



**We are All
Ready to Vote
for YOU!**

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**America Has Lost
594,300 Clean
Energy Jobs**

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Dixon's Independent Voice

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INSIDE**

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PROPOSAL
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**TRANSPORTATION
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ANNOUNCES \$2.6M
FOR SOLTRANS
COVID RESPONSE**



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Touring the New School Grounds

Dixon Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Visits John Knight Project



Above: Dixon Unified School District is transforming former Dixon High School into the future John Knight Middle School. Photo by Debra Dingman Brian Dolan (right), Melissa Maseda (center), and Luke Foster (left) examine upgrades to a classroom. Photo courtesy: Tad Smith



**Submitted to the
Independent Voice
by Tad Smith, Chair of the CBOC**

DIXON, CA (MPG) - On Thursday morning, May 7th, School Superintendent, Brian Dolan, hosted a tour of the John Knight Middle School construction site to update selected members of the Dixon Unified School District governing board, Luke Foster and Melissa Maseda, and the chair of the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC), Tad Smith. The visit was kept to a minimum of people, in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Overshadowing this visit was the sad reality that the expected school opening date had been delayed from August 2020 to January 2021. The District notified the CBOC and the community of the schedule change with a press release and a set of FAQs on April 22. At the last CBOC meeting in February, everything seemed to be on track, but Leigh Coop

from School Site Solutions representing the construction management firm, always reminded everyone this was going to be a tight deadline and renovations of old buildings have a habit of producing unpleasant surprises.

The surprises were not unexpected, but required time and money to solve. For example, a major rebuilding of the foundation at the main entrance to the school was required to meet modern earthquake standards. The installation of a required firewall was hampered by original construction associated with a long-gone theater. The corroded water line mains have been replaced. The construction on these issues is complete; most people will never be aware of the time, effort, and expense involved in these infrastructure upgrades.

Other delays were triggered by the need for significant roof repair on most of the school buildings, in addition to the planned need to perform a complete reroofing of A-wing, using a metal roof having a color similar to the old tile roof. The major kitchen upgrade and window replacement jobs will go out to bid in June. The new windows will be installed before the start of the rainy season in the fall. Once the windows are complete, the appearance of the school will visibly reflect the construction progress.

The tour highlighted a construction site buzzing with activity. Every
Continued on page 6

Newsom Administration Claims another '\$1.831 Billion Needed'

**By Nghia Nguyen,
Office of Sen. Jim Nielsen**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In a last-minute call last Thursday evening, Department of Finance officials notified the Legislature that Governor Newsom is transferring an eye-popping \$1.831 billion to the Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Account to spend through the current fiscal year with only limited details.

"The spending of billions of taxpayers' dollars must be reviewed and approved by representatives of the citizens of California. It is time for the Legislature to return to the standard separation and balance of power," said Vice Chair of the Senate Budget Committee Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Tehama). "There is too little transparency, oversight and accountability. The public deserves better."

Without sufficient evidence to support the need for this massive spending, the letter from the Department of Finance breaks down expenditures as follows:

\$1.3 billion to procure personal protective equipment; \$251.7 million to establish and support over 3,000 hospital beds; \$30 million for hotels for healthcare workers and support staff; \$159.4 million to cover costs for ongoing state response activities; \$98.4 million for statewide testing and contact tracing and tracking.

Californians have answered the call and slowed the spread of the virus. Hospitals are safe, and most have few, if any, COVID-19 patients. The U.S. Naval hospital ship Mercy has returned to the port in San Diego. The field hospital at Sacramento's Arco Arena will close at the end of the month after the state paid an outrageous \$1 million to house fewer than 10 patients.

Senator Nielsen said, "There is no surge in hospital demand in California."

As the Los Angeles Times editorial stated, "[T]he state is moving from the emergency response phase into one of recovery, the governor needs to start sharing power again with the Legislature, as the state's constitution intends. That means no more COVID-19 blank checks."

"Long standing processes and procedures to establish the balance of power in our government must be strictly followed. The Administration must
Continued on page 10

Council Divisiveness Continues

Logic Takes Predictable Backseat

By Michael Ceremello

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Tuesday night, May 19th, was another council meeting depicting the disconnect between the city's and county's leadership styles regarding governmental reaction to this latest seasonal flu. At an earlier county supervisor's board meeting, only supervisor Skip Thompson was seen wearing a mask, none of the supervisors were six feet apart, and the public was allowed to participate at the meeting. Here in Dixon, once again, there was an item on the closed session calendar about a "threat to public services of facilities" which was not explained to the public, while this same public is shut out of direct confrontation and resigned to teleconferencing into meetings.

For those of you who believe the public has the same ability to participate in these panic-demic plays, the council was summoned back out of closed session because, once again, they forgot to take comment prior to adjourning for that portion of the meeting. The disparity between the county and city meetings was pointed out to them garnering not one call from any councilman or the mayor to make a change for future meetings.

The regular meeting lasted until well past 10 pm as many people attended the meeting to comment on two items, fencing/screening and the conduct of planning commission meetings, which were pulled from the agenda indefinitely dependent on when the public can attend meetings in

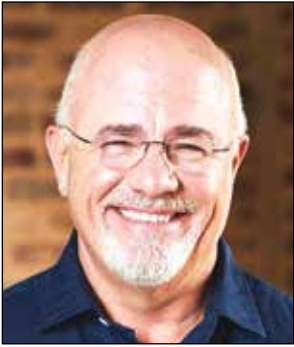
person. The most contentious and time consuming items were removing the election official's duties from the city clerk position and an urgency ordinance to allow restaurants to serve food outdoors.

While councilman Devon Minnema and Mayor Thom Bogue both articulately attempted to use logic to persuade one of the remaining councilmen, Scott Pederson, Steve Bird, or Jim Ernest, to switch their position, their little control cabal remained intact. Despite the city attorney, Doug White's feeble attempts to back the majority opinion with non-facts such as "there is nothing in government code giving this duty to the city clerk", Elections Code 307 and 320 contain language to this effect as well as the California City Clerks

Association website, White easily convinced the dupable dais denizens that elected city clerks were a diminishing minor quantity which Minnema pointed out were in 25% of California's cities.

In a similar action conducted by the last council to illegally remove the duties of the city treasurer preemptively before the treasurer's November election, this council wants to remove just this one specific duty from the city clerk's position. When White was questioned as to how many elected city clerks actually retain this duty and when Minnema and Bogue pointed out that the State's highest official in this capacity oversees elections, White had no answer.

Factually the city clerk
Continued on page 3



Consider Rent-to-Own?

Dear Dave,

I'm single, have no kids, and I've paid off all my debt. I'm ready to move to Baby Step 3, and increase my emergency fund to cover three to six months of expenses. Now that I'm gaining control of my finances, the idea of leaving apartment life and owning a home is more appealing. Should I consider a rent-to-own deal on a house when the time comes?

– Alex

Dear Alex,

I wouldn't go that route. In rent-to-own scenarios, you pay more in rent so that some of it will go toward the down payment if you buy the home. However, in most rent-to-own deals, the renter ends up not buying the home. The net result?

Dave Ramsey Says

You paid more in rent, and you still don't own a home!

In your situation, being a single guy with no kids, you're better off to continue renting a while longer and save money like crazy. That way, you can look around, find something you really like, and make a big down payment. And make sure you get a 15-year, fixed-rate mortgage, where the monthly payments are no more than 25 percent of your take home pay.

Good luck, Alex!

– Dave

Pay Taxes Now or Later?

Dear Dave,

My husband and I owe \$3,500 in federal taxes, along with \$3,000 in state taxes. We're both still working during the pandemic scare. Would it better to wait until the new July 15 due date to pay taxes, and pay off other debt in the meantime, or go ahead and pay state and federal taxes now, and take care of our other debts with what we have leftover monthly?

– Erica

Dear Erica,

If you're talking about back taxes, I'd say pay them now. You don't want to play around with the IRS, because they can really mess you up if they decide they're coming for you.

But if you're talking about taxes for 2019, I'd go ahead and include them in your debt snowball. If you need to move them up in your debt snowball in order to pay them on time, that's fine. Whatever you do, don't pay them late. Sit down together, and lay out a game plan that includes paying your taxes – and all your other debts – on time!

– 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 14 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. ★

Rest in Peace Naomie Webster



Naomie Webster

By Paul V. Scholl, Publisher

It is with deep and sincere sadness that we report the death of one of our staff

members, Naomie Webster. She was killed in a single automobile accident on Saturday evening, May 2nd, on Highway 70, just east of Quincy, California.

Naomie had only been with the company for a short period, working in our Gridley office. She had become a valued staff member and had a promising future within the company. She had been furloughed for just a few weeks due to the corona virus, but was due to return to full work duties on the morning of May 5th.

She had a very special spark to her personality, as local advertisers and friends of the newspaper had mentioned from her interactions with her. She had many talents and we were excited to be able to bring her back on board and let her blossom into a management member.

Naomie will be truly missed. She is on to a better world, but please take just a moment to send a prayer to her family and friends grieving their loss. ★

We are Ready to Vote for YOU!

By Mary Zuniga-Savage

There are three seats awaiting two new and responsible steadfast City Council representatives and a new City Mayor that represents the people in an honest manner. 2020 is a new year that needs your vote and to vote trustworthy representation for Dixon. A small group of residents called the Dixon's Concerned Citizens (DCC) requests an invitation to support civic-minded individuals to consider filling these vacancies.

The DIXON (DCC) intend to support innovative candidates for Districts 3, and District 4 and a new City Mayor. We need dedicated and flexible-minded candidates that will listen attentively to district constituents along with community residents in other corresponding city districts. The (DCC) welcomes representatives willing to propel the effort to bring the community together. The people of Dixon who attend and participate at Dixon City Hall meetings have been failed with the inadequacies

and inadequate representation that has occurred for quite some time. Representatives have not made the effort to work together or to include constituents in a manner that unites the community.

