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# Dixon's Independent Voice

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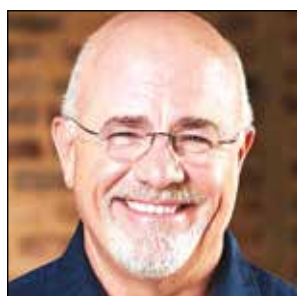
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## How Much Are Development Fees?



The city charges a lot of different types of fees—building, related and capital facilities fees. MPG File photo

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - At a city council meeting in early April, fees were discussed. It seems that the total fees for a new house are from \$48,000, to \$55,000 and the new fees passed will increase costs. Whow! If we look at the Homestead Development where around 1200 houses will be built that amounts to a total of almost \$66,000,000. Yes, that is \$66 million. Granted some of the houses will be multi-family and some will be commercial.

From the discussion at the meeting, the city charges a lot of different types of fees – building, related and capital facilities fees. City councilmen mentioned during the

meeting that development fees are used for finance, human resource, and building salaries of employees. A comment was made that 20% of the city manager's salary had been paid from development fees. Since these salaries may have been budgeted for the General Fund, these funds can be allocated elsewhere. So if those funds are allocated elsewhere, where does the refund go?

That is a lot of money most of which will be paid for over 30 years. The new home owners will buy their house and finance it for 30 years. In the meantime, the development and impact money will be long gone. Offhand it seems like local fees may account for 10% to 15% of the median price of new single-family homes. It could be that fees are

the fastest growing market. Plus, if these fees are folded into the price of a house, locally property taxes could raise \$500 each and every year just to pay for the development fees.

If we think back, development fees, prior to the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, public utilities charged development fees principally to cover the direct costs of development and building permit reviews, and hooking up utilities on site. The indirect costs of development reviews, the costs of maintaining local planning and building departments staffs—were usually covered out of general revenues. On-site capital improvements, including roads, utility systems, public safety and school facilities, and parks were usually paid out of bond

*Continued on page 6*

## Drive-in Church Services Now Permitted

Center for American Liberty Special Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - As a result of the Center for American Liberty's lawsuit (@Liberty\_Ctr) and request for a temporary restraining order, drive-in religious services are now permitted in California during the COVID crisis.

This policy change, reflected in announcements from the two counties sued in our lawsuit, comes hours after Governor Newsom and Attorney General Becerra filed their brief in response to our TRO filed on Tuesday.

In their response, Governor Newsom and AG Becerra explain that because cars are "technology," drive-in church services are permitted under the state's shelter-in-place rule.

Subsequently, Riverside County released its final amended Order which references the Governor and Attorney General's opposition brief to our TRO.

The Order states – "the State confirmed that in-person services are prohibited but clarified that "...drive-in worship services are permitted under the existing Executive Order, which expressly allows 'faith based services that are provided through...other technology.'"

San Bernardino County's press release states, "The state has declared that drive-in worship services are allowed 'as long as the individuals engaged in such services abide by physical distancing guidelines and refrain from direct and indirect physical touching of others.'"

"This is heartening progress for our clients, and all Californians" said Chief Executive Officer of the Center for American Liberty, Harmeet K. Dhillon (@pnjaban). "But while this is a step in the right direction, it is still not enough."

"The state is still holding houses of worship to a different standard," Dhillon said. "AG Barr's statement on Tuesday was clear, states cannot have two sets of restrictions – those that apply to churches and the more relaxed standards that apply to other entities. The State's orders still do not define worship as an essential activity that permits travel in California, even while at the same time the state is now saying drive-in worship is permissible. The orders are riddled with contradictory and confusing language."

"Even after these policy changes, houses of worship are still very limited in their permissible activities," Dhillon said. "Many of these activities provide immeasurable societal good,

*Continued on page 7*

## 106,000 Clean Energy Jobs Lost in March Alone Due to the Economic Crisis

By Alex Frank, The Hastings Group

**WASHINGTON, DC (MPG)** - More than 106,000 clean energy workers lost their jobs in the month of March, and hundreds of thousands more clean energy job losses are projected in the coming months. That's according to a new analysis of unemployment data released by E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs), the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), E4TheFuture and BW Research Partnership.

The analysis of Department of Labor data found that 106,472 workers in clean energy occupations filed for unemployment benefits last month, wiping out all 2019 clean energy job gains across renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean vehicles, energy storage

and clean fuels. These include electricians, HVAC and mechanical trades technicians and construction workers who work in energy efficiency; solar installers; wind industry engineers and technicians; and manufacturing workers employed by electric and other clean-vehicle manufacturing companies and suppliers.

Clean energy has been one of the U.S. economy's biggest and fastest-growing employment sectors over the past decade, growing 10.4 percent since 2015. According to a separate report released by E2, U.S. clean energy jobs increased to nearly 3.4 million at the end of 2019. Clean Jobs America 2020 found the industry accounted for more than half of the entire energy sector's job growth in 2019, adding more than 70,000 jobs for a 2.2 percent growth rate – a faster pace than

the U.S. workforce as a whole. At the start of 2020, America's clean energy workforce accounted for more than one out of every 50 U.S. workers. That made clean energy by far the biggest employer of workers in energy occupations, employing nearly three times more workers than the fossil fuel industry.

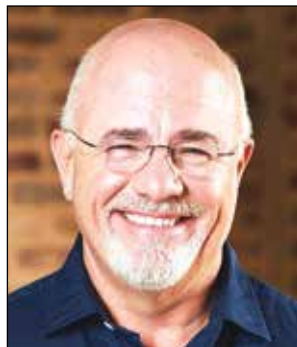
But all that growth came to a screeching halt in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout. The March layoffs are just the first indication of how badly the clean energy industry will be hit by the crisis, with the analysis projecting that more than 500,000 clean energy workers – 15 percent of the entire clean energy workforce – will lose their jobs in the months ahead, unless Congress and the Trump administration take quick and substantive action.

A loss of that magnitude would erase the clean energy industry's total job growth over the last five years.

According to the unemployment data analysis, energy efficiency lost more jobs than any other sector of the clean energy industry in March, with nearly 70,000 people losing their jobs. The losses in the energy efficiency sector accounted for about two-thirds of all clean energy unemployment filings – as electricians, plumbers, construction workers, energy auditors and others were unable to enter homes, offices and other buildings because of coronavirus quarantines.

Renewable energy lost more than 16,000 lost jobs, and filings are expected to increase substantially in the coming weeks as solar and wind energy companies struggle with sudden

*Continued on page 2*



## Dave Ramsey Says

I'm a big fan of leasing the first few years after starting your own business. It's even better if you can work out of your home, but I understand that's not always practical. Down the road, you can choose to lease with an option to buy, or in the right situation, just buy a building.

Remember, make sure you do it all with cash. Don't add debt to the equation!

—Dave

### Is It Ever Too Late?

Dear Dave,

Life insurance is one of those things I always said I would get around to buying someday, but for various reasons I just haven't done it yet. Is there ever a time when it is too late to get life insurance? —Angie

Dear Angie,

First of all, I only recommend level term life insurance. It's fairly easy to get until around age 70, depending on your overall health situation. Once you get into your seventies

and beyond, however, it can be more difficult to find reasonably priced coverage.

I recommend that most people have 10 to 12 times their annual income in term life insurance. To be honest, though, you really shouldn't need life insurance if you're 70 or older. At that point, if you've saved and invested wisely over the years, you can be self-insured. By this, I mean you've got enough money in savings and investments to cover funeral expenses—plus enough for a spouse to live on comfortably after you're gone.

Don't wait any longer, Angie. Take care of this today!

—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.* ★

## 106,000 Clean Energy Jobs Lost in March Alone Due to the Economic Crisis

Continued from page 1 and massive financing issues that are resulting in canceled and delayed projects.

The clean vehicle sector was also severely impacted, losing 12,000 jobs in factories that manufacture electric and hybrid vehicles and the parts that go in them. This represents the largest percentage job loss —4.5 percent — of any clean energy sector. This does not include the 20,000 workers that Tesla Inc. furloughed, or other losses posted after this March data was collected.

The total clean energy jobs lost based on unemployment claims in the

U.S. were 106,472 with a 3.1 percent decline, and the total clean energy jobs lost in California were 19,949 with 3.6 percent decline.

