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ndependent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

FEBRUARY 21, 2025

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VICTOR MORENO SWORN IN AS CHP OFFICER



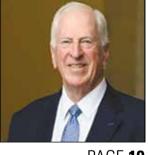
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WINTER INDOOR **PICKLEBALL**



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THOMPSON REAPPOINTED TO BIRD COMMISSION



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Livestock Conservancy Grant Awarded



The Livestock Conservancy works to preserve and protect more than 180 agricultural breeds, including the St. Croix sheep pictured here.

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon's own Bianca Currey, has received a microgrant award from The Livestock Conservancy to support her work with Rhinelander rabbits, an endangered agricultural livestock breed. Rhinelander rabbits are listed as "Recovering" The Livestock Conservancy's conservation priority list.

Rhinelanders brought to the United States in 1923 and accepted to the Standards of the National Breeders and Fanciers Association of America in 1924. Today, conservationists are carefully monitoring the Rhinelander population as



Bianca Currey of Dixon has received a Youth Microgrant award from The Livestock Conservancy to support her work with Rhinelander rabbits, an endangered breed of agricultural **livestock**. Photos courtesy of Livestock Conservancy

resurgence, with more than

the breed shows signs of 500 Rhinelanders recorded at rabbit shows in the last

five years.

Currey, 14, is already a veteran of numerous nationwide small animal breeding competitions and will use the grant funding to expand her Rhinelander rabbit breeding program. She will also create a comprehensive breed education package, including a pictorial guide to demonstrate proper breed characteristics and markings. A new informational display will also be developed and used at events and shows.

"I work to promote this 'fancy' breed by engaging others at school presentations and local, state and national shows," Currey said.

> She is one of 15 Continued on page 2

Get Inspired at the Solano **County Home and Garden Show**



Solano Home and Garden Show News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Solano County Home & Garden Show returns to the Dixon Fairgrounds, 655 S First St., Dixon, on Saturday, March 22 and Sunday, March 23, bringing together the best in home improvement, landscaping and garden design.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, this family-friendly event offers everything you need to kickstart your next project. A local tradition since 2015, the Home and Garden show offers attendees the opportunity to connect with fellow enthusiasts and gather valuable insights on future décor decisions.

Guest speaker is Ahmed Hassan, the original host from "HGTV's Yard Crashers." Hassan, renowned for his expertise in landscaping and outdoor design, will have demonstrations and an exclusive question-and-answer session. Don't miss the chance to get professional tips and advice from the expert.

Come meet Northern California's Top Home Improvement Companies, get quotes, compare services and find the right professionals for your home improvement, remodeling or maintenance projects, all in one convenient location.

Take advantage of exclusive, event-only specials and discounts, and shop with local crafters and food vendors. Enjoy unique handmade goods, delicious bites and refreshing beverages from local vendors.

Local musician Alan Brownlee will perform while attendees explore and play bingo scavenger hunt.

The Solano County Home & Garden Show is held rain or shine. General admission is \$8 per person and \$5 for seniors and military (with no other discounts applied). Admission is free for children 12 and under.

Whether you are a seasoned homeowner looking for new ideas or a novice gardener seeking inspiration, the spring edition of the Solano County Home & Garden Show is an opportunity to explore your creativity further.

For more information and to get a \$3-off coupon, visit SolanoHomeShow. com. Tickets are sold at the gate for cash only.

Welcoming the Community

Story by Kendall Brown, photos by Nicolas Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Uptown Collective, located at 108 N. First St., had humble beginnings.

The boutique, established in July 2020 by Rebecca Robinson, acted as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic as several downtown store owners experienced financial hardships, due to the lack of customers.

Uptown Collective's goal is to act as a collective, bringing artisanal women together to share in their craft while giving downtown visitors another shop to check out. In 2025, after some re-adjustment, the initial goal remains

While Uptown Collective is the brainchild of Robinson, many of the wares sold there are crafted by Robinson's business partners, Susan Rosten, Lilly Nahoney, Juanita Luna and sisters Rachel and Christina Cerna.



in store, alongside Juanita Luna of JLuna's Boutique and Rachel Cerna and Christina Cerna of a Vintage Affair.

The Cernas own A jewelry and scarves. Vintage Affair, which specializes in vintage apparel and gifts.

Luna owns JLuna's Boutique, which offers a

collection of handcrafted

Rosten, owner of Jewels

by the Sea, specializes in sea glass and fine jewelry.

aprons and other handmade

Nahoney of Lilly of the Arts primarily sews bags,

items that celebrate Dixon. According to Rosten, she

and Nahoney were originally part of the business in 2020, when it first opened. Previously located

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www.IndependentVoice.com

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Life's too

Pretty Neighborhood; Happy Heart

By Debra Dingman

With all the things going on in the world right now, one's yard may not be on your priority list but I would like to tell you something that you might not know about your yard.

If it has a chicken coop, a large dog kennel, wire fencing, a boat, car or trailer that hasn't moved in months or possibly years, you could be causing yourself and others a sense of unhappiness and a dark cloud over your neighborhood. Being a busy and genuinely accepting person of people at various stages of their lives including old, I have spent the last 30 years secretly grumbling about certain Dixon-eye-soreyards because they made me unhappy.

But now that I've relocated to a beautiful neighborhood where a homeowner's association actually makes people keep a decent presentation of their front yard and fines them if they don't, I am nearly shocked at how joyful I feel driving into it. I'm proud of my neighborhood. I love looking at the nice lawns, the pretty landscape designs and the colorful flowers. I find myself smiling as I drive into it. I know I'm an easy soul but my spirit actually lifts.

Looking at some of the former locations I have lived in Dixon and driving through the upscale areas I wanted to live in, I'm appalled at how even there, there is more than a fair share of blight. I wrote about this long ago and encouraged people to knock on their neighbor's door if a yard was suddenly going to seed. Maybe the neighbor is ill or just recently had

surgery. Maybe the person has outlived his or her children or didn't know how to ask for help.

You can always bring a lawn mower and work gloves with you and say something like "I could tell something was wrong so I'm going to give a helping hand...' and then look down at your lawnmower. I know they'll be beyond appreciative. I also know it will help your heart when you know you've offered to help.

When Dixon was smaller, one likely knew their neighbors and there was a sense of neighborly obligation to at least mow one's lawn or whack down the sharpedged palm that covers the sidewalk. It was a community full of residents who wanted the best for it. When you look at the large numbers of local people who attend the various functions in town like the concerts, movies, farmers markets, tree lighting and fundraising dinners, you have to know there are people who want to be here.