The (DCC) have heard the community and its concerns: Council lacks in solution oriented response on the citizen concerns; Council lacks required transparency on the agenda; Council ignores the viewpoints of its citizens.

The (DCC) are aware of the inadequate representation constituents have received. Therefore, we are seeking authentic representatives from our community whom we can give support. Individuals just like YOU – ready to support through leadership, that gives a balance of input on decision-making, solution-oriented, seeking to work with all our community. You can recommend yourself or someone you know or contact us to find out more: dixonccitizens@gmail.com

We welcome any candidate who is skilled and proficient on city issues

and willing to serve as a representative at City Hall as a Council Member or Mayor poised to serve the Dixon community. That is, a Candidate that will bring a factual view on the environment, a strong local economy, support practical infrastructure and must be informed on the needs of the community.

A candidate who seeks inclusive solutions, attends meetings and reads the voluminous material that is required to be prepared at meetings and to inform citizens and to also hear the public's concerns prior to making decisions. The aforementioned community group would like to support and promote Candidates who have a genuine interest in understanding their community district residents and the community with foresight in judgement and to unify the community to rebuild trust between the council and its constituents.

DCC are citizens representing community views of all district concerns by sharing, discussing issues and speaking at City Hall frequently to assist the promotion of solutions for our community. ★



Signups For Pandemic Aid Program to Start Next Week

Farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses related to the COVID-19 pandemic will be able to apply for a federal aid program, beginning next week. The U.S. Agriculture Department announced Tuesday signups will start May 26 for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. The American Farm Bureau says many farmers have faced "unprecedented losses" from a breakdown in distribution channels during the pandemic.

Pandemic Has Also Hurt Farmers' Off-Farm Earnings

Along with roiling markets for farm products, the pandemic has cut off-farm income for many farm families. Most farmers or ranchers supplement agricultural income with off-farm jobs, but nearly half of those who responded to a California Farm Bureau survey said they had lost off-farm income due to the pandemic. An agricultural economist calls off-farm income "critical" for small farms, and

said many larger farms count on it, too.

Record Blueberry Supplies Head Into A Difficult Market

Blueberry production from California farms will peak during the next two weeks and marketers say that, combined with the pandemic and a surge of imports from Mexico, has driven prices lower. The California Blueberry Commission says COVID-19 has slowed demand at both retail and restaurants as California builds toward a record crop. The commission says some farmers may have to decide whether to harvest all their blueberries this year.

CVP Water Allocations Rise A Bit

April showers brought a slight increase in water availability for customers of the federal Central Valley Project. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which operates the CVP, said Tuesday it will increase allocations for agricultural customers south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to 20%, up from 15%. The Friant water unit also will see a 5% increase in allocations, to 60%. ★

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Council Divisiveness Continues

Logic Takes Predictable Backseat

Continued from page 1
does not handle election ballots but instead administers the paperwork for those preparing to run for office. Two of the prime reasons for making this position responsible to the public instead of city staff was the action of Suellen Johnston providing initiative petitions to the city attorney without court approval as required by law and the interim city clerk Daryl Betancur who lied in saying that no one had access to water rate protest forms under his care yet, when the box was opened, the protests were bundled in quantities of 50.

Another argument by Bogue was that the city manager, who is the intended beneficiary of this move, had more to gain by altering the outcome of an election as all councilmen are his direct boss. None of this made a difference as the council passed this the same as last time on a 3 to 2 vote. Much as with the city treasurer position and its corresponding duties, it will be incumbent on the person elected to either position to litigate to secure his or her rights or to accept this castrated figurehead position as it is.

Moving on to the urgency ordinance which was supported by the entire council, the idea is to allow restaurants to be “permitted” by the city manager to operate as an outdoor service. While many restaurants are open for “take out only”, this action would allow food to be served to patrons on the street or patio if one is available. When questioned as to why this qualified as an “emergency”, the comment was ignored by the city attorney as well as the council.

One local bartender asked whether bars could open if they provided food. The point being missed is there is no epidemic by any definition of the word. Staff’s explanation that this is all about insurance issues rings hollow as insurance companies know what activities they are insuring. It was also pointed out during public comment that the city of Atwater voted to make their city a “sanctuary city for

small business” and allowing these businesses to reopen despite Governor Newsom’s unconstitutional edicts.

Most of public comment was taken up by those concerned with the fencing ordinance or constraining the planning commission from carrying out their duties on their own timeline. It was unclear what this iteration of the fencing regulations would accomplish. A prior council had taken action to allow residents to put sideyard fencing where they wanted it but this was overturned by misinterpretation by a former community development director.

The planning commission item was brought on by the commission’s refusal to just push projects through without full vetting in what the council perceives as in a timely manner. Both Ernest and Pederson were behind the removal of the GPAC (General Plan Advisory Committee) leadership more than a year ago because they didn’t like how the meetings were being conducted with strict adherence to the Brown Act. The result was a plan designed by the council and consultant which still hasn’t been brought to the public for comment.

Also on the agenda and approved despite objections were spending another \$100,000 on the Pardi Market site, paying a consultant to design work already accomplished at the police shooting range, and increasing the pay range to \$165,000 for the vacant position of police captain with no intention of filling it. An additional item about the La Esperanza area to convert a single family lot back to a park and applying for a grant, was tabled as public input was extremely limited because of no notification that the public meeting required to be held was published on the city’s website where all other meetings are posted.

Other actions which elicited no response from the public were a strategic 10 year plan for Dixon Read Ride, landscape and lighting district rate notifications, and a red curb to be painted in front of Cal Water. ★

CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

For those of you who have not challenged yourselves to keep up with what has been happening at Dixon City Hall the past few months, we hope to enlighten you the best that we can in a limited amount of space. For those hundred or more citizens that have tuned in to ZOOM Planning Commission and City Council meetings, we all thank you for staying ALERT to the antics of City Hall when many local residents are distracted by the world-wide pandemic, food shortages, hike in unemployment, homelessness, illness and death. We must stay in-tune to the actions of our city government. City ordinances that impact our personal choices and freedoms are being changed without your voice being heard.

Planning Commission Meeting, May 12th Agenda Item 9A

The Planning Commission was asked to consider changes to a Dixon City Ordinance for Fencing, Screening, and Landscaping provisions.

The ordinance establishes a general requirement that “all fences and walls be of durable material and confirm to the overall design of the associated property and surrounding neighborhood. Some mandated materials remain, such as requiring a solid masonry wall where professional office districts neighbor residential districts.”

The proposed change to fence permits is as follows: “Under the proposed amendment, any property owner may attempt to deviate from screening and landscaping regulations so long as they obtain an Administrative Fence Permit. Any sought deviations still must proceed through design review by the Planning commission

Parking and Storage Restrictions for Recreational Vehicles

“This ordinance prohibits the parking or storage of certain recreation vehicles (that is recreational vehicle campers, trailers, boats, or snowmobiles) in the front yard of single-family residential districts. Owners of these vehicles must store them in a garage, a carport located on the side or rear yard, or otherwise conceal them from public view.”

The proposed amendments to the ordinance transfers approval authority from the City Planning Department to the Planning Commission.

A large number of residents had shared their views in person and on the ZOOM Meeting teleconference line. It clearly is a “hot button” issue. The Planning Commission did not make a decision on the proposed amendments, but recommended the topic be taken to a public meeting in front of the City Council. It was placed on the May 19th Dixon City Council Agenda.

The complete ordinance is available to read by visiting the city website and go to the agenda for the May 12 Planning Commission Meeting or to the agenda for the May 19 City Council Meeting.

Dixon City Council ZOOM Meeting, May 19

Following the Planning Commission meeting, the City Attorney prepared a resolution that stated, “The proposed notice if approved will be signed by the City Manager and delivered to the Planning Commission Chair. If the Planning Commission does not issue its recommendation regarding this ordinance to the city council within 40 days after receiving the notice, it will be deemed approved by the Planning Commission and thereafter may come before the City council signed by the City.

These two Items were placed on the May 19th City Council meeting agenda and were asked to be removed by the Vice-Mayor Bird at the start of the meeting.

Item 12.4 Adopt a Resolution directing the Dixon Planning Commission to issue a recommendation on an Ordinance amending various provisions of the Dixon Municipal Code to make certain updates to the City of Dixon’s fencing, screening, and landscaping provisions.

Following the Planning Commission meeting, the City Attorney prepared a resolution that stated, “The proposed notice if approved will be signed by the City Manager and delivered to the Planning Commission Chair. If the Planning Commission does not issue its recommendation regarding this ordinance to the city council within 40 days after receiving the notice, it will be deemed approved by the Planning Commission and thereafter may come before the City council signed by the City.

Item 12.5 Adopt a Resolution amending the City Officials’ Handbook to establish guidelines for the continuance of advisory items by appointed Advisory Boards (Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Transportation Advisory Commission.):

The following day Tiffany Fabiani placed a summary of the council meeting on the

Dixon 411-Political site. Tiffany has given us her approval to reprint her statement.

POST COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOW-UP

By Tiffany Fabiani, Dixon 411 – Political (Facebook group)

Were you left scratching your heads, wondering what in the actual he!! happened last night?

In an abrupt (and albeit confusing) series of events right from the start of the meeting, Council called for their agenda to be amended.

Mayor Bogue called for a motion to remove items 12.4 and 12.5 from the agenda altogether (which means they could not vote yes/no). Vice-Mayor Bird quickly answered that call and asked for these 2 items to be removed from the agenda indefinitely, seconded by a grouping of councilmembers (in chorus, Bogue, Pederson and Ernest second the motion). The vote was unanimous to remove both items, allowing the commissions to continue their work, within their authority, without further restriction.

