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# SEE INSIDE

# CALIFORNIA IS A BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT



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# Life's Too Short



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# Making it Work

Cattlemens Outdoor Dining Opens



Mallory Nelson (left), Angelena Gonzales (center), and Assistant General Manager Kayla Gilbert are seating customers in the new Cattlemens Outdoor Dining Area. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman and Paul Scholl

DIXON, CA (MPG) - As last Monday's announcement by Governor Gavin Newsom shuttered more businesses back down, outdoor dining, it seems, was given grace. Great news for Dixon's Cattlemens Restaurant as they had just set up 20 tables that can socially distance diners with 165 seats. "We haven't done any promotions for this other than sharing with our customers when they call to order take out. We let them know and word is spreading," Gilbert said. The

company will be adding shade covers and fans but for the most part, the area is covered by solar panels and there seems to be some slight wind each evening. The lights add to make a real western ambiance, too. "We'll have more staff working and we'll continue marketing this way!" she said.

As many restaurants in Dixon and the surrounding Solano County areas are struggling to find a way to make it work, Gavin Newsom seems to fail to realize that his last minute "dimmer switch" approach might work for putting children to bed, it doesn't

work for small business owners that have to put in their orders for food inventories every week.

When will this on again, off again, on again game end with the Governor? When lawsuits pile up against the State of California and Governor Newsom and private citizens return the favor ov overwhelming system. Maybe the recall isn't such a bad idea afterall? November can't get here soon enough. Until then, let's all support the local restaurants and merchants as much as possible to keep our friends, families and neighbors working.

# Newsom Is Out Of Control

By Nghia Nguyen

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -Governor Gavin Newsom ordered small businesses across the state to close indoor operations including restaurants, wineries, movie theaters, family entertainment centers, zoos, museums, cardrooms and bars. The Governor also shutdown indoor operations in counties on "County Monitoring List for 3 Days" such as salons, barbershops, gyms/ fitness centers and malls. In their continuing effort to advocate for employers and workers, Northstate lawmakers Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale), Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Tehama), Senator Brian Dahle (R-Bieber), Assemblyman James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) and Assemblywoman Megan Dahle (R-Bieber) issued the following statement:

"Let's be clear: It is imperative that we all do our part by practicing social distancing and acting responsibly in order to suppress this virus and protect our community.

"But these efforts are undermined when the Governor is single handedly and arbitrarily crushing people's livelihoods – their ability to put food on the table, to pay rent and to pay their bills.

"There is no justification for this approach. There is no evidence that any of these activities are causing an increase in Covid-19

"Restaurants and churches are not the source of our increase in cases. Small businesses are hanging by a thread and this action puts all the burden of this crisis back upon them. Main Street is struggling for its very life, while Lowe's and Home Depot are packed with people and having record years. No one can make any sense of these confusing orders.

these confusing orders.

"Businesses have NOT been the direct cause, they've done everything they've been asked to do successfully. These shutdown orders punish them, their customers and it completely misses the target, especially in our rural

"It's painful to watch the Governor constantly change his mind if counties can govern themselves or not during this pandemic. It's even more painful being forced to sit on the sidelines as the California Legislature has handed over all authority to one man.

"Keep in mind that 7.5 million Californians are jobless. That EDD has not Continued on page 3

# Council Approves New Fire Chief; Contracts PR Services on Water Rate Ballot Item

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Since February, a long interviewing process involving a dozen candidates has culminated in the hiring of a new Dixon Fire Chief. Todd McNeal will start Monday after serving the Twain Harte Community Services District since 2011 and the Strawberry Fire District since 2014.

It is important to note that the Dixon Fire District stems from North Vacaville to Putah Creek and down toward Rio Vista. Our district is the largest in Solano County and encompasses approximately 300 square miles.

McNeal has a total of 28 years' experience, education, and specialized training. He has numerous certificates and is expected to start July 20.

The approved threeyear contract gives him a base salary of \$185,000 for the first year, a five percent pay increase the second year, and a three



New Dixon Fire Chief Todd McNeal. Photo courtesy Debra Dingman

percent increase the third year. There were additional perks such as three percent match of his salary every month into a deferred compensation retirement account. To put that salary in perspective, at the end of his contract, he will be making as much as the Governor of California who is the highest paid Governor in the United States.

"The pay-scales are right in line with other areas around Solano County," said Mayor Bogue. Each of the Councilmen welcomed the new Chief who could not make the meeting in person due to a fire training although he did participate via Zoom.

"It's my sincerest honor to be extended this opportunity," he said. "It is a privilege to join the team at the City of Dixon and continue the projects, the leadership and the professionalism that's been set in play be predecessors, especially Chief (Greg) Lewis," he said. He thanked the Council and said he looked forward to working with them.

On other items, the Council was divided over a contract for professional PR services related to the Water Rate measure on the November 3, 2020 ballot. There were several comments from Michael Ceremello, a member of the Central Solano

Continued on page 3

# Life's Too Short



ignores proper procedures

so he can control the out-

come. And yes, I am an

expert on parliamentary

procedure. I wrote a sum-

mary of proper procedure

and gave it to the coun-

cilmembers and White

**Flying Rags** 

beneficial to see what the

issue is all about. If a slide

show had been presented

at the last City Council

meeting of the signs

around town that needed to

be "repaired or replaced,"

there would have been no

further discussion and the

motion would have unan-

imously passed (even if

you are a devout property

So, I drove around town

looking for ugly signs and

I found them. They were at

the entry of our wonder-

ful little city looking like

flapping rags by Walmart,

by the fast foods on Ary

Lane, and at the gas sta-

While I do strongly

believe in property rights,

I draw the line at filth,

rats, bugs and if inside a

city, unsightly conditions

that affect property values

or impact people around

those sites. It is sad that

some people do not have

pride of ownership and

have weeds, junky cars,

and yellow lawns for front

yards but we can always

ask if they need help. If

it a business, that is a dif-

ferent story because they

do have an obligation to

upkeep their business for

the sake of the community.

agreements in my family

about this but I am going

to have to learn to be more

like City Councilman

Devon Minnema in that

I will heartedly review

the council agenda a full

week before the meeting

so I have time to go look

at these issues they will be

Debra Dingman, journal-

ist and author is a 27-year

Dixon resident. Her columns

and articles have run in

Solano County for nearly 37

years in the Daily Republic, Vacaville Reporter, Dixon

Tribune and now, Dixon's

Independent Voice. Her

book Learning A+ Living,

Adventures & Rewards of

a Mom Entrepreneur, is

published by WestBow Press

and is available now on

Amazon, Barnes & Noble

and on TWMpublicrelations.

discussing.

Obviously, there are dis-

tion on Adams Street.

rights believer.)

Sometimes it is very

vears ago."

By Debra Dingman

I think the pandemic has had silver linings. In fact, I look for one every day. Without the breakneck speed of rushing off to work or rushing home or rushing to the gym or rushing to a meeting or ordering groceries online because you didn't have time to shop, many of us have gained simpler times.

It was years ago that my family would visit the fireworks stand and we'd ogle all the brightly colored boxes and take way too much time choosing the best deal. We were a big family with no spare change, but Dad made sure we had fireworks. This was as important as a Christmas tree which we could not afford either, but the lots gave them away on Christmas Eve and my Dad would pull up with three or four in the back of our station wagon. Of course, we were ecstatic. They were better than the presents!

Even when I was superyoung, I can remember my Dad extending his LA produce sales trip into Mexico to get a bag full of firecrackers. He's set strings of them off to the joy of my brothers. I'm pretty sure those were illegal even back then...

On the night of Independence Day, my hubby and I enjoyed a small family barbecue less grandchildren since they were camping and listened to the mass pops, booms, and crackles through the night through our windows. They seemed to go on forever.

It occurred to me that there are still those kinds of Dads out there. For years we have not purchased fireworks because we had our fill (delightfully) at Hall Park thanks to the gallant Rotarians. This year it was very

different, and the smell of Sulphur brought me back to my childhood and my children's childhoods.

