



## The 'Golden Years' Can Feel Oppressive for Elderly

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## Uptown Collective Opens Downtown

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# Dixon's Independent Voice

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INSIDE**

## NEW STOP SIGN, STORES, STREET WORK



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## FITNESS CENTERS ARE SAFE AND ESSENTIAL



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## Dining Out is Definitely In



Above: Bud's Pub & Grill along with many Dixon restaurants are still open and serving meals but patrons can only be served outdoors. The City of Dixon passed an Urgency Ordinance good for 30 days for the restaurants to create outdoor dining spaces. Right: Barn and Pantry's outdoor seating features a long bar and numerous canopy-style umbrellas over table sets for spacious seating allowing outdoor eating during the Governor-imposed restaurant restrictions. Photos by Debra Dingman

**By Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - While the enthusiasm was strong when City staff heard from the downtown restaurant owners about changing Ferguson Alley into an outdoor dining patio to help the business owners serve more customers, it seems paperwork is taking the wind from the sails – or better, “sales.”

“The restaurateurs are in the process of completing their compliance requirements, after which I think you’ll see some fairly quick progress,” said Larry Burkhardt, Economic Development/Grants Manager for the City of Dixon. But, after the area was power-sprayed and sanitized, no other change happened.

City Manager Jim Lindley, who vowed three weeks ago to help establish the venue, requested that each restaurateur submit their ideas and cost estimates for review. If the plans are accepted, he asks the business to make the purchases and to save their receipts for reimbursement.

“In addition, if public rights of way are involved, an encroachment permit is required, along with supplemental insurance naming the City as an additional insured,” said Burkhardt. “Structures like the pergola to be built behind Rosemary’s will be reviewed by the Building Inspector for safety and ADA compliance.”

“I was frustrated at first. I feel the city should have talked about it first and been more forward thinking so we would know (the specifics,)” said Rosa Barron of Rosemary’s Farm to Fork who is now working with

the City’s Building Inspector Joel Ingram. “I thought there was only one permit but we’re moving ahead and getting the drawings and dimensions to build a pergola.”

The plans do not take up the whole alley way, she explained because the other merchants need to keep access for deliveries, but the seating will be in the parking area and there will be planters and wine barrels with strung lights overhead. She drove around to Davis and Winters and noted that the set ups “were not that nice.” She wants this to be better.

“This is not just for Jill and I,” she said. “I want it to make it nice for Dixon. I live in Dixon and I want Dixon to have a cool place – and this is going to be so cool.”

Last City Council Meeting brought some bit of good news. They approved use of up to \$40,000 to reimburse local businesses for items purchased that would expand their ability to conduct business outdoors (e.g. the Ferguson Alley work), or for items/equipment needed to conduct business indoors safely, given the state mandates, according to Burkhardt. This could be umbrellas, tables, cleansers, paper menus, or even hand sanitizer.

“This funding came from the CARES Act, and went to local jurisdictions to pay for impacts of COVID-19. It is not a grant program that businesses can apply to,” he said.



Not having to pay back a loan made the difference for Dawson’s Bar & Grill owners Jill and Greg Orr.

“We’re going to make (Ferguson Alley) work,” she said. “We are doing our drawings and we applied for our permit so we’re working on it. I am excited but there is so much for us everyday. It is like building an airplane in the air. You don’t know what you’re doing but we are getting it done.”

It must have just been a whole lot easier to buy another picnic table and put it out front, with restaurants taking advantage of what the city had already permitted the restaurants to do temporarily when the first shutdown was ordered. Bud’s Pub & Grill, Dawson’s, A Street Deli, La Cocina and numerous other restaurants including the new Pedro’s on Ary Lane followed suit. In fact, dining out has become the in thing for this little town known for its great variety of eateries. A town tour during lunch or dinner hour proves it. Umbrellas are everywhere and so are the diners.

“You’ve got to work with them” Barron said about working with the City. The new Pergola is due to be installed in Ferguson Alley today. ★

## Licenses for Drivers 70 and Older are Extended

**California Department of Motor Vehicles**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** -

The California Department of Motor Vehicles is providing an automatic one-year extension to Californians age 70 and older with a noncommercial driver license with an expiration date between March 1 and December 31, 2020. This action delays the requirement for this population to visit a DMV office during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The DMV previously provided 120-day extensions to senior drivers with noncommercial licenses expiring in March through July. While the new extensions are automatic, drivers will not receive a new card or paper extension in the mail. As an option, drivers can request a free temporary paper extension online beginning July 15 through DMV’s Virtual Field Office to document the extension, though it is not needed to drive. Californians with a suspended license are not eligible.

California law requires drivers age 70 and older to visit a DMV field office to renew their license but gives the DMV authority to issue extensions. The DMV has alerted California law enforcement of the extensions. The TSA accepts driver licenses for a year after the expiration date.

Commercial licenses, including those for drivers 70 and older, expiring between March and September are extended through September 30, 2020, to align with federal guidelines.

The one-year extension for senior drivers is the latest action to help Californians avoid or delay a DMV office visit during the COVID-19 pandemic. The DMV has issued extensions for expiring driver licenses and permits, expanded eligibility to renew a driver license or identification card online or by mail, and created new digital options for transactions that previously required an in-person office visit. The DMV continues to streamline its processes to limit the time customers spend at an office. Customers are encouraged to fill out the online application and upload their documents before they come to the office. The DMV is also contemplating other ways to safely serve seniors.

Summary of California Driver License extensions:

Age 70 & older (noncommercial) expiring between March-December of 2020 – Extended one year from original expiration date; Age 69 & younger (noncommercial) expiring March – July 2020 – Extended

*Continued on page 3*

## Election Season Begins; Several Pull Nomination Papers

**By Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Kicking the election season into gear, several people have pulled nomination papers to run for elected offices in Dixon with both District 4 Councilman Devon Minnema and District 3 Councilman Steve Bird becoming “verified candidates” for Mayor.

‘Pulling papers’ means

that the person is interested in running for office but must complete two additional steps to become an official candidate. Step two is getting 30 signatures from Dixon residents who vouch for that person and step three is turning the signed papers back into the City Clerk who then confirms that they are indeed registered voters in Dixon.

As of Tuesday morning,

Mayor Thom Bogue also pulled papers. Bogue endorsed Steve Bird publicly when Bird announced last year, in an unusually early gesture, that he would seek that post.

Two Planning Commissioners pulled papers for council seats; Kevin Johnson, for District 3 and Don Hendershot for District 4. Former City Councilman Jerry

Castanon also pulled papers for District 4.

James Ward Jr. pulled nomination papers for City Treasurer as well as Wesley Atkinson for re-election to the post. The candidates have until August 7 to return their papers and be verified, unless no incumbent in the race is running, in which case the deadline is extended to August 12.

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Dixon's Independent Voice - Dixon's ONLY Family Owned Newspaper For Over 25 Years





# Newspapers Impact Neighborhoods

By Debra Dingman

As far back as anyone can remember, there has been town criers. There is always a need to get information out to a group of people from any level of authority or from any form of leader – be it a King or a President. There just isn't enough space in this paper to write about all of that but there is enough for me to review a bit of American history of newspapers and my optimism about this local one.

The first newspaper was published in Boston on September 25, 1690 and was titled Publick Occurrences Both Forreign and Domestick. It was the first multi-page colonial newspaper as earlier English papers were only one sheet. Although it was supposed to be a monthly edition, it was suppressed after its first by the British governor due to “reflections of a very high nature” and for failing to obtain a correct printing license. Interesting folly here...

The paper offered a broad account of world and local news, carefully reviewed for accuracy. The breadth of coverage and the high standards Publisher Benjamin Harris targeted the city's merchants as the primary audience for the newspaper. This intention would have been in keeping with the English tradition of journalism, but nonetheless, the ruler at the time, did not want any challenge.

It would be 14 more years before another paper was tried. A Boston Postmaster created the Boston News-Letter, which was founded on April 17, 1704, and became the first continuously published colonial newspaper. Its purpose was to share the news of people's families from far away which he had to keep track of for his superiors in a regular report about the mail. The pro-British News-Letter was discontinued in 1776 at the beginning of the American Revolution.