Because the items were already agenzized, Council was instructed to open the items anyway, to allow for public comment. Items 12.4 and 12.5 were much further down the trough, and with the zoom meeting room already at capacity of 100 participants waiting to watch and speak on these items, Mayor Bogue called for the two items to be moved up to the top of the agenda. The motion was made and seconded, and items 12.4 and 12.5 were cued to the front of the line. Because the zoom meeting room was limited to 100 participants, there were a number of citizens attempting to join in but couldn’t, waiting in the wings for their chance to chime in. A number of public participants began to express their concerns over the items that were to be removed, I (Tiffany) was one of those speakers. While I knew council could not formally take action now that they had removed the items, I asked them to still provide their views on the matter, to the community, and their voting constituents. I believe that with an election cycle coming, it was still important for the voters to know where they stood on these issues regardless of their formal vote.

Only 3 of 5 councilmembers openly expressed their views. My interpretation was as follows ...

~ **Councilman Ernest** - while he has a great respect for the commissions and their authority to act in the best interest of the community, he wants the planning commission to continue moving items forward, but that the public has a right to ask for further dialogue with commission on issues that largely concern them. He wants the commission to proceed, even if in a zoom meeting capacity, still have the dialogue with the public, but wants the commission to recognize that it may have to still be virtually.

~ **Vice-Mayor Bird** - a man of few words, only stated that he fully supports the commissions and the work that they do for the community and for the council. He stated that "we appointed them", we need to let them do the work they have been appointed to do.

~**Mayor Bogue** was also short but sweet, in his few words stated, “I fully support our commissions”.

Councilmembers Pederson and Minnema, did not respond or provide any further feedback on the items.

While this was a win for the community last night, and the Council's olive branch to the commissions, the underlying concerns here don't just disappear. While the Council removed the items “indefinitely,” because they didn't take formal action to deny them, they may at some point in the near or distant future, be brought before council again. For now, the commissions can continue the important work they do for the City without pause, but with one eye open at all times.

I believe this was the Council's saving grace for now, but their downfall in the future. I have lost trust in the City Manager, James Lindley, altogether, in his deplorable actions exposed over the course of this last week, and it is apparent that the City Attorney, Doug White, is in Lindley's pocket, in a well-orchestrated attempt to legally bind the Council and permanently shackle the commissions with restraints on their authorities.

“Stay Woke” Dixon ... continue to watch, continue to learn, and continue to formulate your own opinions on how local government is and should be serving you. YOU, the people, the voters, are at the top of the food chain ... stay there.

Dropped Indefinitely

November is not that far away. We will be electing a new Mayor and 2 city council members. Many of the current players will be candidates for positions. Watch the games! You can count on the topics that were removed from the May agenda resurfacing after an appropriate time lapse following the election, IF the incumbents are not replaced. ★

St. Peters Catholic Church News

The Birth of the Church

This Sunday, we celebrate Pentecost, which marks the beginning of the Church. This feast of the universal Church commemorates the Holy Spirit’s descent on the apostles that brought Christ’s Pascal Mystery to completion. This event occurred on the “feast of weeks,” an ancient Jewish festival, or also known as Pentecost (Exodus 34:22 and Deuteronomy 16:10). The Pentecost we celebrate this Sunday is the first Pentecost after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, which also concludes the fifty days of the Easter season. Jesus promised His disciples that they would receive the Paraclete or Advocate. The Holy Spirit was manifested and communicated as a divine person of the Church. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ and leads us into God’s divine truth.

This Sunday’s Gospel recounts how Jesus appears to His disciples, and after showing them His wounds, He breathes on them saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained” (John 20:22-23). When Jesus had been crucified on the cross over fifty days earlier, at the moment he died on the cross, He commended His spirit into His Father’s hands. He conquered death so that we may live. Jesus’s resurrection allowed Jesus to give that same Holy Spirit to His disciples (Catechism of the Catholic Church 730). The book of Acts tells us that when the day of Pentecost had come, there was a rush of mighty wind into the house where the apostles were sitting, and there appeared “tongues of fire” resting

on each one of their heads, filling all of them with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). They each began to speak other languages, recognized by devout men “from every nation” who were amazed that the apostles spoke languages other than their own (Acts 2:5- 12). This event fulfills Acts 1:8 when Jesus, at His ascension, promised His apostles that they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit to become witnesses of Christ to the “ends of the earth.” From that point onward, Christ’s mission, and that of the Holy Spirit, has become the mission of the Church. “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you” (John 21:21, Mathew 28:19, Luke 24:47-48, Acts 1:8, and CCC 730). The Church’s mission is to bring Christ to the world. We make up the Church. At the end of each Mass, whether together in public, or together via live-stream, we are “sent” to fulfill and carry out that mission with our lives. That is our identity, set apart for Christ.

Masses will be live-streamed on Facebook at 9:00 am for English, and 11:00 am for Spanish. Weekday masses will continue to be streamed as well at 9:00 am. At the time of this writing, we continue to await direction from our governor and Bishop on guidelines on how to resume public Masses. Please continue to pray for an end to COVID-19, and all those affected. Pray for all first responders, government, and Church leaders. Please consider continuing weekly or monthly donations made to St. Peters, 105 S. 2nd St., Dixon CA 95620.

May God Bless you all and may His peace rest among you. ★



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For the Love of Books



By Amy Shane

Book Review & Special Events Editor

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Making a Splash

May is making a splash with these great Ocean themed reads. While it still isn't possible to run to the beach and soak up the sun or stick your toes in the frigid Pacific Ocean, readers always have the opportunity to get caught within the undertow of a great book.

Slide and Surprise: In The Ocean by Natalie Marshall; Scholastic books

Natalie Marshall takes exploring the Ocean into a whole new level of interactive fun. The ocean adventure takes off with bright, vivid illustrated sea creatures complete with sea life questions and answers that are revealed on the sliding tabs. *In the Ocean's*, board book design is the perfect size for small hands, while its interactive sliding tabs are informative and sturdy, standing up to the hardest pulls, and tear-resistant. The surprises continue with the exciting expanding flaps, while little ones will ask for the story to be read over and over.

A Wave of Stars by Dolores Brown and Sonja Wimmer; Nubeclassics

Octopus always told the sea creatures wonderful stories, and on one particular night, he told them the legend of the moonbow. The sea creatures instantly fell back in fear, could it indeed be possible that if they look at a moonbow, they will turn human? Then one evening, Mimbi and Kipo accidentally broke the Ocean's surface and cast their eyes upon a moonbow, instantly transforming them into human children. Will these little sea creatures be able to turn back into a sea turtle, and a seal, or will they be trapped on land forever?



In this magical tale of legends, friendship, and new adventures, readers will be able to fall in a story that is both beautiful as it is captivating. At the same time, Sonja Wimmer's gorgeous illustrations will take readers into a story that will make them want to read over and over as the perfect nighttime read.

The Mermaid The Which and The Sea by Maggie Tokuda-Hall

Get caught up in a breathtaking and enchanting young-adult read just in time for the summer.

A high seas adventure filled with pirates', mermaids, a witch, and of course, the Sea. Maggie Takuda-Hall will whisk her readers into a story that is written in beautiful poetic prose that leaps off the pages. Instantly captivating her readers from the very first page with the story of a female pirate, a girl of privilege aboard the ship bound for an arranged marriage, and a love that neither of them could foresee. Their predetermined paths bound both; Flora and Evelyn both have a burning desire to forge their own destiny, no matter what adventure and trouble lie in the wake, opening up the door to adventure mermaids and witches and the Sea itself.

Maggie takes her readers into a magical land that



pulls from its own tide, tempting her readers with powerful questions about predetermined paths, identity, the need for love, the rise of power, and most of all, destiny.

The Girl Beneath the Sea Andrew Mayne; Thomas Mercer

Book jacket: "For a Florida police diver danger rises to the surface in an adventurous thriller by the Wall Street Journal bestselling author of The Naturalist.

Stalked by an assassin, pitted against a ruthless cartel searching for a lost fortune, and under watch within her ranks, Sloan has only one ally: the legendary DEA agent who put Sloan's uncle behind bars. He knows just how deep corruption runs – and the kind of danger Sloan is in. To stay alive, Sloan must stay one step ahead of her enemies – both known and unknown – and a growing conspiracy designed to pull her under."

Adults can now get lost in a thrilling new story that is action-packed and full of twists and turns at every flip of a fin. *The Girl Beneath The Sea* takes readers deep into underwater investigation, a police diver, and a body found beneath the ocean's surface opening the doors to a thrilling new story and given in a fast-paced temp that readers will be unable to put down. ★



Riley Reviews

"HOLLYWOOD" PULLS BACK CURTAIN ON POST-WAR TINSELTOWN

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"HOLLYWOOD" ON NETFLIX

As reviewed in this column not so long ago, Showtime's series "Penny Dreadful: City of Angels" featured the strange rich history of Los Angeles during a period of social and political tension during the late Thirties.

Netflix gets into the act of a period piece of Los Angeles history in which aspiring actors and filmmakers of the post-World War II era are hoping to make a big splash in the Hollywood film industry at all costs.

The aptly-titled "Hollywood" is a seven-episode series streaming on Netflix. Co-creator Ryan Murphy, the creative force behind the "Glee" television series, has found an outlet for a risqué homage to entertainment that could not be realized on network television.

What both "City of Angels" and "Hollywood" have in common, if at all, is the opportunity to weave true-life events into a fictional narrative that is either revisionist history or wish fulfillment for what never was.

