



## History of MAF and Travis Air Force Base Goes Way Back!

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# Happy Mother's Day



# Dixon's Independent Voice

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## WHEN MAN REPLACES GOD AS GOD



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## MORE SNEAKY BUSINESS

By Mike Ceremello



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# It's Virtually a Fair!



The Fair's youth livestock program typically includes multiple types of competitions and showing of animals on the Fairgrounds over the course of several days leading up to and during the Fair. Image by Catherine Stockinger from Pixabay

By Debbie Egidio, Solano County Fairgrounds Press Release

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - At its April 15 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Solano County Fair Association (SCFA) made the difficult decision, due to the impacts of COVID-19, to forego its traditional Fair activities that invite guests to gather at the Fairgrounds during the annual Fair celebration. Instead, the SCFA will pivot its efforts to producing a Solano County Virtual Fair & Livestock Program on its previously announced dates of June 18 to 21.

"As far as our records show, the Solano County Fair has never been cancelled in its seventy-year history and we didn't want that to happen this year," stated SCFA Executive Director & CEO, Mike Ioakimedes. "Our Board and staff care deeply about our Fair and the role it plays

in our community, especially as it pertains to our youth livestock exhibitors. We felt that it was vitally important to figure out a way to continue some form of annual Fair activities with the top priority being our Junior Livestock Auction. This is an ongoing and ever-changing task, but we are committed to making it happen."

The Fair's youth livestock program typically includes multiple types of competitions and showing of animals on the Fairgrounds over the course of several days leading up to and during the Fair. Fair staff is currently working on how these activities can be modified in order to meet public health guidelines. The end goal is to enable a livestock auction for market animals. It is not known yet if it will be possible to have a live auction on site, so plans are also being made for the possibility of an online auction. Beyond continuing the livestock

program, the Fair also plans on moving its Youth Solano Living program to a virtual exhibition. These "still exhibits" include arts and crafts, clothing and textiles, graphic arts, photography and more. Fair staff envisions that many new exhibitors may participate in this area as more youth have been working on projects at home over the last several weeks and will continue to do so. The full list of categories and entry instructions are being developed now and will be available on the Fair's web site soon. The Adult Solano Living, Fine Arts and Floriculture programs will be taking a hiatus this year and will return as part of next year's Fair.

In addition to the youth exhibitor programs, the Fair is excited to embark on a virtual Fair experience for the community. Several possibilities are being developed for interactive activities and

*Continued on page 3*

## Survey Shows Strains on Rural California

By Dave Kranz, California Farm Bureau Federation

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Lost markets and lost off-farm income related to the COVID-19 pandemic have proven doubly difficult for many California farmers and ranchers, according to a survey by the California Farm Bureau Federation. More than half of the farmers responding to the voluntary survey said they had lost customers or sales due to COVID-19, and nearly half said they or someone in their immediate family had lost off-farm income.

"Just as in the rest of society, the effects of the pandemic have reverberated throughout rural California," CFBF President Jamie Johansson said. "There's no aspect of farming, ranching or agricultural business that has been spared."

CFBF and the Farm Employers Labor Service, a Farm Bureau affiliate, asked farmers and ranchers to respond to an online survey form between April 7 and April 21. More than 500 responded. Nearly 57% of respondents said they had lost customers or sales during the pandemic, with most citing stay-at-home orders that had closed customers' businesses. Forty-two percent of responding farmers said they or a family member had lost off-farm income, mainly because of jobs unavailable due to stay-at-home orders or to care for children due to school and child-care closures.

"Most farm and ranch households count on off-farm income to supplement what they earn from agriculture," Johansson said, "and have seen those jobs reduced at the same time as prices farmers and ranchers earn for many crops and commodities have fallen."

About three-quarters of the responding farmers said they had been able to maintain operations so far, and had been able to avoid furloughing or laying off employees. Of those who reported reducing operations or staff, most cited cuts to customer orders or revenue. Only 20% reported employees unable to work, mostly because the employees were considered in a high-risk group for the novel coronavirus. About one-third reported being unable to undertake routine planting, cultivation or crop-care activities due to lack of personal protective equipment such as respiratory protection.

"Farmers and ranchers are doing all they can to

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# Balloons Bring 'Happy'

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - We've seen children getting drive-by birthday parties with police cars and officers, and we've seen beautiful rock paintings secretly placed about town, but recently, we were treated to a colorful, house-high display of balloons simulating a giant rainbow, complete with a happy-face sun peeking over the edge of its half-sphere.

"I've been trying to think of ways to help," said long-time Dixonite Pam Chesser, a Certified Balloon Artist (CBA) through the international organization, Qualatex, that hosts the only World Balloon Convention annually. She received an invite just recently to participate in the #OneMillionBubbles project with thousands of balloon artists in 71 countries. The purpose: spread a little happiness.

"I thought it was a wonderful idea," she said.



Certified Balloon Artist Pam Chesser brings 'Happy' to Dixon via giant bubble creations. This giant man-eating flower was custom to the recipient's favorite Broadway play on her birthday during the COVID shutdown. Courtesy: PJ Designs

Chesser had already at a Woodland hospital sewn masks for the nurses where her daughter works,

but like a lot of people, she still was struggling with excess time while the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order is in effect. The Event Decorator and CBA would normally be super busy working on the Dixon High School All Night Party for graduates and booking private parties for seniors in June.

"Organizers are still waiting for the school district to decide if there is going to be a graduation," she said, adding that they are talking about pulling together a scaled-down version outdoors, which of course, she will help with.

"It felt good to be doing something since my business dropped to zero," she said. "There is absolutely nothing for parties. It was such a relief to not feel helpless." Even the annual world-wide balloon convention was all done online, she added.

After receiving the invite, she immediately

*Continued on page 6*





# Dave Ramsey Says Ask Dixon Family Services (DFS) If You Can Get Help During the Coronavirus Crisis

## Be Professional and Respectful

Dear Dave,  
I've always made good money at my job, but recently I was offered a promotion to a salaried manager's position. The hours and pay would be much better, and I already know the approximate pay range. Do you have any tips for negotiating salary in a situation like this?

– Natalie  
Dear Natalie,  
Congratulations on your move up! I'm sure you worked hard and deserve the promotion and recognition.

There are a couple of measuring sticks you can use when determining something like this. One is a quick and simple approach associated with the revenue you bring in. It's a nice, quantifiable reference point that appeals to a lot of supervisors and business owners. The second thing you could do is research a few reputable career websites, and develop a short but detailed compensation study based on comparable positions in your area and those

similar to your location. Honestly though, if I had a valued and respected member of my team moving up from hourly to salaried, we'd have more of a give-and-take discussion and examination of the situation rather than a negotiation.

Yeah, in your position I'd create a few well-researched compensation studies. Give them to your bosses, and talk with them. I know I would be impressed by that, and depending on the size of the company, they may not have done a lot of work figuring it out.

In a way, it's kind of like deciding what to ask for when you sell a car. You try to appraise it for what it's worth in the marketplace to other people. That leads to a discussion. You're not telling them what to do or presenting an ultimatum, you're providing information and conducting a dialogue in a professional and respectful way.

Good luck, Natalie!  
– Dave

## Everyone Needs an Emergency Fund

Dear Dave,  
I will back on active duty soon in the armed forces. I'm debt-free except for my home, have been following your plan, and I'm about to start Baby Step 3. We are provided certain relief funds based on where you are stationed and other factors. Knowing this, how

should I approach the next Baby Step?

– Kevin  
Dear Kevin,

First of all, thank you for your service to our country. You're on the right track. Baby Step 3 means having three to six months of expenses set aside for emergencies. Considering the stability of your employment situation, I think you'd be okay leaning toward the three-month side of expenses. It's not like you're a straight commission sales rep whose income can fluctuate wildly from month to month, right?

You'll still have emergencies, though, and it'll be your responsibility to cover them. Some of those may need to be addressed immediately. See what I'm saying, Kevin? Everyone needs an emergency fund. Just make saving for it part of your budget for a while, until you have three or four months of expenses sitting in a good money market fund with check writing privileges. You'll be glad you did!

