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# Dixon's Independent Voice

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INSIDE**

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By Amy Shane



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**BILL TO PROTECT  
SCHOOL FUNDING  
CLEARS ASSEMBLY  
COMMITTEE**



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## New Spin on Old Classics



Matt Andrews of Food and Familia, a catering business, is realizing his culinary dream of becoming a restaurant owner. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Pledging to create a "new spin on the old classics," the new owners of A Street Deli and Frosty's are buzzing around the businesses cleaning and renovating after business partners Jerry Bassler, Ken Bell, and Grace Lupercio announced they are "stepping out of the business completely."

After "merging their employees" with Lindsay Hickman of the Barn and Pantry and Matt Andrews of Food and Familia, a catering business, Lupercio was comfortable with their agreement and pleased Carlos the Cook would stay, she said.

The deal probably wouldn't have happened if that wasn't so, she said. He's been a loyal cook for them and

she "felt a close relationship with his family."

A Street Deli will be the new site of The Barn & Pantry, the coffee stop and store of local farm foods that closed at the end of July due to "lease issues." Apparently, they didn't even need a moving truck to relocate the refrigerators.

We want to thank A Frostys Inc. owners Ken, Jerry and Grace for reaching out and trusting us with two businesses they put their hearts into," said Lindsey Hickman the owner of The Barn and Pantry in a press release. "Their team was ready to sell right as we were looking to find a new home."

Both new owners were excited about the outdoor space that comes with the businesses and will be

spending the next couple of weeks "revitalizing" with Hickman concentrating on A Street and Andrews taking the Frosty's side.

"There aren't many places where you can come for specialty coffee, clean comfort food, roadside fusion, farm to fork dinners, and leave with local sustainably farmed groceries," Hickman said about the business plans. "You will be able to walk up for coffee or to-go food, or sit down service ordering from either restaurant menu."

She hopes to have daily dinners by the end of this month.

Andrews Plans for Frosty's  
"We have been working on how we can adapt and figuring how to make it work," said Andrews who  
*Continued on page 10*

## West Nile Virus Activity Detected in Solano County

Solano County Press  
Release

**SOLANO COUNTY** - The Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Public Health division and the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) have confirmed that a bird from the city of Benicia has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). The California Scrub-Jay was collected July 12, 2020 in eastern Benicia. As of July 28, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) reports that 4 human cases from 3 counties tested positive for West Nile Virus.

"This marks the official start of West Nile virus season in Solano County," said Dr. Christine Wu, M.D., M.P.H., Deputy Health Officer for the County. "This is an important reminder for residents to take the necessary precautions to avoid coming in contact with mosquitoes, such as using insect repellent when outside and eliminating standing water where mosquitoes can breed."

West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitos become infected when they feed on infected birds. Reduce the risk of contracting mosquito-borne illness by following these guidelines, including:

Dawn and dusk - Mosquitoes are most active in the early morning and evening. Residents should avoid being outside at these times. If you are outdoors, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants and use insect repellent

Drain standing water - Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Residents should eliminate all sources of standing water on their property and drain empty flower pots, buckets, barrels, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls. If you have an ornamental pond, contact the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District at (707) 437-1116 for a free mosquito fish.

EET and other repellents - Insect repellents help keep mosquitoes from biting. Apply an EPA-registered insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR3535 or para-menthane-diol products per the manufacturer's instructions.

Doors and windows - Residents should ensure that their doors and windows have tight-fitting

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## Dixon Teachers Protest Return to School Plan School Start Now Delayed to August 24

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - This past week about 30 cars became protest tools by the teachers of Dixon Unified School District as they honked and drove around the District office several times with signs taped to their vehicles saying "If we're not healthy, we can't teach."

After the District deemed students were going to learn from a distance and not be physically located inside schools, the focus turned to where the teacher would actually instruct from: Their classroom or their home.

During a 3- hour school board meeting last week with about 50 teachers participating, the required amount of screen time for children and rigidity of schedules were areas of concern by teachers. But ultimately, there were so



Dixon teachers concerned for their safety used a parade of vehicles several times during the day with signs to protest not getting the option to work from home to teach their students via online sources. Photo by Debra Dingman

many issues that some spilled out onto social platforms the next day to involve parents.

Chloe Bair, a CA Jacobs Middle School English teacher reached out to parents on Facebook to say

that teacher morale in Dixon is low right now and she wanted to "encourage

*Continued on page 3*





## Faster COVID-19 Testing Needed

By Debra Dingman

In our own newspaper last edition, the California Health and Human Services Agency announced their “new plan” for COVID-19 testing and I will tell you why that plan is needed from a personal experience.

The article said the state is working collaboratively with health insurers to provide reimbursement for testing and with private providers to create additional in-office testing capacity. It is their belief that with more providers performing tests in the office, rather than referring patients to labs or testing sites, the state would have more resources to focus on underserved and high-risk populations.

Speeding up the process would be critical to prevent further spreading of the virus.

Two weeks ago, my siblings got together to FaceTime our stepdad who had a heart attack and multiple strokes. We made it an extended weekend and shared hotel rooms. My husband went on a 5-mile hike on a beautiful day up in the mountains with my brother-in-law. It was exhilarating and he didn't mind the minor sunburn, so they took another one the next day, but the heat boiled to 100 degrees and that night he became sick. Our hotel room was particularly cold, and I felt his chills when we went to bed.

I thought he had heat exhaustion. He was listless and had no appetite. I tried

pushing Gatorade and other fluids to replenish electrolytes, but he just wanted to sleep. In the deep recesses of my mind, and knowing how we can get the virus in a hundred different ways, my anxiety heightened, and I took him home.

For the next few days, he was incredibly ill with a temperature that hovered around 102. I wasn't getting any sleep because I stayed awake listening to make sure he was breathing. It seemed shallow and fast. It definitely was not getting him needed oxygen for his body to heal itself.

Although it made sense that he would have traumatized his body with the hikes in the heat and the high elevation, cold hotel room, and the sunburn, by Day 5 I was really afraid.

Calling Kaiser, I spoke to advice nurses and asked for an appointment. I just wanted someone to listen to his lungs because I was worried about bronchitis or pneumonia but repeatedly, we had only phone calls and I was frustrated for not being able to see a doctor in person. In another call, I asked for the test and we were scheduled for two days out. I drove him to take the COVID test at 8 am Saturday morning.

Over the weekend, he continued to get worse and that night he became sick. Even he admitted he was sick. We both know healing takes time but by this age, you've heard so many 'instant death' stories that a day seems like an eternity.

On Sunday, Day 8, he started to cough with blood. I called the doctors again. Still no COVID results due to the thousand tests a day at Kaiser. I felt I wasn't getting any help and knew David's health was solely in my hands. “For better or for worse,” I said to myself and got to work. I got an idea and pulled out my inhaler for my asthma attacks and had him breathe it in. He got instant relief.

I called the doctors again and had another phone appointment. I said we couldn't wait to find out if it was COVID or not, we had to help David and I told them about when I had bronchitis and it reminded me of that so they ordered an inhaler for immediate openings of the bronchial tubes and then added another inhaler with a steroid in it. They also ordered him antibiotics.

From what I had been reading, I was concerned that antibiotics would do more harm than good if it was indeed COVID. That doctor also recommended he go to the Emergency Room as they did COVID tests on the spot and we would get the results immediately.

He started getting a little better but then started having really severe coughing so on Thursday, Day 12; I took him to the Emergency Room where he may incur a \$500 copay. I could not wait with him, and it took three hours for him to get inside a room. There was no drinking fountain or vending machines and I had not left him with water.

Finally after x-days and more tests, the doctor sent him out saying he “might as well figure he had COVID with the symptoms he had,” but he wouldn't give him another COVID test where he would get the results immediately because “it wouldn't do any good.” So, we still did not know for sure, but I started alerting family.

Finally, on Friday night of Day 13, a full seven days after the test and with a person who was exhibiting the symptoms of COVID, the call came. The doctor said it was negative.

In that newspaper article from the state, the agency reported they are filing emergency regulations that will classify COVID-19 testing as medically necessary urgent care for essential health workers and people with symptoms of or possible exposure to COVID-19.

