

Solano Health Extends Shelter at Home Order Until April 30, 2020
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He is Risen!
Celebrate Easter



Dixon's Independent Voice

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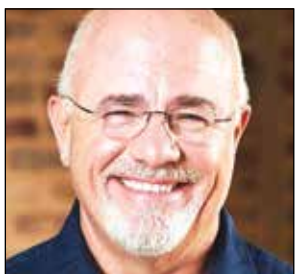
THE CONSTITUTION IS DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH THE CORONAVIRUS



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IS IT AN EMERGENCY?

By Dave Ramsey



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SO THIS IS HOW YOU WANT TO LIVE?

By Mike Ceremello



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It's a Food Forest Out There



This talk and the video tour will launch a series of virtual garden tours from Sustainable Solano. Photo courtesy Pixabay

By Allison Nagel, Sustainable Solano

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sustainable Solano is bringing its annual Demonstration Food Forest Garden tour online this year as an interactive talk and virtual tour. Due to coronavirus (COVID-19), the non-profit organization has reimagined the tour in a way that allows participants to join the talk and experience a garden from the comfort of their homes.

The event will feature a talk by permaculture expert John Valenzuela, followed by a short video tour of one of Sustainable Solano's demonstration food forest gardens and leaving time for a Q&A session with

Valenzuela at the end. The event, hosted on Zoom, will be open to the first 100 people who join that morning. Everyone who registers will also receive a link to the recording of the talk and tour after the live event;

The live April 25 talk from John Valenzuela of Cornucopia Food Forest Gardens will cover permaculture and explore how permaculture follows nature as a guide in the garden, our communities and beyond. He will plant ideas on what participants can do today to begin a journey into permaculture and bring these concepts into their own gardens. Valenzuela will discuss how to design a tree guild of plants that work together, the elements of a food forest garden, wise sources of water

and expanding that vision to create Resilient Neighborhoods. Together, participants will watch a guided virtual video tour of a demonstration food forest garden that shows what can be done to create edible, waterwise landscapes that support communities and provide natural habitat. The tour will show how capturing rainwater, roof water and greywater from weekly laundry can support a garden that works in harmony with nature. There will be time for a question and answer session at the end.

Valenzuela is a horticulturist, consultant and educator. First introduced to the sustainable design theories and methods of permaculture in 1989, he

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First Coronavirus Death of a Solano County Resident

Solano County Special Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Solano County Public Health officials confirmed April 2, 2020, the first Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) death of a Solano County resident. The County resident was 85 years of age or older who recently traveled out of the country and had multiple severe underlying health conditions. Solano Public Health will not release additional demographic data about the patient, including age, gender or city.

"Solano Public Health extends our deepest condolences to the patient's loved ones in the wake of this tragedy," says County Health Officer Bela Matyas, M.D., M.P.H. "We strongly recommend that all Solano County residents, workers, students, and visitors take the necessary precautions to protect themselves against the novel coronavirus. Solano Public Health will continue to work with local, state, federal and community partners to prevent future cases and educate those in Solano County about how to avoid contracting COVID-19."

In Solano County, there are 61 confirmed cases of COVID-19. More than two-thirds (69 percent) of COVID-19 cases are individuals 19-64 years of age and nearly one third of cases (31 percent) are age 65 years and older. Earlier this week, Solano County Public Health Officials extended the County's shelter at home health order and directive through April 30, 2020.

Solano Public Health recommends everyone follow these simple, daily social-distancing and hygiene best-practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and respiratory disease in our community, including: avoid public gatherings, avoid all non-essential travel, keep a six-foot distance between yourself and others, wash your hands often with soap and water, stay home when you are sick and get a flu shot. For a complete list of do's and don'ts during the pandemic, visit <https://Covid19.Ca.Gov>.

For more information on COVID-19, including community resources, number of COVID-19 cases, essential vs. non-essential functions, food, employment, healthcare and frequently asked questions, visit www.SolanoCounty.com/PublicHealth, call the Coronavirus hotline, Monday - Friday between 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. at (707) 784-8988, email Covid19@SolanoCounty.com and on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SolanoCountyPH. ★

Local Students Participated in Groundwater Education Series

Solano Resource Conservation District

DIXON, CA (MPG) - In December 2018, The Freshwater Trust (TFT), a nonprofit freshwater conservation and restoration organization with offices in Oregon and California, contracted Solano Resource Conservation District (Solano RCD) to create and deliver hands-on, regionally specific groundwater education lessons to schools within the Solano sub-basin. The sub-basin consists of a large aquifer overlying eastern Solano County, where much of the region's groundwater is stored and used. The success of these pilot programs has led to a renewed partnership between the two organizations to continue educating eastern Solano County youth about their local freshwater. The program is funded by the Department



Dixon High School AP Environmental Science students participate in the Groundwater Game, a hands-on simulation created by the Environmental Defense Fund and University of Michigan - Taubman College. Photos courtesy of The Freshwater Trust

of Water Resources (DWR) Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program.

"Like a majority of Californians, most of the communities in eastern

Solano County rely almost exclusively on groundwater," shared Allison Martin, Education Program Manager with Solano RCD. "When groundwater is removed faster than it is

recharged, or it becomes polluted, it is no longer a reliable source of water. Our goal, along with The Freshwater Trust and DWR, is to educate the

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Dave Ramsey Says

Is it an Emergency?

Dear Dave,
My husband and I just completed Baby Step 3, and we have six months of expenses saved for an emergency fund. How should we determine when something is actually an emergency?

– Riley

Dear Riley,
Congratulations on doing the work, being disciplined, and saving like crazy! Now you've got peace of mind, and a pile of cash, that will help turn an emergency into nothing more than an inconvenience.

There's no shame in using your emergency fund if you really need to. That's what it's there for. Just remember to ask yourself a few questions anytime something pops

up to make sure you've got a real reason to use it. Is the expense really unexpected? Christmas happens on December 25th every single year. You know your semi-annual car insurance payment is coming, too. Make sure things like this are part of your regular, monthly budgets. Some examples of unexpected expenses might be a job loss or pay cut. Emergency medical expenses and car accident repairs might fall into this category, as well.

Is it absolutely necessary? Most people say they know the difference between a want and a need, but that's not always the case. Replacing your only mode of transportation would be a need. Upgrading to a newer, fancier car is not. If your car goes down for the count, you need transportation. Use your emergency fund to buy something affordable and reliable you can pay cash for. But don't dip into it just to upgrade your decent car for one with a million bells and whistles.

Is it urgent? Practice the art of patience whenever possible. If your home's air conditioning unit goes out in the middle of summer, that's probably an urgent fix. But hearing about the "sale of the century" at your favorite retail store? Grabbing the newest, hottest cell phone when yours works just fine? Nope!

Your emergency fund is all about long-term security, not instant gratification. Don't blow it impulsively, but don't be afraid to use it when it's really needed. Be wise, and ask those three questions. Check yourself so you don't wreck yourself – or your budget!

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. ★

Solano County Health Officer Extends Shelter at Home Health Order and Directive Until April 30, 2020

Special Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Solano County Public Health officials have extended the County's shelter at home health order and directive until April 30, 2020, to continue directing individuals to stay at home except to get food, care for a relative or friend, get necessary health care and to engage in essential activities and work. The County's health order extension is in line with the Governor's orders, and works to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease in the community.

"We extended the shelter at home health order and directive to re-emphasize the importance that everyone continues to follow self-isolation and social distancing best practices," says County Health Officer Bela Matyas, M.D., M.P.H. "When everyone does their part, we help slow the spread of COVID-19 disease in Solano County, giving our health care providers the time, tools and capacity necessary to provide care to those who need it most in our community."

The Solano County health order and directive, originally issued on March 18, outlines essential activities in our community that will remain open and operational, including government services, healthcare operations, grocery stores, agricultural operations, businesses that provide food, shelter and social services to needy individuals, media outlets, gas stations, banks and financial institutions,

service industries, mail, shipping and supplies, laundromats, restaurants that provide delivery or drop off services, supply product companies, transportation industries, professional services and childcare. All non-essential gatherings, including bars, nightclubs, wineries, gyms, movie theatres, hair and nail salons, entertainment venues and restaurants with dine-in options are to remain closed until further notice.

Solano Public Health recommends everyone follow these simple, daily social-distancing and hygiene best-practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and respiratory disease in our community, including: avoid public gatherings, avoid all non-essential travel, keep a six-foot distance between yourself and others, wash your hands often with soap and water, stay home when you are sick and get a flu shot. For a complete list of do's and don'ts during the pandemic, visit <https://Covid19.Ca.Gov>.