*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.* ★

By Cookie Powell,  
Dixon Family Services

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon Family Services is a community-based organization serving Dixon and the surrounding rural areas since 1984. Our one-stop-shop of social services helps hundreds of people each year achieve goals such as improved/increased employment, household budgeting, financial stability, improved nutrition, sobriety, emotional wellness, positive parenting and family cohesiveness. Many are now active and contributing members of this community. Dixon Family Services is an "Essential Business" and we are open Tuesdays – Fridays, 10-12 and 1-4PM. **YOU MUST CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE COMING TO DFS.**

At this time of great need, there are many families and individuals in Dixon who could use help with their basic needs. We currently have the opportunity to help additional people who are adversely affected by a reduction or total loss of wages, or other negative results of the Coronavirus. We encourage people to call or email for more information. \*Examples of how we can help include rent, utilities, gas and food assistance\* Donors responsible for our increased resources include United Way Bay Area, Travis Credit Union Foundation, Solano Community Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Valero, San Francisco Chronicle, First 5 Solano, Genentech and

many generous individuals, clubs, organizations and businesses who have made charitable contributions to DFS recently.

If you would also like to help us in this unprecedented time of increased need for our services, please send a check to DFS or use a credit card on our website.

A huge "thank you" to those who have already donated!!!  
Some Additional Notes and Reminders:

Phone or email messages left during closed hours will be answered on our next business day; Visit our website for Coronavirus resource information we have there; DFS is NOT a Crisis Center. Helping programs can take several days to process; DFS behavioral health services are not available during current restrictions. We know of some BH services being provided virtually. Call or check our website for resources; Don't forget to take the Census Survey!! Go to 2020Census.gov. Call or email DFS your name, phone # and confirmation # to enter for 7 chances to win \$100!! Remember to ask vulnerable people you know who are sheltering at home if they need anything when you are going to a store for your own food and supplies.

**PLEASE STAY SAFE AND WELL. WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!!**

Dixon Family Services, 155 North Second Street, Dixon, CA 95620 | (707) 678-0442 | info@dixonfamilyservices.org | www.DixonFamilyServices.org ★

## Survey Shows Strains on Rural California

*Continued from page 1*  
maintain essential activities and provide plentiful, safe food," Johansson said, "but there's no question the pandemic has put a strain on rural California. At local, state and federal levels, Farm Bureau will

advocate for policies that ease that strain while assuring the health and safety of farmers, ranchers, their employees, families and customers." To review the survey results, visit [www.cfbf.com/impactsurvey](http://www.cfbf.com/impactsurvey).

The California Farm Bureau Federation works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 34,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 5.6 million Farm Bureau members. ★

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# CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

## Who Is Watching Your Tax Dollars?

The local government structure and powers are defined by the general law of California. This is in contrast to a charter city or home-rule city, whose government structure and powers are defined by a municipal charter.

California Government Code section 36501 states: The government of a general law city is vested in:

(a) A city council of at least five members, (b) A city clerk, (c) A city treasurer, (d) A chief of police, (e) A fire chief, (f) Any subordinate officers or employees provided by law (*Amended by Stats. 2000, Ch. 506, Sec. 20, Effective January 1, 2001.*)

The position of City Treasurer has been an elected position. The individual sat on the dais with the five council members, city clerk and city manager. Four years ago, the Dixon City Council stripped the City Treasurer position of most of its responsibilities and proposed distributing the duties among the city staff members. The City Council placed an item on the November 3, 2016 ballot to make the City Treasurer a position appointed by the City Council, not elected by the citizens. The majority of Dixon voters choose to keep the position elected. The item was handily defeated by 61% of citizens who voted NO to a change.

In the 2016 election, a Treasurer was elected for a 4-year term. He attended City Council meetings and was not allowed to sit on the dais but was instructed to sit in the audience. There are never any reports from the City Treasurer, because the position was stripped of duties so there is nothing to report. We no longer see the elected City Treasurer sitting in the audience during Council meetings. What has happened? Who, on behalf of the citizens, is overseeing the management, the revenue and cash flow, banking, collection, receipt, reporting, custody, investment or disbursement of our municipal funds?

Dixon's citizens have voiced their desire to elect a Dixon City Clerk and have completed the necessary steps to place the item

on the November 2020 ballot. WOW! Dixon's citizens have not voted to elect a city clerk since April 11, 1950!

The position of Dixon City Clerk requires a high level of professional skills and understanding of governmental, election and legislative laws and statutes as he/she is entrusted with the following responsibilities:

1. Local official for elections
2. As the key staff for City Council meetings.
3. Verifies legal notices and has them posted or published.
4. Completes necessary arrangements to ensure an effective meeting takes place.
5. The City Clerk is entrusted with the responsibility of recording the decisions which constitute the building blocks of the representative government.
6. The City Clerk as Records Manager, oversees yet another legislative process; the preservation and protection of public records.
7. Maintains and indexes the Minutes, Ordinances, and resolutions adopted by the legislative body.
8. The City Clerk will ensure that municipal records are readily accessible to the public.
9. The public record is under the conservatorship of the City Clerk and provides fundamental integrity to the structure of democracy.

Over the past four years Dixon has experienced a revolving door as a variety of friends and spouses of council and city staff appointed by the City Manager to handle the City Clerk responsibilities took a spin and then moved on. Some lasted longer than others.

When the last "appointed" city clerk left, the City Council selected and voted the City Manager serve as the "Elections Official" and a City Councilman to serve as the City Clerk because the city did not have anyone trained to perform the important duties of the City Clerk.

On April 14, 2020, placed on the city council agenda, was an item listed to

arbitrarily promote the present deputy city clerk to this position. Since the item was listed as "12." on the agenda, Shirley checked in on the city council meeting via Zoom around 7:07 p.m.

Much to her surprise, within seven minutes of the beginning of the meeting the council had reached number 12 on the agenda and had appointed Lupe Ruiz as the new city clerk. Much enthusiasm was exhibited by the city council members.

The Council's lack of respect for the citizen's voice is unfortunate. At the time of the appointment, the Council was aware of the approved measure that will appear on the November 2020 ballot calling for the election of the City Clerk by the citizens.

This seems to be an atypical action against the citizens wishes when the citizens were not given notice that this item would be moved up on the agenda before any business item.

In January, 2019, the council promoted Lupe Ruiz to be the "Deputy" City Clerk. According to Transparent California she received about \$30,000 for this promotion. No one on the council mentioned whether she will be receiving another significant pay raise as her title changed from Deputy City Clerk to City Clerk at the April 14th meeting.

Shirley's experience with Lupe has been that she does not return phone calls. The first time I called and left a message, she did not return the phone call. I called again and left messages. Again, no response. I then called a city staff person to answer the question. She said, "I will be back to you within an hour." Sure enough, Deputy City Clerk Ruiz called back within minutes with an answer to the question. When she does respond, she provides answers in a professional manner, but it takes her a great deal of time to get an answer from her. This does not serve the public well.

Recently, I was doing some research to write an article on the 2020 election. First,

I called the Solano County elections official. The phone call was answered promptly by an individual who was professional and business like. She quickly told me that the date for folks who want to run for election in Solano County would be July 13.

I then asked if the date would be the same for Dixon city council candidates. She recommended that I contact the Dixon City Clerk. Again, I called and left a message. Thirty-six hours later there was no return call. *I then called the city clerk and left two more messages.* Finally, I called Councilman Ernest who answered right away, he was pleasant to deal with and said he would call Lupe to check on the date.

A short while later the Deputy City Clerk Lupe Ruiz called me to confirm that the date for folks who want to run for city council can apply is July 13.

Councilman Ernest called back with the same information after I had heard from Lupe. We chatted briefly; he said that Lupe is a good employee that she is just "timid". He may be right, but she has been working long enough to know how to best serve the community. I do not question his opinion. But the position of city clerk is a professional position. Citizens expect that a person in this position would return phone calls in a timely manner or within 24 hours. If she is unable to respond within 24 hours, she should ask one of the other city staff to call the citizen to let him/her know when s/he can expect a return call. The City Clerk serves as the liaison between the public and the City Council and provides related municipal service.

As citizens, we will have an opportunity to elect a city clerk in November 2020. Over the next five months we need to attend online meetings, listen to the candidates, and when November comes cast our vote for the individual who we think will work for us. Having a City Clerk elected by the citizens will neutralize the power between the council and the constituents.

## It's Virtually a Fair!

*Continued from page 1*  
entertainment that the community can enjoy together while still maintaining social distancing guidelines. Visit the Fair's web site at [www.SCFair.com](http://www.SCFair.com) for more details which will be posted as they become available.

