



**Master Laboratories
Emerges to Produce
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**Remembering
All of Them on
Memorial Day**



Dixon's **Independent Voice**

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WOULD PREVENT
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**GOVERNOR
PSYCHO**



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Yolo Habitat Conservancy Wins Award of Excellence



Above: Whether agriculture or construction, mass production needs to be balanced by conscientious land stewardship. Right: Swainson's hawk is one of the species protected by the Yolo Habitat Conservancy Photos courtesy: Yolo HCP/NCCP

By Jenny Tan, Yolo County

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - The Yolo Habitat Conservancy recently received the 2020 American Planning Association's (APA) Sacramento Valley Section Award of Excellence in the category of Innovation in Green Planning and has been invited to apply for the 2020 APA California Awards.

In 2019, the Yolo Habitat Conservancy completed the Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)/Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), a countywide conservation approach that provided mitigation for infrastructure and development of activities identified for construction over the next 50 years in Yolo County, including Endangered Species Act permits. The Yolo HCP/NCCP coordinates improvements to maximize benefits to sensitive species as well as conserves habitat above and beyond required mitigation. In addition, the plan will result in the conservation of tens of thousands of acres of habitat benefitting 12 species while providing developers a simplified approach of mitigation through the Yolo Habitat Conservancy.

"This award is a testimony to our communities' commitment to smart planning practices that seek to balance the needs of our natural habitats and the needs of the development community," said Yolo County Supervisor and Chair of Yolo County Habitat Conservancy Don Saylor. "This conservation approach is the result of over twenty-five years of collaborative efforts by Yolo County, our four cities, and the University of California at Davis. This award shows that the hard work to put this plan together is already beginning to bear fruit."

The Yolo HCP/NCCP also will build on existing conservation efforts, such as the work of the City of Davis Open Space Program to preserve agricultural land, Yolo County's work to restore Cache Creek through implementation of the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan, and the work of the Solano County Water

Agency and the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee to enhance and restore riparian habitat along Putah Creek.

"The Yolo Habitat Conservancy is but the latest example of the member agencies being at the forefront of best practices in environmental stewardship," said City of West Sacramento Councilmember and Vice Chair of the Yolo Habitat Conservancy Martha Guerrero. "The Yolo Habitat Conservancy will be an integral part of preserving our cherished natural landscapes into the future."

Some nominations in the APA California Awards require a win at

Continued on page 3



Resolution to End Governor's Emergency Powers Announced

**By Joshua Hoover,
Office of Assemblyman
Kevin Kiley**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Under Section 8629 of the California Emergency Services Act, the Legislature has authority to terminate the Governor's emergency powers. Assemblymembers Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin) and James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) are introducing an Assembly Concurrent Resolution to exercise this statutory prerogative.

A "State of Emergency" in California is a legal term describing not merely conditions of extreme peril, but also the inadequacy of state and local institutions to combat the threat within the constraints of the State Constitution.

"This Resolution is meant to restore a proper balance between the legislative and executive branches," said Assemblyman Kiley. "To the extent the Governor retains extraordinary powers, they should be limited in scope in coordination with the Legislature, which has authority to terminate those powers altogether."

Since proclaiming a State of Emergency on March 4, Governor Newsom has issued 39 Executive Orders, unilaterally changing 200 laws spanning most sections of the California code. This includes creating new voting laws for an election six months away and overhauling Workers' Compensation rules.

"We must take action to restore representative, constitutional government," Assemblyman Gallagher said. "The Governor has clearly overstepped his authority, from arbitrarily changing state laws, to using state agencies to threaten small business outside of their legal jurisdiction, to spending money outside the scope of legislative authorization. It is incumbent upon the Legislature to restore the balance of powers."

The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst, in a report Sunday on the Governor's May Revision, was "very troubled" by the authority the Governor seeks to take away from the Legislature. The report concludes: "we urge the Legislature to jealously guard its constitutional role and authority."

"The Emergency Services Act was designed to grant extraordinary powers to a Governor under conditions of extreme peril," Assemblyman Kiley said. "It was not meant to give a single person the ability to remake all of California law indefinitely. An open-ended state of emergency, with boundless powers vested in a chief executive, is incompatible with democratic government." ★

Commissioner Lara Expands Order for Insurance Companies to Partially Refund Premiums

**California Department
of Insurance**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara issued a Bulletin extending his previous order requiring insurance companies to return partial insurance premiums to consumers and businesses and provide much-needed financial relief amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Insurance will review all premium adjustments to ensure they are fair and adequate and reflect policyholders' reduced risk.

The Bulletin now includes the month of May, having already included the months of March and April, covering at least six different insurance lines: private passenger automobile, commercial automobile, workers' compensation, commercial multi-peril, commercial liability, medical malpractice, and any

other insurance line where the risk of loss has fallen substantially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commissioner's Bulletin 2020-4 requires insurance companies to provide an adjustment to the premium in the form of a premium credit, reduction, return of premium, or other appropriate adjustment as soon as possible, and no later than August 11, 2020. For most if not all consumers, this will be a percentage of the premium – not 100 percent – and the Department of Insurance will validate each insurance company's plan so that refunds are adequate and reflect the reduced risk.

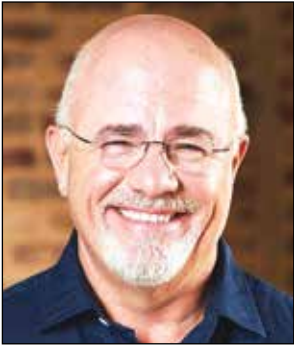
"With the vast majority of Californians still under 'stay at home' orders, the risk of accident and loss remains low for many lines of insurance and their premiums should reflect that," said Commissioner Lara. "While I appreciate companies that have already taken

action to return premiums, the Department of Insurance will be checking that the reductions are adequate and consumers and businesses are not shortchanged."

On March 18, Commissioner Lara issued a Notice, calling on all admitted and non-admitted insurance companies to provide their policyholders with a 60-day grace period to pay their premiums. With the deadline for this grace period fast approaching, Commissioner Lara today issued a second Notice requesting insurance companies to work with their policyholders who may be struggling financially to allow them an additional 60-days, effectively extending the grace period until July 14, 2020. After July 14, 2020, insurers are encouraged to work with their individual policyholders who have been acutely impacted by COVID-19 and are still unable to timely pay their premiums.

"Consumers who have lost their jobs or businesses due to this crisis deserve flexibility in paying their premiums, just like any other," said Commissioner Lara. "I am asking insurance companies to be mindful of the revenue stream Californians have consistently provided to insurers over the years, stand with their customers in this crisis and extend grace periods an additional 60 days."

Commissioner Lara is also requesting that all insurance agents, brokers, and other licensees who accept premium payments on behalf of insurers take steps to ensure that customers have the ability to make prompt insurance payments, if and where possible. This includes alternate methods of payment, such as online payments, to eliminate the need for in-person payment methods in order to protect the health and safety of both workers and customers. ★



First, Understand the Problem

Dear Dave,

I feel truly blessed. Even with everything that is going on these days, I still have a steady job and a good income. I'm thinking about taking some money out of my savings account in order to completely pay off my credit card debt. How do you feel about this idea?

– Erin

Dear Erin,

It's not a bad plan if you've come to a point where you understand a few things. The credit card and the debt aren't the real problems. They're symptoms of buying things you probably don't need with money you don't have. You need to take a long look in the mirror, because the person who's looking back at you is the real problem.

