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Dixon Independent Voice

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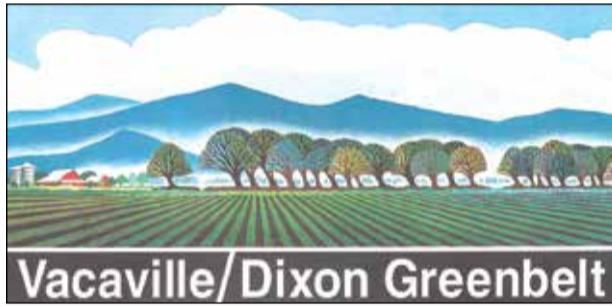
From left, Gary Archer, Raffi Boloyan and Jim Ernest celebrate the installation of the refurbished Greenbelt signs on March 26 at the Pip Wine Bar and Shop. Photo courtesy of Kathy Ernest

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt is a 1,003-acre parcel of land between the cities of Vacaville and Dixon, right around Interstate 80. The land, originally owned by Gary Archer of Archer and Ficklin, has seen efforts from both cities to keep the agricultural space maintained.

Due to the efforts of Archer, Dixon Councilmember Jim Ernest and the Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt Authority, this land will remain green for generations.

Archer and Ernest have known each other for 10 years, meeting



The Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt is a 1,003-acre parcel of land between the cities of Vacaville and Dixon, around Interstate 80. The land, originally owned by Gary Archer of Archer and Ficklin, has seen efforts from both cities to keep the agricultural space maintained. Photo courtesy of Gary Archer

when Ernest joined the Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt Authority. Archer owned the land encapsulating the greenbelt until selling it to both Vacaville and Dixon, both cities splitting the cost evenly. According to Archer, the land was sold

for \$2,000 an acre or more than \$2 million.

When Ernest joined the committee, his job was to replace two signs that were in poor condition. This process took the committee six years to fully accomplish.

Ernest, as the

Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt Authority chairman, led this project intending to maintain these two signs along the greenbelt, one bordering each city. The signs had custom artwork by Don Birrell, commissioned by Archer in 1996.

Birrell, at the time a Vacaville resident, was the design director for Nut Tree Plaza, 1661 E. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville. Archer, having heard of him through his association with the owners of Nut Tree and the Vacaville Rotary Club, chose to work with Birrell because, Archer said, his art caught the public's eye.

Maintaining this belief, *Continued on page 4*

Dixon Family Services Awarded Nonprofit of the Year



Dixon Family Services executive director Cookie Powell, left, stands alongside Mayor Steve Bird after receiving this honor. Dixon Family Services has been supporting the community as the "one-stop-shop of social services" since 1984.

Story by Kendall Brown, photo by Nicolas Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Family Services was recognized as the Nonprofit Organization of the Year during the Dixon Chamber of Commerce's Celebrate Dixon event on March 8.

Dixon Family Services executive director Cookie Powell was honored "and delighted to accept the award on behalf" of her dedicated staff, Board of Directors, volunteers and many supporters who helped keep the doors open. Dixon Family Services operates like a team of partners who all want to help their fellow citizens when they struggle to make ends meet, according to staff.

This award is especially timely because 2024 was also Dixon Family Services' 40th anniversary. Dixon Family Services was established as a social services nonprofit organization in January 1984. The organization strives to reduce and prevent child abuse while providing supportive services to struggling Dixon families and children.

Since then, Dixon Family Services staff said, programs, community events, outreach efforts, holiday programs and much more is provided to the community. Dixon Family Services staff consider the organization to be a one-stop-shop for social services, supporting citizens regarding employment, financial stability, emotional wellness, sobriety, escaping abuse and much more.

To make access easier for residents, Dixon Family Services shares space with The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program in their building.

Under the guidance of Powell, Dixon Family Services offers information and referrals to connect citizens to services, basic needs case management

Continued on page 2

Get Your Best Buys for Dixon May Fair



The annual Dixon May Fair has several opportunities to save money and time when you buy your fair and grandstand tickets early using their online ticket system. Photo courtesy of the Dixon May Fair



The annual Dixon May Fair, from May 8 through May 11, is money and time when you buy your fair and grandstand located at 655 S. First St., Dixon. Photo courtesy of the Dixon May Fair

Dixon May Fair News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Tickets for the popular Dixon May Fair grandstand shows, Fair admission, and carnival wristbands are now available for purchase for the upcoming fair that runs May 8 through May 11.

The Dixon May Fair has a number of opportunities to save money and time when you buy your fair and grandstand event tickets early using their online ticket system.

The convenience of on-line ticketing is available for grandstand events,

carnival ride wristbands and admission (online processing fees apply).

The First Northern Bank Grandstand ticket prices for Flying U Bull Riding on May 9, the Maxx Kakt Tractor and Truck Pulls on May 10 and the Moondog Motorsports Demolition Derby on May 11 will be \$40 for all ages. Grandstand event tickets purchased in advance will include fair admission. Tickets purchased the day of the event do not include Fair admission. Advance purchase is recommended, as all Grandstand events have all been

sell-outs in recent years.

For parents, the all-you-can-ride wristbands are a great way to go for children with an unlimited appetite for the spectacular rides. Butler Amusements is offering wristbands, which allow the rider unlimited rides on any one day for \$35 in advance through May 7. The wristbands are good for any one day of the Dixon May Fair. During the fair, wristbands will be \$40.

There are additional discounts on fair admission. Advance purchase *Continued on page 3*

Mayte Gudiño Educator of the Year



Mayte Gudiño, left, was congratulated by Congressman Mike Thompson for her dedication, leadership and advocacy for the Gretchen Higgins Elementary School students.

Story by Kendall Brown and photo by Nicolas Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Mayte Gudiño of Gretchen Higgins Elementary School was recognized as the first Educator of the Year at Celebrate Dixon on March 8. Her 28 years of dedication and service to the students and families of Dixon have earned her this honor.

Gudiño has taught across multiple grade levels, from kindergarten to sixth grade, and has experience as a dual immersion teacher, which allows her to support multilingual and non-English-speaking students. Her contributions have also been vital in the development of a strategic plan for the Dual Immersion program at Gretchen Higgins Elementary. Her BCLAD (Bilingual, Cross-cultural, Language and Academic Development) and reading credentials further reinforce her skills. Beyond the classroom,

Gudiño is a respected leader and advocate for student achievement. She serves on Gretchen Higgins Elementary's leadership team and is the site English Learner Lead Teacher. As an AVID-trained educator, she plays an integral role in implementing district-wide initiatives, equipping students with the skills needed for academic achievement and future success. Gudiño also leads her site's Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) to, among other things, ensure that migrant families are empowered and engaged in their children's education.