As plans for the 2020 Solano County Virtual Fair &

Livestock Program are developed, the health and safety of our community will be of the utmost priority. All activities will be in accordance with our county and state public health directives as well as the guidelines put forth by the California Department of Food & Agriculture as they pertain to fairs, fairgrounds

and livestock programs.

To get the latest updates and announcements about the annual Solano County Fair as well as year-round Fairgrounds activities, visit the Fairgrounds' web site, [SCFair.com](http://SCFair.com) or sign up on the Fairgrounds' web site to receive email blasts and newsletters. ★

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# For the Love of Books



By Amy Shane

Book Review & Special Events Editor

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## Clique Bait

by Ann Valett

Chloe and Monica were the best of friends until Monica's dream of becoming part of the popular clique came true. Monica loved the idea of popularity and everything that came with it. From the clothes, the parties, the power, and the longing adoration from those around you. That's when Monica and Chloe came up with the levels of popularity. Level five is the lowest consisting of freshman and nobodies, to the uncool kids in level four. Chloe was perfectly content in the invisible level 3, while Monica truly fit in the level 2 crowd, adoring everything about the top rung of the high school ladder. That was until she became part of the coveted level one. Untouchable in every way, the popular clique comprised of the six wealthiest and most privileged students at Arlington Preparatory, who surrounded themselves with glamour and power, and Monica was one of them.

But none of that mattered now, Monica is gone, and Chloe has the perfect plan to get her revenge. Monica's life was ruined by the top six, and now they must pay. However, circumventing their tight-knit circle wouldn't be easy, luckily Chloe's devised an airtight eight-step plan that all relies on intel and blackmail. The hardest part of course, would be infiltrating the iron clad



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 ◆ Rating: ★★★★★

group, but Chloe Whittaker even has a plan for that.

With her new designer clothes, killer heels, and makeup, her well laid out plans can't fail. But as the plot thickens, dark secrets get unearthed, vulnerabilities are exposed, and Chloe will have to dig even deeper and go farther than she ever expected. There was only one thing Chloe didn't account for, her heart. Could she actually be falling for one of the enemies, or is it just part of how deep she is willing to go?

In the binge-worthy read of the season, *Clique Bait* takes readers deep into the halls of Arlington Preparatory and straight inside the popular clique, exposing the dark side of popularity and the sacrifices

that it takes to stay on top. Readers will instantly be caught within Chole Whittaker's intense, non-wavering determination and the lengths she will go to avenge her best friend.

Fast, compelling, and mesmerizing Ann Valett holds her readers in the palm of her hand. What is the price one will pay to get even? Could you throw out every part of who you are, to develop a persona of who others want to see? Readers will be able to watch the truth unfold before their eyes, along with the unbelievable lengths that Chloe is willing to take, as she pulls everyone around her into the undertow of her wake. Throughout the book readers will discover themselves asking two great questions - Will Chloe get her revenge, and what really happened to Monica? Luckily, they will get their answers.

While this book takes a stab at the in-crowd, it also takes a refreshing, more in-depth look at the main character who is unable to face what truly happened to her best friend, and is serving revenge on a platter as a coping mechanism for the truth. With its exposed honesty, and compelling storyline, *Clique Bait* is undoubtedly the entertaining, fast-paced contemporary read of the season. ★



## Riley Reviews

"HUNTERS" SEEKS REVENGE ON NAZIS; "CHICAGO P.D." REVISITED

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

### "Hunters" On Amazon Prime Video

A dark chapter in modern history, the Holocaust is a grim reminder of the unspeakable horror of the forced labor, torture and mass killings imposed on the Jewish people in the concentration camps of Nazi Germany.

Survivors of the Nazi genocide are a dwindling number these days 75 years after the liberation of the death camps, with Auschwitz probably the most notorious one. "Hunters" may serve, in an uncomfortable way, as a reminder of the Nazi regime's cruel barbarism.

During the winter television press tour, show creator and executive producer David Weil reported that his grandmother was a Holocaust survivor whose stories about her time during the war "felt like the stuff of comic books and superheroes."

For the memories of a then-impressionable six-year-old, Weil may have formulated in his mind that donning a vigilante cap to fight antisemitism was a good premise for a group of Nazi hunters in 1977 to root out war criminals in our midst.

The premise of "Hunters" rests on the notion of a vengeance fantasy where philanthropist Holocaust survivor Meyer Offerman (Al Pacino) recruits and leads a diverse group based in New York City to pursue war criminals.

In the first episode, teenager Jonah Heidelbaum (Logan Lerman) deals drugs in Brooklyn to support his grandmother Ruth (Jeannie Berlin), who ends up brutally murdered. It turns out that Meyer and Ruth were together at Auschwitz.

The Holocaust history is news to Jonah and he longs for revenge, but Meyer is initially reluctant to recruit the young math whiz into the group until Jonah proves his value as a code-breaker.

The show's most jarring note is the introduction of Dylan Baker's role of creepy Biff Simpson, an Undersecretary of State who turns out to be a high-level Nazi.

This revelation strains credulity in the obvious sense that one would expect a person appointed to an important federal post would have been vetted in a serious background check.

Interesting sidekicks in the hunter group include Josh Radnor's Lonny Flash, a master of disguises with a sly sense of humor and Kate Mulvany's Sister Harriet, a former MI6 operative dressed as a nun.

Another standout is Jerrika Hinton's Millie Morris, an African-American FBI agent who stumbles onto the Fourth Reich conspiracy.

"Hunters" is so often unnerving that it has caused me to wonder at the halfway point of ten episodes whether to hang in to the end. ★

Curiosity may get the better of me.

### "Chicago P.d." Revisited On NBC

During this time of the seemingly eternal lockdown, is there a chance we will run out of programming on Netflix and Amazon Prime Video to fill the void of entertainment that may not be enjoyed in public venues?

While Netflix and Amazon appear primed to take care of our immediate needs for diversions, there is a world beyond the streaming services. Let's take a look at what network television may have to offer.

You can count on producer Dick Wolf for successful network runs of must-see television. One that has no end in sight is the popular "Chicago" franchise series that began with "Chicago Fire."

The original series that focused on firefighters in the Windy City and Jason Beghe's Hank Voight, suspected of being a dirty cop, was a recurring character involved in a feud with a fire station lieutenant.

Launched as a spinoff, "Chicago P.D." turned Sergeant Voight into the central character running the Intelligence Unit to deal with major offenses such as high-profile murders, drug trafficking, organized crime and other sensational crimes.

The tough-talking Voight can be as ruthless in enforcement as he is caring for the vulnerable. He always seems willing to make an extra effort to help young kids break free of criminal gangs.

Now in its seventh season, "Chicago P.D." maintains consistency with Voight's character willingness to bend the rules and ignore the admonitions of the brass often worried about an outfit that many want disbanded.

Voight and his mainstays, Detective Jay Halstead (Jesse Lee Soffer), Officers Adam Ruzek (Patrick John Flueger, Kevin Atwater (LaRoyce Hawkins) and Kim Burgess (Marina Squerciati), and Desk Sgt. Trudy Platt (Amy Morton), have been around since day one.

Other characters come and go over the years. Sophia Bush's Erin Lindsay was one that Voight took under his wing and who then joined the force, and later in the series decided h to the disappointment of her mentor.

The gravel-voiced Voight remains consistent in his tough-guy routine with operating techniques one would think that put him in the crosshairs of Internal Affairs with the frequency of daily meals.

The rough-and-tumble of policing by Voight and his team is unlikely to change. If Voight has a catchphrase, it's most prone to be "Do what you gotta do." As "Chicago P.D." was recently extended for another three seasons, chances are that Voight's maxim hangs around too.

"Chicago P.D." continues to be a durable police procedural that fans of the genre will tend to enjoy for the mix of action and personal drama. ★

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# MUSINGS

By Mike Ceremello



## More Sneaky Business

Commentary by Mike Ceremello

I didn't get to what I believed to be a minor issue, placing stop signs at South 3rd Street and East Mayes, last week during my scathing review of the council meeting. I also want to expand on a continuing and increasing problem with our city attorney, Doug White. The final subject we will cogitate on is the pandemic and the similarity between killer bees and the new bugaboo, killer hornets.

Let's start with the unfolding Central Valley story of Doug White and the perhaps coincidental move White has made in Dixon against the Independent Voice. I will put out the facts and label allegations as such as we go. You get to decide how coincidental or conspiratorial this all is.