I understand phone calls protect medical staff but if the tests were more prompt, then people who DON'T have COVID can be seen and treated for their conditions. What if I hadn't been an advocate? Hubby could have developed sepsis. I also think of how many people could be exposing others if they don't know for sure and think they just have a bad summer cold. In this pandemic, test results need to be faster

Debra Dingman, journalist and author is a 27-year Dixon resident. Her columns and articles have run in Solano County for nearly 37 years in Solano County. Her book *Learning A+ Living, Adventures & Rewards of a Mom Entrepreneur*, is published by WestBow Press and is available on Amazon. ★

## Four Vie for Dixon School Board Seats in Race

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Three members of the Dixon Unified School District school board are running for re-election to the three open seats and so far, there is one new challenger, David Bowen III, 31, a high school mathematics teacher of 10 years and sports coach. Luke Foster, Lloyd McCabe, and Melissa Maseda are incumbents.

Bowen's goals include “strengthening our roots as an agricultural community in the form of programs like farm tech at Dixon High School while transforming technological deficiencies that exist in the schools,” he said. “I have a Masters in teaching and have started my family here in Dixon two years ago and have a 1-year-old daughter.” He is a member of the Fairfield-Suisun Unified Teachers Association's bargaining team.

Maseda, 41, was first appointed to the governing board and then elected in 2016. She is a mother of four and is a stay-at-home mom after attending Solano Community College and studying early childhood education.

“I grew up in a very poor situation with a single mother,” she writes about her school philosophy. “I was on my own as far as education was concerned. I didn't have a lot of parental support, but I had dedicated teachers and staff that showed me I was capable of achieving high marks. It took me awhile to get there, but

it changed my life. Whether you go to a four-year college or get a technical education, the work we do in Dixon Unified is the foundation to their success.”

Luke Foster, 54, is a trial attorney for California State Automobile Association. He has served on the Board for five years and is currently the President.

“My family and I moved here in 2001. We have raised four children in this great town of Dixon. Each of our children have attended schools in DUSD. Making a difference for our children, our families, and our community means a lot to me. I have dedicated my life to serving those in Dixon through PTO, coaching Rugby, Scouts, and more,” he said.

Lloyd McCabe, 68, was appointed this past spring to replace John Gabby who resigned. McCabe was a high school agricultural teacher and administrator for nearly 15 years, becoming the first teacher in the nation to develop three agriculture courses that met University of California admission requirements. In 1989, he was hired as a consultant for the State Department of Education, then hired by the state Department of Education in 1989, he served as a consultant before retiring in 2018. For the past 17 years, he's worked part-time at UC Davis.

His wife, Sheila, the assistant superintendent for educational services in Fairfield-Suisun Unified, have been Dixon residents for 21 years. ★

## Sen. Dodd's Bill to Protect School Funding Clears Assembly Committee

By Paul Payne, Office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, announced that his legislation to prevent schools struggling with the coronavirus pandemic from incurring additional financial setbacks caused by wildfire-related power shutoffs has cleared a key committee.

“Considering the financial challenges posed by Covid-19, it is especially important that we protect critical funding sources for our public schools,” Sen. Dodd said. “They should not lose money because PG&E or another utility has responded to the threat of wildfire by shutting off their power lines. This bill would make schools whole if they are forced to endure another outage.”

California public school funding is based on

average daily attendance, reported three times a year by school districts. Under current law, if schools are forced to close because of a public safety power shutoff, such as those across the North Bay last year, they could lose part of their expected allocation. Senate Bill 884 changes that, explicitly authorizing the state to backfill average daily attendance money.

SB 884 is sponsored by the Sonoma County Office of Education and coauthored by Sen. Mike McGuire, D-Healdsburg. It passed the Assembly education committee Monday with unanimous support and was previously approved by the full Senate.

“The Sonoma County Office of Education is proud to sponsor SB 884 in response to the alarming number of school days our students missed

due to natural disasters and the related power shutoffs,” said Steve Herrington, superintendent of Sonoma County schools. “The COVID-19 pandemic is causing chaos in our schools and requires our immediate attention. However, we know that natural disasters will not abate because of the virus. We need to be prepared for when these disasters again to lead to public safety power shutoffs. We are proud to work with Sen. Dodd, who has been a champion for our local schools during these difficult times.”

Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Solano, Yolo, Sonoma, Contra Costa, and Sacramento counties. You can learn more about the district and Senator Dodd at [www.sen.ca.gov/dodd](http://www.sen.ca.gov/dodd). ★

### Dixon Churches Invite You To Worship

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# Dixon Teachers Protest Return to School Plan School Start Now Delayed to August 24

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parents and teachers to work together in undeniably stressful times."

"Many of your students' teachers are feeling demoralized and frustrated," she said. "Many teachers have been begging for guidance and paid time to collaborate with the District. Many teachers have been leading efforts to try and figure out what we are going to virtually teach in the Fall and how we are going to teach it, while District leadership has prioritized deciding where teachers should conduct this virtual learning from. We are worried for the education and well-being of our children," she said.

Some middle school teachers still did not know what subjects they were going to be teaching. Some parents talked about the benefits of homeschooling and others brought up budgetary concerns like having all the equipment they need for their child's in-home lessons.

The school has 1,800 computers but parents were still concerned with getting necessary supplies like earphones, dry erase boards, and other school needs. Traditionally, there is a list for each school of what the students need but because they didn't know how they would return to school, parents seemed at a loss. School is one week away [unless there is some change in plans after press time.]

"Other districts are adapting to utilizing different teaching platforms such as, Schoology, and have spent the last few weeks training and prepping," said one parent who thought the DUSD should apply the same formats. Several hoped the Board would delay the start of school until everyone was better prepared. Woodland school district pushed back the first day of their school from August 19 to August 31, for example.

Note: At a Special Meeting on Monday,

August 3, the Governing Board of the School District voted to delay the start of the school year by two weeks. The new start date will be August 24 instead of August 10.

Dixon teachers are demonstrating while their teachers' union's bargaining team negotiates with the District because they want the choice to provide distance learning from their classrooms or from the safety of their homes.

"Some teachers feel comfortable conducting virtual learning from campus and some do not," said Bair. "We are highly educated professionals who have dedicated years of time and service to our students and this community and we believe we deserve to be trusted enough to make our own decisions about the risks we are willing to take during this pandemic while we provide our students with the highest quality education possible."

Several teachers expressed that they have already proven their ability to provide strong, effective, and consistent education to the students through their "moment's notice" in the Spring.

"We proved we could do it with a moment's notice in the Spring and know we can do it again in the Fall, regardless of our physical locations," Bair said. "Unfortunately, the Dixon Unified School Board and the District Superintendent are insistent that teachers return to their respective campuses for distance learning instruction."

Board President Luke Foster said one could not compare Zoom Board Meetings with classroom instruction.

"With respect to board meetings, there is no real impact to the process from Zoom board meetings. While we may have had some awkwardness and pains learning the system, we have never had more participation and have a higher quality presentation,

as the screen in the board chambers is often not very visible but presentations can be clearly seen over Zoom. I actually believe that Zoom has been better for board meetings, but most importantly is this: holding board meetings over zoom does not impact the teaching of the students or the learning of the students."

"They're saying that it won't be safe to teach at school but the plan we have is one where teachers have their own classroom; the rooms are sterilized; the teachers are in their rooms by themselves; and they will be using their [own classroom] equipment," he said. Common areas such as restrooms and copy rooms will be sterilized/cleaned no different than what is legally required in any other setting in California per recent health standards due to the pandemic.

District Superintendent Brian Dolan went over the complete plan/system with the County Health Department Director and he said the plan was good, Foster reported. The District has also included an 'Accommodation Application' for those teachers with special needs.

"The plan is for them to be safe and we want them to succeed," Foster said. "But, there's a ton of issues, such as what if there are computer issues, for example? We have an IT guy at the schools. What about copies? Whose printer will you use? There are liability issues because we can't have control over your house and there are sub issues. If you take everything home and then get sick, how can a sub take over your class? The biggest issue is that when you work from home, there's more distractions. Fewer distractions means better teaching for the students," he said.

Bair feels the district may have teachers quit if not given the option. More discussions were scheduled at press time. ★

# CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

## Dixon's DRAFT General Plan

Dixon incorporated as a city in 1878. Incorporation was not welcomed by all residents. After several years of discussion, local leaders and residents accepted that if Dixon was going to grow and flourish than the sewer and water systems needed to be improved to quell diseases that plagued the area. Winter rains turned the streets to mud bogs, there were no sidewalks, sanitation was an individual's choice, while parks and community areas were non-existent. Dixon became the 54th town in the state of California to incorporate. Once incorporated the residents and businesses were required to pay taxes and the state of California provided general administrative and legislative guidelines.

