

# FIREWORKS BUYERS GUIDE

Get the Most Bang For Your Buck!



# Dixon's Independent Voice

VOLUME 28 • ISSUE 26

JUNE 26, 2020

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**SEE  
INSIDE**

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RECEIVES \$5,000  
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## Women's Improvement Club Installs a Jewel



Above: Officers and Board Members of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club are Donna Armstrong (in wheelchair,) and back row L-R: Loran Hoffman, Jewel Fink, Ramona Todd, Darla Wear, Arlene Jones, and Mary Kay Callaway. Right: Jewel Fink receives the 'hammer' (aka Gavel) from outgoing DWIC President Loran Hoffman. Photos courtesy of Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Amid colorful face masks and bring-your-own chairs carefully measured six feet apart, a small group of members of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club gathered to install new President Jewel Fink and the 2020-2021 Board of Directors.

Of course, they did that next to the Dixon Public Library that their organization established in 1913 and in the park that they also established some many decades ago. Before the formalities started, the women bowed their heads in a moment of silence given in honor of 40-year DWIC member Gladys Hanna who recently passed.

"Gladys was an active member in this club and in the community throughout her life," Loran Hoffman

said. "She was a special woman and will be missed by all who knew her." She talked about Hanna's many involvements in DWIC and the musical program started at Dixon United Methodist Church that was open to the public and continued music appreciation to future generations.

Hoffman, who served as President the past two years, officially passed the gavel - well in this case, the improvised hammer - to new President Fink, while getting chuckles from the small audience.

The rest of the Board is comprised of Vice-President Donna Armstrong, Treasurer Cindy Heency, Recording Secretary Teri Brown, and

Corresponding Secretary Phyllis Quiring.

Hoffman passed on words of appreciation and advice to the incoming President.

"I was blessed by an outstanding team. Trust your Board because they really do know what works and what will flop. Allow yourself plenty of time to learn and be on time to meetings," she said. "And, learn all the words of the song, America the Beautiful." This song

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## Council Approves Budget; Packs Two Meetings in One

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - It was a long and busy night for the City Council this past week due to packing the agenda with items from the June 2 meeting that was cancelled. At the beginning, Councilman Devon Minnema asked the closing of the meeting be dedicated in memory of the three Dixonites Dan Nunes, Jenni Balance, and Gladys Hanna who each had contributed greatly in our town and who passed recently.

In Item 12.4, City Council majority voted to adopt the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget of \$23.4 million with one minor change after a near hour of debate with opposite ends of savings and spending brought in by councilman and members of the public.

When Finance Director Kate Zawadzki displayed items on the Capital Improvement Plan recommending pushing about a dozen of them from roofs to roads out for completion at a later time, the Councilmen Scott Pederson, Steve Bird, and Jim Ernest plus Mayor Thom Bogue all had reasons not to remove any of them. They also were adamant about not reducing a police officer's position or maintenance worker.

The discussion roamed over the economy, sales tax, unemployment, and consideration of the last options the Finance Director offered including cutting pool and recreation to balance the budget.

Pederson ultimately said, "I wouldn't remove any of these." There was a slight consolation in that \$300,000 could be saved in payroll due to positions shifting and changing and an amendment was made to the motion and approved 4-1. This will mean that the City will dip into the reserves by nearly one million dollars.

"There will be a new revenue amount posted in July and I think we're all going to be pleasantly surprised," Pederson said.

Another lengthy debate was involving an ordinance introduced by our City Attorney Doug White in regard to unattractive signs. Using the Municipal City Code of signs, zoning, public nuisances, and health and safety, the proposed ordinance read that "all signs and appurtenant structures be maintained in good condition."

Mayor Thom Bogue said that his concern was that it would be subjective and

*Continued on page 10*

## Students Win Ag Scholarships from Friends of the Dixon May Fair

By Kathy Keatley Garvey

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Five Dixon or Vacaville students seeking agricultural careers are sharing \$10,000 in college scholarships from the Friends of the Dixon May Fair.

The organization, the service-oriented and fundraising arm of the fair, annually awards scholarships to Solano County residents majoring in an agricultural-related field at either a four-year university or a two-year community college in California. Since 2003, the Friends of the Fair, headed by president Donnie Huffman of Vacaville, has bestowed \$210,750 in college scholarships.

Carrie Hamel, scholarship chair, announced that Kyle Esquer of Dixon, a student at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), is the 2020 winner of the top scholarship, the \$3000 Ester Armstrong Scholarship Award. Linzie Goodsell of Dixon, a student at California State University, Chico, won the \$2500 JoAn Giannoni Scholarship Award. At the community college level, Vacaville resident Jared Tanaka, scheduled to

attend Modesto Junior College this fall, won the \$1500 Jack Hopkins Scholarship.

Other recipients of Friends of the Fair scholarships this year are Maya Prunty of Vacaville, a student at the University of California, Davis, \$2000; and Haylee Hoffmann of Dixon, a student at Modesto Junior College, \$1000.



Kyle Esquer

Esquer, a 2017 graduate of Dixon High School and a third-year bio-resource and agriculture engineer major at Cal Poly, plans to seek a master's degree in either civil engineering or water engineering. His career goal: a water engineer with an emphasis on irrigation.

Esquer earned his FFA State degree at Dixon High School and exhibited sheep and mechanics projects at the Dixon May Fair. Agriculture, he wrote in his essay, "is in my blood. My great-grandparents began farming citrus in Southern California after World War II. They then moved to Dixon, where I was born and raised and started farming row crops. They paved the path to my family's ties with agriculture and I was exposed to farming at a very young age."

"When I was first exposed to agriculture, I was enthralled with tractors and dirt, but when I was much older, I began to appreciate the value of the crop and I now appreciate the importance of water," Esquer wrote. "Water is essential in the development of the soil and the crop; without water, there is no agriculture."

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# Women's Improvement Club

Continued from page 1

is sung at all DWIC meetings.

"It is really sad as we had so many great meetings planned," she said but looked forward to Fink's leadership. "You're part of more than 100 women who have served as Presidents of this club."

Thirty seven members in good standing voted via email or mail due to the shutdown.

Committee Chairs are: Community Grants,

Teri Brown; Financial Review, Martha Dukes; Garden, Arlene Jones; Historian, Heidi Martin; Hospitality, Ramona Todd; Past President/Publicity, Loran Hoffmann, Membership, Mary Kay Callaway; Parliamentarian, Sally Adams; Scholarship, Diane Schroeder; and Telephone/Sunshine, Pat Inderbitzen.

"I will rely heavily on their experience," Fink responded. "I'm stepping into very large shoes that were filled beautifully and ones that

raised the bar."

Dixon Women's Improvement Club began as a Shakespeare Club in 1899. The first Shakespeare Club was established in San Francisco during the gold rush and was the first women's club west of the Mississippi River. Originally created for literary study with Shakespeare as its first author, the women quickly became involved in civic improvement and philanthropic needs.

In 1903, the women reorganized as the Dixon Women's Improvement Club and met in the parlor of the Palace Hotel, which was on the corner of First and A Streets. Later, they met in the basement of the old library, then at the Community Church, and now the meetings will be the third Wednesday afternoon from September through May in the Fellowship Hall of Dixon United Methodist Church dependent on when the church reopens. ★

## FIREWORKS BUYERS GUIDE

### Get the Most Bang For Your Buck!

By David Dickstein

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Northern California's three major fireworks distributors - TNT, Phantom and Discount Fireworks Superstore - are going big this season in hopes to release the inner Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty from within a population feeling blue over a topsy-turvy world dealing with a pandemic and pandemonium.

Believing that the joy of fireworks will help shake the blues by adding red and white in honor of America's 244th birthday, these

companies are rolling out a record 24 new fireworks in the Golden State this season - nearly double the previous mark. The 2020 freshman class also includes one new limited-edition assortment, and never has there been more buy one get one free and mix and match deals to woo buyers.

That's a lot of shapes, sizes, colors and prices among the rookie lineup, and while variety usually bodes well for fundraising non-profits running the stands, perplexed consumers will ponder the obvious questions: What's new? What's loud? What's unique?

How long does it last? What gives me the most bang for my buck?

Help has arrived. Our annual and unbiased fireworks buyers guide has reviews of the new items and the very best of the returning rest. For the 19th year, new fireworks are graded on a 5-star scale, judged on performance, duration, distinctiveness and value.

Promotions are noted where applicable. Every Phantom firework this season is a buy one get one; the freebie can be the same item or any firework of like or lesser price. TNT is countering with its own mix and match deals

plus limited-edition items in commemoration of the company's centennial anniversary of selling fireworks. DFS, which TNT took over in California last year, save for a handful of locations up in the Redwood Coast, tends to have lower prices overall and a wider range of brands.

A star-spangled shoutout to the Sacramento Fire Department for cooperation with this season's test. Special thanks to Fire Marshal Jason Lee and Capt. Keith Wade.

Let the sparks fly!