Yes, we missed sitting on our favorite hill at Hall park and my specially purchased 4th of July quilt will have to wait a year but I'm not sorry. I know there were lots of clubs and organizations that probably made more money for their missions than any other year because of the pandemic shutting down the fireworks show gathering. We heard them all on the 4th. And, more and more...It was wonderful to know that despite the curse of the Covid-19, Dixonites still celebrated our American Independence Day. Maybe to go forward, we needed to go backwards.

### **Error in Parliamentary** Procedure

I received an email from former newspaper owner Dave Scholl about the part in my recent LTS column on 'Tic-tac-toe' regarding the Council majority ending debate. He said that I made the same basic error that "Super Attorney White" has also made. Here's the correct info from him and I stand corrected:

"No, there does NOT have to be an action once a motion is on the floor.

Debate is required to happen AFTER a motion is made. Only after ALL debate AND auxiliary motions are made that there is a vote on the main motion.

Debate ends only either: The time limit set PRIOR to motions has been exceeded. All members agree they don't have more to say OR, there is a 2/3rds VOTE by the members to close debate. And, debate does NOT end just because someone shouts out 'call the question.'

White SHOULD know better, but more likely he

# **DDBA President Steps Down**

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - While many businesses are suffering from the COVID-induced closures and there is a significant need for business support, the Downtown Dixon Business Association's President Kathy King has stepped down.

King has been an officer on the Board for 12 years with the last few of those serving as President after 20-year President Jill Orr.

"When the pandemic hit, my business exploded and I had no extra time," she said. "I don't want to be President if I can't give 100 percent." In addition to leading the DDBA, King is also active in Dixon Soroptimist. She now works in loans at First Northern Bank after managing a mortgage brokerage office in downtown Dixon for nearly a decade.

The small Board was not expecting the announcement last week at a time when the pandemic has pulled into question their twicepostponed Dixon Dash and even the Tree Lighting Festival with King saying that "more than likely" they will be cancelled due to the fact the events take about three months to put

together. "Nothing has been decided 100 percent yet," she said.

King was often seen working behind the scenes – along with her husband Garry – setting up DDBA activities such



The DDBA is thankful for Kathy King's years of service. She will continue to support the community as a member of the Association. Photo by Debra Dingman

as the Wine & Art Stroll, the annual DDBA fundraising dinner and the Christmas Tree Lighting and for the past four years, she has coordinated the monthly merchant meetings.

"Kathy has been as hard working as any person I know to support the progress and betterment of our downtown," said Orr. "She was always at the helm and a vital part of our organization. We wish her the best and are thankful for her many years of service!"

"I did it because it was fun and I've always said that when it wasn't fun anymore, that's when I'll be done." She plans to continue as a member

but for now is "overwhelmed" with work. "It's time for some new blood," she said.

The Board is left with only two Board members: Vice President Hayley Andrew of Dixon Wellness Collective and Lindsay Hickman of the Barn & Pantry. DDBA Treasurer Sierra Graham, who works for First Northern Bank, has been transferred out of the area.

"Everything came as a shock and we are trying to re-group right now,"said Andrew. "If anyone is interested in applying for a Board position please contact me at haley.f.andrew@ gmail.com."



# for Citrus Disease

After a five-year search, scientists at the University of California, Riverside, say they have found a naturally occurring product that controls the fatal citrus disease HLB or citrus greening. The disease has devastated citrus in some regions and has so far been confined to residential trees in California. UC Riverside said Tuesday geneticist Hailing Jin found the peptide while studying plants that resist the disease.

## **Grazing Cattle Reduce Wildfire Fuel**

In reducing wildfire risk, cattle grazing represents an important tool, according to a study prepared by University of California specialists and a private consultant. The study says grazing cattle removed an average of 650 pounds per acre of potential fire fuel. Saying additional research could pinpoint target levels of fuel reduction, the study recommends grazing in areas of high fire severity and risk of fire ignition.

GOOD

As the pandemic sends shock waves through the agricultural economy, the longterm driver of California farmland values remains access to reliable water supplies. Speakers at an online agricultural business conference said local agencies face a "daunting task" of balancing water supplies with demand. Agencies will work to increase supplies and will likely employ solutions that include land idling and water markets.

### **Pandemic Brings Lingering Changes for Dairies**

Americans' shopping and eating behaviors will likely be altered for the next 12 to 18 months as a result of the pandemic, and a new analysis says dairy supply chains will need to adjust. The cooperative lender CoBank says people have bought more fluid milk and processed cheese during the pandemic. With stay-at-home orders affecting restaurant demand, the report says, some dairy processors will need to retool to make products for at-home consumption.

**BEST** 





Loving Others, Sewing Our World

Our sermon topic this week will be as follows: "Becoming a Peacemaker" Matthew 5:9

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Fr. Jose de Jesus Beltran Parochial Administrator

Deacons John Fio, John King, Bob Ikelman, Daniel Blanton, Feliz Lupercio

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**BETTER** 

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# **Council Approves New Fire Chief**

Continued from page 1

Taxpayers Association and an email read from the Solano County Taxpayer's Association stating their concern that public funds are not to be used to persuade voters. It was heard about 7:38 and there were 38 participants on the Zoom site when caller Dorothy Kroll admonished the Mayor and Council.

"It astounds me you'd spend another \$40,000 of taxpayer's dollars on this," she said. "A year and a half ago you failed miserably by not answering questions from SCTA and from citizens who

came to council meetings. It is clear you are not listening to your citizens."

City Engineer Joe Leach attempted to explain that the purpose was to inform the public on a very complicated issue. The motion passed 4-1 with Councilman Devon Minnema dissenting.

Soon after that a presentation was heard regarding the Water Fund Financial Projections (only water infrastructure) by City of Dixon Finance Director Kate Zawadzki about the capital improvement items that would be cut. If the water rate rollback passes, she ensured the

Council that "you won't have any money to make any repairs or purchase any equipment. Anything over \$125,000 is a capital expenditure item." Further discussion involved reducing the water budget by \$1.5 million if the measure passes. Associate Civil Engineer Deborah Barr said the wells had to be a "top priority." This was just a discussion item and no vote was necessary.

There was also an increase in rates for the Dixon Readi-Ride effective January 1, 2021. Coupon books of 20 passes will go from \$45 to

# **CONVERSATIONS**

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

### Will They Ever Learn Who They Represent?

On the July 7, 2020 city council meeting agenda, item 9.4 contained a request asking to spend almost \$40,000 for publicity on the upcoming water issue. The council stated the purpose of the funding was to educate the voters on the water issue. After some discussion, four council members voted to spend the money. Ernest, Bird, Bogue, and Pederson voted yes and Minnema voted "no".

How soon they forget. These council members were elected by the registered voters in their district to represent them. Do the four councilmembers voted "yes" really think that the residents would have voted to spend \$40,000 to provide water education to themselves after almost 1200 registered voters living in the city's water district signed the initiative petition to repeal rates proposed by the city which will more than triple their monthly water bills? The action of the four council representatives illustrates the lack of communication with their constituents. Whose best interest are these four gentlemen representing, the residents or their own?

After all, these same rate payers attended public workshops conducted by Councilman Pedersen and Joe Leach. Subsequently Steve Bird and Joe Leach also held workshops for constituents. Both of these workshops were held before the last election in 2018 where Pederson was reelected even though he was called to task for not answering the questions put before him and Leach.

Not only did council members hold forums to "educate" the public of the need of "fixing the system", the City held numerous workshops to convince the ratepayers about the need. The City and council have never varied from their stances based on the report from the city's consultant, West Yost, claiming that \$17 million or more needs to be spent while the Yost report states that only a \$90,000 booster pump was the responsibility of current rate payers.

Participants raised many questions at the Community Forums and asked for a written response.

To date, no response or answers to the questions raised at the workshops and meetings has been distributed.