If you can accept this, and are committed to changing yourself and your

Dave Ramsey Says

financial habits, I'd say go for it. Just don't wipe out your savings in the process. Leave plenty of cash in there, especially right now when so many things are uncertain. Also, make sure you cut up that credit card, close the account, and make a promise to yourself that you'll never use those things again.

Once you do all this, and start living on a written, monthly budget, rebuild your savings as quickly as possible. Saving money is always a good thing. And everyone needs an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses for the unexpected stuff life throws at you!

– Dave

Look at Past Numbers, then Proceed Realistically

Dear Dave,

Do you have a rule for calculating how much money to set aside for home repair and maintenance?

– Bobby

Dear Bobby,

I don't really know of a formula to determine this sort of thing. I'd suggest looking at your checkbook over the previous year, and

see what you spent on maintenance and repair issues. Home maintenance is kind of like car maintenance, in that it's going to depend on the age and general condition of the house. If you're driving an older model car, you expect to put more into it over time, right? It's kind of the same principle with houses. The older the structure, the greater the likelihood you'll have to pump some money into it.

Make sure you look at things from a realistic point of view. You probably won't need a new roof anytime soon if you had one installed in the last couple of years. But give your house a good going over, inside and out, every six months or so. This will go a long way in assessing what's needed – and what might pop up in the future!

– 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.

California Poison Control Sees Spike in Household Disinfectant Exposures

By Tricia Tomiyoshi, UC Davis Health

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As California residents use more cleaning products to disinfect their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Poison Control System's Sacramento Division, housed at UC Davis Health, saw a spike in reported household disinfectant exposures in March and April.

All age groups in California have reported more exposures to disinfectants, including bleach, but cases involving adults have grown the most:

Adults 20 or older: 262 cases in February, 724 cases in March, 796 cases in April; Children ages 6-19: 65 in February, 60 in March, 86 in April; Children under 6 years: 133 in February, 232 in March, 215 in April

"May seems to be on track to be similar to March and April," said James Chenoweth, assistant professor of emergency medicine at UC Davis Health. "Most of these calls are accidental exposures. People are buying cleaning products and using them on food or spraying them excessively. There can also be issues with mixing certain cleaning products together." He said most cases have been minor and did not require hospitalization.

The National Poison Data System, the data warehouse for the nation's 55 poison control centers, has also seen an increase nationally in disinfectant exposure cases

during this same time, with 1,673 cases in February, 3,401 cases in March, 3,601 in April.

With more children staying home during the COVID-19 pandemic, the odds of children accidentally being exposed or ingesting household cleaning products also increases.

Justin Lewis, director of the California Poison Control System's Sacramento Division, recommended the following tips to help prevent accidental household disinfectant poisonings:

Use products as directed on the label; Don't mix multiple disinfectant products together; Make sure to be in a well-ventilated area when using disinfectants; Use the recommended personal protective equipment (gloves, goggles) per the product label; Don't use cleaning products on the skin or ingest or inject them; Do not use disinfectants on food; Keep household disinfectants out of reach of young children and add child locks to cupboards where disinfectants are stored; Store cleaning products in their original labeled containers. If diluted disinfectants and sanitizers are put in spray bottles, be sure that they are clearly labeled and stored out of the reach of children; Know the poison control number – 800-222-1222 – and PoisonHelp.org, which is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Language interpreters are available.

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Produce Markets Show Signs of Stabilizing

People who grow and sell fresh produce say they expect markets to stay unusually volatile for months, though they indicate they've seen some stabilization. The head of a produce-marketing cooperative says sales volumes have risen to more than half of average – after plummeting due to restrictions on restaurants and other food-service buyers. Vegetable farmers will likely adjust planting plans to try to bring supplies back in line with demand.

Retail Avocado Sales Come Back from Initial Drop

Avocado marketers say they weathered a couple of “very stressful” weeks after stay-at-home orders took effect, but since have seen retail sales recover. The California Avocado Commission says sales have “held up fairly well” during the pandemic. Farmers reduced harvest in March but have since increased the amount of fruit reaching market. A bank report says retail avocado sales rose 20% year-to-year during the first

month of shelter-in-place rules.

Rice Farmers Work to Finish Planting

Despite occasional slowdowns caused by rain, California rice farmers have had good weather for planting their 2020 crops. But acreage may be less than estimated, as some water districts have restricted irrigation supplies. Farmers have also struggled with reduced availability of a key fertilizer, because imports faced pandemic-related shipping delays. Farmers strive to finish rice planting by June 1.

One-Fifth of California Rural Roads Rate as 'Poor'

Rural roads and bridges in California have “significant deficiencies,” according to a new study. A national research group rated 21% of California rural roads in “poor” condition, the 11th worst in the country, and said fatalities occur in rural accidents more than twice as often as on the state's other roads. The researchers said the pandemic has heightened the importance of rural roads for moving food and other essential supplies.

MEMORIAL NOTICE

Elmer Leroy Kitchen

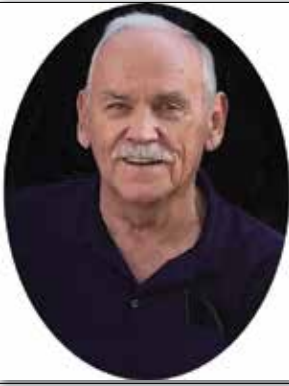
April 24, 1939 to May 9, 2020

Elmer Leroy Kitchen of Dixon passed away on Saturday, May 9th, 2020 at the age of 81. He passed away peacefully at home with his family.

Elmer was born in Wallace, Idaho on April 24th, 1939, the second of six children to Jim and Tillie Kitchen. The family moved to California in 1945 and would eventually put down roots in Dixon. Elmer attended Dixon High School where he met his wife, Judy, in 1956.

Elmer was an avid deer hunter and fisherman, a San Francisco 49ers and Giants fan, and enjoyed NASCAR on Sundays. He was also a member of the Dixon Boat Club and Dixon Moose Lodge. Elmer didn't shy away from hard work though, having worked at Orrick Electric, Mace Meat/ ArmourMeat Co., Bruner's Furniture, Recology, Hay Road Landfill and once as a laborer on the Warner Bros movie set of "Sphere." He even got a wave from Sharon Stone.

Elmer was a hands-on and dedicated Husband, Dad, Brother, Uncle, Friend, Grandpa, Papa,



Gramps, and Great Grandpa. He built his life based on honesty, kindness, hard work, compassion, appreciation of the little things, laughter, and above all, unconditional love for his family.

Elmer is preceded in death by his parents Jim and Tillie Kitchen, brothers Dick and Larry Kitchen and sister Betty Merrill. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Judy, twin daughters Melinda (Pernel) Colter, and Glenda (Randy) Briggs, son Robert B. Kitchen, sister Della Nunes, sister Delores (Harry) Nakatani, as well as seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Due to the current stay-at-home orders, we are unable to hold a public service at this time. The family thanks you for your understanding as they navigate through an already unfamiliar and difficult time.

Elmer is doing what he's missed for so long – hunting and fishing with his two brothers.

