

Happy Valentine's Day



“ IT IS INFINITELY BETTER TO HAVE A FEW GOOD MEN THAN MANY INDIFFERENT ONES. ”

Letter to James Mchenry | Friday, August 10, 1798



HONOR PRESIDENTS DAY



# Dixon Independent Voice

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SEE INSIDE

BENEFIT FRUIT TREE SALE MARCH 1



PAGE 3

RECORD LOW COUNT OF MONARCH BUTTERFLIES



PAGE 9

DOWNTOWN DIXON ANNOUNCES 2025 PLANS



PAGE 3

## Recognizing Employee Service Milestones



Dixon City Council recognized city employees for service milestones, including, from left, Police Lt. Jenna Cameron (15 years), Finance Analyst II Stephanie Frank (five years) and Police Officer Scott Thorburn (five years). Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

By Shaunna Boyd

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - At the Feb. 4 meeting, the Dixon City Council heard a presentation of the 2024 Service Awards for Dixon city employees who had reached significant service milestones.

Reaching five years of service were Senior Account Clerk Sarah Johnson, Maintenance Worker I Eric Draper, Police Officer Scott Thorburn, Police Sgt. Lex Egbert, Administrative Clerk II Rachel Domgaard, Maintenance Worker II John Yandel, Community Service Officer II Brooke Autry, Utilities Maintenance Worker II David McAnelly, Police Sgt. MarJonne Roberson and Finance Analyst II Stephanie Frank.

Police Lt. Jenna Cameron was recognized for 15 years of service.

Police Records Supervisor Renee Protich was recognized for 20 years.

Human Resources Director Rachel Ancheta also announced the 2024 STAR Awards, in which city employees are nominated by members of the public or their colleagues for excellence in customer service, safety, teamwork and cost savings to the city. The recipients for 2024 were Finance Analyst II Frank, Senior Account Clerk Johnson, Junior Engineer Leland Markusen, Finance Analyst I Amy Andrade, Aquatics Maintenance Worker II Joshua Short and Senior Water Operator David Dunn.

From the STAR Awards, the city manager selects the Employee of the Year, and for 2024, it was Senior Water Operator Dunn. Ancheta said that Dunn was selected “for his dedication to providing excellent customer service and teamwork. There have been many instances where customers have given great feedback and

told us how inspirational David is for going above and beyond to help. Most recently, a customer expressed great gratitude for his professionalism and kindness and how happy they were that the City of Dixon had an employee like David.”

City Councilmembers congratulated the employees for their dedication to the city.

During general Public Comment, Ann Wallace of Dixon and Stacy Lewis of Vacaville shared their experience as Solano County Grand Jury members. February is Grand Jury Month and applications are now being accepted for new members.

Wallace explained that the civil grand jury was established in California in 1872.

“We operate under the authority of the California penal code. We serve as an investigative body. We are not

*Continued on page 10*

## Moose Lodge Dinner Raises \$5,000



Dixon Moose Lodge Number 1120, located at 180 W. B St., hosted a spaghetti dinner on Feb. 8 to raise funds toward keeping the Moose Lodge open for future generations. Photo courtesy of Dixon Moose Lodge Number 1120

Story by Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon Moose Lodge Number 1120, located at 180 W. B St., is a membership-based organization that focuses on community outreach efforts, serving those in need within their locales. From 6 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 8, the lodge hosted an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner to raise funds and connect with the community.

For \$20 per person, members and qualified guests were invited to take part in the event. According to Debbie Robinson, a Moose Lodge member, the fundraiser made about \$5,000 but cash is still being counted, as of press time.

The organization also hosted several taco nights, the last of which occurred at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 29. Also an all-you-eat event, the tacos were prepared by Roseville Moose Lodge members for \$3 per taco and \$6 for taco salad. Proceeds for these events go to the Moose Lodge to save it from closing.

“We got together because we wanted to make this happen and we did,” Robinson said. “We’re going to continue doing dinners and fundraisers to get our Moose (Lodge) back to where it needs to be. People don’t want to see it closed, so we need them to step up and volunteer their time to get it back where it needs to be.”

Both lodges are part of Moose International; an organization that, according to its website, hosts more than a million members across all 50 states, four Canadian provinces and Great Britain. The primary missions of Moose members are to support children in need and stand by senior members, both of the community and the organization.

According to Robinson, Dixon’s Moose Lodge has been around for generations and previously held many events to get the youth involved, from Easter Egg Hunts to

*Continued on page 2*

## Learning About Memory Loss

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - If you have noticed an increase in episodes of not being able to remember things, and not necessarily a person’s name, place or where you put your phone, you might be concerned that it isn’t just aging.

The senior living facility, Farmstead at Dixon, 350 Gateway Drive, held a presentation on caring for those with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia by Laura Wayman, an author and dedicated gerontologist.

Dementia is a group of symptoms and is the first sign of Alzheimer’s, which is a disease of the brain that affects language, reasoning, balance and coordination, and creates processing challenges.

“People aged 65 have a 50% chance of having some dementia,” Wayman said. “It is not an illness, a disease or condition but



Laura Wayman, an author and gerontology expert, introduced a “loving approach” to dementia care at the Farmstead at Dixon senior living facility.

it is manageable. Until you’re in it, you have no idea how difficult it is.”

Wayman shared her story about her parents who were farmers and lived a long distance away from family. Her mother kept telling the family that she was fine and that she was

taking care of their father. But there was no help or relief around so eventually she became exhausted and one night at dinner died of a massive heart attack. The well-cared-for husband wandered outside and no one knew what had happened.

So Wayman’s first advice to care providers was “You must build your village. The loss is so slow. For Alzheimer’s, it can be two to 20 years. The more you understand early, the more you can plan. Do not shy away from asking for

*Continued on page 10*



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# Life's too SHORT



## Delivering Valentine Happiness



Beautiful Valentine arrangements are at Dixon Florist. Courtesy photo

By Debra Dingman

When you read this, it will be one of my favorite holidays: Valentine's Day. There is so much fun one can do on this day to help people feel loved, cared about, and OK, maybe just good. Getting out the simplest of supplies that most of us have around the house such as paper, markers, color crayons and glue, one can make cards, book marks, drawings, poems or collages for your sweetheart, neighbors, friends, siblings, grandchildren, etc.

I thought it would be fun to tell you about some of the romantic gestures my family has experienced and I won't take credit but I have tried to help them understand that putting a bit of effort into love will make a lasting memory.

Once I hid a hotel key in his lunch bag with a note to meet me there after work. That took special arrangements with the hotel in advance because he left so early for work as a commuter.

One young woman I know came home to a room full of red balloons that she had to pop to find the secret message that her boyfriend loved her.

One young man planned a romantic trip to the coast and surprised his girlfriend with an engagement ring topped on the cupcake dessert after dinner.

When my children were little, they gave me their handprints in the shape of a heart and wrote sweet poems. One said, "I've left some little



This was a friend who came to my Valentine-making party a few years ago.

handprints on just about every wall - on furniture, doors, and windows - I've truly marked them all. Here is one that won't rub off to remember when I was small - because I'll love you forever, even when I'm big and tall." A special thank you to all those teachers who do these sweet projects with students!

I was told about a woman who painted beautiful rocks and left them at the front doors of her girlfriends. I've delivered a cellophane bag tied with pink and red bows and filled with Valentine chocolates to each of my neighbors.

When my sister and her husband lived on their sailboat, they kept a small stack of cards in a drawer and would "recycle" the pretty messages over

and over each year. How smart is that?

Just a couple years ago, when David and I had been married close to 25 years, he placed rose petals in the shape of a giant heart on our bed and printed out the words, "I Love You" on an 8.5 x 11 paper and placed it in the middle. I didn't know "older" people did these kinds of special things.

Since I have two sisters who are widows now, I plan to send my love (and flowers) to be delivered to their homes.

It takes so little to make someone delighted. Dixon is still a small town. You can deliver messages anywhere in town so easily. I hope you'll fish out the crayons... and you'll find that it makes you very happy to make others happy. ★

# Dixon News Briefs



Dixon Family Services, 155 N. Second St., is hosting a rummage sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 21 and 22. The organization is also looking to fill a part-time staff support position for additional clerical support. Courtesy photo

By MPG Staff

## DHS Presents: Dixon's Car Dealerships

The Dixon Historical Society is hosting a presentation on Dixon Car Dealerships of the 30s, 40s, 50s and beyond from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. Feb. 16. Taking place at Dixon United Methodist Church, 209 Jefferson St., this free event will include the history of Charles McGimsey Ford, Ron DuPratt Ford, Emil Rossi, Oldsmobiles and Allis-Chalmers Tractors, Hughs Brothers Chevrolet and Movay Chevrolet. Several guest speakers from these organizations will attend. This will be the Dixon Historical Society's first event in 2025.

For more information, visit [dixonhistoricalsociety.org](http://dixonhistoricalsociety.org)

## Girls on the Rise

The Solano County Bar Association is hosting a professional development event for young women ages 15 to 25. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 22, participants can meet women leaders in career fields such as Law, STEM, Business and First Responders. Taking place at Solano County Event Center, 601 Texas St., Fairfield, guests will also be offered the opportunity to tour a courtroom; parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

For purchase tickets, visit [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com).

## Dixon Dolphins Swim Registration Now Open

The Dixon Dolphins Swim Team is doing early bird registration until Feb. 28. With early registration, participants can pay \$315 and receive exclusive perks such as a sibling discount at \$300 per additional swimmer. Beginning March 1, registration costs will increase to \$350 per registrant. Volunteer opportunities are also available and preferred roles are first come, first served. Open for ages 4 to 18, the season begins in early April and ends in late July.

For more information, visit [dixondolphins.swimtopia.com](http://dixondolphins.swimtopia.com)

## Second annual Dixon FFA Car Show

The Dixon Future Farmers of America (FFA) is hosting the second annual Dixon FFA Car Show at Dixon High School, 555 College Way. From noon to 4 p.m. Feb. 15, the free public event will allow both Dixon High School and Dixon residents to showcase their cars to the public. Donations are welcome but not necessary and public parking will be available at the event.