The Governor's office mandates California incorporated cities file a number of reports. An important report that cities are required to submit every 20 years is a General Plan. The local general plan can be described as the city's "blueprint" for future development. It represents the community's view of its future; a constitution made up of goals and policies which the city council uses to base their land use decisions.

Dixon filed its last complete general plan in 1993, and an updated General Plan was due to the Governor's office in 2013, over seven years ago. The city staff have spent a "scary" amount of money over the past seven years attempting to assemble this report. They have hired consultants, hired more consultants, hired staff member(s), said goodbye to staff member(s), and have now hired back an original Community Development consultant. A non-scientific survey was developed and shared with local residents and the council members appointed a committee comprised of community members which have met sporadically since 2013. At one point the committee was dissolved and a year or so later just like a "Phoenix" rising from the ashes the committee formed again comprised of new members and a handful of returning folks, along with a new chairperson.

That brings us to NOW. Recently notice was given that the City of Dixon has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) (SCH #2018112035) for the Dixon General Plan Update, now available for public review. Public comment on this document is invited for a 45-day review period extending from July 8, 2020 to August 24, 2020. You can review the draft General Plan at: [https://www.cityofdixon.us/DocumentCenter/View/16259/Dixon-General-Plan\\_digital](https://www.cityofdixon.us/DocumentCenter/View/16259/Dixon-General-Plan_digital)

The city staff is asking for feedback on the DRAFT document. It will take some time to review, but this is your opportunity to offer comment to the city council and city staff on the direction you would like to see Dixon moving. Dixon's General Plan will set the direction for the NEXT 20 years. Without direction the city staff and elected leaders can take us down a path similar to Dixon Downs, a horse racing enterprise that the majority of residents did not favor or lead us into the web of another Carissa Carpenter selling a movie studio or possibly this time beach front property. BTW Carissa is out of circulation for a while as she is serving time for fraud. Where was the due diligence?

Are you interested in more youth and adult recreational opportunities? A new city pool? What about Transportation and Jobs? Is the land in Dixon and surrounding area being used in the best interest of residents? ★

What could make Dixon more sustainable? Please give some time to your city and help our leaders focus on planning for the future. The last reading of the plan had the city proposing a Level D as satisfactory for our traffic service. (The rating scale is the same as the school grading school with A being highest) Of course no one is surprised that our traffic service currently has a D rating. Are you willing to accept traffic the way it is for the next 20 years? We need to make sure Parkway Overpass will be completed soon and that traffic will improve!

These are questions you need to ask the candidates who are running for Council Districts 3 and 4 and Mayor in the upcoming election. Let them know your concerns and thoughts.

### Dixon Historical Society Seeks History of Downtown Businesses

The Dixon Historical Society is compiling a history of the buildings and businesses in the downtown area. We have been working on this project for several months and have tried to contact all local businesses so we have a complete "picture" of Dixon. If you have not been contacted, and wish to participate, we ask that you prepare a history of your businesses, location, history of your building, information on type of business and send it to Mary Savage at [mhzunigasavage@gmail.com](mailto:mhzunigasavage@gmail.com) or Shirley Humphrey at [humphreysaf@gmail.com](mailto:humphreysaf@gmail.com). We are finishing the project so please send your write-up before August 15.

### CORRECTION

In the July 17, 2020 issue of the *Independent Voice* the Conversations column focused on the city council members, Bogue, Ernest, Bird, and Pederson approving a \$40K expenditure under the pretense of "providing education to the general public" on the water issue. Although they previously have offered community forums and covered the topic on their website and flyers. No new public information is available, so a rational person may see this as taxpayer dollars being used to campaign against a local ballot measure in November. In the article a reference was made that California Water Company customers were paying MORE for water than City of Dixon water customers. One of our readers notified us that was not correct! We thank you for bringing the error to our attention and allowing us to set the record straight.

We followed up by contacting both water service companies. California Water Service referred us to their website for the city of Dixon which listed the current rates on a CPUC Sheet 12223-W document that was filed on February 2020 with the California Public Utilities Commission. The City of Dixon Water Service did not return our call before deadline, but we were able to find the rates on their website in the form of a City Council Resolution No-19-010 filed on January 22, 2019.

Based on our internet research and a conversation with local resident, Dorothy Kroll, the current City of Dixon Water rates now EXCEED those of California Water Service. An 85% increase in April of 2019 and a 50% in April 2020 has City of Dixon water customers paying about 3 CENTS PER CCF HIGHER THAN THE CALIFORNIA WATER USERS AT THIS POINT IN TIME. Residents with City of Dixon Water service can look forward to two MORE scheduled cost increases in the future. ★



### Senate Pandemic Bill Includes Farm Relief

Additional pandemic relief for farmers and ranchers would come at a critical time, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation. A trillion-dollar relief package introduced in the U.S. Senate this week, known as the HEALS Act, contains \$20 billion intended to benefit farms, ranches and rural communities. The American Farm Bureau says the pandemic has brought "steep challenges" as farmers and ranchers react to unprecedented changes in markets and supply chains.

### Unsolicited Seed Packets Raise Concerns

Californians who receive unsolicited seed packets should not open them and should contact their county agricultural commissioner's office: That's the advice from the state Department of Food and Agriculture. The U.S. Agriculture Department says suspicious packages have been received around the country. Most appear to have been shipped from China. Officials warn against planting seeds from unknown origins, citing concerns about plant diseases the seeds could carry.

### New Knowledge Could Slow Grape Pest

By mapping the genome of a key grapevine pest, University of California scientists say they have learned how the insect spreads, which could help them learn how to stop it. The research involves phylloxera, which feeds off and damages grapevines. Working with colleagues in France, UC Riverside specialists identified genes that allow the insects to colonize vines. That could lead to breeding of grape rootstock that resists the pest.

### Grape Commission Ads Promote Rural Communities

Seeking out California-grown grapes at the grocery store benefits rural communities around the state, according to the California Table Grape Commission, which has developed a marketing campaign encouraging shoppers to support the state's farmers and their employees. The campaign will feature radio ads in Spanish and English. California farms produce practically all the table grapes grown in the U.S., but face competition from imported grapes. ★

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# Dixon Family Services Provides Social Security Matters Community Update

By Cookie Powell,  
Dixon Family Services

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - As we continue to assist people who have been financially affected by the Coronavirus, it is clear that our organization has never been more vital to our community's health and well-being. More and more families are asking for our help to find and navigate government and other benefits systems that they now need as a temporary solution to their economic difficulties. Parents that have exhausted their savings and all other resources now need financial aid for their most basic of needs like rent, utilities, food and other necessities. For many it is for the first time ever.

They ask themselves, "How will we pay the bills?", "Will we become homeless if we can't pay the rent?", and "How will we keep up with the increased consumption of food and supplies while our kids remain home from school?" There are many concerns keeping parents awake at night worrying about the safety and wellness of their families during this pandemic. Dixon Family Services is doing all we can to assist and connect people to basic needs resources they desperately need at this time.

With grants and donations Dixon Family Services created a program specific to Covid-19 that allows us to pay for a household's rent and/or utility bills. DFS is providing many households with supplemental groceries and linking people with other resources of food and supplies at churches, schools, clinics and other locations. The WIC Program, co-located in the DFS building is serving pregnant moms and families with children through age 5 to purchase nutritious food. Also, the Food Bank still arrives in our parking lot each first and third Wednesday to distribute fresh produce and non-perishables to anyone who needs it. Our CalWORKs representative signs people up for Food Stamps and other County benefits, virtually at this time.

We are currently "open" Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We are in the building but the doors are closed. People must call or email us in advance. We no longer have the option to serve "drop-in" clients. In-person interactions have been cut back to situations such as a needed signature on a form, dropping off necessary documentation for an application, or picking up food, gas cards or other supplies.

We are doing assessments and providing resource referrals by phone. We stress that people can call or email us to start the helping process. We also emphasize leaving a message with a good number to call back. We will return calls ASAP. Messages left when we are closed will be returned on our next open business day.

There are some guidelines and limits to funds we can access for paying bills resulting from Covid-19. If you know someone struggling please encourage them to call us and we will explain all details and start the helping process from there. Thank you.

Though we are in a very serious health and economic crisis, DFS staff morale remains positive. We are motivated by our ability to make a positive difference in people's lives. So far no one in the DFS "family" has come down with the virus and we're taking all precautions to keep ourselves and the public well and safe. We are following social distancing guidelines and wear masks during personal interactions.