When residents feel a deep connection to their community, they are more likely to take pride in and contribute to its growth and prosperity. This is a documented fact. We may not be able to make life better for everyone but we can at least try to make it

So, if you are a resident who has been here awhile, invite your neighbors to do a Block Improvement Program and work together to clean things up, haul away unwanteds (including vehicles) and plant drought-tolerant greenery. They will see the positive impacts of their efforts...and Dixon will be better for it!

Dixon News Briefs



Winter indoor pickleball at John Knight Middle School, 455 E A St., is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. The final two Saturdays to play will be Feb. 22 and March 1. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By MPG Staff

Veteran's Dinner

American Legion Post 208 is hosting a Veteran's Dinner from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Feb. 21 at Veterans' Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St. Meatloaf, potatoes, veggies and gravy will be on offer for \$12 per person, and it will be all-you-can-eat.

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

DFS 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.

Hamlet: Paranormal Activity

Dixon Community Theater is showcasing its newest play, "Hamlet: Paranormal Activity," at the Dixon Performing Arts Center, 555 College Way. This modern adaptation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy will have six shows: Feb. 21 (7 p.m.), Feb. 22 (7 p.m.), Feb. 23 (2 p.m.), Feb. 28 (7 p.m.), March 1 (7 p.m.) and March 2 (2 p.m.). General admission is \$12 per person, \$6 for students and seniors; and free for Dixon High School Students.

For more information, visit dixoncommunitytheater.com.

Mardi Gras Mambofest

Winters Theatre Company, 13 Main St., Winters, is hosting a night of music and dancing at the Winters Opera House from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 23. For \$23.18 per person, enjoy a performance by the Rhythmtown-Jive, a musical group of San Francisco Bay Area musicians who deliver original '40s and '50 s influenced rhythm and blues, Zydeco, jump swing, rock 'n' roll and New Orleans gems.

For more information, visit winterstheatre.org or call 530-795-4014.

Dine and Donate Fundraiser

The Sacramento Valley National Support Committee (SVNCSC) is hosting a dine-and-donate event at The Brass Tap, 783 Orange Dr., Vacaville. From 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Feb. 24, guest 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 Avenue of the Flags.

For more information, contact info@ svncsc.org.

Winter Indoor Pickleball

Winter Indoor Pickleball is hosted every Saturday at John Knight Middle School, 455 E. A St. and has been since Jan. 4. For \$5 per person, paid at the door, attendees of all ages can drop in and play from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 22 and March 1 are the final two sessions of the season and space is limited.

For more information, contact dixonrecreation@cityofdixon.us

Women in Business Night

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a night of networking for business professionals from 5:30 to 7: 30 p.m. Feb. 27. Hosted at The Venue, 160 W. A St., attendees can enjoy a no-host beer and wine bar. Jill Orr, co-owner of Dawson's Bar & Grill and Downtown Dixon Business Association President, is guest speaker. Food is provided. Tickets are \$10 per person and are available on Eventbrite.com.

For more information, contact info@ dixonchamber.org.

Art Uncorked

Soroptimist International of Dixon is hosting a benefit for women and children in the community from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 15. For \$45 per person, attendees can enjoy art inspired by local artisans while dining on wine and appetizers. The event will take place at American Legion Hall, 1305 N. First St.

For more information or to buy tickets, call 916-799-3315.

CalWater Scholarship **Programs**

California Water Service, 110 E. Mayes St., is offering up to \$10,000 in scholarships for college-bound and currently enrolled students. This program, administered by Scholarship America, has applications available for California, Hawaii, New Mexico and Washington residents. Customer service is available but only until the application deadline at 1 p.m. March 27.

For more information, contact calwater@scholarshipamerica.org.

Dixon Unified School District Open Enrollment

Dixon Unified School District has begun open enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year. All six schools, which are Anderson Elementary School, Gretchen Higgins Elementary School, Tremont Elementary School, John Knight Middle School, Dixon High School and Maine Prairie High School, can be applied for online.

For more information, visit dixonusd. org or call 707-693-6380.

Livestock Conservancy Grant Awarded

Continued from page 1

Livestock Conservancy Microgrant award winners nationwide, including three awards to aid heritage breed associations and four microgrants for youth such as Currey who are under the age of 18.

"Farmers, ranchers, and shepherds are aging out of livestock and poultry production across America," Allison Kincaid, executive director of The Livestock Conservancy, said. "Since 2018, more than 25 percent of our microgrants have invested in youth who are discovering the opportunity to make an impact in conservation. We need these heritage breeders of tomorrow as partners in the fight to save

heritage breeds from extinction." Since launching the Livestock Conservancy Microgrant program in 2018,

nearly \$135,000 has been awarded to help

each of the 11 species that the organization serves, including cattle, chickens, donkeys, ducks, geese, goats, horses, pigs, rabbits, sheep and turkeys. Microgrants are completely donor- and sponsor-funded.

The microgrants are one of several Livestock Conservancy efforts to promote and protect heritage breeds. Programs include "Shave 'Em to Save 'Em," which encourages knitters, weavers and fiber artists to consider using wool from 23 endangered sheep breeds like the Leicester Longwool for their projects.

Applications for the next round of Microgrants opens in May 2025. The Livestock Conservancy is a membership-based organization that promotes, protects and preserves rare-breed livestock and poultry across America. Learn more at www.livestockconservancy.org.





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Considering Your Neighborhood Government?

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If you're considering a purchase in a Dixon development, you might want to check and see how it is "governed," especially if it has a homeowners' association (HOA).

Formerly called Common Interest Developments, a version of today's homeowners' associations was basically created in the latter part of the 1800s for "homesteaders" in the United States who shared roads, fences and utilities.

For California, homeowners' associations originally started in Pasadena in 1905 and Los Angeles in 1916 where legal restrictions were focused on upscale, single-family residences. Homeowners' associations were first regulated in 1963 when the Federal Housing Administration approved home mortgage insurance exclusively for condominiums, which created an explosion of construction and subdivisions. That created an exodus of city dwellers moving to the suburbs and into common-interest housing, according to Revelation Community Management.

Now there are more than 50,000 homeowner associations governing more than five-million homes. There are several in Dixon, including Dixon Estates, Village Green and the newest, Four Seasons at Homestead.

"Ninety percent are nonprofits and are governed by volunteers with no or little expertise. But they are responsible for hundreds of dollars of investments," said Bay Area Property Services President Lisa Triplett, who recently spoke at a California Association of Community Managers conference.

There have been "nightmare stories of neighbors feuding because they didn't agree on a fence style, color of house paint or pool hours," according



Dixon's Village Green Homeowners' Association President Barbara Brady and board member David Dingman talk with electricians at a homeowners association vendor conference.

to Triplette.