At Tuesday's meeting, the following points were made:

- · After public comment in which Mike Ceremello and Dorothy Kroll spoke about wasting more taxpayer money, Peterson, Bird, Ernest, and Bogue all voted to spend \$40,000 of the Water Fund monies to "educate the public on why the rate increases are necessary".
- Minnema voted no on the issue stating that the city should not be using taxpayer funds to inform the public when all the information has already been given. There is no new information, this money will not pay for any inspections or new reports. Minnema went further in arguing if the rest of the council felt so strongly about keeping the inflated rates, then they should be willing to put up their own money to finance a campaign against the repeal.
- Peterson said that "the public needs to be educated on how an Enterprise Fund works" and that the city cannot use General Fund monies to fix any water problems, which is actually incorrect as this council voted to "loan" the enterprise fund \$500,000 but this never occurred. As an accountant for over 30 years, Dorothy Kroll fully understands what an Enterprise Fund is. Most of the public is fully aware as well. It was dubious whether any of the four councilmen that were voting understood the workings of an Enterprise Fund.
- Bird tried to pin the "failing water system" on the city council from 2008/2012 timeframe for not approving needed Capital Improvement Projects at that time. He was throwing a jab at Mike Ceremello as he was on the council at

that time. He also has "concern for the Cal Water recipients and all they have gone through". He didn't expand on that and therefore the majority of the public had no idea to what he is referring. He believes the city may have to use Cal Water users tax dollars to fix the City of Dixon's water system. This shows he has no clue about an Enterprise Fund. Only dollars in an Enterprise Fund can pay for any repairs, maintenance, etc.

- Mayor Bogue said "I'll be quite frank on this topic. I don't live in this water district, so if there's 1200 people who signed the petition to NOT support their water district, fine. That's your water system. If you want to turn on your faucet and not have water, that's fine". In the past, Bogue has also used the unfounded threat that the State would take over the water system and force rate increases on the users.
- Attorney Doug White stated that the proposed expenditures of \$40K was a "public service to inform the public", not a "political advocacy" campaign for or against the upcoming ballot measure and, therefore, not illegal. Just because Doug White said it was not a political advocacy campaign against the ballot Measure in November doesn't make it so. Past county campaigns conducted in a similar manner, spending taxpayer dollars, were blatant in their support for a road tax which was roundly defeated at the polls. The main task, fixing the I-80/680 interchange, somehow miraculously was accomplished almost immediately after the tax was defeated.

Now, some points of our own for you to consider.

- Now that the consultant has been hired, we will have to see whether this attorney so well known for "blowing smoke" was actually honest when the materials are produced.
- What truly begs the question as to whether this is a necessary expenditure is what new insights or information will be produced which the council has had two years to "educate" the public themselves at no cost to our citizens and rate payers.
- Water will not be shut off because of one well going bad. Leach stated that "many experts" have already weighed in on whether or not the well needs to be re-drilled. Evidently the experts didn't include water engineer Mike Floyd of the Solano County Taxpayers who asked unanswered questions.
- The point that must be emphasized is we, the taxpayers, understand the financial needs of the enterprise fund. As taxpayers we expect our money to be spent wisely and not, as the mayor pointed out, on being overcharged by someone like SID.
- Another point is the council is either too lazy or incompetent to provide financial oversight and examine costs to see if they can be reduced. Electricity for pumping is the big one. Why has solar not been considered when it was good enough for city hall, the fire department, and the police department?

"Is it the public or the council who really needs an education?"

# We Got Mail!!

We received the following letter regarding the July 7 city council meeting:

"A citizen spoke at last night's council meeting about the violations of our Constitutional rights and the fear that the city council is spreading to the citizens. The Mayor felt the need to respond. He said that as of yesterday July 7, 2020 there were 131 cases of COVID in Dixon. Concerned about the COVID spike I did my research. The Mayor was not telling us the truth. As of yesterday, there were 104 cases in Dixon. Seven (7) new cases were reported today 7/8/20 for a grand total of 111 cases, not 131 the Mayor claimed." ★

# The Sign of Our Times



Closed signs popped up around town again after the California Governor made a new announcement that our state is 4th in the nation for the spread of COVID-19 so was shutting down numerous industries again in several counties including Solano. Indoor operations to close are: Restaurants, wineries, movie theaters, family entertainment centers, zoos, museums, card rooms, bars\* (All bars indoor or outdoor.) Also, fitness centers/gyms, places of worship, offices for non-critical sectors, personal care services, hair salons and barbershops, and malls. "This is a very dynamic process as people wake up and find out they are not as free as people in other counties," said Peter Chin-Chong, Infectious Disease Specialist, UCSF. "You have to be psychologically ready for changes day by day." Thankfully, many Dixon restaurants have mastered the art of outdoor dining or take out which is still allowed. Photo by Debra Dingmai

# Letter to the Dixon Community

To the Community of Dixon,

Through this letter, I apologize for failing in my duties as a pastor and a good neighbor. I regret what happened in our community in Dixon due to my infection with COVID-19. I know that this situation not only affected me, but also affected the whole community of Dixon because this situation brought worry, fear, and anger. It was never my intention to put anyone in danger which I now realize I did. Once I started having cold symptoms and not feeling well, I should have immediately stopped celebrating Masses. I regret that I did not do this. I will not make this mistake again.

Once I was informed that I tested positive for COVID, those who were close to me and those who attended Mass over the weekend were informed of my diagnosis and were asked to contact their health professionals to determine if they should be tested. There were about 250 people that attended the weekend services. So

far, all those who were tested- including two deacons, the parish staff, and many of those who attended Mass over the weekend - came out negative. Although, so far, no one came out positive, I acknowledge that in addition to not paying attention to my symptoms, I did not follow all the guidelines provided by the diocese, such as wearing a mask while distributing Communion or setting up contact tracing. I admit my imprudence could have resulted in others becoming infected.

Through this letter I wish to acknowledge my fault and apologize for not following all of the guidelines of both the health department and the diocese. I apologize not only to my church community, but also to the people of Dixon.

Sincerely,

Fr. Hector Montoya Juarez Pastor of St. Peter Catholic Church



# **Newsom Out Of Control**

Continued from page 1

been able to handle the current unemployment claims. People who filed in March still have not received payments. How in the world will EDD be able to handle the enormous uptake in cases based on today's one-size-fits-all

"We have said it before: human lives are at stake. People are stressed and filled with anxiety about their livelihoods. The mental health and other side effects of today's decision will be felt for years into the future."

Sources: California State Senate; California State Assembly





# Netflix's The Baby-Sitters Club and Series

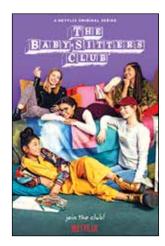
by Ann M. Martin

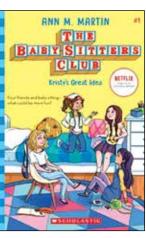
Netflix brings the iconc tween series to life

What Baby-Sitter Club member are you? If you were a book lover in the 80s or 90s you knew exactly what this meant. Most likely your shelves were lined with the pastel colored books, in numbered order, and some of you might have even played the game at a sleepover. So how do you do an update of a tween book icon that sold over 176 million copies? You bring it to life with a Netflix series reboot, complete with an updated repackaging of the first nine books.

For the generation that rushed to their school's book fair, bought it on a paper book order, or checked it out at the library you won't be disappointed. What can only be described as brilliant writing, paired with an age-appropriate series by Ann M. Martin, this adaptation is one that fans can be proud of. Each 27- minute episode remains faithful to the original book series, but also elevates the storyline to take place in the present with modern conveniences, and current themes. Throw out the old appointment book, these girls now have google docs, social media strategies, and Instagram handles. However, the nostalgia still finds a way to remain when they activate their club's phone number complete with a landline and a corded phone purchased on Esty.

So, what is this series about? Readers will be whisked back to the days when everyone had the perfect club to join, and babysitters were the main source of income for teens and preteens. When five middle-school girls team up to start a babysitting business, they learn that there is a lot more to having a onestop babysitting service than just watching children. They learn about entrepreneurship, competition, and marketing in addition to navigating unruly





children, irresponsible parents, medical emergencies, and runaways. However, it's not just the business that takes the stage. When you add five tween girls, you also add in their own personal struggles and journeys, allowing for a deeper authenticity of each character as they encounter their first crushes, first kisses, periods, divorce, and illness to name only a few -proving to their readers that no matter what life throws at them they can solve anything as long as they are together.