According to an article in Genealogy Bank News, in 1783, the year the Revolutionary War ended, there were 35 newspapers published in the United States. Fifty years later, in 1833, there were more than 1,200 newspapers. That year, the American press primarily hugged the Atlantic coastal areas and consisted primarily of weekly newspapers. By 1833, the press stretched to the Great Plains and publication schedules ranged from dailies to monthlies.

Newspapers were everywhere. As the country grew, citizens relied on them. Picking up and reading a newspaper became a standard practice in households across the country – just as turning on the radio, cable news or iPad is today. Newspapers told the story of old and young, announcing births, marriages and deaths, and reporting on government and local activities.

For the past 20 years, I've watched daily newspapers get gobbled up and centralized, taking away the hyper-focus of the communities they originally served. But now, I'm not the only one that sees the trend of hyper-local publications growing. Our publisher Paul Scholl sees it. The Society of Professional Journalists are seeing a growth in journalism students at universities ever since President Trump started saying there is “fake news.” People are learning that even television news stations can present very biased information as factual. Citizens are wising up and searching for sources that report on what's happening in their neighborhoods.

The hyper-local online newspaper Patch says it has been profitable for the past four years, with an estimated annual revenue of over \$20 million. One reason for the growth has been the increase in users from 8 million in 2015 to 32 million in 2019.

“Defining the impact on readers is a cornerstone that journalists live by,” said Mark Winter in his Identity blog. “In community journalism, impact and immediacy are abundant. There is no greater impact to a reader than what is happening on their street, in their subdivision, at their child's school, or at their city's council meetings. These local occurrences could directly change their lives due to proximity.” I know this first hand and with each edition, we work to bring you as much local news as we can gather and print in a week to keep you informed.

We hope you'll keep reading and share this paper with others.

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.

# California Health and Human Services Agency Announces New Plans for COVID-19 Testing

California Department of Public Health News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly announced new plans for COVID-19 testing in California, including updated testing guidance, new requirements for health plans to cover testing, and the new co-chairs of the state's COVID-19 Testing Task Force.

“Testing is a critical tool that helps us diagnose and treat those who become infected by COVID-19. Testing also helps us understand how COVID-19 moves through our communities so we can identify areas where transmission is occurring... We are redoubling our commitment to ensure testing remains a top priority for California,” said Dr. Ghaly. “Our testing capacity has increased exponentially in recent months. At the same time, new national supply chain challenges and large volumes of specimens sent to commercial laboratories have resulted in growing delays in processing times. Consequently, it is critical we continue to be deliberate and creative about testing. We must do this so that testing is readily available and affordable to those who need it, especially those communities experiencing the worst impacts of COVID-19 and those who are at the highest risk. Testing is a responsibility of our entire healthcare delivery system. Clinics, doctors, and other care sites should provide convenient testing to their patients who need a test.”

The announcements include:

## Testing Prioritization

The California Department of Public Health released updated testing guidance that focuses on testing hospitalized individuals with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and people being tested as part of the investigation and management of outbreaks, including contact tracing. The testing guidance also prioritizes individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms and individuals without symptoms who fall into high-risk categories, including people who live and work in nursing homes, homeless shelters and prisons, healthcare workers, and patients in hospitals. The new guidance will ensure that Californians who

most need tests get them even if there are limited supplies.

## New Testing Task Force Co-Chairs and Goals

Two new co-chairs will lead California's Testing Task Force, the state's private-public partnership that has taken the lead role in expanding both the collection and processing of specimens for COVID-19 testing. Leading the task force starting immediately are Dr. Gilbert Chavez, founding chief of the California Department of Public Health's Center for Infectious Diseases, and Dr. Bechara Choucair, senior vice president and chief health officer for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. Chavez, the state's former epidemiologist who has led the response to disease outbreak and emerging health threats, is coming out of retirement to help lead the task force. Dr. Choucair oversees Kaiser's efforts focused on addressing the social health of its 12.4 million members and the 68 million people who live in the communities it serves.

The task force, which was launched in April, created testing locations where there were none, expanded laboratory capability and helped build a testing supply pipeline, scaling up from just 2,000 tests per day to more than 100,000 tests per day. Under the leadership of Chavez and Choucair, the task force will recommend testing priorities, continue to create equitable access to testing and support for state-operated community testing sites, and review options to lower overall testing costs.

## Health Plan Coverage of Testing

To help ensure that testing is widely available to all Californians, the state is working collaboratively with health insurers to provide reimbursement for testing and with private providers to create additional in-office testing capacity. 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. The state is preparing to file 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.



## Vegetable Farmers Face Complicated Planting Decisions

Renewed restaurant closures further complicate decisions for California vegetable farmers. With restaurants restricted to outdoor dining, takeout and delivery, people in the vegetable business say food-service demand has dropped for a number of crops. Farmers must decide soon on what crops to plant for winter harvest, and how much, and say they expect “roller coaster markets” when those crops reach maturity.

## Voluntary River-Flow Agreements Hit Snag

Efforts have slowed to reach voluntary agreements on river flows to benefit protected fish, as federal and state administrations focus on litigation over management of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The voluntary agreements could avoid severe cuts to water supplies for people in the northern San Joaquin Valley. But efforts to negotiate the agreements have stalled, as state and federal administrations disagree about delta operations.

## Cattle Ranchers Face Drought Impacts

With more than half the state's rangeland rated in poor or very poor condition, California ranchers and their animals feel the effects of drought. Ranchers who lease land from public agencies say their main obstacle often becomes finding enough water for their livestock. When ponds and other natural water sources dry up, ranchers may have to truck in water or move their animals, even if feed remains sufficient.

## Usda Reports Improvement In Dairy Exports

Noting that the U.S. dairy business has faced a “tumultuous period” during the pandemic, a report says exports of several dairy products have risen compared to a year ago. The U.S. Agriculture Department says the outlook has “brightened considerably” for U.S. dairy exports, as markets around the world have adjusted to shifting demand. Exports of U.S. milk powder, whey and other products have increased, though USDA forecasts lower exports of cheese and butter.

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### Bilingual

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# City Development News Includes New Stop Sign, Stores, Street Work



Located between Panda Express and the upcoming Grocery Outlet Store, the Verizon store on North First Street is almost ready to open. Photos by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Many of us have been surprised by the new stop sign at A Street and Evans either when coming into town from the freeway or leaving town. Surprised because normally there are all kinds of notices to warn the driver that there is a new stop sign. Flashers, white A-frame barricades or warning signs plus large ‘STOP’ letters painted on the asphalt usually grabbing your attention.

So, when there was near to none of these things last week, one would know something was different and there was: The sign was placed by the developers of the Southwest Dixon Specific Plan otherwise known as the Homestead Project.

“That (sign) is a condition for approval for the Southwest Development,” said City Engineer Joe Leach. “We weren’t aware of the day that they installed it, or we would have got the advanced flashers. They are there now,” he said. So is a police cruiser.

“When we install a traffic control device, the Chief is pretty good about educating his staff and giving people a good amount of time to get used to it.” Leach said. As of press time, the A-frame warning sign has been replaced by a pole with a sign, lettering has been painted but there is only one flashing red light above the stop signs. Hopefully, it is enough to prevent accidents.

The stop sign will soon become permanent and

ultimately, it will change to a traffic light. Leach predicted maybe five years depending on the development’s progress.

The Homestead Project is currently planned to include 1,168 single-family homes of varying sizes that will appeal to first-time home buyers, families, empty nesters and seniors. Of those, 274 are for residents age 55 and older. It will also include a commercial site for retail businesses, 31 acres of parks, open space and trails, and a fire station site.

Phase one home construction began this past January on South Lincoln and Pitt School Road just past Hillview Drive but the build out of the entire Homestead project will likely take several years with specific timing determined by market conditions and the City’s Measure B which limits the number of homes that can be built annually.

