a loud praise for his many years of service. When someone had an event, this guy was always Mr. Helpful and had such a happy demeanor. I know there are many in this town who wish him



Tony Perez

well into a much-deserved retirement.

On that note, join me in welcoming the new guy to take up where Pernell left off: Tony Perez. He is coming to us from the City of Suisun and lives in Winters although he said he plans on moving his business to Dixon, as soon as he can find shop space. He builds engines for classic cars like hot rods and lowriders. The name of his company is Bowtie Specialties.

"I look forward to serving you in Dixon," he said.

HUBBY CONCERNS

Some of you have asked me to write about how my husband is doing and I think that is so kind. David recovered from heat exhaustion but due to the extended time of not getting properly diagnosed, his lungs are still having a difficult time and he coughs way too much.

He is very typical of all the males I know and shrugs it off as "not that bad." It is true he can still sit through a steady hour of bad newscasts, continues to refurbish our garage, and still gets upset watching our City Council so he can't be too bad. But, with the smoke in the air constantly irritating breathing passages, it is incessant. I'm being a good wife and forcing him to be seen by a completely different medical facility. He is a veteran and will go to David Grant Medical Center instead of Kaiser. Thank you for your concerns. ★

Yin Ranch in Vacaville Damaged by Wildfire

By Yen Marshall, APAPA

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - APAPA and the Yin family are overwhelmed with the outpour of

support and generous offers of assistance from so many people who have been touched by the APAPA organization and the generosity of C.C. and Regina through

the years. For those who might not be aware of what happened, Yin Ranch in Vacaville suffered major damage from the recent wildfires. Both C.C.

and Regina are well and doing ok. Thank you for allowing them time to rest and adjust.

In response, former principals of APAPA who helped C.C. Yin establish and organize APAPA from the beginning, Amy Tong and Lucy Oback, have returned to volunteer their efforts to start a unified fundraising effort to help rebuild the indoor center of the Yin Ranch called the Arch building. It was a place that was built for the community's gathering, networking, developing, and empowering the next generation of leaders.

Amy and Lucy, with Maeley Tom in the



Season wildfires severely damaged Yin Ranch in Vacaville. Photo courtesy of APAPA

background, are in the process, under the direction of C.C. and Regina, of working on the legal and financial logistics in starting this fund with the understanding that all fundraising be unified under one umbrella

effort. Notification will be distributed as soon as the information is complete. If there are questions regarding this effort at this time, please direct your inquiry to Lucy Oback: lucyoback@gmail.com. ★

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www.StPetersChurchDixon.com

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Sunday

8:30 am and 10 am English

6:30 am and 7:30 pm Spanish

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St. Peter's Catholic Church News

Why are the Saints so important to Catholics? They were just ordinary people after all. Yes, this is true, however they lived with Jesus squarely in the center of their lives. Some had a strong obedient faith relationship with Jesus at a very young age, while others lived in the world, doing things of the world only to realize later in life that Jesus was what was missing in their life and then He became the center of it. That's the first commandment, to have a crazy love for God and only Him. The Saints exemplify this. They understood what it was to live a life only for God and to do His will perfectly.

Catholics do not pray to the Saints for them to give us something, but to intercede on our behalf, to pray with us to God our Father who is the only one who answers those prayers, does the miracles, loves us like no one else. So then, what

are all the Saint statues, prayers cards, medals and such about? These are reminders of the beautiful people who lived and breathed for God who will pray with us and for us if we ask. Think of them like the photographs of our family members. The photographs remind us of our family and friends who we have asked, "Will you pray for me?" You are not asking them to do the miracle, but asking for their prayers for you. This is called intercession. That is what the Saints do, intercede. To learn more on this topic, check out Fr. Mitch Pacwa's article The Bible Supports Praying to the Saints at catholic.com. God Bless You.

St. Peter Church is celebrating Mass in the parking lot. Please see their website for the Mass schedule for English and Spanish. All are welcome to attend. Masks are mandatory. ★

Get Ready for a New Way to do Coastal Cleanup Day



Volunteers can clear more than 26,000 pounds of debris in a matter of hours. Photo: Courtesy of Solano Resource Conservation District

By Allison Martin, Solano Resource Conservation District

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- This year, cleaning California's coast will start at our own front doors. Solano County and its partners are proud to announce that the 12th Annual Solano County Coastal Cleanup will take place throughout the entire month of September, with an emphasis on each Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to noon. Solano County residents will help clean their communities and the coast by sweeping through their own neighborhoods and local natural places, helping to prevent single-use plastic items and other litter from polluting the environment and flowing into the ocean.

Solano County residents continue to show they care deeply about the environment and their communities by supporting Coastal Cleanup year after year. Since the county's Coastal Cleanup program started in 2008,

more than 27,000 Solano County volunteers have removed 456,000 pounds of trash and recyclable debris from local waterways, parks, and trails. Last year alone, nearly 2,200 volunteers cleared more than 26,000 pounds of debris – all in a matter of hours.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Coastal Cleanup organizers recognized that hosting traditional cleanup sites with large gatherings of volunteers would not be safe this year. However, Solano County residents can honor the spirit and intention of the cleanup while staying close to home and following public health guidelines. Trash in the streets will become beach and ocean pollution once the rains begin, and cleaning neighborhoods and local natural areas provides a valuable service to the coast and our communities alike.

"While we may not be able to gather at the cleanup sites our volunteers have taken such good care of this past decade, we can still have

a positive impact in our communities and the environment," shared Narcisa Untal, Senior Planner with the Solano County Department of Resource Management. "A community effort like Coastal Cleanup might be exactly what we all need right now."

Solano County volunteers are asked to begin by registering on the Cleanup Solano website, cleanup-solano.org. By registering, Coastal Cleanup organizers can share pertinent information with volunteers and keep track of their impact. In addition to registering, volunteers are encouraged to download and use the CleanSwell mobile app or print the Trash Collection Data Cards, both of which are accessible on the Cleanup Solano website. The collected trash data is crucial for informing policy decisions like California's historic plastic bag and straw bans and hold big polluters accountable.

Complete guidelines for conducting a neighborhood cleanup, along with other resources to help plan and prepare, are available on cleanupsolano.org. Please check the website for updates and share your cleanup experience on social media using the hashtags #CoastalCleanup and #KeepSolanoClean. Follow local cleanup efforts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the handle @cleanupsolano.

