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Will Speed Snowmelt,
Increase River Flows**

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**Making
Dixon
Rock**

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Dixon's **Independent Voice**

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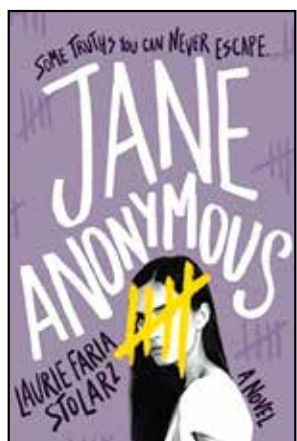
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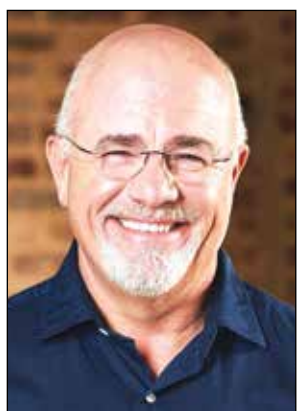
By Amy Shane



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**GO AHEAD,
KNOCK IT OUT**

By Dave Ramsey



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Ready for Readi-Ride?

Be a Part of the Plan for the Next 10 Years



The City of Dixon provides curb-to-curb public dial-a-ride service within the city limits of the city of Dixon.

By **Loran Hoffmann
and Shirley Humphrey**

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Looking towards the future, lawmakers are nudging motorists into ride sharing, and public transit. One way to participate in this subject is to participate in Dixon's Short-Term Public Transportation Plan. To do this, be sure to participate in the meeting or ZOOM connection for the May 19 City Council Meeting. The short-term plan will cover the period 2020 to 2030.

It is always a good idea to look at the cost for the service one is looking at. According to the proposed Short-Term Annual Operating Costs for the Dixon Readi-Ride services for FY 2018-19 was \$868,214 which was paid by federal, state, local and fees paid by passengers. (Fees paid by passengers amount to a little over \$67,000. The additional \$800k is subsidized by government funds.)

Readi-Ride has been operating

for 37 years in Dixon (since 1983). Initially it was the responsibility of Dixon's Recreation and Community Service Department, but in 2011 became the responsibility of the City Engineer/Public Works Department. The governing body is the City Council with overall management and financial oversight of the City Engineer/Public Works Department. The City Corporation Yard is the central base of operation and for storage.

The City of Dixon provides curb-to-curb public dial-a-ride service within the city limits of the city of Dixon. Service operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 5:00 p.m. There is no service on Saturday and Sunday. Readi-Ride also provides intercity paratransit service to and from Vacaville and Davis Monday to Friday. No holiday services are offered.

Much of the current ridership reflects students using the subscription offered by Readi-Ride to travel to and from Dixon's elementary,

middle, and high schools. The Dixon Unified School district does not provide bus service for school children. Currently, four vehicles are dedicated to the school subscription service between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. each morning, between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 each afternoon. Sixteen subscription seats are available per vehicle (4x16=64), and there is typically a wait list of approximately 20 students. A fifth vehicle is available for non-school trips during this time period.

Noting that the current service cannot meet the peak demand for student transportation and anticipating an increase in demand for school transportation, general public transportation and senior transportation, the city believes it will need to expand its transportation services within the next few years. A deviated fixed-route model is being looked at to see if it would enable the city to provide more effective service to the

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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 <http://water.ca.gov/> ★

Tort Reform Will Give California a Better Chance to Recover

By **Julie Griffiths,
Regional Director,
Citizens Against
Lawsuit Abuse**

The coronavirus is crushing small businesses, forcing most to close and placing millions of workers whose jobs are on the line at risk, while commerce and production come to a halt. California small business owners are praying how they can hold on to their entrepreneurial dreams and preserve the jobs they have created. We need to give our economy and business owners a chance to survive and rebuild. One important way to do that is through tort reform so the economy can regain its strength.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA) released a hopeful new report, The Economic Benefits of Tort Reform

in California. The report explains how laws to reform torts, which are defined as an act or omission that harms another person either intentionally or through negligence, can lead to economic benefits, innovation, productivity and employment. Reformed laws will help provide protection and relief for business owners from abusive shakedown lawsuits - and CALA believes these same reforms may provide relief to struggling businesses trying to recover from the crisis.

That's why Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse is calling on the Legislature and Governor to enact meaningful tort reforms.

But even before the coronavirus pandemic hit, CALA's Economic Benefits of Tort Reform 2020 Report in California,

conducted in November, had cited how an overly aggressive tort environment was already a drain on the economy. California was recently named by CALA as the second highest "judicial hellhole" in the country. The California Governor and Legislature had further compounded the problem by recently enacting more laws that will increase class action lawsuit abuse.

Aggressive abusive lawsuits cost California's economy \$23.6 billion in annual output (gross product) last year, according to the report. These lawsuits further resulted in an estimated loss of 242,761 jobs and a tort tax of \$594.71 per person. No part of California is immune from abusive lawsuits, including the City of Dixon and Solano County.

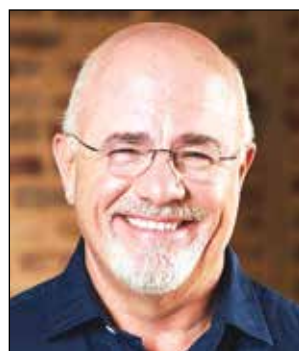
California businesses

already suffer from being attacked with lawsuits based on technical violations related to the Private Attorney General Act, or PAGA, wage and hour lawsuits, Americans with Disability Act lawsuits and Proposition 65 lawsuits, among others. We need a break from lawsuit abuse and contentious litigation, especially now since the state, like others, is in crisis mode.

We implore the plaintiffs' bar to refrain from filing abusive suits. For example, does failure to place the beginning date and ending date of the pay period on a check stub, even though the check cleared the bank, the reason a business should be sued for tens of thousands of dollars?"

Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature are

Continued on page 3



Dave Ramsey Says

tithe or not tithe because of a set of rules, but if you're having a theological or philosophical discussion about the tithe and how it works, I think your reasoning is sound.

It's certainly not a salvation issue, but generosity is a good rhythm to have in your life. And honestly, these stimulus checks are kind of like tax refunds. You gave it to the government, and now they're giving it back.

So, in my mind it's okay either way. I've just always had an attitude of when in doubt, it's better to give.

- Dave

Go Ahead, Knock It Out

Dear Dave,

We make about \$70,000 a year, and we're debt-free except for our house. We're following your plan, and just started saving for retirement, but we only have \$15,000 left on our mortgage. We can have that paid off in six or seven months, so would it be okay to go ahead and pay off our home as soon as possible before continuing to save

for retirement?

- Nate

Dear Nate,

I'm generally pretty hardcore about sticking with the proper order while doing the Baby Steps. But in your case, with such a small amount left to pay on your home, I think I'd go ahead and knock that out.

Most of the people I talk to still have six figures left on their mortgages. There's a big difference between that and the situation you two are in right now. Think about it, you guys could be completely debt-free by Christmas, and you've already started to make a move on retirement planning. I say go for it!

- 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. ★

Nature and PTSD, Tuleyome Tales



"Daryl, right, escorting a group of Lake County 5th-graders on a Tuleyome hike in the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument." Photo provided by tuleyome.org.

By Daryl Sager

This is my first article and I wanted to highlight some of the healing properties of nature. Up until a few months ago, I had no idea Tuleyome was a thing. I am glad I found it. I recently retired from the fire service and the military with PTSD and was really struggling with getting through daily life and simple tasks involving memory. I have been working with various therapists from the VA (Veteran's Affairs) and civilian side and they all had similar advice. "Get outside" was something that they all would say. The thing about PTSD is it creates a lot of anxiety. For me, I really withdrew and became a professional at making excuses to avoid social situations and just shut myself in. Tuleyome makes it easy to get outside by offering several guided hikes and ways to volunteer.

There are a lot of recent studies that show that nature has healing properties for mental health. The sense of "awe" from a beautiful sunset or sunrise, looking from a hillside down at the valley below, seeing Elk interact with each other or birds in flight.

That's all it takes to create a sense of well-being and according to the U.C. Berkeley study conducted in 2014.

In the Berkeley study, 72 veterans and 52 at-risk teens were taken separately on a white-water rafting trip on the south fork of the American River. The research pointed out several things that bolster the case for getting out into nature. First, "a

week after river-rafting, study cohorts reported, on average, a 29 percent reduction in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, a 21 percent decrease in general stress, a 10 percent improvement in social relationships, a 9 percent improvement in life satisfaction and an 8 percent increase in happiness."