"Having good management is essential and a good way to offset liabilities where good people share amenities," she said.

Managers can help build stronger communities and give boards the tools to preserve, protect and enhance property values, according to Triplette, and a good management company can also prevent lawsuits.

"It is the ultimate partnership," said John Gill, Esquire, of Hughes, Gill, Cochrane, and Tinetti who has exclusively represented homeowners' associations in all aspects of CID operations for more than

"How all this started was for the local government to not have

to pay for streets and infrastructure," Gill said. "It's a way to get things done."

The management team is not

just another vendor but a relationship, according to Gill. "The nature of the relationship is critical to taking care of prop-

erty investment (your home)," Gill said. Although homeowners' association board members are

volunteers, conference attendees were told, the associations are fiduciaries and a neighborhood is difficult to operate without a good property management company.

"Every year, there are new changes and additional legal requirements and mandates," Triplett said. "With a manager, they have access to professional resources, insurance protection attorneys, CPAs, Reserve Study preparers, insurance brokers and specialty vendors. Plus, they learn the new laws and know legal obligations.

Attending these types of annual conferences help inform homeowners' association board members of upcoming legislation that will affect their

At this same conference, there was an explanation of a new state law, Assembly Bill 1572, which bans the use of drinking water to irrigate non-functional turf. It was in response to an executive order that Governor Gavin Newsom issued during the most recent drought in June 2022. This law affects lawns used on commercial, industrial and institutional properties, including common areas of homeowners' associations, effectively prohibiting the watering of decorative grass that serves no recreational purpose. The law phases in over several years, starting with state and local government buildings in 2027 and reaching homeowners' association common areas by 2029.

"Communication is key to young, middle-aged, and older homeowners," Gill said. Speakers ended their presentations encouraging homeowner association board members to create social events to foster a sense of community and encourage board participation.



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Dixon Independent Voice 4 • FEBRUARY 21, **2025**

Kings Korner By V.G. Harris



Well, the all-star break is upon us, and if ever there is a time of reflection needed for Sacramento Kings fans, the time

A beloved member of the Kings family is no longer with the team, and there are some fans that are simply not getting over it. For others, they understand that at the end of the day, the NBA is a monstrous business, and even the most electric of players at times, must be moved for the good of the franchise.

Make no mistake about it, Zach Lavine is no slouch, and he may not be as fast as DeAaron Fox, but this former all-star

Zach has already impressed fans with his mid-range game, and as his 3-point prowess kicks in, Sacramento fans will get a look at the true foray of talent that this baller has to offer. The acquisition of Jonas Valanciunas

is not only welcome, it is long overdue. I have been writing about this big man for over a year, and my only consternation is why he wasn't acquired over the off season when he was available?

Valanciunas will prove his value as the Kings strive to come down the home stretch healthy, and with a team that is just now finding its rhythm.

Amazingly, as the newly assembled Kings have yet to have a single practice with the bevy of new players and that includes newcomer Markelle Fultz. Markelle was drafted No. 1 overall in the 2017 draft, ahead of players like Jason Tatum, Donovan Mitchell, and yes, Sacramento's former point guard DeAaron Fox. Ironic, I would say so, but the NBA is a league of second chances, and if anyone ever needed one, it's Markelle Fultz.

After a storied college career with the Washington Huskies, Markelle leaped to the front of the class and was drafted No. 1 overall by the Philadelphia 76ers. Sadly, his NBA career would get off to an abysmal start, as he suffered a debilitating shoulder injury and the 76ers gave up on their No. 1 pick. Fultz was traded to Orlando Magic but after 5 uneventful and injury riddled seasons, the Magic did not resign Markelle.

I smiled from ear to ear when I heard that Markelle was quoted as saying on his signing with the Kings, "I haven't felt this good since I came into the league. I never had the opportunity to take my time and get healthy, so being able to do that last summer has been great for me. I'm super excited for this opportunity and I'm thankful for it."

I love hearing that kind of talk, and just as the Kings have had No. 1 draft choice busts in the past, perhaps a real opportunity to turn back the clock has finally come their way.

Our starting five is full of talent, but with departure of Alex Len, Kevin Huerter, Jordan McLauglin, Jalen McDaniels, and most recently Colby Jones, the real question has been the quality and depth of the bench.

Recently acquired Jake LaRavia and Jonas Valanciunas will bring a sturdier presence to front line, and with a healthy Markelle Fultz coming off the bench to give malik Monk some much-needed rest, it's entirely possible the Kings bench is in its best posture all season.

Isaac Jones remains a diamond in the rough, and I'm hopeful coach Christie hasn't lost sight of him. Dynamic, athletic, and able to jump out of the gym, Issac is in his rookie season, and has still to get anything resembling a real shot at playing time. Don't miss on this guy, because I see an enormous upside, and just as we've seen Keon Ellis rise to new heights, so can Isaac Jones.

So, imagine Valanciunas, Keon Ellis, LaRavia, Fultz, Trey Lyles, and Isaac Jones as the key bench players, with Devin Carter and Doug McDermott in the wings. I believe this is overall the strongest bench the Kings have had in the past three seasons, so hold onto your seats Kings fans, because it's just possible the fun has just begun.

There are stories yet to be written, and it's my hope that players like Markelle Fultz and Isaac Jones will soon take center stage! Playoffs, NOT Play-in!

Enjoy the home stretch Kings fans, it could be a real barn burner!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.

Social Security Matters

About Claiming Social Security when I have a Health Savings Account (HSA)



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I have reached my full retirement age (66 plus 8 months) and plan to apply for Social Security this month, but I've seen articles which say that when I apply, I must also take Medicare Part A. This, even though I am continuing to work and am covered by my employer's health insurance (a high deductible plan). I contribute bi-weekly into an HSA (Heath Savings Account). I've read that Medicare back dates Part A coverage by 6 months, which suggests I would have had to stop contributing to my HSA six months ago. If this is true, will I need to pay penalties and such to the IRS? I'm not able to find anything else about this topic, and I'm wondering what you might have to say. I have my wife and two children on my employer's HDHP. We contribute \$6,000 annually to our HSA and my employer contributes \$1,250 on January 1st each year. We can live without the HSA, but the taxes and IRS penalties concern me. Signed: Wanting to Claim SS (but concerned)

Dear Wanting to Claim: I'm afraid that what you've read is correct – it is mandatory for you to take Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) when receiving Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part A is free to you, and even though you are still covered under your employer's creditable high deductible healthcare plan and can delay taking Medicare Part B, you must take Medicare Part A to collect Social Security after 65. Medicare and your employer's plan will coordinate healthcare benefit payments.

