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THE BE SAFE NATION

By Lou Binninger



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Downtown Dixon Dining Patio Planned



Several business owners, City Manager Jim Lindley, and Economic Development/Grants Manager Larry Burkhardt chose Ferguson Alley for a new Downtown Dining Patio so people can enjoy outdoor dining during continued COVID-19 social distancing requirements. There have been similar patios established in Davis and Winters. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - An urgent meeting of downtown restaurant and shop owners proved to be productive this last Monday as City Manager Jim Lindley vowed to help establish a temporary outdoor dining patio in the alleyway between Healthcare IS and Dawson's.

Jill Orr, owner of Dawson's and City Councilman Devon Minnema organized the meeting after discussing the potential collapse of the Dixon restaurants as they go into another shutdown called by Governor Gavin Newsom.

Orr admitted that she could have "knocked down the fences" surrounding the Pardi Market site after learning her restaurant would not be able to serve indoors or serve alcohol for another three weeks and possibly more.

"I have strawberries rotting in our refrigerator because there was no notice and I am losing thousands of dollars in food and operating costs.

I have to have a place to serve our customers or I won't have customers," she said.

She knew if the city would be able to open up the Pardi site, then all the restaurants in the downtown core could set up tables and chairs plus umbrellas similar to what is being done in Davis and Winters.

"We needed a meeting to get everybody's ideas and do this collectively," she said. Several downtown restaurants already had sidewalk patio sets but with the spacing requirements, none can do more than one-third of their capacity.

"It is hard enough to bring a new kind of food and sell a new concept of healthier eating into Dixon and then have all these restrictions," Rosa B. from Rosemary's said. "You text all your friends but having a slow day after a slow day after a slow day, is really hard."

Lindley knew it wouldn't be feasible to try to close Highway 113 or even A Street due to the

traffic routes and the fire department's access. The alley way behind Dawson's was brought up. All came to the agreement that for now, it was the best choice.

Ferguson Alley will be power cleaned and sanitized and the group of about 10 people will start to work immediately to transform the area behind Rosemary's, Bangkok Garden and Dawson's but all the restaurants can benefit because people will have a clean and comfortable place to go out to eat. As the consensus formed, enthusiasm grew from Larry Burkhardt, Economic Development/Grants Manager who said the city had just hired a PR firm.

"This could be a good inaugural project to get behind," he said. City Manager Lindley invited all to go on a field trip to see where they were talking about, so the group went outside and started mapping out ideas for lights and planter boxes.

"I think people would really like it," said Rosa B. "They like to be downtown." ★

Taxpayers Should File by July 15

By David A. Tucker II, IRS

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - The Department of the Treasury and IRS announced the tax filing and payment deadline of July 15 will not be postponed. Individual taxpayers unable to meet the July 15 due date can request an automatic extension of time to file until Oct. 15.

The IRS reminds taxpayers filing Form 1040 series returns that they must file Form 4868 by July 15 to obtain the automatic extension to Oct. 15. The extension provides additional time to file the tax return - it is not an extension to pay any taxes due.

The IRS urges people who owe taxes, even if they have a filing extension, to carefully review their situation and pay what they can by July 15 to avoid penalties and interest. For people facing hardships, including those affected by COVID-19, who cannot pay in full, the IRS has several options available to help. To avoid interest and penalties, the IRS encourages them to pay what they can and consider a variety of payment options available for the remaining balance.

Individual taxpayers have several easy ways to file Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, by the July 15 deadline. The IRS also reminds taxpayers to check their state filing and payment deadlines, which may differ from the federal July 15 deadline.

IRS Direct Pay allows payment directly from a checking or savings account. This service is free; Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, or EFTPS. Pay by phone or online. This service is free; Debit or credit card payment. This service is free, but the processing company may charge a fee. Fees vary by company; Check or money order made payable to the United States Treasury (or U.S. Treasury) through the mail.

Several payment options are available on IRS.gov/payments to help taxpayers who can't pay in full and some can offer taxpayers smaller penalties. Though interest and late-payment penalties continue to accrue on any unpaid taxes after July 15, the failure to pay tax penalty rate is cut in half while an installment agreement is in effect. The usual penalty rate of 0.5% per month is reduced to 0.25% For the calendar quarter beginning July 1, 2020, the interest rate for underpayment is 3%. For more info see IRS.gov. ★

Solano Baking Needs Help Collecting for Food Pantry

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - When you walk into Solano Baking Company, you will notice the sign on the door asking to observe social distancing and you'll see tape on the floor marking six feet apart. The sweet smell of pastries of all kinds will fill your senses and behind the long counter filled with luscious donuts, cookies, and pastries are cheery eyes behind face masks.

You might also notice a wall similar to a grocery store filled with a variety of canned and boxed foods with a large sign in the middle that says, "Take what you need. Share what you can."



Host a barrel? Solano Baking Company owner Kendra Benz is working with Safeway and Food Bank of Contra Costa/Solano to fill 20 barrels for local needy seniors and families.

Photo by Debra Dingman

Long-time business owner Kendra Benz obviously has a few things figured out about staying in business in the small town of Dixon and now even through a Pandemic.

"We first started the give-away when the shelter in place mandate made it difficult for people to find the things they needed at the grocery store," she said. "I was just really worried about what people were going to do for food when stores and restaurants were shutting their doors. I felt they needed the extra help."

Kendra and her husband Gerna contacted the Safeway store at the end of

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Dixon High Mishandles Top Student's Scholarship Application

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Thousands of dollars are given away each year to deserving Dixon graduates to help pay for their college. For many years, clubs and organizations have volunteered and worked hours to have successful fundraisers so that they could see their monies pass onto aspiring young Dixonites.

There's no reason in the world Annabel Rubio, shouldn't have been included in the quest for those awards. Except, her paperwork got set aside and wasn't e-mailed out to the 30 clubs and organizations that do the awarding.

In the past, Dixon High School counselors and staff have done the necessary coordinating – and sometimes coaching students to get their plans solidified and paperwork in. This year, the Pandemic changed the face-to-face tasks of one Marie Torres to lots and lots of emails. It's a miracle more than one scholarship application didn't get lost in the flood of emails but only one did-- and it belonged to the girl who carried a 4.3 GPA, who was ranked 4th in her class, who is already enrolled in Cal Berkeley's pre-med program, and who will be the first in her family to get a degree.

Annabel grew up watching television shows like Grey's Anatomy and medical videos like Chubbyemu on YouTube videos. In her freshman year, she took Geometry at Solano College. The following year she took Computer Science and later US History also at Solano College, all while playing in the Dixon High School Band, competing on the swim team and being involved in the Rotary Interact and 'Girls Who Code' clubs.

The term Geek, however, doesn't fit. This



Dixon High School student Annabel Rubio who graduated fourth in her class, applied for 19 scholarships to help get her through med school, but her forms were never received by clubs and organizations due to an error by DHS staff. Courtesy photo

blonde-haired, greenish-blue eyed young woman is easy to talk to and fast to humor. Her youth glows in her eyes and she exudes a sense of gentle confidence.

"I have a love for learning and I have found ways to make learning fun," she said. She used to host study groups and remembers using Sponge Bob to explain cellular respiration. (This reporter does not know what that is.) She appears relaxed when saying this: "It's just the way my brain works. I'm a huge math person and I'm the family tech support. I like to make the topic connected to humor." She used a lot of that while tutoring younger students in her junior and senior year.

Annabel attributes her favorite AP Biology teacher, now retired Angela West, for waking her interest up to genetics saying that she "loved" that class. She also gives kudos to her mother, Jill, for nurturing her passion for learning.

"If it weren't for my

mother's sacrifice of being a stay-at-home mom, I don't think I would be the person I am today," she said. "She has provided me all the tools necessary to go out into the world and flourish mentally, physically, and emotionally." Her parents are her "best friends" and siblings are close.

One would not know she had been bullied in fourth grade.

"My mom stood up for me and taught me how to stand up for myself," she said. "I am more resilient now and learned to use my voice."

She was confident – and very hopeful – that out of the 19 applications she filled out for the DHS scholarships that she'd get at least a couple. But when her grandfather, Ray McCluskey who serves on the Rotary Club Board – and who knew his granddaughter applied for their scholarship – learned that there would be no recipient, he called the nominating committee

and discovered they had not received Annabel's packet.

