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# Dixon's **Independent Voice**

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## California Screamin'



It has been ten years since this capitol rally photo, and the same tired politicians, Pelosi and Feinstein are still trying to control your lives. MPG archived photo/Rowen

**Commentary by Paul Scholl**

People in California are screaming to be allowed to go back to work and open their businesses. The governor remains tone deaf. The pure science says our state should reopen. Unless, of course, those scientists you are listening to are somehow on the government payroll.

Most small businesses are owned by conservatives. Small businesses were booming and their success was raising millions of poorer Americans out of poverty with new jobs and off the government assistance programs. They were getting control of their

own lives back. We were all winning. This disease is no laughing matter. It can be really serious for many, even life-threatening to certain populations. So as a society, we all adapt while keeping our freedoms. We don't crush our society entirely. Unless there is a motive where "they" want to control it.

We are all in this together? NOT! You could solve the shutdown in 14 days (one payroll cycle) if you layoff all the government workers, all the union workers, and all the big media. Then they would be screaming too.

When I was raised with ten brothers and sisters we were told to wash

our hands, cover your mouth when you coughed or sneezed, eat well, drink a lot of water, go to bed on time, go play outside, and stay home if you are sick. Measles, Mumps, Chicken Pox, you name it, but no one died. Common sense.

An overwhelming number of doctors are now speaking out about "herd immunity". The information about the disease changes daily. But what do "they" tell us? You may have to stay home for up to one and a half years until we find a vaccine we can overcharge you for on your already far-too expensive health insurance.

*Continued on page 10*

## State Leaders Ask Governor to Lift Stay-At- Home Order in Rural Counties

By Curtis Grima,  
Office of  
Assemblyman  
James Gallagher

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A bi-partisan group of legislators, county officials and mayors sent a letter to the Governor asking him to allow six Northern California counties to come out of the statewide stay-at-home order, in accordance with their respective local and regional plans. Signers of the letter requested the ability to initiate a thoughtful and science-based reopening of local economies, that is also consistent with state and national guidelines. In total 14 Mayors and 6 County Board of Supervisor Chairs made the request.

The letter notes that infection rates have remained low in these six counties (Yuba, Sutter, Butte, Glenn, Tehama, and Colusa), which have a combined population of more than 500,000 residents. As of Friday, April 24th, 69 individuals had tested positive for COVID-19 in these six counties, 50 of those who tested positive are now fully recovered. There was only one confirmed COVID-19 patient in the ICU.

Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Tehama) said, "California is weathering this pandemic well. In the North State, we have even fewer infections than those in other regions of the state. We must re-open our economy so Californians can get back to work. Families need to put food on the table and pay their rent and mortgage. Put simply, Californians need to continue living their best lives."

"We all appreciate the quick action taken to flatten the curve of this virus," said Assemblyman James Gallagher (R-Yuba City). "That effort has been successfully implemented, but it has not been without great cost to our people and our future ability to provide for the health and prosperity of our communities. It is time to begin a re-opening. Our cases are low, our healthcare capabilities have been beefed up, and we are ready to get our economy moving again." ★

## How Many Children have to Die before the City puts in a Stop Sign?

By Paul Scholl

DIXON, CA (MPG) -During the last city council meeting there was an extended discussion on a request for a stop sign in a Dixon neighborhood where residents have complained about ongoing speeding traffic.

One compelling comment was from a neighbor who stated that she sees speeders and close calls with traffic nearly every day. She claimed she can watch the traffic from her kitchen window. She said there are so many close calls of accidents that she is really worried that someone will be seriously hurt.

The council voted to kick the can down the road, waiting to do a "study" in the fall when there will be much more traffic so that it will be a more accurate study.

Maybe the only study they need is a dead little nine year old girl on the asphalt? Then who will be to blame? Not them. There was a study pending.

It is not rocket science. Survey the closest 50 homes to that street corner and get their opinion.



A neighbor claimed she can watch the traffic from her kitchen window. She said there are so many close calls of accidents that she is really worried that someone will be seriously hurt. Photo by Marla Pollitt from Pixabay

Put up a camera for three days at the corner and see how many close calls happen, even with lesser traffic, then extrapolate the potential for accidents. Put in a temporary stop sign for three days, using the same cameras. In one week your "survey" is done.

This does not take an act of God. But bringing back someone's dead nine year old little girl would. This does not require a complete

traffic study for the entire city of Dixon to fix one small problem that the neighbors in the area claim is a real problem for public safety.

Putting a stop sign at every corner also isn't the answer, as was suggested in the meeting. If there are that many problem intersections in the city then a traffic study is warranted. Just don't wait until someone else's kid gets run over and killed. The real question

is, in a city of 20,000 people, why hasn't a traffic survey been done already?

If you live in a neighborhood that has similar problems with speeding traffic and far too many near misses of children being hit by a car, please email us at staff@independentvoice.com and tell us your story. Maybe we can get something done about it and save the lives of a few children. ★

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## Dave Ramsey Says

have been brainwashed into believing credit cards and debt are an unavoidable part of life. They're stuck in their ways, and nothing anyone can say or do is going to change that.

I've been fortunate enough to help millions of people change their lives, get out of debt, and take control of their finances. But there are millions more who will never listen. They'll just keep going deeper and deeper into debt, and never realize the real problem is the person they see in the mirror every morning.

The truth is, you can make irrefutable arguments against credit cards. People who use them spend more than those who use cash or debit cards. Research has proven this. You don't need one to rent a car, get a hotel room, or buy airline tickets. A debit card will do all those things without piling up debt. For an emergency fund, you can simply save up cash. It takes some discipline and hard work, but relying on credit when things go wrong is a really

bad idea. It's a trap.

If they won't listen to all these truths, try telling them your story. Let them know you understand from experience how hard breaking old habits can be. Emphasize how amazing your life has been since you made the decision to actively control your money, instead allowing a lack of money to control you.

Congratulations, Lacey. I'm proud of you for working so hard and being disciplined. I hope you can be an influence on others in your family, and help lead them to a place of financial peace, too!

- 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.* ★

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

At the April 21, 2020 City Council Meeting, Item 12.2 was supposed to be a Water Ops and Financial Update of the Water System. In reviewing the spreadsheets at the end of the report, the numbers for O & M Budget for 19/20 included salary transfers and capital outlay in the \$1.7 million budget. But if you look at the O & M budget for 20/21 of just over \$1 million, they are excluding Capital Outlay and don't mention salary transfers at all. So that leaves the public (water rate payers) trying to compare apples and oranges. Capital Outlay as a line item expense should NEVER be included in O & M budgets or expenses. They are completely different categories of expenditures. Also, the spreadsheet doesn't show any "Regulatory" projects in 19/20, but have \$690,000 of "Regulatory" projects for 20/21. So, did the city not have ANY regulatory requirements for 19/20? Or is it that they are only inspected by State officials every 2 years? Why did city staff not do a Fiscal Year side by side comparison of Revenues, Operating and Maintenance Expenditures by line item, and Capital Expenses by line item, otherwise known as a Cash Flow Statement? Showing the public what the budget figures were means nothing.