The studies have shown so much success that bills have been brought to Congress on the issue. Most recently, Accelerating Veterans Recovery Outdoors Act, H.R. 2435, would form a task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

The next step, equally as hard for me, is to put a foot forward and actually get outside. Tuleyome has great staff and a Board with a vast knowledge of trails at all ability levels. Visit Tuleyome's trails page to find something for you. I hope this helps someone that is struggling or inspires people to check in with themselves and get out into nature. Contact Tuleyome at information@tuleyome.org and you can learn more at <http://tuleyome.org/>.

The first step and the hardest is to ask for help. Here are some places that can help:

- <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/> Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 Text 838255
- <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>
- SAMHSA's National Helpline, 1-800-662-HELP (4357) ★

Tithe On Stimulus Check?

Dear Dave,

Should my wife and I tithe on our stimulus checks? She thinks we should, but I'm not sure. In my mind, we already gave our money to Caesar - so to speak - and now he's just giving it back. What do you think?

- Luke

Dear Luke,

Well, it's *your* money you're getting back. The government doesn't really create anything, it only takes money from us. And in this case, it gave you back some of what it took. I don't really see that as a tithing circumstance.

The other side of the coin is that you really can't go wrong being generous. The tithe is your baseline for generosity. You shouldn't



Survey Shows California Farmers Losing Sales, Income

Most farmers responding to a California Farm Bureau survey reported they had lost sales or customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the voluntary survey, 57% said they had seen sales drop, mainly due to stay-at-home orders that reduced restaurant demand. Another 42% of respondents to the survey said they or a family member had seen their off-farm income decline.

Drop In Home Building Reduces Timber Demand

The economic impacts of the pandemic include a drop in home construction, which has hurt sales of timber. One California sawmill operator says he has had to cut production in half as a result. Though housing starts have dropped, market analysts say lumber sales at home-improvement stores have been rising, as people take on remodeling projects, including conversion of rooms into home offices.

Flower Growers Hope For Mother's Day Boost

With Mother's Day approaching, California flower growers received welcome news when the state allowed florists throughout California to reopen for pickup services, beginning Friday. The California Cut Flower Commission says there will be plenty of flowers available, though transportation and sales obstacles remain. Flower sales have recovered slightly, after a sharp initial drop caused by postponement or cancellation of weddings, graduations and other events.

Farm Exports To China Rise, But Lag Behind Goals

The flow of U.S. farm exports to China has increased since the two nations signed a "Phase 1" trade agreement in January, but an American Farm Bureau Federation analysis says sales to China have so far not kept pace with commitments in the agreement. The COVID-19 pandemic has played a role, AFBF says, in part because it has slowed U.S. meat processing for export. ★

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Ready for Readi-Ride?

Be a Part of the Plan for the Next 10 Years

Continued from page 1

new housing developments (including school transportation).

The plan does not mention plans to transition to electric vehicles in the fleet, yet the state government is nudging people into ride-sharing and public transit. A state goal is transition from gas powered vehicles to electric vehicle. Now might be a time to start planning for electric vehicle use locally.

Much of the Readi-Ride funds come from federal and state sources. The state-run Strategic Growth Council doles out some of that money to local governments and community groups for projects that the state might not typically fund. For example, the current state budget allocates \$15.7 billion to the Transportation Agency, which has a half-dozen departments under its auspices. Much of the funding focuses on clean transportation and enhancing existing bus and rail routes. The state allocates a recurring \$220 million to support so-called active transportation such as walking or biking. (Keep in mind that the state budget is being revised because less money will be available because of the COVID-19 shut-down.)

No mention was made in the report of establishing more bike lanes to determine if riding bikes could help decrease the use of fossil fuels. Established alternatives to car use include cycling, walking, kick scooters, rollerblading, skateboarding and (electric or internal combustion) motorcycles. Would any of these work in Dixon? Are there other alternatives?

About three or four weeks ago, the front page of the Sacramento Bee was devoted to alternatives to gas-vehicles. Much of the information was based on interviews with Dr. Dan Sperling, Director, Transportation Institute, at UC Davis. Should the Transportation Advisory Committee sponsor a community workshop and invite Dr. Sperling and/or the graduate students to come to Dixon to present current alternatives being looked at?

Daniel Sperling, author of "Three Revolutions: Steering Automated, Shared, and Electric Vehicles to a Better

Future," said putting more passengers in each zero-emission vehicle is key to solving the emissions problem.

But Sperling, a member of the state Air Resources Board and founder of UC Davis' Institute of Transportation Studies, said the tough discussions about carpooling sometimes skirt the inevitability of fewer personal cars.

"What that really implies — I hate to say it out loud in front of a journalist — is giving up car ownership and move to sharing rides," he said. "Most people probably can't even imagine that. But the benefits to society are huge, and the benefits to individuals will be huge, too."

Should Dixon's Short-Range Transportation be given a second look to address the statewide goals.

It may be time for a survey of the community to find out what residents would like to see in public transit. Should more Readi-Ride vehicles be available for transportation for adults to use? Would a fixed route help seniors and adults as well as students? It is possible that employees who work in Dixon might ride on a fixed route and free parking up for folks who are spending money downtown. Is it reasonable to spend so many federal dollars to transport children to school?

This would be a good time to ask students for their thoughts on alternative transportation and what might work in Dixon?

What other transportation methods might be used in Dixon?

The city council will review and approve, make changes, or approve as is at its May 19 meeting.

What do you think? Is the public transportation system in Dixon adequate? What changes would you like to see? Think about this and write to the Transportation Advisory Committee with your suggestions, talk to your council representative, or attend the May city council meeting. The Transportation Advisory Committee members are listed on the city web site.

By participating in the meeting and making suggestions, you can impact Dixon's future plans for transportation. ★

Tort Reform Will Give California a Better Chance to Recover

Continued from page 1

debating several reforms of bills proposed or passed last year, including AB 5, the bill that redefines the definition of an employee versus independent contractor. The bill places the employer at risk for a class action lawsuit going back four years even though they were acting within the law at the time. The debate also extends to the California Consumer Privacy Act that will allow a plaintiff to sue on behalf of all involved in a data breach because they believe their

information was violated. Tort reform, or refraining from enacting more bills that allow for the PAGA right of action, should be added to the list of reform measures this year.

The report, authored by the Perryman Group, an economic analysis firm, also states that legal reform that decreases exposure to liability lawsuits has been shown to enhance innovation and increase productivity and employment. It also improves access to health care through lower costs. Tort reform, without

doubt, can lead to substantial economic benefits -- and states that have implemented such reforms have seen improved judicial efficiency and better economic performance.

California businesses were hurting due to abusive lawsuits before the coronavirus pandemic hit. Now, they're barely hanging on. If this state is to protect its economic vitality, our lawmakers must act now on tort reform. Bad lawsuits cost good jobs, and good jobs are may be in short supply for a long time. ★

Low-risk Businesses Re-open, Subject to Specific Social Distancing Practices

**County Public Health Officer
Solano County Special Release**

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Solano County Public Health officials have drafted a roadmap to reopening, following the concepts in the State Resiliency Roadmap. The local roadmap outlines activities and criteria-based phases necessary to lift the shelter-at-home health order in accordance with the Governor's strategy for reopening the state. The roadmap is a living policy document that both abides by the existing Solano County and State of California Public Health Orders.

"Residents have done a great job staying at home and when out in the community practicing social distancing in Solano County," says Dr. Bela Matyas, Solano County Public Health Officer. "People's individual efforts have saved lives, enabled our hospitals to prepare to handle a surge of ill patients, and curbed the spread of coronavirus. As we move toward recovery and the opportunity to reopen businesses safely, in phases based on our county's risk management best practices, it is crucial for community members to adhere to the public health guidelines and social distancing and to shelter at home if you are an at-risk individual."

The Solano roadmap draws its concepts from the State and epidemiological analysis, and looks at risk of transmission and ability to reduce or minimize the risk as a key factor in business activities and the ability to reopen. The level of risk in an activity and the potential impact to the health and wellbeing of Solano County residents is essential in the success of the roadmap being able to help reopen businesses without increasing the public health risk of COVID19 exposures. The roadmap envisions phases much like the State plan. The County has outlined activities and grouped business into three categories of risk: low, medium and high.

Starting May 8, 2020, low-risk businesses in Solano County may reopen providing they have implemented and maintain social distancing best practices for reducing the spread of COVID19.