### NEW FOR 2020



**CENTENNIAL FOUNTAIN XL (TNT), \$60** - Burn time is shorter than most 500-gram finales at this price point, but this special-edition fountain proves that duration is sometimes overrated. Wows with a mesmerizing mélange of effects and medley of transitions - droplets to fish to crackle to birthday cake to a shock-and-awe eruption. Here for this season only. 80 seconds. ★★★★★

**COLORAMA (DFS), \$52.99** - Pretty droplets of gold, orange, green and red, and a strong crackling finish aren't enough to compensate for slow tube-to-tube transitions and an uneven performance. 110 seconds. ★★★

**CAPTAIN NUCLEAR FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$49.99 FOR TWO** - Decent crackling sparks mixed with pearls, chrysanthemums, multi-colored glitter and flowers build to a less than satisfying climax. 80 seconds. ★★★

**LIVING THE DREAM (TNT), \$49.99** - Like ordering TNT's exquisitely named Wild Side (see Best of the Rest) and saying, "make it a double." 500 grams get you two awesome minutes of super-charged crackles, though at a dear price. 120 seconds. ★★★★★

**FIERY MEADOW FLOWER FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$49.99 FOR TWO** - Proving that hybrid fireworks often make for big crowd pleasers is this combo fountain-wheel featuring titanium crackles and spinning finale. On a smooth surface, the centrifugal force makes this unique rookie rotate. 68 seconds. ★★★★★

**FLOWER PATCH KIDS (TNT), \$40 FOR TWO** - The first few seconds are absolutely gorgeous with deep red droplets that produce the prettiest start of any California firework. The rest of the flowers in this patch aren't nearly as beautiful. 77 seconds. ★★★

**TAKE A HIT (TNT), \$40 FOR TWO** - Love the rarely seen lavender droplets and nice palms, but this batter got two bases on a bloop single and error. 75 seconds. ★★

**JUNGLE FLOWER (TNT), \$39.99** - The intense crackle and vivid colors are pleasing. Just wished it had a more exciting overall and longer performance for the price. 49 seconds. ★★★

**PINK ICE (TNT), \$30 FOR TWO** - Nice to see pink, but blink and you miss it. And what's with the 10-second delay between tubes? 26 seconds. ★

**REVOLUTION (TNT), \$30 FOR TWO** - You say you want a revolution? Not sure even Paul and Ringo would want this disappointingly short newcomer despite loud three whistles and crackling pink and blue sparks. 34 seconds. ★★

**WAR FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$29.99 FOR TWO** - Colors change with each stage of fiery crackles. Great duration and intensity. 82 seconds. ★★★★★

**FLOWER POT FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$29.99 FOR TWO** - Low-noise fountain enralls with multicolored droplets against a near-constant shower of silver glitter. Use of blob-producing nitrocellulose reduces burn time. Worth it. 52 seconds. ★★★★★



**TNT TORCH (TNT), \$24.99** - Judge this mundane-looking firework by its cover and you'll miss out on beautiful - no, *beguiling* - shimmering golden stars reminiscent of cones from the early '70s. This pyro's pyrotechnic earns "Best New Firework" honors. 72 seconds. ★★★★★

**COSMIC VELOCITY FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$21.99 FOR TWO** - Intense crackling fountain with pretty reds and greens, but needs BOGO promo to offset fleeting duration. 52 seconds. ★★★

**GALACTIC RADIANCE FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$21.99 FOR TWO** - Sub-minute burn time isn't cool, but rest of this colorful crackle-crazy fountain is. 46 seconds. ★★

**ELECTRIC MANIPULATION FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$21.99 FOR TWO** - What's dubbed as a "silky blue explosion" in the second half makes up for an unimpressive opening of standard crackles and colors. 53 seconds. ★★

**SAVAGE FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$21.99 FOR TWO** - While there's titanium crackle fountains more savage than this, newcomer satisfies with various spark types of red, white, gold, silver and green. 70 seconds. ★★★

**SPARKLE BERRY (TNT), \$19.99** - Cavalcade of color changes to crackling frenzy after a piercing whistle at the 40-second mark. 65 seconds. ★★

**FLARING STARS FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$15.99 FOR TWO** - Virtually noiseless beauty featuring swarming fish effect in red, gold and green. Shorter version of Phantom's late great Flying Stars. 54 seconds. ★★★★★

**OLD GLORY (DFS), \$15.38 FOR TWO** - Veteran TNT fountain debuts in California rebranded as a Freedom item. Colorful and crackly, but there's better out there. 49 seconds. ★★

**TOXIC BARREL (TNT), \$12.99** - Green toxic sludge blobs and loud crackles make this a freaky rookie sensation even with the fleeting duration. It's your "Best New Firework" runner-up. 45 seconds. ★★★★★

**CENTENNIAL FOUNTAIN (TNT), \$12** - Good height, crackle, color and burn time for the price. Bummer it's only here for TNT's 100th anniversary of fireworks sales. 77 seconds. ★★★★★

**KOOL KAT (TNT), \$9 FOR TWO** - Billed as a new firework, it's actually a rewrap of Cool Breeze that debuted last season and is being sold at closeout prices. 43 seconds. ★

**TORNADO GROUND SPINNER (PHANTOM), \$3.99 FOR TWO PACKAGES OF 6** - Spinning novelty sounds like fun, but if using the Enhanced Fujita Scale for tornadoes, this cyclone gets a rating of EF0. Buy a pack of ground bloom flowers instead. 3 seconds. ★

**ALSO NEW FOR 2020 ... CENTENNIAL ASSORTMENT (TNT), \$110.99** - The only new state-approved assortment this season features 15 respectable fountains named after oldies but goodies and clad in retro labels. Limited-time item commemorates the 100th year of fireworks sold by the Alabama-based company that would become TNT. Best in the box: Big Bomb, Freedom, Red Devil and Ace fountains. ★★★★★

For reviews of the "Best of the Rest," access this newspaper's online edition by first visiting [www.MPG8.com](http://www.MPG8.com).

For stand locations and additional product information, visit the retailers' websites: TNT, [tntfireworks.com](http://tntfireworks.com); Phantom, [phantomfireworks.com](http://phantomfireworks.com); and Discount Fireworks Superstore, [dfsfireworks.com](http://dfsfireworks.com). Check local laws and take all safety measures before buying and lighting. A list of "open" communities can be found at [ca-fireworks.presskit247.com](http://ca-fireworks.presskit247.com).

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# Students Win Ag Scholarships



**Linzie Goodsell**

Goodsell, a 2019 graduate of Dixon High School and an animal science major at California State University, Chico, plans to become an artificial inseminator for livestock.

"I discovered my passion to study animal science through my involvement in FFA for all four years in high school," she wrote in her essay. "Not only did I gain leadership skills, but I also had the opportunity of hands-on experience when I raised and showed three sheep at the local Dixon May Fair."

Goodsell is the first in her family to attend college.



**Jared Tanaka**

Vacaville resident Tanaka, a 2020 graduate of Dixon High School, will attend Modesto Junior College this fall and major in animal science. "All my life I have been surrounded by agriculture and involved in a multitude of activities, all of which have influenced me in my endeavors for a career," he wrote. He credited his involvement in a high school agriculture mechanics courses in high school with "opening my knowledge to welding, gas cutting, plumbing, electrical and metal fabrication."

He regularly exhibited livestock at the Dixon May Fair, Solano County Fair and the California State Fair and now maintains a herd of cattle. "I am always devising new ways to improve and develop my cattle herd," he wrote.



**Maya Prunty**

Prunty, a Vacaville resident who graduated from Visions in Education in 2019, is an animal science major at UC Davis. She plans a career as a canine rehabilitationist.

Active in 4-H, she served as president of the Pleasants Valley 4-H Club; Solano County

4-H Ambassador; and is currently a California State 4-H Ambassador. Prunty was a regular exhibitor at the Dixon May Fair, Solano County Fair and California State Fair.

"As a canine rehabilitation therapist, one provides a variety of healing modalities including physical and neurological therapy," Prunty wrote in her essay. "In this major, I will receive an animal science degree with a concentration in canine therapy to provide a variety of healing modalities to ensure their well-being. My goal after college is to open my own canine rehabilitation facility to provide innovative healing services for pups in my community."

Prunty credits the 4-H organization and the 4-H motto, "to make the best better," with shaping the person she is today.

"My mentors supported and encouraged me, giving me the chance to reciprocate this guidance," she wrote. "Whether I am judging a presentation, teaching in a project, leading a workshop, providing community service, or volunteering my time, interning for the UC Davis animal research department or learning new skills as an Aggie Ambassador, I feel I make a positive impact in my community."



**Haylee Hoffmann**

Hoffmann, a 2020 graduate of Dixon High School, is heading to Modesto Junior college this fall to major in agriculture business. Active in the Dixon FFA, she began a new FFA project called "Hoffmann Feed and Supply," selling feed in Turlock. "This project gave me the experience of what it is like to be an entrepreneur in the agriculture industry," she wrote. "It taught me how to manage finances, understand fluctuation of prices, have customer relations, and how to manage a business overall."

Hoffmann's career plans: "to start my own livestock feed business where I make my own feed and sell it to feed stores across the country."

The Friends of the Fair raises funds from the sale of beverages at the four-day fair and donates the proceeds for exhibitor awards, building and grounds improvements, and college scholarships. This year, however, the coronavirus pandemic mandates canceled the Dixon May Fair.

Applicants are scored on personal, civic and academic experience; academic standing; personal commitment and established goals; leadership potential; civic accomplishments; chosen field in the areas of agriculture, Hamel said. Most applicants have experience in 4-H, FFA or Grange, criteria desired not mandated. All applicants must be Solano County residents and must attend college in California, she emphasized.

The annual deadline to apply for the scholarships is 5 p.m., March 1. More information on the scholarship application rules is available on the Friends of the Fair site at <http://www.friendsofthefair.org>. Applications must be on Friends of the Fair forms and include a personal essay and letters of support. They are to be mailed to the Friends of the Fair, P.O. Box 242, Dixon, Calif. For more information, contact Hamel at (707) 678-3186 or [cahamel@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cahamel@ucdavis.edu).