For more information on COVID-19, including the shelter at home health order and directive, community resources, number of COVID-19 cases, essential vs. non-essential functions, food, employment, healthcare and frequently asked questions, visit www.SolanoCounty.com/PublicHealth, call the Coronavirus warmline, Monday – Friday between 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. at (707) 784-8988, email Covid19@SolanoCounty.com and on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SolanoCountyPH. ★

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St. Peter's Catholic Church News

Our Easter Joy

Jesus Christ has risen! After giving over His life totally, graciously, humbly for the likes of us, and in the most agonizing way, the fruit of the Cross redeems the world.

Down through the ages that message from the magnificent Christ goes out. He has risen! We are Easter people! At St. Peter's Church and around the world, the faithful miss the sacred celebrations of Holy Thursday commemorating the washing of the feet and the Last Supper. We miss gathering on Good Friday and pondering in the depths of our hearts Jesus' passion, His agony, and humiliation. "It is finished", He said, dying to save us from sin. And then comes the Easter Vigil. How we long to hear bells and the awaited "Alleluia" sung. When the Liturgy of the Word begins, the church lights are off and candles held by the gathered are lit one after another. How beautiful it is!

In the meantime, we gratefully continue our prayers at home during this health crisis. Technology allows us to participate online with our clergy in Holy Week celebrations.

Father Hector celebrates the Saturday Vigil Mass in Spanish and English at 8:15 pm; on Thursday the Lord's Supper Masses are at 6 pm in English, 8 pm in Spanish; Good Friday services are 3 pm in English, 7 pm in Spanish. Easter Sunday Masses are 9 am in English, and 11 am in Spanish. Daily Masses continue online as well: Saturday, Tuesday, and Thursday in English and Wednesday and Friday in Spanish. (See www.stpeterschurchdixon.com)

We praise God for the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. We are truly blessed with His forgiveness and love. Happy holy Easter! God bless all! ★

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Mass Schedule
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IRS: Employee Retention Credit Available for Many Businesses Financially Impacted by COVID-19

By David A. Tucker II,
Internal Revenue Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service launched the Employee Retention Credit, designed to encourage businesses to keep employees on their payroll. The refundable tax credit is 50% of up to \$10,000 in wages paid by an eligible employer whose business has been financially impacted by COVID-19.

Does my business qualify to receive the Employee Retention Credit?

The credit is available to all employers regardless of size, including tax-exempt organizations. There are only two exceptions: State and local governments and their instrumentalities and small businesses who take small business loans.

Qualifying employers must fall into one of two categories:

The employer's business is fully or partially suspended by government order due to COVID-19 during the calendar quarter;

The employer's gross receipts are below 50% of the comparable quarter in 2019. Once the employer's gross receipts go above 80% of a comparable quarter in 2019, they no longer qualify after the end of that quarter.

These measures are calculated each calendar quarter.

How is the credit calculated?

The amount of the credit is 50% of qualifying wages paid up to \$10,000 in total. Wages paid after March 12, 2020, and before Jan. 1, 2021, are eligible for the credit. Wages taken into account are not limited to cash payments, but also include a portion of the cost of employer provided health care.

How do I know which wages qualify?

Qualifying wages are based on the average number of a business's employees in 2019.

Employers with less than 100 employees: If the employer had 100 or fewer employees on average in 2019, the credit is based on wages paid to all employees, regardless if they worked or not. If the employees worked full time and were paid for full time work, the employer still receives the credit.

Employers with more than 100 employees: If the employer had more than 100 employees on average in 2019, then the credit is allowed only for wages paid to employees who did not work during the calendar quarter.

I am an eligible employer. How do I receive my credit?

Employers can be immediately reimbursed for the credit by reducing their required deposits of payroll taxes that have been withheld from employees' wages by the amount of the credit.

Eligible employers will report their total qualified wages and the related health insurance costs for each quarter on their quarterly employment tax returns or Form 941 beginning with the second quarter. If the employer's employment tax deposits are not sufficient to cover the credit, the employer may receive an advance payment from the IRS by submitting Form 7200, Advance Payment of Employer Credits Due to COVID-19.

Eligible employers can also request an advance of the Employee Retention Credit by submitting Form 7200.

Where can I find more information on the Employer Retention Credit and other COVID-19 economic relief efforts?

Updates on the implementation of this credit, Frequently Asked Questions on Tax Credits for Required Paid Leave and other information can be found on the Coronavirus page of IRS.gov. ★

Governor Newsom Grants Additional Relief for Business Taxpayers



Gavin Newsom

California Department of Tax and Fee Administration Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In accordance with the Executive Order issued by Governor Newsom to expand tax relief for small business taxpayers, the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) announced today that all small businesses will have an additional three months to file returns and pay taxes administered by the department. Additionally, all businesses will have an extra 60 days to file claims for refund from CDTFA or to appeal a CDTFA decision to the Office of Tax Appeals.

CDTFA is providing a three-month extension for a tax return or tax payment to any businesses filing a return for less than \$1 million in tax. For the approximate 99.5% of business taxpayers below the \$1 million threshold for their current California sales and use tax obligation, returns for the 1st Quarter 2020 will now be due on July 31, 2020. The same provisions apply to the other tax and fee programs administered by CDTFA. Qualifying taxpayers are not required to file a request for extension

or request relief from penalty or interest. This automatic extension will remain in effect through the reporting of taxes and fees due on or before July 31, 2020.

"This expands on the relief previously granted to small businesses, giving them an extra 90 days to file and pay any business taxes and fees administered by CDTFA without incurring any penalties or interest," said Director Nick Maduros. "By including the \$1 million threshold, we're able to offer much-needed relief to small businesses across the state while still maintaining the integrity of our local finance system. Approximately 55% of the sales and use tax collected goes back to our cities and counties, which count on this revenue to provide essential public services."

In addition to the three-month extension of time to file and pay taxes, the Executive Order issued by Governor Newsom last night also provides business taxpayers with additional time to file claims for refund and appeals to the Office of Tax Appeals. Taxpayers looking to make refund claims with CDTFA during this period will have an additional 60 days to file. Similarly, taxpayers seeking an appeal of a CDTFA tax determination to the Office of Tax Appeals will have 60 additional days to file the appropriate request.

Additional information on the relief offered can be found at www.cdtfa.ca.gov/services/covid19.htm. Taxpayers who need

additional help or have questions are encouraged to contact CDTFA by:

Visiting the CDTFA website to find answers on specific topics; Phoning the Customer Support Center at 1-800-400-7115 (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, except state holidays); Calling or emailing a local CDTFA office; Emailing or chatting with the CDTFA regarding their general, non-confidential tax questions; Following CDTFA on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram for the latest information; Watching "How To Videos" and other online instructional resources; or Writing a letter by mail.

To find the latest information on CDTFA's COVID-19 efforts, visit www.cdtfa.ca.gov/services/covid19.htm. For information about California's COVID-19 efforts, visit covid19.ca.gov.

The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) administers California's sales and use, fuel, tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis taxes, as well as a variety of other taxes and fees that fund specific state programs. CDTFA-administered programs account for more than \$70 billion annually which in turn supports local essential services such as transportation, public safety and health, libraries, schools, social services, and natural resource management programs through the distribution of tax dollars going directly to local communities. ★

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

Wednesday, April 1, 2020
1118 - A Dixon Police Sergeant observed a vehicle drive up on the grass of a residence on the 800 Block of West A Street. A woman fled from the vehicle, fell down, and then ran into the home. The Sergeant attempted to check on the well-being of the woman and was obstructed by the driver of the vehicle. Rudy Richard Castillo of Dixon was transported to the Solano County Jail and booked into their custody.

Thursday, April 2, 2020
0847 - A motorist was issued a citation for possession of narcotics and narcotics paraphernalia ear the intersection of West A Street and Porter Street.
1300 - A man entered an empty motel room near the 1300 block of Commercial Way and decided to take a shower. Dixon Police Officers found the man in the bathtub and arrested him for trespassing. He was booked into the Solano County jail for trespassing and narcotics charges.
1334 - A theft occurred at a business in the 200 block of East Dorsett. Employees attempted to stop the theft and he threatened to shoot the employee. The thief then got into a waiting vehicle and fled. We alerted other local Law Endowment agencies. The Fairfield Police found the vehicle and detained the thieves. The victim was brought to the suspects and positively identified them. They were booked into the Solano County Jail for robbery, theft, and conspiracy

Friday, April 3, 2020
0014 - Burglary arrest report was taken in the 2000 block of North 1st St. Officer's arrived and contacted (S) Mathew Townsend (23) out of Bethel Island. Mathew was arrested for burglary, probation violation, and possession of narcotics. Mathew was transported to the Solano County Jail and released to their staff.
0515 - Found Property report was taken at the intersection of Rehmann Dr. at Evans Dr.
0606 - Vehicle theft report taken in the 1000 Justin Wy.
1210 - Traffic Collision Report taken at the intersection of North 1st St. at North Lincoln St.
1505 - Traffic Collision Report taken at the intersection of North 1st St. at East B. St.
1610 - Traffic Collision Report taken at the intersection of North 1st St. at Cherry. St.