Gudiño's influence extends to her students as well as her peers. Alongside being a mentor and coach for new teachers, she also works as an induction support provider, guiding and supporting educators early in their careers. Her support includes helping them develop strong instructional practices, effective

classroom management and confidence in their teaching. Gudiño has served as a Response to Intervention Teacher (RTI) for multiple years at both Anderson and Gretchen Higgins Elementary Schools. This role entails identifying and supporting struggling students by providing increasingly intensive interventions to cater to their needs and progress.

Gudiño's ability to collaborate with students and stakeholders alike fosters a growth-oriented school environment, strengthening the overall instructional quality of Gretchen Higgins. According to Principal Georgina Llamas-Cruz of Gretchen Higgins Elementary, Gudiño's effectiveness as an educator is evident in her ability to create a structured, engaging and supportive learning environment where all students can thrive. In the education space, Gudiño is collaborative, passionate and deeply committed to ensuring that every child receives a high-quality education.

As a former migrant student herself, Gudiño understands the challenges that many families in the community face and chooses to use her platform to alleviate these stressors where possible. Her personal connection to these issues has allowed her to build trust with students and parents alike.

Gudiño's dedication to fostering collaboration and ensuring positive student outcomes has earned her the recognition of the community as Dixon's first Educator of the Year. ★

Mia DeLeon is March's Young Woman of the Month



From left, Nick Stidham, Mia DeLeon and Soroptimist President Barbara Rigdon celebrate DeLeon's accomplishment. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Dixon

Soroptimist International of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Mia DeLeon is Soroptimist International of Dixon's Young Woman of the Month. She was nominated and presented by Nick Stidham, a multi-media/drawing instructor and Yearbook advisor.

DeLeon has taken classes with Stidham all four years, both in drawing and multi-media classes, as well as the yearbook class. DeLeon became an editor for the yearbook in her junior year. As a student-run production, where the students develop a plan for the book, DeLeon led and guided one of the teams. Stidham knew early on that she would develop into the chief editor position. DeLeon applied and was selected as chief editor and has taken on that role and done an outstanding job in 2025.

"Mia is a dynamic leader with a quiet strength," said Stidham

Stidham has enjoyed seeing her growth as a leader and noted that she has done an incredible job leading such a diverse range of students.

"Mia is one of the best leaders in 17 years with just the yearbook production" said Stidham.

DeLeon is the daughter of Adrian DeLeon and Alison Moore. DeLeon was

born and raised in Dixon, living in Texas for just a short time.

DeLeon is drawn to art and has always enjoyed expressing herself creatively. She has always loved to learn and has a passion for literature. One accomplishment she is proud of is running a backpack and school supply drive. All donations went to the Opportunity House in Vacaville. Another accomplishment is maintaining a 4.0 GPA, challenging herself with rigorous coursework.

The yearbook has been an important part of her growth in high school. DeLeon has learned to solve problems and to develop confidence in herself so that others have confidence in her too.

If these were not enough, DeLeon has run her own baking business since she was 12 years old. DeLeon said it has taught her perseverance with the long nights of baking. DeLeon said that this has also helped her with her creative expression.

DeLeon's goal is to attend a four-year university in Southern California. She wants to major in political science and then attend law school to become a lawyer.

Soroptimist International of Dixon members wish DeLeon the best in her future pursuits. What an amazing young woman and leader! ★

Dixon Family Services Awarded Nonprofit of the Year

Continued from page 1

programs to assist low-to-moderate-income families struggling financially and a family case management program to provide support and motivation to low-income families with children ages 1 to 18 years old. The nonprofit organization also offers a safety net program to assist Dixon residents without children and a food pantry to provide non-perishable groceries to Dixon residents in need.

According to Powell, what stands out the most from her time at Dixon Family Services are the fond memories she has created, the people she has been able to help and the personal and professional relationships with staff members, board members, volunteers,

partner agency representatives, local officials and leaders.

This past February marked Powell's 30-year anniversary at Dixon Family Services. In 1995, she wanted a part-time job to fill her days after raising four children at home for many years.

"I enjoyed coordinating the DFS Pantry and working alongside the wonderful, hardworking volunteers. Together we all loved what we were doing and our hearts were filled by making a positive difference for the people we served," said Powell.

For these reasons, Dixon Family Services under Cookie Powell is the 2024 Nonprofit of the Year.

For more information, visit www.dixonfs.org or call 707-678-0442. ★



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Anna Deussenberry is Ambassador of the Year

Volunteer at Lake Solano Planting Event



Anna Deussenberry, left, stands with Congressman Mike Thompson after being recognized for her contributions to the community and culture of Dixon. Alongside being an ambassador and realtor, Deussenberry is a lifelong volunteer, working with nonprofit organizations such as St. Jude's Children's Hospital, The United Way and Dixon Family Services.

Story by Kendall Brown, photos by Nicolas Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Anna Deussenberry of Coldwell Banker Kappel Gateway Realty and the Dixon Chamber of Commerce was awarded Ambassador of the Year at Celebrate Dixon on March 8. Her contributions to the community and culture of Dixon during her time with the Chamber have earned her this award.

As a lifelong resident of Dixon, Deussenberry has a deep connection to the unique charm and communal spirit of Solano County. Currently serving as a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Kappel Gateway Realty, a business in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, her background includes managing rental properties, staging commercial

spaces, banking, legal services and retail.

Deussenberry joined the Chamber of Commerce around 2022, first as an ambassador and then Chief Ambassador. In this role, Deussenberry consistently demonstrated her "heart of service."

"My mom has always been a lifelong volunteer. She has inspired me. When I became a realtor five years ago (2020), I had a need to help the community, and being an ambassador offered that opportunity," said Deussenberry.

Deussenberry has built meaningful connections with business owners. Her dedication alludes to her enjoyment of supporting local businesses and contributing to the growth of the community.

Her commitment to volunteerism and community involvement

is long spanning. Deussenberry was a founding board member of the Dixon Schools Athletic Boosters, served on the board of the Venture Club (a Soroptimist-sponsored service organization) and spent many years as a Brownie and Girl Scout leader, helping to shape young lives in Dixon. Alongside her work with the Chamber, Deussenberry also volunteers with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, The United Way and Dixon Family Services, all of which are nonprofit organizations supporting those in need.

As of 2025, Deussenberry was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Dixon Chamber of Commerce. She brings her skills, determination and can-do attitude, striving to make a positive impact every day. Deussenberry thrives on helping others achieve their goals and overcome challenges. After her victory, voted on by her peers, Deussenberry felt humbled more than anything.

"It means a lot to me but everyone works as hard as I do and it's a team effort. We all look out for each other because we have the same mission: to help out local businesses," said Deussenberry.