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Solano County Library Seeks Advisory Council Member from Dixon

By Bonnie A. Katz,
Director of Library Services

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Solano County Library Advisory Council (SCLAC) is currently accepting applications from Dixon residents to fill one vacancy. The SCLAC is currently a ten-member council. Five members are appointed from the five supervisorial districts, the other five members are appointed from the cities that the Library serves. SCLAC serves in an advisory capacity to the Director of Library Services and discusses county library issues in addition to recommending the County Library budget to the Board of Supervisors. SCLAC meets six times

a year, on the third Monday of the odd months at the Fairfield Civic Center Library. Meetings begin at 6:30 pm and last about an hour. This is a volunteer position. Applicants must be citizens of the City of Dixon to apply. Applications are available online at www.dixonlibrary.com or at the Dixon Public Library and must be submitted no later than Thursday, June 4, at 5 p.m. Please call 1-866-572-7587 to schedule an appointment to pick-up/drop off an application. Interviews of applicants will be scheduled as soon as possible after that date. Interested community members are encouraged to apply. ★

Sen. Dodd: UC Davis Wine Sales Bill Clears Committee

By Paul Payne,
Office of Sen. Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, announced his legislation to allow UC Davis to sell wine made by viticulture and enology students, generating funds for the university during uncertain financial times caused by the coronavirus pandemic, has cleared a key committee. “In years past, the school would simply dump the wine crafted by these promising young vintners,” Sen. Dodd said. “It seemed like a waste then and that’s especially true today. With all the challenges facing the university system, we must take every opportunity to support this program so it can be around for future generations.” UC Davis’ viticulture

program was established in 1935 following the repeal of prohibition. It has since become a center for innovation and a model of sustainability. Historically, the university disposes of wine produced by students due to a quirk in state law. Senate Bill 918 continues earlier legislative efforts to change that, allowing the issuance of a sales license to a nonprofit entity to sell up to 20,000 gallons of wine a year. The bill passed the Senate Governmental Organization committee Tuesday with overwhelming support. Senators resumed committee hearings this week amid social-distancing protocols. “As we emerge from the COVID pandemic, the department and campus will be facing an uncertain fiscal environment,” said David Block, viticulture

department chair. “This bill will give us the opportunity to recover a portion of our winery’s operating costs through wine sales, thus helping us to maintain the excellence of our core missions of teaching, research, and extension. We very much appreciate Sen. Dodd’s effort and that of his team in shepherding this bill through committee. The Department of Viticulture and Enology and the California wine and grape industries will certainly be stronger because of his guidance and work.” 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. ★

St. Peters Catholic Church News

“For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.” (St. Therese of Lisieux)
St. Therese’s view of prayer has simplicity, earnestness, and a deep awareness of how much we need Jesus to help us in our trials and to share in our joys. *“Surge of the heart”* - the Lord hears all our prayers, but He is especially pleased when we pray from the heart. This can be difficult. We may feel dryness in our prayer. We may be rebelling, looking for our will to be done, not His. The world, the flesh, and the devil are ever present, trying to keep us from Him. *“Simple look toward heaven”* - Jesus taught us how to pray the Lord’s prayer. When we say the first two words, “Our Father”, we are affirming that we are all children of God. We are asked to love our neighbor as God loves our neighbor. He is our hope, our salvation. Let’s love Him and hope to be with Him for eternity. *“A cry of recognition and of love”*

- when we know Jesus and we love Him, we want to be in communion with Him, to be in His presence and to be refreshed by Him. He asks us to carry our crosses without complaint and out of love for Him. To do this, we need to know Him in prayer. *“Embracing trial”* - Jesus loves us too much to see us remain in sin. He calls us to perfection in love. He wants us to come to Him in our nothingness and throw ourselves on his Infinite Mercy. He may ask us to share in His suffering. Without a life of prayer, this is impossible. Why? The world, the flesh, and the devil are just too strong to overcome on our own without Jesus. *“Embracing joy”* - through prayer, we allow Jesus to fill our lives with joy and to bring joy to the lives of those around us. Jesus loves us with an impossible love. While His ways of drawing us closer to Him are mysterious, let’s not wonder about whether He loves us. Let’s joyfully thank him for His merciful love, glorify and praise him, and humbly ask Him to sustain us in faith, hope, and love. ★



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CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

T.E.A.M. DIXON 2020 COOKIE CAPER

Super heroes were spotted at Grace Fellowship Church parking lot around 1:00 o’clock last Thursday disseminating boxes of goodies that had been specially prepared by Courtney Hennigan-Sullivan and her company CB Cookies. The location was festively decorated by members of TEAM Dixon who dressed up for the special occasion in super hero attire including face masks to hand out the boxed goodies to their special needs buddies that were passengers in cars passing through the parking lot. The COVID-19 pandemic has limited the contact the TEAM Dixon teens has had with their buddies over the past couple of months. A community grant from the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club supported the fun activity shared with the special children and their teen mentors. There were smiles on everyone’s faces and excitement as they saw each other again after the long absence. The fun extended into the evening as the Super Heroes delivered special boxes to homes of the children that were not able to attend the afternoon “Cookie Capade.” TEAM Dixon believes that it’s the ABILITY that really matters with these children and that by working together with other buddies, family members, and community partners the children can overcome some of the challenges they face and break down the barriers that have limited their access to sports and community activities.

HOME GARDENERS AND HOME PRESERVERS WORKSHOP UCCE, Online-Zoom Friday May 22, 2020 Noon

This is the season for Gardener and Home Preserver Workshops offered by the local University of California County Extension offices. The cancellation of our local fairs, farmers markets, and outdoor venues that draw large groups of folks due to COVID-19 has encouraged the use of on line applications such as ZOOM to deliver the pertinent information to the general public. The Solano Master Gardeners have been delivering ZOOM workshops for several weeks, normal on Thursdays. A ZOOM workshop featuring Home Gardening and Preserving will be available on Friday, May 22 beginning at Noon. The address to connect to the call is: <https://ucanr.zoom.us/j/96653626395>. You will need to download the ZOOM application on your phone, computer, or pad/notebook. I found the ZOOM application simple to use, once it has been established.

TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART PROJECT Ev-Charger Wraps in Mid-Town Sacramento

Deadline: Open May 8, 2020 to June 8, 2020, 11:59pm
The City of Sacramento, Sacramento Office of Arts + Culture (OAC), a division of the City of Sacramento Convention and Cultural Services Department, and Department of Public Works (DPW), Office of the Director, invites artists to submit their qualifications to design vinyl wraps for two commission locations in midtown Sacramento, each with three electric vehicle (EV) charger stations. The chosen artists will be selected according to the following criteria:
• Innovation, quality, and creativity in previous projects / artwork
• Demonstrated experience and professional practice with community engagement and collaboration
• Interest in site specific installations even if artist’s previous work is mostly studio based
• Expresses interest in being an artist collaborator in City’s EV program and sustainability leadership in Sacramento
Two artists will be selected and will receive a \$2400 design fee. For more information, visit sacmetroarts.submittable.com

VACANCIES ON CITY COMMISSIONS

The City of Dixon is currently accepting applications for the following vacancies on City Commissions:
Three (3) vacancies on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to planning and land use. Commissioners serve four-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. All three vacancies are four-year terms expiring on June 30, 2023. The Planning Commission meets in the Dixon Council Chambers once a month. City residency is required.
Two (2) vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to recreation and park facilities. Commissioners serve two-year terms, with a maximum of three consecutive terms. Both vacancies are two-year terms, with terms expiring June 30, 2021. The Parks and Recreation Commission meets in the Dixon Council Chambers once a month. City residency is required.
Three (3) vacancies on the Transportation Advisory Commission. The Transportation Advisory Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to traffic, transportation, and parking issues. Commissioners serve four-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. All three vacancies are four-year terms expiring on June 30, 2023. The TAC meets at 7:00 p.m. the third Wednesday of even-numbered months. City residency is required.
A stipend of \$50.00 per month is paid to each Commissioner. Interested Dixon residents may obtain an application at City Hall, 600 East A Street, by calling 678-7000, or by visiting the City’s website at www.ci.dixon.ca.us. The deadline for filing applications is 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 31, 2019. Any questions, contact Lupe Ruiz, Deputy City Clerk at 707-678-7000.

