



**Duck Days Open  
to All Ages**

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**He is  
Risen!**  
*Celebrate Easter*



**Dixon**  
**Independent Voice**

VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 16      *Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993*      APRIL 18, 2025

**SEE  
INSIDE**

**SWIZER JOINS  
FIRST NORTHERN  
BANK'S TEAM**



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**BIOMONITORING  
PROGRAM  
KICKS OFF**



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**DIXON HIGH  
INTRODUCES BLACK  
STUDENT UNION**



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# Solo Rugby Wins Final Home Game



The Solano-Yolo Rugby Club team played a competitive match against Redding Rugby and Football Club, defeating the opposition 6 to 2, on April 12.

*Story by Kendall Brown  
and photos  
by Nicolas Brown*

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Solano-Yolo Rugby Club, also known as Solo Rugby, played their final home game on April 12. After a loss to Chico Oaks Youth Rugby on March 29, the club's aim was to play well and continue moving forward.

On April 12, parents and competitors alike were in attendance for a hard-fought game of high school-level rugby. The Solo Falcons played Redding Rugby and Football Club, with kickoff at 1:30 p.m. According to Solano-Yolo Rugby Club President Kelley Evans, the club has more than 20 players, five coaches and a multitude of volunteer support. With the guidance of head coach Rick Flynn, the team has played



According to Solano-Yolo Rugby Club President Kelley Evans, rugby is a game built on respect and acts as a good opportunity to learn teamwork, integrity and self-worth. The club's primary purpose is to develop players with strong character.

a respectable season, with high and low points. "Rugby is a good channel for kids to learn teamwork," said Evans. "It is a game that is built around respect. Respect for other players, respect

for the referee, and respect for the coach. Games cannot be won without teamwork." Adherence to teamwork, inclusiveness, confidence and game knowledge are each values specified on

Solo Youth Rugby's website. This commitment to teamwork was displayed on April 12, with Solo Rugby defeating Redding, the final score being 6 to 2. The contest was a back-and-forth, with both teams' passion and athleticism on full display.

Parents were excited to see the skills their sons had learned in action, including Ricky Shafer, father of Number 7, Colby Shafer and Tony Martinez, father of Number 22, Levi Martinez. According to Shafer, his son is playing his first year of rugby and was looking for an opportunity outside of football or wrestling. After attending a clinic in December 2024, hosted by Solo Rugby, Colby Shafer committed to the team. Levi Martinez is also playing for the first time, because friends of his were playing.

*Continued on page 3*

**Lisette Estrella-Henderson  
Announces Her  
Retirement**



**Lisette Estrella-Henderson**  
*Solano County Office  
of Education  
News Release*

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, has announced her retirement, effective Sept. 1, after a distinguished 40-years of service as an educator, nearly 21 of which were spent at the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE). Estrella-Henderson began her tenure in January 2017. The Solano County Board of Education will be responsible for selecting a successor to complete the remainder of Estrella-Henderson's term.

Her decision to retire comes after thoughtful consideration and discussions with her family. "There is not a single factor, but rather a number of factors, which led me to the conclusion that it is in the best interest of myself and my family to retire at this time." She went on to express deep gratitude for the support she has received from the community and her colleagues, stating, "It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to work with incredible students and families, dedicated staff, and community partners to elevate education in Solano County.

As a County Superintendent, Estrella-Henderson reflected on the many accomplishments of Solano County Office of Education, emphasizing her pride in the organization's commitment to student success and innovative contributions.

"There is no greater honor than having served in an organization that is focused on supporting young people to blossom and accomplish greatness in ways they may never have imagined," she said. "I'm so proud of the many accomplishments that we have been able to forge forward together that have had a positive impact on the students and families we serve."

Estrella-Henderson concluded, "It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the 23rd Solano County Superintendent of Schools. Solano County is

*Continued on page 3*

# We Reach Beyond the Moon!

*Dixon Montessori Charter School Holds Moon Tree  
Dedication Ceremony on Earth Day*

**Dixon Montessori  
Charter School  
News Release**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon Montessori Charter School will sponsor a special Moon Tree Dedication Ceremony at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 22. The school is celebrating its own Moon Tree in honor of Earth Day. This event is open to students, families and the public.

The legacy of Moon Trees dates to 1971, when astronaut Stuart Roosa carried tree seeds in his personal kit aboard Apollo 14. The original resulting "Moon Trees" were planted on government grounds, national monuments and schools, and given to international dignitaries throughout the world.

In tribute to the Apollo



These Moon Trees symbolize the connection between space exploration and environmental stewardship. Courtesy photo of Dixon Montessori Charter School

14 legacy and in celebration of the future of space exploration through NASA's Artemis Program, a new generation of Moon Tree seeds traveled into lunar orbit aboard the Orion spacecraft in 2022. These seeds journeyed far beyond the Moon, spending nearly four weeks in space before their return to Earth.

These trees symbolize the connection between space exploration and environmental stewardship. The Dixon Montessori Moon Tree, received from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and planted in November 2024, represents growth, discovery and our shared responsibility to care for our planet.

The April 22 ceremony  
*Continued on page 2*



# Dixon News Briefs

By MPG Staff

## Rohwer Insurance Agency Mixer

Rohwer Insurance Agency, 275 N. First St. is hosting a joint mixer with the Dixon Chamber of Commerce from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on April 23. This free event features a no-host bar serving beer and wine, as well as raffle prizes.

For more information, visit [dixonchamber.org](http://dixonchamber.org) or call 707-678-2650.