How is it that the Atwater-Wintun Times reporter Beverly Barela uncovered many amoral and illegal actions against the actors in Ceres, Atwater, and Merced and was subsequently followed or stalked by those with connections to government and "allegedly" someone who was following her attempted to run her off the road? Getting too close to the truth, or actually uncovering it, got Beverly a visit from the interim police chief in Atwater who "allegedly" threatened her if she continued to write in the manner she had.

Not finding all of these actions achieving their goal, the board and editor of the paper became White's next target. No one is saying that White took a direct action like he has against the Independent Voice. So how does a newspaper suddenly go from reporting scandalous news to a Casper Milquetoast replica of the Dixon Tribune? Barela was told that she wouldn't be covering city hall anymore. I wonder why?

Maybe the powers that be didn't like it when a former police officer in Atwater was accused of withdrawing \$90,000 in cash from his business operated under his wife's name, using it to "allegedly" bribe three council people in Atwater and Barela reported on it. The same officer "allegedly" gave trips to Hawaii to these same three. At least one councilman "allegedly" laundered the money through his mother who subsequently gave him two \$10,000 payments.

So how does this apply to Dixon and the Independent Voice? White is attempting to attack the newspaper's finances. In White's court document he calls the IV a "throw away" newspaper with no circulation or subscription base. Interesting that he hasn't filed similar documents against the Dixon Tribune. His arguments would be much more valid against them.

The conclusion is silence is golden and those with the gold will silence the truth tellers in the media. Good luck with that, Doug. I have only begun to scratch the surface of White's Central Valley tentacles.

As I did not comment on the stop sign in my last column I will do it here because it is necessary. Unlike those who only listen to council deliberations and the put upon, oppressed, and fearful neighbors who supposedly witness "near misses every day", I actually get out on and in the street to see things for myself. It was enlightening to stand chatting with one neighbor for an hour and a half while very few cars traversed this intersection frequented by all of five members of the public.

As was stated in the staff report, there was not enough cause (warrants) to install a sign. However, another one of the commissions we have, the TAC, decided the bleating from those who live in the area was good enough of a reason. Unlike the position of the writer of last week's piece, I don't believe that simply having the possibility of "having a dead nine year old girl on the asphalt" is a reason to put in a stop sign.

I totally agree with Dane Besneatte who is demanding a stop sign at East A Street and Fourth Street rather than on an interior street. Once the old high school becomes the new middle school, it will be needed anyway. How about doing it now so people will be aware of it before children are traipsing back and forth?

Just once I would like an intelligent decision to be made by a commission. If they can see the need for a study, why wouldn't the commission? I thought some of the suggestions within the column were inexpensive and innovative but this was as easy as driving over and observing. Hysteria is not the answer.

Speaking of hysteria, the panic-demic continues with little to no action within Dixon. I had a friend who attended the May 1st event at the State capitol. He was one of 32 arrested by the CHP for exercising their First Amendment rights. Didn't these officers take an oath of office to uphold the Constitution?

This wasn't Michigan where people exercised their 2nd Amendment right in addition to those of the First. Yet the liberal media can only mewl about how horrible it is that these obviously "conservative" people, many of whom are no doubt "right wing white supremacists", didn't observe the illegal and unconstitutional edicts of the governor. Social distancing and face masks not being observed or missing confounded those scared stiff.

I happened to see a story on "killer hornets" who can sting through a beekeeper's clothing and whose venom can kill you if enough of them sting you. These critters are another product of Asia. Aside from this coincidence, what does this have to do with corona virus?

Do you remember the "killer bees", an aggressive genetic divergent of honey bees, which were invading the US and would kill us all? Panic is being pedaled once again with a new version just as with the COVID virus. You just have to wonder why the same model is being used and for what purpose.

To realize the purpose all you have to do is understand what the product of all of this fear culminates in: a destroyed economy. Who believes they will gain if Trump's leading claim to fame is negated? Who are they who want to keep businesses closed? As people realize the "equality of misery" except for those in governmental power, we are just now starting to see the rebellion. This rebellion is causing those who issue the edicts to rethink their positions.

As I have said, once hospitals are prepared for an increase in patients, we should allow the virus to run its course as every virus has. This isn't the medical profession of 1918 or the Hollywood horror movie of the 70's.

Sweden is right and Gavin is wrong ... period. ★

## DWIC Awards Grants to Community Organizations

By Loran Hoffman and Shirley Humphrey

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Women's Improvement Club is pleased to announce the recipients of their 2020 Community Grants. The selection committee received seven outstanding requests from local schools and non-profit organizations for project funding that will enhance the lives of those in the community.

Dixon Family Services received a \$1,000 award to purchase food from the Solano County Food Bank to assemble and disseminate bags filled with groceries to hungry families in Dixon. Many

folks are not working because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for food assistance is larger than it has ever been before.

A \$500 award was given to TEAM Dixon to facilitate an activity for children with disabilities and their high school age "buddies." Once the group can gather once again they would like to participate in an activity such as baking or flower arranging.

We thank everyone that participated in our Raffle at our Fundraising Dinner at Bud's Pub and Grill last February. Your generous contributions are highly appreciated and benefit our community. ★

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# When Man Replaces God as God



Harold Pease

**Commentary**  
by Harold W. Pease, Ph.D.

When man denies the existence of God, or even believes himself an agnostic he, in effect, replaces God with himself as the highest entity of intelligence. This impacts his political thinking in virtually every way.

If God does not exist then he cannot be counted on to manage the planet, thus puny man must. Without faith that God oversees everything for the benefit of man the following could not be understood: the rotation of the planets, sunsets and sunrises, the consistency of gravity, wind speeds and temperature variances—even oxygen levels. Nor

could the precarious balances of nature that allows a million species of plant and animal life to cohabit simultaneously on this earth, to eat and be eaten and still survive, every hour of every single day with little overall difference from decade to decade. If the sun refused to rise man would die in a few days, so dependent are we on an intelligence far above our own.

Without faith man would have believed in, and been frightened by, global cooling in the 1970's, global warming in the 1990's, and climate change in the 2010's and be totally mystified as to why everyone else wasn't as subject to manmade predictions and panicked as he. They must not be as intelligent. He could never have peace that God had everything under control.

If man has replaced God as God he would find himself panicked over the ever expanding population. He would look at food availability and compare it to the birthrate, as man has for thousands of years, and conclude that we have to cut the birthrate or we will eventually starve. He

would not see that God feeds even the birds who do nothing for it. He would never concede that God would enable man to invent a plow, a tractor, or a combine to increase the food supply and trucks, boats, and planes to move it about.

If man has replaced God as God he would tend to favor a regimental form of government like socialism so that he could make everyone else do as he supposed was best for them. He would never allow natural law where each decide for themselves what is best for them, amplifying incentive, and in such the whole society is benefited. No never!! It would be too dangerous left without total control. Even thought, if possible, must be managed and cameras and drones placed everywhere to see that it is. Freedom dies.

If man has replaced God as God he would credit himself with his success, money, inventions and power. Thus he expects dominion over others because these things, in his mind, demonstrate his superiority.

If man has replaced God as God there could be no

ultimate moral authority, translated—no evil, thus no sin, no justice, and no heaven or hell. No security of rights or property would exist. Man justifies his actions with whatever logic suits him—"might is right" has been a consistent philosophy of human existence in societies without God. Man exists only until his death, just like all life. No afterlife with friends and associates or loved ones. No reward or punishment. No sanctity of life thus abortion, infanticide and euthanasia are practiced because their space benefits those living. The weak and vulnerable are cast aside or extinguished.

If man has replaced God as God he might also feel it necessary to compete with God for authority and dominion. Jews lay claim to having been the most persecuted race on the globe the last 2,000 years, worthy only of extinction in the gas chambers of Hitler's Third Reich. Christians were fed to the lions in Roman coliseum's for entertainment in their early centuries under Roman authority. Today they are the most widely

persecuted religion, especially in the Middle East and Africa. Moslems are the most persecuted religion in China with at least a million Uighurs, incarcerated in slave labor camps for their religion, also serving as organ donors on demand for the western world.

When man doesn't need God he does not seek Him, consequently prayer, inspiration, and revelation also are largely muted. Creativity diminishes. Nor is faith needed or nurtured. Man becomes more basal in language and carnal in behavior, less distinguishable from animal behavior. Refinement properties like sharing, giving, sacrificing for others, forgiving others are dulled or extinguished. Darkness is allowed to dim the light of Christ. With diminished light judgment, even ability to reason, is impaired. Isn't that what happened, by-in-large, during the so-called Dark Ages when there was little change in Europe for hundreds of years?