If you are old enough to remember the baby blocks spelling out, The Baby-Sitters Club title, you might be wondering about each character you have come to know and love. Well, reading fans you will be happy to know that Kristy is still iust as bossy and a bit of a control freak, Stacey is just as boy crazy, and Mary Anne- yes you guessed it, still quiet but is starting to find her voice. Claudia's artistic flair is perfect for

the screen, and her candy hiding is still just as charming. The most significant makeover is Dawn, who is now Latina but is the same passionate environmentalist from California. With the addition of Alicia Silverstone playing Kristy's mother and Mark Feuerstein as Watson, these side characters now have a stronger and more delightful presence, delivering an impactful look on divorce, remarriage, blending families, and mother-daughter relationships. With the reboot of the characters and the series, young readers and viewers everywhere will delight in discovering which character they identify with and how they would handle each situation. Even with Netflix's slight

rearranging, this delightful series stays true to the storyline, highlighting each book's perfectly stated message. This is more than the latest Netflix series to binge-watch. This series is about bridging the generational gap, bringing parents of the original series together with their children discovering the stories very the very first time. Whether you are breaking out the old 1986 copies from a box in the attic, or grabbing the new editions at your local bookstore, the message is still the same. This series still stands the test of time with its timeless message and its celebration of female entrepreneurship and empowerment. These strong girls show that they can stand up for themselves in any situation, teaching their readers and viewers that now is the time to stand for what you believe in, stand up for equal rights, and stand for each other. Hopefully, this series will inspire a new generation to read the adventures, celebrate their individualism, and maybe see a little of themselves in each of these



# **Riley Reviews**

# "WRONG MISSY" COMEDIC MISADVENTURES; "BILLIONS" RETURNS

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"THE WRONG MISSY" ON NETFLIX

A Happy Madison Productions TV film on Netflix, "The Wrong Missy" is designed for the aficionados of the Adam Sandler school of comedy, and that's not such a bad thing if you have the time, and don't we all right now, for some mindless fun

Comedy is often cringe-worthy entertainment that is either intentional or not, and if the former, the goal is to be unsettling, as if you were at an Andrew Dice Clay stand-up routine in his early days on the club circuit.

"The Wrong Missy" fits the bill in some ways to cause one to wince or recoil one moment and at the very next to be amused with the antics of the zany performance of the rubber-faced Lauren Lapkus' Missy, the blind date from hell.

David Spade's Tim Morris, looking to move up the corporate ladder at his loan company, plays it straight as an ordinary Everyman rather his usual snarky persona perfected over the years in show business.

Tim's best friend at the office is Nick Swardson's Nate from HR, who happens to know too much about Tim's personal life. An upcoming company retreat in Hawaii suggests that Tim needs a girlfriend to come along for the trip.

A blind date arranged by Satan results when Tim meets Missy who just happens to be so crazy that she practically instigates a bar fight that would have Tim on the receiving end of a serious beatdown.

Following the blind date, an accidental mix-up with luggage at an airport causes Tim to meet another Melissa (Molly Sims), a former Miss Maryland, and after spending time together, they discover having all of the same likes.

Later, prior to the Hawaii trip, Tim sends a text invite to the new woman of his dreams to join him on this excursion, only to find too late that he asked the nightmare blind date instead.

What ensues may be predictable, as Tim is horrified at Missy's increasing bizarre antics that just might derail his promotion by corporate mogul Jack Winstone (Goeff Pierson) who has taken control of the company.

"The Wrong Missy" could be dismissed by some as bargain basement comedy, but that would ignore some very funny oneliners and wild comic antics from Lauren Lapkus. It's worthy of an R rating, so enjoy at your own risk.

## "BILLIONS" ON SHOWTIME

Characters without a moral compass, regardless of their position in finance or the upper echelons of government, have provided for a highly entertaining run on Showtime's "Billions" series, now in its fifth season.

One needs a scorecard to keep track

of the sleazy machinations of high-powered players on either side of the law, as shifting alliances, backstabbing and double-dealing are the modus operandi of those who lack any shred of integrity.

Last season, Paul Giamatti's Chuck Rhodes, New York's Attorney General who got elected despite his notoriety for deviant proclivities, and Damian Lewis' Bobby Axelrod, a ruthless billionaire hedge-fund manager, managed to be allies of sort.

Well, disabuse yourself of any notion that there would be long-lasting alliance between the top lawman of the Empire State and the power-mad manipulator of the financial markets. It will be more fun if they go back to trying to destroy one another.

Coming back into the fold at Axelrod's Axe Capital is financial whiz Taylor Mason (Asia Kate Dillon), the former employee who had become a rival. Taylor's return marks an interesting dynamic with her people adapting to Axe's culture.

One of the fascinating angles from the beginning has been the fact that Chuck Rhodes' wife Wendy (Maggie Siff) has been the resident counselor for Axelrod and his staff during the times that her husband and boss were at odds.

But the marriage of Chuck and Wendy has been on the rocks, going back to when Chuck decided to unburden himself in a public manner of the couple's strange world of sexual masochism complete with the dominatrix accourtements.

Now that Wendy and her husband have gone their separate ways, Chuck's teaching a law course at an Ivy League college has placed him in a potential romantic orbit with sociology professor Catherine Brant (Julianna Margulies).

Meanwhile, even though Axelrod may have to watch his back from the Attorney General's office, he faces a more pressing adversary in the unctuous billionaire investor Mike Prince (Corey Stoll) who presents a challenge by inviting Axelrod to a corporate retreat.

Despite Prince's high-minded talk of team effort and giving back to society, the battle lines are drawn not only on the corporate front but also when Axelrod takes great interest in the avant-garde artist Nico Tanner (Frank Grillo) discovered by his rival.

For reasons too obvious, the great fun is watching the swaggering titans of finance and government sparring in cage matches where none of the combatants are particularly likable or righteous.

"Billions" continues to intrigue with its Darwinian survival of the fittest maneuverings of the overbearing and duplicitous government officials and rapacious corporate

raiders. Enjoy the psychological warfare that ensues.  $\bigstar$ 

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# **Economic Recovery Requires Balanced Leadership**



Commentary by John Kabateck

As many businesses hung on for their existence during the COVID-19 lockdown, they also stepped up to protect jobs, cover health premiums, and expand paid sick leave benefits for workers. They applied for government loans to meet payroll and re-imagined how they could maintain business operations with social distancing, curbside service, and virtual commerce.

Most employers exercised prudence and patience as state and local officials charted a path through an unprecedented pandemic.

Businesses large and small prioritized their employees because workers power California's economy. Many stepped up and stayed on the job to meet the essential needs of Californians. And workers will help drive our economic recovery in the months ahead.

As California moves forward into a staged reopening that balances health and safety with the broader resumption of commerce, employers urgently need ongoing support, balance and flexibility from state government leaders.

A potential pain point for employers is burdening our workers' compensation system with COVID-19 claims that originate outside of the workplace.

In early May, Governor Newsom enacted a temporary measure that COVID-19 claims among workers from the March stay-at-home order through July 5 are "presumed" to be work related. This presumption means that workers who test positive for the virus do not need to show a connection to work, which is the usual legal standard for workers' compensation claims.

The rationale for such a move is to streamline the ability for workers who fall ill on the jobs to get benefits. The risk is that presumptions sweep up far more than work-related illnesses. As a result, the employer-funded workers' compensation system will be tasked with serving as broad, societal response to the pandemic. The question is whether such measures are necessary when employers already report accepting

Acknowledging employer concerns, the governor made the presumption rebuttable, time-limited and requiring a positive test or diagnosis within 14 days of work.

Although the ultimate impact is unknown, the fact is employers will bear a greater burden for COVID-19 cases that otherwise would not have come through the workers' compensation system. Cost estimates for these claims stretch into the tens of billions of dollars. Like many things in the pandemic, the fact is we do not know how

broad and deep such direc-

tives may stretch. As employers now struggle to resume operations, restore jobs and public services as quickly as possible, they must now factor in the potential for new workers' compensation costs that could originate from anywhere, anytime outside of their workplace.

Multiple legislative proposals have been submitted that would broaden, extend or expand these workers' compensation presumptions. Given the tendency of the workers' compensation system to enter crisis mode, lawmakers should carefully consider how to take thoughtful, balanced action in this area. They would be right to question whether any additional action in this area is needed - and seek out data to justify further modifications.