Certain businesses, organizations and activities, including retail establishments, manufacturing, pet grooming, florists, offices, and City/County local parks (except playgrounds, campgrounds and beaches), which pose a low-risk of COVID-19 transmission, can be modified to allow for social distancing and these may begin reopening on May 8, 2020. All businesses, including those that are currently operating as essential businesses, will be required to develop and post the Social Distancing Protocol describing how they will function to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

"Changes to lifting this order place a lot of responsibility on business owners, their staff and residents to make good decisions," Matyas says. "We urge residents to respect the rules established by businesses and facilities so that they can provide services safely and be mindful of their community members' health by practicing social distancing as much as possible and wearing facial coverings where six-foot distance cannot be maintained. We have worked for the past few weeks with our business, healthcare and public safety partners as well as with elected officials to develop a plan to allow low-risk activities and businesses in the County to resume and reopen. In doing so, we were careful to adhere to the State's Phase 2 considerations. However, the Governor's announcement

today limiting reopening to only some of the State's Phase 2 businesses means that a somewhat wider scope of activities will resume in Solano."

Businesses and activities under the medium-risk category, including hair and nail salons, restaurants, and massage therapy, among others, will need to meet specific criteria before they can begin operations that are still being developed by the State and the County. The strategy for minimizing risk and the timeline for reopening of medium-risk businesses are still being reviewed and will be discussed further with the Solano County Board of Supervisors at their meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, starting at 9 a.m. Details, including how to view and participate, are included on the County's website at www.SolanoCounty.com/BOS.

The FOX 40 News report and comments by Fairfield Councilwomen Moy are incorrect. The County Public Health Officer has not indicated restaurants can or will open on Monday, May 11. The question Ms. Moy asked during a call with elected officials in Solano County was when could or would restaurants be able to open. The response was restaurants are in the medium-risk businesses category, meaning there is greater risk of spread of the disease in dine-in settings, and that the medium-risk category criteria is still being developed and would be shared with the Board and potentially could take affect later in the week.

Businesses and activities under the high-risk category, including amusement parks, festivals and playgrounds, will continue to remain closed for the time being. Solano County Public Health will continue to monitor COVID-19 data and announce when high-risk activities may take place, depending on the incidence of COVID-19 in the community, hospital capacity and other health related indicators.

Guidance for high-risk individuals

As Solano County reopens, it is important to continue to protect those at high-risk of contracting severe COVID-19 illness, including individuals 65 years of age or older, those with compromised immune systems and people with certain underlying health conditions, particularly, heart disease, lung disease or diabetes, to continue to self-isolate at home and practice the following recommendations:

- Avoid crowds, mass gatherings, large events, public transit, and stay home as much as possible
- Clean and disinfect your home; practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or a sleeve
- Review and update your personal emergency plan

Solano County Public Health continues to monitor the situation to ensure the safety of community members and assess the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Public Health staff continue to be in constant communication with the California Department of Public Health, local hospitals, city officials, and other agencies to make sure we are in alignment to move the state forward. Residents are still required to follow the shelter at home guidance and practice social distancing as much as possible.

For more information about the Roadmap to Recovery, the amended Stay-at-Home health order, social distancing protocol and frequently asked questions about the reopening, visit the Solano County website at www.SolanoCounty.com/COVID19. ★

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Riley Reviews

"CITY OF ANGELS" TAKES FLIGHT TO DARK SIDE OF HISTORY

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"Penny Dreadful: City Of Angels" on Showtime

Los Angeles, nicknamed the City of Angels but not for the California baseball team, has a fascinating history that has been popularized over time in film noir and seminal works like "Chinatown" and "L.A. Confidential," two period pieces that leap to mind.

Showtime's "Penny Dreadful: City of Angels" is set in 1938 Los Angeles, at a time of racial strife, rising evangelism, a public works project running roughshod over an immigrant community, and the Third Reich seeking a foothold on American soil.

As if the pre-World War II period is not intriguing enough, show creator John Logan introduces a supernatural element with Natalie Dormer's demon Magda who busies herself stirring up tension and turmoil that percolates throughout Los Angeles.

Dressed in black, Magda makes her first appearance in a prologue by appearing in fields where migrant workers toil on harvesting crops, causing a tragic fire that claims the lives of many, including the father of a young boy who witnesses the carnage.

A counter-balance to the evil Magda, who also inhabits the human roles of a German immigrant housewife, a political aide and a leader in the Pachuco counter culture, is Santa Muerte (Lorenza Izzo), the Mexican folk saint associated with delivering the dead to the afterlife.

Fast forward to 1938, the young boy in the fields is now the adult Tiago Vega (Daniel Zovatto), who lives with his mother Maria (Adriana Barraza) and his siblings in the Latino community of Belvedere Heights, soon to be the flashpoint for a battle over urban renewal.

A reluctant trailblazer, Tiago becomes the first Mexican-American detective at the LAPD where he's in conflict with fellow racist officers as much as he is with his own community that views him as some sort of sellout.

No one else wants to partner with Tiago other than veteran detective Lewis Michener (Nathan Lane), a Jew who has his own struggle with the rising tide of anti-Semitism rearing its ugly head in the presence of Nazi sympathizers openly holding rallies in public parks.

The first case for Tiago and Lewis is a crime scene in the cement basin of the Los Angeles River, where a family of four from wealthy Beverly Hills is found dead, their bodies heavily mutilated with a Day of the Dead motif.

Nearby on the channel wall, the detectives find an ominous message in Spanish

that translates to "You take our heart, we take yours." Indeed, the corpses have had their hearts removed in a ritualistic fashion that forebodes a looming racial skirmish.

Los Angeles City Councilman Charlton Townsend (Michael Gladis) is pushing his weight around in a committee meeting to thrust the development of the Arroyo Seco freeway that will run right through the middle of Belvedere Heights, displacing scores of its inhabitants.

The residents show up in force at a council hearing and Tiago's brother Raul (Adam Rodriguez) is in the forefront of fierce opposition to the freeway, presaging the inevitable unease that will cause a huge rift in the Vega household.

The shape-shifting Magda appears as the compliant Alex, a dowdy advisor to Councilman Townsend who manipulates her boss into compromising positions which seem almost certain at some point to further the aims of local Nazis to gain influence at City Hall.

Townsend's unwavering commitment to the freeway, even in the face of a threat from a veteran councilwoman for a pitched political battle, eventually leads to a violent confrontation at the roadway's construction site, leading to the death of cops and civilian protesters.

Of course, the unseen hand of Magda is behind the violence, as her only aim is to sow chaos and foment distrust between the whites and immigrants, which might open up a receptive audience for the Third Reich's inroads into local government.

While Lewis starts working solo to investigate the murder of Jewish friends who had been spying on the Nazis, Tiago

gets involved with radio evangelist Sister Molly (Kerry Bishe), an alluring temptress who chafes at the control exercised by her mother (Amy Madigan).

Another character for the devious Magda is that of young German-born housewife Elsa who frequently visits the office of pediatrician Peter Craft (Rory Kinnear), another expatriate with a troubled marriage to the alcoholic Linda (Piper Perabo).

Not concealing his affinity for Nazi Germany, Dr. Craft is the leader of the German-American Bund, a group that seeks to exploit the isolationist views of a public wary of entanglement in another costly war on foreign soil.

"City of Angels" may suffer from too many storylines, though each one holds its own fascination for the fate of every character even as the chameleon-like Magda juggles so much conniving guiles that are irresistible.

A key facet to this limited series is the aesthetic rendering of Los Angeles of the late Thirties that is amazing in its authentic details. For the atmosphere alone, "Penny Dreadful: City of Angels" draws one into an experience that is worth watching. ★

Jane Anonymous

by Laurie Faria Stolarz

There were so many things Jane didn't know ten months ago. She didn't know how to construct a weapon with only a mattress coil, she didn't know that her skin would scale and scab without weeks of washing, and she didn't know how much a human body needed light. Jane also didn't know how strong, resilient, and brave she was, but she quickly found out. Ten months ago, everything changed in an instant, and now Jane will never be the person she once was.

Taken and held captive for seven months, locked in a small room with only a cat door for food to be passed through, all Jane wanted to know was why. It wasn't just the room that terrified her, but the items in the room, and the screams of the others taken.

Now, Jane must struggle to put all the pieces together, while everyone wants her to be the girl they knew before, but that's impossible. As she tries to navigate a turmoil of emotions, while also being the one that everyone stares and talks about, Jane could only find comfort hidden from the world. But as time presses on and memories start to surface, the truth and lies are almost more than Jane can take. Where is she going to find the one person that might understand, and how will she ever face those



◆ Publisher: Wednesday Books
 ◆ Hardcover, 308 Pages
 ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
 ◆ Rating: ★★★★★

that can't? The only thing Jane can control is how she tells her story, and here it is.