SOLANO COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Solano County Office of Education announced its 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year at the Solano County Board of Education last week. The honor goes to Katherine Reyes, who has worked for the Solano County Office of Education for 12 years and is the teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – DHH – at Rodriguez High School in Fairfield. Lisette Estrella Henderson, Solano County Superintendent, said “Katherine is a great example of how teachers help our students learn, grow and thrive. Her tireless dedication makes a lasting impression on students’ lives,” Estrella-Henderson said. “My sincere appreciation and admiration to Katherine and each of the school district nominees for their admirable work in education.” Reyes currently teaches English, mathematics, directed studies and transitional and career development. She also manages and holds Individualized Education Plan – IEP – meetings, connects families and students with DHH resources, and partners with Sonoma State University to teach American Sign Language night classes for families of DHH and the community. Reyes will go on to represent Solano County in the California Teacher of the Year Program. Dixon Unified School District selected Erin DeWeese as their district representative. She is a teacher with 19 years experience who works as a math and AVID teacher for grades 9-12 at Dixon High School. Ms. DeWeese will be recognized for her achievement at the Solano County Teacher of the Year celebration alongside Katherine Reyes and other district representatives at Yin Ranch in Vacaville on September 30th. As a component of California Department of Education’s California School Recognition Program, Solano County’s Teacher of the Year Program highlights educational innovation, student learning, and the rewards of teaching. Further, the program attracts public attention to the positive aspects of its educational system. ★

Yolo Habitat Conservancy Wins Award of Excellence

Continued from page 1
the Section level, where the project, plan or work occurred, to be eligible for a Chapter Award. By winning at the Section level, the Yolo Habitat Conservancy will now be eligible for a higher, Chapter Award with the APA. The Yolo Habitat Conservancy is a joint powers agency comprised of Yolo County

and the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland, whose mission is to conserve natural and working landscapes, and the species on which they depend, by working with local communities and conservation partners to coordinate mitigation and implement regional habitat conservation. For more information, visit: <https://www.yolo-habitatconservancy.org/>. ★

For the Love of Books



By Amy Shane

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The Dark In Between

by Elizabeth Hrib

Liddy always had a great sense of adventure, living by the motto, “If you’re not living- you’re dying.” Casey, ever a bit more cautious, still could be found following Liddy on whatever adventure she had planned, and that’s how it all began, and it all ended. The thrashing of the waves, the tossing of their bodies, and the slipping of their fingertips. That fateful summer day changed everything, and even though Casey was pronounced dead at the scene, she still lived, and Liddy still died. Even after Casey’s body healed from the accident, nothing would ever heal her heart and the memories of their last moments together. All she can think about is how Liddy slipped through her fingers, and now nothing will ever be the same.

Now, Casey is left trying to figure out how to live her life without Liddy, life as the girl who survived. Casey can still hear Liddy whispering and screaming, and dark images start to plague her mind as if a punishment for letting Liddy go. Just when Casey feels that all is lost, she sees a dark figure fall from the sky. A fallen



- ◆ Publisher: Swoon Reads
- ◆ Hardcover, 368 Pages
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥

angel sent to earth to earn his wings.

Now, Casey must accept the realm of unthinkable possibilities when the fallen angel explains that he was sent to earth to guide her into limbo, to save her best friend. With their souls tethered, Casey is the only one that can help Liddy move on. But everything isn’t as easy as finding Liddy and guiding her to the light. Limbo is a maze of clues she must decipher, lost souls unable to pass on, and dark creatures who prey

on the souls who wander. Yet, Casey knows if she loses Liddy a second time, she will never forgive herself, and Liddy will be lost forever.

The Dark In Between delicately unfolds the beauty behind the depths of friendship, lifting the veil between life, death, and the possibility of a place in between. In a story of loss and forgiveness, Elizabeth Hrib’s debut novel takes her readers into a story of fallen angels, redemption, love, and crossing over while beautifully weaving a story filled with a new realm of possibility. Carefully crafting fallen angels with archangels, and the ancient magical power that they yield. Elizabeth Hrib creates rich imaginary where feathers can turn into divine weapons, fallen churches are sanctuary’s allowing safe passage, and limbo is built with memories from the souls who wander it. Refreshing and unique, *The Dark In Between* fills the hearts of readers who truly love a great fallen angel story, while bringing elements that are familiar as well as entirely new. ★



Riley Reviews

“WRONG MISSY” COMEDIC MISADVENTURES;
“BILLIONS” RETURNS

A Film and TV
Review by Tim Riley

“THE WRONG MISSY” ON NETFLIX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“BILLIONS” ON SHOWTIME

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Billions” continues to intrigue with its Darwinian survival of the fittest maneuverings of the overbearing and duplicitous government officials and rapacious corporate raiders. Enjoy the psychological warfare that ensues. ★



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Price Controls Would Prevent COVID-19 Medicine



Sally Pipes
Commentary by Sally C. Pipes

America’s biopharmaceutical industry dwarfs most other economic sectors. It’s one of our nation’s single biggest job creators, supporting close to a million positions across the country. And its products save countless lives each year.

Yet for some reason, politicians in both parties seem determined to snuff it out by imposing crippling price controls on medicines. That would be a disaster for employees and patients alike.

The industry has been an economic behemoth for decades. It contributes more to GDP than the agricultural and utility industries combined. The total value of the goods and services directly produced by drug firms totaled \$560 billion in 2017, according to a new report from TEconomy Partners. And after factoring in the output from drug companies' vendors and other partners, that figure exceeds \$1.1 trillion.

The industry also generates millions of high-paying jobs. Drug companies directly employed more than 811,000 Americans and indirectly supported over 3 million others in 2017. A third of those jobs are coveted science, technology, engineering, and math positions – the occupations of the future. And average compensation in the industry exceeded \$126,500 per worker in 2017. That's more than twice the U.S. private sector average of \$60,700.

Of course, the industry isn't just an economic powerhouse. It's also the global leader in medical innovation, producing half of the world's new medicines. Right now, U.S. researchers are working on more than 4,500 new drugs.

Despite these successes, drug development remains an expensive and risky venture. The White House Council of Economic Advisors estimates the cost of developing a single new drug at \$2 billion. Firms generally dedicate 15 to 20 percent of their revenues to drug development.

ut now, some lawmakers want to weaken the industry responsible for this economic growth and medical innovation. The recent drug pricing bill passed by the House, H.R. 3, would empower the government to cap the price of 250 common brand-name drugs. The prices could not exceed 120 percent of the average prices paid in six other developed countries with government-dominated health systems, including Canada, France, and the United Kingdom.

These price controls would reduce drug companies' revenues by \$1 trillion over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Based on

the Council of Economic Advisors' assumptions, that means firms will devote roughly \$200 billion less to research and development, resulting in 100 fewer new drugs over the next decade.

Meanwhile, the Senate Finance Committee is pushing its own price control bill. The legislation would bar companies from raising prices faster than the rate of inflation. And it would effectively levy taxes on drug companies by increasing their cost-sharing liability in Medicare's prescription drug benefit. All told, the bill would cost biopharmaceutical firms \$100 billion over the next 10 years.