For all that she has done, the Dixon Chamber of Commerce was honored to present Ambassador of the Year for 2024 to Anna Deussenberry. ★



These volunteers helped install part of the new Native Plant Demonstration Garden at Lake Solano Park at a planting event this past February. Photo courtesy of Solano Resource Conservation District

Solano Resource Conservation District News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Solano Resource Conservation District, Putah Creek Council and Solano County Parks are working with community members to plant a demonstration garden at Lake Solano Park.

The garden will feature California native plants that are naturally drought tolerant, that provide habitat for Monarch butterflies and other wildlife, and that are of cultural significance to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

The next volunteer event is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday,

April 12. If interested in joining this event, reserve your spot by RSVPing to Katherine Holmes at katherine.holmes@solanorc.org. Once you RSVP, you will receive additional information, including a map to the planting site.

This planting event is family-friendly but children aged 16 and under should work closely one-on-one with a parent or guardian. The Solano Resource Conservation District will provide all necessary tools and work gloves as well as snacks.

The Lake Solano Demonstration Garden is being funded by a grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy. ★

Get Your Best Buys for Dixon May Fair

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adult tickets online are \$10 and will be \$15 at the gate, a 33% savings. KUIC Radio sponsors Thrifty Thursday, May 8, when all admissions are \$5. And on Kids Day, May 9, all children 12 and under are admitted for free.

The Dixon May Fair is located at 655 S. First St., Dixon.

The website for ticket purchases is www.DixonMayFair.com. The box office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, starting April 21. ★

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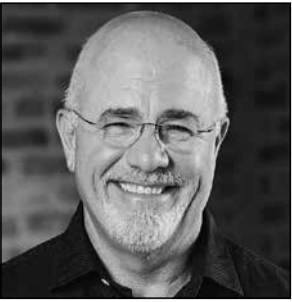


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Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says Wealth Magnifies What's Already There

ing it. That includes both their positive and negative traits. You said you're raising your girls to love God and understand that the church is important. I believe those are great first steps toward teaching children to have good, strong character.

One of the first things we taught our kids about, aside from God, was how they were not entitled to anything just because they hit the gene pool lottery. Another thing we taught them was that in order to be qualified to manage the Ramsey wealth, they had to understand they didn't own it — God did. Every bit of it. Their job was to manage it wisely. Once you understand that concept, you also begin to realize why the Bible has so many warnings about wealth. It's a heavy thing to carry in a wise manner.

The Bible tells us that a good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children (Proverbs 13:22). But at the same time, you don't want your hard-earned money going to fund a cocaine habit for some here today, gone tomorrow reality television star on the back of a yacht. It sounds to me like you and your wife are doing a great job — not only with your money but also with raising your girls to know

right from wrong and to have a sound, biblically based moral compass.

Finally, Mark, one thing I want you to avoid falling for is the thread running through some of our Christian churches that says money is a bad thing. It's not. Money is a tool, one that's not inherently good or bad. It can be used responsibly or irresponsibly, depending on the holder, and it exposes the morals and character of the people it touches.

Your job as parents is to raise kids who grow into adults with the morals and character to manage this huge financial legacy wisely for the Lord. If you do your job well (and I think you're off to a good start), the wealth you leave them will truly be a blessing.

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

Dixon News Briefs



The Dixon May Fair runs from May 8 to May 11, with a Special Day discount for children and seniors. Regarding exhibits, entry forms and fees are due April 11 at the May Fair office, 655 S. First St. Applications are available at dixonmayfair.com. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By MPG Staff

Dixon Senior Club Indoor Garage Sale

The Dixon Senior Citizens Club, 201 S. Fifth St., is sponsoring an indoor garage sale from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on April 26. Any seniors interested can rent a table, either a half table for \$5 or an entire table for \$10. Space is limited, so items sold must fit within the designated table area. Leftover merchandise must be taken home, and all participants are responsible for their own items, area and money. Tables must be reserved by April 18.

For more information, call 916-390-3484.

Mother's Day Celebration at Freedom Church

Freedom Church, 470 E H St., is hosting a special Mother's Day service at 10 a.m. on May 11. The Senior Pastor will be offering a special blessing to each mother in attendance. As a token of appreciation, each mother in attendance will also receive a gift at the end of the service.

For more information, visit the Freedom Church Facebook Page.

Blossom and Bee Easter Market

Blossom and Bee Dixon, 160 W. A St., is hosting an Easter Market from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 19. The free event will offer attendees a festive atmosphere, with access to local artisans, food, live music and a visit from the Easter Bunny. The first 50 children in attendance will receive free Easter Baskets.

For more information, visit the Blossom and Bee Dixon Facebook Page or contact

VFW Upcoming Meeting

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8151 will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. on April 16. Meetings are held every third Wednesday at The Olde Vets Hall, 231 N. First St. Official business meetings start at 7 p.m., but the hall opens for set-up and socializing at 6 p.m. Socializing will continue after the business portion of the meeting.

For more information, visit vfw8151.org or call 209-395-8019.

Dixon Egg-stravaganza

Christina and James LaPorte of Nomad and Co. Event Planning are hosting the First Annual Dixon Eggstravaganza from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on April 19. This free event will take place in Northwest Park, located near West H St. and Parkgreen Drive. Attendees can expect over 3000 filled eggs to hunt down. All guests will be automatically entered in a raffle to win a balloon display, worth \$1500. The egg hunt will begin at 10 a.m. and be held in grass areas 1 and 2.

For more information, visit the Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook Page.

2025 NORCAL Career Fair

The Solano Workforce Development

Board is hosting the NORCAL Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 10. The fair, considered the region's largest annual hiring event, will be held at Solano Community College, 4000 Suisun Valley Road, Building 1400, Fairfield. The previous NORCAL Career Fair brought together 90 employers and 500 job seekers, making it worthwhile for those looking to start a career.

For more information, call 707-863-3551 or email WDBEvents@solanowdb.org.

Toastmaster Speech Contest

The Division West International Speech and Tall Tales Contest is a Toastmasters tradition that will continue from 1 to 5 p.m. on April 12. Held at Living Hope Church, 410 Gateway Drive, the event offers speakers the opportunity to improve their abilities and observe the benefits of speechcraft first-hand. Each year, the title of "World Champion of Public Speaking" is awarded in recognition of these pursuits.

For more information, visit district39.org/events.

American Legion Post 208 Dinner and Fundraiser

American Legion Post 208 is hosting its Annual Fundraiser Dinner and Raffle from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on April 12. For \$30 per person, or \$220 for a table of 8, guests will be served a tri-tip or chicken dinner with sides and dessert at 6 p.m. A no-host bar will also be at the event, opening at 4 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in person at Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St.

For more information, visit dixonchamber.org.