In this poignant story of loss and rediscovery, Jane Anonymous exposes the emotional turmoil of being taken and the loss of oneself upon returning. A story that looks deep inside the struggle behind the loss of innocence and heartbreakingly explores the inner monologue and struggles of a girl trying to repair her fractured life. Told in two parts, "Then," and "Now," readers will dive deep into the fear, the isolation, and the mere survival of being captured. While also watching the internal struggle of trying to reconnect after she returns.

This book will leave

readers wracking their brains for answers and emotionally raw, but also unable to put it down. Readers will be crying by page 80, and then again on page 178. Crying out for understanding, crying to have Jane allow others in, and calling out for her friends and family to look past what they want for Jane, so they can see what Jane really needs. Laurie Faria Stolarz opens the door to complex storytelling, pulling back the skin as if emotions could be visible like organs in a body. As if understanding another's feelings were as simple as being able to describe their looks, their clothes, or their hair color. Stolarz's raw, exposure will make your skin itch alongside Jane's and questioning if you would ever be able to put the fractured parts of who you once were together again?

Jane Anonymous, will get deep inside readers' heads while being the voice that wants to open up doors for understanding. Asking the all-important questions- Could you ward off an attacker? Do you have the skills to survive? Laurie Faria Stolarz promises to deliver her story in the most honest and most demanding way possible, emotionally haunting her readers, but then again, aren't those the best stories to be heard? ★

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MUSINGS

By Mike Ceremello



Stuck In The Middle With You

"Clowns to the left of me, Jokers to the right, here I am, Stuck in the middle with you. (Stealers Wheel)"

Commentary
by Mike Ceremello

Yes, we are stuck in the middle, thanks to those in local government including the County right up to the greasy governor, Gavin Gruesome Newsom. The panic-demic continues thanks to the fear generating media and our neighbors and citizens who refuse to think for themselves and weigh all options.

Only recently we have national voices appearing, making the same points I made months ago. We have outraged real patriots who understand their freedoms are being assaulted by the imposition of martial law to combat a yearly event known as the flu. It was interesting observing the difference between what happened in Sacramento at the capitol and what happened in Michigan where protestors arrived with guns. It was also interesting what happened in Texas where armed men aided in the opening of a bar.

In Sacramento, the California Highway Patrol officers guarding the Capitol building and maybe the moronic legislators within decided to remove protestors from the steps with the warning they would be arrested if they didn't comply. Ryan Messano of Vallejo was one of 32 people, mostly women according to him, who were arrested because he and maybe they couldn't hear the order. While Messano says they were treated well, perhaps the officers forgot that they have a duty to defend the Constitution from all enemies, both foreign and domestic.

In Michigan, the protestors demonstrated the point of why the Second Amendment is so important. Unlike California's liberal and illegal immigrant paradise, the sheep weren't there for the shearing. Anywhere the authorities can command an overwhelming force, our rights and freedom go out the window. California is one step from being a Cambodia, mainland China, or Russia, the political models most admired by those on the Left.

We now have the liberal idiots of the US Senate, Kamala Harris, Bernie

"Commie" Sanders, and Ed "Marx" Markey of Massachusetts wanting to give \$2000 per person during this unnecessary shutdown to everyone. I, for one, have not even seen the first \$1200 which was promised a month ago. Basic economics and monetary theory tells you that you can't print money with impunity and not destroy the value of the existing money. Greece was nothing compared to repudiation of debt which is coming from the US.

Destroying the economy and those who have enjoyed the quality of life we all have over the last century means nothing to those who hate what America is and what it has accomplished. This is their perfect world, where you have to rely on government for your subsistence and right to prosper. The collective is not merely a Borg concept. Marx and Engels would be so proud.

Is there not a single oppositional voice in our county? We have the county public health department extending the shelter in place command until May 17th. We have our council imbeciles conducting the second reading of an ordinance to fine you \$500 for your first offense and \$1000 for a second, just because compliance to unconstitutional mandates is more important than their oath of office to protect your freedom.

To show you how easy it is to avoid and void these draconian attempts at public control, we all still have the loopholes of grocery shopping, filling up with gas, going to the doctor or the bank, or visiting Thom Bogue at his "essential service" auto shop. So if you are out and about and not going to one of these venues, share an untruth and tell the officer you are. If they want to fine you for "social distancing" infractions, we are all in a lot of trouble. I need to start carrying a tape measure.

Not satisfied to halt their tyranny and listen to anything especially reason or logic, the council decided to proceed. I can understand Bird and Earnest both having a "cop" mentality in promoting unreasonable power to be given to those supposedly protecting us from ourselves, ★

but Pederson cannot be explained other than to say he is a power driven tyrant. So we all live with the fines in 30 days.

A second item on this week's council meeting was to permanently take away the elections official duties from the city clerk and keep it with the city manager. Their illogic was that the city clerk position may become an elected position because it is on this November's ballot and it would be inappropriate that the clerk handle her own election or that of her bosses, namely the council.

Brilliance is not needed to assess this situation. First off, the city election official merely hands out election material and forms. She does not handle ballots. Counting and handling of ballot boxes is done by the county. Only the ballot box at city hall is under the elections official's protection.

As we saw with Dixon's last interim temporary city clerk, Daryl Betancour, a protest ballot box not under the control of the county does have the potential for manipulation by an appointed clerk relying on the city manager for his livelihood. This is the prime reason for having an elected clerk responsible to the citizens instead of the city manager.

Why should I trust the city manager, a person who perpetuates lies about our water system needs and is totally unresponsive to citizens he was hired to serve by a council who he instead serves exclusively? Wasn't it Lindley and/or Doug White, the city lawyer who illegally got city clerk Suellen Johnston to give up petitioners' names without a court order during the city's lawsuit to take away our right to vote on the sewer rate increase guaranteed in the California Constitution Article XIII?

Who has more to gain, the city clerk or the city manager, in controlling who will be his bosses capable of hiring, firing, and paying him more money? It is too bad we couldn't have all of the higher ups at city hall directly elected. Maybe that way the city engineer and the city manager would be working with the citizens rather than just finding ways to strip money from our bank accounts. ★

Quarantine and a Free Society

By Congressman Tom McClintock

Quarantine is the forced confinement of a person who has contracted or been exposed to an infectious disease. Although it is a long-standing police power of governments, it is seldom used because seldom needed – sick people generally stay home on their own. When it must be used, it is subject to due process: the right to contest the order in court, to present evidence that the order is invalid, and to have it vacated.

What is happening today is radically different and profoundly un-American: the indefinite and indiscriminate home detention without due process of perfectly healthy people on the pretext that they might catch a contagious disease. While it is true that some people may be infectious without knowing it, that's no different than a wide variety of other contagious diseases that have been with us for generations and that are far more lethal than Covid-19.

Although some local jurisdictions prohibited large public gatherings during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918, never before has any American government attempted to confine an entire population in its homes, order the mass shuttering of businesses, and deliberately plunge tens of millions of Americans into unemployment, poverty and despair.

This new power, asserted in increasingly arbitrary and aggressive manners by public servants-turned-masters, is antithetical to our First Amendment right to peaceably assemble and our Fifth Amendment right to not be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. The courts recognize some restrictions of these rights, but only by "the least restrictive means," not arbitrary and unreasonable edicts.

In California, this abusive power has been used to deny citizens the right to protest the abuse itself. In North Carolina, the Raleigh Police Department declared, "Protesting is a non-essential activity." In Pennsylvania, police fined a woman \$200 for taking a solitary drive in her own car. A San Diego woman is threatened with a \$1,000 fine and jail-time for promoting a protest on Facebook. Ironically, while law-abiding citizens are arrested for exercising rights guaranteed under their Bill

of Rights, authorities are releasing thousands of criminals from prisons and in California, forbidding sheriffs from holding a wide class of criminal suspects, including burglars.

The greatest threat of this newly asserted power is to fundamentally alter the relationship between Americans and their government. It is the age-old question that Cecil B. DeMille framed in his introduction to "The Ten Commandments," "Are men the property of the state, or are they free souls under God?"

Every time we step outside our homes, the risks we face multiply. A free society assumes that its citizens are competent to assess those risks, balance them against the avoidance costs, and to manage their decisions in a generally responsible way. It's called common sense, and is a necessary prerequisite for self-government and liberty.

When a risk presents itself, people naturally change their behavior. If they believe the risk of leaving their houses is too great, they are free to stay at home. If they believe venturing beyond their front doors is a manageable risk, they are free to venture into the world, taking those precautions that to them seem most prudent. In an epidemic, their assessments of risk might convince them to avoid crowded theaters or restaurants, wash their hands more frequently, avoid handshakes, wear masks or become hermits. These acts don't require force and don't make demands on others. They are a matter of individual judgment and choice.