## Take Back Day

The Dixon Police Department, 201 W. A St. is participating in the Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) National Take Back Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 26. This annual event demonstrates the DEA and City of Dixon’s commitment to public safety and health. Those interested can visit the Dixon Police Department on April 26 to drop off unneeded medication for safe disposal.

For more information, visit [dea.gov/takebackday](http://dea.gov/takebackday) or call 707-678-7070.

## The History of American Field Service

The Dixon Historical Society is hosting a presentation on the history of American Field Service in Dixon. The event intends to educate citizens about students in 1956 who studied abroad, as well as the Dixon families who hosted international students. The presentation, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on April 26, will be held at Dixon Methodist Church, 209 Jefferson St. Refreshments will follow the presentation.

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

## Mother’s Day Celebration at Freedom Church

Freedom Church, 470 E. H St., is hosting a Mother’s Day service at 10 a.m. on May 11. The senior pastor is offering blessings to each mother in attendance.



The Dixon Chamber of Commerce, 220 N. Jefferson St., is seeking out Environmental Protection (EP) Patrollers for the Dixon May Fair Parade on May 10. Applications are due by April 28 and can be submitted either in person at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce office or by calling 707-678-2650. Photo by Nicolas Brown

As a token of appreciation, each mother in attendance will receive a gift at the end of the service.

For more information, visit the Freedom Church Facebook page or call 707-693-1774.

## 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 offers 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 Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook Page or call 707-749-7210.

## Veterans’ Dinner

American Legion Post 208 is hosting a Veterans’ Dinner from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on April 18. Fish Friday, held at Veterans’

Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St. offers an all-you-can-eat meal for \$12 per guest. Dishes include fried fish, hushpuppies, coleslaw, and fries for \$12 per person.

For more information, visit American Legion Post 208’s Facebook page or call 707-678-6308.

## Dixon Chamber Connections Networking

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a networking event from 12 to 1:30 p.m. on May 1. This free, in-person event, held at The Farmstead at Dixon, 350 Gateway Drive, presents the opportunity for local professionals to connect. Offering a diverse range of potential connections, attendees are encouraged to bring business cards.

For more information, visit [dixonchamber.org](http://dixonchamber.org) or call 707-678-2650.

## The Friendly Bookworm Bag Sale

The Friendly Bookworm Bookstore,

200 N. First St. is hosting a bag sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 17. Sponsored by Friends of the Dixon Public Library, the event offers the opportunity to fill a bag with books for \$5. Standard-sized grocery bags will be provided, but some items are excluded from the sale. The Children’s room will be open at regular prices. All proceeds support future Dixon Public Library programs. Only cash and checks will be accepted.

For more information, visit [dixonchamber.org](http://dixonchamber.org) or call 707-624-0144.

## The Gold Souls at Ruhstaller Farms

Ruhstaller Farm, 6686 Sievers Road, presents the Gold Souls from 6 to 9 p.m. on April 19. The Gold Souls, hailing from the Bay and Sacramento areas, combine soul, funk and blues to tell stories through their music. All donations from the performance support the band.

For more information, visit [ruhstallerfarm.com](http://ruhstallerfarm.com) or call 530-601-8240.

## EP Patrollers Needed for Dixon May Fair

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce, 220 N. Jefferson St., is seeking out Environmental Protection (EP) Patrollers for the Dixon May Fair Parade on May 10. Patrollers follow behind horses in the parade with their own shovels, wheelbarrows or wagons, and scoop up any messes as needed. Patrollers get free entry to the fair and wristband tickets that are good for all-day ride tickets. Patrollers can also compete to win ribbons and cash prizes based on their performance. Applications can be picked up in person at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce office. Applicants can either return submissions in person at the office or mail them to P.O. Box 159. April 28 is the deadline for signups.

For more information, visit the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Facebook page or call 707-678-2650. ★

# We Reach Beyond the Moon!

Continued from page 1  
will include a brief history of Moon Trees, remarks from school leaders and a formal dedication of

the tree.  
“We are thrilled and honored to be a part of this historic opportunity,” said Dixon Montessori

Charter School executive director Ben Ernest. “This Moon Tree will serve as a living connection to the past achievements of space

exploration and an inspiring symbol for our students as they learn about the wonders of science.”  
Dixon Montessori Charter

School invites all community members to join in the April 22 celebration of this historic “out-of-this-world” event. ★

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# Swizer Joins First Northern Bank’s Information Services Team



Duane Swizer. Photo courtesy of First Northern Bank

By First Northern Bank News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - First Northern Bank (OTCQX: FNRN), the region’s number one local small business lender, proudly announces the appointment of Duane Swizer as its new executive vice president and chief information officer. Former Chief Information Officer Denise Burris will serve as senior vice president and information services project manager to ensure

a smooth transition and continue to lead projects in technology and innovation at the Bank. Swizer has more than 15 years of extensive experience in managing and implementing computer and information technology systems, monitoring technology risk, analyzing software trends and optimizing organizational cybersecurity.

In his role, he will be responsible for supporting the digital transformation of the bank’s business, including network infrastructure, systems, and software; ensuring information technology (IT) systems and data are secure and compliant with relevant regulations and standards and oversee operations of the information services department. Swizer is a member of the bank’s asset/liability committee, information

services steering committee, and the bank’s senior management team.

“Duane’s vision, innovation, and experience in banking technology, project management, and leadership will serve him well, as he leads the Bank’s digital transformation forward to enhance our technology, security, and customer experience at First Northern Bank,” said Jeremiah Smith, president and chief executive officer of first northern bank.