In other city updates, the Verizon store on North First Street is almost ready to open. It is located between Panda Express and the upcoming Grocery Outlet Store. Once Verizon is done with the sight improvements which include connecting their water system to Vaughn Road, people will see planting and landscaping.

If you are wondering what is going next to Walmart, it is the company called ‘Scannel.’ They are developing a distribution center of electrical components. Scannel was established to provide automation solutions using RFID (Radio Frequency Identification)

technology in the fields of textile manufacturing, apparel retail, logistics health care, etc.

Their products and services can be used in various applications such as inventory control, asset tracking, supply chain management, and production management to name a few. Their first phase is a very large storm drainpipe so Dorset, on the Walmart side, will be torn up for a bit when that begins, according to Leach.

Lastly, take note that many streets in Dixon are about to be sites of major road improvements and there will probably be many residents rerouted going to and from their homes due to the ‘2020 Pavement Rehab Project.’

This was just approved at the last city council meeting and the staff report lists all the streets that are going to be affected. The work consists of micro-surfacing and striping on existing streets within Dixon. Improvements also include crack-sealing on some streets.

The streets are in the newer home areas between Lincoln and Stratford including the surrounding area by Gretchen Higgins Elementary School. Main streets are Regency Parkway, Pembroke, and Stratford Avenue although there are more and are listed in the report. The public can access that report on the City of Dixon website. The City Council notification campaign on that project starts in the next two weeks, he said. ★

## Licenses for Drivers 70 and Older Extended

Continued from page 1

until July 31, 2021 (renew online or by mail); Commercial (all ages) expiring March – September 2020 – Extended to September 30, 2020; Learners permits expiring March-August 2020 – Extending six months or to a date 24 months from the date of application.

DMV field office employees are assisting customers with appointments at the specific office or with limited transactions that require an in-person visit. Last month, offices began

offering additional services, including vehicle inspections and behind-the-wheel drive tests. The DMV continues to recommend that customers use its online services, expanded virtual services and other service channels to complete transactions, including eligible driver license and vehicle registration renewals. Customers can use the Service Advisor on the DMV website to learn their options to complete DMV tasks. Visit WWW.DMV.CA.GOV for more info. ★

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# CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

## Pardi Plaza – is this a Good Deal?

Yes residents, \$2.7 million of our Dixon taxpayer dollars paid for all that bark and cement at the Pardi Market Plaza that opened on July 20th. You want trees, a bush or 2, maybe a stage or the clock long promised from the original design for the “plaza”? That will cost us an additional \$800,000.

Four members of the City Council, less Devon Minnema, pushed this project through. Money is no object for this crew unless it is for an overpass to lessen traffic through downtown and reduce the time it takes first responders to reach emergency calls beyond the Dixon MayFair grounds. Unfortunately, the bark will always be bark at the Plaza/Car Park. It will never turn into grass.

The utilitarian features of Phase 1 included pavers, parking, decorative lighting, trash receptacles and enclosure, perimeter sound wall and pathways. The pavers were supposed to be “stamped concrete” according to Mayor Thom Bogue.

Downtown businesses lost 30 to 35 parking spaces while gaining a new “less is more” look for the downtown area. Is that look worth \$3.5 million? It is a challenge to envision how the unveiled plaza/car park will transform downtown Dixon to resemble areas in Winters or Vacaville Town Square.

The mayor was questioned at the last council meeting how this “investment” would be paid back. Bogue replied that it would be years in the future if at all. It seems like the vision to replace an eyesore has turned into a financial nightmare.

The announcement on Facebook did not mention Phases 2 and 3 or when these will be started and completed. During the discussion on this year’s budget, there was a consensus that capital projects would be cut back until the Covid mess is sorted out. Which brings up the following question.

Will this be another Parkway Overpass fiasco? To provide background, the 2007 Bertelero Report noted that the Parkway Overcrossing (PO) would be finished by August 2007; this report was done in conjunction with the Dixon Unified School District, City of Dixon, and Brookfield Homes. It is 2020 and very little dirt has been moved for the project. But the city council recently approved adding 1200 new homes.

In response to a question a few years ago regarding the expected completion of the Overpass project, the City Council commissioned Doug White, the city attorney, to craft a response. Why would the City Attorney, with an hourly rate of more than most of our monthly food budgets, need to prepare the response?

This question was a simple request for public information, nothing that should require a lawyer’s response with these additional costs to the taxpayers. Why didn’t the city engineer, Joe Leach, respond or, better yet, the ex-finance director Joan Michaels Aguilar whose job it was to oversee, review, and adhere to budgets for city departments. She was charged with preparing official reports so common sense would lead a person to believe she should have had the amount collected and needed right in front of her?

The reason citizens asked about the Parkway Overcrossing is that the traffic on

First Street has gotten worse. In fact, the council recently downgraded the rating on the level of traffic service from a “C” to “D”. Plus, the city’s new draft General Plan (which covers the next 20 years) lists Level of Service “D”. Does that imply the city will accept this level for the next 20 years?

Back to the Pardi Market Plaza, originally the council indicated that the Plaza would go through 3 phases. Phase 1 was finished last week. Now, the city indicates that this is the last phase that will be finished until the city has a better idea of funding. Then, Phases 2 and 3 will be completed some day, but no timeline was given. Could this debacle be following in the footsteps of the overpass fiasco?

There are several new businesses that opened in Dixon this year or will open soon – the truck shop located at Interstate 80 and Pedrick, a new Verizon Store, Starbucks, Panda Express, Grocery Outlet, and a marijuana farmers’ market to open. Plus, Walmart is doing a booming business during Covid 19. One would imagine that these businesses could come close to replacing the taxes being lost during this downturn.

One project will solve a problem – the other one will not. When the new middle school opens, traffic will be heavy from this school and the new high school. This does not even consider the traffic from 1200 new homes at Homestead which must funnel down A Street or head out on Pitt School Road to Midway then come back into town from the south.

Members of the City Council are dismayed because of the lack of public enthusiasm for the one project they wanted to unveil as an accomplishment before the 2020 election. The public is disappointed with the results citing that the city council approved removing the chain link fence surrounding the unpaved large parking area and spent 2.7 million taxpayer dollars on some bark and cement while providing fewer parking spaces. During the extended construction period, downtown businesses lost money because of limited parking available.

How many years will it take to complete the next two phases? Will this project suffer the same fate of the Parkway Overpass?

**How Much Money Did the City Recently Spend on a Legal Settlement?**

The city council routinely spends \$1 million on legal fees annually. Word on “the street” is that the City of Dixon settled one aspect of a medical lawsuit with former police chief Jon Cox for \$175,000. Is this true? To date no councilman has reported this to citizens at a council meeting.

How much more will be spent attempting to deny this former city employee his earned disability or retirement pension? Cox simply wanted coverage for a medical procedure on his back injured while working as a police officer plus his retirement pay.

It is unfortunate when elected officials use taxpayer funds to pursue their own personal vendettas and choose to obstruct negotiations creating increased attorney fees. Some members of this council have no problem throwing tax dollars in the air just to watch where they land. We think you should keep that in mind during this upcoming election. ★

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# Fitness Centers are Safe and Essential to Combat America’s Health Crisis

By Mary Parra,  
Randle Communications

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Fitness Alliance (CFA) announced that since reopening on June 12, its members have reported no cases of COVID-19 traced to California fitness centers including health clubs, gyms or studios. CFA surveyed 150 fitness operators, representing 785 locations in California, to demonstrate the implementation of its guidelines and superior safety standards have kept its communities safe while providing an essential service to its members and vital jobs to its employees.

“Our survey results show fitness centers are safe due to the standards we are implementing,” said Randy Karr, founding partner of CFA and President and CEO of California Family Fitness. “Survey respondents had more than 5.5 million members check into their facilities between June 12 and July 13, and only .002 percent of those members have tested positive for COVID-19, with no cases reported as a result from visits to fitness centers.”