The widespread layoffs in clean energy risk derailing an industry that was leading the country in job creation. At the start of 2020, clean energy employment increased for the fifth straight year, growing to nearly 3.4 million workers nationwide. Renewable energy led the way, increasing 3.2 percent to about 523,000 jobs.

Energy efficiency continues to be the single largest section of the clean energy economy,

employing 2.4 million Americans at the end of 2019, up 2.3 percent from 2018 despite federal rollbacks and delays of energy efficiency standards.

The clean vehicle sector was the only clean energy sector that saw job declines in 2019, dropping 2.3 percent to more than 266,000 jobs, in part because of industry uncertainty about rollbacks of federal vehicle emissions and mileage standards, which were recently finalized. The sector's job losses come after a record-setting year in 2018 that saw the clean vehicle industry grow 17 percent and add more than 40,000 jobs. ★

### Examine your Business Needs Carefully

Dear Dave,

I own a small company, and we lease the building we operate from. As an entrepreneur, how do you know when it is time to stop leasing and buy a place of your own?

—Peter

Dear Peter,

You should only buy a building when you have solid track record of success, and a really good idea of what your building needs will be. A growing business is always a good thing, but you don't want to focus too much on real estate and not enough on generating revenue and managing that growth intelligently. You would also want to make sure you're going to be in anything you buy for a good, long while.

## St. Peter's Catholic Church News

This third Sunday of Easter we hear the beautiful "Road to Emmaus" passage in the Gospel of Luke (24:13-25). Two disciples were talking of the events which had just happened - Jesus' Crucifixion. As they walked along "Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him." They were amazed that this stranger walking with them seemed not to know what had happened in Jerusalem. Still unrecognized, Jesus began to explain all the scriptures that referred to Him as the Messiah, beginning with Moses and the Prophets. They invited Jesus to stay with them. "And it happened that, while He was with them at table, He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, but He vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?'" This passage is a representation of the Mass. We encounter Jesus Christ there in the Eucharist. While we cannot participate fully because of the current crisis, we can show our love and thanksgiving for His great gift to us. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is happening Mon-Fri. At St. Peter's Church from 9am to 7pm. Mass online is 8am daily on Facebook, and on Sundays 9am in English and 11am in Spanish. Confessions are Thursday, Friday and Saturday 5-7pm.

There is a beautiful reflection on the riches of the Blessed Sacrament by Father Harmon as follows:

Tabernacles are the thrones of grace where Jesus Christ dispenses his favors and bestows them on all who visit him.

Let us go to him and tell him our needs with simplicity and confidence, and we shall be soled. One visit to the Blessed Sacrament often gives back calm and peace to the troubled soul; it had come to him sorrowful and languishing and it returns full of consolation and of joy; it had come tepid, feeble and full of distractions and it returns warmed, encouraged, and recollected.

It would be impossible to express how many graces the soul receives in these holy visits. It is there that Jesus Christ accomplishes, in a very special manner, his promise: "Ask, and you shall receive"(John 16:24). There we obtain the illumination which enlightens, the divine unction which touches, the grace which sanctifies to such a degree that we can almost be sure of the salvation of a soul that is faithful in making a visit every day to the Blessed Sacrament.

There, lastly, we obtain, besides graces for ourselves, graces for our neighbor, for our parish, for the Church, for the whole world -- because the treasures of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament are inexhaustible.

Please visit [www.stpeterschurchdixon.com](http://www.stpeterschurchdixon.com) God Bless All! ★

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# Another 1,200 Care Packages Shipped!

Move America  
Forward Press Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Move America Forward staff worked through the day to ship another 1,250 boxes of care packages to the troops. This great news comes after we recently shipped about 2,500 boxes last week. MAF staff took care of this shipment instead of utilizing volunteers, due to coronavirus. Because we take the threat of coronavirus seriously and want to ensure the safety of our troops, we are using only a minimal crew of volunteers for these projects.

Check out some photos below of this huge shipment that took all day to complete!

Our warehouse was so full of boxes, we couldn't get through to our offices without having to snake through corridors of boxes stacked high above your head! We asked for your help to get these boxes out of our building so we can clear a path through and you answered the call!

While it's nice to reclaim a little bit of office space, we're not slowing down on our efforts to support the troops! Easter just passed and we are very thankful that with your help we reached our goal of \$10,000 for the troops for Easter. So stay tuned to see what comes next from Move America Forward!



Check out some photos below of this huge shipment that took all day to complete!

I can promise it will be exciting!

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

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

Whether it's a threat from terrorist groups or coronavirus, our troops still put their lives at risk every day to accomplish their missions and keep our country safe. We have so much respect for their service, we knew that we

simply MUST keep supporting them, sending care packages, and sending the troops much needed supplies even now. Our staff have taken great precautions to maintain the utmost possible cleanliness and safeguard the health of our troops while continuing our mission to send them support.

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

To donate or for more information visit: <https://carepackages.moveamericaforward.org/> ★

# CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

The first lines of defense for managing an epidemic disease is – cleanliness and isolation. This defense was practiced in the Dixon Township with the Diphtheria epidemic in the late 1870's just as it is in place today for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Howard Melville, a past resident of Dixon, now living in Bulgaria, searched early issues of the Dixon Tribune for "epidemics" on the Dixon Public Library Website. (<http://dixonlibrary.com>). His research exposed diseases of epidemic proportions that regularly affected the Dixon area and its residents mainly due to poor sanitation. It is hard to imagine anyone objecting to the establishment of basic sanitation in any town, but if improved sanitation was going to come to the Dixon Township once it became incorporated, there were plenty of resident objections. The residents knew that once Dixon was incorporated new regulations, taxes, Ordinances, Resolutions would go into effect and Town Officers would be installed.

The Tribune November 1876 reported that 11 Dixon children had died from Diphtheria in one week. More than half the children in town were sickened with Diphtheria and some parents sent their children out of town until the disease had run its course. Every household in the township was in mourning for the dead as well, for the sick and dying children. Three months previous the adults had been sickened by Typhoid and just as it had run its course, Diphtheria, infected the children.

Both diseases have a common cause raising from the lack of drainage and unsanitary conditions. The ground water was contaminated by the sewage from the cesspools and outhouses being allowed to seep into the ground. Although the residents were aware of what caused the epidemics they were unable to take the necessary steps to install systems to remedy the situation. Organized as a township, there was no administrative body that could raise the money and get the work done to improve the health of the township. It wasn't until February 1884 when Dixon became a Municipal Corporation under the general laws of the State of California that civic improvements could be attempted. Residents were required to pay taxes, and town officers were elected and a city government was formed.

In the fall of 1877, ten cases of Diphtheria were reported and two children died. The medical profession, recognized their duty not to only prescribe for the disease, but as guardians of health to educate general public about sanitation and hygiene and give attention to preventive measures. A Sanitary Corps was proposed for the purpose of warning the public about approaching disease. Incorporated towns had Boards

of Health, but they had no authority to do anything about the disease.

Individual citizens were called to action to stop the spread of Diphtheria by keeping their properties clean by using chloride of lime in their human refuse and to pay people by subscription to keep the streets free from filth and garbage. Residents were told to add chlorine- water, diluted from 2 to 4 times the volume of water, to their drinking water to help arrest the disease.

In 1879, a mild Diphtheria epidemic struck around the Binghamton area. Several families were reported to have had it and one child from a German family was the worst case reported.

The Dixon Academy, a private school with almost 90 students, and the public schools were closed in November of 1883, due to the large number of student absences from Diphtheria. Dixon was deemed as an "unhealthy" town because of frequent outbreaks of the disease. At this time Diphtheria had reached epidemic stage and children throughout the state were ill and schools were closed.

A report that Dixon was suffering from a small pox epidemic was spread before the Horse Races on May Day 1907, creating smaller crowds than usual at the annual event. Telephone, telegraph and mail inquiries from Vacaville, Suisun, Vallejo, Sacramento, and other locations, as to the truth of the reports, and they were denied so far as possible. The report was false, but kept many people away. No one found out who started the report and for what purpose. If found out, the person would not find Dixon a healthy place to visit!

Dixon Women's Improvement Club cancelled their November 1918 meeting due to the Spanish Flu epidemic. *This is the only reference in the newspaper to the Spanish Flu that caused a global pandemic that spread rapidly killing 50 million people world- wide. The virus infected young, old, sick and otherwise healthy people -all became infected and at least 10% died.*

The Dixon Women's Improvement Club cancelled its March, April, and May 2020 meetings due to the Corona Virus 19 pandemic. More than 100 years separates the pandemics yet our primary defense for staying healthy remains practicing cleanliness and isolation.