"Hollywood," even more so than the Netflix series, goes out on a limb to explore the sexist, racist, misogynistic and hypocritical aspects of the lurid underbelly of the film industry's Golden Age.

Have you heard about Scotty Bowers, a handsome former Marine who lands in Hollywood after World War II and becomes a legendary escort for male and female celebrities while providing his "full service" out of a gas station in the shadow of the film studios?

You may learn more about Bowers from his memoir "Full Service: My Adventures in Hollywood and the Secret Sex Lives of the Stars," a collaboration with Lionel Friedberg, or the documentary film "Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood."

The relevance of the post-war hustler's dalliance with celebrities seeking furtive affairs is that "Hollywood" pivots in a big way to the activity at the Golden Tip gas station run by Ernie (Dylan McDermott), who provides a stable of hunky young men satisfying sexual fantasies.

Celebrities of both sexes, gay and straight, turn up at the station and speak the magic words "I want to go to Dreamland" to one of the attendants. Enter Jack Castello (David Corenswet), a war veteran who wants to be a movie star by becoming one of the pump jockeys.

Expecting a child with his wife Henrietta (Maude Apatow), hustling at the gas station is the only way for Jack to get into show business, and as luck would have it, he gets hooked up with Avis (Patti LuPone), the wife of the studio head (Rob Reiner) of Ace Pictures. ★

Jack's long-shot bid for the movie business was off to an inauspicious start when he'd hang outside the studio gates hoping to be an extra for the day, along with a throng of other hopefuls.

Not alone in getting his foot in the door at the studio, Jack's other gas station buddies, wannabe director Raymond Ainsley (Darren Criss) and Archie Coleman (Jeremy Pope), a aspiring gay black screenwriter, are soon swept into their own dreamland.

Another young man, straight off the bus from flyover country, the handsome but dim Roy Fitzgerald (Jake Picking) ends up being molded by Henry Willson (Jim Parsons), a real-life closeted agent with a nasty streak, into Rock Hudson.

That "Hollywood" is revisionist history, in the sense that it would like to present a world that did not exist, Hudson and screenwriter Archie become lovers so openly that even agent Willson warns that Hudson would sink his nascent career with a public display of his sexual orientation.

Grounded in some relatively factual situations, "Hollywood" brings to life real characters of the Golden Era, from a bawdy Tallulah Bankhead (Paget Brewster) to Anna May Wong (Michelle Krusiec), the Chinese-American star victimized by institutional racism.

Wong was not alone in suffering ostracism. Queen Latifah's Hattie McDaniel, the first African-American to win an Oscar, played Mammy in "Gone With The Wind" and was mainly stuck in domestic roles.

Ryan Murphy upends the customs of the era by bringing together the half-Filipino director Raymond, the gay screenwriter Archie, straight white male Jack, and future star Rock Hudson in a movie project based on the life of British actress Peg Entwistle.

Archie has penned a script titled "Peg," and Ace Studios decides to make a film based on the tragic life of the actress, but the title is shifted to "Meg," when Avis, acting as interim studio head, greenlights the production to star a black female actress.

The actress in question is the fictional Camille Washington (Laura Harrier), involved in an interracial romance with director Raymond, and she delivers a luminous performance that is Oscar worthy.

The final episode, knowingly titled "A Hollywood Ending," takes us to the Academy Awards, where "Meg" is nominated in several categories including, among others, Best Picture, Best Actress and Best Director. Just for fun, make your own guesses on the winners.

Blending fact and fiction for a desired narrative, Ryan Murphy is the driving force behind the fantasy message for an illusory Golden Age in "Hollywood," buttressed by the visual treats of retro scenery, automobiles, and elegant clothes that are fun to take in. ★

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MUSINGS

By Mike Ceremello



Representatives or Personal Opinion Tyrants?

Commentary by Mike Ceremello

The snake is still alive and well in Dixon. Its form has changed from the last mayor to a Hydra of three or more heads. The council of Steve Bird, Scot Pederson, and Jim Ernest are conjoined triplets who refuse to listen to reason. Perhaps it is because they decide how they are voting before meetings are convened.

I have been in Dixon since 1991 and very little has changed. Many things have been prevented by the people such as underpasses for trains on A Street and another on North First. We have a new antique sewer plant, instead of a modern one generating electricity, providing potable water, and producing other byproducts, at a cost to our citizens of tripled rates. It could have and should have been done cheaper and more effectively for all of us.

We have the Jack Hole, the pedestrian underpass on B Street at a cost of \$7 million plus another couple of million for a non-functional train station. We have a three million dollar mini-park being constructed three blocks away from the Women’s Improvement Club park. At least Devon Minnema continues to vote against squandering any more money on this black hole which should have been simply black top for parking at a cost of around a quarter of a million.

Those same three and their buddies on staff gave us the hot tar machine sealing our roads, right? Not exactly, as they fought it tooth and nail because it was suggested by yours truly. The only reason they went that way was because you, the public, told them to take their local sales tax hike and shove it. Without millions to waste completely reconstructing small portions of the roadway they had no choice but to look for other options.

To what do we have to look forward for the coming city elections? The resurgence of Jerry Castañon, the former councilman and planning commissioner who gave us Doug White as city attorney, who charges Dixon well over a million a year just as White does wherever his firm lodges itself. Speaking of the planning commission, we also have the candidacy of Kevin Johnson to consider as a replacement for the mayor.

You will then have eliminated all logic and reason from a council already serving only a limited number of us but using all of our tax dollars for the benefit of their crony capitalist buddies. So nothing has changed in thirty years and it’s going to get worse. Why? Because these aren’t your representatives. They are tyrants.

What exactly do tyrants do? They attempt to alter the system to retain control and power. This is why they fight so hard when someone outside of their group comes up with ideas they can’t even fathom. Now we have another example from the last council meeting and it mirrors what happened four years ago.

Why exactly did Earnest, Scot and Bird take away the election duties of the city clerk before it has even become an elected position? Could it be the same reason they took away all of the city treasurer’s duties weeks before that election in 2016? They fear what certain candidates could do in these positions.

The city treasurer is in control of what bank the city uses. Gary Riddle took the banking away from First Northern who at that time was still posting deposits as in the 1950’s. He got services from the new bank which reduced expenses and enhanced options. These tyrants put together a protest against Riddle which culminated in Solano County Tax Collector Charles Lomeli and the city attorney of Davis, Harriet Steiner, having to tell the cranky crowd they were wrong and Riddle was right.

Of course now we are right back where we were with First Northern as our city’s bank because the tyrants don’t rest or stop. I remember John Garcia’s comment to me that the problem is “not enough of them have died” for change to occur. It goes beyond that because unless you are recruited into their ranks, you should have enough sense to understand who these people are and what they haven’t done to make Dixon a better place to live.

So now we have the city clerk’s position up for a change from appointed to elected. Why would we want to do that? So the next city clerk isn’t reliant on the city manager for his or her job and won’t break

the law just to satisfy the demands of a city attorney who doesn’t know election codes or the Constitution for that matter. Of course this is exactly why this council, less Mayor Bogue and Devon Minnema, wants to centralize this authority with the one person who has no business looking at initiative petitions. I am only surprised that they didn’t pull all authority and place it with one of their public servants.

I don’t know about what they are so worried. They can simply get one of their people to run for these positions, such as James Slaughter who promptly moved banking back to First Northern. Maybe it is because they couldn’t handle another Gary Riddle or David Dingman who actually did the job.

No this is about power and control. That is why this council enjoys increasing fines on us when we tell them there is no pandemic. Representatives? Who exactly from the public asked the council to take away duties. The public has complained loudly about water rates and had to put the series of rate increases on the ballot. Why are we subservient to those who should be recalled at the least and barred from ever holding an elected position as the best option?

On top of this we have Doug White, who makes erroneous statements to aid these tyrants, such as it isn’t defined in code who the elections official is. Let me help you out Doug.

Election code 307: “Clerk” means the county elections official, registrar of voters, *city clerk*, or other officer or board charged with the duty of conducting any election. (*my emphasis added*) or how about Election code 320: “Elections official” means any of the following:

(a) A *clerk* or any person who is charged with the duty of conducting an election.

(b) A county clerk, *city clerk*, registrar of voters, or elections supervisor having jurisdiction over elections within any county, city, or district within the state.

If White is so concerned with not doing the usual, why is he arguing to do the unusual? After all, the rest of the elected city clerks as well as those who are appointed all have the duty of election official as one of their roles. Logic says there is another reason.

It is probably the same reason we keep seeing “emergency” urgency ordinances when there is no emergency. Frankly I like the fact it takes a supermajority vote to get them done. Why bother when any of the three tied at the hip majority can ask for these to be brought back as regular items. Sure it takes longer for the ordinances to go into effect but even this latest waste of paper, allowing restaurants to get permits for outside dining, will go by the wayside once this flu hits the road. Why is a permit needed when Bud’s was serving outside before?

Again we get to the problem of an attorney simply running up his billable hours. How is it that Turlock, Sonora, Atwater, and Dixon see the same items being brought before their councils such as an urban camping ordinance which got shot down by the courts, the same template city council guidelines, and the push for marijuana as the savior to every city’s financial mismanagement? But let’s not stop there.

Who is really running the city of Dixon? It seems the mayor has abdicated his authority to White as White interjects himself into every agenda item without being solicited for an opinion. No other Dixon city attorney has done this over the last 30 years nor have I seen this in other cities. How is it that White runs the meetings and it isn’t Bogue knowing who wants to speak and when?

Dane Besneatte was only partially right when he disparaged this council “as the worst” he has ever seen. This is the worst city government we have ever had, polluted by a city manager who takes to Facebook to attack citizens who disagree with his sycophantic opinions designed to make a bad council look good. Lindley, as White, knows who butters his bread.