Employers have proven through the pandemic they value the health, safety and well-being of their workers. They have gone to extraordinary lengths to take care of their workers, so these workers could be there for the rest of us during the statewide lockdown and in the economic reopening that lies ahead.

During this reopening, lawmakers have an opportunity to partner with employers to deliver a brighter future for us all. Burdensome new costs that inhibit the restoration of jobs will only delay and diminish our opportunity for recovery.

John Kabateck is the President of National Federation of Independent Business California

# **Social Security Matters**

# Should My Wife Claim at 62? Will She Get Widow Benefit?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am almost 64 and still working, and I plan to work until about 66 or 67. My wife is 62. Should she go ahead and file for her Social Security? Is it true that she can draw on my SS after I pass away? Signed: Inquiring Husband

Dear Inquiring Husband: The answer to your first question (should your wife claim at 62) isn't simple, because it depends upon a number of

Is your wife working? If so, and she claims before her full retirement age, she'll be subject to Social Security's earnings test, which limits how much she can earn before they take back some of her benefits. If your wife starts collecting at age 62 and exceeds the annual earnings limit (\$18,240 for 2020) SS will take back benefits equal to half of what she exceeded the limit by. This is true until she reaches her full retirement age (66 ½ if she was born in 1957), although the earnings limit goes up by about 2.5 times and the penalty is less in the year she reaches her full retirement age (FRA).

Will your wife be eligible for a spousal benefit from you when you start collecting? If



her eventual spousal benefit from you will be less than 50% of your full retirement age (FRA) benefit because she took her own benefit early. Whether your wife is eligible for a spousal benefit depends upon whether her own benefit (from her own work record) at her FRA (regardless of when she claims) is smaller than half of your benefit at your FRA (regardless of when you claim). If it's not, she won't get a spousal benefit. If it is, she'll get a spousal boost on top of her own benefit but claiming at age 62 will mean a smaller

spousal benefit. Your wife's age 62 benefit amount will be 27.5% less than her benefit would be at her full retirement age, and that reduction is permanent. And Social Security benefits are taxable if your combined income (married, filing jointly) is more than \$32,000. If your combined income is between \$32,000 and \$44,000 then 50% of your wife's SS benefits will become part of your taxable income, and if more than \$44,000 then up to 85% of your wife's SS benefits will become part of your taxable income. My point is, with you still working, your wife's SS benefits will almost certainly add to your income tax obligation.

I'm not trying to dissuade your wife from applying; rather only making you aware of the potential consequences so, and she claims at age 62, of her claiming at age 62, or

at any time prior to her full retirement age. If she needs the money now and the above points are not a concern, then applying at 62 could be the prudent choice. But you and your wife should consider the above before deciding if she should claim at age 62.

Regarding your second question, if you should predecease your wife, and if the benefit you are receiving at your death is more than your wife is already receiving (or is entitled to receive) on her own, then she will get a survivor benefit from you. If she has already reached her full retirement age when that happens, she'll get 100% of the benefit you were getting. If she hasn't yet reached her FRA, she can still claim the survivor benefit, but it will be permanently reduced by a fraction of a percent for each month earlier than her FRA. However, if she hasn't yet reached her FRA, she can also delay taking her survivor benefit until she reaches FRA to get 100% of your benefit (instead of her own). Remember, she gets her survivor benefit, or her own benefit, whichever is higher (she doesn't get both).

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 or

# **Reach for Success**

By Joellen Peterson, Solano Small **Business Development Center** 

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - With her life savings invested, Diane Long opened up her BurgerIM franchise amidst a global pandemic. Long was recently interviewed by Norcal SBDC to talk about her experience doing business during COVID-19.

"We really didn't know anything different because we hadn't had any prior restaurant experience to compare to," said Long. "For the first couple of weeks I was learning how to keep my employees and customers safe while also figuring out how to attract customers and how to do curbside well."

While working the first couple of months at the restaurant, Long focused on engaging with the local community as well as getting to know her customers on a first name basis. Listening to the wants expressed by customers has created a strong bond between BurgerIM and the town of Dixon.

"The community has influenced the restaurant and feels a part of it," said Long. "After we opened, we discovered that our little town has a high population of celiac's disease and gluten free people. We found gluten free onion rings and bought a different fryer Long acquired a \$500,000 loan to open the BurgerIM franchise. SBDC was able to help support Long when she was on the search for a new contractor as well as when the franchise declared bankruptcy. SBDC's Restaurant Program was also able to provide advice on food and beer pairing.

"Louise Dawson from the Restaurant Program was always connecting me to someone who would at least give me a second opinion so I didn't have to navigate my problems alone," said Long. "SBDC were the only ones I could count on. I had to pay my lawyer and everyone else, but I didn't have to pay the SBDC."

Tim Murrill, Director of the Solano SBDC has enjoyed working with Diane as she persevered through the last year of challenges. "Diane has shown great resiliency and determination through a very challenging start up journey and the Solano SBDC and our Restaurant Specialists count it a privilege to have supported her every step of the way," said Murrill.

Going forward, BurgerIM faces a lot of unknowns as the pandemic continues. Though some restrictions have been lifted, the restaurant industry is still facing many challenges.

"There's no way to predict. I'm thinking we might be back to normal in two more years," said Long. "If we can maintain until then, I'll be super





\*Subscription rate valid only within Dixon and Solano County.

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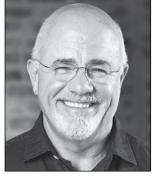
# St. Peters Catholic Church News

This Sunday, we celebrate the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. At the time of this writing, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the suspension of most indoor activities in twenty-nine counties throughout California that include public worship. Bishop Soto has directed pastors to cooperate with state and local public health authorities to protect those most vulnerable. Masses may be conducted outside if circumstances permit, with social distancing, face coverings, and sign-in sheets for contact tracing. We continue to face social, financial, and health pressures that challenge our faith. We wonder when we will resume some aspect of normalcy. We must continue to persist practicing our faith, maintain a consistent prayer life, and open ourselves to God's direction. God speaks to us in numerous ways, whether through holy scripture, prayer, or another person's words. Continue to participate in a spiritual communion online, whether locally or in many other locations

where Mass is being celebrated. This is a time where we look to God, where we need to either change or grow.

Jesus continues His agricultural narrative of parables in this week's Gospel. He describes the "kingdom of heaven" as "a man who sowed good seed in his field" (Mathew 13:24, emphasis added). Yet, while everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, making it so that when the crop would grow to bear fruit, the weeds would grow as well. Rather than risk destroying the crop by pulling the weeds earlier, the man advises them to wait until the harvest when the weeds can be separated (Mathew 13:25-30). Jesus sows the "good seed" in each of us through His Word, and ultimately through His salvific act on the cross, so that we may become children of God. Weeds are depicted by all that is unholy and apart from God. We all have "weeds" in our lives. Sometimes we desire to "uproot" them, but cannot. With God's grace, we can often use the weeds or our brokenness to bring greater insight into what God truly desires for us that is His love and mercy. Acknowledging the weeds or faults in our character often leads us toward holiness as long as we intend to improve upon them. The Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs that the Church has no other life but that of grace. If we stay close and live the Church's life, with Christ as the head, then we will be sanctified and free of sin through the blood of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit (CCC 827).

Masses will continue to be live streamed on Facebook. Please check the Church's Facebook page at St. Peter Catholic Church or the Church website for more information at www. stpeterschurchdixon.com. Please continue to pray for an end to COVID-19, all those affected, all government, and Church leaders. Consider making weekly or monthly donations made to St. Peters, 105 S. 2nd St., Dixon CA 95620. May God Bless you all. ★



### **Evaluating Insurance Needs**

Dear Dave,

Last year I got a divorce. I'm 32, a teacher and a single mom. I'm on Baby Step 2 right now, and I was wondering about life insurance. My son is only two, and if something happened to me, he would go to his father. His dad is in good shape financially and responsible with money, so how much life insurance should I have?