For more information, visit the Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook page or contact [maria.c.torres@dixonusd.org](mailto:maria.c.torres@dixonusd.org).

## Dine and Donate Fundraiser

The Sacramento Valley National Support Committee is hosting a dine-and-donate event at The Brass Tap, 783 Orange Drive, Vacaville. From 11 a.m. to

10 p.m. Feb. 24, guests can drop by, meet the support committee, and grab lunch, dinner or take-out; present the flier (either physically or digitally) or mention the fundraiser to dedicate 15% of your total food and non-alcoholic beverage cost to the Sacramento Valley National Support Committee's Avenue of the Flags.

For more information, contact [info@svnsc.org](mailto:info@svnsc.org).

## Almond Bloom Playdate

The Bombshell group, a collective of event planners, artists and small businesses, is hosting the Almond Bloom Playdate from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 1. Taking place at 5751 Fry Road, Vacaville, this in-person event offers Easter-themed crafts and photo opportunities with farm animals and the Easter Bunny. Because it is held in a private almond orchard, reservations are required due to limited parking.

For more information visit [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com).

## Dixon Family Services' Rummage Sale

Dixon Family Services, 155 N. Second St., is hosting a rummage sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 21 and 22. The sale will have a wide variety of products on offer, including household items, clothes, vintage collectibles, antiques, books, videos, plants, games, toys and much more. Support Dixon Family Services while you treasure hunt. Only cash will be accepted at this event.

For more information, visit the Dixon Family Services Facebook page.

## Ruhstaller Comedy Show

Ruhstaller Beer Farm, 6686 Sievers Road, is holding a series of comedy shows throughout 2025, the next of which occurs from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Feb. 27. Hosted by comedian Eric Somers, for \$17.85 per person, guests will see performances from Sydney Stigerts, Adam Tiller and Teddy Hull.

For more information, visit the Stand-up Ruhstaller Facebook page. To buy tickets, visit [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com).

## 2025 Dixon Rotary Crab Feed

The Rotary Club of Dixon is hosting its 21st annual crab feed at 6 p.m. Feb. 22. Enjoy fresh Dungeness crab, pasta, salad and bread. After dinner, dance the night away to The Time Bandits. There will also be raffle prizes and a silent auction in which guests can participate. General admission is \$81.88 per person.

For more information, visit [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com), or call 916-240-0147.

## Veteran's Dinner

American Legion Post 208 is hosting a Veteran's Dinner from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Feb. 14 at Veterans' Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St. An all-you-can-eat fish, hush puppies, fries and coleslaw is \$12 per person.

For more information, visit American Legion Post 208's Facebook page. ★

## Moose Lodge Dinner Raises \$5,000



The Spaghetti Dinner was successful, raising about \$5,000 but funds are still being counted. Lodge representatives want to host community events such as a breakfast on Feb. 28, a fish fry on March 8 and a golf tournament on April 26. Photo courtesy of Dixon Moose Lodge Number 1120

Continued from page 1  
breakfast with Santa.

With support from Dixon's community members, the lodge representatives "hope to return to those days."

Dixon Moose Lodge Number 1120 will host a breakfast event on Feb. 23 and a fish fry, prepared by Karen Brown, on March 8. The lodge representatives will also host a golf tournament on April 26

with the times and locations still being determined.

"We just want to thank everyone who came out to support the Moose Lodge and the volunteers who helped out. If it wasn't for them, we couldn't have done it," Robinson said. "It was so amazing to watch this beautiful community step up. Please continue to support us and join the Moose Lodge." ★

## Celebrate Dixon Tickets on Sale

### Dixon Chamber of Commerce News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Tickets are now on sale for Celebrate Dixon, which runs from 5 to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 8 at the Dixon Fairgrounds' Denver Hall, 655 S. First St.

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce will honor the 62nd Annual Citizen of the Year, the 29th Annual Business of the Year, the Second Annual Nonprofit of the Year, the Ambassador of the Year and the Veteran of the Year.

New this year, the Dixon Chamber of Commerce will also honor Educator of the Year, Police Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year.

Tickets are \$75 per person and are available at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce office at 220 N. Jefferson St. Tickets can also be bought on [Eventbrite.com/CelebrateDixon](http://Eventbrite.com/CelebrateDixon).

Following the dinner of tri-tip, chicken, potato and salads, awards will be presented to Dixon residents, businesses, organizations and individuals who have made a significant impact on the quality of life in Dixon.

In addition, there will be a raffle, dessert auction and a silent auction, with a wide range of prizes.

For more information, call 707-678-2650 or send an email to [info@dixonchamber.org](mailto:info@dixonchamber.org). ★

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# Benefit Fruit Tree Sale March 1

## Winters Friends of the Library News Release

**WINTERS, CA (MPG)** - There's nothing like picking and eating fresh, tree-ripened fruit. You can beautify your yard and reduce your grocery bills at the Winters Friends of the Library annual Fruit Tree Sale.

The sale will be held (rain or shine) from 9 a.m. until sold out, Saturday, March 1 in the parking lot at 517 Railroad Ave. in Winters.

Friends of the Library members can enter the sale at 8:30 a.m. Not a member? You can join at the gate and get in early.

Trees for sale this year include apricot, apple, cherry, olive, nectarine, peach, plum, pluot, mandarin and orange. Blackberry



Trees for sale this year include apricot, apple, cherry, olive, nectarine, peach, plum, pluot, mandarin and orange. Photo courtesy of Winters Friends of the Library



The Winters Friends of the Library annual Fruit Tree Sale will be held on Saturday, March 1. Photo courtesy of Winters Friends of the Library

and blueberry bushes will also be available. Trees will be for sale for \$20 each, \$30 for citrus, and \$10 for

berries. There is a limit of 10 trees per customer. Come early for the best selection. Master Gardeners will

be on hand to provide advice on tree selection, planting, and care. Sierra Gold Nurseries of Yuba

City has generously donated the trees. Proceeds from the sale of these trees support the Winters

Community Library. For more information and a complete list of available varieties, visit wfol.org. ★

# Downtown Dixon Announces 2025 Plans

## Story and photo by Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Downtown Dixon Business Association hosted its first meeting of 2025 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Feb. 6 at Dawson's Bar & Grill, 105 N. First St.

Dawson's owner and Downtown Dixon Business Association President Jill Orr led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance before beginning the discussion.

Vice-President Angela Meisenheimer of Remark Realty attended but Secretary/Treasurer Christina Cerna of Uptown Collective was unavailable. New board members include Tony Avila of Avila Flooring, Karstin Hickerson of Almond Tree Mortgage, Rebecca Robinson of Uptown Collective, Bonna Stratton



Dawson's owner and Downtown Dixon Business Association President Jill Orr discusses new event dates with associate member Kay Cayler, left, and Vice-President Angela Meisenheimer, right. Board members Rebecca Robinson and Bonna Stratton also attended.

of Century 21 Realty and Kay Cayler, former councilwoman and

2011 Citizen of the Year winner, acting as an associate member.

In old business, the Christmas Tree Lighting Festival on Dec. 5 was successful, being the largest tree lighting festival that the organization has hosted. Due to the volume of attendees, the Downtown Dixon Business Association intends to formulate a meeting with the Dixon Police Department and Dixon Fire Department to shut certain streets down next festival to allow for better traffic flow and to address safety concerns.

Outside of a brief discussion on adding new flowers to the planters around the downtown, which is handled directly by the Downtown Dixon Business Association and will show results around May, several future event dates and

times were confirmed by the organization.

Halloween Hunt is from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 31, the Holiday Open House is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 22 and the Christmas Tree Lighting Festival is from 4 to 9 p.m., Dec. 4.

The Art and Wine Stroll from 4 to 8 p.m. Aug. 23 and the Brewski Fest from 4 to 8 p.m. Oct. 18 might be affected by the passing of Senate Bill 969. As of Jan. 1, local governments in California can designate "entertainment zones," allowing the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within these areas.

From June to September, the Farmer's Market will make its return but most likely as a pop-up event. Dates are still being determined.

Railroad Days will also be

skipped in 2025 due to a booking conflict with the primary vendor.

Finally, the group held an open round table discussion, the core of which was the safety and comfort of Downtown Dixon's patrons. Parking in particular is an issue that Orr and the group hope to address.

"We would like to make people aware that our patrons need proper access to our businesses," Orr said. "We want our customers to get in comfortably and help downtown thrive. Parking is regularly available on E. B Street, N. Second Street, N. Jefferson Street, S. Jackson Street and E. Mayes Street."

The Downtown Dixon Business Association's next meeting will be March 6. The time and location have not been confirmed. For more information, visit downtowndixonca.com. ★

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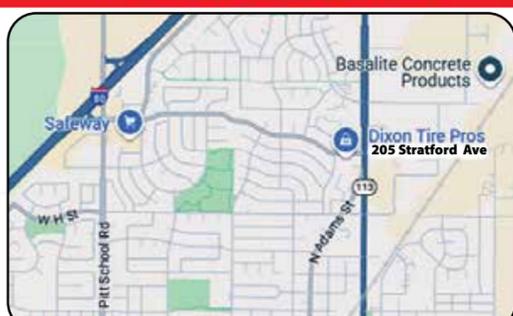
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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Close your eyes for just a moment and imagine it's opening night of the 2024/2025 basketball season. The public address announcer introduces the following players for the Kings, Malik Monk, DeMar DeRozan, Keegan Murray, Zach Lavine, and Domantas Sabonis.

Noticeably absent is of course DeAaron Fox, but even so, how did that lineup sound? Oh, did I mention that Jonas Valanciunas is backing up Sabonis, and we added 2nd year man Jake LaRada, recently acquired from the Memphis Grizzlies.

The starting lineup features three players that have multiple all-star appearances, and the potential scoring power from these five players should wet your lips.

On Saturday night against the only team in the NBA that beat the Kings six times in the 2023/2024 campaign, all three of the recent acquisitions were available and playing for the Sactown ballers.