Once these price controls, taxes, and other penalties begin depleting their revenue, firms will curtail research and development – and thus lay off American workers. According to a recent poll, 45 percent of drug firms said that “significant” reductions in research and development could force immediate job cuts and facility closures.

Let's hope our leaders in Washington reconsider proposals that would cripple one of America's largest and most innovative industries -- and leave patients without the life-saving drugs they need.

Sally C. Pipes is president, CEO, and the Thomas W. Smith fellow in healthcare policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book is False Promise, False Promise: The Disastrous Reality of Medicare for All, (Encounter 2020). Follow her on Twitter @sallypipes. ★

Traffic Safety Benefits as More Californians Stay at Home

By Jaime Coffee, California Highway Patrol

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - While Californians observe the stay-at-home order during the Coronavirus pandemic, the state's roadways and those who use them are seeing the impact. With traffic volume down, the number of incidents on California's roadways, including collisions and arrests for driving under the influence (DUI), continue to decline.

“People are adhering to the order, eliminating non-essential travel, and as a result, there has been a significant reduction in the number of commuters on the highways,” said California Highway Patrol (CHP) Commissioner Warren Stanley.

According to preliminary data from the CHP's Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS),

there was a 75 percent decrease in the number of crashes in California this year from March 19 to April 30, as compared to the same period in 2019. Additionally, the same SWITRS data indicated an 88 percent reduction in the number of people killed and a 62 percent decrease in the number of people injured in crashes. The total number of truck-involved collisions also saw a 60 percent drop, with fatal truck-involved crashes down 88 percent.

California's crash reduction rate is not the only positive to come from the quieter roadways. The number of DUI arrests made by CHP officers has decreased during March and April, from 7,224 in 2019 to 4,223 in 2020; nearly 42 percent.

However, not all of the state's drivers have been on their best behavior during the pandemic. The open

roads have led to a few brazen motorists testing the speed limit and eventually meeting up with a CHP officer for a citation. Between March 19 and April 30, CHP officers issued 2,738 citations for speeding in excess of 100 miles per hour, which is an increase of 46 percent from last year.

“Resist the temptation to speed. Drivers are easier to spot when they are on a nearly empty roadway,” added Commissioner Stanley. “Remember, taking care of one another goes beyond wearing a face covering and physical distancing. As communities in California move into the next phases of reopening, continue to slow down, pay attention to the road, drive sober, and keep yourself and those around you from becoming a grim statistic.”

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

Sen. Dodd: Get Your Veterans ID Card

Dear Neighbor,

Through their service to our country, veterans have earned a wide range of benefits.

However, not having proof of military service is one of the biggest obstacles veterans face in gaining access to resources, benefits, and services. I was proud to support legislation providing a special "veteran" designation on California driver's licenses, allowing those who have served our country to access benefits and services without having to carry inconvenient paperwork.

Applying for the veteran designation

on your driver's license or ID card is easy:

Stop by your local County Veteran Service Officer with your DD214 for verification. If you need help obtaining your military records, first contact your local County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO);

Go to www.dmv.ca.gov, or call the DMV at 1-800-777-0133, to make an appointment. Bring the application form verified by your CVSO and the small \$5 application fee.

For more information on veteran's resources, please visit my website at <https://sd03.senate.ca.gov/>

 ★

Governor Psycho

Commentary by Lou Binninger

The Constitutional cataracts may be lifting from the sight of Californians though they may just be learning about the document that protects them. Street-wise people know we are just a skoch away from civil war. Even ignorant folks can sense something is bad wrong.

When law enforcement officers warn fellow comrades on Facebook to uphold their oath of office (defend the Constitution) versus what their mayor or governor says, lest they become a casualty, you know we are in a crisis having nothing to do with health. Officers with military combat experience in the neighborhoods of foreign nations know that local resistance can be gnarly, crippling and lethal.

A California law enforcement retiree after 25 years of honorable service said last weekend that he would empty his weapons on anyone trying to remove loved ones from his home, or forcibly try to test or vaccine his family.

Governor Lard Hair needs every last one of the hundreds of Highway Patrol officers around him because like all politicians he is spineless when lacking armed cover. These CHP officers stand for hours executing the governor's illegal order to violate the people's right of assembly to express their grievances. The officers need to honor their oath or seek another line of work.

The Constitution has been superseded in California by the Governor's edict that citizens must have permission to assemble. Writer of the Declaration of Independence and our 3rd President Thomas Jefferson recommended killing such tyrants.

Newsom is mentally deranged. Posters around LA show him as 'California Psycho'. Marine veteran artist Sabo plastered the streets with the mindless Governor's face. The Constitution calls Governor Psycho a domestic enemy.

Newsom is euphoric with power, taking what he wants, violating trust, sexually unfaithful, and a bully politically.

While he freed murderers, perverts and

rapists he broke the financial backs of millions of moms and dads scratching and clawing to pay their bills. What kind of creep makes millions a year, goes to restaurants and shops while forbidding others the same freedom, lives in a mansion while mocking and insulting hard-working Californians as 'nonessential.'

The butt-hurt Governor now is attacking businesses that are licensed by the state. He is threatening their 'permission to work' since they are not obeying his whims. No one needs to bow before a tyrant for the right to work. Licensees should return their certification and continue operating. Their patrons will back them.

Most all occupational licenses are government money-grabs and a means to limit freedom and new competition. They violate the U.S. Constitution.

In addition to Modoc, Sutter, Yuba, Stanislaus, and (to a great extent) Kern Counties defying Gavin Newsom's lockdown, several other individual cities have as well. Riverside County hair salons, gyms, and restaurants are opening without Newsom's "OK" because Constitutional Sheriff Chad Bianco says he won't fine or arrest any business owner or pastor.

People are violating Newsom's order to not sit or sunbathe at Santa Monica Beach in LA County. Police are ignoring them.

Central Valley's Kings County encouraged all businesses to reopen. Tiny Atwater (50,000 population), in Merced County, declared itself a "sanctuary city" for small businesses. Three more SoCal tribal casinos are reopening without Newsom's permission and more than 1,000 pastors plan to start church meetings on May 31.

Newsom is committing political assault, placing a gun to people's heads or removing their means of survival to get compliance. He forfeited his mandate from the citizens and has become an object of mockery.

(Get Lou's podcast at "No Hostages Radio" and his articles at nohostagesradio.com) ★

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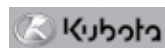
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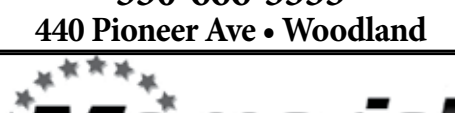
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Social Security Matters

About the “Earnings Test” and “Registering” with Social Security



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Does tax filing status matter when calculating how much you can earn without a reduction in your monthly SS payout? My wife and I have filed a joint income tax return for years. My wife is working and I'm 62 and wondering - if I start drawing SS, does the earnings limit only relate to what I earn, or does it include what my wife earns as well? Is the earnings limit tied to our IRS filing status? I need to know if I should file my taxes as a single to be sure my wife's earnings are not combined with mine to affect my Social Security payment.