The city attorney position needs to be brought in house now. We need a recall on Pederson and Ernest. The city manager needs to be fired for cause.

We need to find good people to run against the machine. Do you don’t want true public servants or do you prefer master tyrants? ★

America Has Lost 594,300 Clean Energy Jobs; 850,000 Expected by June 30

By Alex Frank, Hastings Group

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - Nearly 600,000 U.S. clean energy workers have lost their jobs since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic after 447,208 new workers filed unemployment claims in April – tripling the claims filed in March. That’s according to a new analysis of unemployment data released by E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs), the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), E4TheFuture, and BW Research Partnership.

The analysis of Department of Labor data found that 594,347 workers in clean energy occupations, representing 17.8% of the industry’s workforce, filed for unemployment benefits in April and March. The number of jobs lost is more than double the number of clean energy jobs created since 2017. Before March, clean energy had been one of the U.S. economy’s biggest and fastest-growing employment sectors, growing 10.4% since 2015 to 3.4 million jobs at the end of 2019. That made clean energy by far the biggest employer of workers in all energy occupations, employing nearly three times as many people as the fossil fuel industry.

In the coming months, the analysis projects that job losses will continue to rise unless Congress and the Trump administration take quick and substantive action to support the clean energy industry and its workers. If nothing is done, the report forecasts that 850,000 clean energy workers will have filed for unemployment by June 30.

A loss of that magnitude would mean that one out of every four clean energy workers employed at the start of 2020 will have lost their jobs in just six months.

Industries Hit Hardest

According to the unemployment data analysis, energy efficiency lost more jobs than any other clean energy sector for the second consecutive month in April. The energy efficiency sector accounted for nearly 70% of all clean energy job losses in April, with more than 310,000 energy efficiency workers filing for unemployment.

Renewable energy lost nearly 13% of its workforce, with more than 71,800 unemployment filings in April. There are now nearly 100,000 renewable energy workers out of work since March. If trends continue, more than one out of every five renewable

energy workers will soon be jobless.

Both the clean grid and storage sector and the clean vehicles sector lost 14% of their workforces in April, losing 54,700 jobs combined. In total, those sectors have lost 26,200 and 46,500 jobs, respectively.

The clean fuels sector lost the largest percentage of its workforce among all clean energy industries, losing 10,400 jobs in April, or 26% of its workforce. Since March, the sector has lost 12,500 jobs or more than one-third of its workforce.

States and Localities Hit Across Country

California continues to be the hardest hit state in terms of total job losses, losing 77,900 jobs in April alone and more than 100,000 since the crisis began. Texas, Michigan, Florida, and Georgia also had a high total of clean energy unemployment filings in April, with each state experiencing more than 22,000 job losses. An additional 23 other states had at least 5,000 clean energy unemployment filings, according to the new analysis.

While Kentucky, Hawaii, and Louisiana all saw job losses exceed 25% of their clean energy workforces, no state was hit harder in terms of total number and share of its clean energy workforce than Georgia. In addition to suffering the fifth most total job losses, the state lost 31% of its clean energy workforce — the highest percentage of any state and double the national average of 15%.

Local Economies Hit

April’s edition of the analysis expanded to include losses by metropolitan areas and counties. By total job losses, five counties lost more than 5,000 clean energy jobs in April alone, including Los Angeles County, Calif.; King County, Wash.; Harris County, Texas; San Diego County, Calif.; and Cook County, Ill. As a share of their workforces, California and Georgia counties suffered the most, with four counties in each state losing at least 23% of their clean energy jobs.

The metro areas that lost the most clean energy jobs in April were metro areas with the largest populations and economies, including Los Angeles, New York City, and Chicago. Metro areas that were hit hardest as a share of their workforce varied more, with Cleveland, Las Vegas, New Orleans, and Pittsburgh all losing at least 18% of their clean energy jobs. ★

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Open, But Not Really

Shaving, Facial Waxing, Threading and Facials Not Permitted at This Time

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Department of Public Health announced on May 25, 2020 that counties that have attested to meeting the criteria for accelerated re-opening may re-open hair salons and barbershops with modifications such as mandatory face coverings for both barbers or stylists and clients. State public health leaders noted that Californians staying at home and exercising caution when out helped flatten the COVID-19 curve. Public health leaders acknowledge that today’s announcement is also possible based on statewide indicators such as PPE, testing capacity, hospital surge capacity and hospitalizations.

Permitted activities include services that can be provided with both the worker and customer wearing face coverings throughout the service. These include haircuts, hair coloring, blowouts, weaves and extensions, braiding, lock maintenance, wig maintenance and hair relaxing treatments.

Salon activities that cannot be done with face coverings on both the worker and client – or that require touching the client’s face – such as shaving, facial waxing, threading, eyelash services and facials – remain prohibited at this time in all counties. Likewise, nail salons remain closed.

“Together, Californians have limited infections in our state, and because of that work, many counties may make a decision to restart modified hair and barber services,” said Dr. Sonia Angell, State Public Health Officer and Director

of the California Department of Public Health. “However, COVID-19 is still present in our communities and we are still at risk. As we venture outside our homes, it is critically important to keep physical distance, wear face coverings in public, and wash hands frequently to help protect yourself and those around you.”

Under the new guidance to reopen, salons and barbers must: Implement measures to ensure physical distancing of at least six feet between and among workers and customers, except when providing haircutting and other close contact services; Provide temperature and/or symptom screenings for all workers at the beginning of their shift and any vendors, contractors, or other workers entering the establishment; Encourage workers and customers who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 to stay home; Screen customers upon arrival and be prepared to cancel or reschedule customers who indicate they have any signs of illness; Require workers and customers to use face coverings during the entire haircutting and other close contact hair services.

More information about the state’s COVID-19 guidance is on the California Department of Public Health’s Guidance web page. More information about reopening California and what individuals can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is available at covid19.ca.gov. Find out more at www.cdph.ca.gov ★

Dixon Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee

Tours John Knight Middle School

Continued from page 1
wing was full of construction workers, now in full restoration mode. During the last visit in September, it was just the opposite as the site was undergoing demolition. Some of the workers made an effort to greet Superintendent Dolan, tangible evidence of his frequent visits to the site. Fencing is being installed around parts of the school site to limit access. A wellness center is being built near the future administration area. The ramp from A to B wing has been upgraded to meet current building code. The courtyard will look totally different, with a more open appearance. Raised walls are installed around the trees in the courtyard, with slight surface modification to make potential skateboarders miserable. The band room is almost complete, and Mr. Russo’s students will have to make some wonderful music to fill up that large area. Most of the work in C wing is complete.

Some items are still being discussed: What will happen to the old tennis courts? How much landscaping should be done? What type of area should be made available to students for eating lunch outside? How should the student foot traffic be restricted to specific outside areas? The answers will depend on available money toward the end of the middle school project and the recommendation of the School Board. In addition, there will be change orders to upgrade an entrance path for emergency fire vehicles to meet code requirements to support the heavy firetrucks.

The requirement to install a new connection for two 6-inch water service pipes for a dedicated fire suppression system is still in the design stage by California Water Service, and the work will have to be performed this summer by the water utility. Cal Water was brought into this discussion late in the process, and the expected cost was much higher than a rough early estimate by the contractor. Cal Water partnered with the District’s contractor to find ways to reduce costs and agreed to prioritize the project to attempt to keep this item from delaying the school opening. Of course, an occupancy permit for the school will not be issued without a functioning fire suppression system.

Perhaps in the pre-COVID era, construction could have been accelerated and students might have been able to start the school year at John Knight Middle School and simply avoid some limited construction areas. The virus changed everything. Parts of the supply chain have been disrupted, making it difficult to get custom construction items delivered in a timely manner. For example, a requested color and texture of tile might not be available immediately, forcing a decision on using a substitute or waiting for the requested items. Obtaining a full work crew has been challenging, particularly for roofers and painters, which may have been related to COVID-19 and the difficulty in social distancing on various worksites.

Superintendent Dolan pointed out the challenge in attempting to move staff and supplies to the school during the summer, when the county may still be on lock-down. There is no

good scientific consensus to guide the planning for the COVID-19 situation in August. Right now, no one can predict when school will start, what classes will look like with social distancing, how much learning will still be done at home, or how amendable kids will be to the expected no-contact policies. What happens if kids pick up the virus in school and spread the disease at home? All school districts are struggling with these complex issues, and administrators from nearby districts are in discussions with each other and state education leaders to develop new policies.

With the January opening, the District will have adequate time to prepare properly for the move. This might include hosting some visits for staff and students in late fall to become familiar with the school. At some point, there will be a community event to recognize the opening of the John Knight Middle School. After all we have gone through this year, it will be nice to have the school as a source of pride for the community of Dixon.

Other projects are still being planned with Measure Q funds. On May 6, three members of the District, two from School Site Solutions, and the chair of the CBOC, participated in a five hour process of video interviewing four architect firms for the next phase of the Measure Q projects, this time focusing

on renovation plans for Anderson and Tremont Elementary Schools. Recommendations from the interviews will be discussed at a future school board meeting.

The next CBOC meeting is scheduled for May 20th, at 6:30 pm using video conferencing on the Zoom platform. The main topic will be the review of the annual report to the community. This item was scheduled for a March meeting, which was cancelled just as the “shelter-in-place” orders were issued. A new member to the CBOC, Robert Sanchez, will be welcomed. Leigh Coop from School Site Solutions is scheduled to provide an update on the budget issues, new timelines for the projects, selection of architects, and purchase of furniture.