That does, however, also mean your Health Savings Account (HSA) will be affected because, as you have found, Medicare will backdate your Part A coverage by 6 months. And because Part A is not a high deductible plan (a requirement for HSA), any contributions you make after the effective date of Part A will be subject to an IRS penalty, and your HSA contributions won't be considered tax-exempt. This will mean the IRS will likely assess a 6% excise tax on any contributions made after your Part A effective date, and you'll need to pay income tax on those

contributions.

What you may wish to consider is stopping your HSA contributions now and waiting an additional six months or so to claim your Social Security benefits (to get beyond the HSA penalty phase). This would have the advantage of avoiding the IRS penalty on your HSA contributions and would also increase your Social Security benefit due to Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs). You earn DRCs at the rate of .677% for each month beyond your FRA that you wait to claim, which means an SS benefit about 4% higher if you wait six months longer to claim

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A 1995 California Court Ruling That Restored Immigrant Rights Could Backfire Now



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California has the nation's largest population of undocumented immigrants with roughly 1.8 million people. Over the last three decades, Californians' attitudes about that fact have undergone an astonishing swing.

Hostility reached a peak in the early 1990s, demonstrated by passage of Proposition 187 in 1994 by a 3-2 margin. The measure would have required police to check the legal status of people they encountered and barred public services, including education, to those who could not prove citizenship or legal residency.

It was the centerpiece of Republican Gov. Pete Wilson's campaign for a second term, contending that undocumented people were overwhelming the state's

However, support for a crackdown was not confined to GOP voters. Not only did many Democrats — then as now the largest bloc of voters — vote for the measure, but a Legislature dominated by Democrats passed anti-immigrant laws, such banning driver's licenses.

Soon, however, public sentiment and the political atmosphere began to change. Undocumented immigrants and their advocates scored a big win a year after Prop. 187's passage when federal Judge Marianna Pfaelzer

lated the federal government's exclusive power to regulate immigration.

"The California voters' overwhelming approval of Proposition 187 reflects their justifiable frustration with the federal government's inability to enforce the immigration laws effectively," she wrote at the time. "No matter how serious the problem may be, however, the authority to regulate immigration belongs exclusively to the federal government and state agencies are not permitted to assume that authority. The state is powerless to enact its own scheme to regulate immigration or to devise immigration regulations which run parallel to or purport to supplement the federal immigration laws."

A few years later, after Democrat Gray Davis succeeded Wilson, the state abandoned an appeal of Pfaelzer's ruling. In subsequent years the Legislature repealed other laws, such as the one on driver's licenses, and has done whatever it could to treat undocumented immigrants as if they were legal residents, such as expanding health care benefits.

When Donald Trump was elected president in 2016 and promised a crackdown on illegal immigration, California reacted with legislation to make it more difficult for federal immigration authorities to capture and deport undocumented Californians.

The most important was Senate Bill 54, introduced a month after Trump won the election. Dubbed the California Values Act, it essentially bars California police from aiding in any way federal efforts to identify and deport undocumented

immigrants.

challenge but Trump is once again in the White House, declaring his intention to rid the nation of undocumented immigrants, and is taking aim at California and other states with sanctuary laws.

The U.S. Department of Justice has filed suit to overturn Illinois laws quite similar to California's SB 54, and its contention in the Illinois suit could — with great irony convert the federal court decision against Prop. 187 three decades ago ago into a hammer to smash SB 54. If California was illegally interfering with the federal government's exclusive power over immigration in Prop. 187, the suit implies, sanctuary laws also interfere with that power.

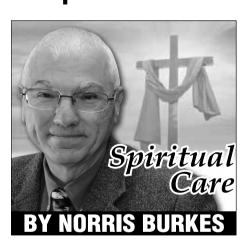
The 23-page complaint, filed in federal court in Chicago, alleges that Illinois laws "have the purpose and effect of making it more difficult for, and deliberately impeding, federal immigration officers' ability to carry out their responsibilities in those jurisdictions."

California officials are aware that the Illinois suit will not be the only challenge to local and state laws meant to protect undocumented immigrants. Were the Illinois suit's argu-

ment to prevail, the situation in California could come full circle. A legal principle that protected California's immigrants from Prop. 187 in 1995 might make identifying and deporting them easier in 2025.

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.

Chaplain Gets a Clint Eastwood Lesson



OK, folks, today I'm asking for your best Clint Eastwood impression by repeating these words aloud: "A man's gotta know his limitations."

If Eastwood was doing his portrayal of "Dirty Harry," today, he'd need to be more inclusive. "Everyone's gotta know their limitations."

Nonetheless, the maxim still gives solid guidance. However, it's advice I neglected 15 years ago when I was deployed to an undisclosed location far out onto the sand dunes.

It was a blisteringly hot afternoon when I decided to take a stroll toward our perimeter defenses in hopes of making a morale visit with our Security Forces personnel.

As I walked into their camp, I found a group of cops anxiously unpacking ammunition boxes.

'What's up, guys?" I asked, a little short of

situational awareness. "We're a little too busy to chat, Chaplain," said a perturbed sergeant.

I must have looked a little hurt because their lieutenant appeased me with an explanation.

"Intel reports suggest an attack tonight, so we need to load ammunition magazines for our M-16s."

"In that case, you'll need all the help you can get," I said. "Agreed," said an airman offering me

a stool and a short tutorial on handling

Gratefully, I was soon multitasking – loading magazines and facilitating the chat session I'd come for. I was a happy chappy

talking with folks about food, families and After about 20 minutes, I heard someone

loudly clearing their throat. I turned around to see an orange-vested officer standing on our perimeter.

"Chaplain, just what the hell do you think

you're doing?" he demanded.

"Morale visit, Sir. Just chatting up our cops."

"I mean with your hands!" he said pointing to the magazine I was loading.

Note: This is the moment where I disclose my previously undisclosed location – on the dunes of Malabar, Florida. This was a military exercise, a dress rehearsal for combat.

The irritated officer was an inspector.

"Captain Burkes," he growled. "You KNOW chaplains are non-combatants and forbidden by the Geneva Convention to have anything to do with weapons — most especially during an inspection."

Wowzer, I can tell you that a superior addressing a chaplain by rank is like hearing your mom using your middle name.

He was right, of course. Chaplains who violate this rule in a real deployment are subject to court martial.

I knew the rule applied to guns but hadn't given thought to magazines. Obviously I'd lost sight of my limitations.