Swizer holds a Master of Science in Telecommunications Management from Golden State University San Francisco and is a graduate of Pacific Coast Banking School in Seattle, Washington. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf and visiting Hawaii. ★

# Historical Society Gives American Field Service Presentation

Dixon Historical Society News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Historical Society invites the community to its presentation of the history of the international exchange program, American Field Service, which first began in Dixon in 1956. Join the Dixon Historical Society on April 27 to learn more about the students from Dixon who studied abroad, as well as the Dixon families who hosted international students over the years.

American Field Service first began in 1914, when young men volunteered to drive ambulances and women tended the wounded on the battlefields of Europe. Since that time, American Field Service has evolved to provide an opportunity for peace through cultural understanding. Following World War II, the ambulance drivers of American Field Services wanted to create a way to prevent future wars. So, in 1947, they brought the first exchange students from war-torn Europe to live in the United States with a host family and attend high school. The drivers felt that making

personal relationships with people from foreign countries would prevent them from going to war and trying to kill each other. These students would return to their homes after a year to share their experiences and what they had learned about the United States, especially the democratic government and traditions. By the early 1950s, American students were allowed to go abroad.

Today, participants of American Field Service programs still gain a cultural understanding of other societies by living abroad and immersing themselves in a new family, language and culture. Also rewarding is hosting a student from a different country and sharing with them the culture, language and customs of the United States. Many times, the bonds that are made will last a lifetime.

Join the Dixon Historical Society to hear and share stories from Dixon's exchange students and host families from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27 at the Dixon United Methodist Church, 209 Jefferson St., Dixon. Refreshments will follow the presentation. ★

# Lisette Estrella-Henderson Announces Her Retirement

Continued from page 1

a very special community, and I look forward to continuing to contribute to and advocate for excellence in education and the well-being of our youth.”

Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun,

Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 60,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state. ★

# Solo Rugby Wins Final Home Game



The Solano-Yolo Rugby Club, also known as Solo Rugby, played their final home game on April 12. After a loss to Chico Oaks Youth Rugby on March 29, the club’s aim was to play well and continue moving forward.

Continued from page 1

“He wears my football number. I was so proud of that,” said Tony Martinez. “I am happy that he is out here being part of our community, as I was when I played.”

Solo Rugby club is a combination of three teams: the Dixon Rugby Club in 2006, Solo Rugby in 2015 and Vacaville-Davis Rugby in the early ’90s. The club’s primary purpose has not shifted since this

merger: developing players with strong character regardless of wins or losses. On and off the field, players are taught to have a sense of self-worth, self-sacrifice, selflessness, pride and integrity. According to Solo Youth Rugby’s website, these values are constantly instilled in Solo players.

For more information about the Solano-Yolo Rugby Club, visit soloyouthrugby.com or call 916-761-3467. ★



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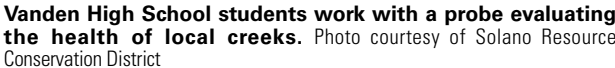
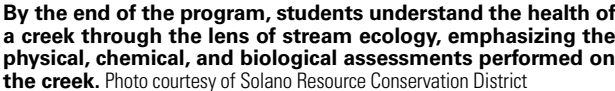


# Resource Conservation District Kicks Off High School Biomonitoring Program



The exhibitor area will host more than 20 local environmental organizations providing information about their missions and offering

Yolo Basin Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the appreciation and stewardship of wetlands and wildlife through education and innovative partnerships. ★



In a lesson in their classroom after the field trip, students calculate the Index of Biotic Integrity using the macroinvertebrate data they collected on the field trip, which gives them another way to evaluate the creek's health. Along with their observations about the creek's habitat, and the chemical data they collected, Solano Resource Conservation District educators lead a discussion with students

To learn more about the Solano County Biomonitoring Program and Solano Resource Conservation District's other education programs, visit [www.solanorcd.org](http://www.solanorcd.org) or email [education@solanorcd.org](mailto:education@solanorcd.org). ★

Since transitioning to Drive City, the Jorgensens have had to evolve. After seven years of marriage, their new business is the first time that they have worked together, meeting at a Tire Pro Convention in 2018. According to the



The business currently has five employees, including two full-time lube and oil technicians, two smog technicians and a worker in school. In five

For more information, call 707-678-SMOG (7664). ★

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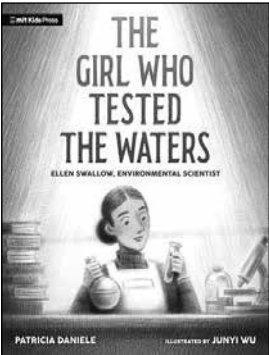
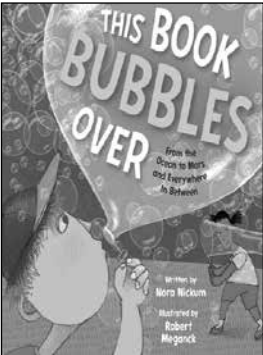




FOR THE LOVE OF  
**BOOKS**  
By Amy Shane

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

# Celebrating Science through Children's Books



**The Book Bubbles Over - From the Ocean to Mars and Everywhere In Between**  
*by Nora Nickum and illustrated by Robert Meganck; Peachtree*

What is a bubble? It's time to bubble over with curiosity and dive into the world of bubbles. From the fragile, gentle whisp of a bubble blown from a bubble wand to the strongest bubbles found on Mars, bubbles are truly everywhere. Jump in and explore how bubbles can be solid, liquid, strong, or fragile. They can be used to cool and heat and can even be useful and playful.

Bubbles can change the weather, the climate and even help firefighters be protective. There are so many useful ways bubbles are in our everyday lives. How many uses can you find?