If man has replaced God as God he also tends to replace Lucifer as Lucifer. Ironically he denies the existence of both, even

failing to recognize what he has become because he left God out. Isn't this what happened in socialist societies under Stalin, Hitler, Mao Tse Tung, Castro, Pol Pot and so many others? Although these examples are extreme isn't this legacy, to some degree, common to philosophies or individuals who allowed themselves to replace God as God?

The best evidence that man is not God, and that God exists, is that, man as God would have self destructed thousands of years ago. He has difficulty managing himself, let alone the planet and the universe.

*Dr. 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). ★*

## Spring Storms Not Enough to Offset Dry Winter

By Chris Orrock,  
Department of Water Resources

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The season's final manual snow survey at Phillips Station was conducted by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The survey recorded 1.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent (SWE) of 0.5 inches, which is 3 percent of the May average for this location. The SWE measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack, providing a more accurate forecast of spring runoff than snow depth alone.

Measurements from the 130 electronic snow sensors scattered throughout the state indicate that the statewide snowpack's water equivalent is 8.4 inches, or 37 percent of the May average. The readings will help hydrologists forecast spring and summer snowmelt runoff into rivers and reservoirs.

"March and April storms brought needed snow to the Sierras, with the snowpack reaching its peak on April 9, however those gains were not nearly enough to offset a very dry January and February," said Sean de Guzman, chief of DWR's Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecast Section. "The last two weeks

have seen increased temperatures leading to a rapid reduction of the snowpack. Snowmelt runoff into the reservoirs is forecasted to be below average."

California's weather variability has been on full display this water year. Dry conditions in October and November were followed by precipitation in December that measured 120 percent of average. Very dry conditions returned to much of the state in January and February, with March and April storms leading to the snowpack peaking at just 66 percent of average on April 9.

In normal years, the snowpack supplies about 30 percent of California's water needs as it melts in the spring and early summer. The greater the snow water equivalent the greater the likelihood California's reservoirs will receive ample runoff to meet the state's water demand in the summer and fall.

The state's six largest reservoirs currently hold between 83 percent (San Luis) and 126 percent (Melones) of their historical averages for this date. Lake Shasta, California's largest surface reservoir, is 94 percent of its historical average and sits at 81 percent of capacity.

For more information visit <https://water.ca.gov/> ★

## Balloons Bring 'Happy'

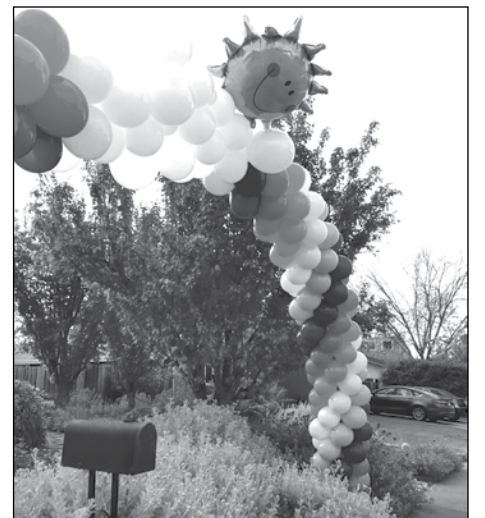
Continued from page 1

got busy taking inventory of what supplies she already had knowing she wanted "something big and bold and something that would give people hope." She realized with her balloon supplier and helium vendor shut down, she'd have to get even more innovative and use some sort of physical support and rely on balloons she already owned.

"I had a frame and decided on a rainbow – and I think that's kind of a symbol that's been popping up in people's windows through this, and there was Easter too, so there were lots of reasons to choose a rainbow," she said. It took her two full days to build. Her husband helped carry it all out to their front yard while their dog hid under the bed. The display stayed up for about four days with various people stopping by to take pictures.

"I'm so glad we stumbled upon it," said Melanie Wright who was out bike riding with her mom and children. Many notes of appreciation were posted on Facebook. The chalkboard sign off to the side read "Be Safe and Be Kind".

"I didn't see a lot of reactions because my windows don't look over the front, but there were more people than I could imagine going by because my son told me it was blowing up on. I'm not sure a lot of people cued into the #onemillionbubbles part, but whatever they got out of it—was great!" she said. "Balloons



Bringing Happy to Dixon, this house-high balloon rainbow heightened Dixon spirits for several days as part of a world-wide effort to cheer people during the Pandemic. Courtesy: PJ Designs

make people happy."

"Two people already contacted me for front yard design," Chesser said. "One is for a graduation and one is for a 20-year-old's birthday with a *Little Shop of Horrors* (Broadway) theme with a giant people-eating flower because that's their daughter's favorite show. I'm adding some Coronavirus-looking balloons to mark the occasion," she said. For more information, call PJ Design at (707) 365-6077. ★



**Social Distancing Isn't a Religion**

Forgive Jacksonville, Florida, for it has sinned.

The largest city in Florida partly reopened its beaches, and it became something of a national scandal. CNN ran a disapproving segment, and the hashtag #FloridaMorons trended on Twitter.

As the CNN report put it: "The scene at Jacksonville Beach wasn't one of caution in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. Crowds cheered and flooded the beach when police took the barriers down. People were seen swimming, biking, surfing, running and fishing."

None of these activities has been shown to be a vector for the spread of COVID-19; in fact, no outdoors activities have been shown to be dangerous at all. A recent study examined hundreds of outbreaks and traced only one to an outdoor environment.

Surfers and bikers are the least of our worries. Yet, there is a segment of American opinion that takes it as its responsibility to scold and

shame anyone who dares go out and get a little fresh air.

Early on in the crisis, CNN anchors spent 20 minutes inveighing against people walking, running, biking and rollerblading along San Francisco's Embarcadero. Noting that some people were holding hands, Jake Tapper called it "enraging." Of course, random strangers don't hold hands, but people who are likely in close proximity whether they are enjoying a stroll or not.

Despite there being no indication that outdoor spaces abet the spread of the disease, parks have been shut down throughout the United States, and the closures are at times enforced with rigor. No less than Tom Brady was chased from a closed Tampa Bay park after he was discovered working out, apparently alone. A father in Colorado was briefly detained by police for the alleged offense of playing T-ball with his 6-year-old daughter on a softball field.

A sure sign of fanaticism is the inability to make distinctions, in this instance between risky and non-risky activities and between places hard hit and places not. It's one thing to hold a day-long, 100-person family reunion in a public park, quite another to jog through one. It's one thing to begin opening up in

New York City, where there have been more than 10,000 deaths, and another to begin opening in Montana, where there have been 14.

Jacksonville, Florida is the seat of Duval County. With a population of nearly a million people, the county has had 17 COVID-19 deaths. It is hardly a hot spot.

At least some of the spleen would be taken out of the coronavirus debate if people acknowledged that we live in a vast continental country, with radically different ways of life. Not only are not all states the same, not all counties within states are the same.

But such is the lockdown zealotry that any thought that these kinds of places should be treated differently is considered heresy sure to get people killed. It seems indisputable that the lockdowns have slowed the spread of the disease, but at an enormous economic cost. We are going to have to show some flexibility and be willing to adopt a patchwork approach to opening up around the country.

We can't be beholden to public officials and commentators who, to paraphrase H.L. Mencken, have the haunting fear that someone, somewhere may be rollerblading.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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## Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



**I'm Looking for Glory. GLORY!**

time of year.

He was still chuckling to himself when Janice Thomas walked along the sidewalk.

"Hi Herb," said the high school art teacher. "What is it this year?"

"Papaya, Janice. Nice healthy one, don't you think?"

Janice took a close look at the little dark green tree.

Papaya. "Isn't that a tropical tree?"

"Sure is," he said, tucking more dirt around the roots. "I have to read the instructions carefully to get this right."

Janice thought carefully before speaking. "Papayas sure taste good, Herb."

"Sure do. Wouldn't it be nice if this lives long enough to produce fruit?"

"But you're not expecting ..."

"Of course not. The first nippy day in autumn will turn this little guy belly up."

He looked up and smiled

at Janice's consternation.

"You know that banana tree almost made it to Christmas last year. That was my best so far. We'll see how this little guy makes out."

Each year Herb plants something in the front yard that has no chance at all of being there the following spring. He's done it for years. It gives the neighborhood something to look at and talk about, and it's fun.