It was the day before the DHS Graduation Parade and everyone should have been focused on 'happy,' but a flurry of phone calls had to be made and the worst case was proved. Not a single club got her packet. It had been accidentally left out of the email thread sent to the clubs and organizations.

"It was our error and we own it," said a remorseful sounding Stephanie Marquez, Principal. "We weren't even aware she had missed one until the call came. Annabel is a fantastic student and we care deeply about her and we don't want this to get in the way of her future." The school immediately forwarded her packet out to all the clubs but it was too late as all of them had already selected their winners.

Annabel and her family were devastated.

"Her school is \$37,000 a year and with all the expenses, we could use every penny," said Jill Rubio.

"On top of a global pandemic, this was the icing on the cake," said Annabel. "I had even emailed [the counselors office] to double check and confirm we had everything. My mom and I were so frustrated. I applied for 19 scholarships and I was even the President of [Rotary] Interact Club." Calls were made to the District office but no help has been offered.

Through the goodness of the Rotarians who pooled some appreciated donations, and through the Malcom Timm Scholarship, Annabel will take calculus and chemistry – part of a full load – this fall which will be offered online to her at home due to COVID-19. ★

Fatal Traffic Collision near Benicia Road

By David Harvey, California Highway Patrol

VALLEJO, CA (MPG) - On July 5, 2020, at 2:29 am, Golden Gate Communication Center broadcast a call of a traffic collision with an ambulance responding on Interstate 80 westbound, at the Benicia Road off ramp. Through a preliminary investigation, it was determined a solo male driver of a 2015 Cadillac CTS was traveling at a high rate of speed when he lost control of the vehicle. The Cadillac left the roadway,

went down the embankment of the Benicia Road off ramp and the front of the vehicle collided with the embankment. The Cadillac rolled over approximately three times before coming to rest on the dirt embankment bordering the north road edge of the Benicia Road off ramp. The driver was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the collision, was ejected from the Cadillac and sustained fatal injuries. Alcohol and/or drugs is being investigated as a factor in this collision. ★

Vacationers Arriving at Second Homes Need to Respond to the Census ... Again

By Marna K Davis, U.S. Census Bureau

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - Many families will head to their vacation homes and cabins this holiday weekend in the more rural counties in California. They are likely to find a 2020 Census questionnaire packet at their doors even if they already responded from their primary residences.

It's required that homeowners complete a separate census form for every house they own, including seasonal residences. If homeowners have been staying in their seasonal homes during the COVID crisis, they still need to complete a census form for their primary residence. People should count themselves at the residence where they live and sleep most of the time under normal conditions.

Here are instructions on how to self-respond online with information on a cabin,

vacation rental property, or any other home where someone does not live and sleep most of the time:

Visit www.my2020census.gov; Enter the Census ID or address for this secondary property. Owners will find the ID number in the information packet that census takers left on the property or at a mailbox if the home has a regular mailing address; Enter "0" for the number of people living at this property; Hit Next... the survey will not advance, but it will show a second prompt. Hit Next again to advance; Select "No" when asked a confirmation question about how many people live there; Select primary reason – Seasonal (most likely); Complete!

You may also respond to the 2020 Census by calling (844) 330-2020, or returning the paper questionnaire by mail.

For more information go to www.2020Census.gov ★

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Kiwanis Calls On Volunteers to Clean Vet’s Hall



Veteran Wayne Holland and Veteran/Kiwanis Club member Jim Ward are looking forward to some help cleaning up the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street on Saturday, July 18. All hard-working volunteers welcome. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Each year, Kiwanis Clubs around the world join in a day of service. Kiwanis One Day consists of the involvement of Kiwanis Club members who desire to have an impact on their community. For the Dixon Kiwanis, they declared a ‘Veteran’s Hall Clean-Up Project.’

The club members are inviting the public to join them Saturday, July 18 from 8 -10 am at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street across from Ron DuPratt Ford.

“We are expecting to go fast and furious on the yards,” said Club member

Devon Minnema. “If it gets too hot too quick, we’ll do as much as we can then enjoy lemonade and watermelon.” He encouraged helpers to wear gloves and bring leaf blowers, rakes, and hedge trimmers. The club will provide long extension cords. There are also plenty of windows to wash.

Wayne Holland and a small crew of veteran volunteers have tried to maintain the property but with the pandemic restrictions, many are too concerned about going out. The organization used to have the low-risk offenders work at the hall to keep it clean but when the shutdown happened, that help also ended.

The Kiwanis Club was founded in 1915 in the U.S. and has grown to a global organization of volunteers dedicated to bettering the world one child at a time. It has 600,000 members and nearly 15,000 clubs in more than 90 nations.

Before the pandemic, the Dixon Kiwanis meets on the fourth Monday of each month at Bud’s Pub and Grill in downtown Dixon although the club is using Zoom online option for the next month or two. The next Zoom meeting will be Monday, July 27 at 7 pm. For more information, call/email Membership Chair Patti Sousa at (707) 635-3303, dixonkiwanis@hotmail.com. ★

CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

Just as quickly as Governor Newsom announced the re-opening of indoor bars and restaurants, movie theaters, museums, and beaches he closed them down again. The order was put in place the day that it was issued leaving small business establishments “holding the bag.” Restaurants had restocked their food supplies and filled their freezers, scheduled staff and deliveries, only to be notified by local officials they needed to shut down their indoor food service immediately. What happens to all the food that has been purchased and prepared? What happens to the service staff that is scheduled and is told not to bother to come in until further notice? How much longer can small businesses financially “hold on” without any income, or limited income?

Small businesses are being financially devastated by state and local governmental policies established to prevent the spread of the Corona virus. The Governor and local leaders’ rationale for setting the policies is to save lives by trying to limit the number of people contracting the virus at any one time and overwhelming local medical systems.

We all agree that wearing a face mask is uncomfortable and interferes with our daily lives, but necessary to wear to protect others. We don’t know if we have the virus and are not showing any symptoms or are a carrier that can easily infect all those we come in contact with. Doctors and nurses have worn face masks for centuries to protect their patients and themselves from diseases.

We thank the UCD Health System for their permission to share the following article.

Why Masks? To Protect Your Community



Chancellor Gary S. May joined other speakers who gathered in person (and at least 6 feet apart) for the School of Medicine's graduation, May 29. Students and their families watched online. (Wayne Tilcock/UC Davis)

By Rick Kushman on June 23, 2020 in University

Quick Summary

- “It’s an act of kindness ... to protect the people in your community,” one UC Davis expert says
- Yolo County requires face masks, and, as of last week, they’re required statewide
- When you need one and when it’s not required, plus information on reuse and the kind of mask to avoid

As COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions ease and more businesses, bars and restaurants open, health experts and state officials are also seeing more confusion, disdain and even hostility toward wearing masks.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom reacted last Thursday (June 18) by issuing an order requiring Californians to wear face coverings in “high-risk” settings that include any indoor public space, lines to enter those spaces and any setting where 6-foot social distancing is not feasible. (Yolo County has mandated face coverings since April 24.)

UC Davis experts have been warning about the need for masks and have advice for the nuances about wearing them, how to care for them and what not to wear. But their advice about masks starts with one simple point: Wear them. Protect your community.

“The tradeoff for going out into the world again is wearing a cloth face mask,” said Natascha Tuznik, assistant clinical professor of infectious diseases. “That’s all you need to do.”

She said many people misunderstand the reason for wearing masks – they are mostly to protect others from the possibility the wearer will spread the virus.

“It’s a courtesy. It’s an act of kindness,” Tuznik said. “You’re doing it to protect your neighbors and the people in your community. And you are trusting they will protect you. Do you want to be the reason someone you love is in intensive care?”

There Is ‘No Free Pass’

Dean Allison Brashear of the School of Medicine shared her concern during a June 8 symposium, the third in a series organized by Distinguished Professor Walter Leal. Because of eased stay-at-home restrictions, Brashear said, many people are behaving as if COVID-19 is no longer a threat and that they no longer need to be careful.

“I have been very concerned as I see things reopening,” she told the international audience. “I see lots of people not social distancing and not wearing masks. Some people have taken it almost like a free pass. We have to be wary about feeling like we have a free pass.”