For a complete listing of Solano County partners and community cleanups, please visit cleanupsolano.org ★

Recology Recycling Center Re-opens



The Recology Recycling and Buy-Back Facility on the corner of First and C Streets is open again for your recycling needs. Their hours are Tuesday through Saturday 9 am to 3 pm and they can take oil every day but electronic waste is only on Saturdays. "The boss here is excellent," said Wynn Randall who accumulated 20 large trash bags filled with plastic and aluminum over their closed time. "This location is totally different from Vacaville and so much better," he said. He started recycling in January and came to Dixon Recology, but during the pandemic, they shut down and he went to Vacaville. He was happy Dixon was open again. "Dixon uses a scale and is computerized but in Vacaville, they use a hand calculator," he said noting that the latter operation seemed less professional. "They treat you excellently here," he said. Customers may call (707) 678-4026 for more information. Photo by Debra Dingman

New Leader Anxious to Rev Up Chamber

Continued from page 1

tools and encouragement." She is already familiar with the processes so is busy getting to know the members now but is also working behind the scenes to give value to one's membership benefits such as "significant advertising discounts" via the Reporter, KUIC and Your Town Monthly publication.

"Shauna really stands out for her experience and passion for the position," said Chamber Board member Robin Tully. "She wants to help members develop their businesses and believes in helping the community as well. She also has great skills with marketing, event planning and fiscal management that are needed for this position. It's a challenging job." This is the reason the Board chose to give the title of "President/CEO" to Manina, said Chamber President Kay Cayler who also noted it was in line with other Chambers.

Manina's list of goals and objectives include revamping the Chamber website beginning next week, improving the Chamber newsletter, and connecting the

Dixon Chamber to a work certification program to help students be work-ready in conjunction with the Solano County Office of Education in September.

A 'Lunch Bunch' is another activity that she hopes will build networking opportunities. She will invite ten Chamber members to meet up at a local restaurant for a no-host lunch.

"It's networking, visiting, and supporting another local Chamber member," she said. "We've got to eat so why not have fun, too? We'll be exploring different restaurants."

Another project that is happening now is that the traditional Chamber-sponsored Candidates Forum is back on the table via Tiffany Fabiani, a former Chamber Administrator, who is training Manina on how it works. It is planned to be at City Hall but no date has been set yet.

To welcome Manina, stop by the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, 220 North Jefferson, across from Dixon United Methodist Church and inside ReMax Gold Real Estate. ★

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HUD Announces Disaster Assistance for Northern California Wildfire Victims

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

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced it will speed federal disaster assistance to the State of California and provide support to homeowners and low-income renters forced from their homes in areas affected by the wildfires.

On August 22nd, President Trump issued a major disaster declaration for Lake, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo counties. It has since been extended to include Monterey County.

The President's declaration allows HUD

to offer foreclosure relief and other assistance to certain families living in these counties. HUD is:

Providing immediate foreclosure relief – HUD's automatic 90-day moratorium on foreclosures of Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured home mortgages commenced for the California counties covered under the Presidential declaration on the date of the declaration. For assistance, call your loan servicer or FHA's Resource Center at 1-800-304-9320;

Making mortgage insurance available – HUD's Section 203(h) program provides FHA insurance to disaster victims whose homes were destroyed or damaged to such an extent that reconstruction or replacement is necessary and are facing

the daunting task of rebuilding or buying another home. Borrowers from participating FHA-approved lenders are eligible for 100 percent financing, including closing costs;

Making insurance available for both mortgages and home rehabilitation – HUD's Section 203(k) loan program enables those who have lost their homes to finance the purchase or refinancing of a house along with its repair through a single mortgage. It also allows homeowners who have damaged houses to finance the rehabilitation of their existing single-family home; and

Making information on housing providers and HUD programs available – The Department will share information with the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) and the State on housing providers that may have available units in the impacted counties. This includes Public Housing Agencies and Multi-Family owners. The Department will also connect FEMA and the State to subject matter experts to provide information on HUD programs and providers.

Read about these and other HUD programs designed to assist disaster victims.

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.

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

For information about Opportunity Zones visit: <https://opportunityzones.hud.gov/> ★

Sen. Dodd's Insurance Claims Streamlining Bill Clears Legislature

By Paul Payne, Office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) – A PROPOSAL FROM SEN. BILL DODD, D-Napa, that would streamline residential insurance claims for victims of disasters such as wildfires passed the Legislature with bipartisan support.

"This latest round of destructive wildfires underscores the need to support Californians suffering through these all-too-familiar disasters," said Sen. Dodd. "Above all, they should not be hit with unnecessary insurance company delays as they seek coverage for living expenses and temporary housing. This bill brings peace of mind, ensuring people aren't buried under mountains of insurance company paperwork."

Senate Bill 872, sponsored by Insurance Commissioner Ricardo

Lara, expands the definition of additional living expenses that must be paid to homeowners for losses incurred in a state of emergency. Upon submission of a claim, it requires an advance payment of no less than four months for costs such as housing, furniture rental and transportation. Also, it mandates an advance payment of no less than 25 percent of a policy limit for lost contents without submission of an inventory form.

"With over 620 wildfires currently burning throughout the state, this legislation is more important than ever to help guarantee that future wildfire survivors have the time and resources they need to recover," said Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara. "I thank Sen. Dodd for authoring SB 872, which cuts red tape for survivors of forthcoming wildfires to access

insurance benefits, and I thank the Legislature for recognizing the urgent need for this legislation."

The bill, coauthored by Sen. Mike McGuire, D-Healdsburg, and Assemblymember Jim Wood, D-Santa Rosa, makes insurers give homeowners a 60-day grace period for payment of residential premiums after an emergency. Also, insurance companies will be barred from deducting the land value from payouts for those who build on new lots.

SB 872 now heads to Gov. Gavin Newsom for a signature.

Senator Bill Dodd represents California's 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Solano, Napa, Sonoma, Yolo, Sacramento, and Contra Costa counties. You can learn more about Senator Dodd at www.sen.ca.gov/dodd. ★



Farmers, Ranchers Assess Wildfire Damage

Wildfires that have burned swaths of Northern and Central California have scorched rangeland and damaged or threatened crops and livestock throughout the region. Smoke and ash from the fires have also slowed harvests and led to concerns about potential impacts to crops. County agricultural officials and local farm groups have distributed N95 respirators to farmers and farm employees, due to poor air quality caused by the fires.