I encourage you to visit the Dixon Library website and explore documents, photos, and newspapers that have been digitized. Once you learn how to navigate the site you will be amazed at what you can learn about Dixon and the people that have lived here! Give it a try! Feel free to call Bill Schroeder (707) 761-9574 or me (707)-372-7094 if you need help. Once the "shelter in place" edict has been lifted you can contact the Dixon Public Library at (707)-678-5447. Have a good week! ★

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# For the Love of Books



By Amy Shane  
 Book Review & Special Events Editor  
 Email: amy-shane@att.net  
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## April Scares

“Readers Beware, you are in for a scare.” Almost any child of the '90s will remember the famous lines from children's horror writer R.L. Stine, and the man behind book and anthology television series, *Goosebumps*. While the world at the moment might be going through unprecedented times, many children find themselves at home with new routines discovering new ways to be entertained. One of the best ways to entertain them for hours is with a good book. With so many books available, it can be hard to navigate which direction to go. One genre that is not often talked about is middle-grade scary reads, and the positive impact they have with helping children address and confront fears.

Scholastic publishers have been delivering scary reads for over 40 years with classics like, *The Dollhouse Murders* celebrating its 35th anniversary with new cover art, and the *Goosebumps* series releasing their 235 book, *SlappyWorld Diary of A Dummy*. Scholastic continues their thrilling reputation by delivering a lineup of new releases full of ghosts, chills, secret worlds, and even dolls that move in the night.

**Goosebumps SlappyWorld #10 Diary of a Dummy**  
 by R.L. Stine

Slappy's up to his old tricks again when two children find Slappy's diary and accidentally bring him back to life. What will happen in this next Slappy World adventure when his secrets are finally out?



**The Haunting**  
 by Lindsey Duga

Emily has always dreamed of being adopted. So, when she is whisked away to the Blackthorn Manor by the wealthy Thornton family, she was overjoyed. At first, everything felt like a fairytale, but then things started to feel a little off. At times, the manor itself would be in complete disrepair, and her new parents acted like they were harboring a secret. Then horrible accidents started occurring, no matter how hard Emily tried to be careful. Is the manor trying to keep her away from her new parents, or is there a secret dying to get out?

*The Haunting* is a wonderful ghost story that will keep readers guessing until the very end, while being ideally suited for the middle-grade reading audience.

**Frightville Don't Let The Doll In**  
 by Mike Ford

Mara and her mother have been working on her dollhouse for months and it is finally done, all it needs is the finishing touch – a doll to live in it. When Mara hears about the new store, Frightville, she knows just where to go. To Mara's amazement, she discovers a little doll hidden in a glass case. Truly unique in her little red dress, she is the perfect match, but the moment she brings her

home, strange things start to happen. The first night, Mara is certain the doll is moving around, then objects start being rearranged, and the clock hands begin to move. Is Mara's doll haunted, or is this all a bad dream?

*Don't Let the Doll In* is the perfect scary read for the 3rd and 4th grade reading levels; pairing just enough scary elements with easy to read chapters and an exciting reading tempo that will keep young readers interested.

**The Midnight Hour**  
 by Benjamin Reed and Laura Trinder

When Emily's parents disappear after they set off to investigate some strange letters, it is up to Emily to try and find them. But what she discovers instead is a secret hidden world called The Midnight Hour. Will Emily be able to find her parents and also stay safe from the monsters and creatures who roam the haunted streets? With only her hedgehog for company, a sack lunch and her smart wits, Emily must try to save her parents and the world before it's too late.

A new mystery filled with monsters, creatures of the night, magic, and Victorian London, paired with the laugh-out-loud personality and a hedgehog, *The Midnight Hour* is a great middle-grade adventure. ★



# Riley Reviews

## “JACKIE ROBINSON” A STORY OF STRUGGLE AND TRIUMPH ON TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

### “Jackie Robinson” On PBS

April 15 is a milestone every year as the deadline for filing of tax returns. But April 15, 1947 is one of the most historically unforgettable dates of the post-World War II era, right up there with the moon landing and the day President Kennedy was assassinated.

Baseball fans immediately recognize that this date in 1947 marks the breaking of the color barrier in Major League Baseball when Jackie Robinson made his debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers on Opening Day.

Now that those who enjoy the nation's pastime have been relegated to reruns of vintage games as this year's opening day has come and gone with stadiums around the country sitting idle, PBS has resurrected its two-part “Jackie Robinson” documentary.

For a limited time, PBS has made the Ken Burns documentary available for streaming to commemorate the celebration of the first African-American to play at the major league level.

Part 1 of “Jackie Robinson” is devoted to his early life and baseball career, focused on the significance of the first player in the Negro Leagues to get drafted into the majors by the visionary Branch Rickey, general manager of the Dodgers.

Though born to a family of sharecroppers in Cairo, Georgia, Jack Roosevelt Robinson (his middle name is in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt) was raised in Pasadena, California where his athletic ability served him well in school.

Robinson proved to be an all-around athlete and film clips of his football career demonstrate his talent for running the ball. At UCLA, he was the first athlete to win varsity letters in four sports: football, baseball, basketball and track.

That he was good at football caught the attention of the media and writer George Will narrated the Los Angeles Times article that noted Robinson “carried the football as though he was carrying a watermelon running from its owner who had a shotgun.”

Before he could pursue a professional career in sports, Robinson was drafted into a segregated unit of the Army during World War II. Way ahead of Rosa Parks, Robinson once refused the order of a civilian driver to move to the back of a military bus.

The military police that responded were disrespectful and Robinson refused to back down, which then lead to his arrest on the charge of insubordination. Taking an aggressive posture with an officer reflected his strong sense of social justice.

Fortunately, Robinson was found not guilty during a court martial and then

penned a sharply-worded to the Adjutant General expressing his disgust with how the Army treated him and asking to be retired from the military. An honorable discharge was granted.

Robinson's baseball career got launched when he signed with the Kansas City Monarchs, one of the teams in the Negro Leagues, where he drew the attention of Branch Rickey who was scouting for talent to add to the Dodgers' roster.

Interviewed for the documentary, the legendary Buck O'Neil, who played most of his career with the Kansas City Monarchs, revealed that Robinson hated the Negro Leagues because they were poorly financed and operated in a hectic, disorganized fashion.

The key to Rickey drafting Robinson into the Dodger farm team in Montreal was to convince the proud ballplayer that he would have to hold his temper in check and not respond to the vicious taunts, racial epithets and worse while not retaliating.

Racial discrimination against Robinson was so pervasive that there were teams in Southern cities in the minorleagues that refused to play if Robinson was on the field. One city cancelled a game claiming the lights didn't work, and this was for a day game.

Robinson's widow, Rachel, playing a prominent role in the documentary, observes that her husband felt the pressure to succeed on the field to achieve social progress because “he felt the weight of black people on his shoulders.”

Animosities to a black player was no less virulent when Robinson made his entry on to the majestic grounds of Ebbets Field and even some Dodger teammates like Dixie Walker asked to be traded rather than play with a man of color.

The second part of “Jackie Robinson,” though it includes film clip highlights of his playing days in Brooklyn, incorporates a look at Robinson's life after baseball when he wrote a newspaper column and assumed a more assertive stance as a civil rights activist.

Robinson entered the business world as the first black person to serve as vice president of a major American corporation, the Chock full o' Nuts company that originated from a chain of New York coffee shops.

Not affiliated with any political party, Robinson was nonetheless involved and surprised many by actively supporting Richard Nixon during the 1960 presidential campaign after being unimpressed by his opponent.

Both history buffs and baseball lovers should enjoy “Jackie Robinson” for the great footage of great moments like stealing home plate in the 1955 World Series and public peaking for civil rights. Hurry to catch this on the PBS website before you have to search elsewhere. ★

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# MUSINGS

By Mike Ceremello



## Who is Not Complying? More On City Government

Commentary by Mike Ceremello

Just when you think it can't get any worse, those in charge schedule another council meeting designed to demonstrate their stick-tuitiveness in finding ways to stick it to you. I well remember the regime of Courville and Salmons and their modus operandi. If staff or the favored council child doesn't get what they want, keep bringing the item back until you can the dupes on the council to go your way.