Also, I've read that it's recommended to register online with SS if you're 62. As I understand it, this should be done even if one's not intending to start benefits yet. Is this true? What are the benefits for doing this? Does it make for a quicker start of payments once the election to start benefits is made? Would it help my wife should I die prior to starting my benefits? **Signed: Wondering**

Dear Wondering:

Income tax filing status doesn't matter when it comes to determining if your earnings from work



exceed Social Security “earnings limit.” If you collect SS before you reach your full retirement age (FRA), your wife's earnings from working will not be counted toward your personal SS earnings limit. The earnings test looks only at your personal earnings and, if you exceed the limit, SS will take back some of your benefits. But only your personal earnings – as reported on your W-2 or Self-Employment tax return – count. If you're not working, then your Social Security benefits will not be affected by the earnings test, even if you file a joint return which has an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) which is more than the annual earnings limit because your wife works.

As for your second question: it is not necessary, nor would it gain you any advantage, to “register” with Social Security before you are ready to claim your benefits. Indeed, Social Security does not even provide you with a way to do that. What they do provide is a way for you to create your own personal “My Social Security” online account, which gives you access to all of the online features provided by the Social Security Administration, including allowing you to apply for your benefits online (the fastest way to claim) whenever you're

ready to do that.

Having an online SS account doesn't provide you with any benefit advantage, but it allows you to monitor your lifetime earnings record, get a replacement SS card if needed, and get estimates of your current and future Social Security benefits to help you decide when to claim. You can create your personal “My Social Security” account by going to www.ssa.gov/myaccount. They use a “two-factor” security process, which means you'll not only need to set up a password but also a second way to confirm your identity (usually via a code sent to a text-enabled cell phone or your email account). But, even if you have this online account pre-established, your wife will still need to contact Social Security directly to claim her survivor benefit if you predeceased her. Survivor benefits must be applied for by the surviving spouse directly contacting Social Security.

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

Professors, Peers Offer Counseling, Academic Support for Students

Press Release from CSU, Sacramento

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State Professor Kelly McDonald, director of the Center for Science and Math Success, is among the many faculty, staff and peers helping students cope with mental and academic stress caused by the coronavirus crisis.

McDonald is leading an effort to reach out to students using techniques that have helped people get through shocking events such as natural disasters and war. The effort is important, considering that experts say trauma and chronic stress can alter brain chemistry and the ability to learn.

McDonald's outreach includes discussing students' feelings about the pandemic, expressing hope and empathy, and being more flexible about assignments and deadlines.

Other Sac State academic and counseling services include:

Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) program: Eric Minguela, a Sac State Chemistry major and PAL leader, launched a project, called the No Barriers to Success squad, to help others adapt psychologically and physically to their new college realities; Student Health & Counseling Services offers online mental health counseling services. It provides virtual intake appointments, counseling appointments and group counseling sessions, in addition to one onsite staff member; The campus also provides access to academic support with online academic advising, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and peer mentoring; By making an appointment, students can meet with their academic advisor, a mentor or a tutor via video call and access virtual résumé and interview help through the career center.

The mental health and academic support services are offered virtually. Online services will continue at least through summer 2020. ★



Go Dial an Electric Materialism!

It's always a treat when Windy Wilson stops by the Mule Barn for a cup and a visit with us. He got all settled in while we waited for him.

“Now you fellas know it shore ain't perlite to interrupt a guy when he's educatin' the kids, right? A real gentleman wouldn't do it. But that didn't slow down this weird young guy who was visitin' one of our hometown girls.

“I think she met him in college where he was majorin' in bein' wrong, and brought him home to meet the folks. The way it was, I

had a few kids I found coming out of the malt shop and I kinda herded them over to this year sidewalk bench so I could 'splain how school used to was back in the day, you know?

“So in the midst of my disleration, this weirdo guy walks up and says to me that I shouldn't be tellin' them kids about workin' hard because that's jest how the gov'ment gets ahold of 'em and makes 'em into slaves. Hey, I'm not kliddin'!

“Then he starts in to lecturin' them, and me, about how we have too much stuff and need to share it with other folks. Now that ain't bad, I guess. I don't mind sharin' Seems right. But then he says we don't have the right to own anythin' at all.

“I had me a look to see

how these year kids was ascorbing this nonsense and I saw that Garcia kid wasn't happy. He jest got a brand-new bike last week or month or somethin' and he thought he ought to keep it.

“So, bein' the on-the-spot grown up, I ups and asks weirdo what he would suggest we all do about it, and he looks straight at me and tells me to go dial an electric materialism!

“Took me kinder flatfooted there for a second, but I rallied. I puffed up a bit and straightened HIM out. I said, ‘I ain't gonna do it!’”

Windy paused.

“Besides, guys, I shore didn't know which number to dial.”

Brought to you by Strange Tales of Alaska, available now on Amazon.com. ★

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Ask Toni

Do Friends Really Understand The Maze of Medicare?



Toni King

Hi Toni:

I met with your office in late 2019 for a Toni Says® personalized Medicare consultation. I have a question regarding travel outside the United States due to COVID-19. Once everything calms down and there is travel to other countries, I would like to plan a trip overseas.

A friend recently gave me Medicare advice that now has me very confused. She told me that some Medicare Plans give foreign travel medical coverage such as Medicare Plan F, but not Plan G, which was my choice. Is that true?

Thanks for any help you can give me.

~ Lee Anne from Sugar Land

Lee Anne:

Medicare Alert! Your friend is giving Medicare advice and has no idea of what a Medicare Supplement covers. This is not the first time that a friend has confused someone trying to understand the maze of Medicare.

Medicare Supplement plans F, G and N cover the same limited amount of emergency foreign travel with illnesses such as COVID-19 and accidents. This is an extra perk

Medicare does not cover. The Foreign Travel plan has a \$250 deductible and \$50,000 lifetime maximum. The Medicare Supplement pays 80% to lifetime maximum of \$50,000 and the insured (you) pay 20% and amounts over the \$50,000 lifetime maximum.

Who knows what air ambulance from Greece will cost, but a big recommendation that I would suggest to you, Lee Anne is that you talk with your travel agent or explore online for true travelers insurance that will take care of your medical needs while traveling in countries around the world.

Remember that Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans only take care of medical and prescription drug expenses in the United States. Lee Anne be sure you have enough prescriptions while you are traveling overseas, or you will have to pay out of pocket.

Since your friend seems to be the Medicare Supplement Plan F expert, is she aware that starting January 1, 2020 changes were made to Medicare Supplement Plan F. For those enrolled in a Medicare Part A prior to January 1, 2020, they can apply for Medicare Plan F. Those who enroll in Medicare Part A after January 1, 2020 are not eligible to apply for Plan F and can enroll in Medicare Supplement Plan G

Here is a big surprise for your friend because Medicare Supplement Plan G can be more affordable than Medicare Plan F.

Medicare Plan N will be the lesser premium plan with more out of pocket.

Let's discuss the differences in Medicare Supplements Plan G and Plan N:

- **Plan G:** offers lower rates and the same Medicare benefits as Plan F except the Medicare Part B deductible is not covered and will be paid for by the enrolled Medicare beneficiary. Medicare Part B deductible for 2020 is \$198 which is Medicare Plan G's out of pocket.
- **Plan N:** generally, has lower premiums than Plan G with generally more out of pocket. There is a \$20 co pay for a doctor visit with \$50 co pay for emergency room. Medicare Part B deductible is not covered, and Medicare Part B excess charges are not paid for by the insurance company which Plan G includes. Plan N can have more out of pocket cost than Plan G.

America needs to realize that their friends care about their best Medicare interest, but knowing Medicare's rules are another issue. For guidance choosing which Medicare plan meets your needs and understanding the maze of Medicare, call the Toni Says® Medicare office at 832/519-8664 or email info@tonisays.com.