“We support doing the right thing to flatten the curve, but America is facing a physical and mental health crisis and physical fitness is essential to combat this pandemic,” said Francesca Schuler, founding partner of CFA and CEO of In-Shape Health Clubs. “This is why the California Fitness Alliance worked with Governor Gavin Newsom’s administration to develop standards that would enable fitness centers to stay open safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Under CFA’s “4-W” program to protect and prevent the spread of COVID-19, our participating fitness clubs have members wear masks, work out 6-feet apart, wash their hands before exercising and wipe down the equipment they use when finished. This is in addition to fully complying with or exceeding strict safety standards directed by state and county public health offices for facilities and staff including frequent cleaning, sanitizing, social distancing, physical separation and new check-in procedures.

One in five Americans experiences a mental health issue and physical fitness can be a critical way to combat these issues according to the Journal of Clinical Psychology. Additionally, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States – responsible for 840,768 deaths in 2016 and an annual total cost



The California Fitness Alliance (CFA) announced that since reopening on June 12, its members have reported no cases of COVID-19 traced to California fitness centers. Photo courtesy of Janeb13

estimated at \$351.2 billion in 2014-2015. The leading causes of cardiovascular disease are obesity, high blood pressure and lack of physical activity. Forty-seven percent of Americans have at least one risk factor for heart disease.

“Sadly, people with chronic health issues have significantly higher risk of severe illness or death if they do become ill from COVID-19,” said Marc Thomas, CFA advisory board member, Co-CEO of Aspyr Holdings and an Orangetheory Fitness Franchisee. “According to the National Institutes of Health, engaging in regular physical activity is critical to preventing heart disease and Type 2 diabetes among other ailments, confirming once again that fitness is an essential business.”

In fact, Dr. Hemmal Kothary, the Chief Medical Officer for Dignity Health Central California Division, believes fitness is so essential to mental health that he’s joined CFA as a medical advisor.

“Now more than ever, people need routine and healthy ways to deal with things like anxiety, depression and the isolation caused by this pandemic,” Kothary said. “The communities created within fitness clubs not only help people maintain motivation for their physical fitness but remind us that we are not alone – even when we are safe and physically distant.”

“Our industry takes health very seriously, which is why we implemented strict standards. The results of our survey demonstrate these standards work,” said Cory Brightwell, CFA advisory board member and CEO of Chuze Fitness.

“The California Fitness Alliance will continue working with the Governor and local governments to demonstrate that fitness centers are not where infections are spreading.” ★

# Social Security Matters About Working While Collecting Social Security



By Russell Gloor,  
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** In 2019 I was out of work for an extended period. I was eligible to begin receiving retirement benefits (at age 63) and started to do so in August. My part time job was limited so it did not conflict with my Social Security amount, but in October through the end of 2019 I went back to my old industry at four times the pay rate. My understanding is that I will need to pay Social Security back about \$1.40 for every benefit dollar they have paid me while I worked at the higher wage. When and how is that paid? **Signed: Part Time Again**

**Dear Part Time Again:** If you started your Social Security benefits in August of last year at age 63, for the remainder of 2019 you were subject to the “first year rule” which means you had a monthly earnings limit of \$1,470 after your benefit started. If you exceeded that monthly limit starting in October of 2019 and for the rest of the year, you won’t be entitled to benefits for the months of October, November and December. Social Security will consider that an overpayment, and they will want you to repay all those benefits to them. However, if it would be to your advantage to do so,



you can request that Social Security use the annual earnings limit for 2019, instead of the monthly limit. For example, if using the 2019 annual earnings limit (\$17,640) would result in a smaller impact to your benefits, Social Security may accommodate your request to use the annual limit. Depending upon your total earnings in 2019, you may want to consider asking that the annual earnings limit be used, instead of the monthly limit, when determining your 2019 impact for exceeding the earnings limit.

Starting in 2020 you’ll be subject to an annual limit of \$18,240 (limit changes yearly). If you exceed the annual limit, SS will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. If you’ve again stopped working at the higher amount, and now only working part-time and won’t earn more than \$18,240 for this year, you’ll not be subject to the annual limit. But exceeding the 2019 monthly limit last year will still affect you.

You will receive a form from Social Security asking you to specify your 2019 income month by month for the months you were receiving benefits. Since you exceeded the monthly limit from October through December, they’ll be asking you to repay all of the benefits you received for those months. They will give you the option of either repaying them in full in a lump sum, or they will recover what you owe by


withholding your monthly benefits until the overpayment is satisfied. That will mean you’ll go some months without benefits, the number of months dependent upon your monthly benefit amount and how much you owe them. Remember, you have the option to request the annual limit if it will benefit you.

Though you’ll lose benefits for some number of months now, when you reach your full retirement age (66 years and 4 months) they will automatically give you time credit for the number of months they withheld benefits and move your SS claim date forward. That will increase your monthly benefit amount slightly, and you’ll get that slightly higher benefit for the rest of your life.

One final point: In the year you reach your full retirement age the annual earnings limit will go up by about 2.5 times and the penalty for exceeding it will be less (\$1 for every \$3 over the limit). And when you reach your full retirement age the earnings limit goes away entirely.


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

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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.



## Wednesday, July 22, 2020

**0745** – Fraud report was taken at the police department.

**0955** – Vandalism arrest report was taken in the 200 block of E. C. St. Officers contacted (S) Tyler Ray Colter out of Dixon. After an investigation, Ray was found to be responsible for the vandalism and was arrested. Ray was transported to the Solano County Jail.

**2104** – A traffic enforcement stop near the intersection of Stratford and North Lincoln leads to the arrest of a woman for possession of narcotics and a switchblade.

**2310** – A motorist did not stop at the posted stop sign at the intersection of West A Street and Evans Road. An enforcement stop leads to the arrest of the motorist for DUI.

## Thursday, July 23, 2020

**0914** – Vehicle Theft report was taken in the 700 block of Cahill Ct.

## Friday, July 24, 2020

**0123** – A traffic enforcement stop near the 1100 block of Woodvale leads to a DUI arrest.

**0634** – Informational report was taken in the 2500 block of N. 1st St.

**0705** – Narcotic and probation violation arrest report was taken in the 1700 block of Marenda Dr. Officers contacted (S) Jason Bounds out of Dixon. Bounds was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department. Bounds was given a citation and released.

**1105** – Vehicle Theft report was taken in the 500 block of West C St.

**2334** – A woman, known to be on probation, was seen driving in the area of the 900 block of Stratford Avenue. A DPD Officer effected a traffic stop and discovered that the woman had approximately 92 grams of methamphetamine. She was arrested and taken to the Solano County Jail.

## Saturday, July 25, 2020

**0554 Hours** – A traffic stop was conducted at the intersection of Stratford Avenue and Weyand Way. Subsequently, one of the passengers was arrested for being in possession of drug paraphernalia.

**1402 Hours** – Stolen vehicle recovered in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.

**1411 Hours** – Stolen vehicle recovered in the 1400 block of Market Lane.

**1446 Hours** – Battery reported in the 1500 block of Valley Glen Drive. Upon officers arrival, the victim was found to have sustained injuries to the face and was transported to the hospital. The suspect was contacted and placed under arrest for Felony Battery.

## Sunday, July 26, 2020

**1600** – Vehicle tow in the 200 block of North Second Street.

## Monday, July 27, 2020

**1300** – Lost or Stolen license plate reported in the 1100 block of Charity Lane.


**1559** – A proactive enforcement stop in the area of North Lincoln and Mayfield resulted in the arrest of Geraldo King (10/22/1965) of Berkeley for two outstanding misdemeanor warrants (one from Solano and one from Alameda County). He was arrested, transported and booked into the Solano County Jail without incident.

**2020** – Brandishing of a firearm reported in the 300 block of Alderglen Drive. Upon officers arrival, the suspect barricaded himself inside of his home. The victim did not desire prosecution, however, a crime report was taken and forwarded to the Solano County District Attorney's Office for review.

**2034** – Domestic violence report taken at the 100 block of Dorset Drive. Zahraya Woods (19) was subsequently arrested and booked into the Solano County Jail for domestic violence.

**2142** – Verbal altercation reported in the 300 block of West Broadway Street. After the investigation was complete, Steven Demara (36) was arrested and booked into the Solano County Jail for domestic violence.