Congressional Letter Seeks On-Farm Protective Gear

Twenty-five members of Congress from California asked the White House Tuesday to make more N95 respirators available to farmers and their employees. The masks are required for outside work when air quality worsens during wildfires. The bipartisan request asked the White House Coronavirus Task Force to work with state and local authorities to ensure farmers and farm employees have "priority access to the protective gear they need to do their essential work."

Almond Farmers Start Harvest of Large Crop

Widespread wildfires have had an indirect effect on Northern California almond farmers as their harvest begins. Farmers say hazy skies and high humidity slow the drying of almonds that have been shaken to the ground at the start of harvest. Other than the potential delay, the smoke and haze don't affect the crop. California farmers expect a record-sized almond harvest this year, and also anticipate large crops of pistachios and walnuts.

Dairy Marketers Assess Prospects For Autumn

Sales of milk, cheese and other dairy products typically increase during the autumn – but, of course, this is not a typical year. The usual, seasonal rise in fluid-milk sales to schools will be muted, as many schools maintain distance-learning protocols due to the pandemic. Marketers say some of that demand may shift to at-home consumption. Cheese sales may also be affected due to delays or cancellations of sporting events and other gatherings. ★



Newsom's Plan Imposes Risk-Based Restrictions

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tightening back up again quickly when conditions worsen.

Based on recent data, each county will fall into one of four colored tiers – Purple (Widespread), Red (Substantial), Orange (Moderate) and Yellow (Minimal) – based on how prevalent COVID-19 is in each county and the extent of community spread. That color will indicate how sectors can operate.

For example, in the Purple (Widespread) tier where the disease is widespread, restaurants can only operate outdoors. But once a county has achieved a lower level of disease transmission and moved into the Red (Substantial) tier, restaurants can operate with 25 percent capacity indoors or 100 patrons, whichever is fewer.

It relies on two leading health metrics: number of cases per 100,000 residents and percentage of COVID-19 tests that come back positive. In addition, counties will also be required to show they are targeting resources and making the greatest efforts to prevent and fight COVID in communities and with individuals with the highest risk, and demonstrate improvements in outcomes.

Counties must remain in every tier but purple for a minimum of 21 days before being eligible to move into the next tier. Each Tuesday, California will update each county's data for the previous week and make corresponding changes to tiers. In order to move into a less restrictive tier, a county must meet that tier's criteria for two straight weeks.

Conversely, counties that fail to meet the metrics for their current tier for two consecutive weeks must move to the next most restrictive tier. The plan also includes an "emergency brake" where

the state can intervene more immediately for concerning factors like hospitalizations.

Purple (Widespread) is substituted for the previous County Data Monitoring List (which has equivalent criteria to Purple). Schools in the (Purple) Widespread tier aren't permitted to reopen for in-person instruction, unless they receive a waiver from their local health department for TK-6 grades. Schools can reopen for in-person instruction once their county has been in the Red (Substantial) tier for at least two weeks.

The plan also emphasizes that no matter what restrictions the state puts in place, COVID-19 will get the upper hand if Californians don't adapt their behaviors for the duration of the pandemic.

That means, until an effective vaccine is distributed, Californians must wear a mask every time they're with people outside their household. Residents must take activities outside and maintain distance even with loved ones who do not live with them. Californians must realize that the safest place to be is still at home. And the elderly and those with medical conditions should still stay away from others as much as possible.

The Governor also announced new PSAs highlighting the dangers of social gatherings during the pandemic and partnerships with Yelp, Facebook, Google and OpenTable, which will now encourage businesses to share COVID-19 safety precautions through new features so that customers can make informed decisions to protect their health and safety.

To learn more, visit covid19.ca.gov. ★

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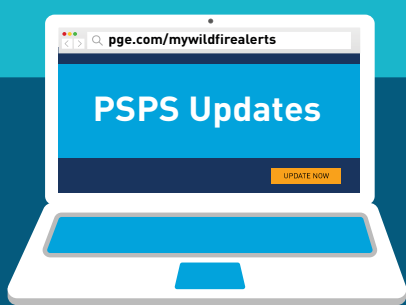
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MPG

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:



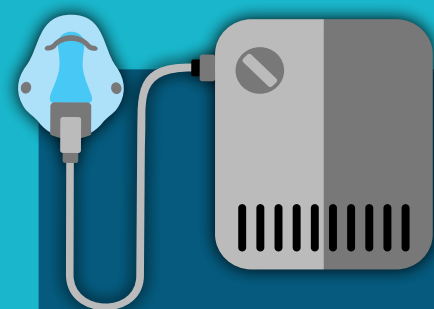
Make sure PG&E can reach you before a PSPS by updating your contact information at pge.com/mywildfirealerts.

1



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

2



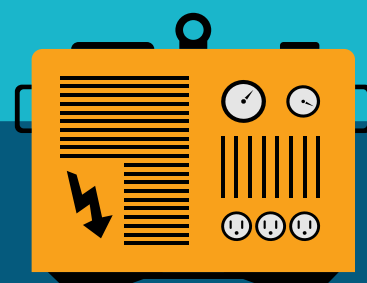
Make preparations for anyone in your family who depends on electricity for medical needs.

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

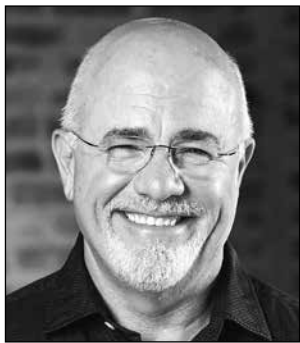


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Show Them Your Value!

Dear Dave,
I've been with my company almost four years. Currently, I make the same money as a co-worker with the same title and the same amount of time on the job. But since we've both been there, I have taken on many more responsibilities than he has. What's your advice on asking for a raise? I feel that I have the right to complain about the situation, and think I should make more money than he does.

- Vincent

Dear Vincent,
If you honestly feel like you deserve a raise because of your effort and performance on the job, that's fine. Sit down with your leader, and make an objective, logical, and reasonable argument for why you deserve more money. I wouldn't mention your co-worker, because it's just not relevant. What is relevant is the value you bring to the company.

I understand how you feel right now. But no, you

Dave Ramsey Says Social Security Matters

don't have the "right" to complain. You agreed on your pay when you took the job, and you should perform your duties with integrity and character. What someone else does, or doesn't do, isn't tied to your personal compensation.