The choice of an octogenarian with emphysema in New York City might be very different from a healthy college student in Iowa. Only a fool would claim the omniscience to make an informed judgment for every person in every circumstance in every community. Sadly, the crisis has revealed that fools abound in public office and that a fool with power can quickly become a petty tyrant.

In this pandemic, many elected officials have abandoned the practices of a free society and crossed some very bright lines that separate free Americans from those unfortunate to live under authoritarian regimes. Communist China pioneered the practices now inflicted on our own citizens. That should scream a warning to us all. ★

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Dixon Scottish Games Cancelled

By Philip Venable,
Dixon Scottish Cultural Association

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It is with deep regret the Dixon Scottish Cultural Association announces the cancellation of this year's Dixon Scottish Highland games. The decision was a difficult one to make, but necessary due to the uncertainty of the length of the current quarantine, our inability to meet and plan, competition from other Celtic events on the same weekend, and our dwindling volunteer base.

Once we are able to meet and plan, we will find a new date to hold our 2021 Games on, and retool our games to better meet the needs of our audience. It is our hope that community members will step forward to help us put on the best

Games possible. Our volunteer base has been aging out and our younger members have been too busy with their lives to be able to give us the time needed to adequately prepare. Our Games have been a mainstay in the Dixon community since 2000, and bring thousands of dollars into the local economy. Additionally, each year we donate part of our proceeds to Dixon youth groups.

We need community support in the form of volunteers to help plan, setup, and take down the Games each year. We have several committees without chairpersons, meaning the volunteers we do have are overseeing several committees at once. If you are interested in lending your time and support to our endeavor, contact Chief Deanna Lopes at sharkgrrl10@yahoo.com. ★

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Treasury, IRS Unveil Online Application to Help with Economic Impact Payments

By David A. Tucker II,
Internal Revenue Service

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - Working with the Treasury Department, the Internal Revenue Service unveiled the new Get My Payment with features to let taxpayers check on their Economic Impact Payment date and update direct deposit information.

With an initial round of more than 80 million Economic Impact Payments starting to hit bank accounts, this new tool will help address key common questions. *Get My Payment* will show the projected date when a deposit has been scheduled, similar to the "Where's My Refund tool" many taxpayers are already familiar with.

Get My Payment also allows people a chance to provide their bank information. People who did not use direct deposit on their last tax return will be able to input information to receive the payment by direct deposit into their bank account, expediting receipt.

"*Get My Payment* will offer people with a quick and easy way to find the status of their payment and, where possible, provide their bank account information if we don't already have it," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "Our IRS employees have been working non-stop on the Economic Impact Payments to help taxpayers in need. In addition to successfully generating payments to more than 80 million people, IRS teams throughout the country proudly worked long days and weekends to quickly deliver *Get My Payment* ahead of schedule."

Get My Payment is updated once daily, usually overnight. The IRS urges taxpayers to only use *Get My Payment* once a day given the large number of people receiving Economic Impact Payments.

How to use *Get My Payment*

Available only on IRS.gov, the online application is safe and secure to use. Taxpayers only need a few pieces of information to quickly obtain the status of their payment and, where needed, provide their bank account information. Having a copy of their most recent tax return can help speed the process.

For taxpayers to track the status of their payment, this feature will show taxpayers the payment amount, scheduled delivery date by direct deposit or paper check and if a payment hasn't been scheduled. They will

need to enter basic information including:

Social Security number; Date of birth, and; Mailing address used on their tax return.

Taxpayers needing to add their bank account information to speed receipt of their payment will also need to provide the following additional information:

Their Adjusted Gross Income from their most recent tax return submitted, either 2019 or 2018; The refund or amount owed from their latest filed tax return; Bank account type, account and routing numbers

Get My Payment cannot update bank account information after an Economic Impact Payment has been scheduled for delivery. To help protect against potential fraud, the tool also does not allow people to change bank account information already on file with the IRS.

In addition to *Get My Payment*, Treasury and IRS have a second a new web tool allowing quick registration for Economic Impact Payments for those who don't normally file a tax return.

The *Non-filers*: Enter Payment Info tool, developed in partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, provides a free and easy option designed for people who don't have a return filing obligation, including those with too little income to file. The new web tool is available only on IRS.gov, and users should look for *Non-filers: Enter Payment Info Here* to take them directly to the tool.

Non-filers: Enter Payment Info is designed for people who did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019 and who don't receive Social Security retirement, disability (SSDI), or survivor benefits and Railroad Retirement benefits. Additional information is available at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>.

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for 2019 or 2018 will receive the payments automatically. Automatic payments will also go in the near future to those receiving Social Security retirement, or disability (SSDI), or survivor benefits and Railroad Retirement benefits.

General information about the Economic Impact Payments is available on a special section of IRS.gov: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center>. ★

Warmer Weather Will Speed Snowmelt, Increase River Flows



California's snowpack will be melting faster, potentially filling rivers and streams with dangerously cold and swift moving water. MPG File Photo

By Paul Moreno,
Pacific Gas and Electric

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (MPG) - With temperatures forecast to increase this week, California's snowpack will be melting faster, potentially filling rivers and streams with dangerously cold and swift moving water.

As some counties begin to ease shelter-at-home restrictions, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) notes that California's stay-at-home order remains in effect, and it's important to continue practicing physical distancing. Californians may walk, run, hike and/or bike in their local neighborhoods as long as they continue to practice physical distancing of six feet.

For those who choose to venture near or in water, PG&E encourages them to take extra precautions when in or near rivers, especially around hydroelectric facilities and dams, where water flows can change rapidly. Anglers also are encouraged to take precautions as trout season has opened for most California rivers.

Although California's snowfall is below normal, runoff is expected to continue into early summer.

"Public safety is our highest priority. We encourage everyone recreating in or near water to plan at all times how they can quickly and safely escape in case of changing water flows and cold temperatures," said Jan Nimick, PG&E vice president of Power Generation.

Most California rivers are fed by snowmelt, making them cold even in summer. Simple actions such as recognizing if the water is too cold or swift, knowing your limits, wearing a life jacket and simply not entering the water when conditions are deemed unsafe can save a life.

Below are some water safety tips:

Stay Out and Stay Alive - Stay Out of Canals and Flumes

Recreating in PG&E canals and flumes is strictly prohibited. Stay off elevated flumes and out of these water conveyances, regardless of who owns them, as they are very dangerous due to slippery sides and fast-moving cold water. Be mindful of signs and warnings. Stay out of areas that are signed as restricted, fenced off or buoy-lined.

Know the Risks

Prevention is the best way to save a person from drowning. By the time a person is struggling in the water, a rescue is extremely unlikely and places the rescuer at risk.

Sudden immersion in cold water can stimulate the "gasp reflex," causing an involuntary inhalation of air or water. It can even trigger cardiac arrest, temporary paralysis, hypothermia and drowning. When

faced with swift water, even the strongest swimmers can be easily overwhelmed.

Cold water entering the ear canal can cause vertigo and disorientation. This can confuse swimmers, potentially causing them to venture deeper into the water.

Cold water also reduces body heat 25 to 30 times faster than air does at the same temperature and causes impairment that can be fatal.

Learn About Self-Rescue Techniques

If you do fall into the water, here are some survival tips:

Don't panic. Try to control your breathing; don't gasp. A sudden, unexpected fall into cold water causes an involuntary gasp (or torso) reflex. It takes less than one-half cup of water in a person's lungs to drown. If you remain calm, you have a greater chance of self-rescue; If you have a boat, stay with it. It will help you stay afloat and will be seen more easily by rescuers. If it's capsized and a portion of the craft is above water, try to climb on top; Stay afloat with the help of a life jacket, regain control of your breathing and keep your head above water in view of rescuers; If possible, remove heavy shoes. Look for ways to increase buoyancy such as by holding onto seat cushions or an ice chest; If you're in the water with others, huddle together facing each other to help everyone stay afloat and keep warm; If you do fall into a river without a life jacket, keep your feet pointed downstream and turn onto your back; If you fall into the water with waders on, roll onto the shore. Wear a belt with waders.

Know your Limits

Swimming in open water is more difficult than in a swimming pool - people tire more quickly and can get into trouble; Many unseen obstacles can be lurking below the water's surface - this is especially the case during spring and early summer snowmelt. Rising water can make these obstacles even more treacherous. Guided trips for inexperienced paddlers are recommended;

Wear a Coast Guard - Approved Life Jacket

Conditions change quickly in open water and even the best swimmers can misjudge the water and their skills when boating or swimming.