Such is the nonsense on increasing fines on the public for not going along with the mass hysteria panic-demic Kung flu public health and safety order from any tyrannical control freak lodged in government. First, you have the fact that no one in Dixon has been diagnosed with this flu ... NO ONE ... as in not even one.

Second, who is not complying? Those who wanted to go to church for Easter? At least two congregations got visits from the police. The members of the Moose Lodge who choose to exercise their right to peaceful assembly while quaffing down a couple of cold ones before scooting out the back door when the gendarmes arrive? Those who gathered after a funeral at a private home? The point is this isn't a daily mass thumbing of their noses at authority issue. It is the distaste government has for individuality and choice.

So what is on the agenda for this week's council meeting (and yes I am writing this before the meeting occurs)? The city liar has shown his incompetence once again and his use of the previously mentioned old style in bringing back increased fines for the third time because \$500 fines for the first offense wasn't going to fly as an urgency ordinance. The hilarity of incompetence is contained in the details.

Why pass a fine schedule which won't go into effect for 30 days when it is predicated on the shelter in place order being retained? The pressure is on to reopen California and businesses verified by the Huntington Beach protest, one scheduled for the Capitol on April 20, and the President's push for plans from various governors in whose States the disease statistics are dropping. With outdoor temperatures rising to 90 this coming Friday, I suspect the little bug has seen its better days.

Why is White holding a closed session briefing on a "THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OF FACILITIES" when those facilities are shut down? Why can't he present this before the public if he is recommending easing? As the facts show the threat is non-existent, he should be able to argue before the public if he still thinks there is a threat so those of us who aren't sheep can tell him he is off his rocker.

Next on the idiot's list for White are actions concerning the Independent Voice newspaper of Dixon. While I can't blame White for the council's reticence against ending the vendetta against this paper, I can ask him how he is able to be so persuasive with dubious arguments yet can't convince these councilmembers when they are teetering on being personally sued in Federal court.

Dave Scholl's long ongoing lawsuit should have been settled long ago. To compound matters, as I told you last week, White took it upon himself to start his own feud by ignorantly claiming that the publishers were in breach of contract where no contract exists and should have adjudication removed because of a transfer of ownership. White stands to

profit as his self generated litigation will cost all of us unnecessarily as we pad his pockets once again.

I will make the not so large leap to presume this is the unidentified potential litigation on the closed session list. Where the humor lies is there is an item on the regular agenda for a request for proposals for legal advertising. I can thank White for proving that you can teach a dumb old dog a new trick since for the first time in five or more years he actually placed this on an agenda in a timely manner.

So tell me Dougie, if the paper shouldn't be adjudicated, why are you going out for an RFP when there is only one other paper in town? Legally until this is settled in court, if it goes there, you would have to do this. On the other hand, given your warping of constitutional law before Superior Court judges, you could add to your billable hours.

Let's leave the lying lawyer for bigger game on the Richter scale of ridiculousness. We have a vote coming in November on the tripled water rate repeal. I hope you are enjoying the April 1st 50% rate increase which is the second of four increases coming your way. According to my theory which is actually fact, the city staff will continue to repeat their arguments about why they need the increase while not answering the public's pertinent questions.

During public comment at the last council meeting I asked Jim Ernest to investigate the cost of electricity as a component of the annual expenses. Seat Pederson asked for a full review of the finances of the system. So what did we get? A report from the city engineer, Joe Leach, repeating the fallacies contained within the consultant's fantasy of projects with nothing on cash flow statements of yearly revenues and expenses.

Giving budgetary figures is not the same as actuals. How much did we pay to pump water at all of our well sites? If you can't answer that simple question, you need to look for another job elsewhere shuffling paper. What I did see brings up this question.

Why was \$1.7 million the figure for operating expenses for this current year and only \$1 million is budgeted for next year? Maybe Ernest should take his own advice and "write a book on how to operate the system for 50% less". By the way, capital outlays are not part of operating costs although they could be included in maintenance depending on what was purchased. Without details, who can tell?

Again instead of directly answering questions such as determining all alternatives for re-drilling wells, this staff person continues to bleat the council backed mantra of we need your money to waste.

I will remind you that Joe Leach is the one who told us all that our streets would be undrivable by 2019 without a sales tax devoted to road repair. Well our streets are being maintained and brought back thanks to a hot tar machine and slurry seals by an outside contractor.

These are the types of people put in charge of your city with your vote. What is the unintended consequence? You have a disgruntled mayor who gave up trying to work with these people.

I am sure this isn't what the good people of Dixon really want for this town. We don't need tyrants dictating to us. We don't need fools following fallacies instead of readily available facts about a flu. Wouldn't it be nice if there was some actual thought emanating from our representatives? How about a plan for solving our city's problems? ★

## How Much Are City Development Fees?

Continued from page 1  
revenues, special assessment revenues, and general revenues, from State and federal grant funds, and in the case local public utilities, out of the rate base. Development fees were a minor part of local budgets.

Are there things that could be done: reducing fees by shifting to other capital finances sources might make home ownership more affordable for folks. Are there ways to streamline fees? Can fees be consolidated?? Is there technology which could be used? Can fees be downloaded for the applicants to fill out?

Has anyone reviewed the city work's work and the quality of their product? Is it outstanding and efficient? How does the city council evaluate the city's work? Is there a process for the developers to have input into the quality or the services they receive? Is there a qualified oversight committee that makes recommendations? Sure, seems like that for \$66 million in fees any and all suggestions should be taken and that there should be evaluation and oversight.

Development fees are very high in California. If California was not so densely populated, it is

not likely the fees charged would be an issue; here would be no need to charge development fees. Whether through taxes or assessments, local governments would simply charge every member of the community the same service price. But with the congestion, California has laws which say the city has to have to pay for growth which costs more for new residents. But if these fees are reasonable, or approached with efficiency these costs should not be inequitable or overly intrudable.

All plan checks and permit fees (except mobile home set-up and alterations) are based on the value of the project. The project total is the value of all the construction that the permit is issued for. This includes all finish work, roofing, electrical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, elevators, fire extinguishing systems, any other permanent work or permanent equipment, normal site preparation and paving. It does not include the cost of the land. Before obtaining your building permits, you must pay any required sewer and water hookup fees and encroachment permit fees. You also will be required to pay school impact fees to the

affected school district.

It would be interesting to know what rhyme and reason is used locally to set these fees. Marin, Alameda, Sonoma and Contra Costa have a new process for new or upgraded service connections though a single application for new construction.

The paperwork process for these applications can span 1,000 pages and is not easy to understand. The product should be short and simple so that the average person can understand what is being said. Cities could also expand by-right designations, which allow projects that conform to existing codes to go forward without lengthy review periods.

Flexibility in design requirements would also help reduce housing costs, especially if design review was removed from request for proposal and request for qualifications requirements and addressed later in the development process

We are living in a time of modern technology and our council needs to look at the fees process in Dixon to see how it can be simplified. Remember 10 years ago, taxis were relevant—then Uber came on the scene and costs came down. ★

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# COVID-19 and its Effects on Your Community

By Bill Dodd, Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
and Thom Bogue

Dixon faces unprecedented challenges as the coronavirus pandemic forces us to pause our normal lives.

Families grapple with economic uncertainty as businesses shut down and workers stay home to slow the spread. Parents experience the challenge of homeschooling kids. And there is widespread fear about what infection could mean to loved ones. Sadly, Yolo County recently suffered its first coronavirus deaths.

We and our teams are doing much to help. But we want to share the most important message: our efforts are meaningless unless we all take seriously our responsibility to each other. Stay home and physically distance when you must leave for work or groceries. Early indicators suggest California's efforts to slow the spread of the virus in this way are working. We're encouraged by what we see. We cannot let up until we are all safe.

Do what you can, whether volunteering at the food bank, giving blood or sending what you can to a local relief charity. Check on your neighbor, from a safe distance. We cannot do what thousands of you can do to get us through this emergency.

For our part, all levels of government have come together to address the pandemic and its impacts. State and federal governments are working to help nurses, doctors and hospitals to deal with any surge in COVID-19 patients. We're investing in more beds and equipment as well as testing to get a better handle on how the virus is being transmitted.

The city and local groups have kicked in, encouraging continued self-isolation to prevent more people from becoming ill. Donation drives have generated supplies of much-needed personal protective equipment such as masks. School campuses, which are closed until at least summer, are transitioning to online instruction and still providing meals to children in need.