Brashear said the desire to see family and friends and to go back to a pre-COVID-19 lifestyle is natural, and it’s something we all have to wrestle with.

“It’s understandable that people want to get out,” she said. “The country has been locked down for several months and we are increasingly aware of how isolated everybody is feeling. Human contact is important. Seeing family is important.

“But we have to balance that with doing the prudent things: Wearing a mask, social distancing, washing your hands,” she said.

When To Wear A Mask?

To be clear, not every moment spent in public requires a mask. But when people are indoors and sharing spaces, masks are now required, and they are absolutely needed, Tuznik said.

“Any time you’re close to people, it’s best to wear one,” she said. “Any time you’re breathing hard, talking loudly or laughing a lot, they’re important. That’s when we can expel more of the virus and send it a lot farther.”

Masks are particularly important in a number of public places, including malls, personal service establishments such as salons and barber shops, public transit, gyms, bars and restaurants. All of these places in California now require masks per the governor’s order.

“I realize it’s hard to wear a mask between sips or bites of food,” she said, “but at a minimum, wear one into the establishment as a courtesy.”

Masks are also required now in shops and supermarkets and even when picking up take-out food.

“Even if you’re inside for just a minute or two, you’re still protecting other customers and the workers,” she said. “You’re helping them feel safe. And since your time in there is brief, that’s even easier.”

Other places where masks are now required includes businesses where workers interact with the public, or prepare, store or ship food. Masks are also now necessary in common areas like hallways, stairways, elevators and parking lots.

When Are Masks Not Required?

Masks are not required for anyone exercising outside – including walkers, runners and cyclists – if they keep a 6-foot distance from one another. Tuznik said if you pass someone on a bike trail, there is not much to worry about.

“The airflow outside helps disperse any virus in the air, which is why social distancing is so effective,” Tuznik said. “Or if you’re careful to distance in a park, at a beach or even at a public pool, they aren’t necessary.”

“But if you go to the snack bar or the restroom, put it on,” she said.

Small outside gatherings with people physically distanced do not require masks, either.

Nor are masks required for children under age 2, people who are hearing impaired and those communicating with them, workers whose health may be put at risk, or people who may need to temporarily remove a mask to perform a task.

More Tips And A Warning

- **Masks in your car?** – If you’re running errands in and out of stores, use hand sanitizer when you enter and, especially, leave every store, then you can take your mask off in the car. “But if you aren’t sanitizing your hands, leave it on,” she said. “I know it can get uncomfortable, especially in summer, but you don’t want to touch your face.”
- **Can you reuse masks?** – Cloth masks just need a washing in hot water after a couple uses, or if they are visibly soiled. Surgical masks or thick paper masks have a few uses in them. They can be worn until they’re visibly soiled or get damp, then they need to be thrown out. “You can’t reliably disinfect them at home,” Tuznik said.
- **Warning on masks with filter ports** – They should be banned, Tuznik said, referring to any mask with a round port on one side. “Unfortunately, I see them advertised in too many places,” she said. “They’re designed for people working around caustic fumes or chemicals and they force out the air you’re breathing through the port.” Instead of protecting someone from you, they propel your breath even farther and more forcefully. “When I see someone wearing those masks, I walk the other way,” she said. (A mask with a round port on the side is not the same as an N95, which has a square filter in the front of the mask, and is used in medical settings.)

One Last Caution

“I don’t know how we tell people anything we haven’t already told them,” Tuznik said. “We want people to be aware that COVID-19 could be coming for them or someone they love.

“There are no guarantees,” she said. “The virus is not gone. Healthy people in their 20s and 30s have gotten sick. If you wear a mask, you might be saving someone’s life. You might be saving someone you love.”

About the author(s) Rick Kushman Rick Kushman is an executive communications specialist at UC Davis Health. ★

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For the Love of Books



By Amy Shane

Book Review & Special Events Editor

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The Amelia Six

by Kristin L. Gray

When Amelia Ashford, Millie, is chosen as of the six girls to spend the night at Amelia Earhart’s Birthplace Museum, she is beyond overjoyed. After all, as the daughter of a female pilot, as well as being named after the most famous female pilots of all time, Millie deemed herself as an Amelia Earhart expert.

The moment Millie arrives at the museum, she quickly realizes that she is surrounded by the best five future STEM girls in aviation, and all self-proclaimed experts. Being in the actual childhood home of Amelia Earhart while also surrounded by all the artifacts is an absolute dream come true. When Millie accidentally discovers a private display featuring Earhart’s legendary flight goggles, she can’t believe her luck. These aren’t just any goggles. These are the actual historical goggles worn during her infamous solo flight across the Atlantic on May 20-21, 1932 and a desired display by multiple museums. Then, everything quickly changes when the staff discovers that the goggles have gone missing, and Millie realizes that she was the last person actually to see them in the house.

Now, along with the five other girls and a few peculiar adults, they are left to try and find the missing historical goggles. But as fate would have it, everything quickly goes wrong. As the intense snow blizzard rages



- ◆ Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers
- ◆ Hardcover, 262 Pages
- ◆ Intended Audience: Middle Grade, Ages 8-12
- ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥

“Adventure is worthwhile in itself.” Amelia Earhart

outside continually knocking about the power and blocking the roads, they realize they are trapped. Then one of the adult caretakers suspiciously collapses.

Without the use or their cell phones or landline to call for help, the girls know that they need to band together while using their strong detective skills, in order to discover which person inside the house is the culprit before one of them becomes the next victim.

Readers, grab your flight cap, goggles, and magnetized glasses along with your greatest sleuth skills its time to solve the greatest mystery- who stole Amelia Earhart’s famous goggles?

The Amelia Six, is a stand-up story of adventure,

mystery, and historical accuracy, which will make readers instantly fall for this charming, creative, and fun read. Kristin L. Gray delivers a book that should be in every young girls’ hands, highlighting the importance of tapping into the amazing STEM skills while celebrating the woman and girls who exemplify their amazing talent.

The Amelia Six is a middle-grade adventure mystery set to a thrilling tempo that interweaves every fun fact about one of the most famous women in US history. With historical facts, tidbits, and quotes, this book is taken from an entertaining mystery, to one that elevates the history books. Including trivia questions and their answers such as: What is Amelia’s favorite childhood toy? What hat did she wear before wearing a flight cap?

What first lady did Amelia take on a quick flight before dinner? What was the name of Amelia’s Pacific Island destination when she disappeared? And what was Amelia’s favorite mode of transportation around the airport? Can you answer any of these scavenger hunt questions?

For any history buff, aviation collector or fan of Amelia Earhart this book is perfectly timed to celebrate with Independence Day. Historical Fact: The birthplace of Amelia Earhart is in Atchison, Kansas, where the museum in this book is still able to attend today. ★



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“DESPERADOS” ON NETFLIX

With feature-length film options rather limited at the moment, the Netflix original movie “Desperados,” desperately hoping to be a romantic comedy with women acting badly, was hopefully going to be worth a look.

If there’s a Stockholm syndrome for watching a movie where you feel like you have been taken hostage beholden to your captor, that might be the case if you keep vainly hoping the viewing experience of “Desperados” will somehow improve.

Well, it doesn’t, but why no improvement? A neurotic central character in Wesley (Nasim Padrad), an unemployed guidance counselor, has a knack for undermining herself at every turn, whether at a job interview that goes horribly wrong or a blind date.

Let’s move past the lewd humor during Wesley’s interview at a Catholic school with a benevolent nun solemnly listening to the applicant’s awkward blathering about sexual acts.

A blind date with Sean (Lamorne Morris) lasts only a matter of seconds as Wesley lacks any filter for her small talk. But this is not the last we’ll see of the charming Sean.

Upon leaving the restaurant, Wesley takes a sidewalk stumble, only to be assisted back on her feet by Jared (Robbie Arnell), a sports agent who becomes her next romantic interest.

Getting her act together this time, Wesley finds bliss in a relationship with Jared. All goes well until he takes off on a business trip to Mexico to help one of his clients.

When days pass without hearing from Jared, Wesley joins her best friends Brooke (Anna Camp) and Kaylie (Sarah Burns) to send an appalling email to the boyfriend, and discover moments later he’s been in a coma.

The three amigos head south of the border to a resort hotel with a misguided mission to erase the email before Jared gets out of the hospital.