Dive into the world of bubble facts and set off on a scientific journey of fascinating facts, and maybe come up with your own bubble experiments.

**Innovative Octopuses, Half-Brained Birds, and More Animals with Magnificent Minds**  
*by Christina Couch, illustrations by Daniel Duncan; Mit Kids Press*

Extraordinary animals are everywhere. From octopuses to tortoises amazing intelligent animals are waiting to share their amazing facts. Discover the way squirrels use mnemonic devices to find their nuts and even the way whales communicate. This guide is filled with full-color photos, amazing facts, sidebars, and scientific research.


Readers can even test their brains with DIY neuroscience activities designed to hone in memory skills and guide them in meditation. A fun and adventurist read for any animal or science enthusiast. This book is full of questions, answers, and interesting facts, keeping active minds extra busy and engaged.

**The Girl Who Tested the Waters Ellen Swallow, Environmental Scientist**  
*by Patricia Daniele, illustrated by Junyi Wu; Mit Kids Press*

Ellen Swallow dreamed of going to college and studying science, but that was not what women did in her time. Women were expected to stay and help at home or raise a family, but Ellen knew what she wanted to do. With lots of determination, the dream finally came true, and Ellen attended college. But she still wasn't done. Ellen dreamed of attending MIT even though no woman had attended, and once again, she made history. But still Ellen wasn't done making history. People were getting sick, and Ellen knew she had to help. Through one woman's unfailing determination, Ellen established the first water quality standards in the country. Then Ellen made it her mission to create food standards. Her mission became her life, and through this, she enabled a quality of life for all.

The Girl Who Tested The Waters, is an In-depth Biography awakening the sense of determination as well as thoughtful reflection on a healthy environment one woman was responsible for. ★

# A Good Friday Introduces a God Sunday



*Spiritual Care*

**BY NORRIS BURKES**

No matter what you’ve read, I can promise you this – the Jesus insurrection was put down quickly and decisively. The anarchists, AKA disciples, who were occupying the garden never really had a chance.

The disciples barely seemed to know the smackdown was coming when the occupying powers, caving to the demand of religious leaders, issued an arrest warrant for their insurgency leader.

“Bring this Jesus to me,” said Pontius Pilate, the Roman prefect (governor) of Judea. “Let’s see what kind of leader he claims to be. Does he think himself their king, their God? If so, I’ll make sure he becomes just another revolutionary nailed to a tree.”

Gaining Pilate’s approval, the deputized posse stormed the Gethsemane Garden, a place where Jesus was known to hang with the homeless. The officers expected a fight, or they at least hoped to instigate one. They came armed with clubs and swords.

To be certain of their target, they bribed a Jesus insider, a real Judas, to plant an identifying kiss on Jesus’ cheek.

The subject himself offered no resistance. After all, no matter what the prostitutes and degenerate cripples said, Jesus was just a man.

The only struggle came when a sword-packing follower sliced off a deputy’s ear. Eyewitnesses claimed Jesus miraculously reattached it, but the religious leaders dismissed that as fake news.

Others claimed that Jesus’ quiet surrender paved his way to martyrdom. By the time their claim gained traction, Jesus would become much more than a martyr.

Early the next morning, the pathetic arrestee was hauled before Pilot where the governor asked him if he thought himself to be a king.

No response. Only unassuming surrender. This is going to be easy,” Pilate must have thought. “I’ll make him king — King

of Calvary’s Hill.” So much for this petty uprising. “Not so fast,” pleaded the first lady. “I had a bad dream about him. You shouldn’t have anything to do with him.” “Dreams! Probably just something you ate,” Pilate told his wife.

Then, with a pontific wave, Pilate motioned Jesus into the hands of tormentors who mockingly crowned him with a wreath of puncturing thorns. Nice touch.

In the meantime, Pilate washed his hands. Just another day living in the dream seat of power. Insurrection squashed.

By Friday afternoon, it was a done deal. Even Jesus knew it by then: “It is finished!”

The government prosecution of the fledgling rebellion was far-reaching and absolute. The orders were signed and sealed, then executed with the utmost prejudice.

But Pilate had looked at this all wrong. He, as well as the religious folks who’d concocted the charges, had operated under the misguided assumption that the coup would come by force.

You can’t blame them. It was also the shared assumption of Jesus’ disciples, including Judas, their disgruntled group treasurer.

The day would eventually be called Good Friday by his followers, but it Friday was only good because Sunday belonged to God.

And when Sunday came, it arrived with an immeasurable power not before seen by anyone on this earth. And it was manifested first to a woman.

On that long-ago first Easter morning, when a few women dared enter Jesus’ empty tomb, they were confronted by angels, asking, “Why do you seek the living among the dead. The one you are looking for is risen” (Luke 24:6).

The words were final witness to the fact that God’s Kingdom has never been about any earthly kingdom.

His Kingdom has always pointed toward the Resurrection, both his and ours.

Happy Good Friday and God Sunday! 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](mailto:comment@thechaplain.net).

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



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

## TCM CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL PREVIEW

The TCM Classic Film kicks off its opening night gala, showcasing its theme of “Grand Illusions: Fantastic Worlds on Film” with the screening of “Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back,” the second film in the “Star Wars” trilogy.

Visionary director George Lucas will be there to present his film that is celebrating its 45th anniversary. Hard to believe that so much time has passed when “Star Wars” films were truly thrilling, rather than what Disney has done with forgettable remakes or reboots.

“The Empire Strikes Back” is like “The Godfather Part II.” Technically, they’re sequels, the second movie is a series. But they are so much more. In fact, they arguably could be stand-alone films.