The Dixon CBOC has held meetings in a public forum since May 2017. Future meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of every odd-numbered month. The CBOC members are confident the efforts of our committee and the District will give the community of Dixon a beautiful, historic, and modern middle school for our students, significant upgrades on the other schools, all while showing respect for the taxpayers. There is one vacancy on the CBOC. If interested in serving, the District can provide an application and background information. ★

U.S. Transportation Secretary

Announces \$2.6 M for SolTrans COVID-19 Response

By Angela Gates, U.S. Department of Transportation

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced a \$2.6 million grant award to Solano County Transit (SolTrans) in Solano County, California, as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed by President Donald J. Trump on March 27, 2020. SolTrans will use the grant funds for fixed route bus operations, vehicle and facility maintenance, and administrative expenses during the COVID-19 public health emergency. See FTA’s apportionment tables for the totals apportioned to each area. (This

funding is based on the agency’s current request and may not represent the full amount the agency will receive.)

“This historic \$25 billion in grant funding will ensure our nation’s public transportation systems can continue to provide services to the millions of Americans who continue to depend on them,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

“We know many of our nation’s public transportation systems are facing extraordinary challenges and these funds will go a long way to assisting our transit industry partners in battling COVID-19,” said FTA Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams. “These federal funds will support operating assistance to transit agencies of all

sizes providing essential travel and supporting transit workers across the country who are unable to work because of the public health emergency.”

In addition to the CARES Act funding, FTA issued a Safety Advisory that prompts transit agencies to develop and implement policies and procedures regarding face coverings and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, physical separation, and hand hygiene consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidance. CARES Act funding can be used to cover 100 percent of these costs. ★

Slim Randles’ HOME COUNTRY



Slim Randles

Windy walked out away from his house, but kept his mask in his pocket. There was never any quit when Windy decided to whip something, and this time it was that coronavirus. Our little valley had pretty much shut down, just like almost everyone else’s.

For the loquacious Windy Wilson, whose most precious word was “audience” it was an especially tough time. Stay home. Wash your hands. Wear

Quarantine Means Staying Home Alone

your mask, and don’t go where there are more than five people.

Well, that wiped out any visit to the Mule Barn truck stop coffee shop. So what was left? He couldn’t even corner any school kids coming home from class, because they weren’t going to school right now.

So Windy went home, petted his dog, Ramses, and picked up the phone.

“Hi Mamie. Windy here.”

“Hi Windy,” she said, cheerfully, “what’s up?”

“It’s this danged coronary virus goin’ round,” he said, “they tell ever-body to stay home and don’t do nothin’. Quarantine, they said. So I was a wonderin’ if you would like to quarantine with me ‘til they get

this thing whipped.”

“You mean,” said the very pleasant holistic widow, “live in the same house?”

“Well, we don’t hafta go that far. I could go home and stay there overnight and then we can quarantine-up again in the mornin’.”

She chuckled. “Windy, you are a wonderful guy, but I don’t think it works that way. Quarantine means staying home alone.”

“With just my dog?”

“Afraid so.”

“Wonder why them doctors invented this here virus in the first place. Sure ain’t fun.”

Brought to you by the nice people who call up friends and relatives just to ask how they’re doing. ★

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Combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds

May 29, 2020

Nicole McCay
Federal Programs Unit
Department of Housing and Community Development
Division of Financial Assistance
2020 West Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833
nicole.mccay@hcd.ca.gov

This notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about June 8, 2020, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 as amended, to undertake a project known as Heritage Commons Phase 3 (proposed project), for the purpose of the construction of a 44-unit affordable senior housing complex. The project site consists of two separate parcels located at 195 and 197 Heritage Lane in the City of Dixon, California. The western parcel at 195 Heritage Lane includes a total of 0.274-acre and is identified by Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 116-130-046. The eastern parcel at 197 Heritage Lane includes 0.869-acre and is identified by APN 116-130-049. Combined, the project site parcels total approximately 1.143 acres. Currently, the project site is undeveloped and consists of vacant land with ruderal vegetation.

Of the 44 one-bedroom units, 10 units would be located within a single building on the western project site parcel and the remaining 34 units would be split between three buildings within the eastern project site parcel. The proposed buildings would each be three stories. The HOME units are intended to be very low-income senior housing. The proposed project would include 21 HOME-assisted units. Four of the HOME-assisted units would be reserved for individuals with an area median income (AMI) level of 25, five HOME-assisted units would be for those with an AMI level of 50, and 12 HOME-assisted units would be for those with an AMI level of 60. In addition, the project design would comply with all federal and State accessibility requirements (i.e., Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Americans with Disabilities Act).

The total development cost of the project is projected to be \$13,630,000, \$3,467,814 of which would be funded by HCD under the federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program administered by HUD. Construction period funding of \$13,630,000 will be provided from proceeds from the HCD HOME loan in the amount of \$3,467,814; proceeds from the issuance of tax-exempt bonds in the amount of \$7,000,000 (bonds will be purchased by Wells Fargo Bank or a similar financial institution); a loan in the amount of \$968,000 from the First Northern Bank of Dixon; an equity investment of \$545,948; and deferred costs of \$1,648,238.

Permanent funding of \$13,630,000 will be provided from proceeds from the HCD HOME loan in the amount of \$3,467,814; a loan in the amount of \$968,000 from the First Northern Bank of Dixon; an equity investment of \$5,156,867; a private bank loan in the amount of \$3,000,000 and a deferred developer fee of \$1,037,319.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The following effects of implementation of the proposed project were identified in the Environmental Assessment:

- A remote possibility exists that burrowing owls could re-occupy the area prior to commencement of construction activities.
- The possibility exists for unknown historic or cultural resources to be encountered during project construction activities.
- Traffic and construction noise levels could exceed recommended thresholds.
- Moderate to highly expansive near-surface clay soils could cause differential movement and significant damage to overlying structures and improvements.
- If soil generated from construction grading is in excess for the proposed project and must be removed from the site, soil characterization would be required in order to determine appropriate off-site disposal or reuse.
- During construction activities, heavy equipment and large trucks would be used to transport construction materials to the site. Such equipment has the potential to leak hazardous materials such as oil and gasoline. Associated impacts to surface water could occur.

Mitigation measures have been adopted by the HCD to eliminate or minimize all adverse environmental effects identified in the Environmental Assessment for the project. Such mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, the following: conducting a preconstruction nesting survey for burrowing owls; response measures if cultural resources are discovered; provision of noise attenuating features along the site boundary near SR 113; implementation of recommendations included in the Geotechnical Investigation report prepared for the proposed project; soil characterization, if soil is to be removed from the site; compliance with the City's construction noise standards and practices; and preparation of a Spill Prevention and Control Program. With implementation of all mitigation measures, no significant impact would occur from the project.

It should be noted that the project is located within a larger subdivision area (Brookfield Project) for which an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Because the project is within the EIR study area, the project is required to comply with the applicable mitigation measures set forth in the previously prepared EIR. Therefore, certain mitigation measures identified for the larger subdivision area are also applicable to the project.

HCD has determined that, with implementation of all mitigation measures, the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is not required. The Environmental Assessment (EA) brought to enforce responsibilities is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Department of Housing and Community Development, HOME Fund, 2020 West El Camino Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95833, and may be examined or copied Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to Janice L. Waddell, Certifying Officer, Federal Programs Branch Chief, at HCD. All comments received by June 5, 2020 will be considered by HCD prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenters should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

HCD certifies to HUD that Janice L. Waddell, Certifying Officer, Federal Programs Branch Chief, in her capacity as Certifying Officer consents to accept the implementation of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Department of Housing and Community Development, HOME Fund, 2020 West El Camino Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95833, and may be examined or copied Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to the Responsible Entity's (RE) Request of Release of Funds and Environment Certification for a period of fifteen days following the submission date specified above or the actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the certifying officer of the RE; (b) the RE has omitted a step or fail to make a determination or finding required by HUD regulation at 24 CFR part 58 or by CEQ regulation 40CFR 1500-1508, as applicable; (c) the RE has omitted one or more steps in the preparation, completion or publication of the Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact study per 24 CFR subparts E.F. or G of Part 58, as applicable; (d) the grant recipient or other participant in the development process has committed funds for undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before release of funds and approval of the environmental certification; (e) another Federal, State or local agency has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance of the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Kimberly Y. Nash Director, Community Planning and Development at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, One Sansome Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco CA, 94104. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of objection period. HUD has established an environmental inbox to receive public comments or objections for proposed environment actions. Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to HUD at CPD_COVID-19OEE-sfo@hud.gov.

Janice L. Waddell
Certifying Officer, Federal Programs Branch Chief
California Department of Housing and Community Development

Dixon's Independent Voice 5-29-2020

Social Security Matters

What will my Wife's Survivor Benefit Be?

Sen. Dodd: Maternity Care Proposal Clears Committee



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am a 68-year-old retired male and had planned on waiting to collect Social Security benefits beginning at age 70. My wife is currently 53 years old. When I die, would my wife's spousal benefit at her full retirement age be equal to what I would be receiving at age 70 or be reduced? Also, if I were to die before 70 and before collecting social security, what would be my wife's survivor benefit at her full retirement age? **Signed: Older Husband**

Dear Older Husband: Your wife's survivor benefit as your widow will depend upon two things – the amount you were receiving (or were eligible to receive) at your death, and the age at which she claims her survivor benefit as your widow.

If you were receiving an increased benefit because you waited until age 70, your wife's benefit - if she has reached her full retirement age - will be 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death. If she hasn't yet reached her



full retirement age when she claims her survivor benefit (she could claim as early as age 60) the benefit will be actuarially reduced according to the number of months prior to her full retirement age (FRA) that she claims it. The amount of reduction for claiming her survivor benefit before her FRA is 0.396% for each full month earlier, which is 4.75% per year earlier than her FRA, to a maximum of 28.5%. And for clarity, your wife isn't required to take the survivor benefit immediately upon your death; she can wait until the benefit reaches 100% at her full retirement age, if desired and if financially feasible.