Not surprisingly, pointless hijinks ensue, with few hitting their mark. As a comedy, “Desperados” desperately fails at the task. Best to skip this one.

“PETER GUNN” CLASSIC TV ON AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

Should new offerings on streaming services prove to be wanting, more satisfying options for viewing pleasure may be found in the abundance of classic television programs that are now available.

The private detective series “Peter Gunn,” starring suave and nattily-dressed Craig Stevens in the titular role, began its three-season run in 1958, and now it is available on Amazon Prime Video.

With a musical score by Henry Mancini,

Riley Reviews

COMEDY FAIL WITH “DESPERADOS;” CLASSIC TV WITH “PETER GUNN”

“Peter Gunn” established a film noir atmosphere where the gumshoe worked mostly at nights and was most often found at Mother’s nightclub enjoying jazz music and the songs of vocalist Edie Hart (Lola Albright).

The mood is appropriately set with all episodes in glorious black and white, underscoring a fitting environment in which someone like Humphrey Bogart’s private eye Sam Spade operated in “The Maltese Falcon.”

This is not to compare Peter Gunn to Sam Spade, as these characters are vastly different. While Spade proved to a fast-talking antihero with a penchant for fast women, Gunn is cut from a different cloth.

Stevens’ Peter Gunn is a polished person with sensible manners who usually speaks without bravado or impertinence.

His smooth manner is reflected in the way he goes about the business of representing his client.

Every episode appears to start with someone getting killed or maimed in brutal acts of violence. The musical score sets a foreboding tone of whatever criminal acts set the program in motion.

Invariably, Gunn will be found at Mother’s Jazz Club, where he’s friends with the proprietor (Hope Emerson) and much friendlier still with the singer Edie, who just happens to be his girlfriend.

The first episode, “The Kill,” involves crime boss George Fallon (Gavin MacLeod “The Love Boat”) muscling out his competition and setting his sights on extorting Mother’s nightclub for protection money.

When Mother’s is bombed by Fallon’s goons, Gunn does not take it kindly since the club also serves as his office where he fields calls from a client or his pal at the police department, Lt. Jacoby (Herschel Bernardi).

One could say that “Peter Gunn” follows the private sleuth formula that has worked over the years for many series.

Gunn works alone with frequent assists from one source at the police department.

James Garner’s Jim Rockford in “The Rockford Files,” Mike Connors’ Joe Mannix in “Mannix,” and Stacy Keach’s Mike Hammer in another eponymous series were also solo operators with their own go-to law enforcement contact.

In many episodes with Gunn spending so much time at Mother’s, a musical interlude leavens the rough-and-tumble criminal world with a pleasing jazz band set and Edie belting out a tune.

The cool factor was Peter Gunn’s ability to mingle with allsorts of people, from upper-crust clients to shady underworld types to the occasional beatnik uttering period dialogue.

“Peter Gunn” moves at a fast clip in its half-hour episodes. If only this stylish series had run more than three seasons, but at least there are 114 episodes to enjoy. ★



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What is California Thinking by Adding to its Small-Business Owners' Woes?

Commentary by Anthony Malandra

On the day California hit motorists with its annual increase in the gas tax and on the eve its state Senate is looking to pass a greatly expanded family leave law socking small-business owners with new costs, NFIB's month Jobs Report showed, to little surprise, a worsening economy.

"You have to ask if California's policymakers think the whole COVID-19 crisis is just a minor, ephemeral distraction that shouldn't stop their regulatory agenda from proceeding at its break-neck pace," said John Kabateck, California state director for NFIB, the nation's leading small-business association. "As our Jobs Report cries out, every effort should be made to make re-opening small businesses and fostering their ability to stay open Priority No. 1, but instead we get things like Senate Bill 1383, which expands leave time for employees who may never get it if they don't have jobs to return to. State leaders talk a good game about the need to help small business, but then pass bills like SB 1383, which is opposed by more than 100 business organizations. Just

because you can force new mandates on small employers doesn't make it right."

Today's Jobs Report showed the small business labor market has further weakened in June. Firms reduced employment by 0.28 workers per firm over the past month, weaker than the decrease of 0.17 workers per firm in May. Unchanged from last month, 6% reported increasing employment an average of 2.6 workers per firm and 22% (up one point) reported reducing employment an average of 4.6 workers per firm (seasonally adjusted).

Commented NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg, "As states change reopening rules and dates, sometimes easing restrictions, small businesses are feeling various levels of uncertainty as to what comes next. With recent COVID-19 spikes in some cases, many state governments are reversing prior decisions and reducing the potential for small business to earn needed revenue."

Keep up with the latest on California small-business at www.nfib.com/california or by following NFIB. ★

Ted Gaines Criticizes Gas Tax Increase

By Betsey Hodges, California State Board of Equalization

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - State Board of Equalization Member Ted Gaines issued the following statement on the July 1 gas tax increase of three cents per gallon:

"California already had among the highest gas taxes in the country before the state Legislature passed SB 1 and essentially guaranteed increasing gas taxes every year. But we also had some of the worst roads. That's a rotten combination for taxpayers, who have gotten no value from their government.

"Before raising taxes a single penny, legislators should have reformed labor and environmental rules that make California road building so incredibly expensive

compared to other states. They should have redirected the billion dollars a year of diverted weight fees to road maintenance and construction. And they should have prioritized practical road building over high-speed rail service that most drivers will never use but will pay for.

"But instead of reforms or cost savings, they just reached their hands deeper into taxpayers' wallets.

"Three cents a gallon might not break the bank itself, but when you add it to our highest-in-the-nation sales tax, astronomical rents and housing costs, and electricity rates that are 50 percent higher than the national average, it adds up to a cost-of-living nightmare for California families and businesses.

"With California's

unemployment rate at its highest level since the Great Recession in 2010, I can't imagine a more ill-advised time to make daily life even more expensive, when families are simply trying to pay rent and keep food on the table.

"California politicians shouldn't be filling up their own tanks while family budgets are running on empty. Drivers were already paying nearly 80 cents a gallon in combined state and federal taxes before today's increase. We can build better infrastructure and a brighter future for our state with existing revenues and without higher taxes, at the pump or anywhere else."

Ted Gaines represents 10 million people across 30 counties as the Board Member for the First Equalization District. ★

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Dixon Police Department generally does an admirable job. But in one area, it could do better and be more professional. In the Police Log published by the IV, there are items such as (with the names changed): "Donald Trumbell of Fairfield was arrested for robbery ..." and "Wilson was arrested for domestic violence."

When the PD states that it arrested someone for something, it implies that the person is guilty. In this country, a person is presumed innocent unless they are found guilty in court or plead guilty. The correct way to write up arrests is to state that a person was arrested on suspicion of doing something unlawful, or it could be stated that a person was charged with a crime.

I have written the chief about this before, with no change in policy. I told him that potentially, if a person was described as being arrested FOR

something (and their photographs were published), and they were innocent, they could possibly sue the PD for libel.

This ties in with something that's cropped up in the news recently. Some police departments have been using computerized facial recognition technology to try to find criminals. For example, a video image of the face of a person who robbed a gas station might be matched with a person's mug shot held by the DMV for use on a driver's license. In such a case, the police have an address for the image-matched person. They might arrest him or her and charge them with the crime, even though the image match may not be reliable. An image match should just be a starting point in an investigation, not a conclusion that the person is guilty.

Bil Paul
Dixon

Newsom Signs Legislation to Fortify General Election for the COVID-19 Pandemic

Office of California Secretary of State Alex Padilla

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Governor Gavin Newsom has signed AB 860 – authored by Assemblymember Marc Berman with Senator Tom Umberg as a joint author – which codifies that county elections officials must mail a ballot to every registered, active voter ahead of the November 3, 2020 General Election.

"California is moving in a swift, bipartisan manner to fortify our democracy in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic," Secretary of State Alex Padilla said. "Expanding vote-by-mail statewide is a necessity to protect our right to vote and our public health. Voting by mail has worked safely and securely in California for decades. Mailing every voter a ballot for this election is simply common sense."