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

# Adventures in Reading!

**Willow The Armadillo**  
by Marilou Reeder;  
Abrams BFYR

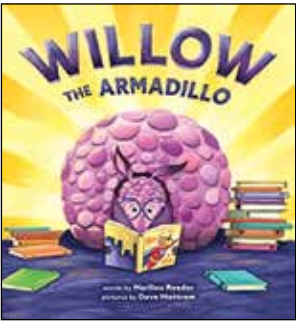
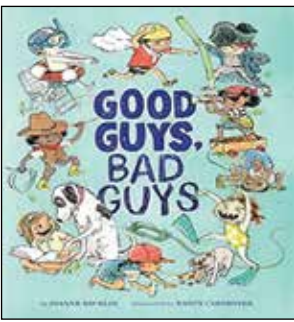
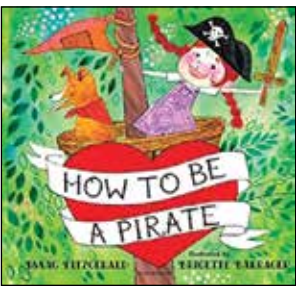
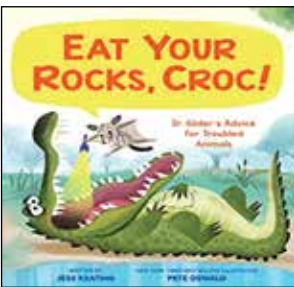
“You could be the next picture book hero!” Willow always dreamed of being the star in her own picture book. Shen trained hard at the Picture Book Academy, learning all the skills to be a hero. While everyone else doubted her, she persisted, auditioning for every role available, but Willow was still turned down. Then one day, Willow gets the opportunity to be a real hero, and she realizes the greatest lesson of all.

In a story of perseverance and true will, *Willow The Armadillo* will teach readers the power of being a hero in real life. With its engaging storyline and bright, energetic illustrations, little ones will ask to have this story read over and over again.

**Good Guys, Bad Guys**  
by Joanne Rocklin;  
Abrams BFYR

In the epic backyard adventure, it's the good guys versus the bad guys. Here come the bad guys, wearing pirate clothes being smelly, hairy, green, and scary, but never fear the good guys are close behind with their fancy capes, saving everyone, and bringing cake. Which one will you be today? A good guy or a bad guy?

In this darling story of make-believe adventure, a brother and sister explore an entire day of imaginative fun. From pirates, swimmers, superheroes, and



cowboys each day is filled with its own adventure. The perfect story for siblings to share, while sparking the joys of outdoor play.

**How to B a Pirate**  
by Isaac Fitzgerald;  
Bloomsbury

Cece wants to be a pirate, but the boys won't allow her to play with them. So, Cece decides to ask her grandpa how to be pirate. With each of his tattoo's, he teaches CeCe the most valuable lessons of being a pirate. First, you must be brave. Then, you have to be quick, independent, and fun. However, there still one more important quality of being a pirate? Can you guess what it is?

This endearing adventure of a little girl and her grandfather teaches readers the valuable lessons of believing in yourself while celebrating the many

wonderful qualities that add up to be the most beautiful version of you.

**Eat Your Rocks Croc** by Jess Keating; Scholastic

Dr. Sugar Glider is here to help all the animals of the world. From Kenya, the South China Sea, and all the way down under to the island of Australia, Dr. Sugar Glider answers every animal's call.

From Nile crocodiles, meerkats, nurse sharks, red foxes, Atlantic krill, and many more, this book has the answers to all their troubling medical needs. Filled with fantastic, strange, and sometimes bizarre animal facts, littler readers will be armed with all the answers and ready to be Dr. Sugar Gliders' assistant. Then, it will be time to grab their stethoscope and some wild stuffed animals and practice being doctors of their own. ★



# Riley Reviews

## “THE OLD GUARD” PUTS IMMORTAL TWIST ON SUPERHERO POWERS

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

“THE OLD GUARD” (RATED R)  
ON NETFLIX

Now that films with a MPAA rating are being released on television streaming services rather than in traditional theaters, it may be appropriate to note the premise for the ratings.

In the case of the superhero action thriller “The Old Guard” streaming on Netflix, the R rating has been designated for the “sequences of graphic violence and language.” Gore and language should also be added into the mix.

What kind of superheroes are performing good deeds here? For one thing, they are not characteristic of caped crusaders or enhanced physical specimens of someone, say, like the Hulk that are found in DC Comics or Marvel Cinematic Universe films.

The superheroes in “The Old Guard” are bound to the human experience, with frailties and even mental constraints attendant to regular humans, but they are immortals with regenerative healing faculties.

The quartet of centuries-old warriors are led by Andromache of Scythia (Charlize Theron), who favors being called Andy and is a powerful woman of indeterminate age, as she seems unable to recall the century of her birth.

However, Andy has been around long enough that two of her compatriots are Joe (Marwan Kenzari) and Nicky (Luca Marinelli), a couple that were on the opposite sides of the Crusades before being killed in battle and then falling in love.

The relative youngster in the group is Booker (Matthias Schoenaerts), who joined around the time of the Napoleonic Wars of the early 19 th century after fighting on the side of the French Empire.

We first get a look at Andy in Morocco. For all of her ageless qualities and dressed in black and wearing dark glasses, Andy has the look of a very modern woman who might be sipping lattes at an outdoor café and shopping in trendy stores.

Andy and her colleagues might more aptly be described as mercenaries for the greater good. And yet any commitment to the cause of fighting evil seems to be wearing on Andy, as she laments that the world is not becoming a better place for their efforts.

The angst that grips Andy's mental well-being is exacerbated by grieving over the loss of her old colleague Quynh (Van Veronica Ngo), whose fate was sealed by being placed in an iron maiden and dropped into the bottom of the ocean during medieval times.

While Andy grappled with her sorrow and despair over global conditions,

the quartet had been on hiatus for some time until Andy is asked by former CIA spook James Copley (Chiwetel Ejiofor) to undertake a rescue mission of kidnapped Sudanese schoolgirls.

The mission goes badly as the quartet is ambushed in what obviously turned out to be a trap. The resulting bloody carnage, however, does allow us to have an understanding of how the superheroes are rather quickly restored to fighting shape.

Meanwhile, over in Afghanistan, young African-American Marine Nile Freeman (KiKi Layne) survives a fatal knife attack from a Taliban soldier with a miraculously speedy recovery that stuns her doctors and causes her to be ostracized by fellow soldiers that don't understand her sudden immortality.

That Nile has the regenerative powers common to the other immortal warriors leads Andy to venture to the Afghan war zone to save Nile just in time before she's shipped off by superiors presumably for medical experiments.

Though a brave soldier who had been unaware of her immortality, Nile is reluctant, to say the least, to become a recruit with the warriors. Understandably, her major concern is that she would never see her family again if pressed into service.

However, there is nothing like a truly noxious villain that would get one to change their mind about a mission. That baddie is Steve Merrick (Harry Melling), the nerdy head of a British pharmaceutical firm who is aware of the immortals and wants to subject them to genetic experiments.

To that end, Merrick's goons abduct Joe and Nicky, resulting in the warriors being strapped to operating tables under the care of a scientist who may have been inspired by Josef Mengele for evil medical research.

Faced with the reality of Merrick's wickedness, the once reluctant Nile comes to terms with a certain trepidation about her eternal earthly situation, and becomes a force in her own right for the supercharged battle to liberate her colleagues.

Even though the ageless warriors become fully restored after being killed in action, they feel pain when maimed or mortally wounded, which takes its toll on everyone's psyche. This is becoming especially true for Andy, who's expressing weariness and frustration.

“The Old Guard” is a different type of superhero action film in that the warriors may be adept at fighting with all kinds of weapons (Andy favors a medieval axe), but their power is primarily that of not dying and living to fight another day.

As one of the producers, Charlize Theron may have in mind developing “The Old Guard” into a franchise outside the orbit of the traditional comic book universe that dominates superhero films. ★



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St. Peters Catholic Church News

Hello Dear Friends, Today is the feast of St. Martha. We read about Martha in Luke 10:38-42 and in John 11:1-53 and 12:1-9. When we meet Martha in Luke, she has welcomed Jesus into her home and is doing what was expected at that time when guests come to visit, she was preparing food and serving them.