"You know, Herb, if you're looking for fruit, a cherry tree will produce ..."

"I'm not looking for fruit, Janice," he said, gently. "I'm looking for glory. Glory!"

He laughed. "Where's the glory in planting something that will grow here?"

Anyone can do that. But a papaya? Ha! There's glory in that.

*Brought to you by "Home Country with Slim Randles." Check your local classic country music station for broadcast times. ★*



# Social Security Matters

## Should My Wife Take Her Social Security at Age 62?



**By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor**

**Dear Rusty:** I have been advised by my financial planner to start my wife's social security benefits at the age of 62 (she is now 61). I am 65 and still employed, not on Medicare, and not taking social security benefits. My wife's benefits are much less than mine. I hope to wait until age 70 before starting my benefits. My income is currently \$160,000. Do you see this as a wise choice to start my wife's SS benefits at age 62? **Signed: Inquiring Wife**

**Dear Inquiring Wife:** Whether your wife should start her benefits at age 62 depends upon whether her own benefit at age 70 would be more than she is entitled to as your spouse at her full retirement age (FRA). You can get these estimates from Social Security. If her own benefit would eventually be higher than her spousal benefit from you, she can wait to get her own higher benefit at age 70 (as you are). But if her benefit as your spouse will be the highest she can attain, then claiming her own benefit before



you claim yours could be a good choice, but there are some things to consider if she does that:

First, if your wife claims at age 62 (or any age before her FRA), that will mean that her eventual spousal benefit when she claims it (when you claim your SS) will be less than 50% of the benefit you are entitled to at your full retirement age. Taking her own benefit earlier than her FRA will mean her spousal benefit from you will be reduced to less than half of your FRA benefit amount, even if that spousal benefit starts after she has reached her FRA.

Second, if your wife is still working, by claiming her own benefit before her FRA she will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits the amount of money she can make without SS taking back some of her benefits. For 2020, the annual earnings limit is \$18,240 (changes annually) and SS will take back benefits equal to half of any earnings which exceed that amount. The earnings limit becomes less severe during the year your wife reaches her FRA and goes away entirely after she reaches her FRA, but if she works while collecting early SS benefits the earnings limit

could affect her benefits.

Third, your wife's Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income (assuming you file "married-jointly"). Taxation of your wife's Social Security benefits will be determined based upon your combined income if you file your taxes as a married couple. At your combined earnings level, up to 85% of your wife's SS benefits will become part of your taxable income.

I'm not suggesting you not follow your financial planner's advice; I only want to make sure you're aware of all the factors involved when benefits are claimed early. Sometimes, a wife claiming at age 62 is a prudent choice as your financial planner has suggested. But sometimes understanding the above factors may lead to a different strategy.

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

# Is Gavin Newsom in Training to be our Supreme Leader?

Commentary by Stephen Frank

China does not like free speech. Guv Newsom is trying to ban protests on public property. China tells people where they are allowed to go. Newsom is closing our beaches. Newsom barely wants to allow church to live stream Sunday Services. In China churches meet under the guidance of government. In California the Legislature has not met for about two months—might not meet for several more weeks. Newsom is in charge. In China their legislature is a rubber stamp for the Supreme Leader, he is in charge.

In China the Prime Minister signs agreements, makes deals without consultation with other elected officials. In California Guv Newsom signed a \$990 million contract with a firm owned and controlled by the Chinese Communist Party for N95 masks. Of course the firm has NEVER made masks – they make mediocre electric buses. Newsom will not allow the Legislature or the public to see the contract – a sure sign of corruption.

I seldom quote the Bible, but today I found this verse, **"Daniel 2:21, NIV** He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning."

Yes, we need to respect and follow the rules set by government. But we also must be "discerning". We should not blindly follow the leader of China nor Newsom who is using the government of China as a role model for his "leadership" in California. China does not want guns – and Newsom tried to close down gun shops. Thankfully the courts over ruled him. This is a governor that does not like guns, "because they kill innocent people". Yet he uses your tax dollars to give to Planned Parenthood to kill innocent babies. Remember, China had the "one child" policy". Not much difference from Planned Parenthood going into our government school classrooms promoting the killing of babies.

Even during this pandemic, Guv Newsom considers the killing of babies an

essential job. You may not be able to surf or soak up the sun on the beach, but he continues to promote the abortion of innocent babies – using your tax dollars.

In Auburn, California, two hair salons have opened. In many town barbers are still doing business, by appointment only. People are going to the beaches, they are protesting, shoulder to shoulder in more than a dozen cities. Folks have started holding family BBQ's, though the Guv wants you to stay home, stay unemployed and stay compliant to government. Folks have begun to see the over reach of government.

In the long run, this over reach by Newsom and other Democrats governors may be good for society. It shows that government will misuse data, impose controls the Chinese would approve of and kill an economy that created a better middle class and fewer poor.

The next time Newsom or his type of government demands something of the people, families and businesses will think twice. It will become difficult for people to obey after they figured out the draconian loss of freedom, the economic disaster, the educational disaster was not worth it. Social distancing, yes, no church, no free speech, no right to assembly, the closing of business will not happen again, unless it is as the point of a gun.

The way out of this is simple. Vote No on candidates that support the Supreme Leader ending constitutional rights. We need the social distancing and have to watch the data carefully – the date, not the crazy models that convinced politicians they had an excuse to kill our rights, our economy and future, while giving government total control of every aspect of our lives.

Do not blame Gov. Newsom for taking your right and financial future. We allowed him to do it. Now is the time to take it back and tell those that love the Chinese model of government the scam is over.

It is your life, your choice. Choose the safety of freedom. ★

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ATTENTION: OXYGEN USERS! The NEW Inogen One G5. 1-6 flow settings. Designed for 24 hour oxygen use. Compact and Lightweight. Get a Free Info kit today: 1-844-359-3976 (CalSCAN)

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**SAVE BIG on HOME INSURANCE!** Compare 20 A-rated insurance companies. Get a quote within minutes. Average savings of \$444/year! Call 1-844-410-9609! (M-F 8am-8pm Central) (Cal-SCAN)

### Classified Advertising

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# Ask Toni

## Past 65 and Receiving The Medicare Part B Penalty ... Why?



Toni King

Toni:

My Medicare Part B enrollment nightmare began when I was laid off from my job on March 10th. I was given inaccurate information when I left my job and enrolled in COBRA to have knee surgery when I turned 67.

I am a 69-year-old female who has been employed by 3 different companies, and no one ever informed me that I needed to have a special form CMS-L564, "Request for Employment Information" signed by each company I worked for since turning 65.

I spoke to the district manager of my local Social Security office and she asked me why I never enrolled in Medicare's Part B when I left the company and enrolled in COBRA. I was informed that my penalty is 40%, which is 69-65 or 4 years. The penalty is not for 1 year, but forever!! Because I did not enroll in Part B at the right time.

Toni, please inform your readers how important it is to enroll in Medicare Part B when enrolling in when leaving or losing your employment or applying for COBRA after 65.

~ Cathie from Tulsa, OK

Cathie:

Last week, the Toni Says® Medicare office had repeated phone calls regarding this matter. Many that have been laid off and losing benefits were never told that they needed to have the CMS-L564 "Request for Employment Information" signed by every company they worked for since turning 65 and covered by employer benefits.

Americans do not realize how important it is to enroll the right way. At the Toni Says office, we inform those who come to the office for Medicare planning to be sure that Part B begins the day you lose your company benefits or the day your COBRA plan starts. Many try to enroll in Part B like you did Cathie with a BIG SURPRISE discovering they are penalized 10% each year or 12-month period, you could have had Part B. The penalty goes all the way back to the day he/she turned 65 or the day Part A began.

Cathie, your penalty is for 40% and the average Part B premium for 2020 is \$146.40. Your penalty will be \$146.40 + \$58.56 = \$204.96 per month for 2020. The amount will change each year.

**The process to enroll in Medicare Part B past 65 whether laid off or retiring is the same:**

Write in red letters **Special Enrollment Period** on each form for the Social Security agent that is processing them to know that you are signing up at the right time and keep from

giving you a penalty. You are applying for a SEP (**Special Enrollment Period**). (These forms are also available at the Toni Says office by emailing [info@tonisays.com](mailto:info@tonisays.com) or calling 832/519-8664.