Adult Supervision

Actively supervise children in and around open bodies of water, giving them your undivided attention. Do not assume that someone is watching them. Appoint a designated "water watcher," taking turns with other adults. Use the buddy system and never swim alone. ★



The Science Cop-Out

If you thought the coronavirus presented difficult policy questions, don't worry - we have science.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom tweeted the other day, "The West Coast is - and will continue to be - guided by SCIENCE."

Joe Biden has urged President Trump, "Follow the science, listen to the experts, do what they tell you."

Neil DeGrasse Tyson calls the crisis "a giant experiment in whether the world will listen to scientists, now and going forward."

The invocation of science as the ultimate authority capable of settling questions of how we should govern ourselves is a persistent feature of modern Western life going back several centuries, and has always been a mistake. It is especially so in this crisis, when so much is still unknown about the coronavirus and immensely complicated and consequential public policy questions are in play.

Modern science is obviously one of the wonders of our age. We owe it an

unimaginable debt - for technological advancements in medicine, transportation, industry, communication, computing and more. All honor to Newton, Turing, Curie and Einstein.

The world was slow to react to the coronavirus, and yet the genetic code of the virus was publicly posted by China on Jan. 20, and South Korea had deployed a test kit by early February. It's possible we'll have a vaccine by the end of the year.

Science has a limited competency, though. Once you are outside a lab setting and dealing with matters of public policy, questions of values and how to strike a balance between competing priorities come into play, and they simply can't be settled by people in white lab coats.

Science can make the atom bomb; it doesn't tell us whether we should drop it. Science can tell us how to get to the moon; it doesn't tell us whether we should go. Science can build nuclear reactors; it doesn't tell us whether we should deploy them.

If we are going to unquestioningly accept expert opinion, we'd better prepare for whiplash. At first, the elite consensus was that wearing masks was unnecessary. Now, we are told it's an essential piece of getting out of this mess.

We worried about running

out of ventilators, but in recent weeks some doctors have been wondering whether they have been overused.

Then, there are the big questions. Science can't tell us how we should think about the trade-off between economic misery caused by shutdowns and the public health risks of reopenings. It can't determine the balance between shutting down a hospital's elective surgeries so it can prepare for a COVID-19 surge, and tanking its business.

The people in our political debate who most volubly insist that they are simply following "the science" tend also to be most resistant to nuance and prone to unscientific fervency. They are using "science" as a bludgeon and conversation stopper.

Obviously, science already has made an enormous contribution to our fight against the coronavirus, and may - through therapies or a vaccine - go a long way to solving this crisis. But life is not an equation, and neither is politics or policy.

We as a free people will have to decide the important questions raised by this crisis, not the doctors on TV or the researchers in the labs.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



This is Definitely the Year!

waving his arms. "Can't you feel it? It's gonna happen. This is the year of dreams coming to a total culmination of wonder and delight. This is the year, for example, that I'll finally figure out how to reconcile the duchess and the truck driver in my book *Murder in the Soggy Bottoms*."

"You know," said Doc, "that still sounds to me like someone has a lot of diapers to change."

"And Doc ... this is the year. Yes, this is the very year you figure out what The Luncker likes to nibble on, and you catch and land him. It's inevitable."

"I like the way he thinks," said Doc. "And Bert, there's still

that mystery clouding your life, and I know this is the year you solve it."

"Mystery?" said Bert. "Yeah. Didn't someone do a drive-by theft of your lawn sprinkler a couple of years ago?"

"Almost three now." "See?"

"But why is this the year," asked Doc. "Why THIS year?"

"Well, actually," Dud said, "I bought Anita a pack of those taro cards and she's been having fun with them."

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Social Security Matters Online Extortion Scams Increasing

Husband Confused About Spouse Benefits During the COVID-19 Crisis



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am 65 and still working and plan to work for some time to come. My birthdate is February 1955. My wife is 64 and not working. Her birthdate is January 1956. Half of my benefit is more than half of hers. I am confused on the spousal benefit rules. If she were to take her Social Security early before she reaches her full retirement age, what are the rules that affect her **Signed: Confused Husband**

Dear Confused: First I must clarify that spousal benefits do not work as you have suggested, that "half of my benefit is more than half of hers." Spousal benefits are always based upon the amount the individuals are due at their full retirement age, regardless of the age at which they claim. If half of your benefit at your full retirement age (FRA) is more than your wife's full benefit at her full retirement age, then the difference between those two numbers is a "spousal boost" which is added to your wife's own payment amount when her spouse benefit starts. If she has reached her FRA when you claim and her spouse benefit starts, your wife will get the entire spousal boost; if she has not, the spousal boost will be reduced. Your wife cannot collect a spousal benefit until you



start collecting your Social Security, so if she claims benefits before you claim she will initially get only what she is entitled to on her own work record. Then when you claim, the "spousal boost" will be added to her benefit. If you claim at your FRA, your wife will not yet have reached her full retirement age, so her spousal boost amount will be reduced and added to her own reduced benefit amount, making her total benefit as your spouse less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

Your full retirement age is 66 years and 2 months, and you won't be entitled to full benefits until you reach that age. For your awareness, you can wait beyond your FRA and earn delayed retirement credits, up to age 70 when your benefit would be about 31% more than it would be at your FRA, but your wife cannot get her spousal boost until you claim. And also for your awareness, if you claim benefits before you reach your FRA and continue to work, you'll be subject to Social Security's earnings limit (\$18,240 for 2020) which, if exceeded, will cause SS to take back some of your benefits. The earnings limit goes up by about 2.5 times in the year you reach your FRA and goes away when you reach your full retirement age.

Your wife's full retirement age is 66 years and 4 months and any benefits she claims on her own record prior to reaching that age will be reduced. At 64 she

could claim her own benefit from her own work record (assuming she has at least 40 SS credits), but that benefit would be reduced to about 85% of what she would get at her FRA. And claiming at age 64 would also affect the amount of her spousal benefit when that starts. The only way your wife can get 100% of the amount she is due as your spouse is to wait until her FRA to claim any benefit. If she claims her own benefit at age 64 or any time before her FRA, not only will her own benefit be reduced, but her eventual benefit as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount, even if you wait to claim until your wife reaches her FRA. That's because her spousal boost, when it occurs, will be added to the reduced SS retirement amount she is getting because she claimed before her full retirement age.

You are certainly not alone to be confused about spousal benefits as this is one of the most confusing areas of Social Security's rules. But I hope the above provides what you and your wife need to make an informed claiming decision

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FBI Office of Public Affairs

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) has seen an increase in reports of online extortion scams during the current "stay-at-home" orders due to the COVID-19 crisis. Because large swaths of the population are staying at home and likely using the computer more than usual, scammers may use this opportunity to find new victims and pressure them into sending money. The scammers are sending e-mails threatening to release sexually explicit photos or personally compromising videos to the individual's contacts if they do not pay. While there are many variations of these online extortion attempts, they often share certain commonalities.

Scam Commonalities: Online extortion schemes vary, but there are a few common indicators of the scam. The following characteristics are not all-inclusive but should serve as red flags. It is important to remember that scammers adapt their schemes to capitalize on current events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, high-profile breaches, or new trends involving the Internet, all in an attempt to make their scams seem more authentic:

The online extortion attempt comes as an e-mail from an unknown party and, many times, will be written in broken English with grammatical errors; The recipient's personal information is noted in the e-mail or letter to add a higher degree of intimidation to the scam. For example, the recipient's user name or password is provided at the beginning of the e-mail or letter; The recipient is accused of visiting adult websites, cheating on a spouse, or being involved in other compromising situations; The e-mail or letter includes a statement like, "I had a serious spyware and adware infect your computer," or "I have a recorded video of you" as an explanation of how the information was allegedly gathered; The e-mail or letter threatens to send a video or other compromising information to family, friends, coworkers, or social network contacts if a ransom is not paid; The e-mail or letter provides a short window to pay, typically 48 hours; The recipient is instructed to pay the ransom in Bitcoin, a virtual currency that provides a high degree of anonymity to the transactions.

Tips To Protect Yourself: Do not open e-mails or attachments from unknown individuals; Monitor your bank account statements

regularly, and your credit report at least once a year for any unusual activity; Do not communicate with unsolicited e-mail senders; Do not store sensitive or embarrassing photos or information online or on your mobile devices; Use strong passwords and do not use the same password for multiple websites; Never provide personal information of any sort via e-mail. Be aware that many e-mails requesting your personal information appear to be legitimate; Ensure security settings for social media accounts are activated and set at the highest level of protection;

Verify the web address of legitimate websites and manually type the address into your browser.

The FBI does not condone the payment of online extortion demands as the funds will facilitate continued criminal activity, including potential organized crime activity and associated violent crimes.