The \$6.3 million of Water Capital Projects Rehab Fund is the City's "wish list" of what they are WANTING to do not what is NEEDED. The City posted the Strategic Asset Management Plan on their website. Any citizen can and should read the Executive Summary of the plan to clearly see that the current water system needs are minimal. The majority of

the funds the city is extorting from current rate payers is for future (2030) buildout of the city. New development should pay their own way, not on the backs of current rate payers. The City has initiated 4 rate increases starting with a whopping 85% increase April 1, 2019. An additional 50% increase went into effect April 1, 2020 with two more substantial increases in 2021 and 2022.

Questions presented to this Council and City by the Solano County Taxpayers Association-Dixon Chapter via a letter dated December 10, 2018 have never been answered. Questions by Dixon citizens in information sessions in January 2019 were never answered. Questions by Dixon citizens in numerous council meetings for the past 2 years have gone unanswered! Why were the protest letters against these rate increases not counted in front of the public, but rather pre-counted by the City Clerk who mysteriously quit 3 days after the Council voted for the rate increases?

Why is this Council not asking for a total report of Revenues and Expenditures of the water system? Why is this Council not demanding answers from City staff? Why is this Council insisting that 3 water wells need replacement when the City's own consultants (West Yost) don't mention well replacement in the Strategic Asset Management Plan? Water ratepayers of Dixon City Water System must vote in November and repeal these exorbitant rate increases and demand the current Council shape up, be responsive to voters, or ship out!

Dorothy Kroll, Dixon resident ★

### Examine your Business Needs Carefully

Dear Dave,

I'm debt-free except for my home, and it is all because I started following your plan four years ago. I'm even on track to pay off my mortgage in eight years. With all the scary economic news out there, I'd love to talk to my family about following your advice, too. Do you have any suggestions for doing this without sounding like a know-it-all or that I am bragging?

- Lacey

Dear Lacey,

It's been my experience that when it comes to family, words don't always do the trick. There's an old saying that goes, "Those convinced against their will are of the same opinion still." Some people

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## St. Peter's Catholic Church News

He had a classical education, was a lawyer, politician, author and Lord Chancellor of England. He had wealth, prestige, was a devoted family man and fervently devout in his faith so much so as to regard himself a "servant first to God". The first time I learned about the faith and life of this dedicated man was when I saw the movie "A Man for All Seasons". A movie I highly recommend seeing. Who is this amazing man, you ask? Some might already have guessed. He is St. Thomas More, the Patron saint of Statesman and Politicians. He was Lord Chancellor to King Henry VIII. St. Thomas More was deeply committed to his Catholic faith and obedient and steadfast to her teachings. Throughout this tumultuous time in history, similar to today's turbulence, the Church was being persecuted. The world was calling to all who would listen to live a life free from so called restraints and to live for themselves.

It was weaving its bright ribbons around getting people all tangled up in the affairs of one another's gossip, slander, lying, meanness, murder, jealousy, pride. St. Thomas More kept his eyes on God and the true freedom one receives when one listens to what God has to say and asks us to do. He was obedient to Rome in

faith, theology and morals. Pope Francis is the Successor of Peter today as Pope Clement VII was as that time. The Pope leads the faithful and is supreme head over all human authority. Henry was not happy to be reminded of this. St. Thomas More stayed true to the Church despite losing most of his friends and eventually his life. He was a true witness to the teachings of Christ and reminded his accusers that "no temporal man may be the head of the spirituality." More did not get angry with the judges who sentenced him nor hold them in contempt, rather in love and forgiveness he prayed that they might see each other in heaven. He never lost sight of his ultimate goal, his true treasure ~ Heaven. So, one needs to ask themselves whether they are of the world or of Christ. Who will they be obedient to? Christ or mammon. "St. Thomas More shows us how to (be obedient), persevere and keep our eyes on Christ.... even as we lose our very livelihood." \* St. Thomas More, pray for us.

\*Hull, Constance T.. "St. Thomas More: A Saint for the Persecuted Church" The Catholic Gentleman, www.catholicgentleman.net/2016/07/st-thomas-saint-persecuted-church/. Accessed 26 April 2020. ★

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# Hometown Troops Dealing with Coronavirus Asking for Your Help!

By Scott Rabb,  
Move America Forward

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As you know, Move America Forward normally sends care packages to troops overseas but with the nation continuing to be locked down, we can't ignore the requests for help from troops in our own back yard. Our military is not only performing their normal duties of national security, but are being asked to help domestically to help with the containment of the coronavirus - the front lines are shifting!

Now the troops of Travis AFB need our help!

Just down the road from MAF's operation center is Travis Air Force base. We recently received a direct request to help lift the morale of hundreds of troops that are locked down in their barracks under quarantine after being deployed to perform repairs on aircraft carriers, abroad as well as attending to civilian U.S. citizens that have returned from abroad that have been exposed to the COVID-19.

The wife of a soldier stationed at Travis and Family Readiness Coordinator, Jessica, reached out to us. Jessica has asked MAF and several other groups in the community to stand united with her unit and send some support to these quarantined troops who are alone, are suffering from low morale, and are running out of basic supplies.

She reached out and asked if we have any extra supplies for them, so we're responding with a new campaign #unitewestand to support these troops in our own backyard!

Will you please support us in fulfilling their request and giving them the support they need?

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:

Granola and Protein Bars; Cookies and Candy; Microwave Popcorn and Snacks; Instant Lunches and Ramen; Beef Jerky and Supplies; Hand Sanitizer and Wet Wipes

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.

Please think of these forgotten troops and make a cash donation today - whatever you are able to do - and we'll get these supplies to our hometown airmen right away!

As the devastating effects of the COVID19 epidemic show up all over the world, and so many states, including our own California enforcing "shelter in place" orders, we want all our supporters to know that Move America Forward takes this virus threat extremely seriously.

While we considered shutting down all operations, as many businesses have done, we were reminded that our troops NEVER take a day off.

Whether it's a threat from terrorist groups or coronavirus, our troops still put their lives at risk every day to accomplish their missions and keep our country safe. We have so much respect for their service, we knew that we simply MUST keep supporting them, sending care packages, and sending the troops much needed supplies even now. Our staff have taken great precautions to maintain the utmost possible cleanliness and safeguard the health of our troops while continuing our mission to send them support.

We take as many protective measures as possible to protect our staff and troops from the possibility of infection, but we want to make it clear that our troops will still get the support they need from us, and we thank YOU for YOUR continued support during these troubling times.

For more information visit <https://www.moveamericaforward.org/> ★

# CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

## Returning to our Rural Roots

In times of uncertainty, people seek relief by participating in familiar activities, eating "comfort" foods, staying home and surrounding one's self with family and close friends. Gardens are appearing in backyards across town because of the resident's concern about a food shortage and food safety. Which we are being told by government officials does not exist, yet our shopping experience is telling us otherwise.

The Dixon May Fair has been cancelled due to COVID-19. The 200-300 Dixon young people enrolled in 4-H, Grange, Independent, and FFA and that are raising Market animals (steer, hog, lamb, etc.) are faced with a dilemma because the auction at annual Dixon May Fair Auction will not be held. These young people have been working with their animal for some time (5-24 months) while learning about animal nutrition, behavior, and conformation. In most cases, the animals have received excellent nutrition and proper exercise so they can develop into the best market animal that they can be. They are raised naturally, without antibiotic additives, and supplements to speed growth.