Fortunately, we have been prudent in years past with our finances and have set aside rainy day funds for emergencies like this. Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state Legislature are now able to devote much-needed resources to this crisis.

Much attention is also being focused on the economic fallout. A federal stimulus program supported by our own Congressman John Garamendi is expected to put checks in the hands of all working Americans. Unemployment benefits have been streamlined, increased and extended to help people who lost jobs. Loans and grants are now available to help small businesses weather closures.

Gov. Newsom has also suspended evictions of people who cannot pay their rent due to the crisis. The DMV extended

license and registration renewal deadlines for 60 days. An extension is now in place for filing state income taxes and the county will waive fees and penalties for property taxes that are late due to crisis-related hardship.

Local government is the backbone of emergency response. We're heartened by the resilience of city and county agencies as they continue to provide services such as police and fire fighting -- despite the new financial burden. The state and federal governments need to continue to support local agencies, providing assistance and resources on the long road to recovery.

The crisis is also putting a financial strain on renters and homeowners. The governor has issued an executive order preventing evictions and foreclosures on those affected by the crisis. While we encourage everyone who can afford to make their payments to continue, we also know many landlords and banks are generously working with their neighbors. Reach out to them to see if they can offer flexibility on payments or deferments.

Again, we all must do our part though isolation and physical distancing. This is especially important for people over 65 or those who are medically vulnerable. Staying home as much as possible, frequently washing hands and wearing face masks when seeking essential services helps us to avoid overwhelming hospitals. If you become ill, call your doctor before going to a hospital or medical office.

Make no mistake -- this is a time of hardship. But if we follow the advice of public health experts and limit contact, we will get through it. Dixon has weathered recent fires, earthquakes and power shut-offs, and we'll get through this too, as we always have -- together.

Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Solano, Yolo, Sonoma, Contra Costa, and Sacramento counties. You can learn more about the district and Senator Dodd at [www.sen.ca.gov/dodd](http://www.sen.ca.gov/dodd).

Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry represents the 4th Assembly District, which includes all of Lake and Napa Counties, parts of Colusa, Solano and Sonoma Counties, and all of Yolo County except West Sacramento.

Mayor Thom Bogue has been Dixon's mayor since 2016.

•For more information about the pandemic as well as state resources, go to <https://covid19.ca.gov/> or call 2-1-1.

•Whether you're in medicine or not, you can find ways to help at [Serve.CA.Gov](http://Serve.CA.Gov).

•Small business assistance programs: <https://business.ca.gov/coronavirus-2019/>

•Unemployment benefits: [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov)

•Local services: <https://www.ci.dixon.ca.us/> ★

# Keep on Truckin': Suspend AB 5

Commentary  
by Senator John Moorlach

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - 'It's absurd to effectively ban "gig" workers while millions are trying to figure out how to make a living from home'

With most Californians hibernating in their homes for "social distancing," trucking has become even more important. Independent truckers bring us our food, water, medical supplies, clothing and, when available, the most essential commodity: toilet paper.

Which is why my Senate Bill 990 is absolutely crucial and ought to be passed when the California Legislature returns to Sacramento. When amended, it would suspend until January 2022 the severe restrictions on independent workers imposed by Assembly Bill 5 from last year. AB 5 restricts the freedom to work in many fields: translators, transcribers, writers, dancers and teachers, among many others.

There are too many businesses opportunities that do not fit in the "employer/employee" box. Especially independent

truckers who work for multiple companies throughout the year, using their vehicles and time.

Independent truckers are truly essential because, if food is not delivered, people go hungry. If the medicines don't go to hospitals, patients may die.

Trucking is one of the few industries recruiting more people, for obvious reasons. ...

Despite the health crisis, independent truckers continue climbing into the cab of their individually owned 18-wheelers every day to make sure the routine, everyday items we take for granted are delivered. No drivers, no deliveries. No deliveries, no store shelves stocked with products.

One official who just doesn't get this is California Attorney General Xavier Becerra. He's continuing his legal actions against independent truckers ....

Gig workers need similar flexibility. ... And independent truckers need the freedom to keep on truckin'.

SB 990 gives Californians room to debate AB 5, while keeping the economy rolling down the Interstate Highway. ★

# There's Always Tomorrow

By Rev. James L. Snyder

For almost four weeks now, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly have enjoyed some exceptional time together.

During the last several weeks, my wife spent a lot of time in her "Craft Room." She does a lot of crafts, and I am not allowed in that room.

The other day as I walked by the craft room, I looked in, and she said, "Is there anything you want?"

I knew the answer she was expecting, and so I gave it to her and went to the other end of the house. She does a lot of work in there. In fact, she has been making face masks for people.

With a smile on my face, I asked her, "Are you going to make me a face mask?"

Without even looking up, she said, "I don't have enough material."

There was no way I was going to ask her to explain what she meant by that. Down deep inside, I knew what she meant.

Every once in awhile, she would ask me to do something, and I would respond by telling her that I'll get to it and do it.

"I thought you were going to take out the garbage," she said to me the

other day.

"I will," I mumbled to her as I was doing some reading.

"When?" She said with a very stern tone in her voice. "You said you would do it yesterday."

Being very nonchalant, I said, "Well, there's always tomorrow." Then I would laugh. I noticed, though, she never laughed.

I am not quite sure how many times I pulled that one on her, but she finally had enough.

Looking at me, she said, "You said that yesterday. This is the tomorrow you were talking about yesterday."

I had to stop and think about what she was talking about. Tomorrow and yesterday are just words as far as I am concerned.

During this hiatus, I didn't think too much about the schedule. And so as far as I was concerned, yesterday and tomorrow have no real significance to me. One day is as good as the other.

My wife, on the other hand, has a schedule that she loves to keep to. In fact, since this hiatus, she has cleaned the house from top to bottom 117 times.

At least it seems that way to me.

Our house is so clean

that I have no reason to sneeze anymore. If was any dirt, pollen, or dust, it is completely gone. I did not know how much I enjoyed the dust.

We were watching television together the other night, and a ridiculous idea danced through my head. With nothing more to think about, this idea took focus.

Doing a commercial, I stared across the room, and my wife said, "What are you looking at?"

Staring intently, I pointed and said, "Is that dust I see over there?"

As I watched her search for that maverick dust particle, I could not help but think of a verse of Scripture. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

One thing I have learned, and that is, all of my yesterdays, todays and tomorrows are in God's hands, and I have nothing whatsoever to worry about.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail [jamesnsnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnsnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com). ★



## Blaming China, WHO Isn't Scapegoating

President Donald Trump slammed the World Health Organization at a recent news briefing and was immediately accused of scapegoating.

There's no doubt that Trump is inclined to shift blame when possible (and even when it isn't). He'll never take ownership of the testing debacle at the outset of our coronavirus response or admit it was wrong initially to minimize the virus.

Yet none of this detracts from the force of his critiques of China (although he blows hot and cold on that) and the WHO, which are at the center of this international catastrophe and must be held to account.

Without China's deceit and WHO's solicitude for Beijing, the outbreak might have been more limited, and the world at the very least would have had more time to react. China committed unforgivable sins of commission, affirmatively lying about the outbreak and punishing doctors and disappearing journalists who told the truth, whereas the WHO committed sins of omission

– it lacked independence and courage at a moment of great consequence.

In effect, China and the WHO worked together to expose the rest of the world to the virus, at the same time they downplayed its dangers.

China acted as you'd expect. Countries that run gulags aren't typically noted for their good governance and transparency. The WHO is supposed to be different. According to its constitution, "The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent on the fullest co-operation of individuals and States."

But it's hard to see how the WHO would have acted any differently if its constitution contained a proviso stipulating that it should validate Chinese propaganda as much as possible, especially in the midst of a world-threatening outbreak of a novel virus.

On Jan. 14, WHO tweeted that "preliminary investigations" by Chinese authorities had found no evidence of human-to-human transmission. Several days later, it reported "limited" human-to-human transmission, although it downplayed the finding as typical of respiratory illnesses.

Then, the WHO declined to call the outbreak in China a public health emergency of international concern on Jan. 22, at the same time there were confirmed cases

in Taiwan, Australia, Japan, Thailand and South Korea. After the WHO finally declared the emergency, it proceeded to drag its feet on declaring a pandemic, waiting until March 12.