“Empire” not only “dazzled and delighted ‘Star Wars’ fans, it pushed the boundaries of moviemaking, further deepening its characters and expanding the most popular cinematic universe of all time,” said Ben Mankiewicz, the official host of the festival.

According to Mankiewicz, “The first ‘Star Wars’ picture in 1977 ignited a new era in Hollywood and turned a generation of young people into passionate movie fans for life. Then, somehow, three years later, along comes ‘Empire,’ which might be even better.”

The publicity machine at Turner Classic Movies touts 1980’s “Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back” as “widely considered one of the greatest sequels in film history,” winning two Academy Awards and other accolades as time goes by.

The excitement of the space opera franchise began with George Lucas’ creation of “Star Wars” which quickly turned into a pop culture phenomenon in what was to be a trilogy of intergalactic adventure.

Not known at the time in 1977 was that “Star Wars” would result in a series where the film would later be known as Episode IV subtitled “A New Hope,” while “The Empire Strikes Back” maintained the same subtitle and became known as Episode V.

Three years later along came “Star Wars: Return of the Jedi,” with the beloved characters in the Rebel Alliance fighting the malignant Galactic Empire. Some will contend that the legacy of “Star Wars” would have been best served if “Return of the Jedi” had been the final chapter.

With the festival rapidly approaching its launch on Thursday, April 24th, the schedule is fully formed, though subject to last-minute changes. A movie lover’s dream will be fulfilled, as it has since the first festival in 2010.

The Marx Brothers may be the best-known family comedy team of all

# Riley Reviews

**“TCM CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL” DRAWS NEAR FOR HOLLYWOOD PREMIERE**

time, having success in vaudeville, the Broadway stage, and a slew of movies that have not lost their popularity.

The festival will feature Groucho’s favorite of all his movies that was not available in its original form for more than 80 years. 1930’s “Animal Crackers,” the Marx Brothers’ second feature was also their last film adapted from one of their Broadway productions.

In fact, “Animal Crackers” was the play the brothers were performing at night while filming their debut feature, 1929’s “The Cocoanuts” at Paramount’s New York studio.

Fun fact: There were five Marx Brothers, but youngest, Zeppo, never appeared on film, while Gummo, the second youngest, appeared only in the first five films. While Groucho is the de facto ringleader, Chico was the oldest, followed by Harpo. If you lost count, that makes Groucho the middle child.

A classic from the 1920’s, “Beau Geste,” to be shown in a world premiere restoration, was one of Paramount’s most popular films, starring Ronald Colman, Neil Hamilton, and Ralph Forbes as three brothers forced by scandal to flee England and join the French Foreign Legion.

There’s high drama as they deal with a sadistic lieutenant (Noah Beery) and swashbuckling action scenes of desert warfare. The film also features early appearances by William Powell and Victor McLaglen.

The film’s Irish-born director Herbert Brenon was one of the first directors to achieve celebrity status, second only to D.W. Griffith. In a career spanning three decades, Brenon directed more than 120 films.

Another world premiere restoration is 1955’s “The Big Combo,” a film noir billed as a symphony of “chiaroscuro,” which is Italian for “light-dark,” thereby explaining a lighting technique to achieve contrast between the subject and a dark background.

Cornel Wilde’s detective Leonard Diamond is trying to get the goods of Richard Conte’s Mr. Brown, a new breed of criminal who keeps his hands clean and his books dirty. Diamond is also in love with Mr. Brown’s mistress (Wilde’s off-screen wife Jean Wallace).

Like any good film noir, the script is filled with punchy lines like “You can’t tell a jury a man’s guilty because he’s too innocent,” and contained multiple levels of overt and implied adult sexuality.

Conte and Wallace have a love scene that had censors in a tizzy, while Conte’s two cool gangsters, Lee Van Cleef’s Fante and Earl Holliman’s Mingo, seem to be more than just colleagues, putting it imprecisely.

While these films are a brief taste of the cornucopia of great cinema, a future column will feature some of the festival highlights. . ★



## Rising Wages Test Ranchers Who Provide Vegetation Management

Sheep and goats, increasingly used to eat flammable vegetation in targeted areas, have become a key part of California’s wildfire prevention efforts. But ranchers who provide targeted grazing services depend on a viable sheep and goat ranching industry. Their business may be in jeopardy due to a steep rise in the minimum wage ranchers must pay the herders who look after their animals around the clock. Since 2019, that wage has more than doubled, soaring this year to \$4,820 a month. “It’s just become untenable,” said Andrée Soares, president of Star Creek Land Stewards in Merced County.

## California Dairies Make Progress in Cutting Emissions

At their current pace, California dairy farmers are expected to meet the state’s goal for reducing methane emissions from their farms ahead of schedule. Though methane digesters are often credited for doing most of the heavy lifting, California dairy farmers have been implementing other technologies and conservation practices that help them move the needle toward sustainability. An analysis by researchers at the University of California, Davis, shows that incentive-based programs that drive voluntary efforts by dairy farmers should by 2030 achieve the 40% dairy methane reduction that state lawmakers called for without the need for more regulations.

## Research: Overtime Law Costs Farmworkers \$100 a Week

In 2023, University of California, Berkeley, assistant professor Alexandra Hill published research showing California’s 2016 agricultural overtime law had not achieved its goal of increasing earnings for farmworkers. She found that Assembly Bill 1066 caused workers to lose hours and pay as farmers shortened the workweek to balance their wage bills. Hill said her continued analysis of farmworker employment data shows farmworkers have earned roughly \$100 less per week on average than they would have without AB 1066. “There is really convincing evidence that work hours for individual farmworkers fell after the law went into effect,” she said.