If you think you deserve a raise, and you've got the results to prove it, sit down and have a respectful conversation with your leader. Show him or her the numbers, and the value you bring to the company, and explain why you feel you should get more money.

Good luck, Vincent!
- Dave

You've Got To Change The Person In The Mirror

Dear Dave,

I'm just starting to pay off my debts. How do you feel about moving credit card balances to other companies in order to get lower rates? It seems like that would help me get out of debt faster.

- Elizabeth

Dear Elizabeth,
I get what you're saying. It might help speed up the process a tiny bit, but the habits that got you into debt in the first place won't change just because you've switched credit card companies. What you're talking about is an easy way to lower the interest rates - temporarily, in

most cases - but it doesn't keep you from taking on more debt.

Many people think they've really done something to solve their debt problems when they do this. But you've got to remember that getting out of debt, and gaining control of your finances, is all about changing the person you see in the mirror. You've got to make a commitment to getting out of debt, staying out of debt, and sticking to a written, monthly budget - that means keeping track of every, single dollar and living on less than you make.

In many cases, when people have problems with debt it's the result of unwise lifestyle and financial choices. But guess what? When you change, interest rates don't matter nearly as much. And when you shift your mindset about money, that will make a difference in a way that changing credit card companies and chasing lower interest rates can't!

- Dave

Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including *The Total Money Makeover*. The *Dave Ramsey Show* is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey. ★

Can I Hide My Social Security in A Tax-Advantaged Account?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor



Dear Rusty: I will be 62 years of age at the end of this year. Can I start drawing my Social Security at age 62 and have it directly deposited into my IRA (arm's length), not spend it and continue to work without affecting my tax position? I will defer actually using it until a later date
Signed: Curious Investor

Dear Curious Investor: Regardless of where you have your Social Security benefits deposited, if you continue to work after claiming early benefits, you'll be subject to Social Security's earnings test. The earnings test applies to anyone who collects benefits before they reach their full retirement age (which for you is 66 years and 8 months).

It doesn't matter if you spend your benefits, save them, or invest them; you'll still be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. And, since IRS rules say that only earned income (which excludes Social Security benefits) can be deposited into an individual retirement account (IRA), it is not possible for you to direct-deposit your Social Security benefits into an IRA. In any case, even

if you otherwise save your benefits for later use; you will still be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. For 2020 the annual earnings limit is \$18,240 (the limit changes annually) and if that is exceeded, Social Security will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. The earnings limit goes up by about 2.5 times in the year you reach your full retirement age (FRA) and goes away once your FRA is attained.

Social Security gets your earnings information from the IRS when you file your income taxes, and you cannot avoid the earnings test by having the money deposited for later use. The earnings test will still apply, and they will take back some of your benefits if you exceed the limit. For information, by "take back" benefits, I mean they will notify you that they have overpaid you (due to your earnings from working) and will give you the option of either paying them back in full with a lump sum payment, or they will withhold your future benefits until they recover what you owe because you exceeded the earnings limit.

As for your "tax position" on your benefits, that will depend upon your combined income from all other sources

(investments, interest, pensions, earnings, etc.), plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year, plus any non-taxable interest you may have (combined this is known as your Modified Adjusted Gross Income, or "MAGI"). If you file your income taxes as a single and your MAGI is more than \$25,000 (or if you file "married-jointly and your MAGI is more than \$32,000) then 50% of your SS benefits will become part of your taxable income. And filing single with a MAGI of more than \$34,000 (or \$44,000 if married-filing jointly), up to 85% of your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income (by the IRS). Once again, it doesn't matter how you dispose of your benefit payments; they will still be taxable if you exceed the clip levels mentioned above, and you will still be subject to Social Security's earnings test until you reach your full retirement age.

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Dixon's Independent Voice

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Dixon Chamber Cancels Epicurean Fete

Dixon Chamber of Commerce

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Chamber of Commerce announced that the Epicurean Fete, which had been scheduled for November 7, has been cancelled. Due to the months of planning involved in staging the event, and the current COVID restrictions, the Board of Directors has decided to postpone until next year.

"It was a hard decision. Even though we are still several months from when the event was supposed to take place, we

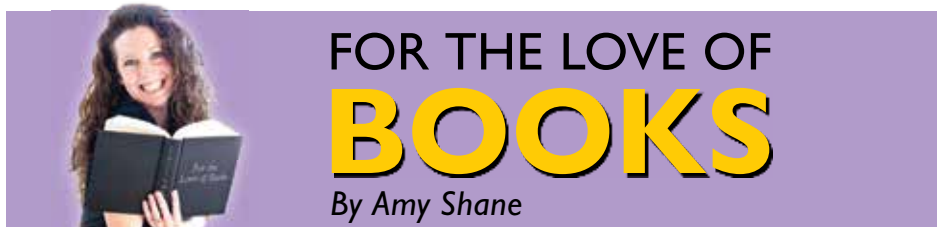
cannot foresee what the COVID restrictions will be then," said Kay Cayler, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Dixon Chamber. "We cannot endanger the health and safety of those who would attend the event."

This highly popular event, now in its 14th year, features food, beverages, auctions, and raffles and is a favorite among the local businesses.

For more information, contact the Dixon Chamber of Commerce at 707-678-2650 or info@dixonchamber.org. ★

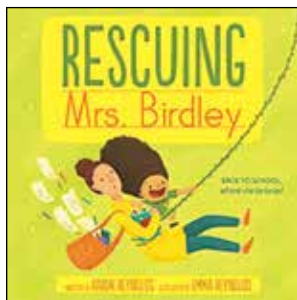
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Back to School

While this school year may look a little different this year, you can always count on great Back-to-School books. This collection of books brings the spirit of learning anywhere while also exploring and pairing great projects perfect for home learning.

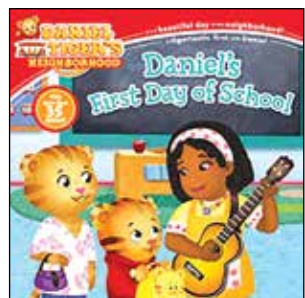


Rescuing Mrs. Birdley
by Aaron Reynolds,
Emma Reynolds;
Simon Schuster Books
For Young Readers

Miranda watches the Nature Joe Animal Show every day on t.v., which of course, makes her an animal expert. She knows how to spot wild animals in trouble, capture them, and return them to their natural habitat just like Joe. Then, one day Miranda spots her teacher Mrs. Birdley at the grocery store. This is not her natural habit. Good thing Miranda has trained her whole life for this day and quickly commences a series of highly trained skills to return her teacher to school.