Take Care of Your Air: DIY Air Purifier Workshop

Sustainable Solano is hosting an in-person air quality workshop from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on April 11. Held at the Dixon Library, 230 N. First St., this free hands-on workshop will teach attendees how to make their own air purifiers. Dr. Nick Spada of the UC Davis Air Quality Research Center will lead the step-by-step process. The first 10 attendees to register will receive free materials to make their air purifier.

For more information, visit sustainable-solano.org. To register, visit Eventbrite.com.

Dixon Chamber Connections Networking

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a networking event from 12 to 1:30 p.m. on May 1. Held at The Farmstead at Dixon, 350 Gateway Drive, this in-person event is a worthwhile opportunity to connect with local professionals, entrepreneurs and business owners. With diverse potential connections, attendees are encouraged to bring plenty of business cards.

For more information, visit dixonchamber.org or call 707-678-2650. ★

The Real Crisis in California Schools is Low Achievement, Not Cultural Conflicts



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

When Governor Gavin Newsom unexpectedly voiced opposition to allowing transgender women to compete in women's sports, he was throwing gasoline on an issue that was already burning in state and national political arenas.

"I think it's an issue of fairness," Newsom told right-wing iconoclast Charlie Kirk on the inaugural segment of the governor's new podcast. "I completely agree with you on that. It is an issue of fairness. It's deeply unfair. I'm not wrestling with the fairness issue. I totally agree with you."

The remark generated a tsunami of media commentary about Newsom's motives and a torrent of criticism from fellow Democrats, particularly from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ) rights advocates. It also focused attention on two Republican bills that would ban transgender women from women's high school and college sports.

Ordinarily, given Republicans' lack of legislative clout, Democratic leaders would just dump both bills in the wastebasket, as they have done innumerable times.

However Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas is allowing Assembywoman Kate Sanchez of Rancho Santa Margarita and Assemblyman Bill Essayli of Corona to present their measures, Assembly Bills 89 and 844, to the

Assembly's Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports and Tourism.

That's probably as far as the measures will go. The Legislature's influential lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender caucus will see to that. But the maneuver protects Rivas from allegations that he was not willing to have at least a discussion on the issue that Newsom, for whatever reason, chose to highlight.

While these well-orchestrated events feed political junkies' voracious appetite for cultural conflict, they also underscore the pathetic lack of interest Capitol politicians have in a real crisis, the shamefully low levels of academic achievement in California's schools.

California fares very poorly vis-a-vis other states in federal academic testing, seventh from the bottom, and there's a yawning achievement gap separating low-income students from their more privileged classmates. Moreover, California is one of several states whose students still lag behind pre-pandemic achievement levels.

A few days ago, the Washington Post published an article by Rahm Emanuel, former mayor of Chicago and chief of staff to President Barack Obama, about the neglect of educational achievement.

Emanuel called it a "Sputnik moment in education" and declared that "almost no one among the nation's purported adults seems to want to solve the problem."

Emanuel continued, "On both sides of the aisle, we're caught in wild and beside-the-point education debates, whether the Education Department should be closed, which students should change in which locker rooms or

participate in which sports, and whether curriculums should be stripped of diversity, equity and inclusion. All those disagreements deserve a hearing. But they are shiny baubles distracting us from the real crisis, namely, our children's failure to meet basic standards in reading, writing and arithmetic."

That's precisely what's happening in California.

Emanuel cited examples of states that have taken educational achievement seriously, one being Mississippi, where deep poverty is a way of life.

"Mississippi's early embrace of 'the science of reading', that is, the restoration of phonics in teaching literacy, has led to what some call a miracle: The state's reading scores for fourth graders rose from 49th nationally in 2013 to ninth in 2024," Emanuel noted. "We ought to be bringing these approaches to scale with urgency."

Phonics has made some inroads in California, but unlike Mississippi, California has not fully embraced it, despite ranking 33rd in fourth grade reading.

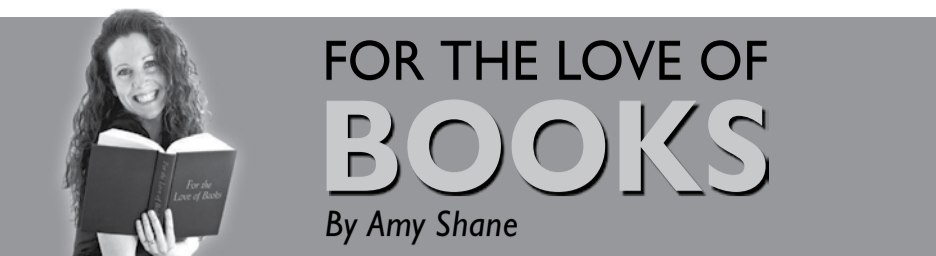
That could change if the Legislature adopts AB 1121, a newly introduced measure by Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, a West Covina Democrat, with support from EdVoice and other education reform groups.

The bill would encourage school districts to adopt "evidence-based means of teaching foundational reading skills."

It deserves at least as much legislative attention as the transgender bills.

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. ★





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Spring Reads to Get Lost In

Spring is finally here, and while the trees might be in bloom and the heat begins to rise, these thrilling books will cast a spell of magic, intrigue, or even quite an interlude to a long day.



Spell of the Sinister
by Danielle Paige,
Bloomsbury

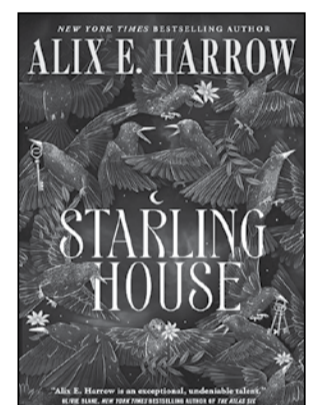
It all started with a simple spell and a beautiful wand, and the fairy godmother from one of the most famous fairytales was born. Now that Cinderella has disappeared with the Prince, everything is completely unhinged. With Magical powers unlocked and those who want to enact revenge on the humans, there is more at play than just the Queendoms. But in Prince Mather's absence, someone needs to take over the queendom, and someone will need to find the Prince and Cinderella.

In a full-out battle of opposing sides, magic, humans, and the fight for control will there ever truly be a "happily ever after."

Picking up right where Wish of the Wicked ended, this thrilling continuation gives fans just

what they have been waiting for. With new and old relationships, this story is very character-heavy, giving readers all the different sides of relationships to complete the story.

Wish of the Wicked and Spell of the Sinister are the Cinderella series readers didn't know they wanted. Carefully crafted with all the magic of a classic fairytale turned on its head and sprinkled with revenge, Danielle Paige once again takes readers back into a magical and twisted tale, answering the questions left on readers' minds and revealing the relationships readers need to know about. Laced with deep roots of magic, fear, and the feeling of power in every form being stripped away. These books explore themes of power, hope, and the potential for change, delivering a



Starling House
by Alex E. Harrow,
Tor Publishing

powerful and thought-provoking narrative.