Christian Dear Christian

Well, you probably don't need the full 10 to 12 times your income like I recommend for most people. The only dependent you have is also dependent upon his dad. And from what you said, his father seems perfectly able to take care of him.

I'd get a good term life policy equal to the amount that you'd like to supplement your son's care. The good news is you can get a couple hundred thousand in life insurance at your age for practically nothing.

Dear Josh

Dave Ramsey Says

If you get life insurance,

make sure his dad-vour

ex—is not the beneficiary.

The beneficiary should

be a family trust, formed

upon your death, and the

money would go into that

trust for the benefit of your

child. You set the terms of

the trust. It should not be

controlled by your ex. In a

divorce situation, I would

never name someone I'm

not willing to be married to

the trustee of my money on

I'm so glad you're think-

ing about these things,

Christian. It shows you're

an intentional lady, a fine

mom, and a good planner.

Those traits will serve you

Are Utilities

Included?!

I just received a formal

job offer in law enforce-

ment. I'm debt-free, single,

and I'd like to move out of

a roommate situation and

into my own apartment. I'll

be starting out at \$34,000

a year, then moving up to

\$38,000 after my proba-

tionary period. You have a

rule that says to make sure

rent or house payments are

25% or less of your take

home pay. If I can find a

place where utilities are

included, do they figure

into that amount?

-Josh

behalf of my child.

and your son well!

- Dave

Dear Dave,

It's really more of a guideline than a rule. The point of not letting your housing cost eat up more than 25% of your take home pay is to make sure you have money left over for other important things. It's hard to save and invest for the future when a huge chunk of your money is eaten up by rent or a mortgage payment each month. But no, utilities are not part of the one-fourth of your take home pay guideline.

At this point, it doesn't sound like you need anything fancy. Try to find a safe, quiet place to call home-somewhere you can relax and decompress when you're off duty. And thanks for entering law enforcement. A lot of folks are leaving your line of work, and we need good men and women in that profession right now.

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.

# **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

On today's council meeting agenda (July 7, 2020) on the consent calendar agenda item 9.4 states: "RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DIXON AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PANDO PUBLIC RELATIONS, LLC TO PERFORM PUBLIC OUTREACH SERVICES RELATED TO THE WATER RATE MEASURE ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 BALLOT."

Under California law, local governments are strictly prohibited from engaging in political advocacy using public resources. Local governments may make public statements of an informational nature, provided they are factual and impartial. Statements that are not factual, or that are not impartial are prohibited both by our state and federal Constitutions.

When the council voted to increase the water rates, the City spent taxpayer money and expended time compensated by the taxpayers to FULLY explain the need for an increase in water rates. Public Hearings were held, members of the council held public meetings, and consultants were paid out of public funds to explain in detail why a drastic increase of rates was needed. There is no need for the City Taxpayers to be required to pay for a public relations firm to explain the council's position again, EXCEPT TO MANAGE THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST MEASURE S, WHICH IS ILLEGAL

The Free Speech clauses of the federal and state Constitutions prohibit the use of governmentally compelled monetary contributions (including taxes) to support or oppose political campaigns since "[s] uch contributions are a form of speech, and compelled speech offends the First Amendment." Smith v. U.C. Regents (1993) 4 Cal.4th 843, 852.

Moreover, "use of the public treasury to mount an election campaign which attempts to influence the resolution of issues which our Constitution leaves to the 'free election' of the people (see Const., art. II, § 2) ... presents a serious threat to the integrity of the electoral process." Stanson v. Mott (1976) 17 Cal.3d 206, 218.

The activity/materials at issue violate these core democratic principles in the following manner. Hiring a Public Relations firm in an "effort to inform the applicable voting public" is a waste of Tax-payers money. Please be advised that other jurisdictions have been fined by the Fair Political Practices Commission for similar acts.

It is a serious breach of the public trust when government officials spend public funds to create an advantage for one side of a political campaign. We have informed the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association about this activity. As you may know, HJTA has successfully sued individual officials in similar circumstances for an accounting and personal reimbursement of mishandled public funds.

In order to avoid litigation over this matter, we demand that the Dixon City Council DO NOT APPROVE the Resolution on the July 7, 2020 consent calendar agenda item 9.4 and immediately cease using its funds, property, personnel, supplies or equipment to influence the election. Printing of unlawful material must cease and any remaining offending material not yet distributed must be destroyed.

If we receive written confirmation from you within the next ten days that these demands have been met, we will take no further action.

Sincerely.

Michael Nolan, President Solano County Taxpayers Association



# **Expensive Prescriptions** and Medicare



Toni King

Toni:

I will turn 65 in September and am currently covered by my wife's employer group health insurance. Currently, I am fighting stage 3 cancer of the kidney and the prognosis is good because I am participating in a clinical trial for a new cancer medication which costs over \$18,000 per month. With this clinical trial, I am paying \$0 for a medication

which is curing my cancer. I am not planning to enroll in Medicare until my wife retires next year. I am concerned about Medicare's famous donut hole and if this new prescription called Sutent is covered by Medicare's Part D prescription drug plan?

Please explain Medicare and clinical trials and what I should do? ~ Thanks, Matthew

Matthew:

You are very smart to remain on your wife's employer benefits because you both can enroll in Medicare Parts A and B when your wife retires next year. At that time, you will be eligible for a SEP (Special Enrollment Period) avoiding the Medicare Part B penalty and be able to enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

Since you will be

enrolling in Medicare Part B for the first time when she retires, you qualify for the Medigap/Medicare Supplement 6-month open enrollment period to begin the month your Medicare Part B begins without having to answer health

questions. Original Medicare and your Medicare Supplement will work together with your clinical trial prescription drug program to cover your medical needs. Original Medicare covers the routine costs of qualifying clinical trials. Your Medicare Supplement plans will pay the out of pocket that Original Medicare does not pay that meets Medicare qualifications.

When one chooses a Medicare Advantage plan with a clinical trial for a serious health issue, the Medicare Advantage plans is required to reimburse beneficiaries for the difference in out-of-pocket cost sharing between Fee for Service and their Medicare Advantage plan.

Original Medicare with a Medicare Supplement does not have a network and one's medical provider must bill Medicare. With a Medicare Advantage plan, one may have a network with referrals from an HMO or maximum out of pocket with a Medicare Advantage PPO.

Let's discuss your \$18,000 clinical trial prescriptions and if you will go in the "famous Donut Hole" when you enroll in a Medicare Part D plan when you are no longer on your wife's employer group health insurance. Medicare Part D is an important option discussed when a Toni Says® Medicare consultation is performed.

Yes, Matt...you go in ne "Donut Hole" the very second you order the prescription Sutent and for that reason, we will search the Medicare site for which Medicare Part D plan best meets your Medicare and financial needs.

Always enroll in the Medicare Part D plan which covers all your prescriptions even though the most expensive prescription is covered by the clinical trial programs and costs you \$0. There may be a time when that expensive prescription is no longer covered by the clinical trial and you must use the Medicare Part D plan.

Your Medicare Part D prescription drug monthly costs for the \$18K monthly cancer medication Sutent is \$2471, 1 st month with you going in and out of the Donut Hole and Catastrophic coverage with \$938.57 monthly, the 2nd month to the end of the year. Not enrolled in Part D plan not covering the \$18K monthly prescription, then you pay 100% out of pocket.

Medicare planning is vital especially when one has a serious health condition. Take your time and research what option meets your needs.

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



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# Board of Equalization Member 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

"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

will pay for.

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

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

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families and businesses.

"With California's unemployment rate at its highest level since the Great Recession in 2010, "Three cents a gallon I can't imagine a more illadvised 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 famadds up to a cost-of-living ily budgets are running

drivers will never use but nightmare for California 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.