We will remain open and helping at-risk families with our Basic Needs Program for as long as funding allows us the privilege to do so. We seek financial support from those who want to partner with us to help people who are struggling to bear this critical time of extreme uncertainty and anxiety. We need the support of our community now more than ever. We foresee the need for our support to extend at least into the fall and winter and very probably, much longer.

Dixon Family Services acknowledges that we would not be able to do what we are doing at this critical time in history if it were not for some large contributors like Travis Credit Union, Genentech, United Way Bay Area, FEMA and The Solano Community Foundation. Individuals, local businesses and service organizations that donate are also very important to sustaining our good work. The DFS Food Pantry is supported by community donations of food and money that allow us to purchase staples from the Food Bank of CCS at reasonable prices.

Currently donations to Dixon Family Services can be matched by Travis Credit Union Foundation through September 2020. If you'd like to see your contribution doubled you just have to go to TCUfund.org, click on Donate Now and choose Donation Amount. At "I would like to support" there is a drop down list - click on Dixon Family Services. Please let us know if you donate through tcufund.org so we can add you to our list of 2020 donors and send you our thanks and a receipt for your tax purposes. We appreciate you and Travis Credit Union Foundation for this great opportunity.

We want to thank everyone who has donated and we encourage anyone that is able to donate to do so now while the needs are very high for many people. It takes many partners to make a positive difference in our community. Please consider joining us.

Please stay safe and well. We will get through this together!! ★

## Can I Get a Widow's Benefit if I'm on Disability?



By Russell Gloor,  
AMAC Certified Social  
Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I was recently approved for my Social Security disability benefits. Will I still be able to get my widow's benefits when I turn 60, which is right around the corner? Or do I lose those because I am disabled?  
**Signed: An Uncertain Widow**

**Dear Uncertain Widow:** You will not lose your survivor (widow's) benefits because you are now collecting Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits. You can get the survivor benefit if it is more than your SSDI benefit and provided that you did not remarry before age 60 (and remain married). If you are entitled to and claim a survivor benefit while on SSDI, it will come as a separate supplemental payment which, along with your SSDI benefit, equals the amount you are due as a widow.

If you are now on SSDI you can actually take your survivor benefit before age 60 because survivor benefits can be taken as early as age 50



if you are disabled. But claimed at age 60 or earlier, the survivor benefit will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be if you wait until your full retirement age (FRA) of 67 to claim it. If you are collecting both SSDI and the survivor supplement when you reach your full retirement age, it will automatically convert to one payment equal to what you're entitled to as a survivor (SSDI benefits stop at full retirement age).

It would be prudent for you to evaluate whether you should continue with your SSDI benefits only for a while and allow your survivor benefit to grow to a higher amount. At age 67, your survivor benefit as a widow will be 100% of the amount your deceased husband was receiving, or entitled to receive, at his death. But claiming it before your full retirement age will mean it will be cut by 4.75% for each year earlier than your FRA that you claim it. You can find out your full survivor benefit amount by contacting Social Security.

Your survivor benefit will reach maximum at your full retirement age,

and it does not expire so you can delay up to age 67 to claim if you wish (to get the maximum amount as a widow). But if your financial situation is such that you need the reduced survivor benefit earlier, and your benefit as a widow is more than your SSDI benefit, you can claim it at any time. Survivor benefits must be applied for directly with the Social Security Administration, which you can reach by phone at 1.800.772.1213, or at your local office (find the phone number for your local office at [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator)). Note that all Social Security offices are temporarily closed to in-person visits by the public, so telephone is your only current option to apply for your survivor benefit, until after the pandemic closure is lifted.

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). ★

## West Nile Virus Detected in Solano County

*Continued from page 1*  
screens to keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.

Most people (about 4 in 5) infected with the West Nile virus will not develop any symptoms. About 1 in 5 will develop mild flu-like symptoms, including fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting and swollen lymph glands. However, about 1 percent (about 1 in 150) of persons with WNV infections will develop severe neurological disease. In rare cases, WNV infection can be fatal.

Anyone can be infected

with West Nile virus, but people who are 60 years old and older and those with certain medical conditions, like cancer, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease and people who have received organ transplants, are at greater risk of developing severe illness and complications. The SCMD staff is conducting surveillance activities in the affected area to apply appropriate control measures where mosquitoes of the same infected species are present.

"The District is increasing mosquito monitoring throughout the areas with

West Nile Virus activity," says Richard Snyder, Solano County Mosquito Abatement District Manager. "I urge residents to join us in our prevention and control efforts by making sure they don't have any standing water on their property and to report any unmaintained swimming pools and stagnant water by calling us at (707) 437-1116."

Residents are encouraged to report dead birds and squirrels online at [www.WestNile.Ca.Gov](http://www.WestNile.Ca.Gov) or by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473).★



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## 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, July 30, 2020

**1304** - A vandalism report was taken at the intersection of Pitt School Rd. at Porter Rd.

### Friday, July 31, 2020

**0721** - A vehicle burglary report was taken in the 1300 block of North Lincoln St.

**0800** - A vehicle burglary report was taken in the 1300 block of North Lincoln St.

**0932** - Traffic collision report was taken in the 300 block of West A. St.

**1445** - A Traffic collision report was taken in the 400 block of West A. St.

**1448** - A misdemeanor warrant arrest report was taken in the 400 block of West A. St. Officers contacted Jonathan Lamont (44) out of Dixon. Lamont was issued a citation for the warrant and released.

**2159** - A traffic stop near Vaughn Road and Kids Way yielded two passengers with warrants and the driver was unlicensed. He driver was cited and the two passengers were booked into the Solano County Jail.

### Saturday, August 1, 2020

**0310** - A 19 y/o male came home to his parents' house on the 400 block of Priddy Drive intoxicated. The male attempted to fight his father. He was arrested for being drunk in public and was booked into the Solano County Jail.

**0652** - A misdemeanor warrant arrest report was taken in the 400 block of E Mayes St. Officers contacted (S) Carlos Ascencio out of Dixon. Ascencio was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail and released.

**0730** - A misdemeanor warrant arrest report was taken in the 500 block of W. F. St. Officers contacted (S) Raphael Cervantes out of Dixon. Raphael was transported to the Dixon Police Department and cited and released.

**0932** - A probation violation and drug possession arrest report was taken on Batavia Rd. at the E80 off-ramp. Officers conducted a traffic stop and contacted (S) Robert Spicer. Robert was on active Solano County probation. A search revealed he was in violation of his probation and was arrested. Spicer had a useable amount of narcotics along with a stun gun. Spicer was transported to the Solano County Jail and released to their staff.

**1845** - A Dixon Police Officer saw a wanted man driving near the 1300 block of Commercial Way. The Officer effected a traffic stop and arrested the Dixon man for his warrant.

**2105** - A Dixon Police Officer effected a traffic stop on the 1500 block on North First Street. The driver was issued a citation for drug paraphilia.

### Sunday, August 2, 2020

**0025** - A Dixon Police Officer sees a vehicle driving at a high rate of speed. The Officer effects a traffic stop on Sievers Road. The driver Guillermo Castro (52) of Winters was arrested for DUI and booked into the Solano County Jail.

**0831** - Found Property in the 200 block of East Dorset. Property returned to the owner.

**0915** - Vehicle was towed for expired registration in excess of six months in the 300 block of Sycamore Ave.

**1042** - Nathaniel Nemece (36) of American Canyon was contacted in the 1200 block of Stratford Ave. Nemece was arrested for possession of a concealed dagger, possession of a controlled substance, and drug paraphernalia.

**2208** - Information report taken in the 140 block of North 1st Street.

### Monday, August 3, 2020

**0400** - Pedestrian stop in the 100 block of Porter Road resulted in the arrest of Jennifer Jones (44) of Lincoln for two outstanding misdemeanor warrants. One for domestic violence and the second for welfare fraud. She was taken to county jail.

**0842** - Sexual assault reported to the Dixon Police Department.





# Is your family prepared for any EMERGENCY?

CREATE YOUR OWN PLAN TO STAY SAFE.

## Emergency supply kit checklist

- Drinking water
- Radio
- Medication and eyeglasses
- Cash and credit cards
- Non-perishable food, including baby and pet food
- Flashlight
- Blankets and clothing
- Toiletries
- Tools and utensils
- First aid kit
- Children's activities
- Important documents
- Batteries
- Mobile phone and portable charger



1

### UPDATE YOUR INFO FOR OUTAGE ALERTS

Update your contact information at [pge.com/mywildfirealerts](http://pge.com/mywildfirealerts) so we can reach you in an emergency.