One of the worst things China did was seal off Hubei province from the rest of the country while flights continued around the world. Was the WHO concerned about that? No, it was fully on board. As a headline in Reuters put it in early February, "WHO chief says widespread travel bans not needed to beat China virus."

Incredibly enough, in late January, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was praising Chinese officials for "the transparency they have demonstrated." Despite the emerging consensus that China has lied about its number of cases and deaths, WHO hasn't yet said a discouraging word about China's actions. It's been resolute, though, in excluding Taiwan from its workings, just as Beijing dictates.

Trump takes more than his share of potshots, but that doesn't mean he's always off the mark. China and the WHO are genuine malefactors who deserve all the obloquy the president, and anyone else, can heap on them.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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# Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



## "I'm using a dry fly!"

it together, attached a reel and some four-weight line and set it on the couch and looked at it.

Marjorie was off visiting her sister, so she couldn't help him. But there's a pull, an irresistible draw to a fly rod. He had to cast it.

Now.

It took Marvin about 20 minutes to negotiate the front steps with that wheelchair and the Fenwick. Oh, he could've called a friend to help him, but how could he possibly explain why?

Finally, he negotiated the sidewalk and then the edge of the street itself. There were no cars coming this early afternoon.

Up came the Fenwick. A few swishes in the air told Marvin he'd done the right thing in ordering the rod. So he ran out some line and began casting. About halfway across the street was a large mulberry leaf. He did a double haul on the line and sent the fly toward the leaf.

It took several tries before he hit it, but when he made that cast, you could've sold tickets to it. His fly came to rest about three feet above the leaf and then fluttered gently down onto its target. Marvin's smile said it all.

Then the school bus came around the corner full of kids heading home, and Marvin realized he was casting a fly rod from a wheelchair onto dry pavement.

"Hi Mr. Pincus!" yelled one of the kids. "Catch anything?"

"A little slow today, Billy," he yelled back.

"Isn't it hard to catch fish without water?" Billy yelled.

"It's okay, son," Marvin said with a grin. "I'm using a dry fly!"

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# Social Security Matters

## Social Security for Children and Younger Wife

# The Turlock Web of Corruption



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I am 59. My wife is 48 and has been a stay at home mom for 15 years. We have children aged 13, 10, and 5. I know it makes sense to delay the start of benefits, but I understand that it's more complicated when small children are involved. Does it make sense for me to begin receiving benefits at 62 so I can also collect more for the children? **Signed: Older Father**

**Dear Older Father:** Yes, the issue is more complicated when children are involved. Here's why: If you claim your own Social Security (SS) at age 62, your minor children would be able to receive child benefits, and your wife would also be able to receive "child-in-care" benefits, even though she is not yet age-eligible for regular spouse benefits. Usually, a minor child is entitled to 50% of the parent's full retirement age (FRA) SS amount, and a younger care-giving wife is entitled to the same. But when there are multiple dependents collecting on the same worker's record the Family Maximum applies. The Family Maximum limits the amount of total benefits which can be received by the family to 150% to 188% of the worker's FRA benefit amount. Social Security determines the Family Maximum for each individual case with a complex formula that uses your "primary



insurance amount" (or "PIA," the amount you get at your FRA). Your PIA is broken into 4 parts and a different percentage of each part is taken and summed up to arrive at your Family Maximum. Then your PIA is subtracted from the Family Maximum amount and the remainder is equally divided among your minor children and wife. Once a minor child turns 18 (or 19 if still in high school) that child no longer receives benefits and the Family Maximum is recomputed, with the new amount equally divided among the remaining dependents. When your youngest child turns 16, your wife will no longer be eligible for child-in-care benefits. But there's more to consider.

By taking your benefit at age 62, it will be cut by 30% from what it would be if you waited until your full retirement age to claim, and that reduction is permanent. Plus that reduced benefit will mean your wife's benefit as your widow, should you pre-decease her, would be less than it might otherwise be if you waited until later to claim.

Until you reach your full retirement age, you will also be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits the amount of money you can earn before Social Security takes back some of your benefits. The limit for 2020 is \$18,240 and if you exceed that amount, SS will take back benefits equal to half of the excess over the limit. They take back those benefits by withholding your SS until they recover what you owe because you

exceeded the limit. And, if your benefits are withheld because you exceed the earnings limit, your children and wife will not get their benefits for any month(s) that your benefits are withheld. FYI, the earnings limit increases by about 2.6 times in the year you reach your FRA and no longer applies once you reach your FRA, but any dependent benefits not paid because you exceeded the earnings limit are lost and cannot be recovered.

So, as you can see, there are many things you should consider. If you will be retired from working at age 62 and don't need to worry about the earnings limit, then claiming then, along with the dependent benefits, could be a prudent choice. But if you will continue to work and earn a significant salary, you might very well find that the benefits you and your dependents lose due to the earnings limit will overshadow any advantage you might gain by filing at that time. And, you might also find that the permanent cut in your own benefit because you claimed early, along with the reduction to your wife's future survivor benefit amount, will make claiming at age 62 less attractive.

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

### Commentary by Michael Ceremello

The city of Turlock is the second largest city in Stanislaus County with a population around 73,000 located on Highway 99 just south of Modesto. Situated half way between these two towns is the city of Ceres. The commonality between Ceres, Turlock and Dixon is the city attorney firm of Churchwell and White.

While Doug White attends Turlock and Dixon meetings, Tom Hallinan functions as the city attorney of Ceres. Hallinan is running for Stanislaus county supervisor. The connection between White and Hallinan becomes problematic when the man hired by Turlock to be city manager, Toby Wells, allegedly was going to be fired from the city of Ceres because he made "sweet heart" deals with friends to provide water at a lower cost than to the general population.

Preventing the public from knowing this is the personnel exemption for closed meetings. Illegal actions are hidden under the guise of protecting the criminal from damage to his or her reputation. Let's look at some facts.

At the March 10, 2020 Turlock city council meeting when the hiring of the city manager came up, members of the public spoke out against White saying that an "in house" attorney would be a better idea. Mr. Redd also said that Wells was being paid \$185,000 in Ceres and Turlock was bumping that up to \$220,000. It was also questioned why this was being done in a rush as there was no formal recruitment process which had been scheduled.

To protect Wells, did Hallinan and

White simply circumvent this process? As the recruitment process had already begun, where an interim city manager was to occupy that position to as late as November, why was the council content to just hire Wells? Where was the background check of Wells? Why did councilwoman Nicole Larson defend this process as well as Gil Esquer, both of whom put up softball questions to justify their positions?

The city of Turlock, as are many rural communities, is having financial difficulties. Why would a council not look to cut costs to hire a city manager for less and why would they retain Churchwell/White, which has a reputation of driving up attorney fees to a million dollars a year? The city of Patterson paid \$4.5 million over 4 and one half years, Dixon was at a million last year, and technically bankrupt Atwater was on the road to that amount before White resigned as their city attorney.

The web does not stop just within White's firm, however, as White was the treasurer for State Assemblyman Adam Gray's campaign. The FPPC fined Gray for White not filing timely statements. The Turlock Journal's editor refused to respond to multiple calls. The Atwater-Wintun Times silenced reporter Beverly Barela. The Merced Sun Star continued to publish the "fake news". This even reached into the courtroom of a Superior Court judge making rulings on that case.

The Golden Rule is triumphing over blind justice as those with money and connections are deciding what is right and what the public has a right to know. ★

# Drive-in Church Services Now Permitted

*Continued from page 1*  
be it delivering food to the elderly, hosting addiction support groups, providing spiritual comfort and counseling for Californians in crisis, and so many other essential services."

On Tuesday, United States Attorney General William P. Barr issued a statement condemning restrictions on houses of worship that are

not applied "evenhandedly" to all businesses.

"We intend to pursue this case until all Californians are restored the full free exercise of religion guaranteed to all Americans under the Constitution," Dhillon said.

For more information about this case, please visit <https://libertycenter.org/pf/gish-v-newsom/>

The Center for American

Liberty is a nonprofit litigation, education, and public policy organization dedicated to advancing Free Speech rights and Civil Liberties. Founded by Harmeet Dhillon in 2019, the Center for American Liberty offers pro-bono and low-bono legal representation to Americans whose fundamental freedoms are violated. ★

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# Ask Toni

## Laid Off... Turn 65 April 30th What Do I Do??



Toni King

Toni:

I need your help to enroll in Medicare because I will turn 65 on April 30th. On April 10th, I was laid off due to the current economic conditions. My employer benefits ended the day I was laid off. I have no idea what to do!!