Saturday, April 4, 2020
0017 - Domestic Violence arrest report was taken in the 600 block of Glenside Dr. Officers contacted (S) Jimmyray starks (28) out of Dixon. Jimmy was found to be in violation of domestic battery and was arrested. Jimmy was transported to the Solano County Jail.
0706 - A stolen vehicle report was taken from the 400 block of Morgan Lane.
1705 - A shoplifting report was taken in the 200 block of E. Dorsett Dr. Officers contacted (S) Trenton Valderrama (26) out of Vacaville. Valderrama was arrested for shoplifting and transported to the Solano County Jail.

Sunday, April 5, 2020
0936 - Burglary and auto theft report in the 1400 block of North First Street.
1135 - Information report in the 200 block of East Dorset.
2200 - Information report taken in the 100 block of South 1st Street.

Monday, April 6, 2020
1142 - Vandalism to a vehicle reported in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive.
1631 - Death investigation in the 600 block of Cypress St.

For the Love of Books



By Amy Shane

Book Review & Special Events Editor

Email: amy-shane@att.net

Instagram: amy_fortheloveofbook

Celebrate Easter with Children's Books

Celebrating might be a little different this year, but this line up of children's books all resonate messages of joy, happiness, and beauty. No matter how you celebrate this year, Happy Easter from all of us, and here's to hoping everyone has a moment to look outside and see the beauty that surrounds us.

Easter Makes Me Feel Robin's Egg Blue by Patty Michaels illustrated by Clair Rossiter; **Simon Spotlight**

With the current situation, this book immediately grabbed my attention, however from the very first line, it is apparent that this book is about the celebration of colors and the way they can make you feel. What colors remind you of Easter? Is it the Robin's egg blue of the sky up above, the blush pink of an adorable bunny nose, or even the fuzzy, canary yellow of a baby chick's feathers? **Easter Makes Me Feel Robin's Egg Blue** is a beautiful celebration of color, perfectly matched to Crayola crayon colors.

Three new board books grace the shelves, perfect for any little one. Little hands get to be part of the adventure as they lift-the-flap, or wag-the-tail. Help little bunny wag her tail as she goes on an adventure to find her Easter egg in, **Easter Bunny, A Wag My Tail Book** by Salina Yoon. Little helpers can also be part of the story as they help little chick look for his mama, in the peek-a-boo adventure, **Little Chick** by Yu-Hsuan Huang. Both books are darling, interactive, and call



to be to be read over and over. With its narrow shape and a padded cover, **Bible Stories For Little Hearts** shares tiny sized stories with adorable and simple illustrations, perfect for little hearts everywhere, and small hands to hold.

Hundred Feet Tall by Benjamin Scheuer and Jemima Williams

When bunny finds a little seed, he picks it up and brings it home, promising to help it grow. With a little love, light, and patience, a stalk begins to grow up, and roots start to grow down, with it's promise that one day, "I'll stand at a hundred feet tall."

Watch the journey as a small seed grows up to be a giant tree in this adorable tale that teaches valuable messages, alongside a caring and watchful bunny family that is also growing. With words of affirmation and positivity, this book shares a resounding message that "you're never too small to make a big difference."

Celebrate the outdoors with **Beehive** by Jorey Hurley and **A Way with Wild Things** by Larissa Theule

and Sara Palacios. Readers will be able to explore the world of bees in **Beehive** as they learn about the cycle of making honey, alongside beautiful illustrations and one-word simplicity. A book for beginning readers and nature lovers. Poopy feels most comfortable in nature amongst the friendly flutter of dragonfly wings, the singing of cicadas, and the tickling crawling of the ladybugs. Some people call her a wallflower, and she is ok with that. When Poopy is around people, she prefers to be perfectly camouflaged into the background. Then one afternoon, Poopy notices a dragonfly, and in the middle of the party, she makes a noise. When everyone turns to look, Poopy feels scared, but her special friend gives her strength and comfort when she needs it the most, showing everyone that Poopy isn't a wallflower, but a beautiful and unique wildflower. Adorable, in every way, Poopy will wind her way into any reader's heart, giving strength, comfort, and confidence to anyone who is a little shy. ★



Riley Reviews

"OZARK" A TWISTY TALE OF CRIME; "CECIL B. DeMILLE" ON DVD

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"Ozark" On Netflix

Sometimes it's okay to arrive late to the party, and now that there is more time for binge-watching TV series, catching up with crime drama series "Ozark" on Netflix offers up the chance for a long-run.

"Ozark," perhaps because of its illicit drug trade milieu, has been compared to series like "Breaking Bad," and with the Redneck Riviera setting of the Lake of the Ozarks, maybe it's a little bit more like "Justified."

Jason Bateman, occasional director and star, has taken a darker turn than usual in his character of Marty Byrde, a Chicago financial adviser whose wizardry in moving around large amounts of money draws attention from the wrong people.

For Marty, the wrong people are not just the FBI, but the particularly vicious Mexican cartel kingpin Del (Esai Morales) who has entrusted millions of dollars in his care, only to discover that Marty's associates have been skimming a share of the profits.

An ugly fate befalls those who get sideways with the cartel, and though Marty is spared a gruesome terminal outcome, it's likely only because he just might be indispensable to making things right.

Giving up the gleaming high-rise office and the nice suburban home, Marty uproots his wife Wendy (Laura Linney) and two children, Charlotte (Sofia Hublitz) and Jonah (Skylar Gaertner), for a move to lake-side living in Missouri.

Convincing the cartel that he can launder their drug money without drawing suspicion from the FBI in the Lake of the Ozarks, Marty goes about the business of looking for businesses that are either marginal or failing where he can pursue his trade.

Soon he's involved with Rachel (Jordana Spiro),

owner of a rundown resort motel, acquires a strip club by trickery and tangles with the conniving Ruth (Julia Garner), the sharp young member of a family of dead-beat crooks with designs of her own.

There's also the not-so-small matter of tension in the Byrde family, from the revelation of Wendy's infidelity to the teenage Charlotte's angst and insolence to younger Jonah's strange fascination with mutilated animals.

Almost everyone is grappling with demons in "Ozark," from the undercover FBI agent monitoring the Byrde family who harbors secrets that could derail his career to a conflicted pastor holding services on the lake.

With comparisons to other crime dramas, "Ozark" has the surface feeling of being somewhat derivative, but it's worth hanging in there to see if Marty can wiggle his way out of inevitable peril.

"The Lost City Of Cecil B. Demille" On DVD

Cecil B. DeMille, early pioneer of American cinema, gained his directorial fame for the epic scale and cinematic showmanship of his films, most notably in the biblical-themed silent films "The Ten Commandments" (1923) and "The King of Kings" (1927).

DeMille obtained pop culture status in Billy Wilder's 1950 film "Sunset Boulevard," in which Gloria Swanson's Norma Desmond, a demented former silent film star dreaming of a triumphant return to the screen, utters the famous line, "Alright, Mr. DeMille, I'm ready for my close-up."

Filmmaker Peter Brosnan, passionate in documenting an early tale of the famous director's penchant for massive sets, devoted decades to an archeological detective story of unearthing the City of the Pharaoh in the sand dunes of a California beach.

"The Lost City of Cecil B. DeMille" has been re-released on DVD and

streaming sites to coincide with the traditional Easter airing on television of "The Ten Commandments," the Charlton Heston-as-Moses version that remains a popular Biblical story.

DeMille's "lost city" refers to what Brosnan heard about in 1982 from his colleague Bruce Cardozo. In 1923, the pioneer filmmaker built the largest set in movie history for the silent film version of "The Ten Commandments" in the sand dunes of a California beach.

After the shooting had finished, the rumor was that the film set, which included 20 sphinxes and four 35-ton statues of Ramses, was buried in the sand dunes of the small town of Guadalupe in Santa Barbara County.