## State Head of Natural Resources Shares Perspective

California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot spoke with Ag Alert® about managing the state’s environment and natural resources, including water, air quality, forests, energy and species. “We can do a better job in state government understanding what the different regulatory impacts are on farmers and ranchers,” Crowfoot said. “During the past six years in this job, I’ve learned a lot from agricultural producers about the aggregated impact, and we can better coordinate our regulatory programs to reduce burdens, whether it is site visits or regulatory timelines, so it reduces the administrative burden. We’re open-minded to understanding where regulations aren’t working well.” ★



# Community Calendar

**Ongoing Activities:**

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

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

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

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

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

Regular Meetings:

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

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

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

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

Bids For Kids – Is a volunteer organization created to promote and foster youth participation in agriculture. Anyone interested in this endeavor is welcome and encouraged to attend our monthly meeting. Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month. For more information, please contact secretary, Lisa Dage at 707-246-5623, [fivedages@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fivedages@sbcglobal.net) or president, James Fuller at 916-952-0167, [jameskfuller@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:Scoutmaster152@gmail.com) for more information. Check us out on the web: <http://www.troop152dixon.com>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Dixon Police Department Responds to Incident at Hall Park

### Dixon Police Department News Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** – Recently, an incident occurred at Hall Park, 450 Hall Park Drive, involving a woman watching a Little League game who drew the concern of parents due to her presence and possible photographing of children. Officers promptly responded to parents’ concerns, contacted the woman and conducted a thorough review of the circumstances.

During the interaction, the individual cooperated fully with officers and allowed a review of her mobile phone. Officers determined there were no photographs or videos of children, nor any evidence of inappropriate or criminal activity. The woman explained

that, culturally, being around children brings her joy and happiness. She understood and respected the parents’ concerns and voluntarily agreed to leave the park.

Despite this resolution, an anonymous person posted photos of the woman online, leading to significant misinformation and unsubstantiated speculation regarding child trafficking. The Dixon Police Department emphasizes that officers did not identify any criminal activity or intent during their contact. In fact, the woman later voluntarily came to the Police Department to further clarify and resolve the situation, behavior that is typically inconsistent with any criminal intent.

Statement from Police Chief Robert Thompson:

“The Dixon Police Department has thoroughly reviewed this incident and found absolutely no threat to public safety. What concerns me most is not the event itself but the wave of fear and speculation that followed.



Anonymous social media posts that target individuals without facts not only endanger innocent people; they fuel suspicion, division and lead to unnecessary calls for police service that pull resources away from where they're truly needed. Fear, when left unchecked, can become more dangerous than the situations it claims to expose. We ask our community to remain vigilant but also respectful and thoughtful. The Dixon Police Department is committed to protecting everyone in our community and that includes ensuring no one is unfairly targeted or harassed based on assumptions or online rumor.”

The Dixon Police Department urges the public to approach such situations with understanding and tolerance. Public

parks are community spaces open to everyone and individuals have the right to enjoy these public areas. While vigilance regarding child safety is essential, avoiding assumptions or accusations without facts or evidence is equally important.

We appreciate the vigilance of our community but remind everyone that concerns should be promptly reported to law enforcement professionals, who are trained to investigate appropriately. The Dixon Police Department remains committed to ensuring the safety, respect and rights of all community members.

Anyone with additional information about this incident is asked to contact the Dixon Police Department at 707-678-7080. ★



# Dixon High School Introduces Black Student Union



Dixon High School, 555 College Way, established a Black Student Union in August 2024. The organization’s contributions to school culture include inviting the Cavalry Association, which educated students on the Buffalo Soldiers. Photo courtesy of Dixon High School Black Student Union

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon High School at 555 College Way has supported the education and development of Dixonites for generations. As of August 2024, the school’s first Black Student Union, or BSU, was established, aiming to empower and support an inclusive learning environment for all students.

According to parent volunteer LaShay Moore, the organization aims to foster unity and raise awareness of African American culture.

“Black students are often overlooked but they bring a lot of leadership to their schools and communities. It is time for change and diversity at Dixon High School,” said Moore. “Students should also be able to speak and use their voice at this age. Advocacy starts in high school.”

Dixon High’s Black Student Union is a student- and parent-run group with about 20 members. Moore became involved in 2024, taking part in the organization’s first official meeting. According to Moore, meetings are held once a month during lunchtime and include icebreakers, games, pizza and drinks. The aim is to allow members to get to know each other. Discussions revolve



Black Student Union meetings are open to everyone and occur once a month during lunchtime. Meetings include icebreakers, games, pizza and drinks, all to bring members together. Photo courtesy of Madison Wartson

around getting more students involved, future events and educating members on how to address prejudice.

The organization is most active in February, during Black History Month. This past February, the organization hosted a spirit week to honor Black history, including a visit from the Cavalry Association, which educated students about Buffalo Soldiers. According to the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, Buffalo Soldiers were African American soldiers who served on the Western Frontier following the Civil War. Their ranks were comprised of former slaves, free men and Black Civil War veterans. Thanks

to their dedication, leadership and commitment to celebrating Black history and culture, the Black Student Union received a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Dixon.

Black Student Union President Madison Wartson is proud of the group’s accomplishments. According to Wartson, the Black Student Union brings unity to the school and implores the need to come together.

“I want everyone to know that everyone is welcome,” said Wartson. “We want to do more in the future; we just want people to know we are looking for support and are inclusive.”