"A few simple measures in AB 860 will further strengthen and complement the expansion of vote-by-mail. Providing vote-by-mail tracking options to all California voters will improve voter confidence. Allowing lawfully cast vote-by-mail ballots to arrive to elections officials 17 days following the election will protect against any disruptions in the postal service. And affording elections officials

more time to process vote-by-mail ballots will help with the efficiency of the vote count process for this unprecedented election."

AB 860 provisions for the November 3, 2020 General Election:

Requires county elections officials to mail every active registered voter a ballot; Requires every county elections officials to adopt a vote-by-mail ballot tracking system. Californians can sign up for the Secretary of State's "Where's My Ballot?" tool to receive automatic updates about the status of their vote-by-mail ballot by text (SMS), voice call, or email. Californians can sign up at wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov; Requires that county elections officials process and count ballots that were postmarked on or before Election Day and arrive to elections officials no later than 17 days after Election Day. Under current law, vote-by-mail ballots that arrive more than three days after the election are not counted; Allows county elections officials to begin processing returned vote-by-mail ballots 29 days before Election Day. Under current law, counties can begin processing vote-by-mail ballots 10 business days before an election. Results will still not be released until after all polls close on Election Night. ★

Social Security Matters

Widow Unsure About Her Social Security Benefits



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am looking for information on my Social Security survivor benefits from my husband. I just turned 65 and have been collecting my Social Security widow's benefit since I was 60. Someone told me that I should take my own Social Security and half of my deceased husband's. I am not sure if that's what I should do. Should I stay as I am until age 70 and then look into this option? Is it even an option? I'm just not sure. I work part time because the widow's benefit just isn't enough to pay my bills. I know there must be others out there as unsure as I am.

Signed: Unsure Widow

Dear Unsure Widow: It appears that you have been given some inconsistent information. If you are currently collecting a widow's benefit from your deceased husband and have been since you were 60 years old, you cannot "ake my own Social Security and half of



my husband's." You only have two options now - to continue your current surviving widow's benefit (which was reduced because you claimed it before your full retirement age), or to claim your own SS retirement benefit if that is more.

If you are now collecting your survivor benefit (only), your benefit from your own work record is still growing. The key question is whether your own benefit from your own work record will ever be more than you are now collecting from your deceased husband as his widow. If your own SS retirement benefit will be more, you can switch to it whenever it has grown to be more than your current widow's benefit. Your own benefit will reach maximum at age 70, so never wait beyond that to claim it. But if your current survivor benefit as a widow is more than your own benefit will be at any age, you should simply stay on that widow's benefit.

The easiest way to find this information out is to request a Statement of

Estimated Benefits from Social Security. That statement will show you the amounts you are due on your own at your full retirement age and also at age 70 (if you were born in 1955 your FRA is 66 plus 2 months). If either or both of those amounts are more than your widow's benefit, you can continue to collect your widow's benefit until it makes financial sense to switch to your own. To request your Benefits Statement, contact Social Security directly at 1.800.772.1213, or your local office (find it at www.ssa.gov/locator). You can also get this online if you have a "my Social Security" account, and which you can create at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. ★

Legislative Democrats Pass Legislation to Legitimize Racial Discrimination

By Jacqui Nguyen, California Senate Republicans

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Senate Republican Leader Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield) and Senator Ling Ling Chang (R-Diamond Bar) released a joint press release denouncing the passage of Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 5. Legislative Democrats

passed ACA 5 and its purpose is to repeal Proposition 209.

"Prop. 209 states that California shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. For Sacramento Democrats to pass legislation that does the exact opposite is appalling," said

Senate Republican Leader Shannon Grove.

"We need to come together as a state and country to stand against racial injustices," said Senator Ling Ling Chang. "But the answer to discrimination is not more discrimination. I support and will continue to support laws protecting minorities and women from discrimination, not encouraging it." ★



New North American Trade Pact Goes Into Effect

Additional sales opportunities for some California farmers and ranchers should open with implementation of the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement that takes effect Wednesday. Farm groups say the effective date of the agreement comes at a crucial time, as the agricultural economy struggles with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Canada ranks second among foreign customers for California farm products; Mexico ranks fifth.

Almond Crop Moves Toward Harvest

In California almond orchards, observers report the crop appears to be progressing toward harvest beginning later this month. Almond hulls have begun to split in the western San Joaquin Valley, according to the Blue Diamond Growers cooperative, which predicts earliest harvest by the third week of July. An initial forecast predicted a record-sized California almond crop; an updated forecast will be released next week.

Farmers Reduce Acreage of Most Field Crops

Plantings of most California-grown grain and field crops will be lower this year. A government report issued Tuesday estimated reduced acreage for nine of the 13 crops listed. Analysts predicted record-low California acreage for hay, winter wheat, upland cotton, barley and safflower. Field crops with increased plantings in California included rice, oats, sunflowers and beans.

Online Tool Aims to Anticipate Weather Extremes

To help farmers protect their crops, University of California specialists are developing an online tool that translates climate data to predict extreme heat or cold that might threaten farm fields. The work represents part of UC Cooperative Extension research into how a variable and changing climate could affect crop production. UC says the studies could affect farmers' future decisions on crop varieties, planting and harvest dates, and pest management.



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St. Peters Catholic Church News

What Is Your Life Built Upon?

In this tumultuous period of time, we look to our Faith and ponder how we are to live amidst the growing confusion, increasingly expressed in discord and anger. The Gospel this Sunday (Mt. 13:1-23) involves the Sower and the soil and where God speaks to our hearts.

Years ago this writer worked with young people, listening to their needs, hopes, dreams, problems, and challenges. Often at a problem’s impasse, the question asked was. “What does your heart tell you?” Invariably, a quiet pondering occurred. Bishop Robert Barron recently spoke of something quite similar. He said, “Your heart is your deep center, the place where you are most authentically yourself. That is the point of contact with God. There you will find the energy that undergirds the other areas of your life: physical, psychological, emotional, rational, and spiritual. If you are rooted in God at the level of your heart, then you will be following the intentions and commands of God,

and you can understand anything. But this does not mean that if we follow God’s commands, the winds and flood will not come. The one who follows the commands of God and the one who doesn’t, experience the rain and the floods that symbolize all the trials and temptations and difficulties at the surface of life. But if at the very center of your life you are linked with God that power that is here and now creating the cosmos – then the storm and floods will come, but they will not destroy you!”

We continue our prayers for the end to the COVID-19 virus, our families, our churches, community, and our nation. St. Peters will have Sunday Masses. Please check the St. Peters website for times. Mass will also continue online. Dispensation to all Catholics from Sunday Mass obligation is still in effect. We are happy to report that Father Hector is home and recuperating well.

God bless all! Pray for increased holiness and purity of heart. ★

The Be Safe Nation

Commentary by Lou Binninger

A reader called as the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) Scamdemic was surging to say that she was 12 in 1969 and became ill with the Hong Kong flu. She explained that the Hong Kong flu was much worse than the Wuhan Flu in terms of impact. Maybe, maybe not, but be assured the HK Flu was not used for political fodder by the Greatest Generation against the nation they just successfully defended.

Between 1968 and 1970, the Hong Kong flu killed an estimated 1 to 4 million, with US deaths exceeding 100,000. Today, deaths from the CCP flu surpass a half million with 128,000 of those being Americans. However, there will be an asterisk by the US number due to anyone dying from anything with a detection of Covid being credited to the flu. The asterisk will forever be a footnote for the lack of integrity in the medical profession and the Scamdemic concocted to topple an American president.

The adults responsible for America in 1969 had suffered the Great Depression, survived WW II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars. They lived on little and later risked all they had for freedom. Today’s adults are consumed with staying safe, wearing little masks, sanitizing, and cancelling life to stay at home, confident in conformity.

In the Seinfeld segment about Kramer and the AIDS ribbon Kramer signed-up for the March for AIDS Awareness but was bullied by marchers for refusing to wear the symbolic AIDS ribbon. Kramer protests, “This is America, I don’t have to wear anything I don’t wanna wear!”

His persecutors were of the “I Care” generation where a thought or symbol equals deed done.

Today, some popular irritable clichés are “You are beautiful inside and out,” “Be safe” and “Have a nice day.” Literary critic Paul Fussell, ticked with the send-off “Have a nice day” responded “Thank you, but I have other plans.” Well done, Mr. Fussell.