Remember how she got annoyed and complained to Jesus that Mary, her sister, was not helping her.

Jesus loved Martha, but gently told her that she was worrying about many things, but Mary

had chosen the better part. What is Jesus saying? Should we be abandoning all life tasks and sit and read and pray all day? This is noble and beautiful for the few who are truly called to it, but even there, things need to be done. Jesus is reminding us to take time to sit and be with Him. Listen to Him. Talk to Him. Don't forget to spend time with Him. There will always be time to do the other things in life. Take time for Jesus. When we take time for Jesus, we can truly be with Him and serve Him as Martha did. Follow Martha's example of

serving. Unlike her brother Lazarus and her sister Mary who we hear more about, we hear simply that Martha served. How are we serving Jesus? St. Martha is the patron saint of cooks and servants. St. Martha, pray for us. God Bless+

Please check the St. Peter website for updates on public Masses. Currently, Masses will be held outside in the parking lot. Masks are required if you are attending Mass. Bring a chair and umbrella (for shade, if you choose). Sunday Mass is also live-stream on Facebook Live. ★

Masks Help Make and Keep America Afraid



Commentary by Harold Pease, Ph.D.

Last April the Washington Post published an article “Will Americans wear masks to prevent coronavirus spread?” It listed a variety of reasons why some will not wear masks. Unfortunately it missed the main one – masks help make and keep America afraid. The media, WHO and the CDC have been wrong on virtually every aspect of the virus, from early estimates of American death predictions from 2 to 3 million to even the practicality of wearing a mask. For many wearing masks represents submission to those with little regard for the Bill of Rights, not selfish insensitivity to others who might get the virus from the unmasked, as those who wish to take our liberty openly say.

One bluntly said, “If Donald Trump had not been elected president it would not be hyped.” Another, “Nothing more will be said of it if Joe Biden is elected president.”

The media began with the horrific death prediction of millions. When those numbers were not high enough opponents did two things to inflate them: one by counting deaths **with** Covid-19 as the same as those dying from Covid-19 and two, infecting nursing homes with patients with the virus. Turns out that more than 40% of those dying were in nursing homes. When a drug used to treat malaria – hydroxy-chloroquine – was found to cure the coronavirus as well, instead of excitement over the finding, the media and their accomplices unsuccessfully did everything to discredit its use. Clearly their agenda was to **make and keep Americans afraid**.

It is clear to most that the virus had been weaponized for the election of 2020. It damaged Trump's best economy in U.S. history, nearly ended the popular Trump rallies, justified Biden's non-aggressive presidential campaigning because of his obvious

cognitive failings, provided the rational for three or less presidential debates and vote by mail efforts – all benefiting the Democrat Party.

The absolute best strategy for keeping Americans afraid is to keep them wearing and practicing the symbols of fear – masks, distancing, partially closed churches and in small groups. It is a constant reminder that the emergency is present and ongoing. The next best is to keep children from returning to school. That there exists no science that keeping children out of school is a benefit to them does not matter, nor that virtually all of Europe has opened their classrooms.

Nor did it matter that the Asian Pandemic of 1957 with a death of 116,000 Americans, or the Hong Kong Pandemic of 1968 with 100,000 deaths, may still be more than the 130,000 dying from Covid-19, subtracting at least 25% of those who did not actually die from Covid-19, but with it. The populations were much lower then and they wore no masks, closed no businesses, restaurants, churches, sporting events, schools, colleges or large gatherings. The population of America is 328,239,523. Do the math, dividing this number by 130,000 deceased equals .0004 X 100 =.04% – infinitesimally low. Dividing by the three million who got it, and recovered, .009 or 0.9% is not even 1% of the population.

This is why the vast majority of Americans cannot identify a family member or close friend dying from Covid-19. Still, the Left has Americans paralyzed and perpetually afraid. The death rate of the flu two years ago, 61,000, did not even make the news, but this is a presidential election.

Again the media have lost credibility. The same sources now pushing the narrative that those not wearing masks are doing so because of their selfishness and insensitivity toward others are the same people and outlets that were wrong at every turn respecting the coronavirus.

But none of this is new!! We count nine times when these same media outlets, organizations, and persons attempted to upend, even by coup d'etat, the 2016 presidential election.

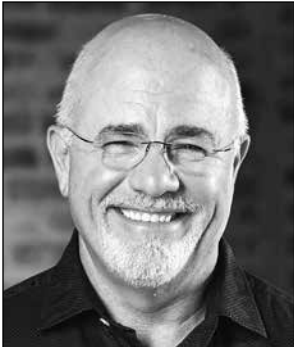
Let's review these attempts three happening simultaneously before Trump took office. Spygate the Trump Tower

wiretapping, demonstrations in cities all over the United States (presumably funded by George Sores, to refuse the results of the 2016 election with signs “Not My President”), and finally, the Republican “Never Trumpers” movement. Once inaugurated the effort to get someone in his administration to declare him unfit so as to use the 25th Amendment to remove him followed. Then the Russia Hoax and the resultant 2 1/2 year Robert Mueller Investigation. This followed by disclosure of the FBI/CIA Coup attempt to unseat him, next the Ukrainian Hoax, followed by the failed Impeachment attempt. Nine easily documented attempts to remove Trump from office. On issues relating to Trump it is hard to find anything upon which these media were accurate.

Trump endured three congressional investigations: the Mueller and Horowitz Reports, each exonerating him, and the US Senate Impeachment trial acquitting him. Trump suffered more unjustified opposition/persecution than all U.S. presidents combined.

So what is the main reason so many refuse to wear masks? Americans cannot be convinced that politicalization of the coronavirus is not the 10th attempt to oust Trump and bring down America and the anarchists the 11th. Many feel used, betrayed and undefended as they watch these same sources excuse non-wearing of masks for rioters and anarchists but condemn such for the rest. If most cannot identify a family member that has died from this pandemic after almost six months of headlines of death, why would they trust these falsifying sources? To many the preservation of the Bill of Rights and not wearing the symbols of control and fear are all they have to resist those who want to **make and keep Americans afraid** and take our liberty.

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



People Need To Hear Success Stories

Dear Dave,

So many companies and entrepreneurs are hurting right now. With everything that's going on in the world, I find myself ashamed to celebrate business successes. In the past, I've always shared highlights with our customers to show them how amazing they are and how much their support means. How can I navigate this time without making others feel bad?

– Alyssa

Dear Alyssa

You know, in most cases people who ask this kind of question are already self-aware enough to celebrate their business success with grace and social awareness. You didn't ask how to brag, you asked how you can still celebrate what's going on in your business with your customers.

Dave Ramsey Says

You're not firing shots at other people when you do something like this with the right heart and an attitude of gratitude and humility. You're not talking about jumping around and yelling about how great you are while saying everyone else is a doofus. All you're doing is letting people know what's working and that you're thankful for it – and them.

People need to hear success stories. They need to hear stories about winning, whether times are good or bad. It might actually inspire and encourage them. It's good news!!

– Dave

**Worried About College**

Dear Dave,

My husband and I are about to start Baby Step 5. We want to save money for college to help our children, but we're a little worried about starting a 529 Plan and being penalized if we pull the money out for trade school or they don't finish their studies. What do you think we should do?

– Dani

Dear Dani

You'd only be taxed on the growth, not what you put into the plan. And you'd be taxed on the growth anyway if you put it into something else, so there's no reason not to go with a 529 Plan.

The truth is a 529 will work for a lot of trade schools. It may not be accepted if they do a straight-up apprenticeship, but it's fine for a course of study at a vo-tech school.

Now, if you don't use all of what's in your 529 for education, the portion that goes unused will be taxed. You'll want a chunk of cash sitting in your 529, enough to make a difference in their educational goals, but you don't want to overfund it.