According to Moore, the

# Other States Do Housing Better Than California; A New Study Shows How They Do It



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Overwhelmingly Californians rate the intertwined issues of housing supply, living costs and homelessness as the state’s most pressing issues, as a recent poll by the Public Policy Institute of California confirms.

The terrible trio, as one might term it, also draws constant verbal acknowledgement from the state’s politicians from Governor Gavin Newsom down, and he and legislators have enacted dozens, perhaps hundreds, of measures to address it.

Nevertheless, there’s little evidence that their efforts have had material impact. Either the three situations are beyond the capacity of politics to address, a distinct possibility, or the political efforts to date have not been vigorous enough.

Why, one must wonder, is California plagued while residents of other states enjoy lower housing and living costs and experience much lower rates of homelessness? Shouldn’t our political and civic leaders be examining what these other states are doing right, or are they so afflicted with self-righteous hubris that they cannot entertain such a thought?

A new and very detailed study of housing policies in the nation’s 250 largest metropolitan areas confirms that California is an outlier when it comes to increasing housing

supply and moderating its costs.

Titled “Build Homes, Expand Opportunity” the report is a product of the George W. Bush Institute at Southern Methodist University.

“America’s fastest-growing cities offer lessons on how America can address its housing affordability crisis,” the report declares. “Based on our analysis of the 250 largest metropolitan areas and a deep dive into 25 large metros in the Sun Belt and Mountain states, places scoring best for pro-growth housing and land-use policies are mostly large Sun Belt metros from the Carolinas through Texas to Utah.”

The metros doing the best job of meeting their housing demands, the report says, have policies that make it easy for developers to build. That includes allowing higher-density housing in “substantial fractions of every city,” reducing minimum lot sizes, allowing residential construction in commercial areas, reducing or eliminating parking requirements and embracing innovative technologies such as modular construction and three-dimensional (3D) printing.

In addition to adopting specific housing policies that spur development, the report continues, metros that are meeting demand also pursue complementary policies, such as having enough educational and medical services, allowing “fine-grained mixing of land uses and human activities in as many places as possible,” allowing “dynamic changes in land use rather than trying to freeze neighborhoods,” and providing amenities such as “walkability, revitalized live-work-play

downtowns” and “great parks and trails.”

So, one might ask, which metro areas are hitting all the right buttons and which are not, as determined in the study?

The 25 top pro-housing metros are all either in the Sun Belt, particularly Texas, California’s arch-rival, or in the mountain states such as Utah and Idaho. Number one is Charlotte, North Carolina. and number two is Austin, the Texas capital which is becoming a powerful competitor with California’s Silicon Valley.

Not surprisingly, California metros are heavily represented on the list of the nation’s 25 “most restrictive” metros. While Honolulu is the least accommodating, Oxnard is number two.

Nine of the 25 are in California. They include, in order after Oxnard, San Jose, San Diego, Riverside-San Bernardino, San Francisco, Sacramento, Bakersfield, Fresno and Stockton.

It would be tempting to dismiss the Bush Institute’s report as biased because it comes from Texas, but it contains a wealth of detail and explains how the data were evaluated.

A better response from California politicians would be to read the report and determine what more California could do to make the state housing friendly. The state’s current path on housing, other living costs and homelessness is going in the wrong direction.

Dan Walters is one of the 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. ★

Black Student Union contributes diverse perspectives, empowerment, resilience, awareness and culture to

Dixon High School. The goal is to make all students feel seen, heard and loved, regardless of race or culture.

For more information or to get involved, visit the organization’s Instagram @dhs\_thebsu. ★

Legal Advertising Hotline  
916-483-2299  
Legal Advertising Fax  
916-773-2999

## LEGAL ADVERTISING

Dixon’s Independent Voice Adjudicated For and By the County of Solano  
Adjudication No. FCS030046–November 24, 2008

Legal Advertising  
P.O. Box 14  
Carmichael, CA 95609

CITY OF DIXON

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLICATION SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF DIXON

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dixon (“City”) is requesting sealed bids (“Bid” or “Bids”) from newspapers that are qualified bidders (“Bidder” or “Bidders”) to provide legal notice printing and publishing services for the City for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year (“Project”), in accordance with this Request for Proposals (“RFP”).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

LOCATION OF PUBLICATION:

DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN SELECTING BIDS:

A successful Bid shall be based upon a weighting, as shown below, of all the following factors (the “Factors”):

(1) Bid price (50%).

(2) Number of days newspaper is circulated per week (50%).

Each factor shall be weighted based on the percentage indicated. In the event of a tie, the City Council will have the absolute discretion to award the bid to any of the bidders who tied.

PROCESS:

SUBMISSION OF BIDS:

GENERAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

Proposal for Official City Newspaper for Advertising to be opened at 3:00 p.m., May 9, 2025.

Each Bid must be submitted using the forms provided in this RFP packet.

Once a Bid has been submitted to the Administrative City Clerk, it may not be withdrawn.

QUESTIONS: Questions may be submitted by email to the Administrative City Clerk at [luiz@cityofdixonca.gov](mailto:luiz@cityofdixonca.gov) or by mail to City Hall, located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California, until 5:00 p.m. on May 2, 2025. The City cannot guarantee that it will be able to respond to every inquiry it receives.