The quality and flavor of the meat of these animals surpasses that of your local grocery store. You may want to consider purchasing a young person's project animal for your own family's consumption. If you do not want the whole animal, find a friend or neighbor to share the expense and the product with you. You will know exactly where your food comes from, you won't need to be concerned if there is a food shortage because you are prepared.

There are a couple of ways to purchase or find out more as some of the young animal raisers have taken photos of their animal and placed the photo on Dixon Social media sites (i.e. Dixon 411, Dixon 411+1, etc.) You can make contact the young person through the site to find out the details for the sale.

Another method is to registered with the **Bids for Kids Solano** organization as a Buyer. Registration is on-line at: [bidsforkidssolano.org](https://bidsforkidssolano.org). A virtual Auction will open Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 8 am and remain open through Friday, May 8, 2020 at 6 pm.

"What was normal, is no longer normal," ★

and we don't know when normal will return. A new normal may develop over time, but normal as we once knew it will never be again."

## Dixon Residential Burning

### ALL RESIDENTIAL BURN PERMITS ARE NOW ACQUIRED ONLINE

Residential Burn Permits for Dixon Fire Protection District residents can be purchased through the online application process. There is a \$25.00 fee upon application approval (mailed check or exact change, or online via credit/debit card [Visa or Mastercard only]). Commercial or Agricultural Burn Permits are purchased thru Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD).

The Dixon Fire Protection District Board has amended the regulations for residential burn permits to only allow residential burning between November 1st and April 30th of each year. The change will effect only residential burning. Agricultural burn regulations are regulated by the Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District, and will not be effected.

Burn Permits are valid for the calendar year January 1 thru December 31. Note that residential burning is prohibited from May 1st through October 31st each year.

**Agricultural Burn:** Agricultural burning includes any open burning of vegetative agricultural materials generated by agricultural operations on land used for commercial agricultural purposes. Get an Agricultural Burn Permit Application through Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) here.

**Residential Burn:** Residential yard burning is limited to vegetative yard material from maintenance of residential properties (churches, empty parcels, etc., do not qualify) not located in an incorporated city. Residential yard burning is permitted in the District only on YSAQMD approved burn days and only when authorized by The Dixon Fire Department which requires a Residential Burn Permit, acquired through filling out a Residential Burn Permit Application found here. More information on residential burning can be found here (See: <https://www.ysaqmd.org/rules-compliance/burning/rural>). ★

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# For the Love of Books



By Amy Shane

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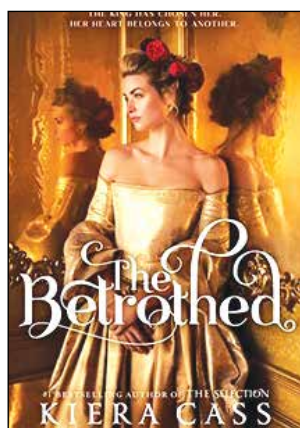
## Betrothed

by Kiera Cass

As a lady of the court in Keresken Castle, Hollis Brite grew up alongside nobility and royalty. Groomed her whole life to hopefully have a chance at the throne, Hollis now spends her days alongside many willing ladies, all eager for King Jameson's attention. To everyone's shock, Hollis unexpectedly catches the eye of King Jameson, and instead of being a mere fling, it looks as if he may have finally chosen his intended Queen.

King Jameson quickly makes his intentions known as he lavishes her with gifts of jewels, crowns, flattery, and laughter showing everyone she is truly favored for the crown. In a whirlwind of emotion and honor, Hollis feels that she is getting everything she has ever wanted, everything that she was conditioned for, after all Jameson will make her a legend if she becomes Queen. As Jameson grooms her for the throne, Hollis can't help but feel overwhelmed by the demands and all the sudden attention. Still, with her best friend Delia Grace as her lady in waiting and the constant watchful eye of everyone in court, Hollis pushes onward determined to make positive change where she can, as she is expected.

Then a striking young



- ◆ Publisher: Harper Teen
- ◆ Hardcover, 400 Pages
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥

man appears in court seeking sanctuary, and Hollis's world gets turned on its side. This young man instantly calls to her heart, and she can't get his piercing blue eyes or the way he calms her out of her head. Now, Hollis discovers herself torn between being a beautiful figurehead as a woman to be seen for her beauty and not heard, exactly opposite of who she longs to be, and taking a chance at love. Either way, she is left breathless with the possibilities of both lives and questioning- is she strong enough for either path?

In a battle between following your heart versus duty of the crown, *The Betrothed* takes readers deep in the

world of royalty and love. Artfully displaying both sides of wearing the crown, while also posing the question, what does it really take to be Queen? Kiera Cass once again sweeps her readers into a story that celebrates strong will, defiance, and desire, while unapologetically giving readers a storyline that will make them think about each character and their motives. Paving a road that isn't smooth and guided, but left with many crossroads. Readers will be thrown into a whole new world of Coroa, rich with historical detail, bloodlines, and enemies, while they are introduced to a new headstrong character that they will want to root for.

Cass's amazing ability to write strong willed characters and women who are ahead of their time gives a voice to those who demand to be heard and not just seen as carefully crafted adornments. *The Betrothed* opens the door to the sacrifices and duty behind wearing a crown and the responsibility that one feels to follow their own heart. A perfect new series that pairs well with *The Selection* series, and fans of Kiera Cass will not be disappointed; however, they will be left longing for the next book in this series. ★



## Riley Reviews

### "EXTRACTION" RAKES IN A PLETHORA OF HARSH, VIOLENT ACTION

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

#### "Extraction" On Netflix

With movie theaters remaining closed for the time being, the desire to watch a new film, instead of binge-watching a TV series, leaves one with few options outside the streaming services like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video.

For its part, Netflix is ready to fill the vacuum with original movies and with established commodities. Case in point is the recent Mark Wahlberg film "Spenser Confidential" that allowed the Boston native to star in an action film set in his hometown.

Chris Hemsworth, the Australian actor of flowing locks in the role of Thor, is no less a fierce warrior in Netflix's "Extraction," wherein his character of Tyler Rake is a fearless black market mercenary with a penchant for violence that suits his character.

To make no mistake that "Extraction" is a feature length film rather than a television movie-of-the-week, the MPAA has properly attached the R rating for "strong bloody violence throughout, language and brief drug use." Our viewing of it is a virtual experience of mayhem.

Directing this effort for cinematic bedlam is former stuntman and stunt coordinator Sam Hargrave, who also served as a second unit director on "Avengers: Endgame" and "Avengers: Infinity War."

With a background tuned to the need to deliver action thrills, often of the death-defying nature, Hargrave goes about the business of directing a serviceable thriller that spares no kinetic energy to deliver the goods.

We may be getting ahead of the story, but the Hargrave style is realized in an 11-minute-long sequence designed to look like one seamless shot that would include several car chases, pile ups, hand-to-hand combat, running through tenements, and leaping and falling off roofs.

The film opens with Tyler, caked with blood, pinned down on a bridge under heavy fire and apparently hemmed in by a dwindling opportunity for an exit. This scene is merely a prologue to the ultimate climactic action sequence.