Eden, Kentucky, is not known for anything but being the city where author E. Starling wrote The Underland and then disappeared. Now, the dying town is only known for its bad luck legend, it's not just the author who made it a legend but what happened after she disappeared. Once the reclusive nineteenth-century author disappeared, the Starling house appeared, full of dark rumors and secrets.

But Opal isn't scared of the legend or the many harrowing stories told about it. She needs funds, and stepping inside the house she has been infatuated with since she was a child seemed like a dream opportunity. Now trapped in what feels like a tug between dreams, reality, and darker forces at work, Opal must discover if this house and her past might be a reason to stick around, but in order to do so, she will have to fight.

Starling House is the captivating Southern Gothic fantasy readers didn't know they wanted. With its moody atmosphere, a house full of secrets, and a delicate sprinkle of romance, this richly told story is more than a story about a haunted house, but what haunts us inside. ★



Riley Reviews

"SUITS LA" FAILS TO CAPTURE THE MAGIC OF ITS PREDECESSOR

A Film and TV Review
by Tim Riley

"SUITS LA" ON NBC

Not quite a half-dozen years after the successful run of the legal drama "Suits" on the USA Network, NBC had the notion to capitalize with a spinoff taking corporate law firm intrigue from the heart of Manhattan to the sunny climes of Los Angeles.

It is instructive to look back at the nine-season run of "Suits," if not for nostalgic reasons, but to frame a thematic transfer of a cutthroat legal world from frenzied New York to the laid-back Southern California lifestyle.

The East Coast version developed a successful formula of a new twist on legal drama by bringing a college dropout who never went to law school to a position as associate in a firm where legal sharks jockeyed for getting their names on the lobby wall.

Patrick J. Adams' Mike Ross, using guile and a photographic memory, teamed up with senior partner Harvey Specter (Gabriel Macht) to close out practically unwinnable cases, while hiding the fact that he never graduated from Harvard Law.

Through most of the long run, Gina Torres' Jessica Pearson was the cunning managing partner who had to handle the hard-charging lawyers, with Rick Hoffman's neurotic Louis Litt proving to be the leading candidate as the most devious.

There could be a contest for the most odious lawyer to grace the inside of the firm, but the prize might go to David Costabile's Daniel Hardman, the disgraced co-founding partner who returned from exile to attempt to take control of the firm, burning bridges left and right.

Given the intrigue inside and out of the firm that captivated audiences with "Suits," what is going to make the West Coast version in "Suits LA" garner the same acclaim and following of its progenitor?

The first question about "Suits LA" is why have a spinoff of a beloved series that is devoid of connection to its origin, even when the series opens with a flashback to 2010 in New York City with the new series' main character.

At the time, Ted Black (Stephen Amell), a federal prosecutor undeterred from convincing a reluctant witness to testify against a mob boss, narrowly dodges an explosion that claims the life of the man who could put a crime lord behind bars.

Fifteen years later in current time, Ted has relocated to Los Angeles to form the Black Lane law firm where he's partnered with old friend Stuart Lane (Josh McDermitt), a top-notch criminal defense attorney.

A forthcoming merger has created

turmoil for other Black Lane lawyers, including Erica Rollins (Lex Scott Davis), who is angling to head up the entertainment law division, a position that the more seasoned Rick Dodson (Bryan Greenberg) feels belongs to him.

Right off the start in the first episode, the merger plans go awry, and suddenly a chunk of Ted's employees depart with Stuart Lane, which plunges the legal landscape at the now Black & Associates firm into a chaotic state.

Those who remain with Ted, in addition to Erica investing her ambition into running the entertainment wing, include Ted's loyal, efficient gal Friday, Roslyn (Azita Ghanizada), who appears to barely tolerate anyone else trying to ingratiate themselves with the boss.

Barely a half-hour into the start of the series, a cloud of doom hovers over Ted that is surprising he's not even seeing a shrink with the same frequency that Louis Litt had in "Suits" with his incurable neuroses.

Within a short period, that also includes many flashbacks, Ted's marriage to Samantha (Rachelle Goulding) falls apart and he grapples with his estrangement from his father and the loss of his younger brother Eddie (Carson A. Egan), who has Down's Syndrome, that he has cared for since they were kids.

All professional challenges and personal setbacks naturally weigh heavily on Ted, but we are still left hanging as to the reasons his marital union disintegrated and his passion to prosecute criminals suddenly vanished.

Undoubtedly, a move to Los Angeles was tempting, and being an entertainment lawyer would certainly have a glamorous appeal in a town where film and television production is considered the dominant industry.

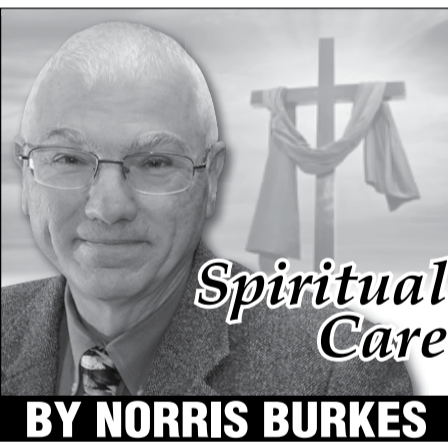
Yet, Ted faces something of a crisis of conscience when one of top clients, film producer Lester Thompson (Kevin Weisman), charged with murder, now insists that Ted act as his defense attorney. Put in a bind, Ted had vowed never to take on that role.

Like its predecessor, "Suits LA" revolves around the personalities in the office, with several of the attorneys on the distaff side looking glamorous enough to be entertainment clients instead of representing them.

For all its plot twists and backstabbing, "Suits LA" is too convoluted and confusing instead of delivering the magic of its forerunner. There is little here to suggest the DNA of "Suits" is in evidence.

Other than the cameo appearance of Gabriel Macht, there is no connection to the original series other than the use of the theme music of Ima Robot's "Greenback Boogie." The unique chemistry of "Suits" is nowhere to be found. ★

How I Became the Bomb-Dump Chaplain



Command Chaplain, Col. Benjamin Perez, arrived bright and early on inspection day and cloistered us in the chapel fellowship hall.

Perez was a short, fit, steely-eyed New Yorker, keen with anecdotes. He was sharp enough to see past our manipulated stats. He saw the places we hid because he was looking for the forgotten airmen.

Holding our reports in hand, Perez posed his signature question: "How many of you have been to the bomb dump?"

The "bomb dump" is the unofficial name for the secluded place where hazardous explosive devices are rendered safe. The airmen there are not the celebrated "Bomb Squad," they are a forgotten group of isolated engineers who worry about public safety.

Now here's the funny thing — our base didn't have a bomb dump. Perez knew Onizuka was a Space Command base that controlled satellite trajectories.