As a military chaplain, I had to abide by certain rules of engagement that limited my religious freedoms. For instance, in addition to being unarmed, I couldn't proselytize, nor could I bring parochial prayers to mandatory formations.

Some of my pastor colleagues balked at such restrictions. However, by knowing and accepting my limitations, I was rewarded the high honor of being present with servicemembers as they walked into harm's way.

These limitations aren't much different for many of you who carry your faith into workplaces. A teacher can't preach to his students. An executive can't thump her employees with biblical proclamations. A foreman can't limit his hiring to those from his faith preference. These rules of engagement are about respect, not political correctness.

However, these limitations needn't keep you from becoming a light in your field. The contrary is true. Keeping the rules of engagement should mean that your light shines ever brighter as it shows your esteem for

By the way, I ran afoul of one other limitation that day. The Florida heat index shot up so high that 10 people dropped from heat exhaustion. When Slap Happy Chappy became No. 11, the orange vest yelled into his megaphone, "ENDEX." (End Exercise.)

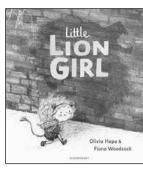
All together now — "A man's gotta know his limitations!"

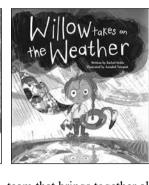
This column was excerpted from my book "Tell it to the Chaplain."

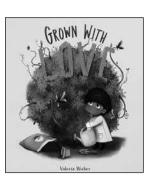


BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ☑ amy-shane@att.net • ② amy_fortheloveofbooks

Take on February with these Children's Books







Little Lion Girl by Olivia Hope, illustrated by Fiona Woodcock

Leonie is very excited to go into the big city with her mother. The moment she stepped on the train, Leonie couldn't believe her eyes. It was extraordinary, and so were the people. So, Leonie decided to become extraordinary, too. She shook her long blonde hair, put on her ears, and swished her tail. Leonie was an extraordinary lion girl. As Leonie took in all the sights and sounds, she got even more excited, and even when things could be scary, she wasn't scared because Leonie was a brave lion. Leonie prowled and shrieked, grunted, and squeaked like a lion, but the best part of the day was when she met other lions like her at the public library. But when Leonie finds herself lost, the darkness starts to sink in. Will Leonie ever be able to find her lion again?

Explore the world through the brave imagination of one little girl. Olivia Hope and Fiona Woodcock are a dynamic

team that brings together all the sights and sounds of the city through the eyes of one brave little girl. With wild blonde hair and the perfect roar, the city is the perfect, wild jungle for this imaginative story that shares self-confidence through the pride of a little lion.

Willow Takes On the Weather

by Rachel Noble. illustrated by

Annabel Tempest Willow, with her swimsuit, towels, and sunglasses. is all set for a fun-filled day. However, the Weather has its own plans. It starts with a gust of wind, but Willow is quick to respond, 'Not today!' While Weather was impressed, it sent in the clouds. Willow decided it was time to push back. Weather wasn't done. This time, rain came in, falling all around, but Willow grabbed the rain and threw it back. No matter how hard Willow tried, Weather still won, and it was time to give up. But when Willow has an idea, it was time to change plans. Will Willow beat the Weather, or will she join it? Celebrate the weather

and all its challenges. While the weather can sometimes feel like it's ruining the day, this imaginative and creative spin will have readers grabbing their rain boots and sunglasses and heading outside for a day of new possibilities.

Grown With Love by Valeria Wicker

Oliver loved plants, and

believes in their power to help people. He even has a unique talent- Oliver can create any plant people need, by blending plants. However, there's one person he can't seem to help: Mrs. Kroftombottom. No plant seems to survive at her house. No matter how many times Oliver tried, nothing survived. In a moment of sadness, Oliver is invited inside, and the answer presents itself. But will it be enough to help Mrs. Kroftombottom?

Grown with Love is a beautiful story of kindness and love, discovering exactly what people and plants need to flourish. Readers of all ages will love the message of this book and possibly discover a love for the plants that surround them.



Riley Reviews

"LOVE HURTS" ACTION COMEDY: "YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED" FLOPS

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"LOVE HURTS" RATED R

The first installment of the "Die Hard" franchise is thought in many circles to be a Christmas movie. If that's a defensible position, then "Love Hurts" is by all measures a Valentine's Day cinematic excursion.

If February 14th is a day to celebrate love and affection, "Love Hurts" is a curious choice. However, it apparently qualifies to be holiday-themed because the action takes place on the day where gifts are typically flowers and boxes of chocolate.

Still, a movie could be even less connected to the spirit of Valentine's Day, which was the case with 1982's horror film "Hospital Massacre" (aka "Be My Valentine, or Else,") and several slasher films that included 1981's "My Bloody Valentine" and the 2009 remake "My Bloody Valentine 3D."

The central character of the seemingly mild-mannered Milwaukee realtor Marvin Gable (Ke Huy Quan "Everything Everywhere All at Once" Oscar winner) bakes his own pink heart-shaped cookies to share with his office staff on Valentine's Day.

A cheerful salesman incredulously excited to pitch bland tract homes to prospective buyers, Marvin finds that his dark past as a hitman working for his crime lord older brother Alvin "Knuckles" Gable (Daniel Wu) has come back to haunt him.

Aside from his ruthless exterior, Knuckles's twisted devotion to family leads to an inability to let go of Marvin that, coupled with an obsessive need for control, creates a volatile relationship at the heart of the story.

Subsequently, Marvin gets swept into a vortex of family dysfunction when he gets a cryptic greeting card from former criminal partner Rose (Ariana DeBose) which simply reads "Hiding isn't living."

Having unrequited feelings, so it seems, for Rose creates a problem for Marvin because he'd been instructed by his brother to kill her. Now that she's very much alive, a Knuckles goon called The Raven (Mustafa Shakir) shows up at Marvin's office and not to enjoy a holiday cookie.

Mayhem ensues with martial arts moves that rely on more than just high kicks and brutal punches. Kitchen wares and furniture figure into the ballet of violence, as Marvin must fend off thugs of all stripes.

Aside from the poetry-spouting Raven who ends up being enamored by Marvin's frazzled assistant Ashley (Tio Tipton), bantering hoodlums Otis (Andre Eriksen) and King (Marshawn "Beastmode" Lynch), prove to be more dangerous and lethal henchmen hunting down Marvin.

While romantic chemistry between Marvin and Rose is virtually non-existent, the mismatched pair of Otis and King have a magical partnership, driven by King's street-smart wisdom contrasting with Otis's philosophical ramblings that delivers the most memorable comedic moments.