The scholarship committee, chaired by Hamel, also includes Tootie Huffman, Kathy Keatley Garvey and Linda Molina of Vacaville, and Marty Scrivens of Dixon. Huffman serves as treasurer of the all-volunteer Friends of the Fair, and Scrivens as secretary. ★

Photos courtesy of the scholarship recipients.

# CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

## Mask or No Mask

"People watching" has taken on a whole new dimension with the introduction of masks to help protect individuals from transmitting and acquiring the COVID-19 virus. To wear or not to wear a mask is a controversial topic in itself and depends upon the city and county of residence, an individual's age, belief of vulnerability, general health, and has even become a political or religious statement by many individuals and groups.

We have watched television shows change their venue from studios with live audiences to commentators broadcasting from their own homes conducting forgettable interviews with members of their own family and whoever they could link up on Zoom. Sheltering in place was the mantra being recited by leaders across the world as they closed their borders to travelers from other countries. Then overnight thousands of individuals congregated in big cities of the world walking shoulder to shoulder through the streets. Some wore masks, most didn't. COVID-19 infections have soared worldwide. To visualize how quickly a pandemic spreads go the website of Global Deaths Due to Various Causes and COVID-19. Watch the timeline advance with COVID starting at the bottom in January 2020 and raising to the top, above even Malaria by May 20, 2020.

In Dixon we feel somewhat insulated from the issues of urban communities. Dixon has not reported a large number of COVID-19 cases, but they are here. I spoke with one of our local residents that acquired the Corona Virus in March through his work in San Francisco. Gary Erwin is a professional Stagehand at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco where he is involved in managing the setting up and operation of sound, video, rigging, lighting and broadcast equipment for more than thirty six conventions annually. In March, San Francisco hosted an international conference

focusing on Cybersecurity with more than thirty five thousand participants representing almost ALL the countries in the world, including China. Unfortunately, this conference provided the "Perfect Storm" for the COVID-19 pandemic.

The doors to the Moscone Center were closed to all events the middle of March. The building itself consists of more than two MILLION square feet of building area, including over 700,000 square feet of exhibit space, 106 meeting rooms, and 123,000 square feet of lobbies and pre-function areas. The space was converted to a headquarters of sorts for emergency agencies working with the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, many of San Francisco's homeless population were relocated to the Moscone Center at the start of the outbreak and continue their refuge at the site until an unannounced future date. The building's stagehands, equipment crew, maintenance workers were furloughed and advised not to return to work until further notice. The pandemic has shuttered entire industries. More than 3,000 members of the Stagehand Union from San Mateo, San Francisco, and Marin Counties have been sidelined until a solution is found.

On his last day of work while setting up the Emergency Action Center at the Moscone Center Gary noticed that he was not feeling well including not being able to operate his muscles to get back onto his feet after working on the floor. That night he had cold sweats while trying to sleep and had an elevated temperature.

At the time, the best advice was to stay home and self-isolate, no tests were available. Lucky to have a nurse friend, she diagnosed him. Having all of the classic symptoms of 99-100 degree temperature, no energy, tightness of chest, decreased airflow, rash on lower back and legs and leg and foot swelling. After four weeks of fighting the virus Gary emerged the winner. Two weeks

of recovery followed by another two weeks of isolation and mask wearing when he went out.

The latest research indicates that the antibodies are only present in survivors for thirty days post recovery. No one knows if survivors can contract the virus again or if they will be susceptible to a mutated version of the virus that is expected to emerge in the fall. Gary's case of the Corona virus was never counted, he was never seen by a medical professional, nor received any special care related to the virus. He survived. How many other undocumented cases of the virus exist?

Bringing us back to the topic of MASK or NO MASK. I asked Gary as a survivor of COVID-19 if he wears a mask when he goes out. Gary's reply, "Absolutely, I wear a mask! The thought of people making a political or religious statement by not wearing a mask is foolish. Observe that the Virologists and Immunologists are all wearing masks. It is silly to think that we are smarter than they, more foolish, yes."

Gary went on to say that "The world is watching us fail this test. I believe they are all holding their breath in hopes that we will come through the three waves of Covid and be able to regain our former position in world leadership, it's not going to happen, unless we wear the masks."

Thank you Gary for sharing your personal experience with COVID-19 and offering your thoughts on the importance of taking the necessary steps to protect ourselves from acquiring or transmitting a life threatening virus.

**UCCE Gardening Workshop**  
Thursday June 18  
at 3:00 pm

Master Gardener, Yolo County, Mike Kluk is hosting a gardening workshop featuring "Vegetable Gardening Myths—Entertaining BUT not good science."

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# Riley Reviews

ABC TV IN THE FALL;  
"LAST DAYS" HEIST FIZZLES ON NETFLIX

A Film and TV  
Review by Tim Riley

## THE ABC TV FALL SEASON

The one caveat to apply to any preview information about the fall season on any major network is simply that everything is subject to change or delay even though production of television shows is resuming with new guidelines and protocols being followed.

Notwithstanding possibilities to move forward shooting new episodes, networks are not able to identify firm dates for premieres, but let's hope that returning series and new shows get back on track before we run out of streaming options.

The ABC network is initially launching three new series, including a drama from productive writer and producer David E. Kelley (most recently, HBO's "Big Little Lies"), a new sitcom and the revival of a game show.

Visionary storyteller Kelley comes up with "Big Sky," a thriller in which private detectives decide to partner with a former police officer to pursue a serial kidnapper.

The detectives Cassie Dewell (Kylie Bunbury) and Cody Hoyt (Ryan Phillippe) join forces with Cody's estranged wife and ex-cop Jenny Hoyt (Katheryn Winnick) to search for two sisters who have been kidnapped by a truck driver on a remote highway in Montana.

When they discover that these are not the only girls who have disappeared in the area, a race against the clock ensues to stop the killer before another woman is taken. Until then, the highways of Montana are not safe.

Reaching back to more than five decades ago, ABC is reviving the classic "Supermarket Sweep" game show that first aired on the network in 1965, only to be rebooted years later on Lifetime and PAX TV.

The fast-paced series follows three teams of two as they battle it out using their grocery shopping skills and knowledge of merchandise to win big prizes. Always looking for bargains, this writer would probably not do well in this type of contest.

Arriving during the midseason, "Call Your Mother" is a comedy that follows an empty-nester mother (Kyra Sedgwick) who wonders how she ended up alone while her children live their best lives thousands of miles away.

Mom decides her place is with family and as she reinserts herself into their lives, her children realize they might actually need her more than they thought. Guess the kids will be calling their mother in this aptly-titled series.

## "THE LAST DAYS OF AMERICAN CRIME" ON NETFLIX

According to Rotten Tomatoes, the critic reviews of "The Last Days of American

Crime," a Netflix original TV movie, are so negative that it rates a 0% score and fares little better with a 25% rating with audience reviews.

Something this potentially awful almost begs for a look, if only to discover whether a contrarian position should be considered or merited to spark a conversation about the banality of an exercise in futuristic crimefighting.

The basic premise of "The Last Days of American Crime," as implied in the titular conceit, is that criminal behavior would be eliminated by an Orwellian exercise of mind control in a system called the American Peace Initiative, or API for those who love acronyms.

The government is on the verge of launching the API system that will impede one's desire to commit a crime. Countdown clocks to liftoff are everywhere, as if everyone is anxiously awaiting the strike of midnight for a Happy New Year.

That the end is near for criminal enterprise has turned the urban core into a hellish landscape of street violence, looting, dumpsters on fire, and topless women dancing on top of cars.

Graham Bricke (Edgar Ramirez) is seeking revenge for the death of his brother in prison. At a bar, he gets seduced by femme fatale Shelby (Anna Brewster) for a quickie in a restroom.

Shelby is engaged to Kevin Cash (Michael Pitt), the son of the local crime lord (Patrick Bergen). An unhinged sociopath, Cash wants to enlist Bricke's help for one last big heist before the API launch.

The target is \$1 billion stored in a vault near the Canadian border. The heist game plan is explained in the simplest of terms as, "Take the money. Drive to Canada. Die rich." What brilliant mind could outline such a bold scheme?

Before the actual heist occurs, there are many action scenes so inane as to dull the brain to a state of abject indifference or disbelief. One criminal gets tortured while bound to a chair in a trailer that is set on fire, and he still manages to escape.

A well-planned heist can be fascinating to watch, but when that time rolls around it turns out to be about as thrilling as waiting in line for a dinner reservation.

"The Last Days of American Crime" could have developed a compelling heist amidst chaotic dehumanizing turmoil but instead the result is mostly bereft of a coherent story, rational dialogue and consequential character development.

Wasting two-and-a-half hours watching this dystopian nightmare of violence and mayhem so lamely delivered it may cause one to contemplate a chip implant that wards off making bad decisions on entertainment choices.

# An Ocean of Reading Adventure

Twinkle Twinkle Mermaid Blue, Twinkle Twinkle Little Shark  
by Jeffery Burton illustrated by Zoe Waring; Little Simon

For the littlest of ocean explorers come two new darling books in the Twinkle, Twinkle series. Written to the tune of the familiar lullaby parents will love the sturdy board book design, rhyming lyrics and adorable illustrations perfect for a quick story time.

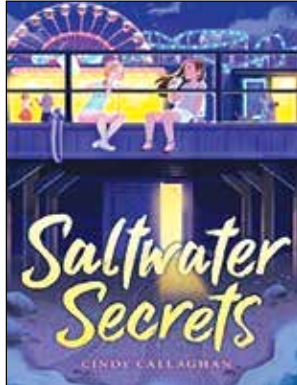
The Sea Knows  
by Alice B McGinty & Alan B. Havis illustrated by Stephanie Laberis; Simon and Schuster Book for Young Readers

In a world of uncertainty, the sea is filled with infinite secrets and wisdom. From the powering force of the crashing waves and storms that seem like they never cease, the sea also knows the calming sounds of the gentle waves and the beauty from a glorious rainbow. From bright, bold, silver, and blue, readers are taken on a visual adventure through the deep ocean waters, exploring a multitude of sea creatures from the largest whales to the smallest krill.