The first quarter was a basketball nightmare as the hometown team went down by 20 points early, and Kings killer Zion Williamson took the Kings to the woodshed. It was not a pretty sight as Williamson and the Pelicans did pretty much whatever they wanted to do.

The Kings drew within 11 points at halftime, but the best was yet to come. As if deciding it was time to show the faithful hometown crowd what this new assembly was capable of, Sacramento rung up 45 points in the third quarter, and astoundingly held the Pelicans to only 22 points.

Fans were treated to show rarely seen, but it couldn't have come at a more prodigious time. The Sactown boys wowed the home crowd with a collection of 3's, fast break scores, frenetic defense, and in general treated the fans to a glimpse of what this new iteration of players are capable of.

In the end the Pelicans made a game of it, but even after briefly taking the lead in the 4th quarter, the Kings bore down and played solid down the stretch, putting this contest in the win column by the score of 123-118.

What a relief to break the Pelicans winning streak over the Kings, but more importantly, it was eye opener to see

what these players are capable of doing together.

Keep your eyes on Zach Lavine, as he is getting better every game. He is known for being a high percentage 3-point shooter, and although that has yet to be seen in his new uniform, I am looking for him to break out soon.

The real question that every fan is asking themselves, is can this team make the playoffs this year?

Players need to play, and coaches need to coach, but the short answer is yes.

I will say again, coach Christie needs to pay close attention to who is on the bench, and I'm particularly talking about Isaac Jones. Isaac makes his presence felt every time he's on the court, and with his length is constantly getting his hands on the ball.

The Kings have a real NBA defender in Keon Ellis, and I believe Isaac Jones can compliment that defensive effort. He has a nice touch around the rim, can rebound, and in general looks like he belongs when given the chance.

6'9" rookies with game are a hard commodity to find, and he's already signed to a contract, and showing up for every game.

Just as Mike Brown brought Keon Ellis along last year, and he's paying dividends now, so can Isaac Jones find ways to make the Kings a better team.

True, the Pelicans did not have a good win-loss record, but the win on Saturday night was more than that. If you want to get excited, go back and watch the 3rd quarter again and then sit back and imagine what might be.

The Sactown boys hit the road for three games, starting with the Dallas Mavericks Monday, and then on to New Orleans for back-to-back games on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

These three games will give fans a better glimpse into the new team chemistry, and in the tightly packed western conference, just one four- or five-game winning streak can catapult a team into playoff contention.

Hold onto your seats Kings fans, because the best is yet to come!

Your thoughts are always welcome at [vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com](mailto:vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com). ★

# Social Security Matters

## Why was Social Security Money Moved to the General Treasury?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** Why were the Social Security funds moved from the Social Security account to the General Fund with the government? Is it not then called a tax making it an entitlement? That then gives the government control of our retirement. Most of us feel that someone should be in charge and use the Social Security fund with investments that grow our savings.

I invested my 401K and savings, and the original amount made me money during the Trump years, and I'm now trying to catch up. I make this statement because I draw more from my investments than I receive from Social Security. **Signed: Questioning Senior Citizen**

**Dear Questioning Senior:** I'm afraid I must inform you that no Social Security funds have ever been moved from the Social Security account to the government's General Fund – this is a pervasive myth which we have refuted many

times over the years. For information, here is one of many articles I have published on this topic, which I hope you find interesting: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-about-repaying-social-security-money-taken-by-politicians/>.

Someone actually is charged with monitoring our Social Security funds – a board of Social Security Trustees consisting of the Secretaries of Treasury, Labor, and Health & Human Services, as well as the Commissioner of Social Security plus two Public Trustees. Each year the Social Security Trustees do a complete analysis of the Social Security program, especially its financial status and outlook for the future. If you have interest in the Trustee's latest annual report, here is a link to the 2024 analysis: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/tr24summary.pdf>.

What you will find in the Trustees' report is that Social Security will run out of reserved funds in about 2033, necessitating an across the board cut of about 21% for everyone, unless Congress acts soon to reform the program and restore it to fiscal solvency. The Trustees have warned Congress about this problem for many years, but Congress has yet to find the bipartisan cooperation needed to fix the problem.

AMAC (the Association of Mature American Citizens) has steadfastly offered proposals to Congress which would restore Social Security to solvency and will continue to do so with the new 119th Congress, which convened on January 3, 2025.

Please know that we appreciate your feedback and commend you for the wise use of your 401k investments, something that many of our members find necessary to supplement their Social Security. Remember, Social Security was never intended to provide all your retirement income, so earlier saving to supplement your retirement financial needs was a very wise move on your part.

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

# California Schools Continue to Struggle with Test Scores in Reading and Math



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When Gov. Gavin Newsom issues one of his periodic boasts about California's superiority vis-a-vis other states — particularly those with conservative politics such as Texas and Florida — he conveniently omits aspects that are less than admirable. The exclusions include California's levels of poverty, homelessness, unemployment, utility bills and housing costs that are the nation's highest, or close to it.

One of California's starkest — and most important — let-downs is the consistent failure to help elementary and middle school students achieve higher national test scores in basic educational skills, such as reading and math.

Simply put, California's education system is not only behind most other states, but even trails those that Newsom and other Californians consider to be culturally backward. Moreover, California schools have not yet recovered from the educational losses suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This harsh reality is revealed in the latest round of academic testing by the federal National Assessment of Educational Progress. The data are voluminous and difficult to parse, but EdSource, a nonprofit news outlet devoted to charting California education trends, has thankfully

done it for the rest of us.

"The latest scores show mostly no progress," EdSource reported last week. "Scores in fourth and eighth grade reading fell again, leaving California 9 points and the nation 8 points below 2017. Math was mixed — up in fourth grade, but not enough to catch 2019, with eighth grade taking another dip."

EdSource further found that average scores "mask widening disparities between the highest and lowest-performing students. On fourth grade reading, student scores at the 90th achievement percentile fell 1 point between 2019 and 2024, and scores at the 75th percentile fell 3 points. However, scores for students in the 10th percentile fell 10 points, and for students in the 25th percentile, they fell 8 points."

Stubbornly low levels of reading and mathematics skills among elementary and middle school students are particularly worrisome because they are tools that must be mastered to successfully navigate high school and post-graduation college classes or job training. The lapses not only affect the students' chances to become successful adults but the state's needs for an educated workforce and voting public.

Current data underscore that negative effect. While California has a huge homeless population and more than a million members of its labor force are jobless, employers are also finding it very difficult to fill job vacancies with workers who are either skilled or can be trained.

This isn't a new issue. California has been lagging behind other states for decades and has a chronic "achievement gap" between

poor or English-learner students and those from more privileged circumstances.

More than a decade ago, then-Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature overhauled school finance to provide additional funds to schools with large numbers of students at risk of failure. While countless billions of dollars have been rerouted, the outcomes have improved only fractionally at best.

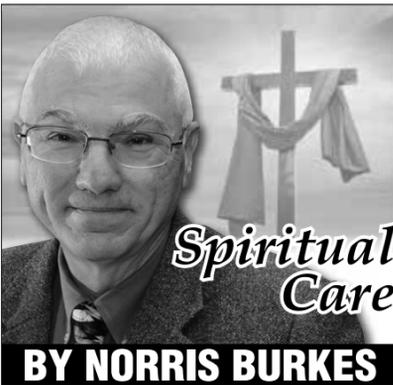
Money is certainly a factor in the quality of instruction. The state has sharply boosted spending on schools in recent years and they would have nearly \$25,000 per student in Newsom's proposed 2025-26 budget. Newsom has fostered additional state aid for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten, the state is now providing universally free lunches, and has implemented early screening to detect reading deficiencies.

Those are potentially positive steps to close achievement gaps, but money is not the only factor. EdSource notes that "some states whose scores exceeded California's on fourth-grade reading, including Mississippi, Connecticut and Colorado, adopted comprehensive reading plans grounded in the science of reading."

That's the current term for phonics, which California's education establishment has often resisted despite ample evidence that it improves kids' ability to read.

*Dan Walters is one of most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★*

# Did You Miss National Backwards Day?



BY NORRIS BURKES

Apologies for this belated announcement, but Jan 31 was "National Backwards Day."

No, it's a real thing, chaplain-honest.

My wife, a retired schoolteacher chastised me for not reminding you sooner.

Every year her elementary schools would participate in National Backwards Day, an annual whimsical and fun-filled observance that encourages people to do things in reverse or unconventional ways.

But you don't have to be a kid to do it. All ages are welcome to break routine and engage in activities with a unique twist.

Participants will wear their clothes backward, eat meals in reverse order, or simply do everyday tasks in unconventional ways.

Anyone can participate. Even our president.

Last month, with Backwards Day approaching, he pardoned the Jan 6th criminals and has now begun a process to fire the law enforcement that imprisoned those hoodlums.

Well-played, Sir. That's pretty backward. "Chaplain!" you say, "You've careened out of your lane. How can you talk politics in a religion column?"

Honestly, not entirely sure, but I think it comes under the category of standing up for my friends.

I have several friends in the FBI and that friendship began with two different official visits.

The first came when a preschool director told the FBI that my newly adopted daughter bore a canny resemblance to a missing child on a milk carton photo. The milk carton thing was a 1990s public service to raise awareness for missing children.

That report triggered a visit to our Stockton home from an FBI agent seeking proof that we adopted our three-year-old daughter, Brittney. We gave him files and files of proof. No problem.

But my new friend didn't close the investigation until he interviewed social workers and neighbors.

Overboard? Maybe. But that agent was looking out for my family and the family of that missing child. When someone does that, they become my friend.

Don't mess with my friends.

On the second occasion, twenty years later, Agent Steve Dupree knocked on my door. He needed our Elk Grove house to surveil the house of a neighbor who'd used his ill-gotten robbery money to buy the house.

Steve became my friend.

In 2015, Steve invited me to make more FBI friends by joining the FBI Citizens Academy.

The class is invite-only.