Backing up from the opening by a couple of days, Tyler is camping in the Australian wilderness with a couple of buddies. Moments later he takes a flying leap off a cliff into a lake below, remaining submerged in the water where he seems to be pondering his fate.

The answer comes soon enough when arms dealer Nik Khan (Golshifteh Farahani) arrives at his ramshackle cabin in the middle of nowhere. She has a past

with Tyler but we're not quite sure what it is. Could it be more than a platonic history with a fellow mercenary?

Given his living quarters, Tyler looks like a guy who needs a payday. His reckless nature has no problem taking an extremely risky job offer from Nik to venture into hostile territory to rescue the kidnapped son of an Indian drug lord imprisoned in Mumbai.

The adolescent Ovi (Rudraksh Jaiswal) is snatched by thugs of his father's Bangladeshi rival, Amir Asif (Priyanshu Painyuli), a callous villain that has no qualms about having a kid tossed off a roof or commanding a henchman to cut off two of his own fingers.

Let's be clear about the fact that Ovi's father (Pankaj Tripathi) is no prince either. He tasks his own henchman Saju (Randeep Hooda) to retrieve the boy, noting that failure would result in the death of Saju's family.

While Tyler succeeds in rescuing Ovi in the early going with his one-man raid on a hideaway where he kills the numerous captors by a variety of brutal means, including a gruesome use of a garden rake.

The rescue was the so-called easy part. Getting out of Dhaka proves far more challenging since the well-connected Amir, untouchable to his foes, has the local police and military in his back pocket.

A corrupt high-level military officer exercises his authority to close down the city for a manhunt similar to how a NYPD officer shutdown all routes in and out of Manhattan in "21 Bridges."

A major break in the action occurs when Ovi and Tyler take refuge at the home of Gaspar (David Harbour), a fellow mercenary and old friend who may not be very helpful when he counsels Tyler to give up the impossible mission.

The only escape route for Ovi and Tyler is a treacherous crossing on a long bridge, and the climactic action, with a surfeit of gunfire and explosions, ends up where we first got a glimpse in the prologue.

Despite its breathtaking, action-packed set-pieces that are spectacularly staged, "Extraction" is the type of generic thriller that would have once featured a younger Bruce Willis or Sylvester Stallone, most likely to the same effect as what Chris Hemsworth brings to the screen.

This is not to say that action junkies, who have to wait another year for the fourth chapter of "John Wick," won't enjoy "Extraction" in the absence of alternatives. It's just that one's expectation shouldn't get too worked up too high. ★

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# MUSINGS

By Mike Ceremello



## Victory over Citizens?

Commentary by Mike Ceremello

Hail Victory is the continuing chant from the Fourth Reich embodied as the Dixon City Council. Why bother relying on citizens to follow your rules when you can pick and choose who you can fine \$500 on their first offense all based on the discretion of our sworn officers.

Sworn to uphold what? The law? The Constitution? The rule of law? Sorry but a governor's order or even a President can't change the Constitution and its Amendments at whim. So what coward and group of cowards are behind this move which has been in the making for the last three council meetings?

The point man as usual is the scared man in chief, Scat Pederson. Described by a former councilman as "the worst councilman he has ever seen" during the last online meeting, a phrase you should have no trouble agreeing with after witnessing even one of his meeting performances, Scat leaves no doubt in anyone's mind that he is in full support of being an elected dictatorial tyrant.

I have to ask the chief of police, Robert Thompson, why in the world he would want a \$500 fine to punish people during this panic-demic if he doesn't believe it is worth his officer's time to give out a \$100 citation. If there is truly a need for citations for refusing to give up your First Amendment right to exercise of your religion as you see fit or congregate peacefully as an assembly, then it shouldn't make any difference what the first level of fine is.

But what is the basis for this draconian measure? Didn't Pederson admit that there are so few confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Dixon that the county doesn't even report the number? If you are simply about controlling the population, then you don't care about having a real pertinent reason behind your action.

To make matters worse, this ordinance won't go away after the current made up crisis finishes. Your council passed an ordinance allowing it to be used whenever some unelected bureaucrat finds a reason in the future to institute another health decree. Want to bet when the next flu season arrives, especially if Trump is reelected, that there will be another panic-demic?

I again gave up another hour of my life I will never get back by listening to Meet The (De)Press(ed) and found confirmation of my conspiracy plot by the media in conjunction with the Democrat Regressive party. A seemingly innocuous comment by Debra Bix was jumped on by the lame stream media for another "gotcha" moment. Taking a comment out of context with an underlying well-orchestrated and demonstrated motive is nothing new for a cheerleading media attempting to brainwash us into believing that somehow this is all Trump's fault, whatever their point of the moment is.

Aside from that observation and back to the council meeting, it seems what is holding up our society from returning to "the normal" according to these buffoons

is the lack of testing capacity. Now let me ask you a simple, common sense question using remedial logic. What difference will it make to test people if you have no cure? If I feel ill, I think I can figure out how to make a hot toddy and go to bed.

This country does not need to shelter in place in the first place, as Sweden is proving. Have you ever heard of "herd immunity"? That is when the entire population comes down with whatever and develops immunity to it. So why are most countries going in the opposite and most illogical direction? As one commentator stated, only 1% of the American public has been infected and we now have our hospital system better prepared so why aren't we moving toward this type of immunity?

The point is simply this: there is no need for fines as this is an overblown situation in the first place. If it is so dangerous, why aren't the officers on the street wearing masks? The fire department isn't but the ambulance crews are.

Freedom shouldn't be given up to protect the fearful in our society. You have the freedom to become a hermit. If you get a normal version of the flu, there is an equal chance you could die. Challenging every attempt to get the country and our city back to normal should be left to the hysterical media.

As for Pederson, it is time for someone or a group to begin a recall. When you have the facts right in front of you and you continue to make one bad decision after another, this city and its citizens need to remove you and replace you with someone who can think. He may be in a district but his bad decisions affect all of us. Maybe it is time for the entire city to come together and work on his removal.

Another example of incompetence was marvelously displayed during the discussion about the finances of the city run water system. So city engineer Joe Leach gets up for yet another one of his "dog and phony" shows, burping up the opinions of consultants as facts, with no actual facts to justify anything. At the previous meeting I had simply asked Jim Ernest to find out the annual electrical cost of running the pumps at the city's wells. Nowhere in this presentation did that figure come out.

As has been complained about on numerous occasions, the public's questions have not been answered ... and the beat goes on. Within the presentation we only get "budget" figures instead of actuals. Are you telling me our finance department can't provide monthly PG&E bills for a year back? Just because the fiscal year isn't finished doesn't mean that we haven't been paying monthly for years.

So Mayor Thom Bogue picks up on this lack of responsiveness by the council's staff and asks Leach if he has looked into the "lining" of existing wells as an alternative proposed a year and a half ago by a citizen employed in this industry instead of re-drilling three wells, and Leach answers "No". This is the same guy who took forever to get a hot tar machine to address our roads and wanted to spend millions of your tax dollars ripping up roads instead of maintaining them. ★

## Federal Court Issues Preliminary Injunction in Rhode v. Becerra

National Rifle Association Press Release

FAIRFAX, VA (MPG) - A major victory was secured on Thursday when a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction in the NRA-supported case, Rhode v. Becerra. The case challenges the constitutionality of a California law that puts draconian restrictions on ammunition acquisition and transfers as a result of Prop 63 and SB 1235 (2016).