Veterans alive in 1969 after being dumped by Higgins boats on Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944, were hoping to survive for more than a few minutes, vomiting and having a-body-fragments-on-your-face day.

Today, police are forced by health officials to confront people for canoeing, being at the beach, not wearing a mask, and working. Meanwhile ‘bad guys’ are freed to offend again.

In 1969, there were Woodstock and Altamont rock concerts each attended by more than 300,000. Woodstock was a muddy multi-day bash with youngsters sharing body fluids, drugs, food and drink. There

were no places to shower, no bottled water or food trucks. No one cared about a flu epidemic brought here by returning troops from Vietnam.

There was no National Pee-Your-Pants Panic Campaign. The New York Times called the flu “the worst in the nation’s history,” but it hardly made the news. Schools operated as normal but for a few where too many teachers became ill.

“Life continued as normal,” said Jeffrey Tucker, the editorial director for the American Institute for Economic Research. “But as with now, no one knew for certain how deadly [the pandemic] would turn out to be. Regardless, people went on with their lives.”

“That generation approached viruses with calm, rationality and intelligence,” he said. “We left disease mitigation to medical professionals, individuals and families, rather than politics, politicians and government.”

How does the Wuhan Flu compare to the Hong Kong flu? Nathaniel Moir, a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, said there were few precautions taken during the H3N2 (HK Flu) pandemic other than washing hands and staying home when sick.

“It was like the pandemic hadn’t even happened if you look for it in history books,” he said. “I am still shocked at how differently people addressed – or maybe even ignored it – in 1968 compared to 2020.”

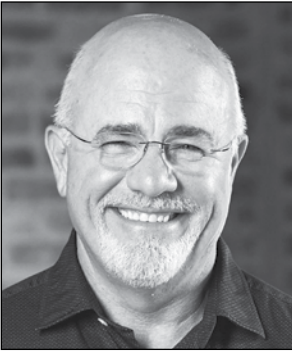
In the 1960s, you learned that getting a virus was good for the immune system and getting sick while young (chickenpox and measles) was easier than when old. Adults living then had witnessed many ailments (mumps, scarlet fever, polio) brought under control.

The idea that a pandemic could be managed with social distancing and public lockdowns is new, said Tucker. It was first suggested in a 2006 study by New Mexico scientist Robert J. Glass, who got the idea from his 14-year-old daughter’s science project.

“Two government doctors, not even epidemiologists” – Richard Hatchett and Carter Mecher, with the George W. Bush administration – “hatched the idea [of using government-enforced social distancing] and hoped to try it out on the next virus.” We are, in effect, Tucker said, part of a grand social experiment.

The CCP flu is the Social Engineering Superbowl for lab - stars Tony Fauci and Deborah Birx. The price of mandatory participation is an altered life.

(Get Lou’s podcast at “No Hostages Radio” and his articles at nohostagesradio.com) ★



This Kid’s A Planner!

Dear Dave,

What would be your advice for someone who is renting an apartment but has never rented before? I’m 16, and I’m trying to create a plan for when I get out on my own in a couple of years. I’ve never had any debt, and don’t have a credit score. Is it going to be hard to find a place to live?

– Riley

Dear Riley

I get where you’re coming from. A lot of people believe it’s hard to get an apartment without a credit score, and that’s just not the case. In most cases, if you’ve got money for a deposit and proof of employment, you can find a little apartment somewhere.

Anytime you’re renting it should be because you’re in a stage of your life where you’re not going to be in

Dave Ramsey Says

the area long, you’re saving money to buy a home, or you’re working your way out from under a lot of debt. Think of it as “rent patience.” Renting should be a temporary stop along the road, not a way of life. You’re parked and you’re on hold until you’re ready for a house or you get your finances in order.

I don’t hate apartments, and renting isn’t evil. But renting for a decade or two is not a smart move. How much do you want to pay for patience? The least amount possible. You want something clean and safe, but nothing too fancy. You don’t need a racquetball court, skylight or hot tub.

I love that you’re a planner, Riley. Keep looking ahead and thinking toward the future!

– Dave

Don’t fall for it!

Dear Dave,

Could you explain why buying a new car at 0% interest isn’t a good idea?

– Raina

Dear Raina

The only way you have a chance of getting 0% interest on a new car is if you have perfect credit and pay full MSRP (manufacturer’s

suggested retail price). But, if you walk onto a car lot with cash, and haggle with the salesperson a little bit, they’ll knock a bunch off the sticker price. If you can buy the car for less than the 0% interest gimmick, how is that 0%? See what I’m saying? The cash buyer pays less.

Besides, you shouldn’t even consider buying a brand new car, unless you’re debt-free and have \$1 million or more in the bank. You lose a ton in value the second you drive a new car off the lot. How is that 0%? A new car also loses about 60% of its value in the first four years after you buy it. How is that 0%?

The whole 0% interest gimmick tricks a lot of unsuspecting folks into buying something they don’t need and can’t afford!

– Dave

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

Ask Toni

Need Help Selecting the Right Medicare Advantage Plan for Mom!!



Toni King

Dear Toni:

My mother has recently been laid off and losing her company benefits effective August 1. I need help finding a Medicare Advantage plan that can better meet her medical needs. She receives \$1,350 on her Social Security check and cannot afford to purchase a Medicare supplement. Can you please advise me what I can do to help my mother make a better choice in picking a Medicare Advantage plan? I look forward to what you have to discuss since you counsel people every day on the maze of Medicare.

Thank you,
Becky from Katy area

Hello Becky:

I know how confusing enrolling in the right Medicare Advantage plan is for your mother because I talk to clients every day who ask the same question. I also help my own mother with her Medicare Advantage plan!!

Here is step by step advice on what you can do to help your mother make the correct choice for her Medicare Advantage plan or Medicare health plan as it is called in the Medicare and You Handbook.

1)Talk to your mother’s primary care physician or specialists to see which Medicare Advantage plans, they are still accepting.

2)Go to www.Medicare.gov which has the best tool for helping you narrow your search for a Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D drug plan.

• Click on “Find Plans” which is next to “What’s Covered” and click on “Continue without logging in” then follow the steps. You can use the plan finder to compare the different Medicare Advantage plans or even compare standalone (Part D) Medicare Prescription Drug plans. The Medicare Supplement area is a little confusing and may not be a good option to view.

3)With Medicare HMOs, there is less out of pocket, but you may have more restrictions because some Medicare HMOs must have “Referrals” and some HMOs have “Open Access” options which says that you can go to any specialist without referrals.

4)Medicare PPOs and PFFS plans may have less restrictions but may have more out of pocket when choosing out of network VS in-network providers.

5)Areas in the summary of benefits for Medicare Advantage plan you need to review:

a. Maximum out of pocket-This is the most she will have to pay in a year. Many are not aware that Medicare Advantage plans have maximum out of pocket.

b. Inpatient hospital care:

- Some plans have a single co-pay such as \$300 or \$500 per stay for inpatient hospital stay. (example only)
- Some plans may be \$150 co-pay per day for days 1-5 with a maximum of \$750 maximum stay if you are inpatient hospital for more than 5 days. Some plans may have more out of pocket. (examples only)

c. Outpatient services/surgery:

- Some plans have 1 co-pay for \$100 per stay. (example only)
- Some plans have 20% or 30% outpatient charge for out of network charge. (example only)

d. Ask what the co-pay is for Chemotherapy or radiation. This may meet maximum out of pocket.

e. Prescription drug has a formulary with co-pays so make sure her prescriptions are covered.

f. Skilled nursing out of pocket-this varies with each Medicare Advantage plan. Plans are \$175 co-pay per day for 21 to 100 days which can be a maximum \$3500 if you are in the hospital for over 21 days. (example only)

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inpatient hospital stay. (example only)

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d. Ask what the co-pay is for Chemotherapy or radiation. This may meet maximum out of pocket.

e. Prescription drug has a formulary with co-pays so make sure her prescriptions are covered.

f. Skilled nursing out of pocket-this varies with each Medicare Advantage plan. Plans are \$175 co-pay per day for 21 to 100 days which can be a maximum \$3500 if you are in the hospital for over 21 days. (example only)

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Sacramento Airport Installs PPE Vending Machines