For six weeks, we spent three hours every Wednesday at the Sacramento FBI office hearing the agents lecture about famous crimes, surveillance techniques, bomb making, and home terror organizations.

We also learned about the skin heads and the militia movements in this country. Pretty scary class, but I made lots of new friends.

One week, Steve announced that our class would visit a local gun range to shoot the guns FBI agents use.

I told Steve, "I don't want to go."

"Why is that?" he asked.

I told him about the gun trauma I experienced in the aftermath of a mass shooting at an elementary school in Stockton, Calif.

Steve listened carefully.

He promised me that it would be OK either way. "If you go, you don't have to shoot," he said. "But if you shoot, I'll stand with you and talk you through it."

I went and I did shoot. It was hard, but Steve stood shoulder-to-shoulder with me as a friend would do.

We finished the class with an optional field trip to the FBI academy in Quantico VA where we were welcomed by, then FBI director, James Comey.

Comey, a man of faith, used the FBI motto as an outline for his talk.

"Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity."

During these backward days, there are forces seeking to locate and identify the agents who employed these principles in their Jan 6th investigations.

I pray their search is unsuccessful.

But in the meantime, I'll let you know where this chaplain is located — He's standing with his friends. ★



FOR THE LOVE OF  
**BOOKS**  
By Amy Shane

BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy\_fortheloveofbooks

## Celebrate Valentine's Day with a Book



**The Goodnight Train Valentine** by June Sobel, illustrated by Laura Huliska-Beith  
All aboard! It's time to board the Valentine's Train and head to Valentine Valley. Blow a kiss and race away to a land of hearts and lace. But wait! It's time to stop and join a party. Then it's back to pass by fields of flowers and then to Sweetheart station. Finally it's off to bed as the train whispers, "Good night."

Complete your Good Night Tran Collection with an adorable Valentine's edition filled with hearts, chocolate, and so much love. This adorable book is filled with everything Valentine, with its bright and engaging artwork making readers feel like they have landed on the perfect Valentine's Day.

**Sparkle Pig** by Kit Holliday, illustrated by Dizzy Devil Designs  
Introducing Sparkle Pig, a new glittery series that is bound to be a laugh-out-loud hit. Follow the glittery adventures of a guinea pig, brought to life by adorable

black-and-white illustrations and delightful storytelling. These adventures will leave readers eagerly anticipating the next chapter, fostering a sense of intrigue and curiosity. What could be more delightful than a guinea pig in a costume? With three full books of Sparkle Pig adventures, the excitement never ends.

**Where Shadows Bloom** by Catherine Bakewell  
Get swept away with the beauty of the daydream fantasy court of the Gods. Le Chateau Enchante remains a mystery for most, but within its walls remains a dizzying and dazzling court dancing just on the edge of darkness. Ofelia has always dreamed of entering Le Chateau Enchante but has only defended it from the monsters that roam within the shadows. But as the Shadows get too close, Ofelia and Lope discover themselves on a journey that will open their eyes to secrets, Gods, monsters, and even Death. But in the end, will love survive?

**The Queen's Spade** by Sarah Raughley  
Described as The Count

of Monte Cristo meets Bridgerton, The Queen's Spade is a historical thriller that will keep readers riveted. It's Victorian England, and a kidnapped African Princess, goddaughter to Queen Victoria, is plotting to take down the monarchy. Sarah Bonetta Forbes (Sally) has only one thing on her mind: revenge. Sally dreams of revenge on all those who stripped her of her freedom and dignity, making her into royal property. Sally is willing to take anyone down who had a hand in her demise. However, taking down the crown opens the door to a twisted game of deceit, manipulation, and politics. When the Queen catches on to Sally's intention, she has a card to play on her own, a way to take complete control—a royal marriage. Now time is running out, and Sally will have to think fast and deceitfully in order to get out of an arranged marriage and seek the vengeance she felt she needed, but sometimes the price for what you seek is more than you are willing to pay. ★



# Riley Reviews

“THE NIGHT AGENT” DELIVERS A RIVETING POLITICAL SPY THRILLER

**A Film and TV Review**  
by Tim Riley

**“THE NIGHT AGENT” ON NETFLIX**  
There is so much original programming on streaming services, with Netflix churning out a lion's share of domestic and foreign TV series and films, that it is easy to overlook what proves to be captivating entertainment.

The spy thriller series “The Night Agent” had its first season run two years ago, and now it's back with the second season. Better late than never to catch up on the first season with a binge-watch.

Even with a shift in the tone and underlying mission of the second season, “The Night Agent” requires being immersed in the totality of its origin series, so as to have the full flavor of the main characters who return. Fortunately, both seasons can be found on Netflix.

Some may wish to compare “The Night Agent” to Showtime's long-running espionage thriller “Homeland,” in which Claire Danes' CIA officer with a bipolar disorder suspects Damian Lewis' Marine held in captivity for eight years to be connected to a terror plot.

The connection between the two series rests with the broader concept of dangerous cat-and-mouse games that threaten national security along with a heavy dose of political intrigue and domestic terrorism. “The Night Agent” is definitely tuned into an overall conspiratorial theme.

To understand the appeal as well as premise of this political thriller, we must start with knowing that FBI agent Peter Sutherland (Gabriel Basso), fairly new to the job, becomes what should be at least an unsung hero for saving riders on a Washington, D.C. metro subway from a bombing attack.

Regardless of Peter's heroics in finding the bomb and getting passengers safely off the train, he's inexplicably under suspicion and relegated to a desk job in the basement of the White House with the sole responsibility of answering a phone at the Night Action desk.

The phone serves as line for field agents to call when something goes horribly wrong, which happens rarely. His first call eventually comes from cybersecurity expert Rose Larkin (Luciane Buchanan), getting the number from her aunt and uncle who turnout not to be an ordinary elderly couple.

While Rose was visiting her relatives, a pair of assassins, Dale (Phoenix Raei) and Ellen (Eve Harlow) arrive at their house, and Rose is dispatched to use a phone down the street to call for help on the Night Action line.

Not wanting to leave any loose ends, the ruthlessly mysterious hired killers, apparent foreign actors, realize that they need to track down Rose as the only possible witness to the murder of her

relatives. Finally, Peter's boring routine of idly waiting for a call has been interrupted as he must spring into action to help Rose, a frantic civilian suddenly embroiled in a plot where she desperately needs protection.

Peter brings her in from the cold, setting up a meeting with his ally in the White House, Diane Farr (Hong Chau), the chief of staff to President Michelle Travers (Kari Matchett), who faces her own share of political intrigue.

Jockeying for position inside the White House leads to its own scheming and deception. Peter ends up answering to two masters. Besides the president's right-hand in Diane Farr, he's also answering to Jamie Hawkins (Robert Patrick), deputy director of the FBI.

Complicating matters for Peter's untested agent are the fact he must navigate the treacherous waters of palace intrigue. His loyalty to the chief of staff creates tension with the FBI's deputy director, but an interesting dynamic is that it looks like just about everyone has got something to hide.

Peter is gradually pulled into a political conspiracy that points to a foreign mole inside the White House. Worse of all is that Peter is thrown into dangerous situations that require dealing with malevolent actors.

A few episodes into the first season reveals a tangential subplot that involves Vice President Redfield's (Christopher Shyer) daughter Maddie (Sarah Desjardins), a college student not fond of her father or his career.

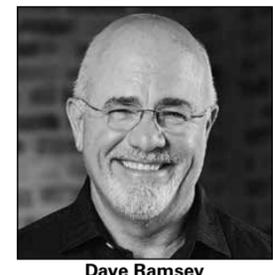
The rebellious Maddie may be a target herself, which gets complicated when she ditches her Secret Service detail that consists of exacting agent Chelsea Arrington (Fola Evans-Akingbola) and veteran agent Erik Monks (D.B. Woodside), returning to duty after a near-fatal on-the-job injury.

As the series moves to its conclusion, a wild conspiracy targeting the President puts Peter into another tight spot, but which allows him to prove his worth far beyond manning a nighttime phone.

The second season thrusts Peter into a foreign assignment in Bangkok, where he's teamed up with seasoned operative Alice (Brittany Snow). Things get deadly when they are on the tail of a rogue agent selling top secret documents.

The mission goes wrong, and Peter goes off the grid, much to the alarm of his hard-nosed stateside handler Catherine Weaver (Amanda Warren). Hiding out in New York and dodging assassins, Peter is soon reunited with Rose.

Season 2 of “The Night Agent” is looking as promising as the origin series. If you enjoy conspiracy-related spy thrillers, this should be the series to check out. ★



## Dave Ramsey Says Safe and Easily Accessible and The Tortoise and the Hare

Dear Dave,

I stopped contributing to my 401(k) temporarily to help us build an emergency fund a little faster. Things are going slowly, though, and I'm getting worried. My wife and I are both 46, have no debt except our home and we have a combined household income of \$100,000 a year. We have \$20,000 in a single stock, and I was wondering if we should cash out that stock and use the money for our emergency fund.

– Doug

Dear Doug,

That's exactly what I'd do. I'd cash out that stock as soon as possible, and put the cash in a simple money market account with check writing privileges and no penalties for early withdrawals.

Basically, your emergency fund is in stock right now, and that's a bad place to keep it. You never know when life will throw unexpected expenses your way, or when the stock market will go down. You always want your emergency fund to be safe and easily accessible. Remember, your emergency fund is insurance—not an investment.

After that, make sure you keep pushing forward and jump back into Baby Step 4. That means start pour-

ing money into your 401(k) again.

Great question, Doug!  
– Dave

### The Tortoise and the Hare

Dear Dave,

I'm trying to get out of debt and start handling my money better. Should lower the amount I'm contributing to my 401(k) so I can pay off my car and house faster?

– Austin

Dear Austin,

I can tell you're excited about the idea of getting out of debt. And that's a good thing! But I don't want you to get ahead of yourself when it comes to gaining control of your finances.

Here's my Baby Steps plan. The first thing you should do is set aside a beginner emergency fund of \$1,000. That's Baby Step 1. Next comes Baby Step 2, which means paying off all your debt, except for your house. This would include your car. During this time, you should temporarily stop any kind of investing and retirement contributions, so you can attack your debt with a vengeance.