2

### CONFIRM YOUR EMERGENCY EXITS

from your home and establish a location where your family or roommates can reunite after evacuating.



3

### PLAN FOR YOUR PETS

by including them in practice drills and helping them get comfortable with a leash or carrier during stressful situations.



4

### LEARN HOW TO OPEN YOUR GARAGE DOOR MANUALLY

in the event the door is unable to open automatically during an outage.



5

### CHECK YOUR STANDBY GENERATOR

and ensure that it is working properly because it can help avoid damage to personal property and keep emergency first responders safe.



To learn more ways to keep you and your community safe, visit [safetyactioncenter.pge.com](http://safetyactioncenter.pge.com).



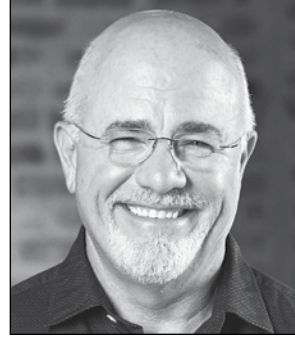
# St. Peter's Catholic Church News

*"In tribulation, immediately draw near to God with trust, and you will receive strength, enlightenment and instruction. In joy and pleasures, immediately draw near to God in fear and truth, and you will be neither deceived nor involved in vanity."* (St. John of the Cross)

"In tribulation" - we are asked to immediately draw near to Him with trust to receive strength, enlightenment, and instruction. Notice how it does not read "you may receive" or "you will probably receive". It's "you will receive". There is confidence and certainty. Jesus cares for us. He loves us. He wants to help us. Placing our trust in Jesus is an act of surrender and of obedience. We ask that His will for us be done. He may ask us to bear our suffering out of love for Him, to continue to endure the trial until He sends us consolation. Notice also how we are asked to *immediately* draw near to Him. Hesitation usually means that we prefer to keep our own counsel, to do things our way. He needs to be our first and only remedy, our everything. Only then are we really trusting Him. In response to humble

and complete trust on our part, He will send us strength, enlightenment, and instruction. *"God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble."* (James 4:6)

"In joy and pleasures" - we are asked to immediately draw near to him in fear and truth. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."* (Proverbs 9:10) The world, the flesh, and the devil are ever persistent in trying to keep us from Him. Our fallen nature can create distance between Him and us through excessive pleasure-seeking and making of idols. Let's draw close to Jesus and humbly ask Him to send us wisdom and understanding so that we will know how to respond to the many deceptions we encounter on our pilgrimage. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Without Jesus, it's impossible for us to rightly embrace the joy and pleasures He sends us as part of our journey. Without Him, we will fall into deception, vanity and pride. Let's stay close to Jesus in fear and obedience, in love and truth. *"... lean not on your own understanding ..."* (Proverbs 3:5), rather let Him guide us in all things. ★



## This Lady's Getting It Done!

Dear Dave,

I'm single, and I'll be a pilot in the military for the next 10 years. I'm also debt-free, have a fully funded emergency fund, and I'm saving 15% of my income for retirement. After my military days are over, I plan to work as a commercial pilot. I've done the math, and I have about \$20,000 a year to give, have fun with and build wealth. My question is about wealth building. When it comes to rental properties, I know you don't like the idea of being a long-distance landlord. Since I'm in the military, there's a good chance I'll move around a

## Dave Ramsey Says

bit. What should I do?

- Rachel

Dear Rachel

First, thank you for your service to our country. And, wow! You're in a tremendous position financially and career-wise. You've got a great future ahead of you as a pilot in the military and after, plus you've followed my plan item by item. You've got so many options, and you can make a difference in your community and in the lives around you right now by giving.

When it comes to wealth building, I hope you've already taken advantage of the TSP, or Thrift Savings Plan, which is kind of the military version of the 401(k). For wealth building beyond that, I'd get with a good investment pro - one with the heart of a teacher - and dive into some growth stock mutual funds. You could have a lot of money

piled up just by the end of your military career. Who knows? You may even be able to buy a nice home with cash when you leave the service. Beyond that, you may be able to settle into some real estate and pay cash for those investments.

You are one cool, smart lady, Rachel. Congratulations on setting yourself up for a wonderful life - one where you can live and give like no one else!

- 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](http://daveramsey.com) and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey. ★

# First Northern Community Bancorp Nets \$2.7M for 2nd Quarter

By Rashelle Snead, First Northern Community Bancorp

DIXON, CA (MPG) - First Northern Community Bancorp (the "Company", OTCQB: FNRN), holding company for First Northern Bank ("First Northern" or the "Bank"), reported net income of \$5.4 million, or \$0.42 per diluted share, for the six months ended June 30, 2020, compared to net income of \$7.4 million, or \$0.57 per diluted share, for the six months ended June 30, 2019.

Net income for the quarter ended June 30, 2020 was \$2.7 million, or \$0.21 per diluted share, compared to net income of \$3.4 million, or \$0.26 per diluted share for the quarter ended June 30, 2019.

The decrease in net income for the quarter and the six months ended June 30, 2020 was largely driven by an increase in the provision for loan losses due to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and a decrease in interest income on loans subject to temporary forbearance relief due to the pandemic, which was partially offset by PPP processing fees recognized.

Total assets at June 30, 2020 were \$1.61 billion, an increase of \$379.9 million, or 30.8%,

compared to June 30, 2019. Total deposits at June 30, 2020 were \$1.44 billion, an increase of \$346.5 million, or 31.7%, compared to June 30, 2019. Total net loans (including loans held-for-sale) at June 30, 2020 were \$981.9 million, an increase of \$249.1 million, or 34.0%, compared to June 30, 2019. The Company continued to be "well capitalized" under regulatory definitions, exceeding the 10% total risk-based capital ratio threshold at June 30, 2020.

Commenting on the Company's financial results, President & Chief Executive Officer Louise Walker stated, "First Northern Bank, like many other banks, had an extremely busy second quarter with the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) launching on April 3, 2020. The Bank processed 1,320 PPP loans assisting local small businesses during the unprecedented economic uncertainties caused by the coronavirus pandemic. With approximately \$235 million in PPP loans funded and an estimated 24,510 jobs impacted, First Northern Bank's employees remained focused and resolved to help as many businesses as we possibly could. I was so moved and so proud to see the passion put forth by the

Bank's employees to deliver for our clients and communities."

First Northern Bank experienced robust growth in loans and deposits during the second quarter primarily as a result of PPP loan production. PPP loan origination fee income recognized during the second quarter totaled \$2.0 million which is recognized as a component of interest income. These PPP loan originations resulted in approximately \$7.8 million in SBA processing fees which will be recognized as an adjustment to the effective yield over the loans projected life. A total of approximately \$2 million of PPP processing fees has been recognized in interest income on loans for the three and six months ended June 30, 2020.

First Northern Bank has also continued to actively assist our communities by providing temporary loan relief under Section 4013 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security ("CARES") Act to customers who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. This relief included loan modifications which included temporary forbearance programs (both full payment deferrals and interest only payments). The amount of loans that have been provided temporary forbearance relief totaled approximately \$94.2

million as of June 30, 2020. For loans that were provided full payment deferrals, the Bank has made a policy election to cease recognizing interest income during the terms of the payment suspension. Upon completion of the payment forbearance period, the foregone interest will be capitalized as deferred revenue and recognized as a yield adjustment over the remaining loan term. Loans on interest-only plans continued to accrue interest income as loan payments continued over the course of the forbearance period. Of the \$94.2 million in total forbearances, approximately \$82.7 million were provided full payment deferrals for terms ranging from three to six months, which resulted in the loss of interest income of approximately \$0.9 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2020, which partially offsets the recognition of PPP loan origination fee income previously discussed.

First Northern also provided accommodations to further assist our loan and deposit customers during this challenging time, including: the waiver of non-sufficient funds fees, late fees on loans, as well as early withdrawal fees for certificates of deposit. The impact of these waivers is included within non-interest income. Largely offsetting the

impact of these waivers were increased gains on sales of mortgage loans due to increased mortgage origination volumes as a result of the recent decline in interest rates and uptick in refinancing activity.