As the court said, "The right to keep and bear arms is the insurance policy behind the right to life ... a shield from the tyranny of the majority." California wasn't just obstructing the people's fundamental right to defend their families and lives - it was encouraging unlawful hostility toward an individual, "Constitutional right," said Jason Ouimet, executive director,

National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action. "The NRA funded this case for the same reason the court struck down the laws: enough was enough."

The law required law-abiding citizens to undergo background checks when purchasing ammunition and for all transactions to occur in-person through a licensed ammunition vendor.

Thursday's injunction means the law cannot be enforced while the case is active unless the decision is stayed.

Established in 1871, the National Rifle Association is America's oldest civil rights and sportsmen's group. More than five million members strong, NRA continues its mission to uphold Second Amendment rights and is the leader in firearm education and training for law-abiding gun owners, law enforcement and the military. Visit <http://nra.org>. ★

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## New Measure for Transferring Property Tax Base Eligible for California's November Ballot

### Secretary of State Press Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Secretary of State Alex Padilla announced that an initiative became eligible for the November 3, 2020 General Election ballot yesterday.

In order to become eligible for the ballot, the initiative needed 997,139 valid petition signatures, which is equal to eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2018 General Election.

A measure can become eligible via random sampling of petition signatures if the sampling projects that the number of valid signatures is greater than 110 percent of the required number. The initiative needed at least 1,096,853 projected valid signatures to become eligible by random sampling, and it exceeded that threshold yesterday.

On June 25, 2020, the Secretary of State will certify the initiative as qualified for the November 3, 2020 General Election ballot, unless it is withdrawn by the proponents prior to certification pursuant to Elections Code section 9604(b).

The Attorney General's official title and summary of the measure is as follows:

**CHANGES REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFERRING PROPERTY TAX BASE TO REPLACEMENT PROPERTY. EXPANDS BUSINESS PROPERTY REASSESSMENT. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.** Removes the following requirements to transfer property tax base to replacement residence for homeowners over 55

or severely disabled: that replacement property be of equal or lesser value; that replacement property be in eligible county; and that transfer occur only once. Allows three such transfers. Removes location and replacement-value requirements for transfers of contaminated or disaster-destroyed property. Adjusts replacement property's tax base, based on market value. Limits tax benefits for certain transfers between family members. Expands circumstances requiring business property reassessment. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Local governments could gain tens of millions of dollars of property tax revenue per year, likely growing over time to a few hundred million dollars per year. Schools could receive similar property tax revenue gains. Other local and state revenues each could increase by tens of millions of dollars per year. County property tax administration costs likely would increase by tens of millions of dollars per year. (19-0003.)

The proponent of the measure, Alexander Creel, can be reached c/o Kurt Oneto of Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Gross & Leoni, LLP at (916) 446-6752. The address for Nielsen et al., LLP is 1415 L Street, Suite 1200, Sacramento, CA 95814.

For more information about how an initiative qualifies for the ballot in California, visit <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/how-qualify-initiative/> ★

## VA NorCal Encourages Veterans to Access VA Mental Health Support from Home

### By Will Martin, VA Northern California Health Care System

**MATHER, CA (MPG)** - Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, VA NorCal Health Care System asks that Veterans use VA's online resources for non-urgent mental health care and questions. Not only will this help protect Veterans from contracting COVID-19, but it will enable VA providers to focus their in-person care on Veterans with acute needs.

"Out of concern for our Veterans, we are honoring COVID-19 physical distancing guidelines," said VA NorCal David Stockwell. "Through VA's virtual care tools, we are able to leverage technology to make sure that our patients and staff are as safe as possible during this time."

VA offers Veterans a variety of at-home mental health resources, including:

Telephone or Video Appointments – Veterans should maintain their existing mental health appointments using VA Video Connect (mobile. [va.gov/app/va-video-connect](http://va.gov/app/va-video-connect)) at home on their computers, smartphones, or tablets. To set up telephone or video appointments, Veterans can send their health care provider a secure message by visiting [myhealth.va.gov](http://myhealth.va.gov).

Prescription Refills and Safety – Veterans should continue taking all medications as prescribed and talk to their mental health provider if they have concerns. Veterans may request prescription refills and order shipments of medications to their homes using My HealtheVet or the Rx Refill mobile app,

which can be downloaded at [mobile.va.gov/app/rx-refill](http://mobile.va.gov/app/rx-refill). VA's Safe Home Environment handout provides information on safely storing medications in the home.

Mental Health Information and Resources – VA provides information on ways for Veterans and their families to maintain and enhance their mental health and well-being during the COVID-19 outbreak. Information about managing stress and anxiety, as well as mental health resources, are available at [www.mentalhealth.va.gov/coronavirus/resources](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/coronavirus/resources).

For more information about VA NorCal's use of mental health care technology in response to COVID-19, please e-mail Will Martin, Chief of Public Affairs, at [William.Martin6@va.gov](mailto:William.Martin6@va.gov). ★

## Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



### Just the right thing for a warm evening in May

And he decided what he needed was to see how the rest of the world was handling a nice dose of spring, so he drove in from the ranch for the evening.

It was one of those evenings that makes you glad there's a month called May.

Bob Milford parked his truck in front of the Mule Barn truck stop, then changed his mind and drove the few blocks into town and parked in front of Sarah's Read Me Now book store and got out.

The air was sweet like wine, warm and flowing over his body. The calves out on the Diamond W were healthy and frolicking all over the place and there had only been three difficult births where he'd had to pull the calves, and those were from first-calf heifers, so it was to be expected.

Sarah was just locking up and visited with Bob for a few minutes before heading home for supper. Bob leaned against the wall and kept his eye on the square across the street. Two kids were playing with the cannon, shooting invisible invaders and making the world safe for suppertime in a small American town.

Dud Campbell and his wife, Anita, were walking across the square, not talking, but just being with each other. Their hands were touching, but there was more there. They were touching each other in a silent way, sharing love and promises silently. Across the way, Doc and Mrs. Doc stood together,

looking in the window of the now-closed hardware store. They looked tired tonight, Bob thought. Neither was that young any more.

Seeing these two couples made Bob a little sorry he wasn't married, but he'd tried that once and it hadn't worked out too well. She lived in the city now and was married to another fellow and had three kids.

Oh, he knew it had all happened for the best. He knew it. So he patted the cow dog in the back of his pickup and headed back down the road to the Mule Barn. He would order the special tonight. Maybe some pie, too.

Just the right thing for a warm evening in May.

*Brought to you by A Cowboy's Guide to Growing up Right, check it out at [nmsantos.com](http://nmsantos.com). ★*

## VA NorCal Offers Hope of Recovery to Sexual Trauma and Harassment Survivors

### By Will Martin, VA NorCal Health Care System

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - VA NorCal Health Care System has been at the forefront in delivering Military Sexual Trauma (MST), sexual harassment, and domestic violence support to Veterans across Northern California. It is important Veterans know that those programs remain available even amid COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

"Our goal is nothing short of eliminating sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence, not only in our health care facilities, but across the Northern California Veteran community," said VA NorCal Director David Stockwell. "We didn't hit pause on that goal because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, we're finding ways to ensure Veterans can still access support even as they practice social distancing."