Nevertheless, the trajectory of my military ministry would change that day in a somewhat slight, but significant way.

Perez was using "bomb dump" as a euphemism for the place populated by the forgotten people. He didn't care how many visits we were making to headquarters or the gym. He wanted to know if we knew the names of our cleaning staff. Could we recall our subordinates and their families by their first names?

His question was a not-so-subtle biblical inference to Mathew 25 where Jesus taught that caring for those of a lesser privilege — the prisoner, the sick, the immigrant — was the equivalent of caring for Jesus himself.

"Truly I tell you," Jesus said, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Anyone working in the bomb dump might well be counted among the "least of these." That's why Perez considered visits made to the secluded and forgotten sides of the base to be the test of a real chaplain.

His question became the guiding reminder early in my career that while statistics remain a necessary tool, they aren't the mission. People are.

I doubt I'll ever become "America's Favorite Chaplain," but for now, I'll settle for being called the "Bomb-dump Chaplain."

Sign up to receive this weekly column in your email box at <https://thechaplain.net/newsletter/> or send me your email address to comment@thechaplain.net.

All of Norris's books can be ordered on Amazon. Autographed copies can be obtained on his website www.thechaplain.net or by sending a check for \$20 for each book to 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. ★



Farm Bureau Delegation Calls for Support

California farmers and ranchers gathered at the state Capitol in Sacramento last week to draw attention to key agricultural priorities during this session of the California Legislature. California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass called for immediate action to be taken to support small and mid-sized farms, streamline regulations and invest in innovative water management practices. "While there are regulations that are needed, they should be tailored to support farming and not drive up costs," Douglass said.

EPA Announces it Will Revise 'Waters of the U.S.' Definition

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to review the definition of "waters of the United States," or WOTUS, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced this month. Zeldin pledged to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to quickly revise the definition, which determines which waters are subject to the federal Clean Water Act. "The hope is that we get a clear and easily implementable definition" that is consistent with a 2023 Supreme Court ruling, said Kari Fisher, senior counsel and director of legal advocacy for the California Farm Bureau. "That way we can stop this continuous cycle of changing definitions."

Exporters Try to Navigate Impacts of Trump Tariffs

President Donald Trump's on-again-off-again tariffs on the United States' biggest trading partners has caused confusion for agricultural exporters. "I think it mostly still continues to be confusion rather broadly since there are so many moving pieces," said Matthew Viohl, a federal policy director for the California Farm Bureau. Jim Geller, president of Geller International in San Mateo County, said he's worried about how and what he'll be able to ship this year to Hong Kong, one of his main markets. "We have no strategy because of the uncertainty," Geller said.

Pistachio Genome Breakthrough Could Benefit Breeding Efforts

Researchers at the University of California, Davis, published a study last week detailing the most comprehensive genome sequence of the pistachio. The breakthrough could enable plant breeders to create new pistachio varieties, possibly making the nut more nutritious, according to the study. "The improvement in accuracy of the new reference genome is like going from a hand-drawn map of a landscape to a satellite image from Google Earth," said J. Grey Monroe, an assistant professor in the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis, who co-authored the study. ★



Transportation Workshops to be Held

Compiled from
the City of Dixon Website

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The City of Dixon, along with the Solano County Transportation Authority, are hosting a series of public workshops to gather public input for the Community-Based Transportation Plan which is under development.

The Community-Based Transportation Plan will help the city and the Solano County Transportation Authority better understand current transit conditions and opportunities to make mobility services more accessible and efficient for older adults, youth, low income, individuals with disabilities and all residents across the community.



The City of Dixon, along with the Solano County Transportation Authority, are hosting a series of public workshops to gather public input for the Community-Based Transportation Plan. Photo courtesy Solano Transportation Authority

By providing feedback, the public will help design transportation system improvements that work for all.

Join the project team at the following locations to share your input. Super La Favorite

on April 5, Dixon Family Services on April 8, Dixon Library on April 24, Grocery Outlet on May 2 and the Dixon Senior Center on May 13.

The project team will also be on site at the Dixon May Fair

from May 8 to May 11 to collect input.

The project team is conducting a robust analysis of existing transportation services, local and countywide demographics and regional plans to

identify transportation trends, challenges and opportunities.

The project team wants to hear from the public about their experiences with transportation options around Dixon. Your input makes a difference. ★

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 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 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/northernsolanodem/.

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

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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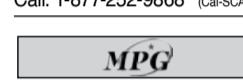
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CLUES

ACROSS

- Like some champagnes
- Undergarment
- Dashboard acronym
- Poison ivy woe
- Took to court
- Milan's La ____
- Afresh
- Globes and such
- SNL's forte
- *Ladyfingers+coffee liqueur
- Grammy of sports
- Jeweler's unit
- *Like walnuts on ice cream
- *Thin Mint or Carmel deLite
- *Apple dip
- Nelson Mandela's org.
- Profoundness, pl.
- Frost-covered
- Ticket leftovers
- Pathet ____
- Lazybones
- Samoan money
- A in AU, Alabama
- Heidi Samuel ____ Klum
- Contaminating punch
- Flammable anesthetics
- a.k.a. acid
- Military group
- Jezebel's deity
- *Espresso+gelato
- Forgo
- Palo ____, CA
- Sacred image
- Southern cuisine pods
- Show the guns
- Small stream
- *The Star-Spangled Banner" author
- Toni Morrison's "____ Baby"
- Adeline or Addison, for short

DOWN

- Troublesome child
- Jasmine of "Aladdin," e.g.
- Olympic cast-out
- Smack
- Anatomical sac
- Overthrow by argument
- Marketing creations
- Wild onion
- Clever tactic
- Spanish sea
- Evening party
- See-through
- *Eggs+milk+sugar
- Old ____, or unpopped popcorn kernels
- Be, singular past tense
- Uses a fishing reel
- Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
- Round openings
- Cabbage, in France
- *The House at Pooh Corner" author
- African chieftain
- Ancient Greeks' harps
- Socket counterpart
- Bar bill
- *Filo dough+nuts+honey
- Book opener
- Uniting conjunction
- Robin Hood in Disney's "Robin Hood" (2 words)
- Keys