Nearly sixty years later, Brosnan began his quest to unearth the remains of the Egyptian setting with the help of archeologist John Parker, who eventually quit the project after growing weary of permitting snafus.

As narrator, Brosnan recounts the annoying red tape battles with government officials dismissively referred to as the "permit people" who dithered over whether an original exemption from regulations would hold up.

At one point, Brosnan is described as having a "Captain Ahab-type obsession" in recovering whatever artifacts of DeMille's faux Egyptian grandeur would be discovered.

In true documentary fashion, Brosnan interviews people who were involved in different ways with the film and still alive to tell the tale, including a gentleman who was a kid when he snuck on to the Paramount lot to witness how DeMille staged the parting of the Red Sea.

For serious film buffs, "The Lost City of Cecil B. DeMille" also offers a fascinating look at the creation of epic films from the sand dunes of Guadalupe to location shooting in Egypt for the 1956 version of "The Ten Commandments." ★



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MUSINGS

By Mike Ceremello



So This Is How You Want To Live? Points To Consider

Commentary by Mike Ceremello

It looks like no one can get beyond the flu. This is all that is talked about day and night, seven days a week, and politicized on top of its misnomer label of pandemic.

Let's get past the seasonal aspect, the lethal potential, and the impact on our medical system. As I am not the typical sheep even while living in Lambtown, USA, otherwise known as Dixon, I try to not be inhibited by the panic and foolishness of others. I am not into licking doorknobs or my hands after touching one. A little common sense goes quite a ways.

There are writers out there, ones who continue to promote this fallacy much as they promote global warming, cooling, or climate change (your choice), who are saying to look at what social distancing has done for those of us in California and Washington. This one writer was comparing California to New York, Connecticut and New Jersey.

Maybe Los Angeles and San Francisco might have similarities but most of California is quite spread out geographically although the world government planners would love to have all of us living in packed quarters. There is a reason there are very few cases in the Central Valley except for maybe Sacramento.

The brilliant conclusion of the author is sheltering in place and social distancing is working. Well no kidding. If you don't come in contact with anyone at all, what would you expect? This junior Einstein is another mainstream media parrot pushing you toward being a big government supporter and pawn no matter what they want to do.

To demonstrate my point about the panic-demic, follow the herd mentality, grocery stores and other "essential services" have joined the bleating politicians being advised by doomsayer doctors in covering their reputations. Go to Walmart to see where a little power goes.

We all used to be able to walk right into the store using either of two entrances. Now these geniuses have blocked off one, put grocery carts out with "caution" tape strung in between them, and are forcing people to enter this "aisle" which starts at the closed entrance then walk the length of pavement to the one exit door entrance to the facility. By the way,

the lane is marked with blue tape every six feet.

When I got there, no one was walking in the lane. I asked one of the two individuals guarding the entrance, "so I have to go all the way around?", while figuring I could just duck under the ribbon. Of course he said "yes" so I got my cardio exercise for the day and asked another employee at the closed entrance why this was being done. "Social distancing" was the answer. Social distancing from whom, as no one else was entering?

Next example, Costco. The store is limiting the amount of people who can enter at one time. They don't limit how long the line is waiting to go into the store or how close you are together, either in your party or as a congregation. They are spraying the handle area of their carts with who knows what toxic chemical.

What both of these stores are missing is the fact that customers handle product and many times put what they don't want back. It's bad enough that toilet paper and sanitizing products are still missing, but tell me why they refuse to take your membership card to scan it if it has been in your purse or wallet? You touched it. I touched my money too. So how does it get in their cash register?

If you want to know where the Left really wants to go with all of this, try listening to CBS radio at 910 on the AM dial or KGO. "We can't have voting at polling places. This needs to be a mail in ballot election only." Only have one question for you and that is who cheats or wants to cheat during elections more, Republicans or Democrats?

Why is it Democrats don't want voter ID and one vote per person? How is it discriminatory to assure that you are entitled to vote and you aren't voting for someone else? Similar to "ballot harvesting," which the Leftist unions did to rid California of its last conservative enclaves such as in Orange County, sending ballots to families allows one politically involved person to make the choice for all who would just sign their ballot and turn them over to him or her.

So I have discussed the up close and personal aspect of altering every day life and looked at one point of concern for taking control of our government, a government which is aiming at controlling even more of our freedom and choices. It isn't like this

is the first or last time the flu bug will hit during a winter. Remember, these are the same people who touted Ebola, Swine Flu, West Nile virus all as pandemics which never came to fruition. By the way, the flu always spreads worldwide so what is so different now?

I find it interesting that the next wave of those who want to govern can say with a straight face "in liberty" as a sign off to a letter to the editor which demonstrates "moderation" as the Devil's tea. Attempting to find logic in the creation of a local fine structure as an alternative to fine and/or imprisonment for committing a misdemeanor as defined by the county, a misdemeanor by the way which is unconstitutional on its face and perpetrated by uneducated bureaucrats, somehow leaves me aghast at the mental corruption of our youth.

Why is it that few politicians can grasp that taking away the First Amendment right, "... the right of the people peaceably to assemble ..." is illegal for any reason without the declaration of martial law? This is the reason we continue to hear confusing debate as to whether these orders or mandates are such or simply suggestions. Those who really understand the law and the rule of law see this clearly.

I will continue to suggest to you to use your head and the legal excuses within the so called orders. It is unfortunate that those in business are being forced, at the point of a gun, to shut down their restaurants or bars. In New York we already saw a mayor tell his citizens how big of a soft drink they can purchase. We have seen government telling us what light bulbs we can use and the types of toilets we can flush. We aren't on a slippery slope. We are buried in its much half way down.

Being the rebel that I am, it might seem odd that I will comply with the suggestion to wear a mask. I have one all picked out. It is a Guy Fawkes' mask. The vendetta I have is against tyrannical government no matter who is in charge of it, a boy wonder or the one who demonstrates what happens when you can't "... keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you". Yes, I didn't miss the denunciation of those of us who would willfully, "flagrantly and repeatedly" violate an unconstitutional order which is not a law.

Where is John Galt when you need him? He sure as hell isn't living in Dixon. ★

The Constitution is Designed to Deal with the Coronavirus



Commentary by Harold Pease Ph. D.

I taught the U.S. Constitution and Current Events simultaneous at the college level for forty years using the Constitution as written in solving controversies or problems—so well designed was it. Students quickly discovered that there were no issues that could not be resolved. So how should the Coronavirus crisis be resolved under the Constitution? States would be taking the lead.

The overall principle of free government and the Constitution as written is to never elevate to a higher level that which can be resolved at a lesser level. Problem solving should begin with the individual and proceed in sequence from him to the family, city, county, and state and elevated only if a lower level of government could not do it. Outside the family all are elected, can tax for its needs, and each is reasonably accessible to the individual. Who says government further away and less accessible performs better or is freer?

Notice in the problem solving sequence the federal government was not included. In the Constitution this was purposeful. States were sovereign outside foreign policy. The states were required to be republics (Article IV, Section 4) and were independent of the federal government except for the powers given it listed in Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1-18; essentially the power to tax, pay the debts, and provide for the general welfare and common defense—the last two limited by eight clauses each. All other authority not specifically identified by amendment was left to the states as per Amendment 10. "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

We live under two political systems: one (federal) centered on foreign affairs,

the other (states) primarily domestic. It's called Federalism, the two share power, neither subservient or above the other and each with separate duties; like a good marriage, a team. This is why President Donald Trump has been encouraging more state involvement. Federal involvement in our lives is supposed to be minimal.

The advantages of federalism are enormous. States serve as laboratories of experimentation. States look to sister states for models and borrow from them in refining their own programs. These places of experimentation benefit everyone.

In the case of the Wahun China Virus (coronavirus), the federal government, led by Trump, controls the border under common defense—those coming in. Trump is not constitutionally empowered to mandate national behavior. Constitutionally states have borders and manage themselves. Taxing powers enable them to fund anything they wish and governors have broad powers to experiment, or not, on different solutions.

Nevada governor threatened doctors using hydroxy-chloroquine in the treatment of the virus, others encouraged its use. The virus apexes in different places at different times more especially in crowded areas and summer (getting outdoors) comes earlier in southern states. Each state would decide what measures were best suited for them regarding "shelter in place" or when to return to work. Trump, or Congress, would have little to do with these decisions.

As of March 25, 2020, New York had 10 times the number infected compared to the next in line state New Jersey, and 15 times the number of third in line California. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo quickly developed a plan of action to slow the virus and simultaneously ramp up the beds, staff, and equipment. He initiated "mandatory playground social density," and no close contact sports. He also sought dormitories and former nursing homes to facilitate more hospital beds.