Victim Reporting: If you believe you have been a victim of this scam, reach out to your local FBI field office, and file a complaint with the IC3 at www.ic3.gov. Please provide any relevant information in your complaint, including the online extortion e-mail with header information and Bitcoin address if available. ★

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Ask Toni

Starting Medicare... Why Is Part B Costing \$578?



Toni King

Toni:

My Medicare begins June 1st and I have received my first bill which is \$578.40 with the premium due by May 25th. I do not see this Medicare cost anywhere on the Medicare site or in any information I received when I came into the Toni Says office for my Medicare consultation. Am I being charged the Medicare Part B penalty? I signed up before I turned 65. What is wrong?

I am not starting my Social Security check until I turn 66 which is my full retirement age, so I must pay this myself to Social Security. Is there a way I can pay the Medicare Part B premium monthly instead of the whole amount? Look forward to what your thoughts are?

~ Edward from Tampa

Edward:

Here is a Medicare surprise for you ... You are not being charged EXTRA!! You have been charged for 4 months of Medicare Part B premiums. Since you are not receiving a Social Security check, then all Social Security can do is bill you for your Medicare premiums. Yours

is for a 4-month lump sum of June, July August and September which is \$144.60 times 4 months that equals \$578.40.

Most Americans enrolled in Medicare are paying their Medicare premiums monthly from their Social Security check. Social Security will automatically take the Medicare premiums from a person's Social Security check.

Social Security will send a letter informing the Medicare beneficiary that Social Security is deducting the monthly Medicare Part B premiums from ones Social Security check. Edward this is not your situation.

The average Part B premium for those who income is \$87,000 or less as an individual or \$174,000 or less as a couple is \$144.60, and if you divide your premium of \$578.40 by 4 months will equal \$144.60 per month.

Medicare has a program that can allow one to pay premiums on a monthly basis by either paying via check, bank draft, debit card or credit cards. The program is called "Medicare Easy Pay."

An article in Chapter 7 of the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced edition, discusses Medicare Easy Pay with a copy of the form with instructions in the "Forms Chapter" on pages 144-146 of the guide. Or you can visit www.medicare.gov website, which discusses how to set up Medicare Easy Pay and access the form to

download to pay monthly.

For those who do not have access to a computer, call 1/800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227) and to request the Medicare Easy Pay form mailed to you or make a copy from Toni's Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced edition.

You can also visit www.mymedicare.gov if you would like to pay by a credit card. This option is a one-time payment not one automatic monthly. I turn 65 in May and mailed in a check around April 10th for an April 25 th due date. On April 27th it was not deposited. When I called Medicare, they said it could take up to 30 days to show up in my bank account and to go online to pay or I may lose my Medicare Part B. I went online and paid 1 monthly premium of \$144.60 by credit card for May to be sure I did not lose my Medicare Part B. I am still waiting for the check to clear my bank.

I understand Medicare! What is someone to do that is confused? Keep Medicare premiums current, while waiting for Medicare Easy Pay to be processed.

Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced edition, is having a \$5 Toni Says® readers discount at 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. ★

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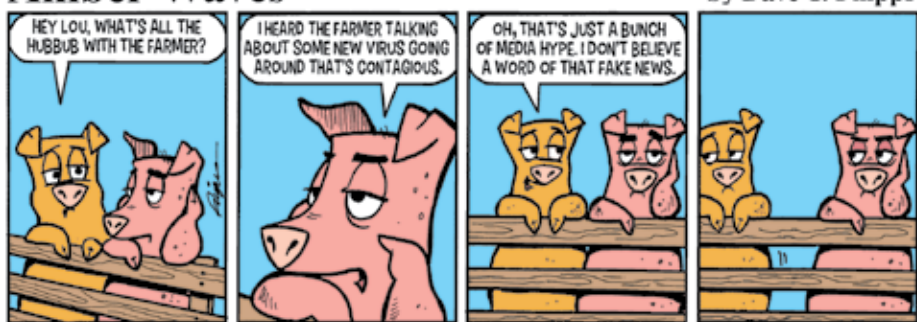
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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



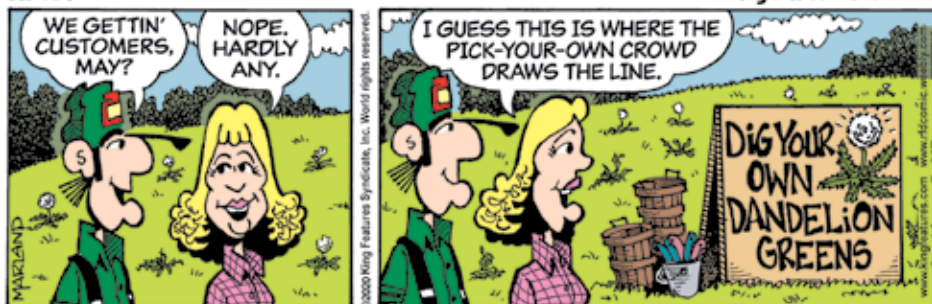
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

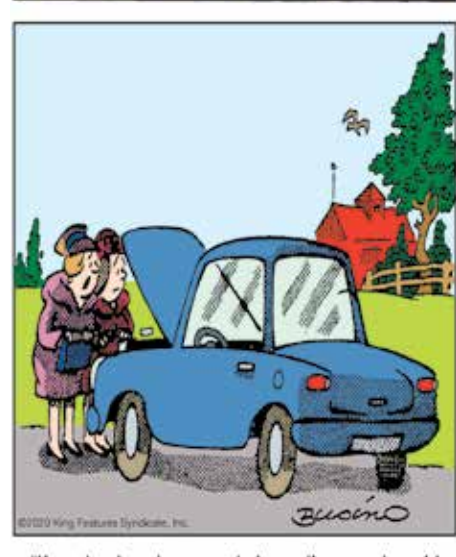
by Mike Marland



GRIN & BEAR IT

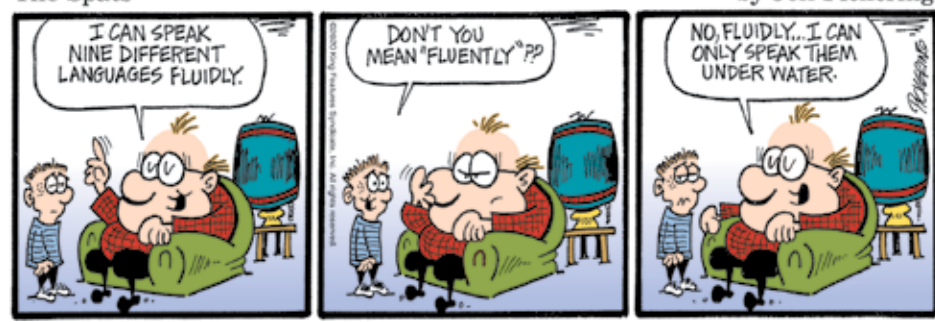


LAFF-A-DAY



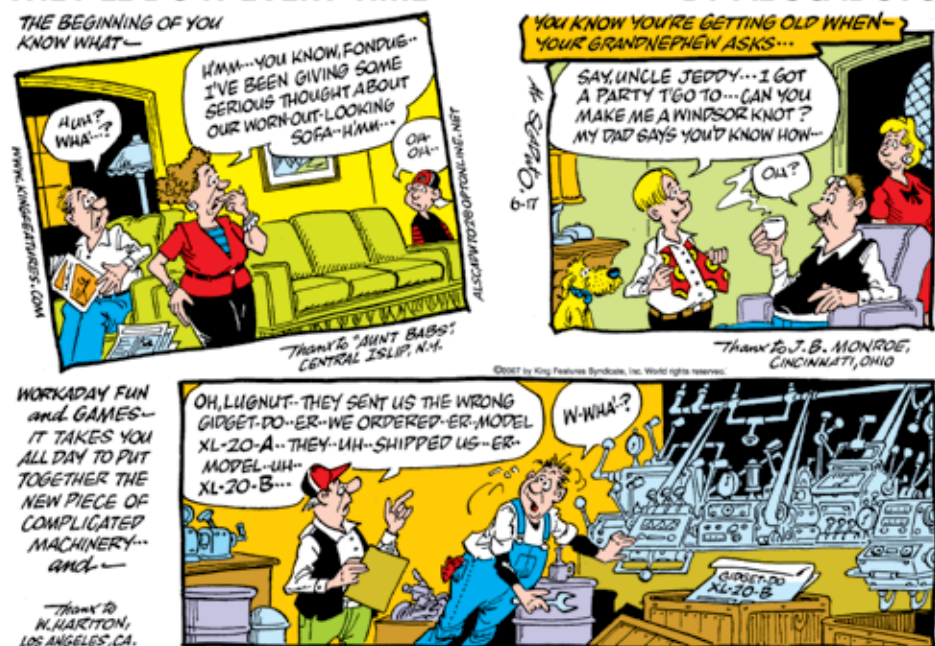
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