Readers will be falling over in fits of giggles as they follow Miranda as she tries to capture her teacher in the grocery store. Perfectly exploring and celebrating a child's imaginative mind inside an everyday grocery store. Young readers will be able to see cause and effect

while also trying to guess what is going to happen next. The storyline and adorable illustrations carry throughout the book's entirety, leaving readers with a hilarious open ending. An excellent addition for any library, while celebrating the start of another school year.



Daniel's First Day Of School
by Jason Fruchter;
Simon Spotlight

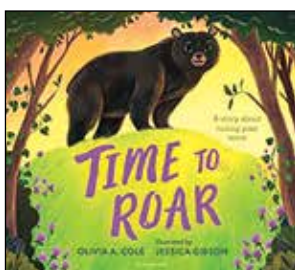
Its Daniel Tiger's first day of school, and he is full of questions. "Will we read books?" "Will we play with blocks?" "What will my teacher be like?" Then Daniel meets his teacher and his new friends and learns all the exciting things to do in class.

Let Daniel Tiger ease all the worries about the first day of school. This darling story is filled with familiar songs that little readers will quickly be singing along to as they get ready for their own day at school.

I'm Feeling School Bus Yellow
by Tina Gallo, Clair Rossiter;
Simon Spotlight

The Crayola crayons are back, and this time it's off to school. From macaroni and cheese yellow to scarlet red and jungle green, all the colors are here to celebrate your day.

Explore your school day with color. What color explains your mood, your feelings? I'm Feeling School Bus Yellow is a great way to take an inside look at the colors around you, while pairing them with feelings and emotions.



Time To Roar
by Olivia A. Cole,
Jessica Gibson;
Bloomsbury

"Sometimes, you must be a bear. Sometimes you must ROAR." In a story about standing up, being assertive, and being strong, the forest animals each find their individual voices to stand up for their meadow. An excellent book that expands past the effects of deforestation and into present-day circumstances as well. ★



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

Riley Reviews

FAMILY COMEDY CAPER "SLEEPOVER;" NOTES ON THE CONVENTIONS

"THE SLEEPOVER" ON NETFLIX

An action caper with heart, "The Sleepover" is a family adventure-comedy that takes an interesting turn when teenager Clancy (Sadie Stanley) and her younger middle-school brother Kevin (Maxwell Simkins) discover the secret life of their stay-at-home mom.

The parents seem like normal suburban folks. The father, Ron (Ken Marino), is a pastry shop owner always willing to test his latest concoctions with the family. The mother, Margot (Malin Ackerman), volunteers as a lunch monitor at the local school.

Kevin's goofball antics get him into trouble at school. A class presentation of his father's biography is such farfetched fiction that his teacher requires a do-over. His outlandish dance moves in the school bathroom get caught on camera and go viral.

Clancy, a talented cellist with daunting stage fright, is more subdued, and yet highly irritated that she's the only one in her grade without a cellphone that her overprotective mother won't let her have.

Kevin has a sleepover with his nerdy friend Lewis (Lucas Jaye), a bedwetter who happens to be uptight about anything outside of his dull routine. Meanwhile, Clancy wants to sneak out to a party with her friend Mim (Cree Cicchino), a social media maven.

The kids' plans for the night are upended when Margot and Ron get kidnapped at gunpoint. It turns out that Margot has a secret past unknown to the rest of the family. She's been in witness protection for years after turning state's evidence against her old crew.

Unlikely as it seems, Margot was a master jewel thief in league with a bunch of fellow crooks, including her ex-flame Leo (Joe Manganiello), a hunky stud who's bound to elicit pangs of jealousy from Margot's somewhat awkward husband.

Following a trail of clues left behind by Margot, the kids locate a storage locker filled with gadgets that would be the envy of James Bond and other action heroes. Now it's up to the spunky quartet to get from Cape Cod to Boston where a major heist is to occur at a gala affair.

Put to the test of one last job, Margot is tasked with stealing a jeweled crown from a royal couple, and Ron is forced to tag along disguised as an assistant with an amusing lack of control over various bodily functions and inability to maintain a French accent.

When the time is right, Margot reveals that she's got the chops of a skilled fighter that match those of someone like Charlize Theron in "Atomic Blonde" and the recent Netflix film, "The Old Guard."

Nothing about "The Sleepover" suggests that a groundbreaking twist on the

family-centered adventure genre is at hand. That hardly matters when the hyperactive rescue mission results in a pleasant and enjoyable caper that is watchable fun for the family.

"The Sleepover" is a perfectly serviceable made-for-TV movie that is more appropriate for home entertainment than viewing at the multiplex.

NOTES ON THE NATIONAL POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

The Independent Voice has been covering the national political conventions going back to the 1996 Bill Clinton vs. Bob Dole presidential contest, and this year began with the expectation of doing the same.

Once again, this newspaper went through the quadrennial process of obtaining the necessary press credentials to cover the conventions from the U.S. Senate Periodical Press Gallery.

Then, the bat flu from China intervened, and we all had hoped to flatten the curve in a couple of weeks so that we could emerge from our basements. That didn't quite work out as planned, and tradition went out the window.

Instead, we were treated to infomercials from both parties, and in some situations, spontaneity was completely lacking.

That was the obvious case with Michelle Obama's speech at the Democratic convention. How do we know? It was taped in advance without mention of Kamala Harris.

Nothing appeared to be very upbeat about the virtual convention of the Democrats. As to be expected from a party that has wanted to impeach the President even before he was sworn in to office, Trump Derangement Syndrome was on steroids at the convention.

Unless I missed it somewhere, the Democrats managed to completely ignore the riots, looting, burning of businesses large and small, and the violence taking place in the Democrat-run cities like Portland, Seattle and New York.

Following the convention, Joe Biden issued a tepid statement against the violence, but that is only because his campaign strategist, Don Lemon of CNN, said there was a problem.

Although the political speakers at the Republican convention were uniformly good, the best impressions belong to the real people who spoke with conviction.

Ann Dorn, the wife of slain African-American police Captain David Dorn, spoke eloquently from the heart, as did so many other normal Americans of all stripes.