Using telehealth technology, VA NorCal is able to deliver counseling and resource support to Veterans in their homes over the phone or on their computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Domestic Violence: As many as 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men are impacted by intimate partner (domestic) violence in their lifetimes, and Veterans may be at a higher risk than the civilian population. Understanding this need, VA NorCal has joined other VA facilities in launching the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Assistance Program. To explore services and resources, e-mail [Diane.Weber@va.gov](mailto:Diane.Weber@va.gov) or visit <https://www.socialwork.va.gov/IPV/Index.asp>.

Military Sexual Trauma (MST): VA NorCal provides free, confidential counseling and treatment to male and female Veterans for mental and physical health conditions related to experiences of sexual assault or harassment that occurred while a Veteran was serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Call 925-372-2554 or visit <https://www.northerncalifornia.va.gov/services/mst.asp>.

For more information about VA NorCal's use of virtual health care technology in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please e-mail Will Martin, Chief of Public Affairs, at [William.Martin6@va.gov](mailto:William.Martin6@va.gov). ★



### What Ventilator Crisis?

At a coronavirus task force briefing at the beginning of April, White House adviser Jared Kushner explained the approach that would – as events proved – get the country through its ventilator crisis.

He was relentlessly pilloried, mocked and distorted in the press for it.

Kushner said at one point that states shouldn't be drawing on the federal stockpile just to hold ventilators in their own reserves. This led to a flurry of media criticism alleging that Kushner wanted to horde the federal ventilator stockpile.

Actually, the emphasis on data and shrewd allocation that Kushner discussed at the April 2 briefing has clearly worked.

At the outset, the country was looking at a daunting, perhaps impossible challenge. A chilling briefing at the Federal Emergency Management Agency early on posited that the U.S. could be short 130,000 ventilators by April 1. The federal government had about 16,000 ventilators in its stockpile.

A couple of insights drove the administration's effort to get its arms around the problem.

Officials realized, as one White House adviser puts it, that there was "too much guesstimating" going on. Many governors didn't know how many ventilators their states had and were acting on the normal impulse to have more than enough, just in case.

The administration created a data team. It used hospital billings to estimate how many ventilators were in each state and how many were being utilized, so it didn't have to depend on perhaps panicky, poorly informed requests from states.

Another important realization was that FEMA could do just-in-time delivery. This created a lot of flexibility. The administration could wait to see how things really played out, rather than make decisions based on projections weeks in the future.

The media portrayed it as a failure every time the administration gave a state a fraction of its request, but this was a key element of the strategy. If the administration had tried to meet New York's initial estimated need for 40,000 additional ventilators, for instance, everything would have gone out the door, and for no good reason.

Another insight was that most ventilators out in the

country weren't being used, since virus hot spots are geographically limited. That meant there was a tremendous capacity to be tapped. This led to the Dynamic Ventilator Reserve. States and hospitals with a safe margin of ventilators not in use could lend them to places that needed them, with a federal guarantee that a hospital lending a ventilator would get a replacement in 24 or 48 hours if it turned out that it needed it back. This removed the fear and the risk of giving up ventilators.

To add to the nation's overall supply, FEMA acted quickly to get so-called notifications to purchase to ventilator manufacturers so they could start work and hold their inventory, which ensured it wasn't lost to foreign countries.

Last year, according to administration figures, the country produced 30,000 ventilators. This year, it's going to produce some 200,000, and they are already coming in. "We are going to be swimming in ventilators," a White House adviser said.

By any measure, that's a success, certainly compared with where we thought we'd be less than a month ago. If the media weren't so devoted to gotcha idiocy, more people might know about it.

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

## Trekboxx Facility to Produce Face Shields to Support Health Care Workers

### By Becky Warren, Elevate Public Affairs

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento area company, Trekboxx, which specializes in custom storage units for sport utility vehicles, is keeping their employees working by now converting its manufacturing facilities to produce protective face shields, at cost, for local healthcare providers treating COVID-19 patients. Trekboxx is using clear plastic sheet donated by Dart Container to construct the face shields. The first shipment of over 10,000 face shields will be delivered to UC Davis.

"I saw a need locally and we wanted to do our part. Now is a time for us to do all that we can for those risking their health in order to save lives during the COVID-19 outbreak," said Trekboxx owner and founder, David Walter. "The least we can do is actively find ways to support health care workers, and we have already received support from partners like Dart Container."

Trekboxx is making the face shields at cost and keeping their employees working

to make these shields during this crisis. Trekboxx is also providing on its website's call to action ways other companies can also produce face shields including a video explanation and more information on the face shield's design and material suppliers.

"We want to support what Trekboxx is doing to help protect and equip health care workers," said Michael Westerfield, Director of Recycling for Dart Container. "It's each of us doing our part that will make a difference during this crisis."

Face shields produced at-cost by Trekboxx will be manufactured from twenty 1,500 lb. rolls of clear polyethylene terephthalate (PET) with 50% recycled post-consumer content.

Trekboxx is asking other businesses or residents who have a CNC router, laser, or plotter that want to help to contact them by email at [faceshields@trekboxx.com](mailto:faceshields@trekboxx.com). The community can also help the effort with a donation on their GoFundMe page.

For more information on Trekboxx, visit <https://www.trekboxx.com>, or on their face shield production, visit <https://www.trekboxx.com/helping-heros>. ★

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# Social Security Matters

## Can My Husband Get A Spouse Benefit from Me?



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

**Dear Rusty:** I'm wondering if my husband can submit a "restricted application for spousal benefits only." He is 76 years old, has been receiving his benefit since 2005. His present benefit is \$263.50. I am 74 years old, receiving my benefit since 2007. My present benefit is \$931. Am I to understand that he could be receiving half of my amount rather than his smaller amount? **Signed: Inquiring Wife**

**Dear Inquiring Wife:** Your husband isn't eligible to file a "restricted application for spousal benefits only" because he is already collecting his own Social Security benefits and because he is past 70 years of age. But he should probably be receiving a spousal benefit from you because his benefit is so much lower than yours. From what you've written, you both claimed your Social Security benefits when you were 62 years of age. That means you both took a 25% cut in benefits from what you would have gotten at your full retirement age (FRA) of 66.



Spousal benefits are based upon FRA benefit amounts, even if you claimed benefits earlier. So, since your FRA benefit amount would have been about \$1164 and your husband's FRA benefit would have been about \$330, by my calculations he should now be receiving a spousal benefit of about \$516 instead of his benefit of \$263.50. The computation for that is: Take half of your FRA benefit amount (\$582) minus your husband's FRA benefit amount (\$330); the difference (\$252) is added to his own current benefit (\$264) to get \$516 as his possible spousal benefit (note the actual numbers from SS may vary somewhat). This probably means that when you claimed your benefit two years after your husband claimed his, your husband didn't apply for his spousal benefit (and it wasn't awarded automatically by SS).