Moreover, he expressed some unique ideas as well, such as splitting ventilators (for two beds instead of one) and developed a "surge healthcare force" of retired nurses and doctors, hopefully 40,000 strong, as a backup for

tired healthcare workers. He created a Mental Health Professionals Sign up Program together with a Hot-Line. He suggested a "rolling deployment" of equipment and practitioners serving New York first then "rolling" to different hot spots as each state enters its apex. Federalism was exercised as 49 other governors did similarly rather than dump all responsibility on Trump.

Under Federalism states have the responsibility to be prepared for emergencies and have in place their own programs of assistance and funding. But Governor Cuomo, although commendably now doing something, should have planned for this predicted emergency his first term in office rather than his third. Ventilators, masks, and reserve funding for emergencies, plus a plan for reserve medical staff, should have already been in place. They weren't! In emergencies when states do not perform their responsibilities they force power to the next level of government as was such in this case. Trump had to provide ventilators, a medical ship, and build three makeshift hospitals in Central Park at federal expense.

Although the Constitution is designed to deal with the Coronavirus, states have allowed themselves to become subservient and wards of the federal government. They now hold "alms bowl in hand" begging the federal government to do things for them. They allow whomever is president to have power over them. Many states have larger populations than many countries and have their own tax base and authority. Fumbling this responsibility should never happen. Constitutionally, once the borders are secure, under Federalism 50 governors should be on the front lines ahead of Donald Trump.

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

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EASTER HOPE

Easter is almost here. Normally we would be getting ready with Easter baskets and all the goodies that go into it. And off the kids go for the Easter egg hunt. This year will be very different! But now is the time to think even bigger than the fun part of Easter. We are facing a pandemic that we have never experienced before, and it is frightening to see that people do some of the strangest things like hoarding toilet paper and paper products among other items. We need to slow down and take a closer look at what it all means.

Easter is a time for resurrection and new birth. We color eggs at Easter, right? In Christian times, the egg was the symbol of new life as a chick might hatch from the egg. What about the

POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

Easter lily? For Christians, the Easter lily is used in a positive sense and represents Christ's resurrection. It speaks of innocence and purity being untainted by the world. We have Ms Thomas P Sargent to thank for the beautiful white Bermuda lily that blooms in the springtime. The bunny? Well, it's cute and cuddly! Isn't that enough?

So much for the stuff that makes Easter what it has been, a party. Maybe it's time to get back to the roots of Easter and the passion. We bring on the sadness of Good Friday and look to the resurrection on Sunday. Why can't we use that template for what is happening today. We are in a time of fear and anxiety and sadness over the CoVid19, better known as the coronavirus. Yes, we have to be careful taking all the precautions we hear from those in the know. But that does not mean we separate ourselves from the spirit inside us. We may have to stay six feet away from each other, but our hearts still beat as one with

compassion for all those who are suffering. And yes, there will come a day when this too shall pass and so the resurrection of life. So take this time to reflect on what life is all about. Take time to laugh and smell the flowers literally and figuratively.

Since we have to spend more time at home, reach out to someone you haven't spoken to for a while. Let them know you are thinking about them and care. And yes, pick up a phone or cell phone to do it. A text is just not the same. A friendly voice can make such a big difference in calming the fear we face. When you are out and about (limited of course), you can still smile from six feet away. That smile can go a long way to realize we are all in this together. We will overcome this virus. But please, let's not be so isolated that we forget we are still one. Think love and a new beginning. Prayers and Blessings to you all.

HAPPY EASTER!!! ★

It's a Food Forest Out There



The organization, now in its second decade, brings together programs that support and sustain one another. Photo courtesy Pixabay

Continued from page 1

has studied, practiced and taught permaculture in Hawaii, Washington, Costa Rica and throughout California. His special interests are rare fruit, home gardening, trees, traditional agriculture, plant propagation and ethnobotany.

This talk and the video tour will launch a series of virtual garden tours from Sustainable Solano. The organization will post virtual tours of demonstration food forest gardens throughout the county. Each garden is a unique experience: some are compact front yards, others are on a slope, some share space with animals and small children, some are allowed to grow without restriction, while others are more manicured. They all are lush, food-producing gardens that are fed by secondary water sources (laundry-to-landscape greywater and rainwater) that offer inspiration for home gardens!

John Valenzuela's talk is sponsored by Republic Services; the tour and Solano Sustainable Backyards program are made possible by the generous support of the Solano County Water Agency.

Sustainable Solano, <http://sustainablesolano.org/> is a countywide nonprofit organization that is dedicated to "Nurturing Initiatives for the Good of the Whole." The organization, now in its second decade, brings together programs that support and sustain one another and the Solano County community. Initiatives include sustainable landscaping, local food, resilient neighborhoods, sustaining conversations and community gardens.

About the Tour: Virtual Demonstration Food Forest Garden Tour & Talk at 10-11:45 am Saturday, April 25.

Participants must register to get the Zoom link. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-demonstration-food-forest-garden-tour-talk-tickets-90835089197>

For more information visit:
Solano Sustainable Backyards: <http://sustainablesolano.org/solano-sustainable-backyard/>
John Valenzuela: <https://cornucopia-foodforest.wordpress.com/about-2/>
Resilient Neighborhoods: <http://sustainablesolano.org/resilient-neighborhoods/> ★

Local Students Participated in Groundwater Education Series

Continued from page 1

sub-basin's future stewards on why they should conserve and protect this resource for themselves and for future generations."

Martin also designed and delivered the groundwater lessons to nine classes across Dixon, Rio Vista, and Vacaville. More than 300 students participated in the program, including 95 fourth and fifth graders in Rio Vista, 115 seventh graders in Vacaville, and 97 high school students in Dixon. Solano RCD plans to engage more than 600 students in the program in the 2020-2021 school year as well as conduct additional outreach with the general public.

The Solano sub-basin is a part of the Sacramento Valley groundwater basin and is located mostly within Solano County. Underlying the cities of Dixon, Rio Vista, and parts of Vacaville, it is regularly pumped for local agricultural and municipal uses. The State of California identified the Solano sub-basin as medium priority, thus making it subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), passed in 2014. SGMA is legislation requiring those that are subject to it to implement monitoring and sustainable groundwater management action. Learn more about the Solano sub-basin's Groundwater Sustainability Plan development at solanogsp.com.

The need for the Solano sub-basin education program was initiated in 2018

when DWR awarded TFT a \$490,000 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant to engage disadvantaged communities in plans for sustainably managing the state's groundwater resources. Disadvantaged communities are defined by the state of California as those where incomes are less than 80% of the state's median household income and severely disadvantaged communities are those where incomes are less than 60% of the state's median household income. Based on 2010 US Census data, several communities within Vacaville, Dixon, and Rio Vista meet that criteria.

Solano RCD is a non-regulatory special district to the state of California with goals to protect and enhance Solano County's watershed resources through education, restoration, and water quality management. Its award-winning watershed education program currently serves 7,500-10,000 Solano County K-12 students annually through a suite of hands-on environmental education lessons and field trips. Learn more at solanorcd.org.

The Freshwater Trust is a 501(c)(3) organization working to protect and restore freshwater ecosystems in California and Oregon. The organization focuses its work in California on the Central Valley, to meet the challenges around groundwater sustainability, surface water management, and sustaining agricultural productivity in this watershed. For more information on TFT, visit www.thefreshwatertrust.org. ★

Are Locked-Down Small Business Owners Committing Financial Suicide?

Commentary from SaveCalifornia.com

Small business owners, will you defend your God-given rights?

If the always-paid government bureaucracy wanted to kill off capitalism, they're not wasting this opportunity. For every day, small businesses fail because they "aren't open." Yet if you stay closed like the government wants, you might be committing financial suicide. Ask yourself – how long can you go without income?

Small business owners shouldn't be overly-afraid of the government. Have you heard of a single business owner in America being fined for staying fully open during the virus scare? I haven't. And so what if you're fined? Wouldn't a couple hundred dollars be a small price to pay compared to all the value you'll receive by staying open?

And consider the various "bugs" that can be on every public door handle – whether it's coronavirus, the flu, stomach flu, strep throat, pink eye, or the common cold. Which is why small business owners who are "open for business" should exercise (and require from their customers) an improved level of good hygiene.

What's more, the "cure" for COVID-19

might already be here. On Sunday, the FDA approved the anti-malaria drug *hydroxychloroquine sulfate* and *chloroquine phosphate*. Millions of doses are being donated to the nation's hospitals right now.