Stunning illustrations grace the pages of this lyrical read that will take readers from the strange to the wonderful while exploring an ocean of information that makes learning a beautiful and enjoyable experience.

Here Comes Ocean  
by Meg Fleming illustrated by Paola Zakimi; Beachlane Books

The sun is up, the sand is warm, and the ocean is crashing on little toes. From all the joys of discovering seashells and sand dollars gently tucked in the sand, Pipers leaving prints along the shore, and a little crab

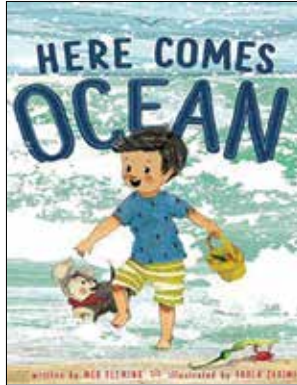


scurrying about, a day at the beach is filled with beautiful sites. But watch out, "here comes the ocean," tickling at your toes. Rocky tide pools filled with starfish and waves crashing all around, then it's time to say goodnight to the setting sun on the water's edge. With endearing illustrations, readers will follow a family's day at the beach, and all the wonderful things there are to discover.

Saltwater Secrets by Cindy Callaghan; Simon and Schuster

Half-sisters Stella and Josie live an ocean apart throughout the year. Josie lives in Australia, and Stella lives in New Jersey, but every year they come together for one amazing summer vacation. However, this summer is different. Josie isn't the same person as she was last summer, and their secret cove has been discovered by a shop owner intent on exploiting the natural habitat. Now, as they navigate the changes of growing up, Josie and Stella must band together to save their secret cove and the marine life that depends on it, as well as the people that visit the beach.

In this story of sisterhood, marine life, secret hideaways, and banding together, Saltwater Secrets gives middle-grade readers a refreshing fun summer read.



Deep Blue (Waterfire Saga) by Jennifer Donnelly; Scholastic

In a creative, new spin on mermaids, Deep Blue takes readers on a journey where mermaids are born with a language all their own along with unique magical abilities. Opening the imagination for a colorful and unique under the sea adventure, where mermaids sleep in scallop shells adorned with sea glass and anemones. Fast-paced and full of adventure, the Waterfire Saga, fulfills its promise of beautiful mermaids and high sea adventure. A story that is still beautiful and perfectly appropriate for younger teens, yet also entertaining and fast paced for the rest. From a gorgeous cover, that draws you in, to a captivating storyline that keeps you reading, Jennifer Donnelly knows how to bring the ocean to life.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Council Majority — Another Poor Decision

By David Dingman

Anyone who tuned to the online Dixon City Council meeting on June 16, 2020 quickly learned that the council majority, specifically Councilmembers Pederson, Bird, and Ernest have no desire to hear what you have to say and have already made up their minds on issues. I wanted to speak in regard to the city's 2020 – 2021 budget which uses up \$1.4M of the city's reserve, but why waste my breath? After this fiscal year and in the next few years, the finance director projects that the city will spend \$3M of the city's reserves so that once-healthy city reserves will be depleted. This means there will be no reserves, so in order to run the city, there will have to be a tax increase or cuts to personnel or their wages.

Instead of being prudent in light of the current economic situation and balancing the budget without using the city's reserves, Pederson and Bird led the majority council in approving the 2020-2021 budget with minor changes. This despite the finance director offering alternatives to balance the budget without using reserves. Councilman Minnema even proposed reducing the city attorney's \$680,000 budget by 20 percent for some savings, but this idea was vigorously opposed by Bird and Pederson. Why are Bird and Pederson so loyal to the city attorney, who after all is a contracted employee and not a regular full-time city employee? Shouldn't their loyalty be with the citizens of Dixon who elected them and with our regular city employees?

Bird's justification was that "in his experience as a councilmember, projections beyond a couple of years are often inaccurate." So, let's not consider the impact of what we do today on the future? Is it not prudent to hedge against the potential loss of city tax revenue after this pandemic and huge losses of jobs? There is an adage, "Failing to plan is planning to fail." Failure is an unsatisfactory option in regard to the city's finances. Bird's justification shows his lack of fiscal commonsense and his continuation of making poor decisions in regard to the utilization of your tax dollars.

On the other hand, Pederson continually touts his 20 years of financial experience

– which is getting old. As one who has a higher level of education and more experience, I am disappointed in Pederson's financial decisions. But again, this is not about experience or education level, it is about one's fiscal commonsense. Pederson, like Bird, has continually displayed a lack of fiscal commonsense. There are many individuals in this community that do not have a finance degree or do not work in finance, but they have fiscal commonsense. These are the farmers, business people, families who manage their family budgets. They know that you can't just look at the current year, that you need to look out a year or two and try to save your savings for the difficult years that will occur in the future.

Unfortunately, Pederson's rationale for not approving a balanced budget without using the city's reserve was just as bad as Bird's. "Retail sales increased by 16% in May 2020," Pederson said. One piece of positive economic news and a balanced budget is unnecessary? Pederson (1) did not consider that retail sales probably increased due to the \$1,200 stimulus check that folks received in April 2020 and that additional checks may not be forthcoming; (2) did not realize that many of these sales were probably made on-line and that the city of Dixon will probably receive little of the tax revenue, and (3) did not consider that the unemployment rate in Dixon is 15% and while it will hopefully decrease, this would be a slow decrease, after all employers are cutting jobs.

The citizens of Dixon can't stop Bird and Pederson nor Ernest from making poor decisions on their behalf, but they can remove them from office so that they can't make any more.

The citizens of Dixon deserve elected officials who will not just listen to them, but truly hear their issues and take their views into consideration when making decisions impacting the city.

A former Air Force commander once told a young Sgt Dingman "Complaining does nothing, bring me solutions." Maybe I should be a part of the solution and run for Dixon City Council District 3.

David Dingman  
Former 9-year City Treasurer – Dixon

## Two Dixon Churches, Cattlemens Report COVID-19 Cases

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - If there was ever a case to see if the Corona Virus cross-contamination fears are validated, it will be proved in Dixon in the next week or two.

Two Dixon churches have now had positive COVID-19 exposure only three Sundays after they were allowed to open their sanctuaries. Many news outlets had predicted a surge in cases once the various phases of release were happening although Dixon seemed isolated with less than 10 cases throughout the two and a half months of shutdown. Last week there was a jump in confirmed cases to 14 and as of this past Monday, it is at 19.

Father Hector Montoya, a priest at St. Peter's Church in Dixon tested positive for COVID-19, the infectious respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus, after he celebrated Mass at the church from June 8 through June 15, according to the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento. The press release came last Thursday just one day earlier than Living Hope Church announcing it had an attendee in its 9 am service that had also tested positive.

The diocese said it has been informed that key elements of health guidelines created for public celebrations of Mass were not being practiced at the church. The priest and deacons did not wear masks while providing Holy Communion to parishioners, even though it is required, according to the news release.

"We continue to investigate this matter in hopes of understanding the extent of the exposure risk," diocese officials said in the news release. "We are deeply concerned by this news and extremely disappointed that some of the required precautions appear not to have been followed."

There will be no public Masses at St. Peter's Parish until further notice, they announced. The church

will be thoroughly sanitized, officials said. The City of Dixon began coordinating with the Solano County Public Health Department to engage contact tracing and explore expanded testing resources to the residents of the City.

"We didn't expect this to happen at all," said Bob Ikelman a Deacon at the church, "I was there so I'm in quarantine. I have to sit at home for two weeks, but it's already been a week so it's not so bad, but it is scary." He and his wife are older citizens with some pre-existing age-related health conditions but so far, he has had no signs or symptoms.

"I called to get tested and one of the people said its only for people who have symptoms," he said. "I've been trying to get a test." There is a phone number circulating by Solano County Health Department that gives people the option to register for a free test without using the internet, but this reporter went into every option prompt by prompt and still ultimately wound up at a recording that says one has to register using a computer.

"No, I didn't get help at all [using that number.] Every time they turned me around and it made no sense," Ikelman said. "I've been doing fine but that doesn't mean you aren't infectious, so I'd like to know."

According to the St. Peter Facebook site, Father Hector is now home and recovering.

Meanwhile the person in the Living Hope Congregation who tested positive has followed tracing protocol and personally contacted anyone they have been in contact with recently, as well as anyone who has been in contact with their immediate family.

"We believe there is an extremely low risk of transmission to anyone who has not already been contacted," said Jessi Besseghini, the church's office manager who learned from a Solano County

health official Sunday that the attendee was likely not contagious when taking part in service that day because that person did not have symptoms.

No in-person services will be held until further notice, but the church did post that social distancing measures have been in place at the church since reopening per state and county guidelines.

One more case was reported just before press time by Cattlemens Restaurant via their website.

"To our valued guests, Cattlemens Steakhouse in Dixon, CA was closed June 20 and 21, 2020. We have reason to believe that one of our employees has tested positive for Coronavirus. There was limited exposure from this employee to other staff and guests. Out of an abundance of caution and concern for the safety and health of our staff and guests, we have opted to close the Dixon location this weekend as we investigate the exposure and decide the next step. The safety and health of our staff and guests is our top priority. We wanted to keep you informed and encourage you to reach out with questions or concerns. We apologize for the inconvenience and will keep this information updated."