Once your mortgage is the only debt you have, it's on to Baby Step 3. This means you start saving money to grow your begin-

ner emergency fund into a fully-funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses. After that, it's on to Baby Step 4, which is investing 15 percent of your pre-tax income for retirement. In your case, that would mean re-starting contributions to your 401(k).

The rest of the plan goes like this. Baby Step 5 is putting money into your kids' college funds, if you have kids. Baby Step 6 is focusing on paying off the house early, and then comes the real fun. Baby Step 7 is where you build wealth and give like crazy.

It may take a little time in some cases, but there are millions of people out there who will tell you this—following the Baby Steps works!

– Dave

*Dave Ramsey is a national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★*



### Farm Bureau Voices Support for Farmworkers, Dispels Rumors of Widespread Disruptions

California Farm Bureau published a press release Jan. 30 dispelling erroneous news reports and social media posts that claimed immigration enforcement raids had caused widespread labor shortages affecting citrus harvest in the Central Valley. A Border Patrol operation in Kern County disrupted work on some farms last month, but employees returned to work after a few days. “We recognize that some workers may feel uncertain right now,” said Bryan Little, senior director of policy advocacy at the Farm Bureau. “We will do everything in our power to ensure that agriculture remains a place where you are safe and supported.”

### Young Farmers and Ranchers Excel at National Farm Bureau Convention

California Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers stood out in competitive events at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual convention, held Jan. 24-29 in San Antonio. Representing the Golden State in the YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award, Jynel Gularte of Monterey County earned a fourth-place finish in the national competition. The award recognizes YF&Rs who do not derive most of their income from an agricultural operation but who contribute and grow through their involvement in agriculture and leadership. Gularte, from Gonzales, is controller and compliance

officer for her family's vegetable farm. She serves as chairwoman of the Central Coast YF&R.

### Regulatory Price Tag Mounts for Lettuce Growers

On the Voice of California Agriculture podcast, produced by California Farm Bureau, host Gary Sack discussed a recent study that found the cost to California lettuce growers of complying with the state's environmental, labor and food safety regulations has increased by a whopping 63.7% during the past seven years. As of last year, increased regulations brought the total cost of compliance for lettuce growers to \$1,600 per acre, the researchers found, accounting for more than 12% of total production costs, even as farmgate values for the crop remained nearly unchanged.

### California Bountiful TV Tours Orange County

In its latest episode, California Bountiful TV explores agricultural and culinary landmarks in Orange County. Host Aubrey Aquino visits an Anaheim food hall housed in an old citrus packinghouse, the agritourism destination Tanaka Farms in Irvine and a unique dining establishment that features fresh, local produce. The weekly show produced by the California Farm Bureau is up for three Taste Awards this year, with voting for the Viewers Choice category taking place through Feb. 7. ★

**WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS**



# Community Calendar

## Ongoing Activities:

**Alcoholics Anonymous** – If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop drinking, we can help. Call Alcoholics Anonymous at 800-970-9040 for either local meeting information or to speak to someone.

**American Legion Dinners** – Every Friday night at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St. Prices range from \$12 to \$17 depending on menu. Live music every Friday. Live band first and third Fridays.

**Bingo** – Is played every Monday and Wednesday at the Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 S. 5th St., beginning at 12 p.m. Call 707-678-7022 for more information.

**Friendship Services of Solano County** – Do you spend a lot of time alone? Would you like a telephone companion? Call Friendship Service at 707-644-9062 x242 or 707-644-8909 and ask Cyndi about becoming a client. It's free. A program of Catholic Social Services. A provider of the Napa-Solano Area Agency on Aging. Email: friendship@csssolano.org.

**Meals on Wheels** – Homebound seniors can receive meals delivered to their homes by calling 707-425-0638. Lunch also served at the Dixon Senior Center, 201 South 5th St. at 11:30 a.m. M-F. Reservations required – call 707-425-0638 one day in advance.

## Regular Meetings:

**Al-Anon** – Family and friends of alcoholics can get support through Al-Anon, which meets Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St.

**American Legion** – Dixon Post 208 meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St.. For information, call 707-678-6308. Also visit us online at [www.dixonveterans.org/Legion](http://www.dixonveterans.org/Legion).

**American Legion Auxiliary** – Dixon Post 208 meets at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St.. For information, contact Pat Holland (President) at 707-678-3685 or Leah Marlin (Vice President) at 530-304-5385. Visit us online at [www.dixonveterans.org/Legion](http://www.dixonveterans.org/Legion).

**Anderson PTO** – Meets monthly at 7 p.m. at Anderson Elementary School, 415 East C St. Email [andersonroadrunnerspto@gmail.com](mailto:andersonroadrunnerspto@gmail.com) for dates.

**Bids For Kids** – Is a volunteer organization created to promote and foster youth participation in agriculture. Anyone interested in this endeavor is welcome and encouraged to attend our monthly meeting. Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month. For more information, please contact secretary, Lisa Dage at 707-246-5623, [fivedages@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fivedages@sbcglobal.net) or president, James Fuller at 916-952-0167, [jamesfuller@yahoo.com](mailto:jamesfuller@yahoo.com).

**Boy Scout Troop 152** – Meets Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Social Hall at United Methodist Church, 209 North Jefferson. Scouts is for boys 11 to 18 years old. Contact John at 707-678-9693 or email [Scoutmaster152@gmail.com](mailto:Scoutmaster152@gmail.com) for more information. Check us out on the web: <http://www.troop152dixon.com>.

**Chief Solano Kennel Club, Inc. meetings** – at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday at the Elmira Fire Station. Call Linda at phone below to RSVP. Open to everyone. No July meeting. For info call 446-7492 or visit [www.chiefsolanokennelclub.org](http://www.chiefsolanokennelclub.org).

**Chief Solano Kennel Club, Inc. classes** – Puppy Socialization 6:20 to 6:50 p.m. (4 to 12 mos), Beginning Obedience 7 to 7:40 p.m. (4 mos & older) indoor training classes on Wednesdays at the Elmira Fire Station, as well as Conformation classes at 7:50 to 8:30 p.m. for those who show dogs or are interested in showing their dogs. Classes are open to everyone and their canine companions. Classes are not appropriate for aggression issues. Discounts for Seniors 55 and over, Juniors under 16, and those who have adopted a dog from the Humane Society, a breed rescue group, or your local shelter. Bring adoption certificate when you register. Visit [www.chiefsolanokennelclub.org](http://www.chiefsolanokennelclub.org).

**CITY OF DIXON:** The following meetings are held in the Council Chamber at 600 East A St. The agendas are available before meetings at [www.ci.dixon.ca.us](http://www.ci.dixon.ca.us). For further information, call 707-678-7000 and ask for the City Clerk's office, Planning Dept., Parks & Recreation Dept., or Transportation Dept.

**City Council** – Meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 7 p.m.

**Planning Commission** – Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

**Parks & Recreation Commission** – Meets the fourth

Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

**Transportation Advisory Commission** – Meets the third Wednesday of every EVEN month at 7 p.m.

**Dixon Adult Literacy Program** – Solano County Library Adult Literacy Services is seeking volunteers to help an adult with their reading, writing, or English-speaking skills at the Dixon Public Library. No experience necessary, flexible hours. All training and materials are provided. Contact: [Literacy@solanocounty.com](mailto:Literacy@solanocounty.com) or 707-784-1526.

**Dixon Boat Club** – Meets first Thursday of the month. For more information, call Butch at 707-678-3622.

**Dixon Downtown Business Association** – Dedicated to enhancing the business environment and promoting the revitalization of downtown Dixon as the cultural center of the community. Merchant meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at various locations. Log onto [www.downtowndixonca.com](http://www.downtowndixonca.com), email [DDROAC@yahoo.com](mailto:DDROAC@yahoo.com), or call 707-678-8400 for more information.

**Dixon Game & Conservation Club** – Meetings on second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Game Club Building on East Mayes. For more information, contact John Kett at 916-284-4683.

**Dixon Historical Society** – Meets quarterly on the third Sunday of Feb., Apr., Aug., and Oct. from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dixon United Methodist Church Social Hall located at 209 N. Jefferson St. in Dixon. Meetings include a historical representation and announcements of upcoming events. Anyone interested in the history of Dixon, and its surrounding areas, is welcome! You do not need to be a member to attend, and all presentations are free to the community. The Dixon History Museum is open for visits, Thursdays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For further information, please contact us at [www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org). Email [dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com), or call 707-693-3044.

**Dixon Kiwanis Club** – an International civic organization serving the community through enhancing children's lives meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. Call Kristin Janisch at 918-840-0785 for more information.

**Dixon Lions Club** – Since 1954, the Dixon Lions Club is a group of local people who identify needs within our Dixon community and work together to fulfill those needs. Internationally our 45,867 clubs & more than 1,347,322 members make us the world's largest service club organization. We meet first/third Wednesdays at Bud's Pub & Grill from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Website: <http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/dixonca>. Facebook page: Dixon Lions Club.

**Dixon Rotary Club** – Meets on most Wednesdays at noon at The Creative Space, 160 West A. St., Dixon. Rotary is the world's first and oldest service club organization with over 1.4 million members working locally and internationally to improve health and sanitation, combat hunger, provide education, and promote peace. For more information and meeting confirmation, contact Rotary President Marlene Vega at 707-678-9368.

**Dixon Scottish Cultural Association** – Open to anyone who is interested in celebrating Scottish culture. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 1305 N. First St. For details, visit <https://scotsindixon.us/>.

**Dixon Senior Club** – Meets the second Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Dixon Senior Multi-Use Center, 201 S. Fifth St. For more info, call 678-7022.

**Dixon Toastmasters/Public Speaking Club** – Need to speak in front of people? Want to improve your communication skills? Want to have fun learning? Check us out! We meet Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Living Hope Church. For more info, call or text Lynda Mendez at 530-665-0948 or Rose Cooke at 707-297-0918.