**1) Form #1 Request for Employment Information (CMS-L564)** for proof of group health care coverage based on current employment. This information is needed to process your Medicare enrollment application. *If you have had 2 or more jobs since turning 65, then each company will have to sign this form. Be sure to have forms signed for both you and your covered spouse.*

**2) Form #2 Application for Enrollment in Medicare Part B (CMS-40B):** Social Security fills out this form.

\*\*Currently, all Social Security offices are closed due to COVID-19 situation and both forms must be faxed or mailed together when sending to the Social Security office for yourself and/or spouse when applying for Medicare Part B. Please be sure to keep a copy for yourself.\*\*

Confused ... you are not alone! America is confused about Medicare rules!

Toni King, author of the *Medicare Survival Guide®* is giving a \$5 discount on the *Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced* book to the Toni Says Medicare column readers at [www.tonisays.com](http://www.tonisays.com) ★

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**Publisher, Paul V. Scholl**

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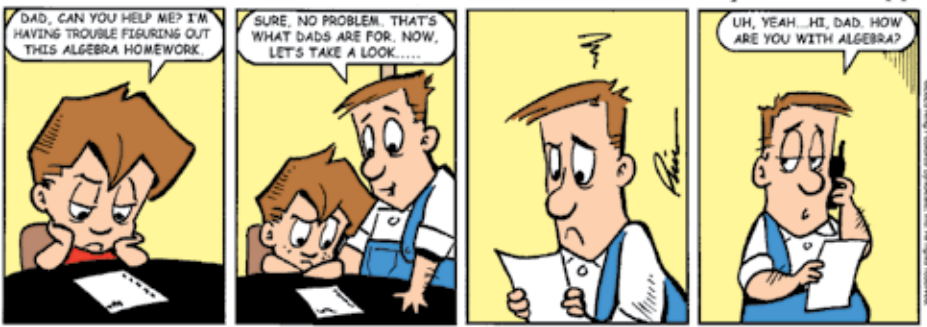
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# WEEKLY COMICS

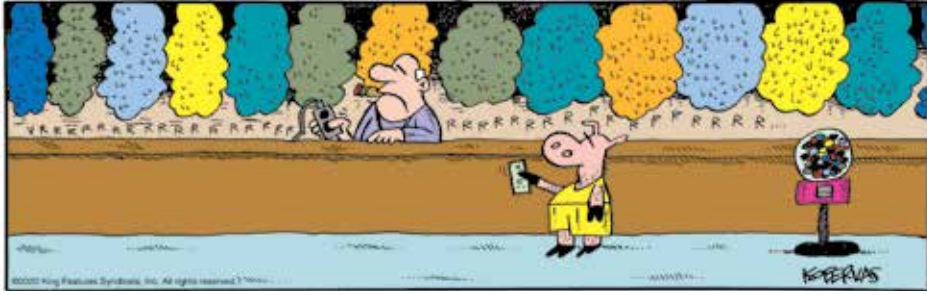
## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



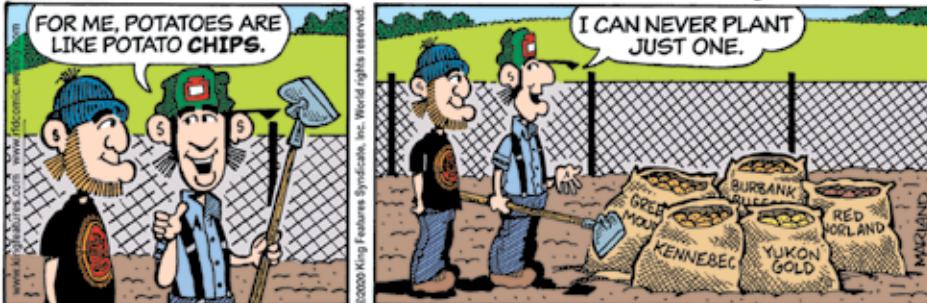
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



## GRIN & BEAR IT



## LAFF-A-DAY



## The Spats

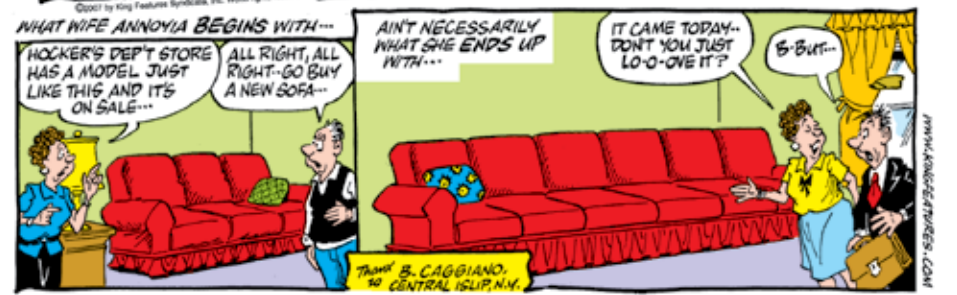
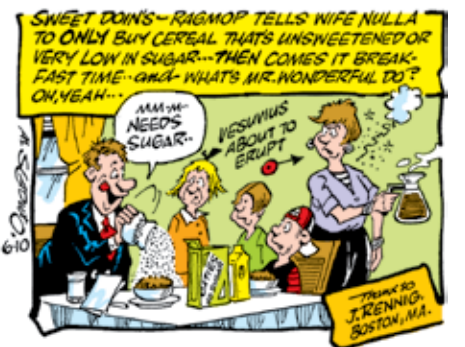
by Jeff Pickering



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



## BY AL SCADUTO



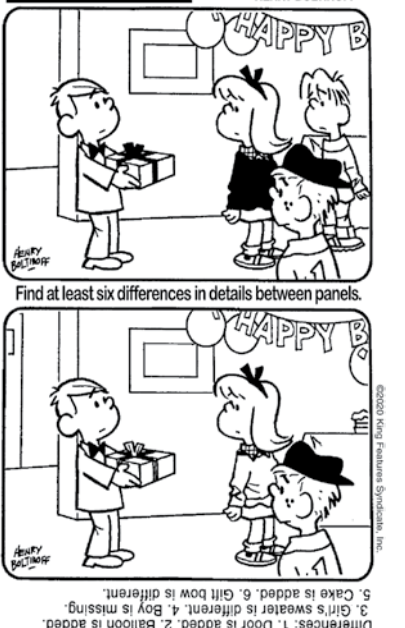
## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



## Crossword Puzzle on Page 9

A	T	T	I	C		E	M	S		T	A	I	L		
P	R	A	N	A		V	E	T		C	U	R	S	E	
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		E	E	L		S	K	I	D						
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H	A	S	T			E	O	N		T	E	N	E	T	

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • ACTORS AND ACTRESSES

### CLUES

- ACROSS
- Flowers in the \_\_\_\_\_
  - Emergency responders
  - Peacock's pride
  - Life force in Sanskrit
  - Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
  - The Beast's problem
  - Happen again
  - Freudian topic
  - In a fitting way
  - "Hopkins' Lecter to \_\_\_\_\_'s Starling
  - "McGillis' Charlie to \_\_\_\_\_'s Maverick
  - Unagi
  - Undesirable row
  - Stuff in a tray?
  - The Tramp's love interest
  - Hairy vertebrate
  - "Best \_\_\_\_\_ schemes o' mice an' men"
  - Be inclined
  - City in Belgium
  - Debussy's "Clair de \_\_\_\_\_"
  - D'Artagnan's weapon, pl.
  - Speed on water
  - "This \_\_\_\_\_," on a box
  - The Chapin School, e.g.
  - €
  - Post-roller coaster ride state
  - The Coen brothers' "True \_\_\_\_\_"

- \_\_\_\_\_ Diego
- Deuce topper
- Lamb's mother
- "Clark's Rhett to \_\_\_\_\_'s Scarlett
- "John's Danny to \_\_\_\_\_'s Sandy
- Continually annoy
- Matterhorn, e.g.
- Cooler climate conifer
- Do like phoenix
- Tiger's peg
- "My Own Private \_\_\_\_\_"
- Thou \_\_\_\_\_, or you have
- Bajillion years

- DOWN
- 2020 Easter mo.
  - Not kosher
  - Meal in a shell
  - Occupied, two words
  - El Chapo's organization
  - "What \_\_\_\_\_ happened to Baby Jane?"
  - "Billy's Harry to \_\_\_\_\_'s Sally
  - Investor's asset
  - \_\_\_\_\_Guarani languages
  - Liberal pursuits
  - Archipelago unit
  - Bovine hangout
  - Posterior, anatomically speaking
  - Fill with optimism
  - Basketball target
  - Two heads are better than one, e.g.
  - Keaton's Annie to \_\_\_\_\_'s Alvy
  - Sweating room
  - Hindusim follower
  - "Knightley's Swann to \_\_\_\_\_'s Sparrow
  - "Cameron's Fiona to \_\_\_\_\_'s Shrek

### 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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40					41				42		43				
44					45				46					47	
48					49				50			51		52	
					53				54			55		56	
57	58	59							60			61	62		
63									64	65			66		67
68									69				70		
71									72				73		

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

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

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**Sudoku Puzzle on Page 9**

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

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# Wells Fargo Issues Emergency Funds for Local Homeless Shelters

By Julie Beckner, Volunteers of America Northern California & Northern Nevada

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Wells Fargo has granted Volunteers of America Northern California and Northern Nevada (VOA-NCNN) \$100,000 to help meet the urgent needs of people experiencing homelessness and isolation in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. VOA-NCNN projects a \$3mil+ gap in funding this fiscal year due to COVID-19.