When heavily-armed gangsters show

up at an open house showing to a young couple, the gunfire and destruction of the property is bonkers, and yet Marvin tries his best to put a nice spin on everything for his clients. Besides the surfeit of nicely choreo-

graphed fight scenes that are exciting for action fans, "Love Hurts" tie to a Valentine's theme goes not much further than Raven reading poetry to Ashley, while romance eludes the lovelorn Marvin.

"YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED" ON AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

With stars Reese Witherspoon and Will Ferrell, respectively as the sister and the father of rival brides tossed into conflict over a wedding venue, Amazon Prime's "You're Cordially Invited" is suppos-

edly a romance story and comedy, but it appears ultimately to be neither.

Ferrell's Jim, a widower and borderline helicopter dad, wants only the best wedding for his daughter Jenni (Geraldine Viswanathan) when she announces an engagement to Oliver (Stony Blyden), who doesn't look like viable marriage material.

Nevertheless, for Jim nothing is too good for his only child, and so he books a reservation for the nuptials to take place at the historic Palmetto House on a small Georgia island resort where he married his late wife.

Meanwhile, Witherspoon's neurotic Margot, a Los Angeles television producer, has distanced herself from her disapproving Georgia family, except for her younger sister Neve (Meredith Hagner), for whom she is the wedding planner.

The film shows promise at the start when Margot shows up at the resort to discover the double booking of a venue that can only accommodate one party. This sets the stage for a showdown between Margot and Jim that falters not long after the first verbal punches are

Strange and even creepy moments unfold at the resort, from Jim ending up in a hotel room wrestling with an alligator to father and daughter singing an inappropriate song that borders uncomfortably on being incestuous.

All things considered, even if you are a fan of Reese Witherspoon and/or Will Ferrell, "You're Cordially Invited" is a wedding invitation to which the best response would to politely refuse due to another commitment, like finding a better romantic comedy.

Speaking of comedy, the best humor comes from supporting cast member Leanne Morgan's Gwyneth, the sex-crazed alcoholic wife of one of Margot's siblings whose ribald one-liners delivers some laughs. With few good moments, the film flounders from its formulaic construct.



Dear Dave.

My mom is 76, and the only debt she has is about \$60,000 left on her mortgage. She has \$600,000 in retirement accounts, plus a long-term care insurance policy. But she has just \$25,000 in a money market account with check-writing privileges for everyday bills and purchases. To be honest, this worries me. She has always lived within her means, so am I wrong to be concerned? She has also been talking about paying off her mortgage, and I'm not sure how I feel about that, either. I'd love your opinion.

- Kelly

Dear Kelly,

You sound surprised that she'd still be in the stock market at her age. In my mind, that's not a bad thing at all. It might not be what the typical financial planner would tell you to do, because for the most part they'll try to get you to be super-conservative with your money as you get older. But from the way you've described things, it sounds like she's not planning on using this money, but using the income from the money. If

Dave Ramsey Says

She'll Be Just Fine and The Best Laid Plans

that's the case, she won't whittle it all down to nothing. So, if she's in good mutual funds—not single stocks—I think she'll be just fine.

Now, let's talk about the mortgage. I would absolutely recommend she go ahead a pay it off. If she can do that at age 76 and still have \$540,000 left, that's the way to go. Let's pay off the house, and then she can start taking her income off a percentage of the remainder. She won't need much with the house payment out of the way, because she won't be sending money to the bank to pay the anymore.

- Dave

The Best Laid **Plans**

Dear Dave.

My wife and I have been talking about paying off our mortgage in the next two or three years. Do you think we should make this happen by paying extra toward the house, or invest that money on top of the 15% we're putting into retirement?

- March

Dear March,

If I were in your shoes, I'd pay extra on the house. On the other hand, you're not really doing a bad thing by putting the extra cash it into retirement, either.

But here's the deal. No matter how well you plan, you never know exactly what will happen over the upcoming years of your life—or the life of your investments. You might think you know. You may even believe you've taken every possibility into account. The hard, cold truth, though, is even the best and smartest plans don't always work out the way we think they will-or the way we want them to.

And if something unplanned or unforeseen happens, it sure would be a nice thing to own your home free and clear, wouldn't it?

– 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.



State to Revisit Ban on Driverless Tractors

During the past half-century, the emergence of new agricultural technology such as aerial drones, autonomous tractors and other equipment has changed the way crops around the world are planted, cared for and harvested. But in California, a regulation from the state's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, or Cal/ OSHA, dating to 1977, has prohibited the use of autonomous agricultural equipment without a driver at the helm. After years of advocacy from farm groups, the agency's standards board has empaneled an advisory committee to examine the regulation, signaling it may consider revising it.

'Frustrated' and 'Confused': Army Corps Dam Releases Sent Farmers Scrambling

An unscheduled order by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release water at maximum capacity from dams at Lake Kaweah and Lake Success in Tulare County late last month prompted fears of flooding from local farmers and water managers. Alexandra Biering, a water policy expert and director of policy advocacy for the California Farm Bureau, said she had never seen anything like it. "There is a huge danger to the downstream public," Biering

said of making unscheduled releases of

that magnitude. Local water managers

succeeded in getting the releases dialed back to less than a third of full capacity.

Delegates Adopt Labor, Trade, Crop Insurance Policies

At the American Farm Bureau Federation's 106th convention, held last month in San Antonio, voting delegates representing every state and nearly every agricultural commodity deliberated on policies affecting agricultural productivity and profitability. The policies approved at the meeting will guide the nation's largest general farm organization in its legislative and regulatory efforts throughout 2025. California Farm Bureau successfully authored changes that were approved by the delegate body. This included added language to support broadening federal crop insurance for tree and vine losses and discouraging regional limitations.

Rancher Paved the Way for Female FFA Membership

More than 1 million youths nationwide learn about agriculture and develop leadership skills through FFA. In California, the organization is thriving, with 104,469 members in 360 chapters. Almost half of those members are girls. This wasn't always the case. FFA was an all-male organization for more than 40 years. Thanks in part to the efforts of female pioneers such as Mary Rickert of Shasta County, membership opened up to girls in 1969. National FFA Week is Feb. 15-22.



Messenger Publishing Group

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.

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.

Anderson PTO – Meets monthly at 7 p.m. at Anderson Elementary School, 415 East C St. Email andersonroad-runnerspto@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 or president, James Fuller at 916-952-0167, jameskfuller@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 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.

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.

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. 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 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, email 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. Email 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 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

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.

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. Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/northernsolanodems/.

NSDC Democrats in Action – Monthly lunch meet-

ing 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

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

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.