– 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.* ★

Senate Republicans Respond to California Democrats' Economic Stimulus Plan

By Jacqui Nguyen, California Senate Republicans

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The statement below is in response to California Democrats' \$100 billion proposed Economic Stimulus Package:

“These summaries are broad strokes and some may sound appealing – but when it comes to California Democrats' proposals, the devil is always in the details. Consider what

they have done since the start of this pandemic. California Democrats have allowed an increase in the gas tax during one of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression; they've spent billions of dollars on homeless, only to see the situation worsen; ever-changing small business directives and guidelines; and are putting at risk the safety of every California resident by allowing 18,000 convicted felons back into our communities.”

– California Senate Republican Caucus ★

Legislative Democrats Kill Opportunity to Help Millions of Frustrated Californians

By Jacqui Nguyen, California Senate Republicans


SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Governor's mandated shutdown has left more than six million Californians unemployed and shuttered businesses. Senate Republican Leader Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield) released the following statement after the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) announcing the cancellation of a crucial hearing on August 11, that would have been an opportunity to audit the Employment Development Department (EDD).

Last month, legislative Republicans asked JLAC to audit the EDD after unemployed individuals shared their horror stories about the state agency, including cases of clerical errors that resulted in

longer wait times for financial relief and 150 redials with no results. The Los Angeles Times recently published an article on July 11, 2020, “It takes 150 redials’: Horror stories from Californians filing unemployment claims, getting no results”.

Signed by Republican members from both the Assembly and Senate, the letter to JLAC is a bicameral effort to demand answers from EDD.


“California Democrats killed an opportunity to audit the EDD which would have helped millions of frustrated Californians. This audit would have been an opportunity to get answers instead California Democrats blocked that effort. Republicans will continue to fight for our residents because California deserves better,” Senate Republican Leader Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield). ★



**Publisher,**  
**Paul V. Scholl**

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# Election Season Begins

Continued from page 1

Bogue would be running for re-election. He is the owner of First Choice Automotive and served as Vice Mayor during an earlier term as City Councilman in 2010 and lost a re-election bid in 2014. He ran for mayor in 2016 and won.

Bird is currently the Vice Mayor and is serving his second term as Councilman of District 3. He won his first term as Councilman in 2012 after retiring from the Dixon Police Department and was re-elected in 2016.

Minnema first ran in 2014 at age 19 and was elected as Councilman in 2016 representing District 4. He is well known for intergenerational engagement on social media and in newspapers, as well as his work on zoning reform. He serves on the Board of Kiwanis.

Johnson is a local Re/Max Gold Realtor who has served on the City Planning Commission since 2013 and is currently the Chair. He is a past President of the Chamber of Commerce and Dixon Rotary.

Hendershot is a District Attorney Investigator, served in the Air Force, and coaches softball locally. He is also in his

second term on the City Planning Commission.

Castanon is a former Councilman, a field representative for the carpenters union, and is the new leader of the Knights of Columbus in Dixon.

Ward is a retired CHP Officer, is a veteran, and is active in the Kiwanis Club of Dixon. Ward ran for the District 1 seat in 2018 on a fiscal responsibility platform.

Atkinson is interested in being re-elected as he is the current City Treasurer.

These are the offices open: Mayor (Elected At-Large representing entire city) – 4-year term; City Council Member District 3 – Four Year Term; City Council Member District 4 – 4-year term; and, City Treasurer (Elected At-Large representing entire city) – 4-year term.

Official nomination documents for eligible candidates desiring to file for offices will continue to be available at City Hall, City Clerk's Office, 600 East A Street, in Dixon. Candidates must be 18 years old or older, reside and be registered to vote within the City of Dixon. Candidates running for City Council

must also reside within the District for which they are running.

There are fees ranging from approximately \$200 to \$500 to run if one is planning to do a candidate's statement which appears in the sample ballot that are collected at the time of returning papers.

To view a map of the four districts, there is no really simple path at this time but you can go online to the City of Dixon and select Elections then scroll down to see an option to click on District Boundaries Map 2016 or go here: <https://www.ci.dixon.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/7224/Dixon-2016-Adopted-Map-lg-format?bidId=>

Due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, candidate filing is by APPOINTMENT ONLY. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (707) 678-7000. Candidates are encouraged to call as early as possible to ensure candidacy nomination paperwork is completed prior to the filing deadline. Visit <https://www.ci.dixon.ca.us/378/Election-Information> for more information on offices, measures, and deadlines. ★

# Seven Aggies Earn ACWPC All-Academic

By Mark Honbo, UC Davis

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - A total of seven UC Davis student-athletes garnered 2020 women's all-academic awards from the Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches, the organization announced Monday morning. Alphabetically, the Aggie honorees are senior Emily Byrne, sophomore Allyson Clague, redshirt freshman Grace Gulsvig, sophomore Alyssa Lengtat, senior Ariana Momen, senior Abbey Pfefferlen and senior Chloe Robinson.

To earn ACWPC All-Academic recognition, student-athletes must hold a cumulative grade-point average of 3.20 or higher. Honorees are awarded in three categories: Outstanding (3.71-4.0), Superior (3.41-3.70) and Excellent (3.20-3.40).

Unlike the academic all-conference awards, there is no minimum of games played.

This is the fourth straight award for Pfefferlen, a biological sciences major and the lone UC Davis honoree in the Outstanding category. Momen also snared her fourth All-Academic accolade, and her second in the Superior classification. Lengtat repeated her honors in the Superior category.

Byrne, Clague, Gulsvig and Robinson each appeared in the Excellent tier. This is the third award each for Byrne and Robinson, who major in economics and human development, respectively.

UC Davis went 8-12 in the shortened 2020 season, achieving a No. 17 final ranking in the Collegiate Water Polo Association coaches' poll. ★

## 2020 ACWPC WOMEN'S ALL-ACADEMIC

### OUTSTANDING (3.71-4.0)

Abbey Pfefferlen (Senior, Biological Sciences)

### SUPERIOR (3.41-3.70)

Alyssa Lengtat (Sophomore, Economics)  
Ariana Momen (Senior, Neurobiology, Physiology & Behavior)

### EXCELLENT (3.20-3.40)

Emily Byrne (Senior, Economics)  
Allyson Clague (Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering)  
Grace Gulsvig (R-Freshman, Communication)  
Chloe Robinson (Senior, Human Development)



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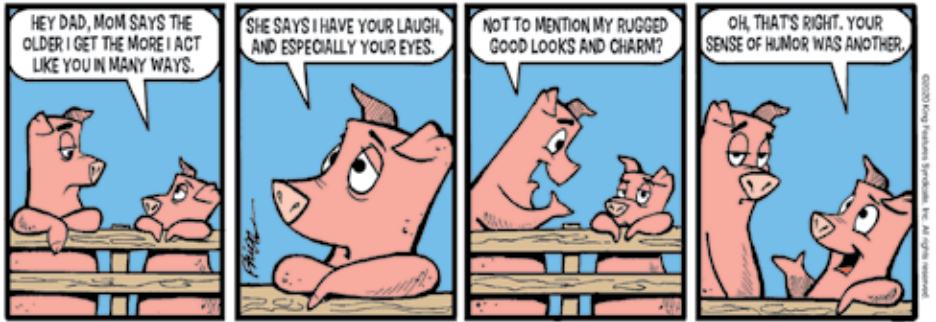