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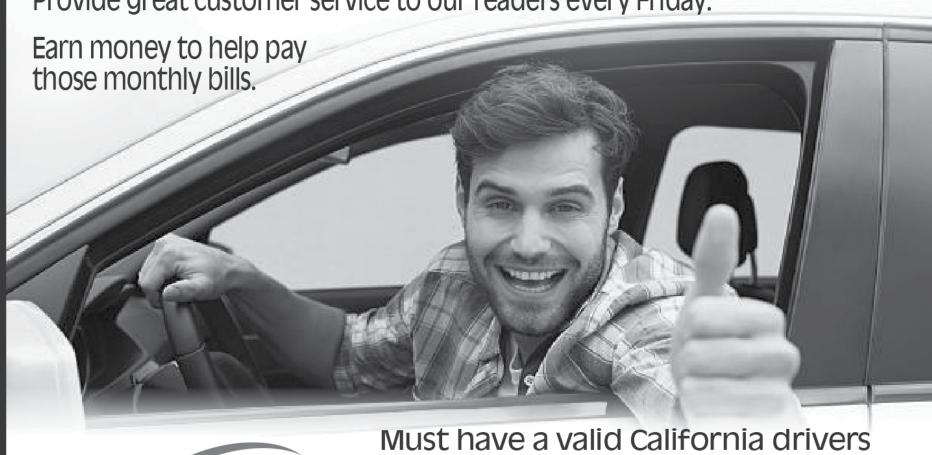
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# **Residents Need to Protect Themselves** from Mosquitoes as They Head Outside

By Lisa Yarbrough, KP Public Affairs

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As the weather heats up and residents head outside, mosquito experts encourage community members to protect themselves from mosquitoes and the diseases they can spread when they bite. West Nile virus is the most prevalent mosquito-borne disease in the U.S. according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California had the highest number of West Nile virus disease cases in the nation in 2019, with 225 cases reported. Comparatively, Texas had 32 cases and Florida had two cases in 2019. There is no human vaccine for West Nile virus, a disease that can cause debilitating cases of meningitis, encephalitis, and even death.

However, West Nile virus isn't the only mosquito-borne threat in California. Newly established invasive Aedes mosquitoes can transmit viruses such as chikungunya, dengue, and Zika, all of which are costly to treat and can have long-term health and financial consequences. These mosquitoes are established in many areas of California and are steadily expanding their range.

"While COVID-19 is not transmitted by mosquitoes, infected mosquitoes pose other public health threats," said Peter Bonkrude, president of the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC). "The best way to protect yourself from West Nile virus and other mosquito-transmitted diseases is to prevent mosquito bites. Wearing insect repellent is important as is eliminating all standing water which can create mosquito breeding sources."

"While our attention has been laser focused on COVID-19 it's important to remember that there are other public health concerns such as West Nile virus,' said Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-64). "As chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Infectious Diseases, I'm familiar with the devastating toll that mosquito-transmitted diseases can have and encourage all California residents to take simple steps to protect themselves."

National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, June 21-27, 2020, is a reminder to residents about the easy actions they can take to prevent mosquito breeding and protect themselves from mosquito bites. Mosquito experts are working to

ensure there are adequate local, state, and federal resources to meet the increasing challenges of combating mosquito-borne diseases. Specifically, at the federal level, MVCAC has been advocating for funding for the Strengthening Mosquito Abatement Safety and Health Act (SMASH Act) which would authorize CDC resources to be used to protect public health by addressing emerging infectious mosquito-borne diseases and improving existing mosquito control programs.

### To help prevent mosquito bites:

Apply insect repellent containing EPAregistered active ingredients, including DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535, according to label instructions. Repellents keep mosquitoes from biting. It is important to follow EPA and CDC guidelines for the safe use of repellents on children; Dress in long sleeves and pants, especially if outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes that can spread West Nile virus are most active; Install screens on windows and doors and keep them in good repair to keep mosquitoes out of your home; Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including in flowerpots, old tires, buckets, pet dishes, and trash cans because mosquitoes lay their eggs in very small amounts of standing water; Repair leaking faucets and broken sprinklers; Clean rain gutters clogged with leaves; Report neglected swimming pools and day-biting mosquitoes to your local mosquito and vector control agency.

For more information check out these videos: Tip, Toss & Take Action, Everyone Can Help Fight the Bite!, and Mosquito Control is an Essential Service.

For additional information on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases please visit the California Department of Public Health.

The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) is the statewide voice for mosquito and vector control professionals. The association provides public health information, expertise, mosquito and vector-borne disease surveillance, innovative research, professional training, effective legislative and regulatory advocacy on behalf of California public agencies.



### A Triumph at Mount Rushmore

If nothing else, President Donald Trump's July Fourth speech at Mount Rushmore clarified the battle lines of our culture war.

The New York Times called the speech "dark and divisive," while an Associated Press headline declared, "Trump pushes racial division." A Washington Post story said the speech "crystallized" the president's "unyielding push to preserve Confederate symbols and the legacy of white domination."

Democratic Sen. Tammy Trump "spent all his time talking about dead traitors."

To be clear – and despite all of this - the media and the left didn't freak out about a speech extolling the valor of Robert E. Lee or the statesmanship of Jefferson Davis. They didn't scorn a speech pining for Antebellum America or expressing ambiguity about the Civil War. They didn't pan a speech that slighted the quest for justice and civil rights throughout American

13. Orion's brightest spot

16. Another name for a jack

17. Between E and NE

18. For all to see 19. \* Location of the first

Summer Olympics test 23. Utmost degree

24. Allen Ginsberg's poem 25. Do this for cardio 28. Chesterfield, e.g.

30. Like "Extra!" news 35. Off-ramp

37. Barbequed slab

39. Right-hand page 40. Infamous Roman tyrant

46. And others 47. Kill a dragon 48. Prior to the present,

50. Every which way

to Olympic event roster 60. \*Most decorated

64. Tom and Jerry, e.g.

68. Skip the big wedding

66. Relating to hair

70. Key material

71. Bears' hands

72. House vote

73. Chain of hills

1. Biblical boat

(1368-1644)

heptathlon

11. Salz

3. Lab culture

2. Chinese dynasty

4. \*Number of events in a

6. D'Artagnan's sword

8. Words to live by

9. Denim innovator

12. Make a choice

22. Great horned one for Humanity

20. House duty

10. Welcoming store sign

15. Tree used to make paper

25. \*Most decorated U.S. female

7. \*Age of the youngest Olympian

or St. Peters

52. Swear words 53. Burst of wind 55. High affair

prefix

Olympian

63. Desire

69. Inquire

DOWN

41 Pandora's hox contents 43. Socially inept one 44. Parachute materia

14. A pop

15. Spur on

Trump didn't mention any Confederates at all. He hailed Abraham Lincoln at length and called the Civil War "the struggle that saved our union and extinguished the evil of slavery." He said we must defend "the ideas that were the foundation of the righteous movement for civil rights."

It'd be difficult to get a more textbook expression of the American civic religion than the speech at Rushmore. It'd be difficult to get a more wide-ranging appreciation of the warriors, inventors, adventurers, reformers, entertainers and athletes that have made the country what it is. It'd be difficult to get a more affirming account of the greatness of America and its meaning to the world.

And, yet, the speech was tested and found wanting.

Trump's attacks on what Duckworth insisted that he called "a new far-left fascism" and a cultural revolution "designed to overthrow the American Revolution" were indeed hard-edged, but who can doubt the basic truth of the claims?

There's a fear afoot in the land, as a merciless authoritarian spirit informs a spate of firings and cancellations. The day before Trump's speech, a Boeing executive resigned over something he had written ... in 1987.

The setting for Trump's speech is itself now deemed As a matter of fact, problematic. A CNN report Features Synd., Inc.

previewing the event said Trump "will be at Mount Rushmore, where he'll be standing in front of a monument of two slave owners and on land wrestled away from Native Americans."

There's no doubt that Trump is a deeply flawed messenger. But it wasn't just Trump the messenger who was attacked in the aftermath of the Mount Rushmore speech; it was the message.

Patriotic sentiments of the sort that have adorned American oratory for centuries were deemed hateful and divisive. A celebration of the Founders that once would have been the stuff of schoolbooks and primers was considered controversial. A defense of the nation's ideals was waved away. No, nothing to see here - only hate and division.

Surely, if some other Republican president had given the Mount Rushmore speech the pushback wouldn't have been as intense. But this isn't just about Trump. It goes much deeper.