With as many as 500 Dixonites exposed between the three incidents, the cross-contamination can potentially cause the first major outbreak in our community. People who might have been exposed are being asked to self-isolate for two weeks. Remember, most people (98 percent) recover and COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. Infected people have had a wide range of symptoms reported – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Time will tell.

Visit [https://www.solano-county.com/depts/ph/coronavirus\\_links/faq\\_community\\_testing\\_sites.asp](https://www.solano-county.com/depts/ph/coronavirus_links/faq_community_testing_sites.asp) for more information on how you can be tested for Covid-19. ★

## UC Davis Athletics – Spring Seniors: One Last Look Back

By Emily Byrne,  
UC Davis Women's Water Polo '20

**DAVIS, CA (MPG)** - After having our seasons cut short, I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight our graduating spring sport student-athletes. This class will be remembered for their resilience and commitment to improving the UC Davis Athletics community. I asked seniors from spring sports to send in their favorite sports memories from UC Davis, compiled below are the responses I received. Thank you to all the seniors that sent in their wonderful memories, your contributions to UC Davis will always be remembered and cherished. Congratulations to all the graduating seniors and good luck in your future endeavors. Once an Aggie, always an Aggie!

## Track and Field:

Alec Moysov - "I wanted to share my best memory as an athlete at UC Davis — walking on the team and being able to make the travel team and compete at USC early on in the season."

Kierra Davis - "My favorite memory on the track and field team here at UC Davis was my freshman year altogether. That was my first year and it was such an amazing experience. My favorite moment though, was when we won the 4x100m relay at conference that year. It was such an amazing and historical moment and I wouldn't trade that for anything. I was also a part of the team that won the 4x1 last year at conference again but that first time winning it was pure joy and was amazing to be a part of. We worked so hard and put so much time, dedication, and teamwork into getting the job done, and we did that and more and I couldn't be more proud my teammates, myself, and Coach Rahn Sheffield because it was honestly a collective effort from all of us to really get it done!"

Julia Lemak - "One of my favorite UC Davis memories has been going to the

women's march in Sacramento with my teammates. To be able to stand in solidarity with my teammates reminded me how proud I am to be a woman in sport, and made me thankful for all the support I get from my amazing teammates. We had such an amazing day and all got lunch afterwards."

Mandy Wainfan - "One of my favorite memories was our team placing eighth at cross country regionals this year in freezing, drizzly Washington weather. We showed all the other schools that we're here to be reckoned with and we truly came together as a TEAM. After the race, which was the last XC race for three of us, everyone was just so happy and all bundled up in our ten million layers, singing and high energy in the van back to the Washington airport. Being able to have that experience for my last XC race ever will always be close to my heart!"

Haley Adel - "My favorite memory is from freshman year during cross country. Half of our team were seniors and half were freshmen. For one of our first races, we drove a van all the way to Oregon from Davis. We did not know each other well, but after a couple hours of singing in the van, we bonded very quickly. When we finally got to the parking garage of our hotel, we all got out and started dancing together. I was so happy that entire ride, even though I was squished in a van for eight hours."

Tatjana Kunz - "There are so many good memories from the last four years, but one that stands out was hugging my teammates in the freezing rain at the finish line at XC regionals this year. It was the closest thing we could have had to a perfect day as a team. I was overcome with gratitude for everything and everyone who brought me to that moment – our coaches, our ATs, staff, and my teammates – those there with me, those cheering us on from Davis, and all of the teammates I'd had over the last four years." ★

## Sen. Dodd's Insurance Claims Streamlining Bill Wins Senate Approval



Bill Dodd

By Paul Payne, Office  
of Senator Bill Dodd

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Legislation from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that would streamline residential insurance claims for victims of disasters such as wildfires was approved by the Senate with overwhelming support.

"With all the challenges facing Californians right now including the coronavirus pandemic, those who suffer damage or loss of a home due to wildfire should not be hit with unnecessary insurance company delays," Sen. Dodd said. "This bill brings peace of mind, ensuring people aren't

buried under mountains of insurance company paperwork to get coverage for living expenses and temporary housing. That is especially important with the continuing wildfire threat. I thank my Senate colleagues for supporting this bill."

Senate Bill 872, sponsored by Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, expands the definition of additional living expenses that must be paid to homeowners for losses incurred in a state of emergency. Upon submission of a claim, it requires an advance payment of no less than four months for costs such as housing, furniture rental and transportation. Also, it mandates an advance payment of no less than 25 percent of a policy limit for lost contents without submission of an inventory form.

"Wildfires are not going to wait for the COVID-19 crisis to end, and we must guarantee future wildfire survivors have the time

and resources they need to recover," said Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara. "I thank Sen. Dodd for authoring this legislation and thank the Senate for understanding the need of this legislation to ensure access to insurance benefits without red tape."

The bill, coauthored by Sen. Mike McGuire, D-Healdsburg, makes insurers give homeowners a 60-day grace period for payment of residential premiums after an emergency. Also, insurance companies will be barred from deducting the land value from payouts for those who build on new lots.

SB 872 passed the Senate on a 29-3 vote. *Senator Bill Dodd represents California's 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Solano, Napa, Sonoma, Yolo, Sacramento, and Contra Costa counties. You can learn more about Senator Dodd at [www.sen.ca.gov/dodd](http://www.sen.ca.gov/dodd).* ★



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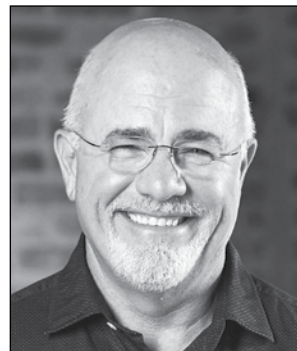
## St. Peter's Catholic Church News

Bishop Soto lifted the suspension of public celebrations of the Mass on June 8th and is now available under specific health guidelines. While the COVID-19 pandemic has not yet ended, specific precautions and protocols are in place to attend Mass and other sacraments. Most important are the recommendations to maintain social distancing at all times. It is strongly encouraged and recommended that everyone wears a mask while in Church. Those who are 65 years of age or older, or who have vulnerable health conditions should remain at home. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect. Please stay home if you feel sick or have any flu-like symptoms. Please consult the diocesan or Saint Peter's website for more information on safety protocols on how to remain safe and protect one another from the coronavirus. While the Church itself will be limited to how many people can safely attend, overflow space will be made available in the Parish Hall as the Mass will be live-streamed there simultaneously. If you are not able to attend, you may still participate in the Mass via live-stream on Facebook during the 9:00 am Mass for English and 1:00 pm for Spanish. You may participate in a spiritual communion during those times. Contact the Parish website or contact the Parish office for more information. Saint John Paul II proclaimed that "The seeds of disunity, which daily experience shows to be so deeply rooted in humanity as a result of sin, are countered by the unifying power of the body

of Christ. The Eucharist, precisely by building up the Church, creates human community" (Ecclesia et Eucaristia 23). Spiritual communion produces the same effect according to one's desire.

Although many of us remain separated from each other as we participate in the sacred Liturgy at home through live-stream or other means, we must keep in mind that we are called to worship our Lord as "one Body." We are the bride, and Christ is the Bridegroom. We are called by God to be His people. The Church desires that all the faithful be led to a fully conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is the very nature of the Liturgy so that the faithful participate as a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a redeemed people" by their right and duty through baptism (1 Peter 2:9, Sacrosanctum Concilium para 14). While we are fallen as individuals, we are saved as a community. We worship together on Earth as we will one day worship together in Heaven. The Liturgy makes Christ manifest to us through the Gospel and the sacraments. We bring our lives to Christ in the Liturgy, amidst all our flaws and brokenness, and enter into His Divinity, so that we might conform our lives to that of Christ.

Please continue to pray for an end to COVID-19, all those affected, all government, and Church leaders. Please consider continuing weekly or monthly donations made to St. Peter's, 105 S. 2nd St., Dixon CA 95620. May God Bless you all. ★



## Dave Ramsey Says

a 529 or an ESA (Education Savings Account).

The thing is, there are just too many variables, the main one being the ages of the kids, to set a strict percentage. You've also got to consider things like where you're thinking about them going to school, how much you want to save, and other factors.

— Dave

### Don't put your Home on the Line!

Dear Dave,

We'd like to start preparing for the future, but our debt is preventing us from investing for retirement. Would it be okay to use a home equity line of credit to start investing? We were thinking the eventual returns might justify doing this.

— Nick

Dear Nick,

No! Never put something as important and meaningful as your home on the line just for the sake of investing. Do not borrow against your home!

I'm guessing you're new to my way of doing things, so let's start from the beginning. First, follow the Baby Steps. Getting \$1,000 in the bank as a starter emergency fund is Baby Step 1.

Next, pay off all your debts from smallest to largest — except for your home — using the debt snowball method. That's Baby Step 2. It's time then to revisit your emergency fund, and bulk it up to a full three to six months of expenses in Baby Step 3.

Now, it's time to really start thinking about your future and retirement. In Baby Step 4, take 15 percent of your gross household income and start investing it for retirement. Start with your company's 401(k) plan, up to the full employer match. Then, invest the rest into Roth IRAs. One for you, and one for your spouse, if you're married.

Here's the thing, Nick. Investing becomes easy at this point, because you've freed up your income. And that's the most important wealth-building tool you have!

— 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. ★*



### Social Distancing Hypocrisy

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot had big news last week — the city is opening up its iconic Lakefront Trail after months of being closed off as part of a COVID-19 lockdown.