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. ★

Master Laboratories, Emerges to Produce Swabs for COVID-19 Testing

By Traci Rockefeller Cusack, T-Rock Communications

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Master Laboratories, a manufacturing company based in Sacramento, uses 3D printing technology to create FDA-registered nasal swabs for COVID-19 testing by hospitals, clinics, government agencies and armed forces. In joint partnership with EnvisionTEC in Dearborn, Michigan, Master Laboratories has a network capacity currently in place to produce up to one million swabs per day. With soft, non-irritating and absorbent tips, the revolutionary EnvisionTEC NP Swabs are comfortable and easy-to-use plus have 180-degree bending flexibility, a coveted point of differentiation as compared to other nasal swabs available for COVID-19 testing.

The business was created by the owner of Dental Master Laboratories, Michael Kulwicz, who pivoted quickly after the shelter-in-place order went into effect in mid-March. The Carmichael resident and long-time dental device



A soft, non-irritating and absorbent tip makes the EnvisionTEC NP Swabs comfortable, easy-to-use with a 180-degree bending flexibility. Photo courtesy of Master Laboratories

manufacturer tapped into available staffing resources, technology and machinery already in place to help provide a solution in the battle against COVID-19.

"After losing 90 percent of our dental device business within hours after the shelter-in-place order went into effect, our expert team of technicians and staff looked at ways to design and manufacture nasal swabs using 3D printer technology," said Michael Kulwicz, owner of Master Laboratories. "And now that the attention has largely turned to the importance of

testing, Master Laboratories is poised, prepared and ready to provide medical professionals with a key tool needed to combat this global pandemic."

In addition to the nasal swabs, Master Laboratories has also begun production of full-face shields to provide added personal protection to both medical and dental personnel nationwide. For more information about Master Laboratories, the EnvisionTEC NP Swab and new product developments, please visit www.masterlaboratories.com or call 800-368-8482. ★



New York Story

New York is the greatest city in the world. It also is uniquely suited to the spread of the coronavirus.

As the national debate over re-opening continues and the political blame game intensifies, it's worth considering the scale of New York's outbreak. There is nothing like it anywhere else in the country, and almost nothing like it in the rest of the world.

The story of coronavirus in America is overwhelmingly the story of coronavirus in New York and its surrounding suburbs. Any account of how we got to this place, with deaths nationally headed toward 100,000, must center on New York, which was seeded with the virus early and then seeded much of the rest of the country.

Nearly 20,000 people have died in New York City. If the city were a country, it'd rank sixth in the world in total deaths, behind France and ahead of Brazil.

In New York City, according to a New York Times report, deaths have

been more than 300% above normal. In New Jersey, intimately connected to New York, deaths have been 90% above normal. Otherwise, no other state is close. In the rest of New York state, deaths have been 9% above normal.

The epidemic started early in New York. By the time it had its first confirmed case on March 1, there may have been as many as 10,000 undetected cases.

The city was getting seeded constantly from abroad. A study published by medrxiv.org concluded that "introductions from Europe account for the majority of cases found in NYC in the first weeks of March 2020." Then, people coming from or through New York spread the disease elsewhere in the United States.

A New York Times analysis found that the number of cases around the country correlated with how many travelers arrived from New York in early March. New York's connection to the world, especially Europe, its density and its mass transit system all made it a potent vector.

So, the question of how we could have kept the U.S. from getting so hard hit is really how we could have kept New York from getting so hard hit. Every

day counted, and better leadership at the federal, state and local levels would have made a difference, but we shouldn't underestimate the difficulties. Trump's early travel restrictions on China would have had to be imposed on Europe as well, when no one was contemplating that. New York's leaders would have had to warn people off the subways, shut the schools and torch the Big Apple's economy before any plainly visible metrics justified it.

This is why the simplistic shots at President Trump, who indeed should have taken the virus more seriously at the outset, don't work. He's the president of New York, but also of other large, international cities like Los Angeles and Miami that have escaped New York's fate. Has his leadership been better in those places, or do divergent conditions and local decisions account for the better outcomes?

None of this, of course, is to disparage New Yorkers. They have absorbed a gut punch over the past two months with characteristic grit and bravery. Yet, without New York's distinctive vulnerability, the course of the epidemic would look completely different.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

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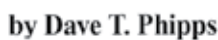
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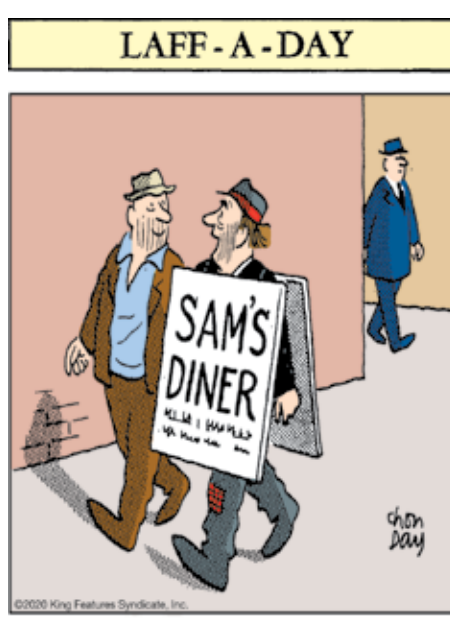
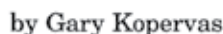
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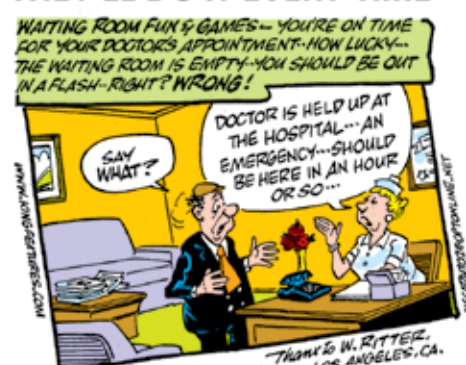
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The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

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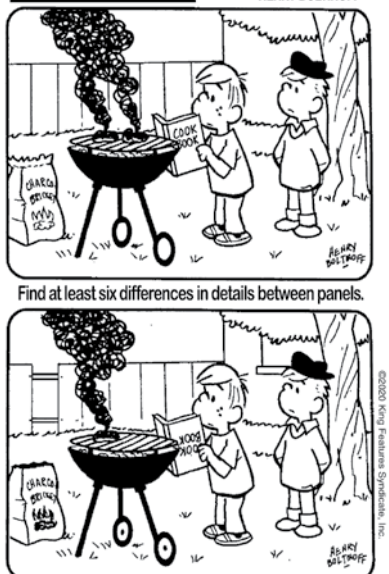
BY AL SCADUTO