Critics of the speech objected to what they said was its wildly exaggerated account of the stakes in the culture war - and at the same time, vindicated that account by equating patriotism with white supremacy.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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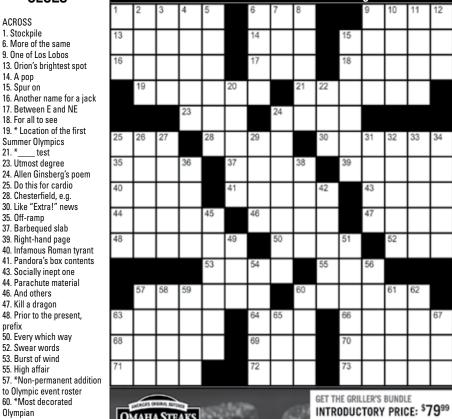


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### Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8 2 8 5 9 3 6 4 9 3 2 6 5 8 4 5 8 6 3 9 4 6 4 3 2 5 8 9 5 8 3 2 9 6 1 4 2 3 8 5 9 6 4 3 5 2 8 9 6 4 1 2 9 8 4 3 6 5 6 5 2 4 9 3 8







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36. Thomas the Engine's warning 38. Wimbledon is a Grand one 42. Deadly sin 45. Nullify 5. Rains and snows at the same time 49. Hard to escape routine

51. Zoo\_\_\_ \_\_ or bee\_ 54. Type of car 56. Courtroom excuse 57. Caffeine-containing nut tree 58. Swear, not curse 59. Exercise repetitions, for short

60. Annoyingly slow 61. Weary walk 62. Spilled the beans 63. Large edible mushroom

65. \*Most decorated Olympic 67. Whiskey grain

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every

row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9 **Solutions on Page 8** 

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WELL THAT CROSSBREED WAS A WASTE OF TIME!







by Mike Marland

GRANDPA, DO YOU EVER TALK TO YOURSELF?

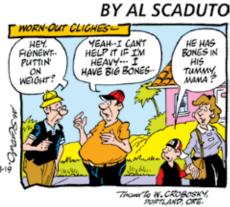






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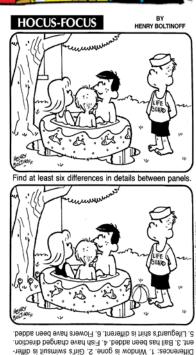
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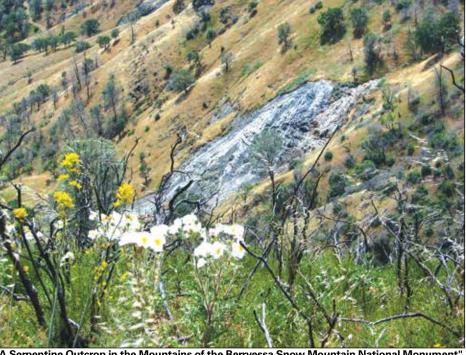
10 · JULY 17, 2020 Dixon's Independent Voice

# California is a Biodiversity Hotspot

By Glen Holstein, Tuleyome

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Biodiversity hotspots are regions where species numbers are unusually high. Most but not all are in the tropics. One that isn't is the Californian region. In a 2000 Nature Conservancy inventory of state biodiversity. California stood out dramatically. Its 5,653 species of animals and plants (non-vascular plants and most invertebrate animals were not included because of insufficient state information) was the most of any state. Its 1,480 endemics, species that only occur in one state and nowhere else, were also more than in any other state. California was number one by far in vascular plant species (4,389) as well as in endemic plants (1,416). California's 804 vertebrate animal species were only fifth among states, but it led all states in endemic animals with 62. California led all states in mammal species with 185 as well as with its 18 endemic mammals. California's 418 bird species were only fourth among states, but its two endemic birds brought it to second among states despite being far behind Hawaii's 52. California's 83 reptiles tie it for sixth, but the 5 endemics among these are only slightly exceeded by two states with 6. California's 50 amphibians tie it for twelfth, but it still leads by far in endemic amphibians with 17. California is only 30th in freshwater fish species with 68 but is back to number 1 with 20 endemic fish.

What accounts for our great biodiversity? One factor leading to high endemism is mountains and deserts isolating us from states to the east. Another that sets us apart from eastern states is a Mediterranean climate. It may not be accidental that several other non-tropical hotspots on other continents also have such climates in which most rain falls when it's coldest. Since most plants grow fastest when it's warmest, the gap between when water arrives and when it's used makes these ecosystems very sensitive to where it's stored below ground. That's evident in California where vegetation can shift within meters from deeply rooted chaparral shrubs on steep rocky slopes in full sun to shallowly rooted wildflower



A Serpentine Outcrop in the Mountains of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument" Photo courtesy: Tuleyome Tales

prairies in flatter areas where clay accumulates and holds water near surfaces. Shadier slopes intermediate between these extremes may support oak woodland with an herb understory not far away. Species diversity thrives in such diverse conditions.

California is also a place of climate extremes with annual rainfall from 64 inches at Crescent City along the northwest coast to 2.3 at Death Valley. California temperatures are also very diverse with a July mean of 58 degrees F at Crescent City and 101 at Death Valley, one of the world's hottest places. Most of our wet places are cool in summer but not Shasta Dam where a 81.4 degree July mean and precipitation of 60.4 inches provides habitat for the endemic rare plant Shasta snowwreath (Neviusia cliftonii). Cool summer fogs extending down the coast to Santa Barbara County and reappearing in the Channel Islands provide a corridor for species from much farther north to enter California and add to its diversity. So do the forests of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada Mountains. Some northern species or their near relatives reappear in isolated forest islands on high peaks in southern

These southern California peaks

are among our ecological islands, places very different from surrounding landscapes. They can result from climate as at Shasta Dam or relatively wetter isolated desert ranges like the Providence and White mountains. Redwood forests in the Santa Cruz and Santa Lucia mountains, which are oriented to intercept the full force of winter storms arriving from the southwest, are ecological islands in the otherwise relatively dry southern Coast Range, where some interior valleys are so shadowed from rain that they're drier than much of the Mojave Desert and provide a corridor for some of its species to move northwest to the Bay Area. Many of California's ecological islands are caused by the state's very active geology. Outcrops of serpentine, a mantle rock only exposed at sites of violent tectonic plate collisions, and limestone provide isolated areas with unique soils. Geomorphic basins where water accumulates to form vernal pools are another important kind of California ecological island.

Ever since Charles Darwin described how the Galapagos archipelago promoted evolution it's been known that isolation increases biodiversity, which is definitely true of California's many ecological islands. But it has

real islands as well. The Channel Islands off southern California have many endemic species of their own like island scrub jay (Aphelocoma insularis), island fox (Urocyon littoralis), and island ironwood trees (Lyonothamnus floribundus), but California's turbulent geologic history produced many former islands that promoted evolution in what's now its southern Coast Range. The most recent of these former islands forms the Palos Verdes Peninsula, which became connected to the mainland by sediments washed down from local mountains. It is still the only mainland location of Crossosoma californicum, a shrub otherwise confined to the Channel Islands.

The great UC Davis botanists Ledyard Stebbins and Jack Major once categorized California's endemic plants as neo-endemics and paleoendemics. Neo-endemics like lupines (Lupinus) exploded into many closely related species through recent evolution, while paleo-endemics lack close relatives and hang on in special habitats like ecological islands. Shasta snow-wreath confined to the hot and wet area around Shasta Dam with nearest relative in faraway but similarly hot and wet Alabama is an example. On evolutionary trees neo-endemics are like the many leaves on a single branch while paleo-endemics are like single leaves on an entirely separate branch. A mammalian example of neo-endemics are chipmunks (Tamias) with 13 California species so similar they're sometimes difficult to tell apart, while a classic paleo-endemic is mountain beaver (Aplodontia rufa), so distinctive that it's the only member of its family and definitely not a beaver (although not a California endemic since its range extends north to British Columbia).

Since California is the most populous as well as the most biodiverse state, its conservation challenges are immense.

Dr. Holstein is a retired Senior Scientist from Zentner and Zentner, a Northern California biological consulting company and the Chapter Botanist for the Sacramento Calley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. He is also on the Board of Tuleyome, a Woodland based non-profit conservation organization.

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