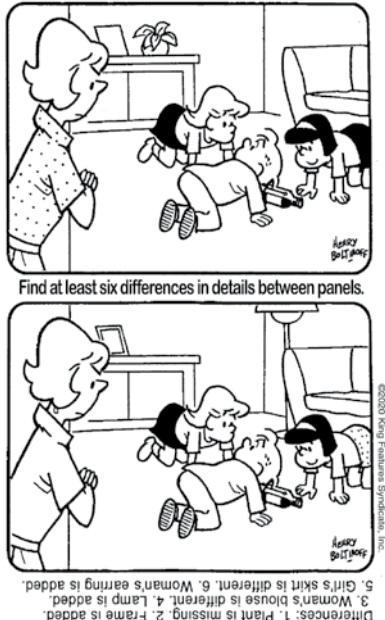
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



Crossword Puzzle on Page 9

A	J	A	R	S	T	A	B			P	E	A		
T	A	R	O	L	O	D	E			T	H	U	D	S
E	P	I	C	A	Q	U	A	A	A	R	G	H		
	E	L	O	N	M	U	S	K	I	S	L	E		
			C	O	M	E	T		U	G	H			
I	P	H	O	N	E			G	R	A	T	I	F	Y
T	I	E		C	R	A	V	E	N	A	L	O	E	
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M	O	V	E		B	R	A	Z	E	N		U	S	E
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			P	O	T		R	I	E	L	S			
	B	O	W	S			P	A	N	D	E	M	I	C
G	E	N	E	S		L	I	A	R		I	D	E	A
M	A	Y	B	E		O	S	L	O		U	L	N	A
T	U	X				Y	E	L	P		M	E	T	H

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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				
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					48					49	50			
	51	52								53		54	55	
56										57		58		59
60									61		62			
63									64		65			

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

Solutions on Page 9

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 9

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

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Making Dixon Rock



Diane Wilson

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - People have gotten more in touch with their creative sides during the COVID-19 "Stay-At-Home" order like painting, quilting, crafting hand-sanitizer bottle covers, and cooking new creations. When I was out on a walk for exercise, I came across an exquisitely painted rock of a quail and then discovered there was actually a Facebook site sporting lots of painted rocks. I soon tracked down the artist of mine: Diane Wilson. I learned this busy woman has used the "Stay-At-Home" order to bring even more color and delight to Dixon.

"About three years ago, I found a really big one in Napa and thought it was really cool. I followed the rock for a long time on Facebook," she said. There are lots of rock designers who have created Facebook pages so the people who find them can post where the rocks were found. Although someone else started the group in Dixon, Wilson often sees her rocks posted. See Dixon Rocks on Facebook. Some rocks have travelled all over the state and some have even



Above: Painting rock artist Diane Wilson found a great pastime. Right: "Joy" is one of the creative gifts you can find around town if you look carefully. Photo provided by Debra Dingman

left the country.

Wilson had needed a pastime, although she was plenty busy even after retiring from UC Davis, teaching classes for Napa Adult Education and also offering online classes plus spending time at a horse ranch mentoring 12-year-olds. But at home after hours, she found herself "watching a lot of television" and decided to purchase a pack of paint pens and try her hand at rock painting. She invited a group of about a dozen friends to a 'Let's Paint Rocks Potluck' and everyone had a great time.

"I got really into it last fall," she said, and purchased some high-quality magnifier glasses for more

intricate designs. Hearts, flowers, horses, dogs, and bright, beautiful colors are on her rocks. When she worked with children at a horse ranch, she did a lot of horse-themed rocks.

"The kids just thought they were awesome," she said. "A popular one said 'Horsehair; Don't care.' And others had horseshoes painted on them." It was a learning process, though, and she soon discovered that Mod Podge didn't work to protect the paint but by spraying Rustoleum on them when done, they would have a finished look and be protected against weather.

She likes to use Dixon Landscape to buy a bag of

rocks at a time and says they are inexpensive canvases. She hides them everywhere from parks to schools but also learned to put them high if possible like in tree branches and not on the ground because of dogs marking territory.

"It feels good when I see one of my rocks posted online," she said. "If you like it; keep it!" she said. That's what my granddaughter did with one she found and decided to give it to her mom. Her family lives in Loomis so it will be



interesting to see where it goes from there. "Found one at Hall Park," posted Dixonite Cher Besneatte about a rock painted with a bunch of small, colorful flowers. "Moving somewhere very

special for Mother's Day!" she added. Wilson estimates that she has painted about 400 rocks and while the "Stay-at-Home" order lightens a bit, has embarked on painting terra cotta pots for succulent plants she will sell. ★

DIXON POLICE LOG

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



Thursday, May 7, 2020

- 1034 - Battery report was taken in the 2000 block of N. 1st St.
- 1036 - Petty theft report was taken in the 1700 block of N. 1st St.
- 1246 - Residential burglary report was taken in the 700 block of Birch Wy.
- 1409 - Fraud report was taken in the 700 block of Alwin Dr.
- 1537 - Vandalism report was taken in the 900 block of Newgate Wy.
- 1612 - An officer made a traffic stop for a vehicle violation at the intersection of Pheasant Run Dr. at West H. St. Officers contacted (S) Joel Smoot (38) out of Highland. Smoot was found to be in violation of driving a vehicle while his license was suspended. Smoot was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.
- 2029 - A DPD Officer conducted a traffic stop on the 900 block of North Adams. The driver had a warrant for his arrest. He was booked into the Solano county jail.

Friday, May 8, 2020

- 0647 - Theft report was taken in the 1000 block of Business Park Dr.
- 0700 - Theft report was taken in the 500 block of North Lincoln St.
- 0855 - Violation of a restraining order report was taken in the 2000 block of West A. St. Officers contacted (S) Anthony Gondola (46) out of Bishop Ca. Gondola was in violation of a restraining order and probation violation. Gondola was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department. Gondola was given a citation and released.
- 1333 - Informational report was taken in the 400 block of West Chestnut St.
- 1348 - Found property report was taken in the 1800 block of Folsom Fair Circle.
- 1407 - Possession of narcotics, possession of narcotics paraphernalia, and probation violation arrest report was taken in the 1500 block of N. 1st St. Officers contacted (S) Jose Solorio (34) out of Dixon Ca. Solorio was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department. Solorio was given a citation for the above crimes and released.
- 1817 - A Dixon man burglarized a business on the 1900 block on North Lincoln Street. The alarm company alerted the Police. Upon arrival, Dixon Police Officers saw the man in a gated and locked area. The man fled from the Police, first on foot and then in a car. After his capture Dixon Officers learned that he was on probation and he was recently released from the Solano County Jail. The man was booked back into the Solano County Jail for seven felonies and five misdemeanors, including the felony charge of looting.

Saturday, May 9, 2020

- 1417 - Officers contacted (S) Cresencio Castillo (61) after conducting a traffic stop. After conducting a vehicle search, drug paraphernalia was found in his vehicle. Castillo was given a citation for being in violation of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- 1929 - The Chief of Police saw a motorcyclist riding without a helmet near the intersection of Valley Glen Drive and Revelle Drive. The Chief conducted a traffic stop. After an investigation, the motorcyclist was arrested for driving under the influence.
- 2352 - DPD Officers conducted a welfare check on a man that had called 911 from a business on the 2800 block of West A Street. The man, Terrell Coffey of Oakland, was found to be a previously convicted felon in possession of a loaded firearm. He was arrested and taken to the Solano County Jail.

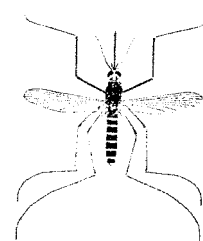
Sunday, May 10, 2020

- 1514 - Child custody dispute in the 800 block of Woodvale Drive.
- 1705 - Missing person report in the 600 block of Mckenzie Drive.
- 2149 - Non injunt accident reported in the 700 block of West A Street. The driver of one of the vehicles, Raina Wilson (20) was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. She was cited and released to a sober family member.

Monday, May 11, 2020

- 0815 - Vandalism report in the 1200 block of Watson Ranch.
- 1045 - Informational report in the 200 block of South Adams
- 1130 - Informational report in the 1300 block of North Lincoln.
- 1607 - Report of shoplifting in the 200 block of East Dorset.

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