Funding from Wells Fargo will help VOA-NCNN: adapt systems, and implement safety and distancing protocols; cover unforeseen expenses to sustain increased and vital meal delivery service for isolated seniors, veterans, disabled, and homeless families; purchase sanitation and other essential supplies for staff and clients; and, support increased payroll expenses for essential staff working around the clock to meet the urgent needs of more than 4,060 residents and clients in its housing and shelter programs.

"Wells Fargo consistently steps up to meet the needs of our community, and this time is no different," says VOA-NCNN spokesperson Christie Holderegger. "This timely funding will help us to remain

responsive in this unprecedented crisis."

"Not everyone is afforded the luxury of sheltering in place in a home. There are thousands of homeless Sacramentans facing this pandemic while living on the streets or in shelters like those operated by VOA-NCNN," said Wells Fargo Capital Foothills Region Bank President Kevin Barri. "We are grateful for the wonderful programs VOA-NCNN offers some of our most vulnerable neighbors, and thank for them working tirelessly to ensure their safety during this most unprecedented time."

Founded locally in 1911, the Northern California & Northern Nevada office of Volunteers of America is one of the largest providers of social services in the region. The professional paid staff operates more than 52 programs: homeless services and shelters; substance abuse treatment and recovery services; senior, veteran, and youth services; transitional, permanent supportive, and low-income housing. Volunteers of America provides shelter or housing to nearly 3,000 men, women and children every night in Northern California. Learn more about Volunteers of America Northern California & Northern Nevada at [www.voa-ncnn.org](http://www.voa-ncnn.org). ★

# History of MAF and Travis Air Force Base Goes Way Back!

Move America Forward Press Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - After a little over a week of fundraising we are so grateful to everyone who has donated money to help the troops stationed over at Travis Air Force Base during their time of need.

Everyone here at Move America Forward is so happy to be able to help our friends at Travis because we have a long history of working with troops over at the base.

Last year the pilots were gracious enough to fly a flag overseas in our honor and also carried the flag aboard their planes on several air missions. We were so honored to receive it and today it sits displayed proudly in our offices in Sacramento.

Back in 2016 MAF visited the military working dog kennels at Travis AFB for a first-hand look at how they train and handle the military K9s. They allowed us to interview and ask questions to some of the handlers and tour the dog kennel facility. Then they showed us a full



Move America Forward was honored with an American flag flown overseas and an Operation Resolute Support Certificate of Authenticity by Jessica Moser spouse of Travis AFB Airman, Randel Moser. Photo: MAF

demonstration of the military working dog daily training regimen, including an obstacle course, verbal command drills, and some high intensity bite work where the dogs chased down a guy in a bite suit and jumped through car windows to wrestle down a "threatening character". It was amazing!

With the funds we raise for our neighbors over at

Travis Air Force Base, we will be supplying them with the items that they have requested:

We are asking for a cash donation of any amount so that we can go out and buy the supplies that they have requested and need. Any amount helps.

For more information visit <https://www.moveamerica-forward.org/> ★

**We Support Our Military**

# \$5 Million Allocated For Lead Testing in California Child Care Centers

State Water Resources Control Board

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The State Water Resources Control Board has executed an agreement to provide approximately \$5 million in grant funds for testing and remediation of lead in drinking water at licensed Child Care Centers.

The passage of Assembly Bill 2370 in 2018 requires that all licensed child care centers

constructed before Jan. 1, 2010 test their drinking water for lead and do so within a three-year window. Subsequent testing every five years after the date of the first test is also required. The testing requirement does not apply when services are provided in the home of the caregiver.

Lead is a naturally occurring toxic metal used in many products and found throughout the environment including air, soil and water.

Children are particularly susceptible to lead exposure. Lead can slow down growth and development, harm a child's nervous system and impact brain development. Studies have found that even small amounts of lead exposure can make it difficult for children to learn, pay attention and succeed in school. Children under six years old are most at risk, particularly infants.

The California Department of Social Services regulates licensed

child care centers and plans to issue directives to centers in early 2020 regarding the requirements for testing and remediation. Once issued, that information will be posted on the CDSS Provider Information Notices page.

A second 2018 bill, Senate Bill 862, appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to the SWRCB and prioritizes centers serving infants and preschoolers. The bill gave highest priority for centers

that serve infants, those that operate only one center and those with a majority of children receiving subsidized care. The Office of Water Programs at California State University, Sacramento will utilize the grant funds to implement a statewide program to assist priority centers, with support from the California Rural Water Association and the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network. ★

## 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.



### Friday, May 1, 2020

**1500** – Traffic collision report taken in the 200 block of E. Dorset Dr.

**1507** – Information report was taken in the 2500 block of N. 1st St.

**2026** – A juvenile calls the Police and stated her Uncle and Aunt were having trouble and her Aunt needed the Police. DPD Officers arrived and conducted an investigation. Officers determined that (S) Pablo Pacheco of Dixon strangled/choked the mother of his children. He was booked into the Solano County Jail for Domestic Violence charges.

### Saturday, May 2, 2020

**0345** – A Dixon man went to the home of his ex-girlfriend on the 1300 block of Austin Drive to declare his undying love for her. She called the Police. The man was arrested for being drunk in public and for violating his probation.

**1102** – Warrant arrest report was taken at the Dixon Police Department. (S) Lori Rosenberger was contacted. Lori was found to have an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. The warrant was citeable, and Lori was cited and given a new court date.

**1523** – Theft report was taken in the 1200 Stratford Av.

**1755** – A Dixon man was climbing into the beds of pick-up trucks on the 1700 block of West H Street. He was arrested for being intoxicated in public and for possessing the identification of another person.

**2008** – A found property (bicycle) report was taken from the 200 block of Peters Avenue.

**2020** – A motor vehicle accident was taken from the 200 block of East Broadway Street. This accident was vehicle vs. pedestrian.

### Sunday, May 3, 2020

**0030** – A Dixon Police Officer investigated a suspicious car on the 200 block of East Dorset Drive. The occupant was issued a citation for narcotics paraphernalia possession.

**0325** – A traffic accident occurred on the 200 block of South First Street.

**1130** – Theft report in the 200 block of East Dorset Dr.

**1243** – Informational report in the 1100 block of Dawson Drive.

1900 Report of a vehicle vs. pedestrian accident in the 900 block of Stratford Avenue. The pedestrian went to the hospital with moderate injuries. The driver of the vehicle, William Thompson (33) of Dixon was taken to jail for driving under the influence of alcohol.

**2100** – Report of a vehicle burglary in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue.

### Monday, May 4, 2020

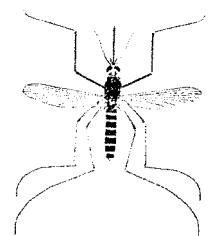
**0230** – Stolen vehicle recovered in the 1300 block of Stratford Avenue.

**0400** – Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of Weigand Way and Regency Parkway resulted in the arrest of the 17 year old driver after he tried to flee from officers and crashed his car into a nearby garage. The juvenile driver was issued a citation for fleeing and having a BAC of .15 %. He was released to the custody of his mother.

**0958** – Found property reported in the 600 block of North Washington. 20-0578

**1344** – Domestic dispute in the 1500 block of Valley Glen Drive.

# 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**  
[solanomosquito.com](http://solanomosquito.com)