The Republicans, as well as President Trump, focused on the powerful stories of everyday heroes, creating far more positive optics than what the Democrats offered. The President also put forward a compelling agenda for a second term.

The next two months will be interesting. Will Joe Biden emerge from his basement for debates? We shall see. ★

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Ask Toni

Social Security Scam Alert!!!

Hang UP on Bogus Calls!!



Toni King

Reader Alert: This week, I, Toni King received a letter from the Social Security office regarding my special needs sister's benefits and an amazing **SCAM ALERT** was on the back of the envelope that her Social Security letter was in. I felt it was my duty to America and the Toni Says newspaper article readers to let you know what Social Security is saying.

Here is what is written on the back of the Social Security envelope which I received **"!!!SCAM ALERT!!!** Scammers are pretending to be government employees. They may threaten you and may demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal actions. Do not be fooled! If you receive a suspicious call:

1. **Hang Up!**
2. **Do Not Give Them Money Or Personal Information!**
3. **Report The Scam At OIG.SSA.GOV."**

On March 27, 2020, Inspector General Gail Ennis of Social Security released a news release from the Social Security Administration warning about new Social Security Benefit Suspension Scams that America needs to be aware of. She said: "Today, I am warning the public about fraudulent letters threatening suspension of Social Security benefits due

to COVID-19 or coronavirus-related office closures. Social Security will not suspend or discontinue benefits because Social Security offices are closed.

The Social Security Office of the Inspector General has received reports that Social Security beneficiaries have received letters through the U.S. Mail stating their payments will be suspended or discontinued unless they call a phone number referenced in the letter. Scammers may then mislead beneficiaries into providing personal information or payment via retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash, to maintain regular benefit payments during this period of COVID-19 office closures.

As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020, local Social Security offices are closed to the public due to COVID-19 concerns. **However, Social Security employees continue to work. Social Security will not suspend or decrease Social Security benefit payments or Supplemental Security Income payments due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.** Any communication you receive that says Social Security will do so is a scam, whether you receive it by letter, text, email, or phone call."

Toni Says article readers, please be aware that phone numbers referenced in these fraudulent letters are NOT the Social Security office and please **DO NOT CALL THESE NUMBERS AND GIVE ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION!!**

Also, in the press release it stated that Social Security will never:

1. **Threaten** you with benefit suspension, arrest, or other legal action unless you pay a fine or fee.
2. **Promise** a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
3. **Require** payment by retail gift card, cash, wire transfer, internet currency, or prepaid debit card.
4. **Demand** secrecy from you in handling a Social Security-related problem.
5. **Send** official letters or reports containing personally identifiable information via email.

The Inspector General's news release also stated that if you receive a letter, text, call or email that you believe to be suspicious, about an alleged problem with your Social Security number, account, or payments, hang up or do not respond. Social Security is asking Americans to please share this information with your friends and family to help spread awareness about Social Security scams.

Please fill out scam report of a Social Security scam by using the dedicated online form at <http://oig.ssa.gov>. It states on the Office of the Inspector General website that by educating yourself and learning how to identify and report various schemes, then you can stay "several steps" ahead of scam artists!

Toni King, author of the *Medicare Survival Guide*® is giving a \$5 discount on the *Medicare Survival Guide*® Advanced book packages for the Toni Says® newspaper article readers at www.tonisays.com. Have a question regarding Medicare email info@tonisays.com. ★



The QAnon Rot in the GOP

QAnon is getting its first congresswoman.

Marjorie Taylor Greene won a runoff in a Republican primary, all but assuring her victory in November in a heavily GOP district.

She is thus set to become the highest officeholder in the land who takes seriously the lunatic theories of QAnon, the anonymous internet poster who says, among other ludicrous and poisonous things, that there's a global network of pedophiles about to be exposed and undone by President Donald Trump.

Greene's ascension is the latest indication of the creeping influence of Q, who has fashioned a kind of free-floating John Birch Society for the digital age. The author's adherents or fellow travelers are adept at spreading memes on social media, hold signs or wear paraphernalia touting Q at Trump rallies, and now are notching some victories in GOP primaries.

Jo Rae Perkins, a no-hoper who won the Republican Senate primary in Oregon, has associated herself with Q and expressed

disappointment when her sellout campaign team tried to hide her enthusiasm for the conspiracy theory. Lauren Boebert, the upset winner of a primary for a Republican House seat in Colorado, said of Q in a radio interview, "If this is real, then it could be really great for our country."

The rise of Q shouldn't be exaggerated. Surely, most Republicans aren't even aware of this dreck, and the Q caucus in the next Congress might number one or two. Almost every political movement has a fringe that marinates in paranoia and is prepared to believe – or invent – the worst about the other side.

Yet, the spread of QAnon shows that the Trump-era GOP has weakened antibodies against kookery. Trump himself sets the tone. He's an indiscriminate tweeter of disreputable Twitter accounts, and he's floated all sorts of ridiculous conspiracy theories over the years – just ask Ted Cruz's father, or Joe Scarborough. Trump fulsomely praised Greene upon her primary victory as a Republican rising star.

In 2017, Greene posted a long, hilariously earnest and completely bonkers explication of Q posts to YouTube. She had read them closely and spent time trying to figure out their import. The time and energy you'd hope an eventual congressional candidate would devote

to understanding the federal budget or, say, how to reform military procurement, she'd poured into Q, and was clearly invigorated and alarmed by it.

Q has a special draw for a segment of Trump supporters. The author's lurid inventions involve people who are already villains of the populist right, the likes of George Soros and John Podesta. Q promotes a radical distrust of traditional sources of information and makes Trump's stumbles into master chess moves, both of which are pleasing to Trump superfans.

All of this is an explanation, not an excuse. Q is deeply corrosive of the qualities necessary to live in and govern a republic. It invites its adherents to suspend reason – how else to credit all the prophecies that haven't come to pass? – and believe that a swath of the American establishment isn't just wrongheaded or incompetent, but engaged in monstrous secret crimes.