**Dixon Women's Improvement Club** – From September through May of each year, the Dixon Women's Improvement Club dedicated to the betterment of Dixon, meets on the third Wednesday of the month for stimulating presentations, activities, and friendships. Meetings are held at the Dixon United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

**Dixon Youth Soccer Board Meetings** – The board will meet the third Tuesday of each month, except for December, at the Sutter West Medical Center Conference Room, at 7 p.m.

**Domestic Violence Support Group** – Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. at SafeQuest Solano, 1234 Empire St., Fairfield. Info 707-422-7345.

**Dry Dock** – This Alcoholics Anonymous group meets Mondays, 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m. at Dixon United Methodist Church, corner of B and N. Jefferson St.

**Fairfield/Suisun Bass Reapers** – Meets first Tuesday of each month at RoundTable Pizza, 5085 Fairfield Business Center Drive. For more info, call 707-429-3239.

**Friends of the Dixon Public Library** – Meets at the library on the second Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. For more information, call 707-678-5447.

**Gretchen Higgins Parent Teacher Organization** – We meet the second Monday of each month in the library at our school. Email [ohpto1525@gmail.com](mailto:ohpto1525@gmail.com) for more information.

**Independent Order of Oddfellows Montezuma Lodge #172** – Meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 111 West A. St., Dixon above Bud's. For more info, call Jason 530-400-0281 or Ed 916-837-6865.

**Lambtown Committee** – Meets third Monday each month at 6 p.m. at Veteran's Hall. Email John Knight at [johnknightpto@gmail.com](mailto:johnknightpto@gmail.com)

**Living With Cancer** – Support Group for people who have or have had cancer meets the first, third, and fifth Tuesday of every month, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Dining conference room at Woodland Memorial Hospital, 1325 Cottonwood St., Woodland. Free.

**Narcotics Anonymous** – Open meetings are held every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Dixon United Methodist, 209 N. Jefferson St. (Corner of West B and N. Jefferson). For helpline information and other meetings, go to [www.napasolanona.org](http://www.napasolanona.org).

**Northern Solano Democratic Club (NSDC)** – Meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at IBEW, 30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville (behind Home Depot). For more information, contact Jeanie White 615-260-7896 or email [pres.nsdc@gmail.com](mailto:pres.nsdc@gmail.com). Visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/northernolanodem/](http://www.facebook.com/northernolanodem/).

**NSDC Democrats in Action** – Monthly lunch meeting is every fourth Thursday at noon at Fuso Italian Restaurant at 535 Main St., Vacaville. Meet to discuss actions that can be taken towards local, state, and national political issues. See above for contacts.

**Promises AA Group** – Meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St.

**Sexual Assault Support Group** – Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. at SafeQuest Solano, 1234 Empire St., Fairfield. Info 707-422-7345.

**Solano County Mental Health Education** – Monthly presentations on various topics will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 2101 Courage Dr., Fairfield. Call Rachel Ford at 707-784-8362 for more information and monthly topic.

**Sons of the American Legion** – Meet every second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Dixon American Legion Post 208 Hall. For information, call Wayne Holland at 707-301-0941.

**Soroptimist International of Dixon** – Meets Thursdays at noon at the Dixon United Methodist Church (20 N. Jefferson). Call President Barbara Rigdon at 408-306-7390. Mail: P.O. Box 472, Dixon, CA 95620.

**36th District Agricultural Assn.** – Board of Directors meet the second Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. in the board room located at 655 S. First St. (Dixon May Fair)

**Tremont Teachers and Parents Association** – Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Tremont School. For more information contact 678-9533.

**Toastmasters** – Meets every other Monday from 7 to 8 p.m. Contact Lynda Mendez at 530-665-0948 or email her at [mendezlynda55@yahoo.com](mailto:mendezlynda55@yahoo.com)

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)** – Dixon Post 8151 meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Olde Vets Hall, 231 N. First St. For information, contact Cecil Dennings (Commander) at 209-395-8019. Also visit us online at [m.facebook.com/DixonVFW](http://m.facebook.com/DixonVFW).

**Young Ladies Institute of Dixon** – Meets the third Thursday of the month at St. Peter's Parish Hall, 105 S. 2nd St. All Catholic women are invited to attend. For more information, call Virginia Fletcher at 678-5145. ★

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- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Unit of electrical capacity F
  - Knicks' org.
  - Herring's cousin
  - City in Belgium
  - \*The Beatles hit "Drive My \_\_\_"
  - Monument to Buddha
  - Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
  - Affirmative to captain
  - Like a beaver?
  - \*Che's last name
  - \*Stonewall riots location
  - Division of time
  - West African country
  - Refuse to comply
  - \*The Jackson 5 co-founder
  - \*Don \_\_\_ of Barney Fife fame
  - Soon, to a bard
  - Hyperbolic tangent
  - Sunlight's interference
  - \*Apollo Moon Landing org.
  - Operatic solos
  - Alexander Hamilton/Aaron Burr incident
  - Deposit the ashes
  - Related to ear
  - Meat in a can
  - Transport onward, as in letter (2 words)
  - Not written
  - Pilot's estimate, acr.
  - Ill-mannered one
  - Hawaiian welcome wreath
  - \*Ford's pony car
  - \*Assassinated president
  - \*\_\_\_ death do us part"
  - Down Under runner
  - Hindu caste
  - Moonshine maker
  - \*Spock's was pointy
  - Comforter stuffing
  - Ruptured
  - Ground cover
  - Coach-and-four
- DOWN**
- Use a cat o' nine tails
  - Hokkaido language
  - Network of nerves
  - Mojave plant
  - Go away
  - March Madness org.
  - \*\_\_\_ of Pigs, failed military operation
  - Madison Square Garden, e.g.
  - Command to Fido
  - Designer Boss
  - Copycat
  - Sinister side in "Star Wars"
  - Garment-making
  - Yogurt-based dip
  - Benevolent one
  - Hall order keeper
  - \*Joplin of "Summer-time" fame
  - Foolish
  - Same as boatswain
  - Tropical tuber
  - Auto pioneer
  - Brownish gray
  - Something yummy
  - \*Certain march starting

**CROSSWORD**

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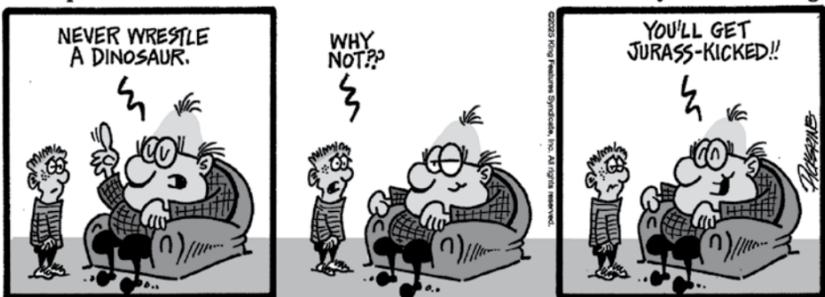
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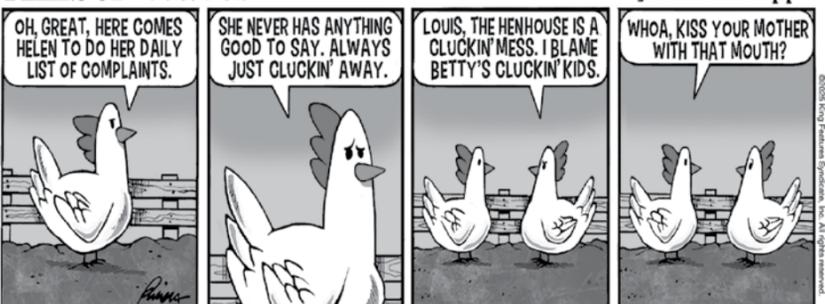
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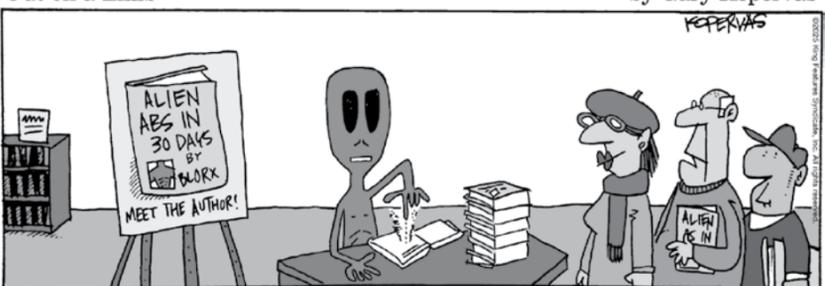
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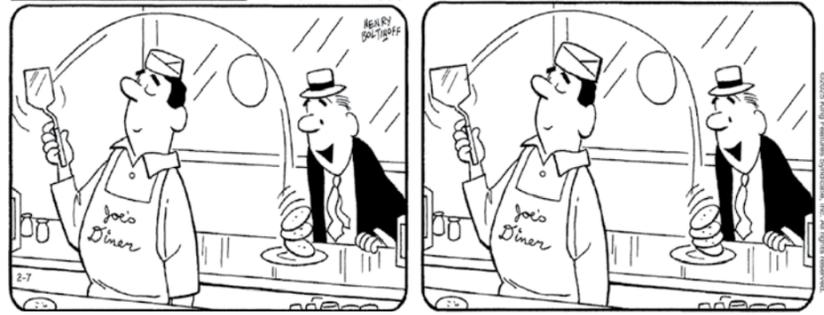


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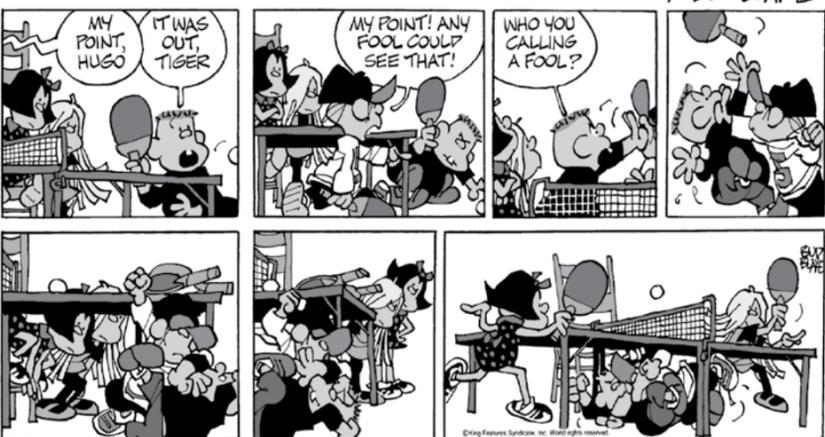


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# Thompson, LaMalfa Introduce Disaster Resiliency and Coverage Act



Mike Thompson. Courtesy photo

MPG Staff

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG)** - Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) and Congressman Mike Thompson (D-CA) introduced legislation on Feb. 10 to provide homeowners in disaster-prone regions with incentives to harden their properties against wildfires and other risks. This legislation is intended to help address the ongoing insurance crisis in California and other states, as the rise in frequency and intensity of natural disasters has led insurers to raise rates and exit certain markets entirely. "Homeowners should be able to lower their insurance costs by reducing the risks to their property, but right now, many are stuck

with skyrocketing rates or no coverage at all," said Rep. LaMalfa. "This bill gives them a real chance to make improvements that not only strengthen their homes but also help bring insurers back to the market.