Just Like Cats & Dogs



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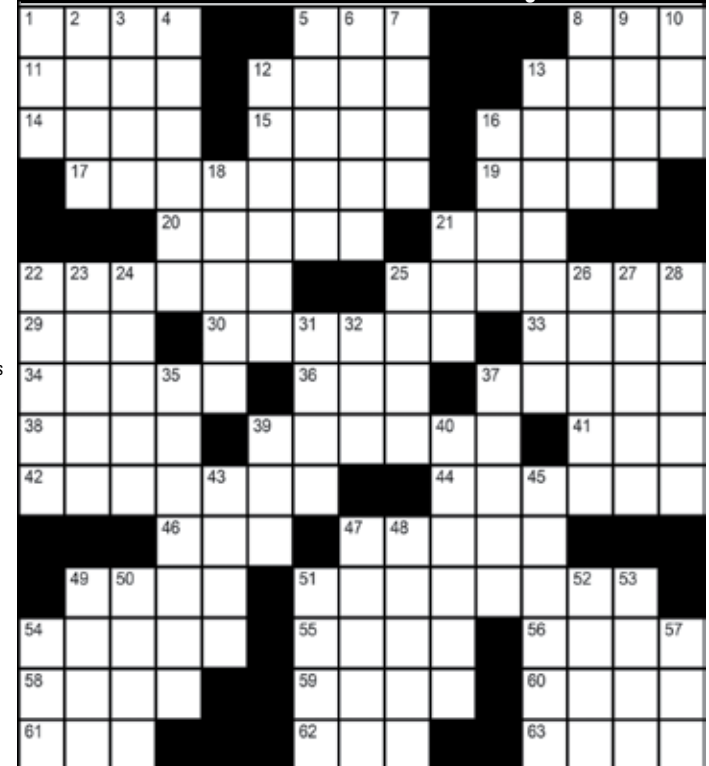
HOCUS-FOCUS

Differences: 1. Fence slat is missing. 2. Window is added. 3. Book is upside down. 4. Steak is missing.

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

CLUES

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 9



ACROSS

1. Smoothing tool
5. Broadband access over-seeing org.
8. Attorneys' org.
11. Length times width
12. *Lined up single ____
13. Lump of stuff
14. Carpet attribute
15. Cut the crop
16. Lingo
17. *Entire sheep's company
19. Toothy wheel
20. Gives a helping hand
21. They're from mars?
22. Language family, includes Turkic and Mongolian
25. Indian spice mix, pl.
29. Bachelor's last words
30. Baby Trolly component
33. One of the Earnhardts
34. She goes by Lo?
36. Actors' grp.
37. Mister in Madrid
38. Colossal
39. With no effort
41. American cuckoo
42. Leave hastily, two words
44. *Commissioned officer of the lowest rank
46. *____, drink, and be merry?
47. *Omaha ____
48. Baby whale
51. *It's a call to a civilian
54. Hands, to #12 Down
55. Check out
56. Cambodian money
58. Welcoming sign
59. Went down slippery slope
60. *Date of Allied landing
61. *Opposite of stern
62. *For ____ a jolly good."
63. Dried-up

DOWN

DOWN

1. Grammy category
2. Diva's solo
3. Unload
4. Saffron-flavored rice dish

5 Evil one

3. Evil one
6. Wears
7. Porcini mushrooms
8. Aquarium scum
9. Uncouth one
10. Address abbreviation
12. Spanish dictator, 1939-1975
13. "Throwing weapon
16. Ice, dark, and middle, e.g.
18. Pittsburgh Steelers' ____ Field
21. Dojo turf
22. Was sick
23. Parkinson's disease drug
24. African antelope, pl.
25. Gaspar, Balthasar and Melchior
26. Veranda in Honolulu
27. "____ came a spider..."
28. European finch
31. "____ Excellent in all we do" org.
32. None left when on E
35. * ____ formation, or on diagonal
37. Make synchronous
39. Credit card payment alternative, acr.
40. What Deep Throat did
43. Stumblebumps
45. Type of shards
47. "Announcement device

48. Island off Manhattan
49. Head of family
50. All over again
51. Silly talk or writing
52. * ____-de-camp
53. Letter opening
54. Flash dancers
57. NaOH

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 9

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

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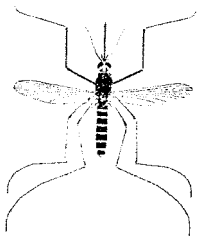
SUDOKU



Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solutions on Page 9

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.

Solano County Mosquito Abatement District
707.437.1116
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DIXON POLICE LOG

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



Thursday, May 14, 2020

1639 – Narcotics possession arrest report was taken in the 1700 block of N. 1st St. Officers contacted (S) Josef Pratt (25) of Dixon and Gregory Munoz (45) of Dixon. They both were in possession of a controlled substance and were arrested. Pratt and Munoz were transported to the Dixon Police Department. Once there they were issued for the above violation and released.

1837 – A man threatened his neighbor with a rifle on the 900 block of West F Street. The man was arrested for criminal threats, even though the rifle turned out to be a pellet gun. He was booked into the Solano County Jail.

Friday, May 15, 2020

0031 – A domestic violence incident occurred on the 600 block of West A Street. The female in the incident was deemed to be the primary aggressor and she was booked into the Solano County Jail.

0756 – Narcotics Arrest/Traffic Collision report was taken in the 600 block of N. Adams St. Officers contacted (S) Brandon Hite (30) out of Stockton. Brandon was in possession of narcotics, narcotics paraphernalia, and concentrated cannabis. It was determined Hite was on active probation. Hite was arrested for several narcotic violations along with a violation of probation. Hite was transported to the Solano County Jail and released.

1058 – Informational report was taken in the 700 block of West F. St.

1151 – Traffic Collision report was taken at the intersection of North 1st St. at West H. St.

1248 – A Hit and Run report was taken at the intersection of West E. St. at North Adams St.

1340 – Probation Violation arrest report was taken in the 800 block of North Adams St. Officers contacted (S) Lorinzo Haley (30) out of Oakland. Lorinzo was on active probation and a vehicle search revealed he was in possession of tear gas. Lorinzo was arrested for being in possession of tear gas and violating his probation.

1758 – A Dixon man was arrested for threatening his girlfriends ex-husband. He was also arrested for a domestic violence charge after he pushed his girlfriend. This incident occurred on the 100 block of East Dorset Drive.

Saturday, May 16, 2020

1021 – Officers stopped a vehicle at the 1300 block of Stratford Avenue, which led to the arrest of Russell Korupp (59) for displaying false tabs on his vehicle.

1115 – Officers responded to the 1500 block of Valley Glen Drive for a welfare check. The welfare check resulted in the arrest of Cristian Contreras-Moreno (27) for Domestic Violence.

1244 – Found property report at the 200 block of West A Street.

1838 – A homeless woman spit on the victim's car near the 1100 block of Pitt School Road. The woman was booked into the Solano County Jail for being intoxicated in public.

Sunday, May 17, 2020

0009 – A Dixon Police Officer conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of N Adams and W H Streets on a vehicle without license plates. The driver was on probation and the vehicle was searched. The driver was cited for narcotics paraphernalia and for having a suspended driver's license.

0415 – A Dixon Police Officer stopped a bicyclist near 1000 Business Park Driver. The bicyclist was issued a citation for possessing narcotics paraphernalia.

1050 – Found property report in the area of Duncan Street and Legion Avenue.

1430 – A proactive enforcement stop in the area of 2500 North 1st Street resulted in the arrest of John Abulog (12/13/1974) of Dixon for an outstanding warrant. He was cited and released.

1639 Pedestrian stop in the 1100 block of North 1st Street resulted in the arrest of Tasha Gaines (46) of Dixon for using another persons debit card ithout their approval. She was booked into county jail.

1917 – Traffic stop in the 800 block of Marvin Way resulted in the arrest of Monique Solorio (33) of Dixon for an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for child neglect. She was taken to county jail.

2000 – Traffic stop in the 100 block of North 2nd Street resulted in the arrest of Erik Ambrocio (32) of Dixon for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was taken to county jail.

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