By Samantha Mott, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento International Airport (SMF) has added Clean & Safe Travels Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) vending machines in both terminals for passengers traveling during the Covid-19 pandemic. These machines are

located pre-security in Terminal A (between Starbucks and the ticket counters), and Terminal B (at the west entrance near the Southwest Airlines ticket counter). In addition to the increased cleaning, ticket counter sneeze guards and social distancing messaging, SMF is utilizing these machines to promote precautions and

increase safety for our passengers and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. “Increasingly strong measures have been put into place to ensure travelers both see and feel that their health and safety is our top priority,” says Cindy Nichol, Sacramento County Director of Airports. “Installing Personal Protective Equipment

(PPE) vending machines in the terminals is just one of many steps we have taken.” Passengers can purchase a variety of protective masks ranging from \$8.25 to \$14.50, disposable gloves (\$4.50), sanitizing wipes (\$5.25) and hand sanitizer spray or gel (\$4.25 to \$6.50). Although there is no requirement to wear

face coverings in the terminals at SMF, passengers are strongly encouraged to do so in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Additionally, most airlines have implemented policies requiring both employees and passengers to wear face coverings in boarding areas and on aircraft. ★

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Astronauts, Riots, and Pandemics: 2020 vs. 1969

Commentary by Paul G. Kengor

In July 1969, three American astronauts landed on the moon. It wasn't just a great technical triumph. It was a much-needed respite amid social and political chaos.

America was already beset by Vietnam and civil rights struggles. That summer of 1969, things got worse. The nation was shocked by news of a riot after a confrontation between gay rights activists and police outside the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village on June 28. Then came news of the drowning of Mary Jo Kopechne in a fatal vehicle accident by an intoxicated Senator Ted Kennedy in Chappaquiddick, Massachusetts late-night July 18-19. August brought word of the hideous Manson "Family" murders of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and others in a brutal attack the night of August 9-10. A week later came the spectacle of Woodstock, where a half million gathered in rural New York in an unprecedented display of rock n' roll, drugs, and hedonism.

And still more was stirring beneath gathering storm clouds. The National Convention for Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) opened on June 18, 1969 at the Chicago Coliseum on South Wabash, just down the street from police headquarters, home of the so-called "pigs" with whom the radical Weathermen prepared for battle. A mighty clash ultimately erupted in October in what became known as the Days of Rage. The organized riot commenced on October 5, 1969 when the "flower children" dynamited the statue commemorating Chicago police killed in the 1886 Haymarket Riot. As far as the protesters were concerned, these men were not Chicago's finest, but jackbooted swine. Cops were bad. Violent clashes with over 1,000 policemen ensued. Americans watched on their televisions in horror.

Adding fuel to the fire, not only was there social and political chaos in 1969, but even a pandemic afoot. A malicious virus emanated from Asia. Known as the Hong Kong Flu, technically called "H3N2," it killed several million worldwide, including over 100,000 in America – a death toll chillingly similar to COVID-19. It was brutal on the respiratory system.

And thus, amid the turmoil, the moon landing on July 20 by the Apollo 11 crew of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins was a wonderful respite. The whole of humanity watched with admiration and appreciation.

All of which seems very appropriate and very ironic context given current events. Once again, America has boldly gone forth with another historic space mission. In Florida, SpaceX lifted into orbit, heralding a new era. Here was a private company sending astronauts into

orbit, almost a decade after the shelving of the space shuttle program.

Appropriately, the two astronauts shot off from the same Florida launchpad that had served the Apollo missions. This time, however, resurrecting the program was not the broke federal government but a private company called SpaceX, founded by billionaire Elon Musk. The impressive partnership between NASA and the private company breaks new ground in many ways. President Trump, who rightly called the feat "an inspiration for our country," noted that the launch "makes clear the commercial space industry is the future." Sightings are literally now set on Mars.

Of course, this launch in 2020, like that in 1969, likewise occurs during a time of social-political chaos and pandemic, with cities smoldering in protest over the police killing of George Floyd, with demonstrators masking up as COVID-19 continues its morbid march. The disease has robbed the lives over 100,000 in America alone.

With such bad news, the SpaceX launch should have been a welcomed respite. And yet, unlike July 1969, this seems to have elicited comparatively little coverage. Sure, this launch wasn't as historic as July 1969. Apollo 11 is hard to surpass. What's striking, however, is how little attention SpaceX seemed to receive. You could've easily missed it.

This launch is likewise historic, particularly the horizons that can literally open up. Nonetheless, those hopes and dreams were overshadowed by the Floyd protests and by COVID-19. That's too bad. This should've been a moment of unity during a time of crisis. Today, it seems, all news is political news, or bad news. Well, here was some good news for a change.

The SpaceX launch says something promising about human achievement amid trial, about our humanity rising above our sinfulness. And yet, have we paused to recognize that? I think not. And that, too, seems a sign of our sinfulness.

The world is on fire in 2020. It was in 1969 as well. It's easy to focus on the negative. And we should rightly call out injustice. But we should also pause to reflect on what is good.

Dr. Paul Kengor is professor of political science and chief academic fellow of the Institute for Faith and Freedom at Grove City College. His latest book (April 2017) is *A Pope and a President: John Paul II, Ronald Reagan, and the Extraordinary Untold Story of the 20th Century*. He is also the author of *11 Principles of a Reagan Conservative*. His other books include *The Communist: Frank Marshall Davis, The Untold Story of Barack Obama's Mentor and Dupes: How America's Adversaries Have Manipulated Progressives for a Century*. ★



The Coming 2020 Train Wreck

President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden agree on one thing – the other side is trying to steal the election.

Trump told a gathering of students in Phoenix that this "will be, in my opinion, the most corrupt election in the history of our country."

The president of the United States actively undermining faith in the electoral process is gross and unprecedented, but he's not alone.

Asked by Trevor Noah of "The Daily Show" whether he worried the election would be rendered "moot" by his supporters being prevented from voting, Biden replied: "It's my greatest concern. My single greatest concern. This president is going to try to steal this election."

This wasn't an isolated comment. "Mark my words," he warned in May, "I think he is going to try to kick back the election somehow, come up with some rationale why it can't be held."

Yes, if there is one thing everyone can now agree on, it's our inability to pull off a

free and fair election.

Perhaps a handy victory by Biden or, much less likely, Trump will take the edge off the postgame acrimony, but it is going to be ugly regardless. If the election is close, the aftermath will be a norm-busting extravaganza of conspiracy theories, lawsuits and, at the very least, threats to take it to the streets.

If Trump loses, there's unlikely to be a concession phone call – one of the little grace notes of our democracy – and he will argue that he was undone by Democratic cheating. Heck, he won in 2016 and still maintained he'd been cheated.

The transition would surely be unlike any we've ever seen, with the incumbent routinely insulting his soon-to-be successor. Trump would be likelier to live-tweet Biden's inauguration than to attend.

And if he wins, it could be even worse.

There were protests in the streets after Trump won in 2016. In the super-charged atmosphere of 2020, we shouldn't be surprised by riots. After once again believing he'd inevitably lose and facing another intolerable four years of President Trump, the left's shock and despair would be unlike anything either side in our politics has experienced in memory.

One of the ironies of

the 2016 election is that Democrats rightly scolded Trump for preparing the ground not to accept the election result. Then, when he won, they resisted accepting the result themselves, preferring to believe that the election had been stolen by Russia.

A close result will obviously magnify feelings on both sides. The Florida vote controversy of 2000 was the height of recent domestic contention over a presidential election. Looking back, though, it was remarkably tame.

With control of the presidency hanging by a thread in Florida, there were no large-scale demonstrations, let alone violence. The legal briefs flew fast and furious and both former President George W. Bush and former Vice President Al Gore wanted to win and distrusted the legal and electoral maneuvers of the other side.

Yet there were things that neither of them would say in public and both of them were willing, if it came to that, to concede with grace. Both men were shaped by the post-World War II consensus in American politics. They had absorbed its standards and reflexively honored its guardrails.

That was 20 years, and an eon ago.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Tax Initiative for Certain Commercial and Industrial Real Property is Withdrawn

Office of California Secretary of State

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Secretary of State Alex Padilla announced that an initiative eligible for the November 3, 2020 General Election ballot has been withdrawn by the proponents.