That Lightfoot kept the trail closed even after Chicago had experienced large-scale Black Lives Matter marches — thousands during the "Drag March for Change" — is one small instance of the flagrant social distancing hypocrisy across the country in recent weeks.

If it's OK for throngs of people to pack the streets, and shout and chant to protest the death of George Floyd, it ought to be permissible for someone to ride a bike along the lakeside while keeping to him- or herself.

Yet, Mayor Lightfoot welcomed the protestors — "We want people to come and express their passion," she said — and still kept the trail shuttered.

Many of the same officials who were most zealous in locking down their states and cities

instantly made an exception for Black Lives Matter protests. Their rigidity became laxity in a blink of an eye. Their metric for reopening wasn't the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines or any other public health measure, but the "wokeness" of the activity in question.

Visiting the deathbed of a loved one with COVID-19? Absolutely not. Having a proper funeral? No way. Gathering more than about 10 people at a graveside? No one should be allowed to put the public at risk in such a way.

Bringing thousands of strangers to march together for hours in spontaneous, disorderly groups? Thank you for your commitment to positive change.

Attending a church service? Well, maybe in a couple of months.

Holding a struggle session with religious trappings where people confess their racism and vow to work to defund the police? Please, let's have more.

To believe the leaders of Blue America, SARS-CoV-2 is the first virus in human history to have a social conscience — virulent enough in the ordinary course of events to justify the most restrictive social controls; not such a big deal if it might get in the way of marches for social justice.

The likes of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio have justified the different standards by arguing that fighting racism is important. Well, so is mourning your dead, keeping your business from being ground to dust and worshipping your God. It's a sign of a ludicrously blinkered worldview to believe that a protest march deserves more consideration than these other elemental human needs.

Another argument is that the protesters are willing to put their health on the line for their cause. But, until recently, it was said that anyone going outside wasn't just endangering themselves, but the most vulnerable people in our communities. Why wouldn't that be true of the Black Lives Matter marches, too?

Don't expect consistency, or even a serious attempt at it. More than 1,000 public health experts signed a letter calling the protests "vital to the national public health," thus immolating their credibility on a pyre of motivated reasoning. It's social distancing for people and activities they find uncongenial, and different rules for their ideological allies.

What a contemptible betrayal of the public trust.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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### Saving for College

Dear Dave,

What percentage of our income should we save for our kids' education? We know you recommend setting aside 15 percent for retirement, but do you have a similar rule that applies to paying for college?

— Andrew

Dear Andrew,

I don't really have a rule, or percentage, for how much you should save toward a college fund. If you're following the Baby Steps, I recommend getting 15 percent of your income going toward retirement before saving for college. After you've got your retirement savings rolling, put what you can, based on your own unique situation, toward college funding.

If you've got teenagers in the house, you need to get serious about college funding soon—like right now. There's no rush if they're toddlers, but you might want to start looking at things like

## Ask Toni

### Telehealth or House Call Doctor Visits Due to COVID-19 Stress!



Toni King

Toni:

My 86-year-old mother with Alzheimer's needs 24-hour care and lives in a personal care home. She is enrolled in a Medicare Advantage HMO and taking her to the doctor is quite an ordeal.

Friends have suggested that I disenroll my mother from this HMO and return her to Medicare, then use "Telehealth" which is popular since COVID-19 has made medical changes or I can ask about using a "House Call doctor" for her.

Financially, it is costing over \$4,000 for her personal care home and she does not qualify for a Medicare Supplement due to her Alzheimer's because I have tried. How do I find a doctor that does use telehealth or makes house calls like Dr. Welby did in the old days?

Is this something that Medicare or Medicare Advantage plan will pay for it?

~ Thanks, Trish from Kingwood

Trish:

I have good news for you because the Dr. Welby days are back for those on "Original

Medicare" or Medicare Advantage plans. Doctors are making "old fashion" house calls and in today's

coronavirus times with social distancing telehealth also known as telemedicine has become popular. These current doctor at home office visits are keeping the sick from having emergency room hospital visits when one cannot get to the doctor's office.

My advice to you Trish and the Toni Says® readers is to ask your family member's primary care doctor or specific healthcare provider about which telehealth, house call or visiting physician organization that their office is contracted with, whether your family member has "Original Medicare with or without a Medicare Supplement, a retiree group medical plan or a Medicare Advantage plan.

Not only are doctors making telehealth or house call visits, but dentists, eye doctors and even mobile x-ray/ultra-sound machines with technicians are visiting homes, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, etc.

A telehealth or house call visit can help keep those who are having a minor ailment turn into a major operation, keeping a frail Senior healthy and out of the hospital.

Doctor or medical provider visits by telehealth or house call services whether at home or at a long-term care facility such as assisted living or nursing home are being accepted and paid for by Original Medicare, Original Medicare with a Medicare supplement and Medicare Advantage plans (depending on your house call provider or telemedicine service being in the Medicare Advantage

plan's network).

House call doctors are generally board certified and the providers consist of doctors, physician assistants and nurse practitioners. The patient does not have to be home bound to qualify. The house call doctor can schedule regular appointments, especially if there is a chronic illness or you can schedule appointments as needed.

Trish, you are wise to look at all your mother's options regarding disenrolling from her Medicare Advantage plan with her serious health situations. Many do not realize that you must qualify medically to apply for a Medicare Supplement which helps pay for what Medicare will not pay for. If she does not qualify, then she will pay the Medicare out of pocket amounts.

Therefore, it is vitally important to look over all of one's Medicare plan options because no one knows when their health will begin to deteriorate and then they cannot change Medicare plan options. Call Toni Says® Medicare office for personal Medicare planning at 832/519-8664.

In 2020, who would believe that doctor's offices making telehealth or house call visits would be making such a huge difference due to the stress of one being isolated due to exposure to the coronavirus?

*Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced edition is giving a \$5 discount to the Toni Says® readers on the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book at www.tonisays.com. ★*

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# Road Trips May Look A Little Different This Summer

By David Harvey, California Highway Patrol

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - As we head into the summer months, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) wants to remind motorists to ensure their vehicles are properly maintained and in good repair. Due to the current health crisis, vehicles may have been idle for longer periods than normal and have not received the same daily attention to maintenance details.

"We understand the public is

eager to get out and travel, but health and safety should remain a priority for everyone on California's roadways," CHP Commissioner Warren Stanley said. "Remember, fewer cars and less congested roadways are not an invitation to speed or engage in dangerous behavior behind the wheel."

As statewide restrictions lessen and travel increases, this summer is likely to see a surge of traffic.

The CHP recommends:  
Drive sober! Never drive after

consuming alcohol or while under the influence of legal or illegal drugs; Avoid distractions when operating a motor vehicle; Make sure vehicle maintenance is up to date. Hot summer temperatures can put stress on engines. Tires, belts and hoses, fluid levels, interior and exterior lights, and wiper blades must all be in good condition; Program any mapping systems, whether in your phone or in your car, in advance. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has a

mobile app for traffic information, or visit <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov> for highway conditions. Prepare for device malfunctions or loss of connection by knowing your route before you leave; Buckle up! Be sure everyone in your vehicle is wearing a seat belt. Check that young passengers are using the correct child safety seat for their height and weight; Never leave pets, children, or the elderly alone in a car for any length of time. California laws address how to handle situations

in which children or animals are left in vehicles. However, the best approach if you see an unattended child or animal is to call 911; Expect road construction and plan for delays. Remember to "be work zone alert" and move over or slow down when passing any stationary vehicle displaying emergency or warning lights, including emergency vehicles, Caltrans vehicles, and tow trucks.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★

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# Yolo Basin Foundation Receives \$5,000 Grant from Bayer Fund



A view of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, the wetlands that students will learn about during Yolo Basin Foundation's *Discover the Flyway* education program. Photo by Chelsea Martinez

By Pam Emery, Yolo Basin Foundation

## YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Yolo Basin Foundation announces that it received a \$5,000 grant from Bayer Fund, which will be used for its *Discover the Flyway* outdoor education program. Aligned with science, language arts and social science education standards, *Discover the Flyway* provides experiential lessons and exploration of the wetlands and wildlife of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area to approximately 4,000 K-12 local students annually. By actively engaging diverse groups of youth with the natural world, the Foundation strives to cultivate future caretakers of the environment. Fostering young environmental stewards, the Foundation aims to protect the wetlands in California's Central Valley.

"This grant will not only provide support to our organization, but also our community by allowing us

to engage children in meaningful experiences that facilitate the appreciation of the wetlands, agriculture, and wildlife of the Central Valley. This supports a lifetime of healthy outdoor activities and instills a sense of stewardship for our natural resources," stated Chelsea Martinez, executive director of Yolo Basin Foundation. "We thank Bayer Fund for their support."

"Throughout the years, the grants given through Bayer Fund have helped strengthen our communities across the United States," said Al Mitchell, President of Bayer Fund. "We're proud to be able to provide support to develop programs that combat challenges such as food insecurity, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education and support services to patients and families managing an illness or disease."

Yolo Basin Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding public

appreciation and stewardship of wetlands and wildlife in the Yolo Basin through education and innovative partnerships. To learn more about Yolo Basin Foundation and its many programs and events, visit [www.yolobasin.org](http://www.yolobasin.org).