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CROSSWORD

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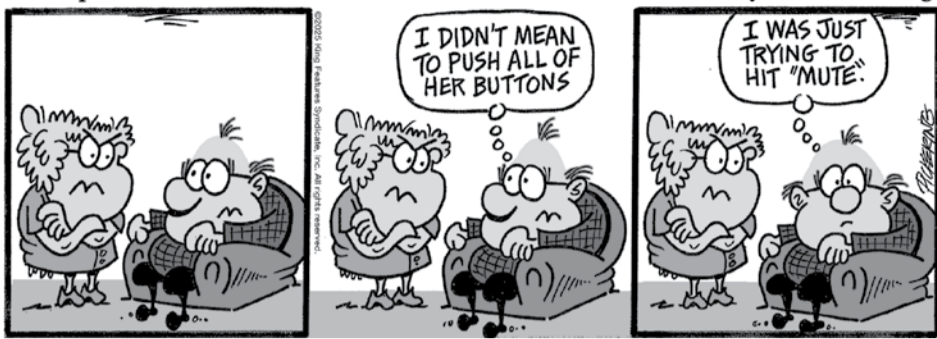
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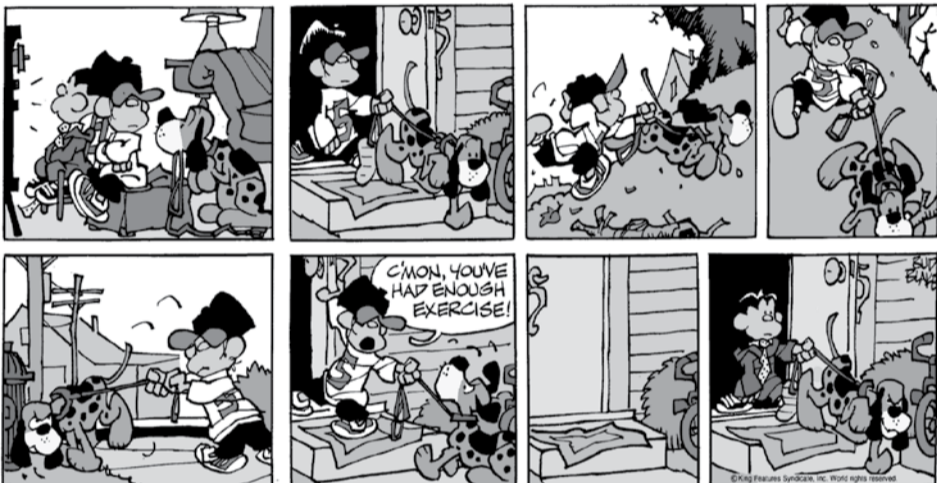


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Volunteer Opportunity Announced



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The City of Dixon is hosting a Volunteer Day event at Hall Park on Saturday, April 12.

Compiled From the City of Dixon Website

DIXON, CA (MPG) - April is National Volunteer Month and the City of Dixon is calling on community members to join Volunteer Day at Hall Park on Saturday April 12.

Volunteers will assist the city in spreading bark in the playground area to ensure

that Dixon children have a safe and enjoyable place to play.

The volunteer event will be from 9 a.m. to noon April 12. Volunteers will meet at the Hall Park barbecue area No. 2 (near the skatepark). Hall Park is located near the corner of Mayes and Fifth Street.

To sign up, visit the city website at www.cityofdixonca.gov/VolunteerDaySignUp or call 707-693-2224. ★

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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

Tuesday, March 25

- 0954 - Vandalism report taken in the 300 block of West E Street.
- 1215 - Theft report taken in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue.
- 1254 School Resource Officer report taken in the 400 block of East A Street.
- 1602 - Vehicle burglary was reported in the 100 block of Dorset Drive.
- 2107 - A lost property report was taken in the 100 block of Heritage Lane. The property was later found and returned to the owner.

Monday, March 24

- 0712 - Vehicle burglary reported in the 1900 block of North First Street.
- 0838 - Vandalism report taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.
- 1005 - Fraud report taken in the Police Department lobby.
- 1358 - Fraud report taken in the 200 block of Ahern Lane.
- 1527 - Report of battery in the 1500 block of Folsom Dair Circle resulted in the arrest of Hannah Flanagan (30) of Fairfield. She was taken to county jail for battery.
- 2320 - A confidential report was taken in the 300 block of HorseTail Court.
- 0446 - A confidential report was taken in the 400 block of Heritage Lane.

Sunday, March 23

- 2121 - Found property report was taken. A cell phone was turned in to an officer.

Saturday, March 22

- 1056 - Abandoned vehicle tow in the 700 block of West D Street South.
- 1104 - Assist with a domestic violence restraining order service in the 100 block of North Jefferson Street.
- 1119 - Disturbance in the 400 block of East Mayes Street Report taken for documentation purposes only.
- 1534 - Found wallet turned into an officer. The owner of the wallet, Christian Angulo (36-year-old out of Napa), could not be reached. The wallet was booked for safekeeping.
- 2030 - Ruben Rios (25) of Dixon was arrested in the 500 block of East D Street for DUI.

Friday, March 21

- 0930 - Child Welfare Services report of abuse was routed to the school resource officer and follow-up conducted.
- 1407 - Shane Boykin (58-year-old, out of Dixon) was contacted at the intersection of North First Street and Stratford Avenue and arrested for a warrant. He was transported to Solano County Jail.
- 1600 - Abandoned vehicle towed in the 1100 block of Jacobs Drive.
- 1614 - Information report in the 300 block of West H Street.
- 2022 - Lost debit card reported in the 100 block of Pegord Lane.

Thursday, March 20

- 0928 Grand theft report taken in the 1300 block of North First Street.



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000350
The following persons are doing business as: Solar Technologies, 14 Beta Court, San Ramon, CA 94583.

STE Electric, 14 Beta Court, San Ramon, CA 94583.

Date filed in Solano County: February 27, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 10, 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 February 26, 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: March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 2025 SOLAR 4-4-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000391
The following persons are doing

business as: Belit Birth Doula, 3700 Lyon Rd, Apt 50, Fairfield, CA 94534.

Belit Birth Doula Services LLC, 3700 Lyon Road, Apt 50, Fairfield, CA 94534.

Date filed in Solano County: March 6, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: March 6, 2025

This Business is conducted by: A 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 March 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 rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.) Publish: March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 2025 BELIT 4-4-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000291
The following persons are doing business as: Ride on Powersports, 1900 N Lincoln Street, Suite 104, Dixon, CA 95620.

Gone Fishin' Marine, Inc., 1880 N Lincoln Street, Dixon, CA 95620
Date filed in Solano County:

February 19, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 1, 2016

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 18, 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: March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2025 RIDE 4-11-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000400

The following persons are doing business as: Advanced Equipment Rental, 260 West Street, Dixon, CA 95620.

Bryan Weber, 260 West Street, Dixon, CA 95620

Date filed in Solano County: March 10, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name

on: February 13, 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 18, 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: March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 2025 RENTAL 4-11-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000381

The following persons are doing business as: Live Rich, 490 Chadbourne Road, Suite A114, Fairfield, CA 94534.

Golden State Enterprise, 490 Chadbourne Road, Suite A114, Fairfield, CA 94534.