Given these unprecedented times First Northern set aside \$1.5 million and \$0.8 million in loan loss provision for the six and three months ended June 30, 2020, compared to nil for the same periods last year. The Bank continues to closely monitor economic conditions and statistics and build our loan loss reserve given the deterioration of economic conditions and significant ongoing economic uncertainty due to the continued impacts of the COVID-related shutdowns within the markets we serve.

In the May 2020 issue of American Banker magazine, First Northern Bank was ranked #99 in a list of the Top 200 Community Banks in the nation. This ranking is up from American Banker's 2019 Top 200 list, where First Northern was at #137. The annual ranking is for community banks with less than \$2 billion in assets and a strong three-year average return on average equity. First Northern Bank was among only a handful of Northern California-based banks to make the grade. ★

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### LEGAL NOTICE

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2020-001067

The following persons are doing business as: DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE  
100 N Adams Street #E Dixon, CA 95620  
Paul Scholl, 7144 Fair Oaks Boulevard Suite 5 Carmichael, CA 95608  
Date Filed in Solano County: June 23, 2020  
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 4/1/2020  
This Business is Subdivision by: Individual  
NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 22, 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: July 17, 24, 31, and August 7, 2020 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)





**FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS**  
By Amy Shane  
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy\_fortheloveofbook



# Riley Reviews

## DYSTOPIAN "BRAVE NEW WORLD" ON TV; "EAST WING" PREVIEW

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

### "BRAVE NEW WORLD" ON PEACOCK NETWORK

Maybe we don't have enough streaming service providers, so NBCUniversal has launched the Peacock network, a three-tiered subscription service of which one is free if you don't mind advertising.

Named after the ubiquitous colorful logo of NBC, Peacock gets its start with streaming a few original programs, one of them being "Brave New World," loosely based on Aldous Huxley's groundbreaking 1932 novel which imagines a utopian society.

Actually, while the intention of the new world order envisions a place that has achieved peace and stability, "Brave New World" realizes a society that is a dystopian nightmare for any sentient being who operates with free will and independent thought.

The citizens of New London live in a sanitized environment that is almost as cold and sterile as Stalinist architecture, which seems fitting for a place where real human emotion is frowned upon or taboo.

The series begins by noting the three rules to be followed by all inhabitants of New London: no privacy, no family and no monogamy. Follow these rules, and it is said that "everyone is very happy" in this faux nirvana.

Just like any authoritarian regime, New London functions under a caste system where the elite rule and are known as Alphas and the next level Betas exist with few worries other than when to pop a mood-altering pill called soma.

The bottom of the rung belongs to the custodial class known as Epsilons. Their lives are regimented as they march in order and take their meals in a communal dining room where they act no more animated than robots.

For the amusement of the privileged, Alphas and Betas may take a vacation to a remote spot known as the Savage Lands Adventure Park, where people you might find living in trailer parks are gawked at like circus freaks.

Bernard Marx (Harry Lloyd), an Alpha Plus, and Lenina Crowne (Jessica Brown Findlay), a Beta Plus, take a trip to Savage Lands, where visitors may be amused by the staging of the frenzy of a Black Friday melee at a big-box store.

Things go awry when Bernard and Lenina become embroiled in a harrowing and violent rebellion, only to be rescued by John the Savage (Alden Ehrenreich), who along with his alcoholic mother Linda (Demi Moore) escapes with them back to New London.

Wary of the attention coming his way in New London, John the Savage can't help feeling out of place when cybernetic locals proclaim their desire to help him "transition from the primitive world of

hardship, strife to ours... a society of harmony and happiness."

Were "Brave New World" to have a rating for its language, violence and rampant promiscuous sex, it would deserve the letter R. The shiny veneer of New London is not paradise by any measure, unless being braindead is a good thing.

The deeper one gets into the episodes, the more interesting it becomes with John the Savage the catalyst for stirring up cosmic disturbances in the neatly-ordered world that the residents take for granted.

"Brave New World" charts a fascinating journey into a dystopian world of scary groupthink. At one point, John mentions to a leader, "You've got the whole thing rigged."

As an outsider, will John mess up the tidy order of New London?

### "EAST WING" ON STARZ

The East Wing is part of the White House complex that has office space for the First Lady and her staff, and better-known West Wing serves the president's executive office staff.

"The West Wing" was a popular series on the NBC network that worked its way through countless political donnybrooks and scandals during two terms of the fictional Democratic administration of Martin Sheen's President Jed Bartlet.

The Starz cable channel has announced that Debra Messing will star in the half-hour comedy "East Wing" currently in development, with no particular premiere date in mind.

"East Wing" is created and written by actress and author Ali Wentworth, who is drawing from the experiences of her mother, Muffie Cabot, who served a couple of years in the White House as the Social Secretary for First Lady Nancy Reagan.

As with any of these types of programs, expect dramatic

license with the story of Messing's fictional Hollis Carlisle, a hostess extraordinaire who juggles her threatened husband, rebellious children, Nancy Reagan's Chief of Staff and a crippling social anxiety disorder.

Wentworth has a reoccurring part as Hollis's best friend, Kelly Forces, a stay-at-home mom who is threatened by Hollis's success. Apparently, the husband is not the only threatened party. Maybe there will be others as well.

For promotional puffery, the president of Starz programming claimed the show is "a whip-smart comedy that despite its 1980's set dressing is a pointed commentary on politics and the politics of being a woman today."

Starz also claims that Messing, Wentworth and other cast regulars "will most definitely not be pulling any punches," whatever that means. When the times comes, the audience, as it always does, will render its own judgment. ★

# THE STITCHERS

by Lorien Lawrence

Quinn and Mike have always felt that there was something a little off about their neighbors. The Oldies on Goodie Lane has been there forever; no one is quite sure how long, but their ageless beauty is like a mysterious fountain of youth. At first, it was just the slight change of a nose, body parts wrapped in bandages, flawless plastic skin, or sudden, new, youthful agility. Their perfect exteriors matched their perfectly manicured lawns and blooming flower beds, along with their flair of being stylishly overdressed, just like they walked out of an old magazine. It was enough to make Quinn and Mike wonder what was truly going on. Could their neighbors actually be aliens, ghosts, or even day vampires? Then, Quinn spots one of the Oldies running faster than he ever has before, almost like running on a new pair of legs complete with a brand new line of stitches. There was only one thing left to do—investigate. Quinn knew if her dad were still alive, his investigating skills and theories would have defiantly come in handy. Now it is just up to her and Mike to continue the



- ◆ Publisher: Amulet books
- ◆ Hardcover, 266 Pages
- ◆ Intended Audience: Middle Grade; ages 10-14
- ◆ Rating: ★★★★★
- ◆ Release Date: August 18, 2020

investigation and solve the mystery.

Now, determined to uncover the truth Quinn and Mike are left juggling their normal 7th-grade school life, track, friends, and maybe budding feelings while also trying to discover their town's biggest mystery. But as they start to uncover buried secrets, they realize the Oldies truly are up to something, and it's up to them to stop them. Will they be able to stop them in time, or will it be too late?

*Eerie Indiana* and *Goosebumps* collide

in this summer's break out middle-grade debut, *The Stitchers*, first in the *Fright Watch* series. Lorien Lawrence delivers all the creeps and chills, to cool off any warm summer night. With the perfect combination of mystery, friendship, family, and real-life obligations combined with a dash of spooky, this book is just the right thrilling tempo for any reader. Strong family bonds and an endearing grandmother and granddaughter relationship enhances the storyline, while also allowing readers to see how Quinn deals with the loss of her father. At the same time, the budding friendship between Quinn and Mike is delicate and subtle, breathing a unique authenticity, while delivering an undertone that makes this series all more desirable.

While turning the last page of this book, any reader familiar with the 90's series *Eerie Indiana* will easily be able to imagine this book's latest evidence hidden away until the next case in the *Fright Watch* series, as the theme song gently fades in the background. What mystery awaits readers next, I guess we will have to wait to find out. ★



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# Ask Toni

## Baby Boomers Stressed Out Trying to Understand Medicare??



**Toni King**

Toni:

I am a confused Baby Boomer who needs to make my Medicare decision this October when I turn 65. I am current on an individual health plan that has a terrible high deductible.

I do not know where to start or what to do? Can you please simplify this ordeal? ~ Thanks Jennifer from Memphis, TN

Jennifer:

Do NOT feel alone because there is "one" Baby Boomer entering Medicare every 8 seconds every day for the next 15 years. Which calculates to about 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day! Most are completely stressed out because they know that one wrong move can jeopardize their 401K that they worked so hard for and is all they have left for their retirement days.