Bayer Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where Bayer customers and employees live and work by providing funding for food and nutrition, education and community development projects. In 2019, Bayer Fund awarded more than \$14 million to over 3,200 charitable and nonprofit organizations to help address essential needs in food and nutrition, STEM education and community development. Over the last five years, nonprofit organizations across the U.S. have received more than \$79 million. To learn more about Bayer Fund visit [www.fund.bayer.us](http://www.fund.bayer.us). ★

# What the Coronavirus Did to the National Debt, Your Bill Exceeds \$37,726



Commentary by Harold Pease Ph.D.

In March Congress added \$2.3 trillion to the national debt with the stimulus package. Most were jubilant to receive a stimulus check. But what does this mean? Just to pay this back today would cost each taxpayer \$18,863 (compare U.S. Debt Clocks Nov. 2019 with April 2020).

In May the Treasury Department announced that it will borrow another \$3 trillion this quarter making our total coronavirus indebtedness \$5.3 trillion and thus what we owed for the smaller loan more than doubles (Matt Egan, The US is becoming the king of debt. It's a necessary risk, CNN Business). To pay both loans in August would be more than \$37,726 per U.S. taxpayer.

Those who pay no federal taxes, which is about 50% of American adults, are not assessed. "The latest spending packages are estimated to be worth about 14% of the country's economy...the national debt soared above 100% of GDP" ("Coronavirus: US to borrow record \$3tn as spending soars," BBC News, May 4, 2020).

So what is a trillion dollars? To begin with a trillion is the number one followed by twelve zeros. A trillion dollars is a thousand billion and a billion is a thousand million. These numbers mean very little to the average person. Who count their money in tens, twenties and hundreds.

One mathematician gave us a very practical way of evaluating our outstanding debt. One trillion one-dollar bills stacked atop each other (not end to end but flat) would reach nearly 68,000 miles into space – a third of the way to the moon (See CNN News Cast, Feb. 4, 2009). If so, the debt thus far incurred by the coronavirus alone, \$5.3 trillion, would reach to the moon and two-thirds back to earth.

Senator Mitch McConnell gave another illustration just as awe striking. He calculated that if we spent a million dollars every day since Jesus was born, we still would not have spent a trillion dollars – only three-fourths of a trillion dollars (Ibid).

Who will pay these two coronavirus loans? Since we never liquidate our debt – only increase and pass it on to posterity – our grandchildren yet unborn, will be saddled with this debt plus the interest on it. How can I prophesy with such certainty? The United States has not been free of debt since Warren G. Harding 98 years ago (US Debt by President by Dollar and Percentage Who Increased the

U.S. Debt the Most? Depends on How You Measure It. By Kimberly Amadeo Updated November 04, 2019)?

Yes the coronavirus is a massive rogue wave that has sunk many businesses in its path but following closely behind it is a tsunami almost six times its size – the national debt – that is and will bring down this country because our children cannot pay it either. Our national debt has soared to \$25.5 trillion, and with the newly announce \$3 trillion loan to \$28.5 trillion. Our debt in one dollar bills laid flat atop each other will now go to the moon and back almost five times.

I ask students, "Who gets to go without so that this debt can be paid?" "Go without!!!" That is a concept foreign to this generation!! They do not know, and neither do their parents and grandparents who laid it on their backs. When they are told that their share to liquidate this debt is not just \$37,726 for a coronavirus, but \$205,440 per taxpayer – due immediately, they get angry (see USDebtClock.org). Someone should have told them that government handouts are not free.

The 13th Amendment ending slavery has been rescinded, they are America's new slaves. Bondage was given them before their birth, or while they were in the womb, or before they were old enough to know what it meant to be sold into slavery. The past generation wanted nice costly programs for free and were willing to sell their children to have them. Worse, the older generation is still anxious to incur even more debt on our defenseless children and grandchildren. Are we not the most debt addicted, insensitive generation in U.S. History?

Yes these are hard times and in such adding to a national debt is said to be justified. What isn't justified is that in prosperous times, of which most of the last 70 years have been, we should, and could have, liquidated that debt. Then a \$5.3 trillion debt to handle a virus could have been repaid in the next prosperous time or perhaps by the children, but not now. We have squandered our wealth in foreign endless wars, foreign aid and domestic welfare.

I had hoped with the robust Trump economy (the best in several decades) that we could get to paying back the debt. I previously published that we could survive and turn things around if we did three things: made significant cuts in our top 6 major expenditures, did not elect a big spending congress, and did not incur a big funding event. Unfortunately we made no major cuts in spending, maintained a big spending congress, and did incur a big funding event – the coronavirus.

Trump remains our only hope for rebuilding the economy because he already did it once, but chances of removing even the coronavirus portion of the national debt enslaving us is slim.

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

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# WEEKLY COMICS

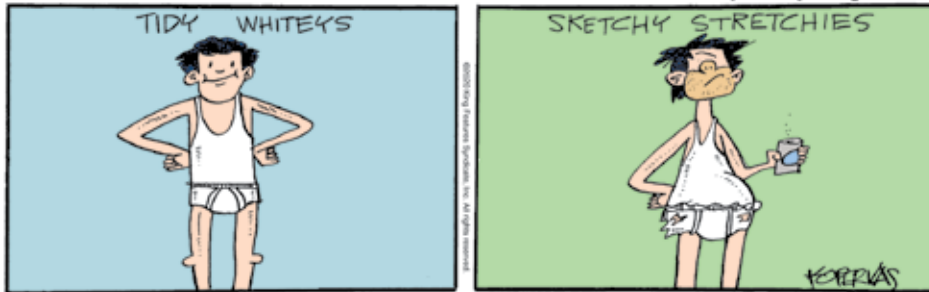
## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



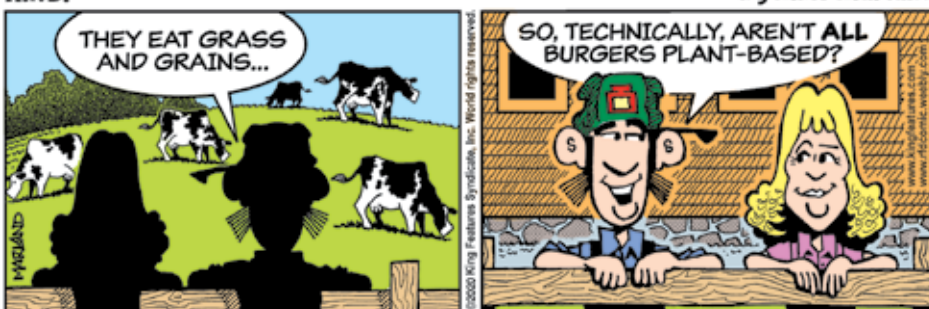
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

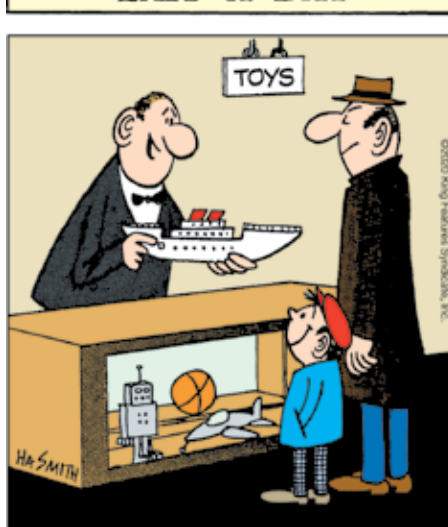


## GRIN THE BEARD IT



"Striking is no picnic ... you have to stand on your feet and carry a sign!"

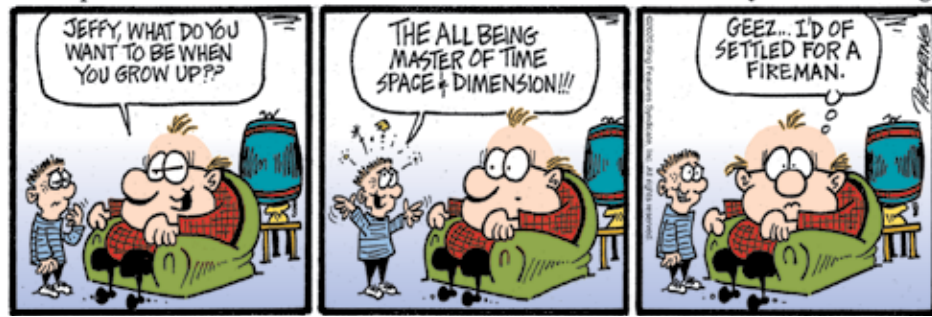
## LAFF-A-DAY



"...And when you press this button it releases oil which pollutes the water in the tub."

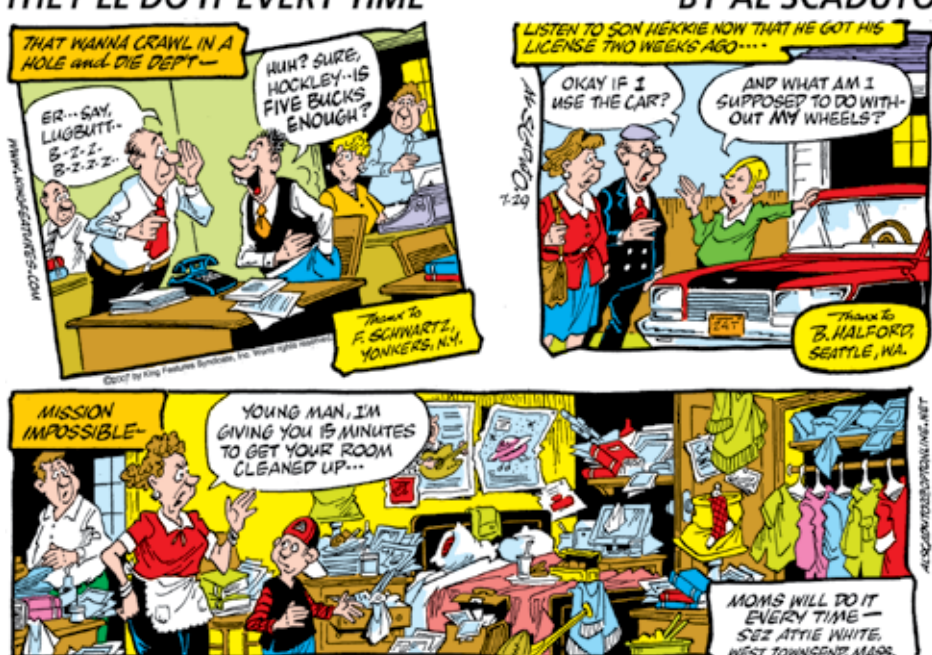
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



Differences: 1. Bat is missing, 2. Filling is different, 3. Ball stitching is different, 4. Crook is larger, 5. Player's pants are longer, 6. Neckline is changed.