Said Thompson, "Property insurance has quickly become one of the single biggest issues I hear about in my district. People can't get covered: either the available options are completely unaffordable or there are no options available at all. It's an untenable situation. By incentivizing homeowners to mitigate disaster risks on their property, we aim to bring insurers back into the market and bring rates back into more affordable territory."

This legislation creates a grant program, administered through state governments, through which certain individual households in designated disaster-prone regions are eligible for up to \$10,000 for specified disaster resiliency work on their homes.

In addition, it stipulates that payments from state-run disaster resiliency programs and payments from various federal emergency agricultural programs are not considered income for federal tax purposes.

Finally, this legislation provides a 30 percent tax credit for qualified disaster risk mitigation activities conducted by individuals or businesses. The credit is meant to complement the grant program by providing meaningful assistance to larger property owners for whom mitigation activity costs would far exceed \$10,000.

"NAHB commends Reps. Mike Thompson (D-Calif.) and Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.) for introducing the Disaster Resiliency and Coverage Act. With 130 million homes built before the introduction of modern codes in 2010, this bill focuses on improving older homes that are far less resilient than modern homes. The legislation would protect homeowners, reduce the financial

burden of natural disasters, and increase the resiliency of our nation's housing stock," said Carl Harris, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders.

*Congressman Mike Thompson represents California's 4th Congressional District, which includes all or part of Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties. A senior member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, Thompson is chairman of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. He is also co-chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Wine Caucus and a member of the fiscally-responsible Blue Dog Coalition.*

*Congressman Doug LaMalfa is chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus and a lifelong farmer representing California's First Congressional District, including Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba counties.* ★

# Parks Foundation Responds to Record Low Count of Monarch Butterflies

**California State Parks Foundation News Release**

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION, CA (MPG)** - On Jan. 30, the Xerces Society released the results of the 28th annual Western Monarch Count, reporting a peak population of 9,119 monarchs this year. This is the second lowest overwintering population recorded since tracking began in 1997.

"The western monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable species in California and we are greatly distressed by the results of this year's Western Monarch Count," said Randy Widera, director of programs for California State Parks Foundation. "California State Parks Foundation has worked hard to protect and conserve monarch groves in state parks. We will continue this work but we also must see monarchs listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act."

The Monarch count findings align with an analysis

by California State Parks Foundation, which highlights the significant role that state parks play in monarch conservation. Three of the top four overwintering sites for western monarchs are in California state parks, including Lighthouse Field State Beach (1,406 monarchs), Natural Bridges State Beach (1,400 monarchs) and Pismo State Beach (556 monarchs).

As the largest single land manager of these groves, California State Parks plays a vital role in the species' conservation.

Millions of western monarchs used to return to coastal California every year but the population has plummeted in recent decades and less than 2,000 butterflies were counted in California in 2020. Numerous factors have contributed to this decline, including climate change, habitat loss, pesticides and disease. The western monarch population had rebounded in the past couple of years, with almost 233,000 butterflies counted in 2023 to 2024. ★

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-001918**  
The following persons are doing business as: Benedict Restaurant Corporation DBA Burger King, 1939 B Peabody Road, Vacaville, CA 95687.  
Benedict Restaurant Corporation, 1939 B Peabody Road, Vacaville, CA 95687.  
Date filed in Solano County: December 23, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 04/01/2012  
This Business is conducted by: a Corporation. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration 22 December 2029. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,

business, and professions code.)  
Publish: Jan 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 2025  
**KING** 2-14-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000069**  
The following persons are doing business as: Runge Road C.S.V., 8290 Runge Road, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Viguie Farming LLC and Tremont Farms LLC, 8290 Runge Road, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Date filed in Solano County: January 14, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2025  
This Business is conducted by: A General Partnership. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration January 13, 2030. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and

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Publish: Jan 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 2025  
**RUNGE** 2-21-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000112**  
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CP Capital Group Inc., 155 E Dorset Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.  
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Publish: Jan 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 2025  
**HOTEL** 2-21-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000108**  
The following persons are doing business as: Mode Merchandising, 3452 Palo Alto Court, Fairfield, CA 94533.  
Demonstrate Excellence Manifest Opportunity, 3452 Palo Alto Court, Fairfield, CA 94533.  
Date filed in Solano County: January 21, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 21, 2025  
This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration January 20, 2030. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)  
Publish: Jan 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 2025  
**MODE** 2-21-25

by: A Corporation. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration February 4, 2030. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)  
Publish: Feb 14, 21, 28, March 7, 2025  
**SOLANO** 3-7-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000183**  
The following persons are doing business as: Accurate Nonemergency Transportation, 1112 Pintail Drive, Suisun, CA 94585.  
Dashjay Carlton, 1112 Pintail Drive, Suisun, CA 94585.  
Date filed in Solano County: January 31, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2025  
This Business is conducted by: an Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration February 4, 2030. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)  
Publish: Feb 14, 21, 28, March 7, 2025  
**ACCURATE** 3-7-25

Christine A. Carringer  
Dated: January 15, 2025  
Publish: February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025  
**CHARLES** 2-28-25

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE**

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF FLORENCE LYNN STOW  
CASE NO. PR25-00034

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Florence Lynn Stow, Florence L. Stow, Florence L. Wadsworth.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Jonathan Matthew Stow, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting Jonathan Matthew Stow be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: February 21, 2025, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 10, Room 305; Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 600 Union Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Yvonne F. Thrasher, Esq, 78 Cernon Street, Suite A, Vacaville, CA 95688; 707-447-1200  
Publish: January 31, Feb 7, 14, 2025  
**STOW** 2-14-25

**LIEN SALE**

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will conduct a Lien Sale Auction on FEB 24TH, 2025 at 9:30 AM. This is authorized by Division 8, Chapter 10 of the California Business and Professions Code. CASH ONLY. All items must be removed from the property immediately after sale.

**DIXON SELF STORAGE 1410 REGENCY PKWY DIXON, CA 95620-4500**

UNIT A012- Richard Davis- 7 totes with misc. items, water cooler, portable fan, ice cooler, guitar, tv, fishing art, archery equipment, coleman box, 3 plastic containers

Bond # 0342850

Dixon Independent Voice 2-7 and 2-14-2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**SUBJECT: Dixon City Council Meeting Capital Facilities Fees (Development Impact Fees) Increase**

To whom it may concern:

Government Code section 66000 et seq. (Mitigation Fee Act also known as AB 1600) and Chapter 4.07 of the Dixon Municipal Code, Capital Facility Fees ("CFF") have been adopted to fund the necessary infrastructure and public facilities to mitigate the impact of new development. Dixon's Municipal Code outlines a process to adjust the CFFs annually to reflect changes in construction costs to ensure that adequate funds are available at the time a project is built. The adjustment is based on the process outlined in chapter 4.07.150 Annual Review. The annual update of the CFFs was most recently completed on January 16, 2024 (Resolution No. 24-012) which included an update of the various Development Impact Fees.

Staff recommend updating the CFFs based on the 1.1% Construction Cost Index increase. This fee increase will result in the City collecting fees more closely reflecting current construction costs. Staff also recommend updating the In-Lieu Fee based on the 2.5% Consumer Price Index increase between October 2023 and October 2024. This increase will allow the City to collect fees that more closely reflect the reasonable cost of mitigation measures in the area, as well as the City's associated administrative costs. The report is available to view at City Hall or on the City's webpage at [www.cityofdixonca.gov/FormsFeesandPermits](http://www.cityofdixonca.gov/FormsFeesandPermits) under City of Dixon Impact Fees.

Copies of the agenda and staff report for the meeting will be available for review no later than Friday, February 28, 2025, at City Hall and the City of Dixon website. The meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025  
Time: 7:00 P.M.  
Location: City Council Chambers  
600 East A Street  
Dixon, CA 95620

We welcome and appreciate your participation. If you should have any questions or comments, please contact us at (707) 678-7030 or by email at [engineering@cityofdixonca.gov](mailto:engineering@cityofdixonca.gov).

Sincerely,

Dixon Engineering Department

Dixon Independent Voice 2-14-2025

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000122**  
The following persons are doing business as: Western Machinery Electric, Inc./WME/Western Machinery/Western Machinery Electric/Optimal Energy, 340 W Channel Road, Suite A, Benicia, CA 94510.  
Western Machinery Electric Inc., 340 W Channel Road, Suite A, Benicia, CA 94510.  
Date filed in Solano County: January 23, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 22, 2025  
This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration January 22, 2030. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)  
Publish: Jan 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 2025  
**WESTERN** 2-21-25

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000209**  
The following persons are doing business as: Solano Integrated Wellness Center, 933 Fruit Stand Circle, Vacaville, CA 95688.  
Sandler Psychological Services PC, 933 Fruit Stand Circle, Vacaville, CA 95688.  
Date filed in Solano County: February 5, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #CU24-10195

Charles Sanders filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Charles Sanders to Charles James Edward Patterson.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. March 19, 2025, 8:30 a.m. Department 12, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533  
Judge of the Superior Court:



# City Council Recognizing Employee Service Milestones

Continued from page 1

an injunction or a law enforcement group," Wallace said.