I suggest your husband contact Social Security as soon as possible and make an appointment to apply for his spousal benefits. Since he has been entitled to that benefit for some time now, he can also request 6 months of retroactive spousal benefits which they will pay in a lump-sum and adjust his monthly benefit to what he is entitled to as your spouse.

There is also a possibility that, when you filed, SS failed to notify your husband he was eligible for a spouse benefit, in which case he may be able to collect his spouse benefit back to the date he became eligible. Your husband should contact Social Security directly at either 1.800.772-1213, or at your local office (find it at [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator)) to make an appointment to apply for his spousal benefit from you. And, usually, this application can be accomplished over the phone.

Please note that all of the above assumes that your husband's current benefit isn't being reduced due to a non-covered pension which causes the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) to lower his benefit amount, and which would cause the Government Pension Offset (GPO) to severely alter, or even eliminate, his spousal benefit.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).* ★

# From Councilman Minnema

Dear Readers of the Independent Voice,

The Dixon City Council met last Tuesday on Zoom and there were some interesting developments, but first, I need to apologize.

When I looked at the council meeting agenda over the weekend prior, I saw the same ordinance that had been on the agenda multiple times – an urgency ordinance that would raise the fines for violating the county's health order. The council has had this item on every agenda since the first set of fines was passed because the council majority was peeved that I got the initial fine lowered from the staff recommendation to a simple \$100, so I thought nothing of it. I did notice that this time they were pushing for an initial fine of \$500 and a second tier fine of \$1000. After that, arrests would occur.

Because the previous attempts to raise the fines had failed due to the requirement for urgency ordinances to have a 4/5 majority to pass, I dismissed it as another feudal attempt.

I was wrong. I apologize for not fully understanding the resolution prior to the meeting.

The ordinance last night was not an urgency ordinance, and in fact is a permanent ordinance that would stand and be in effect any time the unelected county health officer, the federal government, the governor's office, or even the City of Dixon itself issues a "Public Health and Safety Emergency Order." Since it was not an urgency order, it only requires a 3/5 majority, which it received from the councilmen from Districts 1, 2, and 3.

The mayor and I dissented, citing the arguments you will read in this message.

The resolution does, however, require a second reading and a thirty-day noticing, meaning it will not go into effect until next month, and requires a 3/5 majority vote again at the next meeting.

That means that it is not currently in effect and people get a chance to speak to their representatives about the decision before it becomes law.

Regardless of how you feel about people needing to stay home, the process by which this decision was made is highly questionable. The police department has not issued a single fine for violating the county health order, yet felt passionately enough to make the judgement call that the existing fine structure was "not effective."

I find it hard to understand that such a structure can be determined to be "not effective" when it has not been used in any way. The action taken last night has no empirical evidence to back it.

Additionally, the council majority has fallen into the logical fallacy of escalating

punishment as a deterrent. Most people are most familiar with this as the "Death Penalty Deterrent Fallacy."

While one can support the death penalty as an exaction of justice, the unfortunately common misconception that the death penalty acts as a deterrent for people considering committing a murder has been statistically and sociologically disproven. People who commit crimes are not considering the consequences of the crime, or they would not be considering committing a crime.

In this case, the police department has said that its standard for fining someone is "willful disobedience," using Chief Robert Thompson's words. This would mean that someone is not only breaking the rules but pushing the envelope by continuing the activity or defying the rules when confronted by an officer. Someone who is willing to argue with an officer is, in my book, acting irrationally (but maybe that's because I have a healthy fearful respect of armed officers of the law.)

An irrational person does not consider the consequences of their action, so by definition irrational behavior is unaffected by the consequences of such an action.

The council majority also mentioned several anecdotal accounts of individuals calling into the police department to ask what the fine was. The council majority then chose to assign the intent of these calls to people deciding whether or not it was worth it to violate the order, which is a stretch, especially in a town with limited news coverage and a terrible city website and a curious population. If there was a reliable way for information to be disseminated, I would not need to send out my e-newsletter.

The council majority also ignored the fact that the current fine structure escalates to the levels that they desire on the third and fourth offense, and that each individual involved in the violation of the order is liable to be fined.

If you have any comments on whether or not you support this ordinance, which I will point out again is permanent, and will be activated whenever there is a health order in the future from the city, county, or state, please contact your council member. For residents of District 4, you can call or text at the number below or send an email to [devon.minnema@gmail.com](mailto:devon.minnema@gmail.com). The next meeting and vote will be in two weeks on May 4th.

Stay healthy and stay RAM strong!

In Liberty,  
City Councilman Devon H. Minnema  
City of Dixon, District 4  
530.848.3786

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# Ask Toni

## Will Medicare Cover Long Term Care Issues Caused By COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?



Toni King

Morning, Toni:

I read your recent article about COVID-19 and Medicare and recently my husband has contacted this terrible virus. He has been in ICU due to his delicate health issues because he is an insulin dependent diabetic with heart issues. Doctor's are suggesting that he may need 24-hour care since his lungs are failing.

I am concerned that his current health issues may wipeout our retirement, 401K, or savings if a long-term care need arises.

Can you please explain how Medicare covers a long-term care issue such as one that my husband has and what will happen if 24-hour care is needed?

~ Thanks, Paula from Sugar Land.

Paula:

Baby Boomers and retirees are concerned about a prolonged illness or chronic conditions such as COVID-19 being one of their biggest retirement expenses, if not planned properly.

One's medical needs will be covered by Medicare Part A (In-patient Hospital) and Medicare Part B (Medical) for Medicare medical needs. COVID-19 as well as other health issues such as

diabetes, heart issues, cancer, etc. which meet Medicare's medical requirements are covered. Medicare will not pay more for one health condition than Medicare will for another.

Medicare Part A covers skilled nursing and pays for a maximum of 100 days of skilled nursing care before those on Medicare must absorb the cost themselves. Because Medicare is controlling healthcare costs, most Medicare beneficiaries are receiving \$0 co-pays for days 1-20 in a skilled nursing facility and days 21-100 is a \$176 per day co-pay for 2020.

Medicare does not pay for long-term care. It is private pay or by a long-term care policy that may not pay all the long-term care expenses.

A long-term care can be very costly with the average annual cost ranges from \$60,000 to \$85,000 per year for semi-private nursing home stay to \$80,000 to \$93,000 per year for private nursing home stay.

However, depending on the level of assistance that you need, there are some inexpensive care options and ways to protect your retirement from excessive long-term care costs.

Long-Term insurance plans are based on one's health at time that the application is issued. Paula, hopefully your husband already has a policy in effect due to his health conditions. If not, then you will be using your retirement funds to pay for the care.

Below are a few options for affordable long-term

care policies or email info@tonisays.com for more information:

1) **Traditional Long-Term Care:** The younger you are when you purchase a long-term care policy, the lower the premiums can be. Seek policies before 65 and in relatively good health for lower rates.

2) **Hybrid Life and Annuity Policies:** Many life/annuity insurance policies have a provision if you need long term care and you can receive a certain amount of long-term care with your policy's face amount.

3) **Aid and Attendance Benefits:** There is over \$20 Billion dollars available for long-term care pension money just waiting for Veterans to apply for their Aid and Attendance benefits. You need to have a long-term care issue to qualify

4) **Medicaid:** Check to see if you can qualify for Medicaid. Many have to "spend down" to qualify.