## Crossword Puzzle on Page 9

M	A	Y	A	S		H	O	D		M	A	S	H	
E	C	O	L	I		A	L	I		L	E	N	T	O
S	A	U	L	T		I	D	O		O	N	T	A	P
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P	A	L	M			E	Y	E		S	T	E	L	E

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- ACROSS
- Angelou and Rudolph
  - Mason's lead
  - Bobby Pickett's "Monster"
  - Infection from contaminated water or food
  - Formerly Cassius Clay
  - Slow, musically speaking
  - Ste. Marie, Ontario
  - Bonding words
  - Like draft beer
  - Cognac, orange liqueur, lemon juice
  - \*Tropical cocktail favorite
  - Motion of approval
  - \*Home of pisco sour
  - Smoker's residue
  - Big butte
  - \*It has both white and dark rum
  - Popular BBQ side
  - Pea houses
  - \*Hold your drink aloft in honor
  - "Downton Abbey" countess
  - Subject of 17th century Dutch mania
  - Cote d'Azur locale
  - Teatro alla Scala offering
  - Sushi selection
  - Kind of jeans fit
  - \*She famously disliked the eponymous drink
  - Chesterfield or ulster
  - Bro's sib
  - Long and lean
  - Petting spot
  - \*Negroni and boulevardier ingredient
  - Time for the big bowl games
  - Unethical loaner's practice
  - Designed to guarantee equal rights
  - Cooler manufacturer
  - #38 Down, pl.
  - Atlantic catch
  - Musical ensemble
  - Rodeo Drive tree
  - It's of the beholder
  - Rosetta Stone, e.g.
  - Difficult situation
  - Antioxidant-rich berry
  - Common contraction
  - Kind of wrench
  - TV's popular portmanteau
  - Let it down to relax?
  - \*fashioned
  - D in LED
  - Take-out handout
  - Nay say
  - Sun, e.g.
  - Indigenous people of northeast Arizona
  - \*Nespolino fruit
  - Highly skilled
  - Elbow rest
  - Portable lock
  - Fancy tie
  - Ski run
  - Sheik's bevy
  - \*Whiskey
  - Charged particles
  - Flip side, pl.
  - Binary digits code
  - Things on a list
  - \*"Star Trek" speed
  - Fodder holder
  - Eloise's residence
  - Quiets
  - Otitis organ
  - \*Popular mixer, pl.
  - Brother's daughter
  - Should
  - Turning point
  - World's largest continent
  - \*To warm wine or cider and add spices
  - Junior ball
  - Green gemstone
  - Burn-soothing plant
  - Agitate
  - Yesteryear
  - \*First name in cola and grenadine

### Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14				15			
16					17				18			
19					20			21	22			
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65						66	67			68		
69						70				71		
72						73				74		

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

Solutions on Page 9

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# Council Approves Budget; Packs Two Meetings in One

Continued from page 1  
 wanted clarification as to who would determine if a sign would be unattractive and expressed that there is already code enforcement by Dixon Police. Further definition was determined as “dilapidated, defaced, or worn.”

White said, for example, some of the flags looking “shredded.” White said contact would be made and a letter given outlining the sign would have to be replaced or repaired and the council said they wanted all appeals to come before them. Mayor Bogue and Councilman Minnema were the dissenting votes when the motion carried.

Since the Dixon Tribune published an article from the Rotary Club that they were postponing their fireworks show for the 4th of July, the Council was able to speed through the approval of the sale of safe and sane legal fireworks in the City of Dixon.

Almost a dozen non-profit organizations and charities will be hosting the fireworks sales at various locations around town and the community is expecting many families to celebrate Independence Day in their front or back yards of their homes. Chief Robert Thompson was called upon to address safety issues.

“Unsafe and Insane fireworks are in Dixon,” he said. “We will begin a more robust educational campaign now. Illegal fireworks are dangerous, a fire hazard, and a nuisance, and we will use an aggressive fine system to act as a

deterrent.” He ended saying that he preferred education to fines and the motion passed unanimously.

At 9 pm, there were still 27 participants on the Zoom meeting, but it continued to much later with the last item on the agenda the awarding of the contract to the Dixon Tribune for Legal Notices. Councilman Minnema recused himself.

Dixon resident Chris Duncan asked what the traditional amount of time for the Request for Proposals is because he only saw two RFPs published in the Dixon Tribune; one on May 22 and one on May 29 with the deadline of June 5 which was only two weeks.

He reminded the Council that in the past the Tribune won the weight due to its publication frequency but that the Dixon Independent Voice won on the lowest rate, so the contract was split. Since only the Tribune bid, he was concerned that maybe the Independent Voice had not had time to respond. He asked the Council to place the RFP out again.

City Attorney White responded saying that it depended on the nature of the project like construction gets a lot more time but “one like this is 30 days” although he “knew the Independent Voice had been informed.” In a phone call later, the new owner of that newspaper confirmed he had not been notified and was unaware of the RFP in the Dixon Tribune.

The motion passed 4-0. The meeting closed around 11 pm. ★



## DIXON POLICE LOG

Persons listed in this log from the Dixon Police Department are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Only activities deemed significant by the Police Dept. are included.

### Wednesday, June 17, 2020

- 1201** – A proactive enforcement stop in the 200 block of West A Street resulted in the arrest of Aaron Dunning (4/22/1974) of Dixon for possession of drug paraphernalia, Possession of methamphetamine, possession of an open container of marijuana, driving without a valid license, driving without valid insurance, and having expired registration. He was cited and released from DPD without incident.
- 1238** – Industrial accident in the 1000 block of Vaughn Road.
- 2130** – Information report taken in the 1000 block of Jeffrey Lane.

### Thursday, June 18, 2020

- 0737** – Vehicle theft report was taken in the 500 block of Priddy Dr.
- 1101** – Fraud report was taken in the 900 block of Nort Lincoln St.
- 1139** – Stolen vehicle recovery report was taken at the intersection of South Lincoln St. At West A. St.
- 1208** – Stolen vehicle report was taken in the 700 block of Stratford Av.
- 1447** – Theft report was taken in the 1000 block of Silver Ridge Pl.

### Friday, June 19, 2020

- 0036** – A DPD Officer respond to a call for service about fireworks on the 1800 block of Dorris Court. The suspect in this case looked right at the Officer and lit fireworks. The Officer determined that the suspect was drunk in public and he was booked into the Solano County Jail.
- 0629** – A Domestic Violence arrest and warrant arrest report were taken in the 400 block of Schooner Ridge Dr. Officers arrived and contacted (S) Luke Aston and (S) Chivon Lee. Aston was arrested for domestic violence and Lee was arrested for an outstanding felony warrant.
- 1320** – Recovery of a stolen license plate report was taken at the intersection of N. 1st St. at Auction Ave.
- 1757** – A suspect from a previous robbery entered a store on the 200 E Dorset Drive. The staff recognized the man and called the police. Christopher Robinson of Fairfield was arrested for robbery and booked into the Salona County Jail.

### Saturday, June 20, 2020

- 0047** – A Dixon man was stumbling while walking in front to the Dixon Police Station. An officer stopped the man and determined that he was too intoxicated to care for himself. He was booked into the Solano County Jail.
- 1134** – Residential burglary to a residence in the 700 block of North Lincoln Street.
- 1412** – A pedestrian stop was conducted at the intersection of Pitt School Road and Ary Lane. The pedestrian stop resulted in the arrest of Josef Pratt (26) for a misdemeanor warrant. Pratt was cited and released from the Dixon Police Department.
- 1737** - Robert Spicer (49) of Dixon saw his former girlfriend and her daughter walking near the 100 block of North Adams Street. Spicer told the victim that he would kill her and make her daughter watch. Spicer proceeded to beat the victim with his hands and feet. The victim's daughter used pepper spray on Spicer and he fled. DPD Officers found Spicer hiding in a house on the 800 block of Elm Drive. Spicer was booked in the Solano County Jail for a felony domestic violence charge (273.5 PC) and for criminal threats (422 PC).

### Sunday, June 21, 2020

- 0137** – A patron at a bar on the 800 block of N Adams released pepper spray into the crowd. DPD Officers arrived on scene and obtained medical treatment for several bar patrons. A DPD Detective arrived and took over this ongoing investigation.
- 0930** – Report of domestic violence in the 1100 block of Valley Glen Drive.
- 1429** – Non-injury traffic collision in the intersection of North First Street and Regency Parkway.
- 1830** – Traffic accident reported in the 700 block of North Adams Street.

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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.

**Solano County Mosquito Abatement District**  
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 solanomosquito.com