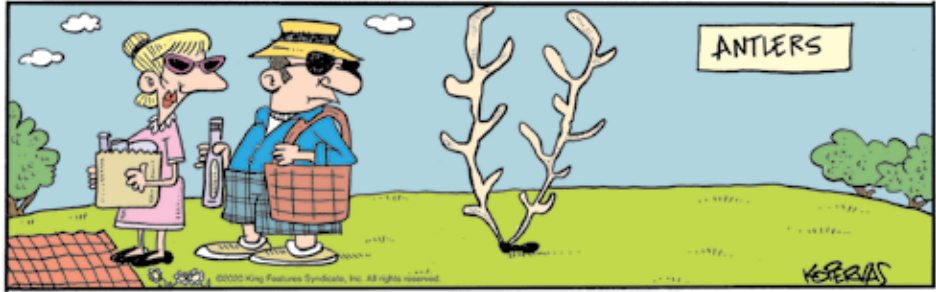


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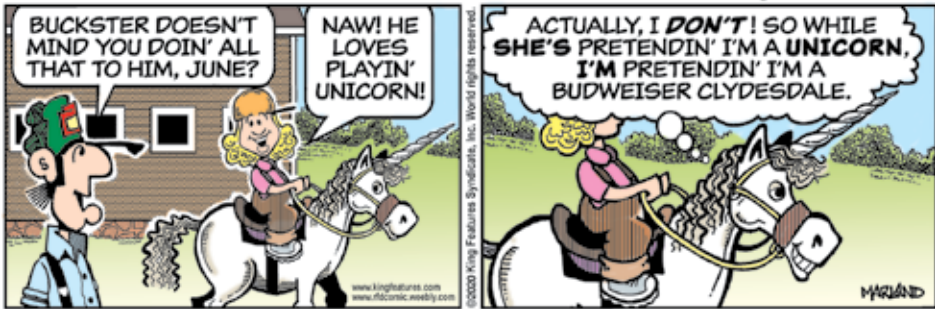
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# The ‘Golden Years’ Can Feel Oppressive



The Golden Years are supposed to be carefree, but sometimes the challenges of growing old can be depressing. MPG file photo

## Association of Mature American Citizens News Release

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG)

- “The Golden Years are supposed to be carefree, but sometimes the challenges of growing old can be depressing. At worst, they seem downright unfair,” says Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC)

Weber cites, as an example, the complications of what used to be the simple task of getting your driver’s license renewed. “It’s a breeze for younger drivers. They can get their new licenses by mail or online and in many states their licenses are good for ten years. Not so for too many older citizens. Many states require in person renewal procedures for older applicants in their 60s and 70s and will only issue renewal licenses for a maximum of five years and a minimum of one to two years. Specific state by state license renewal information is available on the Website Insure.Com.”

And, the AMAC chief notes that more and more states appear to be planning license renewal restrictions on older drivers. As the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) put it: “While older drivers have lower crash rates reported to the police, the likelihood of seniors being involved in a fatal crash goes up after age 70. Nine states are considering legislation on older driver issues in 2015, with Nevada and Virginia enacting new laws. A number of states considered legislation dealing with medical fitness.”

Meanwhile, notes Weber, seniors seem to be a target of choice not just for scammers but for “legitimate” commercial enterprises. “For example, timeshare predators seem to aggressively target the elderly, using extreme deceptive and exhausting sales practices that coerce customers into signing up for timeshares – a technique that may be particularly effective on the elderly.”

But, she warns, even those timeshares that are

purchased willingly can be cause for concern due to maintenance fees, which may seem affordable enough at first but, which can become onerous as the years go on.

As consumer advocate Dave Ramsey describes it: “The average annual maintenance fee is \$1,000. But the surprise comes when you find out the fees go up every year, often much faster than the normal inflation rate. The latest numbers say the increase averages around 4% a year. So, in hard numbers, your original \$1,000 fee could be \$1,477 by year ten – a total increase of around 48%!”

Excessive fees can make timeshare ownership a nightmare, says Weber, particularly if you are an older owner whose resources may be limited. It is one of the key issues targeted for reform by such organizations as The Coalition to Reform Timeshare. The organization says it is actively seeking to impose “a strict code of ethics and transparency” for the industry. ★

# Uptown Collective Opens Downtown



Rebecca Robinson is hosting a soft opening of her new store, Uptown Collective, Friday, July 31, in downtown Dixon. She is sharing the building with Becky Jacobs of B's Gallery Salon at 130 North First Street. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Two business women. One pandemic. Abundance of flexibility. Heart to help.

The soft opening today of a new store in downtown Dixon called 'Uptown Collective' is the story of how to be entrepreneurial – and innovative – in these times.

It started with women doing what they do well; visiting. When Rebecca Robinson was visiting with friend Vicki Ruiz at The Printing Shop, Ruiz was empathetic sharing about how her sister, Becky Jacobs, who owns B’s Gallery Salon around the corner, was experiencing financial devastation due to not being able to open her doors for business or to serve her clients.

The three of them soon began to brainstorm about other possibilities to make ends meet during the pandemic shutdown. All of them have lived here long enough to know the history of how that space had worked before for part retail and part salon so Robinson, a former Downtown Dixon Business Association President and long-

she had opened the ‘Curiosity Shop.’ Plus, Nevada City had lots of retail shops and she enjoyed shopping at all of them, she said.

“I know how to fix this,” she thought. She’d open up a women’s clothing boutique in the front part of Jacob’s salon just like the earlier times.

“Our downtown restaurants are excellent – superb! But after you eat, you want to go somewhere. It would be great for increasing the walkability of downtown by having great retail,” she said. She commissioned an artist to render a logo using a woman’s face but then realized after weeks of forced isolation, women were not going to buy clothes if they stayed at home.

“I’ve always loved these little stores and there is a Winters Collective (in Winters) and that’s where I got the idea (for a collective.) I was in the middle of landscaping in the backyard but knew I had to stop and do this,” she said with enthusiasm. “The idea is to bring people together whether its refinishing furniture, designing an art piece, or selling mohair baby booties, it’s a great opportunity for local artists. There



Becky Jacobs relaxes in her (smaller) shop, B's Gallery Salon, and is ready to re-open as soon as the pandemic restrictions lift for salons. Photo by Debra Dingman

are five vendor spaces and it will be a fun shopping experience.”

Robinson is also planning a youth corner for young people who have developed or refined artistic skills while being shut down for so long and is hopeful it can add to their mental health.

“Think of the mental health benefits to the children and youth who can see their work on display and then have someone buy their creations,” she said.

B’s Gallery Salon will continue to be run by Jacobs but has been moved toward the back of the building and thus the women can share customer’s interests.

“My clients can shop in the store while they’re processing,” Jacobs said adding that she can also still sell the salon’s inventory of unique purses, jewelry, and scarves in the new collective space. Two innovative business owners coming together to help other women and our downtown. It’s definitely a win-win equation.

The store is located at 130 North First Street. Call (707) 676-5377 for more info or check out their Facebook page. Due to the Governor’s continued COVID-19 restrictions on salons, B’s Gallery Salon will open as soon as they are allowed and one can enter through the back of the building. That phone number is (707) 678-5560. ★

# Sen. Dodd Recognizes Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary

By Paul Payne, Office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, issued the following statement regarding the 30th anniversary of the landmark Americans With Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination based on disability and sets accessibility standards for public and commercial facilities.

“This key piece of civil rights legislation tears down barriers for people with disabilities, whether they are in the workplace or the public sphere,” Sen. Dodd said. “It is a true milestone for those who had been shut out by discrimination and circumstances beyond their control. Now, with the coronavirus pandemic, it is especially important to ensure employment opportunities and access to vital services.”

The Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990. It was the culmination of years of work by disability rights advocates, affording protections for people with

disabilities similar to what is contained in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It also required employers to make accommodations for people with disabilities and set accessibility requirements for public places.

“In this time when people with disabilities and their families have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and the economic downturn, it is important to be reminded that disability rights are civil rights, and that all Californians have benefited from the improvements in accessibility that have come thanks to the ADA,” said Andrew Imparato, executive director of Disability Rights California.

“As California continues the work of ensuring people with disabilities have equal opportunities and the ability to participate fully in society, the ADA remains the most important tool for breaking down these barriers,” said Kelly Dearman, president of the California Association of Public Authorities for In-Home Supportive Services and executive director of the San Francisco IHSS Public Authority. ★



A unique gift item is this re-purposed wood boards made into a flower vase. The picture next to it shows it with flowers from the Dixon Florist, an example of Robinson's goals to cross market for other downtown merchants. Photo by Debra Dingman

time downtown building owner, went home with the wheels inside her head turning over ideas.

“I felt sorry for her. She’s been in business all this time,” said Robinson who had sold her home in Nevada City recently and moved back to Dixon. After purchasing the older building years ago, though,

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