A friend recently gave me a Toni Says® newspaper article with your information and said I could email you regarding getting my Medicare started as quickly as possible. I am concerned that I will get the dreaded Medicare Part B penalty because I didn't have Medicare start April 1st. I cannot get a straight answer as to what we need to do. Help me Please!!

~ Mary Ann from The Woodlands Area

Mary Ann:

Every day I am hearing from Americans who are losing their jobs due to these trying times with Coronavirus and downfall of the economy. Don't fret, Mary Ann ... April is your birthday month and you can enroll anytime in April and your Medicare Part B will begin May 1st.

You do not have to wait until April 30th to enroll nor have you made a major

mistake because your Medicare Part A and B did not begin on April 1st.

Medicare has a special enrollment window called the enrollment effective date schedule, which is NOT mentioned in the Medicare and You handbook but is discussed in my new Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced edition.

On page 5 of Chapter 1 in the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced edition, there is a chart with a timeline explaining when and how to enroll when turning 65.

The official Medicare & You handbook, only discusses Medicare's "Initial Enrollment Period" and does not go into detail.

Below is what you need to understand regarding Medicare's effective date schedule:

- **Enrolling anytime 3 months before turning 65,** your Medicare begins the first day of the month you turn 65. *Since you, Mary Ann will turn 65 on April 30th of this year; you could have enrolled in Medicare Part A and/or B in January, February, or March (3 months prior) for an April 1st effective date. But you missed this window of opportunity and have other options.*

- **Enroll in Medicare the month you turn 65** which is April, then your Medicare will begin 1 month after you sign up which is May 1st. *You can enroll in a Medicare Supplement without answering one health*

*question because you are in your Medigap 6-month enrollment period.*

**Now the fun begins:**

- **Enroll in Medicare 1 month after you turn 65,** your Medicare will begin 2 months after you sign up. Enroll in May; Your Medicare Parts A and B begin August 1st.

- **Enroll in Medicare 2 months after you turn 65,** your Medicare will begin 3 months after you sign up. Enroll in June; Medicare will begin October 1st.

- **Enroll in Medicare 3 months after you turn 65,** your Medicare will begin 3 months after you sign up. Enroll Medicare in July your Medicare will begin November 1st.

Mary Ann, your important 6-month Medigap/Medicare Supplement open enrollment application period begins on the 1st of the month, which you have enrolled in Medicare Part B and you do not have to answer one (1) medical question. There is a 6-month window to apply for any Medicare Supplement without health underwriting.

*Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced edition, which is a simple guide that puts Medicare in people terms, 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. ★*

# 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.

A Spanish version of *Get My Payment* is expected in a few weeks.

Don't normally file a tax return? Additional IRS tool helps non-filers

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>.

No action needed by most taxpayers  
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>. ★

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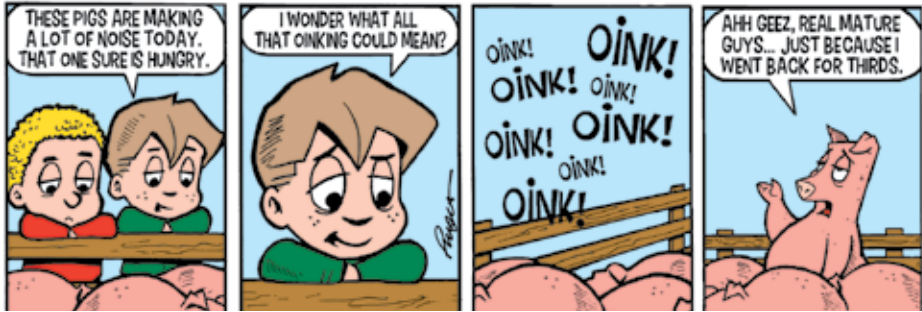
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# WEEKLY COMICS

## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

## The Spats



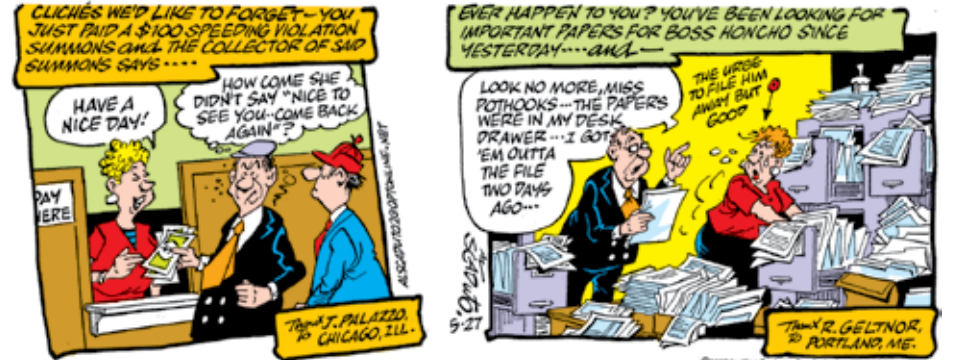
by Jeff Pickering

## Out on a Limb



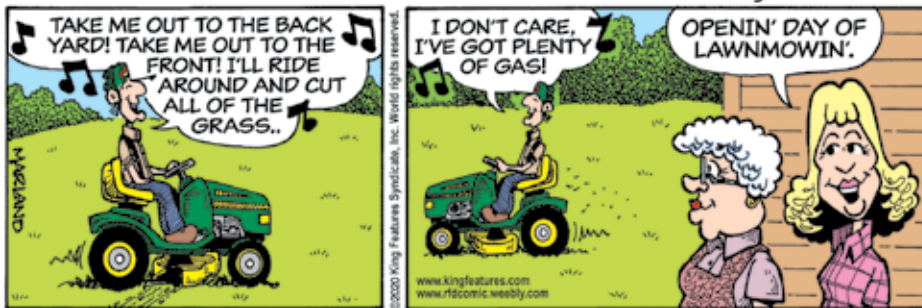
by Gary Kopervas

## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO

## R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

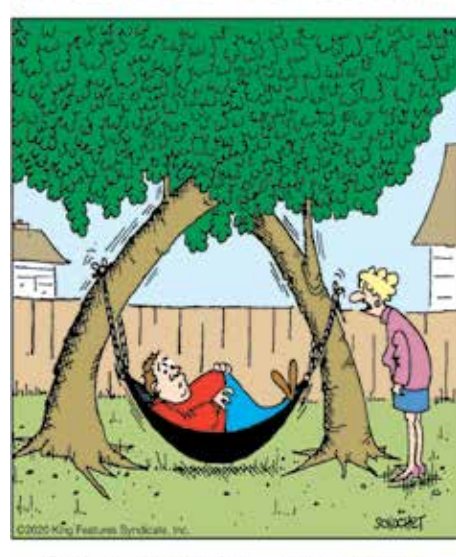


## GRIN & BEAR IT



"Insurance claim form!"

## LAFF-A-DAY



"Don't you think it's time you started thinking about a diet?"

## Just Like Cats & Dogs



by Dave T. Phipps

## HOCUS-FOCUS



BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Differences: 1. Sign is different. 2. Hat is missing. 3. Vest is added. 4. Tree is added. 5. Vest is added. 6. Hat is different.

## Crossword Puzzle on Page 9

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

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • FAIRY TALE CREATURES

### CLUES

ACROSS

- \*Like many mythical creatures
- Second mo.
- Spill the beans
- Convex molding
- "... the President's Men"
- Ankle support, e.g.
- Make a logical connection
- "E.T.'s craft"
- Des Moines native
- \*Fire-breather
- \*Household spirit
- Tucker of "Modern Family"
- Antonym of is
- \*Grimm's Queen
- Tailor-made
- Showing on TV
- "All's well that \_\_\_ well"
- Golly!
- Punctuation mark
- Seaport in Yemen
- Hitching post?
- Additionally
- Poison ivy or Poison oak
- One more than The Beatles
- Hold as a conviction
- \*Mrs. Potts or her son Chip
- Andrew Sean Greer's 2017 Pulitzer-winner novel
- Toast choice
- Jack and Jill's water jug
- "... Now or Never"
- \*Horse's cousin
- \*One of the seven dwarfs
- Ascetic holy Hindu
- HHS agency
- Relating to #25 Across
- Banana treat
- Go bad
- Australian canid
- Low of "Walk on the Wild Side" fame
- Card in the hole?
- \*The Forsyte \_\_\_\_, pl.