If your wife is also eligible for a SS benefit on her own work record and you die before she reaches her FRA, she will have the choice to take either her own Social Security benefit or her survivor benefit from you. If her survivor benefit will be her highest possible benefit, she would have the option to take her own SS retirement benefit from her own work record first and delay taking the larger survivor benefit until it reaches maximum at her FRA. Or, if her own benefit at age 70 would be more than her survivor benefit

from you, she could take the smaller survivor benefit first and delay taking her own SS benefit until it reaches maximum at age 70 and switch to her own benefit at that time. The goal is for her to get the highest possible benefit for the rest of her life.

Finally, if you were to die before you started collecting your increased Social Security benefit at age 70, your wife would still have the same options, but her survivor benefit amount would be based upon the amount you were eligible to receive at your death, even though you were not yet collecting. In other words, all those delayed retirement credits (DRCs) you are now earning (and will continue to earn until you are 70) will not be lost – the benefit you have earned up to the point you die will be what your wife's survivor benefit is based upon.

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

By Paul Payne, Office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Legislation from Sens. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles and Assemblymember Autumn Burke, D-Inglewood, to improve access to high-quality maternity care in California, cleared a key committee with overwhelming, bipartisan support. Senate Bill 1237, sponsored by the California Nurse-Midwives Association and Black Women for Wellness, also would curb disparities in outcomes for black women and infants and counter the obstetrician shortage – projected to be critical in some counties by 2025.

“Because of the strains placed on our health care system by the coronavirus, it is more important than ever that women get access to quality maternity treatment,” Sen. Dodd said. “By increasing access to nurse-midwives, we can improve outcomes for mothers and babies, especially those in rural or inner-city settings. The current disparity for women of color is absolutely unacceptable. My bill will help bridge the gap.”

SB 1237 would expand access to care by authorizing nurse-midwives to conduct routine services without direct physician supervision, following the lead of 46 other states. California's current model has not been shown to increase the safety or quality of maternity care. States that allow autonomous practice within a more integrated, collaborative model between physicians and midwives show significantly lower rates of cesarean, pre-term birth, low birth-weight infants and neonatal death. Nurse-midwives perform 50,000 births a year in California.

Sen. Dodd's bill comes as experts from the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative report black women in California still die at a rate that is 3-4 times higher than white women during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum. Furthermore, babies born to black women were more than three times as likely to die of a preterm, birth-related issue as babies born to white women in 2017. National and international organizations including the March of Dimes and the World Health Organization agree improved access to midwives is a necessary and innovative strategy to reduce and eventually eliminate racial disparities.

“We already see how existing health inequities are being exasperated by the

pandemic with black people disproportionately making up the deaths,” said Nourbese Flint, Executive Director of Black Women for Wellness Action Project. “The same communities that are disproportionately dying from COVID-19 are at most risk for pregnancy-related death due to structural and systemic barriers. More than ever we need to be using all the tools in the toolbox to preserve and expand safe quality care for birthing people.”

“The burden of morbidity and mortality falls largely on black and indigenous women and those from marginalized communities who cannot receive the care they need and desire,” said Kathleen Belzer, CNMA president. “This is unacceptable. SB 1237 is about CNMs working with physicians and creating a collaborative model to best meet the needs of birthing people and provide the safest care possible.”

The bill is also sponsored by the United Nurses Association of California/ Union of Health Care Professionals and NARAL Pro-Choice California. It passed the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development committee on an 8-0 vote.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has stated that the obstetric workforce crisis cannot be abated without the help of nurse-midwives in a model of integrated, collaborative care. In 2018, ACOG released a new version of their Joint Statement of Practice Relations which highlighted the critical shortages and mis-distribution of maternity care providers, and called for autonomous practice for nurse-midwives under a model of team-based care. SB 1237 is proposed during the World Health Organization's Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, and on the heels of recent statements by leading patient advocacy organizations, including the March of Dimes, California Health Care Foundation, and the Pacific Business Group on Health, calling for the immediate reduction in regulatory barriers to nurse-midwifery practice and greater investment in California's nurse-midwifery workforce.

Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Yolo, Sonoma, Solano, Sacramento and Contra Costa counties. More information on Senator Bill Dodd can be found at www.senate.ca.gov/dodd. ★



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Ask Toni

Enrolled in Medicare . . . Now I Can't Fund My HSA!



Toni King

Reader Alert: Toni turned 65 on Wednesday, May 20th and has now joined the maze of Medicare. She will discuss what Medicare issues she meets in the future.

Hi Toni

I attended one of your seminars and now I need help with my Medicare issue. I am 65 almost 66, "still working" and covered by my employer's group health HSA plan. Approximately \$5000 is contributed to my qualified tax-deductible HSA account for medical expenses.

When I talked with my company's HR department, they advised me to apply for Medicare Part A (hospital) although I really did not need it. Now I find out that since my insurance is an HSA, signing up for Part A has disqualified me for any contribution to the HSA plan. I have a few questions: 1) Does having Part A really disqualify me from contributing to my HSA Plan? 2) If so, how can I stop Medicare Part A and stop this HSA tax situation?

Thanks, ~ Stephen, Lake Charles, LA

Stephen:

This is an especially important topic to those who are turning 65, still working

with an HSA because as you are experiencing Stephen, HR departments and friends are giving wrong advice to those becoming Medicare age. This week, three different Toni Says Medicare column readers, sent in HSA questions because they had received wrong information which is costing them from funding their HSA.

The rule about Medicare Part A and making contribution to an HSA is discussed in the Medicare & You handbook. It states, "You can't contribute to your HSA once your Medicare coverage begins" ... the handbook also states in the last paragraph, "To avoid a tax penalty, you should stop contributing to your HSA at least 6 months before you apply for Medicare." Please review this information... Very important...

Below are the answers to your questions:

1. That's correct!! Enrolling in Medicare Part A will disqualify you from contributing funds to your HSA. Contact the Toni Says office by email at info@tonisays.com or call 832/519-8664 and together we can explore your Medicare options.
2. Question #2 about stopping your Medicare Part A. I would call Social Security at 1/800-772-1213 or visit your local office explain to the agent how you were misinformed since you have been enrolled and funded your HSA before you turned 65 and now you cannot contribute to the plan. Ask how you can

appeal what was advised to you. Since Social Security offices are not open due to COVID-19, you will have to fax in your information, and you want to schedule an appointment with a Social Security agent by phone until the Social Security offices reopen.

3. **Getting Part A back:** When you talk with Social Security ask what type of problems you will have to getting back into Part A later. It is rare that one stops Medicare Part A, but more Boomer's enroll in HSAs to grow their retirement because of Health Savings Accounts. I have consulted with many who have stopped Medicare Part B(Medical) when they have returned to work with group health insurance.

For those who need to delay Medicare Part A due to "still working fulltime" with company health insurance and want to continue making contributions to their HSA can do so by simply NOT enrolling in Medicare Part A when turning 65. When you and your spouse retire later past 65, when no longer working full-time with company health insurance, then you can apply for Medicare. Contact the Toni Says office at 832/519-8664 for more information on Medicare and HSA topic.

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

HHS Provides \$13 Million for COVID-19 Testing in Rural Communities in California

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provided \$13,107,276 to 265 Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) in California for COVID-19 testing. Nationally, \$225 million was awarded to over 4,500 RHCs across the country to support COVID-19 testing efforts and expand access to testing in rural communities. Rural Health Clinics are a special designation given to health care practices in underserved rural areas by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that help ensure access to care for rural residents.

This funding is through the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act that President Trump signed into law on Friday, April

24, 2020 which specifically directed these monies to be allocated to RHCs. HRSA funded RHC organizations based on the number of certified clinic sites they operate, providing nearly \$50,000 per clinic site.

"Today's funding provides rural health clinics with resources and flexibility to boost their testing capabilities to fight COVID-19," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "Further expanding testing capacity, including at RHCs, is a crucial element of safely reopening our country and helping Americans return to work and school. A safe reopening is vital for Americans' health and well-being, and especially so for those living in rural areas, who may have struggled with access to healthcare long before COVID-19 and found care even harder to access during this crisis."

"The funding may be used for a wide range of COVID-19 testing and related expenses including

planning for implementation of a COVID-19 testing program, procuring supplies to provide testing, training providers and staff on COVID-19 testing procedures, and reporting data to HHS on COVID-19 testing activities," said HRSA Administrator Tom Engels. "Funds may also be used for building or construction of temporary structures, leasing of properties, and retrofitting facilities as necessary to support COVID-19 response."

HRSA is also awarding \$500,000 to support technical assistance efforts to the RHCs as they expand testing capabilities. This includes activities such as conducting webinars, providing resources and guidance for implementation and management of testing programs.

To view a comprehensive state-by-state breakdown of this funding, visit: <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/coronavirus/rural-health-clinics-covid-19-testing-fy20-awards> ★



We Need to Make More of Our Own Drugs

A country learns about itself in a crisis, and one revelation in the coronavirus emergency is that we can't make our own penicillin.

The first patient successfully treated with the antibiotic was a woman suffering from sepsis in a Connecticut hospital in 1942. Her treatment took up half the country's supply. Yet in short order we figured out how to mass produce the medicine, saving the lives of countless soldiers in World War II. Once, factories throughout the country made the stuff.

But that was a long time ago. The last U.S. plant to make penicillin, a Bristol-Myers Squibb operation in Syracuse, New York, shuttered in 2004.

What happened? According to Rosemary Gibson of The Hastings Center and author of the book "China Rx," "Industry data reveal that Chinese companies formed a cartel, colluded to sell product on the global market at below market price, and drove all U.S., European and Indian

producers out of business."