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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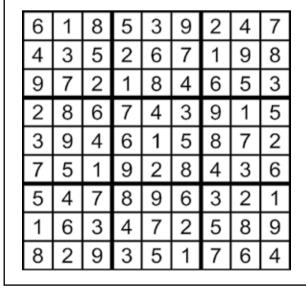


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25. Like certain Four 28. Queen of Carthage

43. Loval. arch.

One Direction

60. *Elphaba and Galin-

63 Antique shop item

Theatre 71. Whimper 72. Sodium hydroxide

DOWN Scottish cap
 Barbara of "I Dream of

3. Not yet final, at law 4. Mold a mind

5. Like ear of corn that is

ready to cook 6. Bride's cover

7. Opposite of hence

9. Zn ^{*} 10. "I'm _. vou!

11. Property right

22. Invoice qty.

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*Chalamet's role 36. Et alibi, abbr.

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"Germinal" author

13. Bye, in Paris 14. Bigheadedness

15. Relating to wine, arch.

17. H+, e.g. 18. Large key on the

right 19. *"____ Boys" 21. *"Emilia Pèrez"

24. Kids' get-away

30. Razzed 35. Scary fairytale

creature 37. Soft drink

39. Like certain egg order 40. Sir Miv 41. *Sean Baker's

original screenplay

44. Caldecott award 46. Ascus, pl.

47. Al's learning material 48. Harry _, once of

50. Wearing footgear 52. *At 2024 Oscars, Ryan Gosling sang "I'm

Just 53. Sushi restaurant libation

55. Unit of length of yarn 57. *This year's Academy Awards host

da story 64. Metal-bearing rock

66. Mountain nymph 68. Southeast Asian org. 69. Lavatory, abbr.

73. Follow

Jeannie"

8. Polynesian kingdom

12. Acronym, abbr.

15. Evening worship 20. "All My Children" vixen

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27. *"The Brutalist" leading

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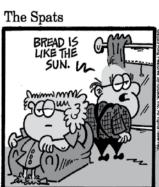
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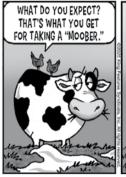
















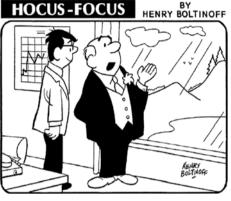






Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas "J,**"**TRY"J"







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Victor Moreno Sworn in As CHP Officer

California Highway Patrol News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Victor Moreno of Rio Linda has successfully completed cadet training at the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Academy. He is assigned to duty at the CHP's Solano Area office.

Officer Moreno graduated from Rio Linda High School in 2021. Prior to attending the CHP Academy, he studied nursing at Sierra College in Rocklin.

At the CHP Academy, cadet training starts with nobility in policing, leadership, professionalism and ethics, and cultural

Training also includes mental illness response and crisis intervention techniques. Cadet instruction covers patrol operations, crash investigation, first aid and the arrest of suspected violators, including those who drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The cadets also receive training in traffic control,



California Highway Patrol. Photo courtesy of the California Highway Patrol

report writing, recovery of Penal Code, and Health and stolen vehicles, assisting the motoring public, issuing citations, emergency scene management and knowledge of various codes, including the Vehicle Code,

Safety Code.

The California Highway Patrol's mission is to provide the highest level of "Safety, Service and Security."

Solano-Napa SBDC Welcomes **New Director** Solano-Napa Small Business Development Center News Release SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Solano-Napa Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has a new director at the helm and it's someone with deep ties

to both the organization and the local

Michael Basayne, a Small Business Development Center advisor since 2009, officially stepped into the director role at the Solano-Napa center on Feb. 3. He takes the reins from the retiring Tim Murrill, who Basayne has worked closely with for three years as a lead business advisor for the Solano-Napa Small Business Development Center.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work alongside our staff and advisors in Napa and Solano Counties providing cutting-edge resources to help our small businesses thrive," Basayne said. "I have been part of the SBDC network for over 15 years and I'm quite proud of our local center and its contributions to the

Basayne brings a wealth of experience to his new position, spanning decades of work in business financing, consulting and government, with specialized expertise in agriculture, the wine industry and

During his 15 years of Small Business Development Center advising with the Sonoma and Solano-Napa centers, Basayne has worked with hundreds of small business owners on financing, business planning, marketing and succession and transition planning.

Most recently, as lead business advisor, Basayne served as the facilitator for the Solano Success and Napa Success Business Accelerators. Between 2023 and 2024, over 150 business owners in both counties successfully completed the seven-week accelerator program.

to lead the Accelerator program because it gave me the opportunity to know our

"I am so grateful Tim Murrill asked me

local business owners on a deeper, personal level," Basayne said. "The business community in Solano and Napa is full of incredibly resilient and hard-working entrepreneurs who continue to inspire me

Since 2020, Basavne has led hundreds of businesses through the process of applying for COVID-19 recovery programs. He has also been involved in business advising for the Solano County Biz-Grow Revolving Loan Fund and assisted businesses in Napa County with wildfire recovery programs and childcare

The Solano-Napa Small Business Development Center is hosted by the Workforce Development Board (WDB) of Solano County. The organizations often partner to provide programs and resources for the local business community.

"Michael Basayne is the right leader to guide the Solano-Napa SBDC into its next successful chapter," said Heather Henry, President/Executive Director of the Solano Workforce Development Board. "His passion for, and understanding of, small businesses in our region will be a great asset to our communities."

Basayne's banking career began in agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley and expanded to encompass commercial, corporate and investment banking. His work eventually focused on supporting California's renowned wine-growing regions, where he assisted grape growers with vineyard development and winery

The Solano-Napa Small Business Development Center, part of the Northern California Small Business Development Center Network, provides no-cost, one-onone business advising and free business trainings. There are over 30 advisors available to assist clients in all aspects of business ownership, from planning and opening a business to marketing, finance, management, and succession planning. Learn more at solanonapasbdc.org.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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

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 professions code.) Publish: Jan 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 2025

RUNGE 2-21-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000112 The following persons are doing business as: University Hotel-Davis Area, 155 E Dorset Drive, Dixon, CA 95620. CP Capital Group Inc., 155 E

Dorset Drive, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: January 21, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A 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 HOTEL 2-21-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000108 following persons are 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

2-21-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000122 The following persons are doing business as: Western Machinery Inc./WME/Western Electric. Machinery/Western Machinery Electric/Optimal Energy, 340 W Channel Road, Suite A, Benicia, 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 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

2-21-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000219

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000209 The following persons are doing Dixon, CA 95620.