Marjorie Taylor Greene has already been criticized by Republican congressional leaders for her incendiary rantings about Muslims. She deserves, too, to be shunned for attraction to Q, even if the president of the United States is unbothered by it.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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- #### CLUES
- ACROSS
1. Lascaux and Mammoth, e.g.
 6. At the stern
 9. Eyeball rudely
 13. Inuit boat
 14. And not
 15. Sing like Sinatra
 16. Manicurist's file
 17. Old-fashioned "before"
 18. "If you ____, I won't cry, I won't waste one single day"
 19. "Steve walks warily down the street with the brim pulled way ____"
 21. "She's just a girl who claims I am ____"
 23. "Play it, ____" from "Casablanca"
 24. Boris Godunov, e.g.
 25. "All right stop collaborate and listen, ____ is back..."
 28. Between Phi and Kappa
 30. Restriction limiting use of lights during air raid
 35. J.D. Power awards competitors
 37. "Oh, back on the chain"
 39. Ann Patchett's novel "Bel ____"
 40. Slightly
 41. Algorithmic language
 43. French "place"
 44. Kind of potato masher
 46. Brickowski's brick
 47. Cleopatra's necklace
 48. Canine's coat
 50. Sol or fa
 52. National Institutes of Health
 53. "____ Christmas, I gave you my heart"
 55. Trinitrotoluene
 57. "You were working as a waitress in a cocktail bar when I ____"
 60. "I wanna dance with somebody, with somebody who ____"
 64. Lithograph, for short
 65. Holstein sound
 67. Radio sign
 68. Killed, like dragon
 69. Commotion
 70. Yiddish shrew
 71. Sleep in rough accommodations
 72. Gourmet mushroom
 73. Cancel an edit, pl.

- DOWN
1. Whispered from a prompting booth
 2. Shells and such
 3. "Meeting you with a ____ to a kill"
 4. Brings home the bacon
 5. First U.S. space station
 6. Again
 7. "Hello, is it me you're looking for?"
 8. Weight of refuse and chaff, pl.
 9. Black and white cookie
 10. One from Goa
 11. "And I'm never gonna make it like you do, making ____ out of nothing at all"
 12. Compass reading
 15. One of religious orders
 20. Last letter of Greek alphabet
 22. Experienced

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 8

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 68 | | | | 69 | | | | 70 | | | |
| 71 | | | | 72 | | | | 73 | | | |

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Solutions on Page 8

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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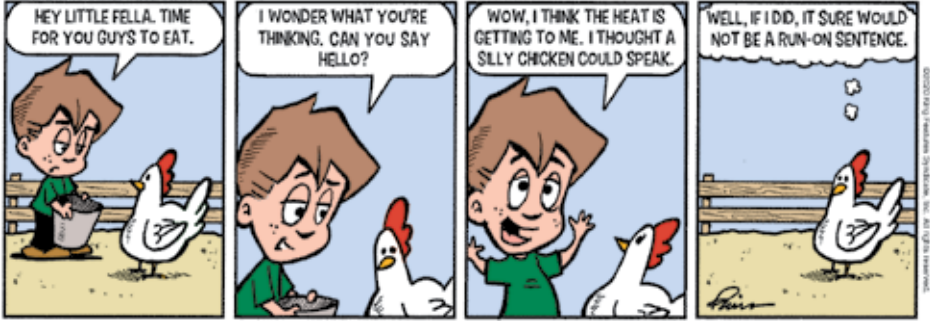
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The Spats



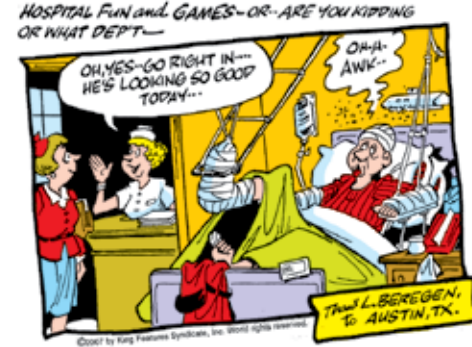
by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb

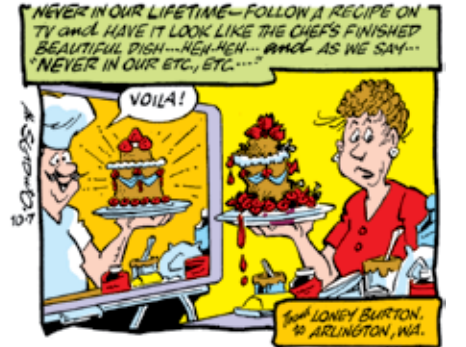


by Gary Kopervas

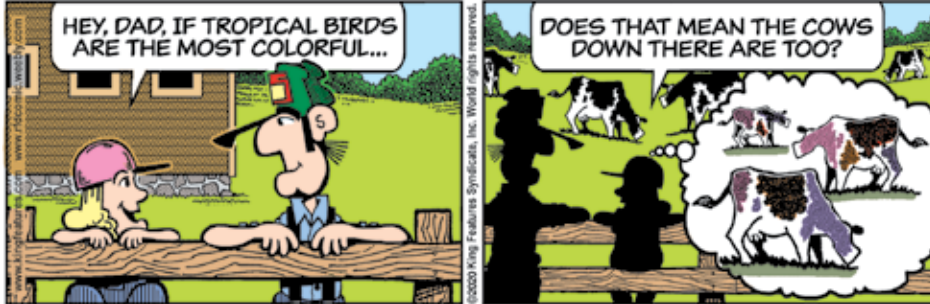
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

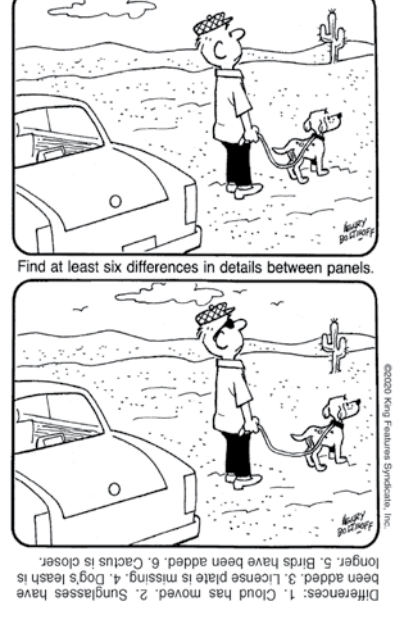


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Do Crises Help or Hurt Tax Hikes?

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



By Dan Walters
CAL Matters

Does the trauma enveloping California this year – pandemic, recession, heat waves, blackouts and disastrous wildfires – make voters more or less likely to vote for tax increases?

Sponsors of a \$12 billion a year hike in taxes on warehouses, office buildings, factories and other commercial property hope it's more.