Just like that – it's not so easy to simply start up a penicillin fermenter – we were out of the penicillin-production business.

The story of penicillin is the tale of U.S. dependence on China-sourced pharmaceuticals and active drug ingredients writ large.

From 2010 to 2018, U.S. imports of pharmaceuticals from China increased 75%. China is the second largest exporter of drugs and biologics to the United States behind Canada, and our dependence is even greater, given that China is the source of the active ingredients of many drugs produced elsewhere.

China is a dominant force when it comes to generic drugs in particular, which account for the vast majority of medicines that Americans take. We rely on China for 90% of our antibiotics, and for drugs for everything from HIV/AIDS to cancer to antidepressants.

China is fully aware of its leverage. It notoriously threatened via its state-run media to cut off our supply of drugs (except fentanyl, of course) and plunge the U.S. into "the mighty sea of coronavirus."

Even if China weren't a malign global competitor (it is), a remorseless dictatorship (it is) or a dishonest kleptocracy (it is), there would be risk inherent in having so

many of our medications and their components coming from one country. We become vulnerable to any disruption of Chinese production, whether from disease, political unrest or war.

Beijing is a particularly nasty actor, but the coronavirus has demonstrated that even friendly nations will keep medical supplies from one other if it is in their self-interest to do so.

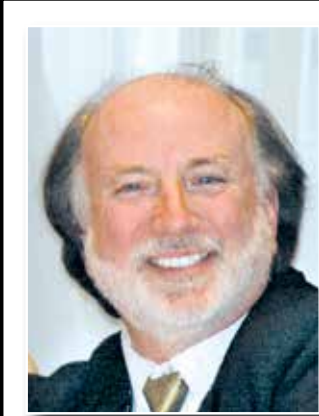
It is only prudent, then, that the U.S. begin a national effort to produce more of its own medicines.

Unspooling entrenched supply chains won't be simple. The U.S. should create every incentive for drug companies to at least move out of China into other foreign countries, and ideally come back here (economic incentives clearly matter – when drug companies lost tax preferences to manufacture in Puerto Rico, many of them left for China). Eventually, federally funded health systems, including Medicare, Medicaid and Veterans Affairs, should buy only American-sourced pharmaceuticals.

Prescient commentators have been warning of our growing dependence on China for medicines for years. After this, there's no excuse for not fixing it.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

OK KIDS, I WANT YOU ALL TO SHARE WITH THE CLASS YOUR FAVORITE HOBBIES?

I COLLECT COINS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

I HAVE BEEN PLAYING THE PIANO SINCE I WAS FIVE.

I HAVE NO HOBBIES BUT MY MOM SAYS I HAVE A TALENT FOR GETTING INTO TROUBLE.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

ONE DAY MORE, I DID NOT LIVE UNTIL TODAY... HOW CAN I LIVE WHEN WE ARE PARTED...

ONE MORE DAY ON MY OWN, WILL WE EVER MEET AGAIN?...

ONE DAY MORE... WITH YOU MY WORLD HAS STARTED...

BOOM, WHO KNEW LARRY WAS SUCH A LES MIZ FAN.

HE'S NOT. HE DOES THIS EVERY TIME I TRY TO WASH HIS FAVORITE SWEAT PANTS.

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

DO YOU HAVE ANY MICROGREENS?

WELL, WE HAD SOME...

BUT THEY KINDA GOT AWAY FROM US!

GRIN & BEAR IT

LAFF-A-DAY

"Your insurance doesn't cover the damage to the scales."

"They were out of frozen apple pies, so I bought you a do-it-yourself kit."

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

JEFFY, I REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE THIS TALL.

GRANDPA, I REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE THIS WIDE.

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO

LIKE IT IS DEPT- IF THE TEMPERATURE ONE WINTER DAY IS 20 DEGREES- AND THE NEXT DAY IT'S 43- THE SHARP WEATHER PERSON WILL ALWAYS SAY "RIGHT?" ON, YEAH-H-H...

WE'RE HAVING A HEAT WAVE--

AND IF IT'S A VERY HOT DAY HELL TELL YOU TO DRESS LIGHTLY--

ON A RAINY DAY HELL TELL YOU TO TAKE YOUR UMBRELLA...

THANK TO R. MONTANA, PORTLAND, ME.

FIGMENT IS AN ACCOUNTANT FOR A BIG CORPORATION-- A WHIZ WITH NUMBERS, BUT NOWS HIS MATH ON THE GOLF COURSE? R.S. X MARKS SHOW HIS STROKES ON THIS HOLE...

WHAT'D YOU MAKE ON THIS ONE, FIGMENT?

FOUR! LETS SEE-- SO FAR I HAVE 79 AND YOU HAVE 104...

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

I KNOW THERE'S A WAY TO GET ACROSS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY WITHOUT GETTING IN MORE TROUBLE BUT I CAN'T FIND THE APP.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Tree is added. 2. Hat is different. 3. Plant is different. 4. Club is added. 5. Vest is different. 6. Nose is rounder.

Crossword Puzzle on Page 9

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

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • TONY WINNERS

CLUES

ACROSS

1. "A Visit from St. Nicholas" beginning

5. Clock std.

8. U-_____

12. "Webber's "Evita" collaborator

13. Away from wind

14. Boy Scout rank

15. Picnic invaders

16. Digestive aid

17. Change, as in the Constitution

18. "Like Tony Awards 2020

20. Entry document

21. Fill with spirits

22. 10 decibels

23. "Kiss Me, Kate" composer/lyricist

26. Sound of leaves in wind

29. Before, archaic

30. Admirer

33. "My bad"

35. Garments

37. Barbie's beau

38. Annoy a bedfellow

39. Result of too many drinks

40. Type of tunic

42. F in FWIW

43. Brown's beagle

45. "M in "M. Butterfly"

47. Bar association

48. "Mack the _____"

50. *Tony winner David _____

52. *Musical with the most wins, with The

56. *Jellicles' cries

57. Vietnam's neighbor

58. Flu symptom

59. Pond buildup

60. Sunrise point

61. "Just _____"

62. *4-time winner Tom Stoppard's output

63. Tap choice

64. Tallest volcano in Europe

DOWN

1. Catch-22, e.g.

2. Brown bagger

3. "Before and after intermission

4. Final six lines of a sonnet

5. Sparkle

6. More than a scuffle

7. Like a ball ready for a drive

8. *Musical with most nominations

9. *Tony nominee, "Rock of _____"

10. Longer forearm bone

11. Bulb type

13. "All _____!"

14. Roof overhang

19. Humble requests

22. Pesky, clingy plant

23. Cribbage pieces

24. Un-written exams

25. Old episode

26. "La Bohème," reimaged

27. Shower accessory

28. Erasable programmable read only memory

31. Thumbs-up

32. Gridiron official, for short

34. Blood fluids

36. *Coveted destination

38. Mix-up

40. Typically has April 15th as deadline

41. In the thick of

44. Falstaffian in body

46. Base of the decimal system

48. Cattle enclosure in African village

49. Pirate's "necklace"

50. *Setting of Tony winner "Hedestown"

51. Vinyasa workout

52. #19 Down, sing.

53. *The Grand Slam of showbusiness, acr.

54. The Colosseum, today

55. Pura _____ or pure silk

56. Atlas page

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 9

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

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Continued from page 1 demonstrate why it needs this colossal pile of taxpayer dollars,” Senator Nielsen said.

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Following news reports of failed contracts including a \$1 billion agreement with Blue Flame, Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Tehama), along with a group of lawmakers, requested a thorough audit through the Joint Legislative Audit Committee of the sole source contracting practices in these multi-million dollar legal commitments. ★



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REDUCE THE RISK

of Becoming Infected with the West Nile Virus



A number of types of sources found within residential neighborhoods are capable of producing enough adult mosquitoes to bother not only the residents of one home but a number of homes in the area. These mosquitoes are also capable of transmitting West Nile virus! Water left standing for seven to ten days can produce mosquitoes during warmer weather. There are a number of simple precautions that can be taken to prevent this from happening...

TYPE OF SOURCE	WHAT TO DO...
Leaking faucets and broken pipes:	Repair or replace defective parts immediately.
Water under buildings:	Install sump pump and provide drainage if possible.
Roof gutters:	Maintain roof gutters and down spouts clear of debris.
Septic tanks:	Seal and cover all openings and screen vents.
Impounded water:	Fill if possible or provide adequate drainage.
Flower pots:	Drain-off excess water or invert if not in use.
Swimming pools & Hot tubs:	Use filter and skimmer daily to remove egg rafts and larvae. Chlorine will not kill mosquito larvae. Provide drainage for filter and sump pumps. When not in use, cover tightly.
Wading pools:	Change water weekly. When not in use turn upside down.
Swimming pool covers:	Tighten cover to prevent sagging.
Ornamental ponds:	Stock with mosquito fish and remove excess vegetation such as leaves, and thin pond lilies occasionally. Maintain even water level. Screen inlet on recirculation pump. When cleaning pond, transfer to glass bowl - chlorine kills fish. If pond is no longer desired, make holes in bottom and fill with dirt or sand.
Bird baths:	Change water frequently, preferably every 2-3 days
Lawns:	Avoid over watering.
Tree holes:	Fill with a polymer such as Soil Moist or Broadleaf P4 granules which absorb water - can last for years, available at garden supply stores, sand or dirt, drain if possible - when in doubt, call a tree surgeon.
Water troughs:	Change water weekly or stock with mosquito fish.
Boats:	Use a water tight cover or store upside down.
Containers:	Dispose of all unused containers that can collect rain or irrigation water such as tin cans, jars, barrels, buckets, old tires and tubs. Gardening containers such as vases and buckets should be stored upside down.

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