Long-term care planning can be very complex. Seek the advice of an Elder care attorney who can help with long-term care and estate planning. \*\*Be sure to have a power of attorney, living will and durable power of attorney in place before serious medical conditions start. \*\*

Toni King, author of the *Medicare Survival Guide*® Advanced edition, is having a \$5 Toni Says® readers discount at [www.tonisays.com](http://www.tonisays.com). If you have any questions regarding this article or any Medicare issues reach out to Toni at 832-519-8664 or email at [info@tonisays.com](mailto:info@tonisays.com). ★

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Publisher,  
Paul V. Scholl

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# California Screamin'

Continued from page 1

Sorry about your business, bro!

Newsom is crippling our state financially. A balanced budget? Yeah, right. Not now. Don't bother including items that show the state is real trouble. But who is going to be getting their full pensions? Who will be getting raises to offset the rate of inflation? Not you. Newsome is giving millions to illegal aliens before he does anything for you. He doesn't fix the border problem, rather he files lawsuits against Trump over the issue. He doesn't fix the homeless problem. He just files another lawsuit. And you just have to keep paying for it all.

Now, with the pending economic doom looming over everyone in this state, they are going to try to eliminate the original Prop 13 and destroy home ownership in California. They will say "but we need the tax money now that we have suffered so greatly from the COVID-19 crisis." Never let a good crisis go to waste they say. Lose your business, lose your income, lose your home, your taxes are increased again, your health insurance is unaffordable, and so on. But aren't the beaches great!

A legal option every business owner may have would be to sue the state for their losses. With United States Attorney General William Barr considering suing states over their "shelter in place" orders and that their mandates are unconstitutional, there just might be an opening. Consider what it would be like if thousands of small businesses sued



Watch out Governor, this little girl is almost old enough to vote now! MPG archived photo/Rowen

governor Newsome and the State of California. I'm not an attorney, but it is a thought. Talk about overwhelming the system!

There is one small change in the media dialogue we should all hope to see. It isn't the good people of China responsible for this Wuhan virus. It should be stated from now forward that the Chinese Communist Party is to blame, not just "China." But governments that want control don't put a spotlight on governments that have control. Do you ever hear Leftists talk about the millions of slaves in China? But they do talk about reparations for people who were never slaves. The same people who were finally really benefitting from the great economy prior to the virus outbreak.

If you want to solve the problems we face in California then just let all the Leftists donate all their money, all of it, to the cause. That's when you will find out just how much they believe in the cause. Instead, they just want all of your money to solve their mismanagement problems.

There is a rally on May 1st at the Capitol to Re-Open California. Are you tired of this government control over your life yet? Be there. Bring a sign. Bring your vote. Be heard.

If we are loud enough maybe they will experience our "Heard Immunity" to government control.

We need to make this a Common Sense State. Red or Blue. See you at the capitol. ★

# Less Highway Congestion is Not a License to Speed

Submitted by Jaime Coffee, California Highway Patrol

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Caltrans announced a joint effort with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to urge drivers in the state to slow down given a recent 87% increase in citations for speeding in excess of 100 mph that coincides with decreased traffic volumes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

From March 19 when the state's stay-at-home order began to April 19, the CHP reports issuing 2,493 citations statewide for speeding more than 100 mph, as compared to 1,335 during the same period last year. This increase in citations occurred as Caltrans has measured an average decline in traffic volume on state roads of approximately 35% as compared to this time last year.

"Excessive speed and unsafe driving threaten everyone using our highway system," said Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin. "Viewing less congested roads as an invitation to drive dangerously jeopardizes the safety of construction and maintenance crews who are working to maintain reliable access to our highways when people need it most."

"It is alarming to see the number of citations officers are writing for excessive speeds on California roadways," said CHP Commissioner Warren Stanley. "Higher speeds can lead to much more serious injuries and significantly increase the chance of death should a crash occur. Keep yourself

and those on the road around you safe. Slow down and drive at a safe, legal speed."

California's "Move Over" law continues to be in effect and requires all drivers to move over a lane or, if unable to do so safely, slow down when they see amber flashing lights on Caltrans vehicles, law enforcement and emergency vehicles, and tow trucks.

"Fewer cars on the road doesn't give drivers the green light to travel over the speed limit," OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. "Driving at a safe speed when you must go out is one way to keep you and your family safe during this pandemic."

California's more than 700 electronic highway signs will also soon display the following types of safety-related messages:

### IF YOU MUST TRAVEL DO NOT SPEED

During the COVID-19 emergency, Caltrans continues to provide the general public with a safe and reliable transportation system. The department is maintaining all critical functions during this crisis, including ensuring roadway access to medical facilities and the convenient transport of essential goods and services throughout the state. Some non-essential work has been deferred to limit spread of the COVID-19 virus, but maintenance and construction crews are still addressing hazards, safety concerns and other critical functions on the highways.

Please slow down and Be Work Zone Alert.

For more information about COVID-19 <https://covid19.ca.gov/> ★

## 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.



### Tuesday, April 21 2020

2000 – Information report taken in Sierra Court

### Wednesday, April 22, 2020

0622 – Report of vandalism to vehicle in the 600 block of Calmace.

0730 – Report of vehicle burglary in the 1900 block of Kingston.

0744 – Report of fraud and vehicle theft in the 1900 block of North Lincoln.

0927 – Report of theft from an unlocked vehicle in the 2000 block of Rehman.

1034 – Report of vehicle burglary in the 900 block of Woodvale.

1336 – Officers responded to the 600 block of Sierra Drive to conduct a welfare check and a mental health evaluation. One subject was taken into protective custody and transported by Medic Ambulance to Kaiser for treatment.

### Thursday, April 23, 2020

0113 – Burglary reported in the 900 block of North Adams Street.

1017 – A theft from vehicle report was taken from the 1100 block of North Lincoln.

1246 – A vandalism report was taken from 500 block of Park Drive.

### Friday, April 24, 2020

1844 – Missing person report was taken in the 1300 block of West H. St.

### Saturday, April 25, 2020

2052 – Coroner's report was taken in the 300 block of West H. St.

2238 – Traffic Collision report was taken in the 1000 block of 1st St.

### Sunday, April 26, 2020

1133 – Officers responded to the 500 block of Industrial Way for a report of vehicle tampering. Officers contacted and later arrested the suspect (Michael Sellers – 8/20/1986) for attempting to syphon fuel from a truck at this location. He was later cited and released from DPD.

1500 – Report of theft from the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.

2300 – Traffic stop conducted in the 1000 block of North 1st Street resulted in the arrest of Jose Ortiz (30) of Dixon for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was taken to county jail.

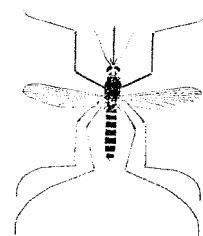
### Monday, April 27, 2020

0345 – Non injury accident reported in the 1100 block of North Lincoln Street.

1654 – Traffic stop in the 2500 block of North 1st Street resulted in the arrest of a 17 year old for driving without a license and a probation violation. He was cited and released to his mother.

1743 – Theft reported in the 200 block of East Dorset 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)