Below are a few facts explaining what every American should know regarding their Medicare:

**1) Enroll on time:** The only way Medicare is automatic for those turning 65 is when one is already receiving their Social Security check. If you are not receiving your Social Security check and not working full time with true company benefits from either you or your

spouse's work, then you will want to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B via online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly). Those working full-time with true company benefits or are covered under their spouse's benefits may want to delay enrolling in Medicare Parts A and B until they finally retire or happen to be laid off from their current employment.

**2) Different Parts to Medicare...Parts A, B, C & D:** Medicare Parts A and B cover hospital, medical and provider expenses. Medicare Part C known as Medicare Advantage plan is another way of receiving your Medicare benefits. Part D is Medicare Prescription Drug plans that can be enrolled as a stand-alone plan with a Medicare Supplement or bundled in a Medicare Advantage plan.

**3) What Medicare covers:** Medicare Part A covers in-patient hospital, skilled nursing facility care, home health and hospice care. Medicare Part B covers physicians' services, outpatient surgery/services, lab/X-rays, MRIs, durable medical equipment, and preventative services, etc.

**4) What Medicare does not cover:** Medical services not covered are vision, hearing or dental expenses as well as Long Term Care.

**5) No Network with Original Medicare (Medicare Parts A & B) and Medicare Supplement/Medigap:** Your healthcare profession or facility bills Medicare not an insurance company.

**6) Medicare Advantage (Medicare Part C) May Be a Good Option:** Know that you can choose between Original Medicare (Parts A & B) or Medicare Advantage plans (Medicare Part C) offered by private insurance companies which has an insurance network which you healthcare professionals or facilities should be a part of to receive network lower rates.

**7) Medicare is NOT free:** Medicare covers a lot and there is a cost associated with Medicare Parts A and B. You have been paying tax dollars for Medicare and the premium for Part A is at no cost. Medicare Part B has a premium which is means tested depending on how much you have earned for that year. Each year, the Medicare Part A and B costs, deductibles and premiums change.

**8) When one visits, the Toni Says office for a Medicare consultation, we tell them to forget everything they know about their old health insurance plans because Medicare is totally different!**

**Toni Says Confused about Medicare Online Zoom Webinar:** Wednesday, August 19th at 4:00pm. Online webinar reservations are limited and enrolling link is available at [www.tonisays.com](http://www.tonisays.com).

Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® is giving a \$5 discount on the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book and bundle packages for the Toni Says® newspaper article readers at [www.tonisays.com](http://www.tonisays.com). ★



### In Defense of Liz Cheney

In this summer of Republican discontent, a handful of GOP House members have identified what's ailing the party: Liz Cheney.

The two-term Wyoming congresswoman, chair of the House GOP Conference and daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney was called out at a conference meeting for myriad alleged sins, including insufficient loyalty to President Donald Trump.

This episode is much more telling about Cheney's internal GOP critics than Cheney.

She rightly refuses to play by the dumb rule insisted on by MAGA and Never-Trump Republicans from their respective parts of the spectrum, that the only two options are to submit to the president totally or to oppose him totally, with no honorable space in between.

Cheney is a member of Republican leadership, which imposes its obligations, but she hasn't checked her mind or conscience at the door. She has deeply held views on foreign policy

and doesn't hide them, even when they depart from those of the president.

She has also been a consistent voice for taking the pandemic seriously and wearing masks, and has defended Dr. Anthony Fauci. Can anyone doubt that if Trump had taken her tack, he'd be in a stronger position today?

But some of Cheney's colleagues are upset with her rather than the president. Her occasional dissents supposedly endanger the project of taking back the House, an absurd notion.

This is a variant of the odd political accounting of the most fervent Trump supporters. By their lights, if, say, the president stumbles his way through a "Fox News Sunday" interview, that's not the problem. No, the problem is only if someone who is right-of-center points it out.

This logic has put an accent on whispered conversations in the GOP – even the most vociferous defenders of the president will often admit in private that they are disquieted or even outraged by something Trump has said or done, but won't dare say it openly.

It is also a way to deflect any responsibility from the president, when, obviously, if the worst comes in November, it will be because of what he did in office, not because Rep. Liz Cheney

said it's a bad idea to pull U.S. troops out of Germany.

Whatever you think of Cheney, she inarguably has a well-thought-out worldview that she defends resolutely and thoughtfully.

The Cheney episode shows how loyalty, or purported loyalty, to Trump is used as a political bludgeon in internal GOP fights.

According to Sen. Rand Paul, who took shots at her in the press after the GOP meeting, "She tries to sabotage everything he tries to do in foreign policy, so I don't know whether she's a good advocate for the president."

But it's not as though when Paul strongly disagrees with Trump, the senator salutes smartly and marches in lockstep.

The backdrop to the Cheney conflict is a broader fight over foreign policy. At the moment, that takes the form of a struggle to influence Trump's policy decisions. If the president loses, it will be one of a host of ideological conflicts over the direction of a post-Trump party.

Whichever way it goes, Cheney is going to be a formidable voice, and her willingness to speak her mind, even at time when it is discouraged, redounds to her credit.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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### Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

S	P	A	S	M		B	B	C		H	A	D	J			
A	L	O	H	A		O	E	R		H	E	L	I	O		
S	A	N	E	R		N	E	E		A	R	I	S	E		
S	T	E	E	L	E	D				D	O	R	O	T	H	Y
			P	E	P					W	O	R	D			
F	L	U			Y	O	G	A		C	E	N	S	E	R	
R	A	T	S			C	O	R	K		N	I	T	R	O	
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S	E	R	E				S	E	W		S	P	E	N	D	

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### Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • WHO SAID IT?

#### CLUES

**ACROSS**

- Involuntary twitch
- World's oldest national broadcaster
- Pilgrimage to Mecca
- Pacific island greeting
- "... the ramparts..."
- Prefix relating to sun
- Not so crazy
- Maiden name indicator
- Greet the day
- Mentally prepared for something scary
- "There's no place like home"
- Livelihood
- Answer to this clue, e.g.
- Winter bug
- Hatha or bikram
- Incense burner, in a church
- Bubonic plague spreaders
- Bottle plug
- Part of TNT
- Bad luck predictor
- "Doh!"
- Cleopatra's necklace
- Red Cross supply
- Have supper
- Female crab, or crybaby in Australia
- Belonging to Cree, e.g.
- Byproduct of combing wool
- Be nosy
- Spilled the beans
- Band booking
- "I have always depended on the kindness of strangers"
- "The caged bird sings of freedom"
- Acoustic output
- Polar toy-maker
- Oodles
- "Everyone wants to be Cary Grant. Even I want to be Cary Grant."
- "Funny or ..."
- Tutor's student
- Withered
- Use a Singer, e.g.
- Not be frugal

**DOWN**

- Fresh talk
- Surveyor's work
- Excellent
- Pen dweller
- "Don't worry 'bout a thing, 'cause every little thing is gonna be alright."
- "A martini. Shaken, not stirred."
- Samantha of "Full Frontal"
- Words to live by
- Submarine sandwich
- Climbed down
- Potluck offering
- "It's a moo point"
- Habituate, like a plant
- Historical period
- Tolkien humanoid
- Global problem?
- "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood"
- Coeur de \_\_\_\_\_, "Titanic"
- Embryo cradles
- Well-behaved
- Lice eggs

#### Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 8

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

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

**Solutions on Page 8**



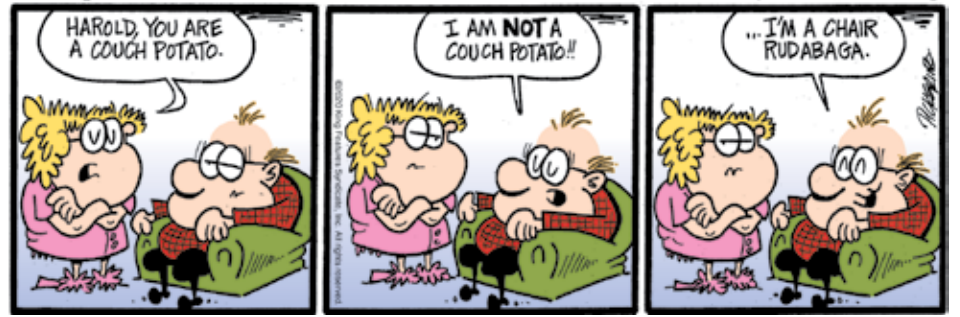
# WEEKLY COMICS

## Amber Waves



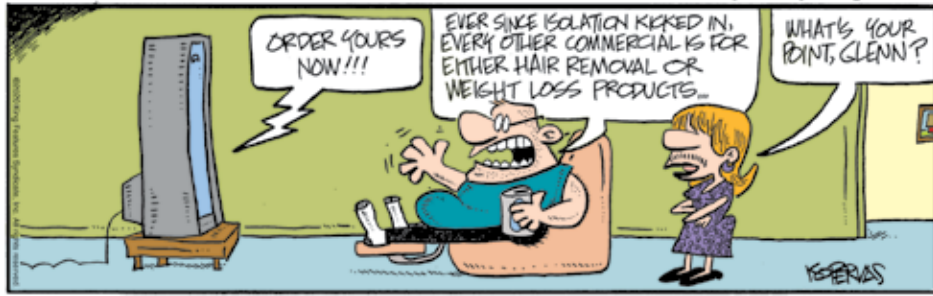
by Dave T. Phipps

## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

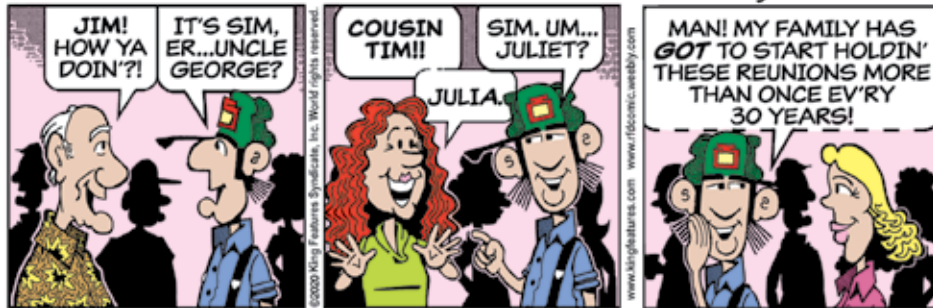
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



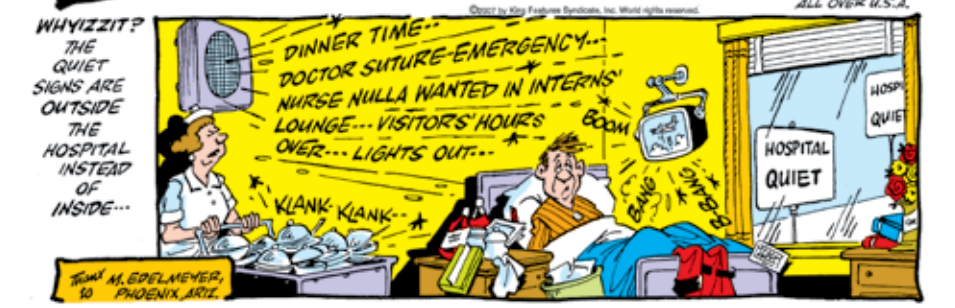
## BY AL SCADUTO



## R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



## GRIN & BEAR IT



## LAFF-A-DAY



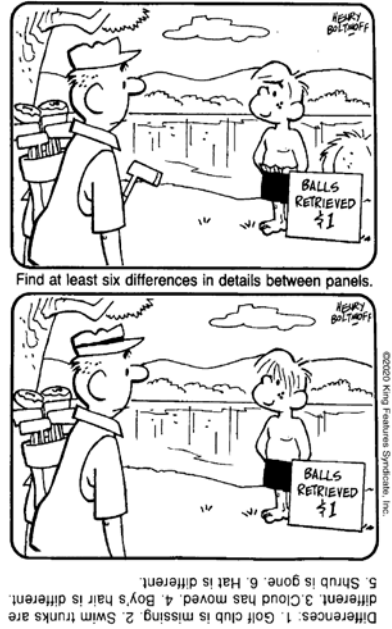
## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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# New Spin on Old Classics

*Continued from page 1*

feels he is checking off his goals he set in 2007 at culinary school to own his own place by the time he was 35. He is now 36 but started his catering business last year.

"It's a great partnership and it is all very exciting," he said. "I'm looking forward to putting a new spin on the old classics with fresh, quality ingredients – both in the restaurant and outdoors. Frosty's is a childhood memory for me, I grew up literally on this iconic corner. Being able to bring new vitality to my community is a dream for me. You can expect a new take on your favorite roadside dining experience."

If you're thinking Food Network star Guy Fieri will be stopping by soon, you might be right as Andrews was already on one of the famed restaurateur's shows but cut his finger during the competition.

"They never even showed that part," Andrews said with a laugh while propped on one of the many metal tables and chairs being power washed for Frosty's. He admitted the pandemic forced him to get out of his comfort zone because it allowed

him to practice new recipes.

"My wife got to try it all," he said adding that they are expecting their first child, a boy, in a couple months. Andrews lost his brother a few years ago in Hawaii and came back to Dixon in 2017 to be with friends and family. He started cooking for friend, Jill Orr, at Dawson's. He had cooked for famous chefs in Los Angeles and in Las Vegas before that and got to know Hickman by cooking for her during the Friday night entertainment venues at the Barn and Pantry.

"I'm finally getting back to myself," he said flashing a broad smile.

For those who are worried about change, Andrews plans to keep the "good ol' burger" favorites, while incorporating locally sourced meats, sustainable farmed produce and dairy products.

"We are doing everything fresh. Fresh patties, fresh made breads, and even hand-dipped corn dogs," he explained, "Diners can expect to see menu additions such as an ahi burger, fish tacos, bison hotdogs, garlic fries and a patty melt with Red's special sauce," he said. ★

# BOE Member Gaines Strongly Opposes Prop. 15 "Split Roll" Initiative



Ted Gaines

**By Betsey Hodges, California State Board of Equalization**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Board of Equalization (BOE) Member Ted Gaines held an informational hearing that considered both the pros and cons of Proposition 15, California's "Split Roll" initiative that will appear on the November ballot. Following the hearing, Member Gaines came out in forceful opposition to the measure.

"California is straining under the coronavirus. Millions are unemployed, businesses are closed, and the last thing we need right now is \$12 billion in new taxes put on the backs of struggling families. We are a resilient state and I'm convinced we will recover but for that to happen we need a business climate that promotes prosperity. Proposition 15 does the opposite. It will crush agriculture. It will hurt the mom and pop shops who are already at risk and scared for their futures. It will drive businesses out of our state." Gaines said.

Prop. 15 would undo valuable taxpayer

protections provided by California's landmark Prop. 13, which was passed in 1978. Prop. 13, among other changes, implemented a predictable, stable property tax regimen in California, where commercial and residential properties are taxed at 1-percent of their purchase prices and increases in property tax are capped at 2-percent a year from that purchase-price valuation.

Under Prop. 15, many commercial properties would be subject to reassessment annually, or at least every three years, opening the door to the unpredictable property tax spikes that forced seniors out of their homes in the 1970s and contributed to the taxpayer revolt that ended in passage of Prop. 13. It is referred to as "split roll" because it would lead to different treatment of residential and commercial properties in the property tax roll.

In addition, under the measure's definition of "real property used for commercial agriculture," fixtures and improvements such as irrigation systems, barns, tasting rooms and even fruit trees would be subject to reassessment, exposing the agricultural sector to a wave of new and higher taxes. Additionally, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office review of Prop. 15 indicates that rural areas may end up losing money overall if the initiative passes, even as their agricultural interests pay more in taxes, providing a double blow

to these communities.

Gaines hosted today's Prop.15 informational hearing, convening initiative supporters and opponents, assessors, the Legislative Analyst's Office, Board of Equalization personnel, as well as tax professionals involved in the property tax appeals process. The hearing was non-partisan and did not call for the Board to take a position on the measure. It was designed to give Board Members deeper insight into the alleged need for the initiative, how it would be implemented, and how it would affect property tax administration in the state. However, the day's testimony made clear to Gaines that the measure would be a disaster for California taxpayers and businesses.

"When will California taxpayers ever catch a break? They pay the highest gas taxes, highest state sales tax, highest income taxes, highest corporate tax in the western states; it's never ending. If this Initiative were to be successful, I have no doubt that Prop. 13 homeowner protections would be the next target.

"I support Prop. 13. For four decades it's been the bedrock protection for homeowners and business property owners. As a taxpayer advocate, I oppose split roll and every other effort to raise California taxes."

Elected in 2018, Ted Gaines represents nearly ten million people as a Member of the Board of Equalization. ★

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