The grand jury examines aspects of county and city government, school districts, prisons and jails, and special districts within the county. Topics for investigation come from citizen complaints or recommendations from the jury members.

To qualify for grand jury service, you must be at least 18 years old, a United States citizen and a Solano County resident for at least one year. Applicants must have a flexible schedule, reliable transportation and a good comprehension of the English language.

Wallace has been serving on the grand jury for about a year and a half and said she has "learned a lot about the operations of local government and how to be a better citizen."

Councilmember Thom Bogue requested Item 9.4 be pulled from the Consent Calendar for discussion. The proposed \$50,000 contract with Phibro-Tech Inc. would provide equipment and testing services for a hexavalent chromium (Chrome 6) pilot test at the Parklane Well site. But Bogue said he "thought a similar pilot test was already conducted a few years ago."

Staff explained that in 2024, the California State Water Resources Control Board implemented a new Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Chrome 6 of 10 parts per billion. The samples taken from the city's wells ranged from 16 to 27 parts per billion. The city must conduct quarterly tests until it has a treatment system in place within the mandated three years.

This new proposed pilot test is for a

different system that is supposed to be cheaper, with a smaller footprint and less maintenance than the pilot previously tested.

City Council voted unanimously to approve the contract.

Council then considered the appointment of two new commissioners to the Dixon Housing Authority, Craig Gnos and Seth Cooley.

City Manager Jim Lindley said the Dixon Housing Authority helps make housing decisions that impact Dixon, including for the migrant farm worker housing on Radio Station Road. Over the years, Lindley said, "there have been quite a few improvements there" and it's helpful to have community input. Lindley said the proposed appointees are farmers from long-term farming families that often employ the migrant workers, so they would have valuable insight.

City Council members agreed that Gnos and Cooley are well-known, well-qualified local candidates.

During public comment, one Dixon resident asked if there had been an open application process for these commission seats. He said that the commissioners don't have to be farmers and it could be preferable to appoint individuals with a "broader perspective."

City Manager Lindley explained that new Dixon Housing Authority commissioners are nominated by commissioners currently serving on the board.

Council members voted unanimously to approve Gnos and Cooley as new Dixon Housing Authority commissioners.

The next Dixon City Council meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 18. ★

# Learning About Memory Loss

Continued from page 1

help and ask for it early."

"It's not about memory loss," Wayman said. "It's about the ability to process and understand."

She showed slides of a human brain both healthy and then with dementia. The brain with dementia begins to look like Swiss cheese and ultimate shrivels to a small wad of tissue.

"They lose gray matter, robbing them of the ability to learn. They can't concentrate or communicate because they cannot process," Wayman said.

Wayman gave the example of being in front of someone asking what they want for dinner or if they want to go outside. The person cannot understand what is being said so to them, Wayman said, it sounds like "blah-blah-blah." The person often becomes angry, confused, obstinate and even mean.

"If someone came at you and you couldn't understand them, you would want them to go away. They'd be anxious and confused. Remember there is a hole in their brain," she said.

"Facts are not real to them anymore and feelings are the only thing that's real," Wayman continued. "The caregiver has to be the one to make decisions; they cannot. But if a care provider talks to their feelings, they can direct them."

Looking at their photos or recalling

their favorite meal, dress, birthday or other experience helps the caregiver guide them to a dining table or bedroom or outdoors, for example.

"Memories are their security valve," Wayman said. "Don't say 'remember...;' just reminisce. Never lecture, say 'I told you,' shame, argue or condescend."

For more information, see Wayman's book, "A Loving Approach to Dementia Care," or call the Farmstead at Dixon at 707-676-5060.

According to the California Department of Health, one in nine people aged 65-plus are living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia and an early diagnosis of dementia provides a range of benefits for the individuals. It eventually destroys the brain. It is not a normal part of aging. Early diagnosis can help to delay or reverse the onset of the disease.

A warning sign of Alzheimer's disease includes memory loss that disrupts life, such as forgetting new information and important dates or asking repeatedly the same information. Another sign is changes in planning or solving problems and difficulty following a plan or forgetting familiar recipes or difficulty tracking monthly bills or counting change. Other signs include forgetting how to drive to a familiar location, challenges balancing a budget, forgetting the rules to a favorite game, and difficulty reading or judging distance. ★

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.



## DIXON POLICE LOG

### Thursday, Feb. 6

**0610** - Traffic Collision Misfeld St. at Valley Glen Dr. A solo vehicle ran off the roadway and collided with a transformer and fire hydrant.

**0930** - Theft report 2000 block Lark Way.

### Wednesday, Feb. 5

**0644** - School information report taken at the Police Dept.

**0836** - School information report taken in the 500 block of College Way.

**0847** - Theft report taken in the 1300 block of W. H St.

**1224** - Fraud report taken in the 700 block of Colusa Ct.

**1244** - School information report taken in the 500 block of College Way.

**1309** - Restraining order violation reported at the Police Dept.

**1603** - Civil issue in the 1300 block of MacDonald Ct.

**1847** - A warrant and resisting arrest report were taken in the 1300 block of N. Lincoln St. Officers arrested (5) John Bordenkircher of Dixon. Bordenkircher was arrested and taken to the Solano County Jail.

### Tuesday, Feb. 4

**1042** - Found debit card turned in at the Police Dept.

**1230** - Non-injury traffic accident reported in the 1100 block of Pitt School Rd.

**1450** - Report of a lost purse in the 1200 block of Stratford Ave.

**0000** - A theft report was taken in the 400 block of S. Seventh St.

### Monday, Feb. 3

**1020** - Found property report taken at the Police Dept. Someone turned in an E-scooter.

**1559** - Non-injury traffic accident reported in the 300 block of S. First St.

**1607** - Non-injury traffic accident reported in the 100 block of E. C St.

### Sunday, Feb. 2

**0607** - Burglary reported in the 100 block of E. Dorset Ct.

**0936** - Burglary reported in the 7800 block of Batavia Rd.

**1945** - A theft report was taken in the 1200 block of Stratford Ave.

**2200** - A D.U.I. arrest report was taken at the intersection of W. A St. at Batavia Rd. Officers made an enforcement stop and contacted (S) Franciso Javier Gonzalez-Perez (24) of Fairfield. Gonzalez-Perez was arrested for D.U.I. and transported to the Solano County jail and released to their staff.

**0425** - An informational report was taken in the 1300 block of Bello Dr.

### Saturday, Feb. 1

No Case Numbers

### Friday, Jan. 31

**0845** - Vandalism 1000 block Newgate Way.

**1035** - Hit and Run collision E. A St. at N. Second St.

**1130** - Court Order Violation 800 block Elm Dr.

**1130** - Found Property E. A St. at N First St.

**1230** - Stalking Vaughn Rd. at N. First St. Quintin Alexander (26) of Manteca was arrested for felony stalking and booked into the Solano County Jail.

**1645** - Elder abuse 1300 block N. Lincoln St.

### Thursday, Jan. 30

**0815** - Court order violation 1600 block Winfield St.

### Wednesday, Jan. 29

**0800** - Theft report 200 block E. Dorset Dr.

**0920** - Confidential report at Dixon Police Dept.

**1020** - Confidential report 100 block S. First St.

**1300** - Welfare Check 400 block E. A St.

**0003** - Death investigation in the 900 block of Hillview Dr.

### Tuesday, Jan. 28

**1212** - APS referral taken in the 900 block of Regina Way.

**1229** - APS referral taken in the 2000 block of Quiet Acres Way.

**1236** - School information report taken in the 500 block of College Way.

**1256** - Stolen trailer report taken in the 200 block of E. Dorset Dr.

**1439** - Battery report taken in the 200 block of S. Jackson St.

**1513** - Abandoned vehicle reported in the 600 block of W. D St. South.

**1606** - Traffic stop in the area of Porter Rd. and Midway Rd. resulted in the arrest of Damian Aldaco (19) for narcotics sales. He was taken to county jail.

### Monday, Jan. 27

**0929** - Found bike reported in the 1900 block of Rehrmann Dr.

**1018** - Information report taken at the Police Dept.

### Sunday, Jan. 26

**0851** - Information report taken at the Police Dept.

**1523** - Traffic stop near WB 80 and Pitt School Rd. resulted in the arrest of Joward Evans (27) of Sacramento for a misdemeanor warrant. He was taken to county jail.

### Saturday, Jan. 25

**1100** - Theft report 200 block N. Lincoln St.

**1155** - Citizen Assist 800 block Green Dr.

### Friday, Jan. 24

**0930** - Theft report 500 block College Way.

**1123** - Agency Assist 200 block N. Lincoln St.

**1140** - Death investigation 500 block Evans Rd.

**1230** - Agency Assist at Dixon Police Dept.

**2008** - Joseph Gantan (51) from Vallejo was arrested in the 1700 block of Dorset Dr. for an outstanding \$1,000 bail no-cite bench arrest warrant for failure to appear on criminal threat charges, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Gantan was transported and booked at the Solano County jail.

**2057** - Kayla BockRobledo (36) from Vacaville was arrested in the 1300 block of Commercial Way for an outstanding \$160,000 bail no-cite bench arrest warrant for failure to appear on charges of vandalism and resisting arrest. BockRobledo was transported and booked at the Solano County Jail.

### Thursday, Jan. 23

**1600** - Reckless driving report 400 block Miller Ct.

### Wednesday, Jan. 22

No Case Numbers

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Men's/Women's/Youth Wednesday's 6:30 pm

**Food Pantry on Fridays 11am - 12pm**

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