DOWN

- Wisecrack
- Like a zealous fan
- Regular attendee
- Hipbone-related
- Cuban music genre, pl.
- \*Half-man, half-goat
- \*Santa's helper
- Splotches
- Arch on a face
- Croquet turf
- Popular smoothie berry
- Well, to Sofia Loren
- Relating to living organisms
- Opposite of alpha
- Genetic initials
- Parents hope to do this with values
- \*Beauty's beau
- Empower
- Droopy
- \*Big Bad One
- Yellow brick one
- Feeling worse than before
- \*Like Curious George
- \*Garden dweller
- Finger move
- Moneyed one
- Pine product
- Choose not to do something, 2 words
- Toni Morrison's "\_\_\_ Baby"
- 1,862 plots, for short
- Prefix for below
- Old photo color
- Stalin's domain
- Back of the neck
- Not active
- Past tense of chide
- Fill beyond full
- Sound of passing bullet
- \*Baba \_\_\_
- \*Who Bugs Bunny talks to?
- Numbers, abbr.

### 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								65	66		67				68
69								70			71				
72								73			74				

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### Sudoku Puzzle on Page 9

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

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

Solutions on Page 9

### LEGAL ADS FOR SOLANO COUNTY?

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# Patriots and Preachers

**Commentary**  
by Lou Binninger

It's ironic that the church is in hiding as April 19 was Patriot's Day, the anniversary of the "shot heard round the world" (April 19, 1775). It was the day the American War for Independence began.

That day, being warned of approaching British troops Dr. Joseph Warren dispatched Paul Revere to Lexington and Concord with the news. Then, Pastor Jonas Clark alerted his male church members in Lexington that the British Army was on its way to seize the colonists' weapons and to arrest patriot leaders Sam Adams and John Hancock.

Both men were hidden in Pastor Clark's home with a dozen armed guards outside. Others (75-80) from the church were staged with muskets on Lexington Green when more than 800 British troops appeared at day break.

According to eyewitnesses, British soldiers opened fire on the militiamen without warning immediately killing eight of Pastor Clark's people. The Minutemen took cover and returned fire. These were the first shots of the Revolutionary War.

Ironically, in light of the lukewarm church today this took place on Lexington Green, which was located in the shadow of the church building where the men worshipped each Sunday. The men that were guarding Adams and Hancock escorted them out of harm's way shortly before



The United States of America, and all the liberty she provides, is in the crosshairs of the political Left. MPG File photo

the troops' appearance.

The heroic efforts of Pastor Clark and his brave church saved the lives of Adams and Hancock. Eight courageous men gave their lives protecting the leaders who would become two of America's greatest Founding Fathers. It is not exaggeration to say that Pastor Jonas Clark and his men are as important to the story of America's independence as any of our Founding Fathers.

The eight heroes who died that day are: Robert Munroe, Jonas Parker, Samuel Hadley, Jonathan Harrington, Jr., Isaac Muzzy, Caleb Harrington, and John Brown, all of

Lexington, and Mr. Porter of Woburn.

When the British troops marched forward to cross the Concord Bridge, hundreds of colonists arrived to defend it. An intense battle ensued as the British troops were routed and then retreated to Boston. America's War for Independence had begun.

The key aspects of this historic day are often hidden by historians: 1) it was an attempted gun confiscation by the British troops that ignited America's War for Independence, and 2) it was a pastor and his congregation that accounted for most of the "Minutemen" who engaged in the initial skirmish of the Revolution.

The church was at the hub of the rebellion. Brave pastors of Colonial America were the children of the Pilgrims.

James Caldwell, John Peter Muhlenberg, Joab Houghton, and Jonas Clark among others are remembered as patriots and preachers whose inspiration, leadership and personal sacrifice led to the United State of America.

James Caldwell was called 'The Rebel High Priest' or 'The Fighting Chaplain.' The British hated Caldwell so intensely that they murdered his wife, Hannah, in her own home, as she sat with her children on her bed. Later, a fellow

American was bribed by the British to assassinate Caldwell. Americans loyal to the British burned both his house and church building.

When news of the Bunker Hill fight reached Virginia, John Peter Muhlenberg preached a sermon from Ecclesiastes chapter three to his congregation. He reminded the people that there was a time to preach and a time to fight. He said that, for him, the time to preach was past and it was time to fight. He then removed his vestments and stood before his congregants in the uniform of a Virginia colonel.

Muhlenberg eventually became a brigadier-general in the Continental Army,

and then, major general. He participated in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, and Yorktown. He went on to serve in both the US House of Representatives and US Senate.

Joab Houghton was in the Hopewell (New Jersey) Baptist Meeting House before services when he received information regarding the battles at Lexington and Concord. He stopped people before entering the building to explain the news of the battles.

He said slowly to a somber crowd, "Men of New Jersey, the red coats are murdering our brethren of New England! Who follows me to Boston?" And every man in the audience stepped out of line, and answered, "I!" It is recorded that there was not a coward or a traitor at the old Hopewell Baptist Meeting-House that day.

When you read of the Minutemen of Lexington, those were members of Jonas Clark's church. "It would not be beyond the truth to assert that there was no person at that time and in that vicinity – not only no clergyman but no other person of whatever calling or profession, who took a firmer stand for the liberties of the country, or was more ready to perform the duties and endure the sacrifices of a patriot, than the minister of Lexington."

Does this species of clergymen still exist today or did it pass like the dinosaurs?

(Get Lou's podcast at "No Hostages Radio" and his articles at [nohostages-radio.com](http://nohostages-radio.com)) ★

## 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 15, 2020

**1212** – A traffic accident occurred near the intersection of West A Street and Pitt School Road. One of the motorists was arrested for driving while impaired. He was booked into the Solano County Jail.

**1506** – A Dixon resident was cited for narcotics paraphernalia near the 1000 block on North 1st Street.

**1943** – Theft report was taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Dr.

**1955** – Hit and Run collision report was taken in the 400 block of North Adams St.

### Thursday, April 16, 2020

**0948** – A domestic violence incident occurred on the 300 block of East C Street. A female Dixon resident was booked into the Solano County Jail.

### Friday, April 17, 2020

**1900** – Report of vandalism reported in the 100 block of North Adams Street.

**2200** – Report of a verbal argument in the 500 block of South 1st Street resulted in the arrest of David Negron Jr. (40) of Dixon for public intoxication. He was taken to county jail.

### Saturday, April 18, 2020

**0200** – A vandalism report was taken from the 1300 block of Commercial Way.

**0820** – An assault report was taken from the 200 block of South Jackson Street.

### Sunday, April 19, 2020

**0435** – Battery report in the 400 block of West Chestnut Street.

**0642** – Officers were dispatched to a physical altercation in the 100 block of North First Street. As result of the investigation, Juan Oscar Garcia (10/4/1989) was arrested for assault and for violating the terms of his probation. James Alfred Stone (1/3/73) was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. Both subjects were transported and booked at the Solano County Jail. Neither party sustained major injuries.

**2258** – Vandalism discovered in the 1000 block of North 1st Street.

**2315** – 911 hang up in the 700 block of West D Street South resulted in the arrest of Stephanie Bennett (??) of Dixon for felony child abuse. She was taken to county jail.

### Monday, April 20, 2020

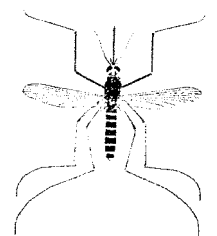
**0840** – Report of residential burglary in the 1000 block of Fielder Court

**0920** – Vandalism report at Hall Park

**0924** – Report of grand theft in the 2000 block of North First Street

**1127** – Officers responded to a report of domestic violence in the 1300 block of Valley Glenn. As a result of the investigation, Manuel Huego-Gonzalez (6/19/88) was arrested for felony domestic violence, DUI, violating the terms of his misdemeanor probation, and failing to have an interlock device on his vehicle. He was booked into the Solano County Jail.

## REDUCE THE RISK



### of Becoming Infected with the West Nile Virus

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

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

**Solano County Mosquito Abatement District**  
707.437.1116  
[solanomosquito.com](http://solanomosquito.com)