Date filed in Solano County: March 5, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 20, 2017

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 March 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: March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2025 LIVE 4-18-25

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU25-01322

Yessenia Alvarado filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Yessenia Alvarado to Yessenia Villegas. 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. May 12, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Department 7, Room 2, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Tim Kam
Dated: March 14, 2025
Publish: March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 2025 YESSENIA 4-18-25

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF PETER KISICH CASE NO. PR25-00144

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Peter Kisich.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Diane Marie Kisich Davis, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Diane Marie Kisich Davis 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: April 18, 2025, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 10; 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: Dan Beatty, Attorney at Law, 1771 Woodside Road, Redwood City, CA 94061, 650-367-1799
Publish: March 21, 28, April 4, 2025 KISICH 4-11-25



LIEN SALE AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will conduct a Lien Sale Auction on **APRIL 21ST, 2025 at 10:00 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.

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UNIT D006- KAE LANI ECKLEY- mattress, pillow, microwave, clothes, bedding, bike, bags, mini vac, shoes, side table, camping chair.

UNIT D065- MANUEL CAAMAL- speakers, music stand, suitcase, holiday décor, hutch, ice machine, crafting supplies, floor lamp, guitar, toys, bedding.

Bond # 0342850

Copies of the agenda packet and supporting documents will be available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620, at least three (3) days before the meeting.

If you have any questions, please call the Deputy City Clerk at (707) 678-7000, ext. 1116. BY ORDER OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL, KRISTIN M. JANISCH, ELECTED CITY CLERK

DATED: March 31, 2025

Restored Stream Supports New Wild Salmon Run

By Kat Kerlin, University of California, Davis

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA (MPG) - Almost everywhere in California, salmon are on the decline. But in Putah Creek, a restored stream running through the University of California Davis campus, wild salmon are not only increasing, they also are completing their life cycle.

A University of California, Davis study, published in the journal "Ecosphere", is the first to document Putah Creek-origin salmon. Chinook salmon have been observed at the creek since 2014, but prior studies had shown them to be strays from hatcheries. This study now confirms that some salmon returning to Putah Creek in the fall to spawn are actually born there.

This should not be news. Salmon are famous for their simple life cycle: Hatch in a stream, migrate to the ocean, and return to the stream to spawn at their life's end. Yet salmon in 21st century California are sometimes trucked or flown to the ocean from hatcheries due to dams, habitat loss, warming streams, drought and other threats restricting their natural migration.

This study shows that at Putah Creek, and potentially other altered and dam-controlled streams worldwide, restored waterways can help restore and even create salmon runs.

"The fact that you have Putah Creek-origin fish is a big deal," said senior author Andrew Rypel, director of the University of California, Davis Center for Watershed Sciences at the time of the study. "To have a growing, stable population that's natal means it's a well-managed ecosystem. It means we're taking care of the water and the land the right way, and that there's a future for fish in that place. It also shows there's hope for other streams that are degraded."

Putah Creek is a tributary of the Sacramento River, flowing



Jordan Colby, Mackenzie Miner and Sebastian Gonzales with a salmon carcass collection on Putah Creek. Photo by Dennis Cocherell, University of California, Davis

through the cities of Winters and Davis. It barely flowed at all after Monticello Dam was installed in the 1950s, which created Lake Berryessa and drastically reduced water to Putah Creek.

Then, in 2000, a lawsuit brought about the Putah Creek Accord, which mandated year-round flows to protect fish and habitat. Since then, local community members, nonprofits, state agencies and University of California, Davis researchers have worked to restore and study the creek. They've found that once water returned to the stream, so did insects, songbirds, and eventually, salmon.

Until this study, the hundreds of salmon in Putah Creek were all thought to be hatchery strays.

"People began speculating whether any of these Putah Creek-spawning fish were returning to Putah Creek," said Rypel, a professor in the UC Davis Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology department. "It was a

challenging scientific riddle to figure out."

First author Lauren Hitt, a graduate student in Rypel's lab during the study, used otoliths, or ear bones, from adult Chinook salmon carcasses recovered from Putah Creek between 2016 and 2021 to determine their origin.

No bigger than a thumbnail, otoliths carry within them the water chemistry of the streams they have traveled, allowing scientists to map their movements and migrations against the chemical tracers of individual streams. This powerful technique allowed Hitt to reconstruct each salmon's life history. She showed that while hatchery-origin fish were most abundant, a handful, 11 of 407, of returning salmon analyzed were born in Putah Creek, completing their full life cycle as wild salmon.

This new run of wild salmon at Putah Creek descended from hatchery fish, a finding that could upend some long, held

perspectives about the role of fish hatcheries in conservation. Hatcheries provide food and a fishing boost for anglers, yet they have often been criticized for impacts to wild fish genetics, health and habitat.

"The idea that hatcheries can be part of the solution might take people off guard," Rypel said. "But there may be positive effects so long as the salmon have a good place to go. There's a lot of potential to have more Putah Creeks out there."

Salmon born in Putah Creek face many challenges in completing their life cycle. They must leave Lower Putah Creek, enter the Yolo Bypass floodplain, travel to Liberty Island, down the Sacramento River and into the San Francisco Bay before emptying into the Pacific Ocean. At the end of their life, they get to do this in reverse. Along the way, restricted fish passage, reduced flows, too-warm, too little or too much water at the

wrong time can be fatal.

In a sobering illustration of these risks, Putah Creek-origin salmon from 2021 died before being able to spawn because an atmospheric river sent debris and ammonia-saturated waters into Putah Creek just as spawning salmon were beginning to arrive. The authors say such setbacks are significant but not insurmountable provided collaborative management of Putah Creek in the future.

"There's so much local love for these fish," said Hitt, currently a Ph.D. student at University of Canterbury in New Zealand. "I hope people recognize that their caring about the system and advocating for the system are what made the changes possible. If not for local community engaged and supporting local streams, I don't think we'd have salmon in Putah Creek today of hatchery or Putah Creek origin. This is just so special."

As for University of California, Davis' salmon run? Scientists will continue to sample and monitor the fish as they come home. Visitors and community members may see salmon spawning each fall at the Putah Creek Riparian Reserve and throughout the creek.

The study's additional co-authors include Malte Willmes of Norwegian Institute for Nature Research; Rachel Johnson of National Marine Fisheries Service and University of California, Davis; and George Whitman, Mackenzie Miner, Carson Jeffres, Dennis Cocherell and Nann Fangué of University of California, Davis.

The study was funded by the Solano County Water Agency, Yolo Basin Foundation, University of California, Davis Agricultural Experiment Station, Peter B. Moyle and California Trout Endowment for Coldwater Fish Conservation, and University of California, Davis Erica Kelly Memorial Award and Jastro-Shields Research Award funds. ★

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