Proposition 13 would raise that money for schools and local governments by changing Proposition 13, the iconic 1978 ballot measure that imposed tight restrictions on property taxes. If it's passed, taxable values of commercial property would be increased to current market levels.

Public employee unions and other advocates of government spending have long yearned to crack Proposition 13 via what's called a "split roll" and after many starts and stops, finally decided that 2020's presidential election, with a high voter turnout, would be the best time to give it a try.

Even before California and its economy were hammered by COVID-19 and recession, polling indicated that the measure had no better than a 50-50 chance of passage. The iffy climate for new taxes was also signaled in last

March's primary election, just before the pandemic hit home, when more than half of hundreds of local tax and bond measures were shot down.

Nevertheless, split-roll advocates forged ahead with what became Proposition 15, setting up what promises to be a titanic political war with commercial property owners and other business groups. Pandemic and recession are likely talking points for both sides.

Some local authorities have pulled back long-planned tax increase proposals, believing that chances of passage even in a high-turnout presidential election have faded.

One of those instances occurred in July, as a deadline for placing measures on the ballot approached. The Sacramento Transportation Authority, which had decided to ask local voters for a half-cent sales tax increase, abruptly reversed course when polling indicated it would likely fail.

"We understand the public sentiment at this time given the pandemic and social unrest, people are focused on other things," transportation authority board chairman Darren Suen, a member of the Elk Grove City Council, said.

However, it appears that most local government proposals to raise taxes, including bonds that would be repaid from increased property levies, will remain on the ballot.

The California Taxpayers Association counts 237 local tax and bond measures to be decided in November, including 176 direct tax increases totaling roughly \$1.5 billion. Voters

also will face \$13.1 billion in local school construction bonds and \$1.9 billion in other local bonds, Cal-Tax says.

Most are traditional increases in sales taxes or parcel taxes on property, but they also include local levies on legal marijuana sales, property transfer documents, utility services and hotel rates.

A semi-new taxation wrinkle is being tried in several San Francisco Bay Area communities – direct taxes on business. San Francisco itself has two business tax measures on the ballot, including a gross receipts tax based on the difference in pay between corporate executives and their employees. Richmond proposes a new tax on telecommunication services and video streaming.

There's also a new wrinkle in the long-running conflict over spending taxpayer money to persuade voters to endorse new taxes and bonds. Such advocacy is illegal, although almost never prosecuted. But California's Fair Political Practices Commission recently fined Los Angeles County's government for waging a million-dollar campaign for a 2017 tax measure under the guise of "information."

Watchdog organizations will be monitoring local governments this year to see if the FPPC fine has an effect on how local governments spend public funds to present their tax increase pitches to voters.

Email Dan at dan@calmatters.org

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

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.

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 or contact Dennis Ariza, FSVAA President /STCG Director at (707) 688-8889. ★

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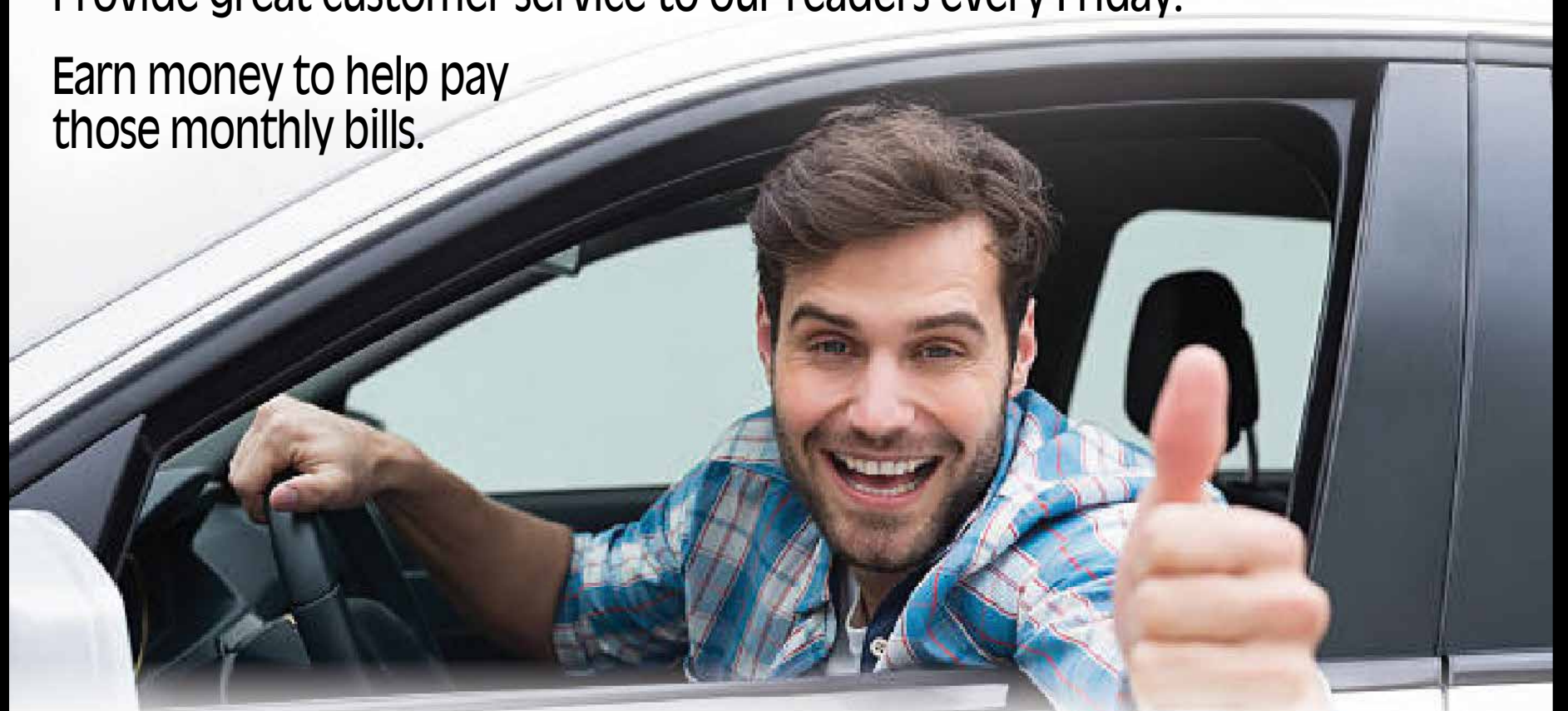
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