The Attorney General's official title and summary of the initiative is as follows:

REQUIRES CERTAIN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL REAL PROPERTY TO BE TAXED BASED ON FAIR-MARKET VALUE. DEDICATES PORTION OF ANY INCREASED REVENUE TO EDUCATION AND LOCAL SERVICES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Taxes certain commercial and industrial real property based on fair-market value—rather than, under current law, the purchase price with limited inflation. Exempts agricultural property and certain small businesses. Dedicates portion of any increased revenue to local services and to supplement, not replace, state's minimum-funding guarantee to schools. Provides tax exemption for \$500,000 worth of tangible personal property used for business and

all personal property used for certain small businesses. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Net increase in annual property tax revenues of \$6.5 billion to \$10.5 billion in most years, depending on the strength of real estate markets. After paying for county administrative costs and back-filling state income tax losses related to the measure, the remaining \$6 billion to \$10 billion would be allocated to schools (40 percent) and other local governments (60 percent). (17-0055.)**

The measure previously became eligible for the ballot on October 16, 2018, through a random sample verification of signatures.

Pursuant to Elections Code 9604(b), proponents may withdraw an initiative any time before the Secretary of State certifies it as qualified. The 131-day qualification deadline for the November 3, 2020, General Election is June 25.

The proponents of this initiative, Anthony Thigpen, Helen Hutchison, and Benjamin McBride did not provide any contact information.

For more information about how an initiative qualifies for the ballot in California, go to www.sos.ca.gov/ ★

Solano Baking Needs Help

Continued from page 1

the plaza for donations and ran a program exclusively for home-bound Dixon seniors once a week for several weeks with help from many volunteers even doing the deliveries themselves. There would be a large amount of food donated then fresh fruit and vegetables were purchased from cash donations taken at the bakery register. Now that things are lightening up a bit, they are partnering with the Food Bank of Contra Costa/Solano.

"Meals on Wheels does an amazing job with their three day a week meal delivery and we can't speak highly enough about the program and also the volunteers," Kendra said. "They are angels on earth!"

While Solano Baking Company will continue preparing the bags and doing the deliveries on the second Wednesday of each month, they are still looking to place 20 barrels in businesses around town for the bigger organization.

"My goal is to fill up the supply pantry," Kendra enthused. She also wants to raise \$25,000. "What they really need is money because they get deep discounts and can purchase fresh foods. We'd love to fill up big bags once a month with staples like toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap, oatmeal, fruit, and healthy snacks. We feel that once a month will still meet the need and let the seniors know how much we care."

According to the Food Bank's website, 96 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to food programs, and one in four people receiving emergency food are children. The Food Bank provides food to more than 178,000 people every month.

"Helping others has carried us through this difficult and uncertain time," Kendra said. People may not know how to access a food bank and she hopes businesses will share information about how to get some of the food the program offers. For some seniors, she noted, their only contact

is with the Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers.

Kendra gave special thanks to Sharon Kitchen of the Dixon Senior Center and thanks to Brenda Evans and Barbara Stocking for volunteering to drive.

"It takes three hours delivering those meals and we are so thankful for all the help we received," she said. "We can't even put into words how much it's helped us to stay positive during the last few difficult months but helping others has helped us. It really does take a community."

If you have a corner in your business that the public can access with donations of groceries, please call Kendra at (707) 678-0950 or email at solanobaking@yahoo.com. You can also pick up a barrel at Solano Baking Company, 1160 Pitt School Road in the Safeway Shopping Plaza or, one can be delivered.

Here Are Some Additional Local Food Supply Resources:

The Community Produce Program provides 15-20 pounds of free fresh produce to low-income families and individuals twice a month. One needs to bring two bags with handles to Dixon Family Services, 155 N. 2nd Street, Dixon, first & third Wednesday, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

The Food Assistance Program provides groceries once a month for low-income individuals and families. Bring a picture identification and proof of address such as a utility bill to Cornerstone Church, 185 West Cherry Street, Dixon on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 10 to 11 am.

The Senior Food Program offers free groceries twice a month to low-income individuals aged 55 or older. Only one senior per household can receive food. A picture identification and proof of address should be brought to Cornerstone Church on the second and fourth Wednesday, also 10 to 11 am. ★

Census Bureau Reveals Which Workers Are Hardest Hit by COVID-19

United States Census Bureau Press Release

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - Self-employed workers in states where businesses are hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic are more likely to face economic hardships, according to new findings from the U.S. Census Bureau's experimental Household and Small Business Pulse surveys.

Creating jobs and running small businesses are just a couple of examples of the vital roles self-employed workers play in the U.S. economy.

Economic uncertainty related to COVID-19 has presented unique challenges for self-employed workers, from temporary closures to revenue losses.

We combined results from

two new surveys to shed light on these challenges, using the Small Business Pulse Survey to identify states with businesses most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and demographic data from the Household Pulse Survey.

Self-Employed Hit Harder Where More Businesses Closed Temporarily

In states where business conditions were hardest-hit by COVID-19 (states with 25% or more of businesses temporarily closed for one day or more), 13.9% of self-employed workers received free groceries or a free meal during the last seven days from sources such as food banks, religious organizations, community programs, or family, friends or neighbors.

In contrast, 8.7% of

non-self-employed workers in these states received free meals.

In the least-affected states (those where 10% or less businesses temporarily closed for one day or more), there was no statistical difference by self-employment status in the rate of those receiving free groceries or a free meal.

Self-employed workers in the hardest-hit states reported either "sometimes not having enough to eat" or "often not having enough to eat" 5.9% of the time in the past week, which is not statistically different from the rate reported by other workers in these states.

Similarly, there was no statistical difference in food insufficiency by self-employment status in states least affected by the pandemic. ★

Anti-Catholicism Spikes In California

Catholic League Press Release

NEW YORK, NY (MPG) - Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments on the status of Catholicism in California:

Anti-Catholicism is sweeping California. Attacks on Catholic statues, public complaints about Catholics attending Mass, the selective enforcement of executive orders on religious gatherings, and politicians seeking to intimidate priests and bishops, are commonplace.

A mob of anti-Catholics celebrated the 4th of July by destroying a statue of St. Junipero Serra in Sacramento, the state's capitol. The statue was set on fire and smashed with sledgehammers. Though Serra did more to defend the rights of Indians in the 18th century against Spanish colonizers than all the protesters have ever done for American Indians today, Serra is a demon. That is why statues of him were previously destroyed in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

What's feeding this frenzy? Citing COVID-19 concerns, restrictive measures on religious gatherings have been mandated throughout the state. The tone has been set by politicians: There is one rule for people of faith and another for protesters. This has not been lost on the anti-Catholics. Protesters by the thousands, many of them violent, have been allowed to march in big cities across California –without a permit – as public health officials and politicians said nary a word.

According to the *New York Times*, 1,300 epidemiologists and health workers from across the nation recently signed a letter saying that those who protested stay-at-home orders were “rooted in white nationalism and run contrary to respect for Black Lives Matter.” But when it comes to the protesters, they said, “we do not condemn these

gatherings as risky for Covid-19 transmission. We support them as vital to the national public health.”

The mayor of Sacramento, Darrell Steinberg, shares the same position. He said in late May that he supported the Sacramento City Council’s refusal to impose a curfew after two nights of violence and looting. He contended that it would be useless to do so because “those who are perpetrating looting and violence would probably ignore the curfew anyway.” But in early April he said it may be permissible to have the police disperse church-goers if they assembled in prayer.

Meanwhile, public officials in San Francisco are now doing a headcount of Catholics attending Mass. The San Francisco city attorney, Dennis Herrera, says he has received complaints that more than 12 Catholics have been seen at a Mass. He sent a cease-and-desist letter to the Archdiocese of San Francisco ordering it to stop indoor religious services.

Herrera did not say whether he has done a headcount of Protestants going to church, Jews going to synagogues, or Muslims going to mosques. But we do know that his office is fielding complaints from the public that one Catholic church actually held six Masses in one day! Why Herrera did not send in a SWAT team remains a puzzle.

We know who is contacting Herrera's office, and we know they are not public health fanatics. Moreover, we wouldn't be surprised to learn that some of them were among the 1,300 doctors and health care workers who signed the letter giving the protesters a pass while condemning everyone else who refused to abide by their highly politicized directives.

Contact Herrera: cityattorney@sfcityatty.org ★

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