Is the COVID-19 lockdown overkill? One decade ago, America had another epidemic. But the 2009-2010 swine flu occurred when there was a Democrat in the White House, who the Big Media protected, and the opposition party Republicans did not politicize the virus.

Yet the death toll was higher than (or some might argue, similar to) COVID-19. "According to the CDC from April 2009 to April 2010 there were about 60.8 million cases of the swine flu with 12,469 deaths in the United States. Unlike COVID-19, swine flu targeted the younger population, who health officials said had little to no existing immunity." Source

Yet now we have a Republican president, who the Big Media hates, and who the opposition party Democrats seem to blame for everything. They unsuccessfully tried to oust him twice. Is it the Big Media's turn to defeat Trump by eliminating his booming economy?

We are now at a point where the cure is worse than the disease. As R.

Emmett Tyrrell Jr. wrote a week ago: "... we need not destroy our economy over this pandemic ... The state we had arrived at by last weekend was explained cogently by Bob Luddy, the CEO and founder of CaptiveAire, in *The American Spectator* on Monday. He wrote: "Our leaders are creating an economic crisis and a major national security risk with limited data. The cure is far worse than any perceived impact by COVID-19."

For small business owners, and workers who've been laid off without pay, the big question is how much more financial bleeding can you stand? Consider that big stores like Wal-Mart and Target haven't closed. So why haven't you?

For the sake of your constitutional rights, your God-given ownership rights, your family, and your in-born need to succeed, I encourage you to be "open for business," along with taking wise steps of good hygiene. Don't let the establishment destroy your livelihood!

"You shall not steal ... You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." ★

Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



"Well, don't you think Mrs. Doc is a nice name?"

we never thought to bug him about where he lived, because we also cherish a man's right to privacy. But Jenkins died on one of his trips to town, and we still didn't know where his cabin was.

So that began a number of semi-serious expeditions into our nearby mountains to try and solve the mystery. Hasn't happened yet, but there's always hope deep in the souls of true explorers.

And so it is with Mrs. Doc. She introduced herself to all of us as Mrs. Doc, and ... as wife of our local sawbones ... she automatically deserves respect, even if that respect means maintaining a mystery.

But in a way, Mrs. Doc has added something tangible to our little society here in Home Country, because if we should ever falter for a subject of intense discussion, we have her first name to fall back on.

Doc's a true pal, of course, but there's no way he'd betray his missus on this. We did ask him one time if he actually knew her first name. He gave us the strangest look and said, "What do you think? I met this girl in college named Mrs. Doc and asked her to marry me?"

The speculation has run the gamut of everything from her having a first name meaning a poisonous flower, to body parts, battleships, national parks, and disastrous storms. If we did accidentally trip over her real name, neither she nor Doc would confirm it.

So while we're looking for Jenkins' cabin, we can contemplate that very nice lady ... Mrs. Doc.

Brought to you by Slim's next book, which isn't finished yet and doesn't have a name, but you'll sure need one because the words are spelled right. ★

The problem was Mrs. Doc, you see. Oh, don't misunderstand. She's a perfectly wonderful lady and we all think the world of her, and as far as we know she has yet to burn down a house or start a war or anything.

The problem is, we don't know her first name.

If you just come out and flat ask her, she'll smile and say, "Well, don't you think Mrs. Doc is a nice name? I've had it for a long time now." But I guess there's something deep inside us that hates a vacuum ... a vacuum of knowledge, that is. We're still curious about exactly where Old Man Jenkins' cabin is, for example. While he was alive,

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Social Security Matters

About Working Overseas and Earning U.S Social Security



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

Dear Rusty: My daughter had menial jobs - part time - here in the USA during high school and college but shortly after college moved to South Korea to teach English. After 8 years there she will be going to Belgium and getting married. She will be living there and working there. Will she ever have access to any Social Security benefits? **Signed: Interested Father**

Dear Interested Father: It will depend upon how many U.S. quarter-credits your daughter has from her work here in



the U.S. The U.S. has bilateral agreements (known as "Totalization Agreements") with both South Korea and Belgium (and 24 other countries) and these agreements allow someone who has worked in both the U.S. and another country to aggregate their credits from both to qualify for U.S. benefits (and vice versa). But your daughter will need to have earned at least 6 U.S. credits from working in the U.S. in order for her credits from either South Korea or Belgium (or both) to be counted under the Totalization Agreement, thus entitling her to U.S. Social Security benefits.

The U.S. requires a minimum of 40 total quarter-credits to be eligible for Social Security benefits. If your daughter has at least 6 U.S. credits now and can get enough additional credits via the Totalization Agreements to achieve minimum 40 required, then she may be eligible for at least a small U.S. Social Security benefit when she is 62.

Since you say your daughter had only "menial part-time" jobs here in the U.S., key for her to eventually get benefits will be if she has worked enough in the U.S. to earn at least the 6 credits which will allow her to take advantage of the Totalization Agreements and meet basic eligibility for Social Security. FYI, Social Security credits are based upon how much is earned each year, and the amount required for a credit varies annually. A maximum of 4 credits can be earned each year - for example, in 2020 a credit is given for

each \$1410 earned, up to a maximum of 4 credits per year (\$5640 in annual earnings). Essentially, if your daughter had at least the minimum earnings for 1 1/2 years of U.S. employment to earn 6 credits, she could eventually use the Totalization Agreements to become eligible for U.S. Social Security benefits.

I suggest that your daughter contact Social Security and ask how many quarters of credit she now has under the U.S. Social Security system. If she already has the minimum 6 needed to eventually qualify under the Totalization Agreements, she may be entitled to a small SS benefit when she becomes age-eligible (62). But remember, even if she qualifies for a U.S. Social Security benefit, it will be based upon her minimal U.S. earnings; her foreign earnings won't be used when computing her U.S. benefits. Be aware also that if she also earns a pension from either South Korea or Belgium (or both), any U.S. Social Security benefit she may eventually get would be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) which reduces the SS benefit of anyone with a pension from work which did not contribute to U.S. Social Security.

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

CONVERSATIONS

By **Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey**

Will we be glad when the Coronavirus pandemic has subsided. We do not know when this will be, but there will be a celebration when shelter in place is over.

Local restaurants are adjusting to not being able to serve us on site and are offering takeout and delivery to your home. Last Tuesday was Take Out Tuesday in California. If you missed this day, restaurants need us more than ever. It is not too late to order now. Whatever floats your boat - Mexican, Italian, fresh North Coast seafood and sushi - your favorite spot needs the support. If you can, chip in and chow down.

Dixon has a new restaurant, IM Burger, which is in the shopping center across from La Cocina so you have another choice. The restaurant is open from 11 am to 7 pm daily. Phone number is 707-693-6727.

Let's hope social distancing in April may bring May existence!

News from the City of Dixon (Press Release)

THE 3 P'S FOR SEWER LINES DURING SHELTER-AT-HOME

With the Shelter-at-Home order extended, in an effort to keep sewer lines clear, the City of Dixon is asking residents to be mindful of what is being flushed down the toilet.

In a recent presentation hosted by the California Water Environment Association and attended by Staff, we were reminded to, "Only flush the 3 P's: Pee, Poop and toilet Paper." While the "flushable" wipes concern is not new to wastewater facilities, there is an increased risk to our system due to the current shortage of toilet paper and increase usage of disinfectant wipes. Although many so-called "disposable" or "flushable" items are advertised as being safe for flushing, in reality, they are not biodegradable and can cause backups in the system.

As a general reminder, here are common "Dos and Don'ts" for avoiding backups in the local sewer lines:

DO NOT flush wet/baby wipes, gloves, paper towels, napkins, feminine products, cigarettes, medicine, dental

floss, cotton balls and swabs, cat litter or other trash down the toilet, even if they're labeled "flushable."

DO NOT pour grease down kitchen sinks or toilets. Instead, put grease in a sealed non-recyclable container and throw it out with regular garbage.

DO NOT use the sink as a toilet or the toilet as a garbage disposal.

DO toss dirty baby wipes, makeup and cleaning wipes, tampons, sanitary pads, etc. in the trash.

Facemask or No Facemask?

When we first became aware of the Coronavirus pandemic, we were told that we should wash our hands frequently, shelter in place, etc. When asked about wearing facemasks, folks were told by officials these were not necessary,

But last week, the president told us that facemasks were voluntary. The First Lady is recommending we wear facemasks. Now, CDC's message is that covering your face when you leave the house is a "voluntary public health measure" and must not replace proven precautions like self-quarantine at home, social distancing, and thoroughly washing your hands.