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 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 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000183 The following persons are dobusiness as: Accurate Nonemergency Transportation. 1112 Pintail Drive, Suisun, CA Dashjay Carlton, 1112 Pintail

Date filed in Solano County: January 31, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2025

Drive, Suisun, CA 94585.

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 expirés 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

The following persons are doing

business as: Mike's Marine, 1000 Business Park Drive, Suite E.

Bryan Gilday, 1000 Business Park Drive, Suite E, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County:

February 6, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: February 5, 2025

conducted This Business is 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 5, 2030. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code)

Publish: Feb 21, 28, March 7, 14, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000060 The following persons are doing business as: Calipix Media, 1545 McCarthy Court, Dixon, CA 95620. David Espinoza, 1545 McCarthy

Court, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County January 13, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A 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 January 12, 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.)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000203 The following persons are doing

business as: Club Pilates, Suisun

Valley, 5081 Business Center

Drive, Suite 102, Fairfield, CA

Publish: Feb 21, 28, March 7, 14, 2025

94534.

Pocket Pilates, LLC, PO Box 331, Loomis, CA 95650.

Date filed in Solano County: February 4, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name

This Business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company. 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 3, 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 21, 28, March 7, 14, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000255 The following persons are doing business as: Pacific Shores Creative Works, 1735 West H Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Tara Weiand, 1735 West H Street, Dixon, CA 95620.

February 11, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 31, 2024 This Business is conducted

Date filed in Solano County

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 10, 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 21, 28, March 7, 14, 2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000226 The following persons are doing business as: L.T Wood Creations. 550 Amesbury Drive, Dixon, CA Luis B Trejo Jr, 550 Amesbury

Date filed in Solano County:

Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.

February 7, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business

under the above business name

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 6, 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 21, 28, March 7, 14, 2025

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: Christine A. Carringer

Dated: January 15, 2025 Publish: February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025 CHARLES



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The women-owned business offers a variety of one-of-a-kind gifts, such as sea glass jewelry, vintage apparel, hand-sewn aprons and handmade scarves.



Residents can shop locally and feel good about it. The business maintains a focus on the



Uptown Collective intends to host art classes and pop-ups. Raffles and monthly events are

Continued from page 1

at 130 N. First St., the boutique has re-opened twice, once in November 2024 after relocating, and again on Jan. 25 after a year-long break to get other artists

"As an artist, (Uptown Collective) allows me to spend time in my workshop while my merchandise is selling in the store, even when I am not there. It is better than having to go to six to 10 pop-up events. I have a website as well but it is easier for people to see merchandise in person," Rosten said.

According to Nahoney, the boutique intends to do something special each month, such as holiday events and raffles. In honor of Valentine's Day, a teddy bear named Bobbie has been hidden in the store throughout February. Guests who locate the bear win a 3-foot-tall felt rose.

Uptown Collective offers a service

shop locally and feel good about it. The business maintains a focus on the commu-

nity, she said. "I feel we are building a community around women who grew up in Dixon and love it," Nahoney said. "It feels like family when people come here. Even people new

to the area find something to love.' Said Rosten, "We want to give back to the community, so we make it a fun place to shop. Most people who come to the store leave as friends."

Uptown Collective has several plans in the works, including offering art classes and pop-ups, according to Nahoney.

Nahoney and Rosten are two of the approximately 20 local artists attending Soroptimist International of Dixon's Art Uncorked Event on March. 15.

For more information about the boutique, visit Uptown Collective's Instagram page @uptown.collective.dixon.



Diane Henriks founder of Know Who Wears the Genes in Your Family, is a passionate and seasoned Los Angeles County-based professional genealogist. Photo courtesy of olano County Genealogical Society

Solano County Genealogical Society News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- The Solano County Genealogical Society will have a virtual Speaker Series presentation on March 1. This free event begins at 11 a.m. and the public is welcome to attend. Send an email to scgs@scgsca.org no later than 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28 and request an invite. This presentation will not be recorded.

Our presenter, Diane Henriks' talk is titled; **Unraveling Family History** with AI: Leveraging AI to Trace an Ancestor's Journey using Chat GPT (free version).

Diane will explore how



nology, exemplified by ChatGPT, can revolutionize your family history, by embarking on a journey through an ancestor's life, leveraging AI to uncover his story and shed light on the broader implications for genealogical

research. Come see how AI

can work for you!

Diane Henriks, also known as the Descendant Detective and founder of Know Who Wears the Genes in Your Family, is a passionate and seasoned Los Angeles County-based professional genealogist, investigator, speaker, and author who specializes in descendancy and brick wall research, along with living people search and unknown parentage. Diane has worked closely with

private investigators to find living people while also assisting in background investigations, in both civil and criminal cases. She is a proud member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, the Southern California Genealogical Society, the Utah Genealogical Association, and various genealogical interest groups. What started out as a small hobby well over a decade ago, when a hand-drawn family tree chart was given to her by her father, has since become a great obsession, and she now helps others discover and preserve who they are and

where they came from. \star

Congressman Thompson Reappointed to Bird Commission

Office of Congressman Mike Thompson News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - On Jan. 29, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04) was reappointed by Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries to serve on the bipartisan Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. Thompson is one of four members of Congress to serve on the prestigious commission.

"It is a tremendous honor to be reappointed to the Migratory Bird

Conservation Commission," said Thompson. "As a longtime waterfowler and conservationist, I am proud to once again be part of this commission to continue our work protecting and preserving our country's great wetlands and diverse wildlife."

The Migratory Bird **Conservation Commission** was established on February 18, 1929, by the passage of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. The Commission was created and authorized to consider and approve any areas of land and/ or water recommended by the Secretary of the Interior for purchase or rental by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and to fix the price or prices at which such areas may be purchased or rented. In addition to approving purchase and rental prices, the Commission considers the establishment of new waterfowl refuges.

As Co-Chair of the Land Conservation Caucus, Co-Chair of the Wildlife Refuge Caucus, and a lifelong outdoorsman, preserving America's wildlife and natural heritage has always been a priority of the Congressman's. Thompson has served on the Migratory Bird **Conservation Commission** since 2015, when he became the first member in the commission's history from the Pacific Flyway.

To date, Thompson has helped conserve 4.68 million acres of North American wetlands and uplands through the Commission, legislation, and Antiquities Act designations.

Congressman Mike Thompson is proud to



On Jan. 29, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04) was reappointed by Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries to serve on the bipartisan **Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.** Photo courtesy of Congressman Thompson's office

represent California's 4th Congressional District, which includes all or part of Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo Counties. He is a senior member of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Rep. 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. ★