The CDC is the US authority on protocols and protections against COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. In the CDC's words, it "recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission."

The institute says not to seek out medical or surgical-grade masks for yourself and to leave N95 respirator masks to health care workers, opting instead for basic cloth or fabric coverings that can be washed and reused. Previously, the agency considered homemade face masks a last resort in hospitals and medical facilities.

Several of our acquaintances have started making facemasks in their spare time. So, it looks like we will join the crowd and wear facemasks while out in public. ★

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In Solano County by
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California Gun Rights Lawsuit: Part II

NRA, Along with Coalition of Gun Rights Groups, Files Second Lawsuit in California to Fight Constitutional Violations

National Rifle Association Press Release

FAIRFAX, VA (MPG) - The National Rifle Association (NRA) joined other individuals, retailers, and gun rights groups in filing a federal lawsuit on Tuesday challenging local policies and enforcement practices that violate Second and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

"Local governments aren't promoting safety or "common sense" by targeting gun stores for closure; the closures only serve to disarm law-abiding families while criminals roam free," said NRA-ILA Executive Director Jason Ouimet. "Because these closures violate our Second Amendment rights when we need them most, the National Rifle Association continues to fight such infringements in court alongside fellow Second Amendment groups."

This is the second lawsuit the gun rights coalition has filed in California after a number of counties deemed firearm and ammunition stores, as well as indoor and outdoor ranges, "nonessential." The gun rights groups includes the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), the California Gun Rights Foundation (CGF), and the Firearms Policy Coalition (FPC). A copy of the lawsuit can be found at <https://www.nra.org/media/2852/2020-3-31-ca-altman-complaint.pdf>

Individual arms applicants/purchasers and retailers affected by 'stay-home' or shutdown orders can report potential civil rights violations to the NRA-ILA COVID-19 <https://www.nra.org/coronavirus>

Information on other gun rights groups: **Second Amendment Foundation** (www.saf.org) is the nation's oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing, and legal action group focusing on the Constitutional right and heritage to privately own and possess firearms. Founded in 1974, The Foundation has grown to more than 650,000 members and supporters and conducts many programs designed to better inform the public about the consequences of gun control.

California Gun Rights Foundation (www.cagunrights.org) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves its members, supporters, and the public through educational, cultural, and judicial efforts to advance Second Amendment and related civil rights.

Firearms Policy Coalition (www.firearmspolicy.org) is a 501(c)4 grassroots nonprofit organization. FPC's mission is to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, especially the fundamental, individual Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, advance individual liberty, and restore freedom.

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>. ★

Time Alone Is Time Invested

By Rev. James L. Snyder

During the past week, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly have been spending quite a bit of time together. I cannot recall any time that we have spent this much time together.

The exception would be when we first got married. Even then, both of us worked during the day and were going to a Bible Institute at night. Occasionally our schedule collided, but rarely.

It was not long before the babies came knocking on our door, and we graciously invited them in. From then on, time alone was a thing of the past.

Life can sometimes get so busy we forget the important things. My wife and I were thinking about this, this past week. If I live until August, my wife and I celebrates our 49th wedding anniversary. How quickly time flies! My only problem is, will I have enough energy to celebrate it then?

Why is it that the older you get, the faster time goes, and the less energy you have to keep up?

This week the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I had some time to spend together. Everything seemed to shut down, and we had no

appointments that we had to get to.

Usually, our conversations revolve around church work and what needs to be done and how we are going to do it.

Since nothing is going on, we had an excellent opportunity to spend time together talking about things not involving work. That is quite a rarity.

We were talking about things that happened years ago, things I had forgotten.

"Do you," my wife said, "remember..."

Then she tells a story about something that happened decades ago. To be honest, I did not remember several of the stories she was talking about. I smiled and shook my head because she is probably right, and I probably have forgotten something.

This staying at home really does have some good benefits to it. I did not really figure it out until just the other day when we were having lunch together.

Many times our schedule is so busy that we have to grab a bite here and a bite there. Now that we are at home all day, there are some benefits.

I was doing some reading leading up to lunchtime, not thinking about lunch at all. Then the table was set and lunch was prepared. I had

forgotten what a marvelous cook she was.

Then there it was on my plate several homemade meatballs surrounded by a pile of homemade Mac & Cheese. The meatballs were exactly the way I like them, and what can I say about the Mac & Cheese?

Everything smelled so delicious and looked so wonderful, I almost forgot to pray for the meal.

When I finished my third serving, I leaned back in my chair and just smiled.


"You know, my dear," I said with the biggest smile I have ever had, "we should eat at home more often. You simply outdid yourself today."

I thought about what the apostle Paul said once, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

The value of any relationship is determined by the amount I am willing to invest in it.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. Web site is www.jamesnyderministries.com. ★

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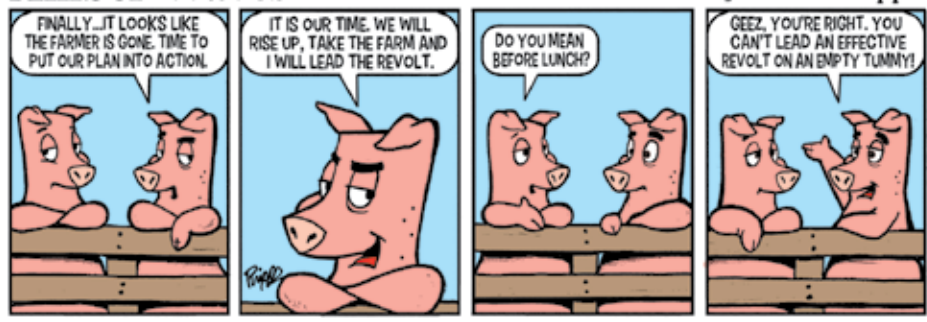
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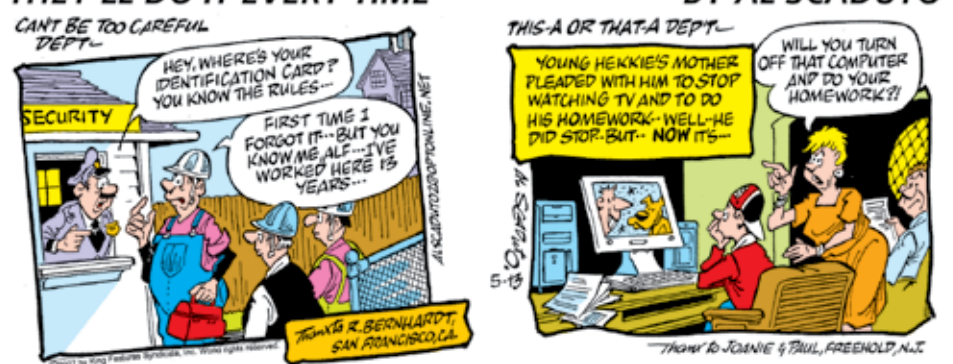
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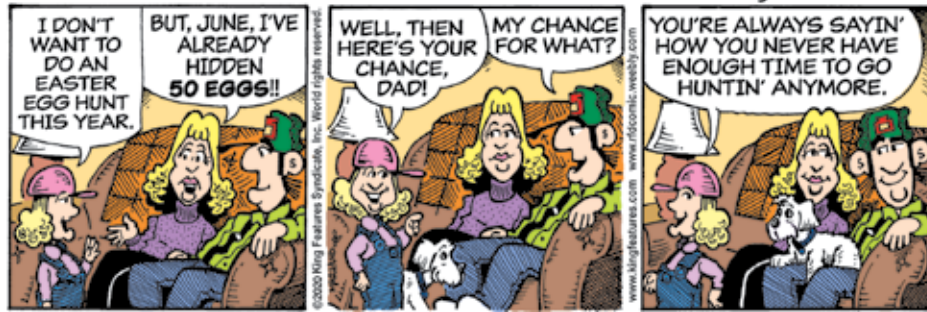
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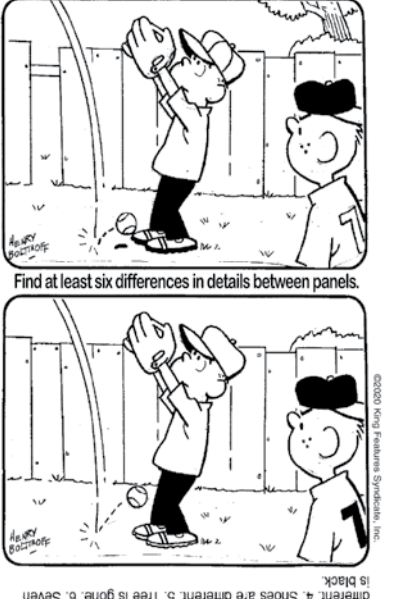
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Crossword Puzzle on Page 9

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

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Bookie's number
- Parents org.
- Slang for microwave
- Time distortion
- One with biggest share?
- Like a case of appendicitis, possibly
- Decanter
- Knowing about
- Mister in Madrid
- *Usually served on ice, 2 words
- Barber's sound
- Accepted truth
- Took a load off
- Artist's office
- Excites passions, 2 words
- Comic book cry of horror
- Rude or sarcastic
- Chips, perhaps
- Roleplay
- Chinese "way"
- Ice floaters
- 100 centavos
- Merry
- Table scrap
- Breastbone
- *Double shot of espresso
- Feather's partner
- Not here
- Nickname for Putin?
- *Revolutionary event
- *Tea is the only simple pleasure left to us," he wrote
- Research facil.
- Typically used in the fairway
- Goodbye to amiga
- Plenty
- Why not
- *Black tea, in China
- Bard's "before"
- Pay close attention

DOWN

- Be in the red
- Crows' cousins
- Actress Barrymore
- More like rumors
- '70s Ford model
- Native American emblem
- Dwarf buffalo
- Pueblo tribesman
- On top
- For each
- Cosmetic cabinet staple
- Allegro ____ in music, Italian
- * ____ Perk from "Friends"
- Exit plus s
- Eye infection
- Oozes
- Article of faith
- Romanov's edict
- *A ____ of tea, in U.K.
- Prowl around
- Embryo cradles
- Green pasta sauce
- One on the list
- Faux one
- *Equal parts espresso and warm milk
- Fauna's partner
- Hudson's Bay Company original ware
- Experts
- Nose channels
- Kick the bucket
- Between countertenor and baritone
- Make this, not waste
- Affected by the moon
- Went down a slippery slope
- Kitchen flooring choice
- Tried follower
- Bygone era
- *The Revolutionary one followed #52 Across
- The Simpsons's neighbor

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12			13	14	
15			16				17		
18			19				20		
		21					22		
23	24	25			26		27	28	29
30			31	32	33		34		
35		36		37			38		
39			40				41	42	
43			44				45	46	
		47					48	49	
50	51			52			53	54	
55				56			57		58
59				60			61		
62				63			64		

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 9

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

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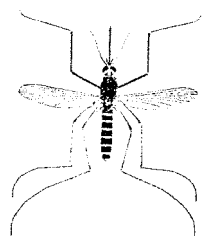
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SUDOKU

	9			6					
		8	4	5				9	
		1				6			
	5			7	1	8			
1		6		9				3	
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Solutions on Page 9

REDUCE THE RISK



of Becoming Infected with the West Nile Virus

A number of types of sources found within residential neighborhoods are capable of producing enough adult mosquitoes to bother not only the residents of one home but a number of homes in the area. These mosquitoes are also capable of transmitting West Nile virus! Water left standing for seven to ten days can produce mosquitoes during warmer weather. There are a number of simple precautions that can be taken to prevent this from happening...

TYPE OF SOURCE	WHAT TO DO...
Leaking faucets and broken pipes:	Repair or replace defective parts immediately.
Water under buildings:	Install sump pump and provide drainage if possible.
Roof gutters:	Maintain roof gutters and down spouts clear of debris.
Septic tanks:	Seal and cover all openings and screen vents.
Impounded water:	Fill if possible or provide adequate drainage.
Flower pots:	Drain-off excess water or invert if not in use.
Swimming pools & Hot tubs:	Use filter and skimmer daily to remove egg rafts and larvae. Chlorine will not kill mosquito larvae. Provide drainage for filter and sump pumps. When not in use, cover tightly.
Wading pools:	Change water weekly. When not in use turn upside down.
Swimming pool covers:	Tighten cover to prevent sagging.
Ornamental ponds:	Stock with mosquito fish and remove excess vegetation such as leaves, and thin pond lilies occasionally. Maintain even water level. Screen inlet on recirculation pump. When cleaning pond, transfer to glass bowl - chlorine kills fish. If pond is no longer desired, make holes in bottom and fill with dirt or sand.
Bird baths:	Change water frequently, preferably every 2-3 days
Lawns:	Avoid over watering.
Tree holes:	Fill with a polymer such as Soil Moist or Broadleaf P4 granules which absorb water - can last for years, available at garden supply stores, sand or dirt, drain if possible - when in doubt, call a tree surgeon.
Water troughs:	Change water weekly or stock with mosquito fish.
Boats:	Use a water tight cover or store upside down.
Containers:	Dispose of all unused containers that can collect rain or irrigation water such as tin cans, jars, barrels, buckets, old tires and tubs. Gardening containers such as vases and buckets should be stored upside down.

Solano County Mosquito Abatement District
707.437.1116
 solanomosquito.com

Ask Toni

Enroll in Medicare Past 65 and Losing Your Job During Current Hard-Economic Times



Reader Alert: Tuesday March 17, 2020 all local Social Security offices nationwide were closed to in-person visits and have asked those who need assistance to call your local Social Security office or Social Security's 800 number at 1/800-772-1213 for assistance by phone. There is not a specified reopen date for local Social Security offices currently.

Toni:

I worked for a major oil service company in Fort Bend County and recently I was part of the oil industry and Coronavirus lay-offs. I turned 65 last June and enrolled in Medicare Part A and delayed Part B since I was "still working."

HR said nothing regarding how I should enroll in Medicare's Part B. I've been told from friends that there is a Part B penalty and really want to avoid that disaster. Please advise what the Medicare Part B enrollment forms I will need ~ Mike from Tulsa, OK

Mike:

The Toni Says Medicare office has been receiving calls by concerned Americans on how to enroll in Medicare if one is past 65 and lost their job or want to

be prepared because they may lose their job because of what is happening due to the Coronavirus lockdown, crashing oil prices and serious falling stock market.

Those past 65 and 90 days should know what paperwork they should have in their desk drawer or briefcase, just in case they get laid off and take to their HR or upper management and have these forms signed for yourself and also your spouse if they are also on your company benefits before you leave out the door. If one has already been laid off, then this is the process to keep from receiving the famous "Medicare Part B penalty" for both you and your spouse.

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

There are 2 forms Social Security will need and on the top of each form hand write in **bold italics letters is Special Enrollment Period** for the Social Security agent that is processing them to know that you are signing up at the right time and keep from giving you a penalty. You are applying for a SEP (**Special Enrollment Period**). (These forms are also available at the Toni Says office by emailing info@tonisays.com or calling 832/519-8664.)

1) Form #1 Request for Employment Information (CMS-L564) for proof of group health care coverage based on current employment. This information

is needed to process your Medicare enrollment application. If you have had 2 or more jobs since turning 65, then each company will have to sign this form. Be sure to have forms signed for both you and your covered spouse.

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

Social Security has closed all local offices and to process these forms properly, you will want to call your local office or Social Security 800# at 1/800-772-1213 and discuss turning in these forms directly to the Social Security office. When mailing forms directly, then please make copies, mail priority or next day with signature requested.

****When applying for Medicare if your yearly income for an individual was over \$87,000 or married is over \$174,000; your Parts B and D premiums will be more, and you can appeal your additional Medicare Part B and D premiums by filing CMS form SSA-44 "Medicare Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount-Life - Changing Event" if you income has lowered one range due to a specific life-changing event.****

Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® is giving a \$5 discount on the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book at www.tonisays.com. Have a Medicare question? Email Toni at info@tonisays.com. ★

Mother of the Year



2020

Mother of the Year and two finalists will ride in the Dixon May Parade on Saturday, May 9, 2020. Entry DEADLINE IS 5 pm on Friday, May 8, 2020.

Enter your mother or any other woman who has the qualities of motherhood. Examples include: mother of the year, example of a mother, etc. Give the

be accompanied by a recent family photo. Fill the complete form, and check one or

under Under 7th to 9th Grade 10th Grade to adults

MOM'S NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____, DIXON, CA 95620

() - () -
 MOM'S PHONE NUMBER _____ NOMINATOR'S PHONE NUMBER _____

NOMINATOR'S NAME AND AGE (YOURSELF) _____

MAIL THIS FORM, RECENT FAMILY PHOTO, AND ESSAY TO:

DIXON KIWANIS CLUB

P.O. Box 1602 • Dixon, CA 95620

Or drop off at Travis Credit Union, 1470 Ary Lane, Dixon

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