AWARD OF CONTRACT: The award of the contract will be made to the Bidder who the City determines is most capable of providing services that fulfill all of the listed Factors. Each of the Factors will be weighted by the City Council by the percentages indicated above. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids received in response to this RFP, to negotiate with any qualified source, or cancel, in whole or in part, this RFP if it is in the best interest of the City to do so. Bidders may be required to submit revisions to their Bids, as may result from contract negotiations, or to include additions or deletions to the scope of work. All survey information, data, and material ensuing from the Project shall be the sole property of the City and shall not be reproduced and published without the written consent of the City. The City Council reserves the right to waive Bid errors or to reject any and all Bids and re-advertise for Bids. By responding to this RFP, the Bidder agrees that the City may audit the Bidder’s records and files to verify that the information in their Bid is true and accurate. There is no mandatory City audit requirement. In the event of a tie, the City Council will have the absolute discretion to award the bid to any of the bidders who tied.

Dated: April 11, 2025

Lupe Ruiz  
Administrative City Clerk

Dixon Independent Voice 4-11, 4-25-2025

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000136

The following persons are doing business as: Peace of Mind Remodels, 267 Cooper School Road, Vacaville, CA 95688. Mark J Binion, 267 Cooper School Road, Vacaville, CA 95688. Date filed in Solano County: January 27, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 16, 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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000475

The following persons are doing business as: Wild ‘N Chic, 910 Norton Court, Dixon, CA 95620. Donna Lopez, 910 Norton Court, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: March 24, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2025 This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration March 23, 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: April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2025 PEACE 5-2-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000538

The following persons are doing business as: Lucky Garden, 860 Tuolumne Street, Vallejo, CA 94590. V Torres LLC, 860 Tuolumne Street, Vallejo, CA 94590. Date filed in Solano County: April 2, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A 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 April 1, 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: April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2025 LUCKY 5-2-25

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



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6. Arrival time, acr.

9. Deity, in Sanskrit

13. \_\_\_\_-under, pl.

14. Lysergic acid diethylamide

15. Support person

16. Fictional professor Lupin's first name

17. Snoop

18. Computer accessory

19. \*Pill alternative

21. \*Medical care

23. Use eyes

24. Slap on

25. Hot beverage amount

28. Tear down

30. \*Tissue testing

35. Smell

37. Gardener's storage

39. Shipping box

40. Eight furlongs

41. Subject matter

43. Square footage

44. Like some towelettes

46. Russian ruler, once

47. Pasturelands

48. Acted

50. Enthusiasm

52. "Silent Spring" subject

53. Popular PBS science show

55. Letters of distress

57. \*Stitches

61. \*Perpetual illness

65. Offer two cents

66. \* \_\_\_\_ Hot, pain relief patch

68. Branch of economics

69. Sega hedgehog

70. Bubble maker

71. Be of use

72. December stone

73. Born, in society pages

74. Rental agreement

DOWN

1. Rigid necklace

2. Eye's middle layer

3. Short-term employee

4. \*Hernia support

5. Surgeon General, in relation to warning on smoking

6. Other than what's implied

7. \*5 cc, for short

8. Adytum, pl.

9. Mendelsohn on "The New Look"

10. Cocoyam

11. Julia Louis-Dreyfus' HBO role

12. Major employer

15. Pertaining to amoebae

20. Minimum

22. Busy airport

24. \_\_\_\_ blue \_\_\_\_ to Baby Beluga

25. French WWI battle site

26. Expression

27. \*Disease once alleviated with iron lung

29. \*Tdap/DTaP, e.g.

31. \*Type of thermometer

32. Peeled and cut, as in pear

33. Lieu

34. Leavening agent

36. \*Bed

38. Obsolete phone feature

42. Violent collision

45. Hedgehog-like Madagascar native

49. Anonymous John

51. \*Like 97 to 99 degrees

54. "Peace" with fingers (2 words)

56. Wine from Verona

57. Average

58. Fairytale's second word?

59. Like Elton John's Dancer

60. Type of operating system

61. Inflorescence

62. March Madness org.

63. Part of #2 Down

64. His was a merry old soul

67. Pool tool

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# Over \$316 Million in Illicit Cannabis Seized Since January



Since January, California officials have seized more than \$316-million worth of illegal cannabis and \$474,000 in cash. Governor Gavin Newsom said that “Unlicensed, unregulated products threaten consumer safety and jeopardize the integrity of this industry.” Photo courtesy Newsom office

## Governor Gavin Newsom News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - On April 10, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that officials have seized more than \$316-million worth of illegal cannabis and \$474,000 in cash since this past January.

Through coordinated enforcement actions with state agency partners and local governments, these efforts build upon the previous work to seize \$534-million worth of illegal cannabis in 2024.

In addition to confiscating 212,681 illicit cannabis plants, officials issued 99 warrants, which resulted in the removal of 35 firearms and 29 arrests.

“As California’s legal cannabis market expands, we have a responsibility to crack down on the nefarious actors that put public health at risk and undermine the progress we’ve made. Unlicensed, unregulated products threaten consumer safety and jeopardize the integrity of this industry. We’re doubling down on our commitment to protect Californians and lift the legal cannabis marketplace that so many have worked hard to build,” said Governor Newsom.

These figures represent combined enforcement efforts from the Governor’s Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task Force, the Department of Fish & Wildlife, the Department of Cannabis Control, the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, the California Department of Pesticide Regulations, among others, since January.

California’s regulated cannabis market is the largest in the world. The state fosters environmental stewardship, compliance-tested products and fair labor practices while driving economic growth and funding vital programs in education, public health and environmental protection. The Department of Cannabis Control recently released a market outlook report that shows prices are stable, industry value is up and the licensed market is growing.

Since 2019, officials have seized and destroyed more than 800 tons or more than 1.7 million pounds of illegal cannabis worth an estimated retail value of \$3.1 billion through more than 1,500 operations.

The cannabis task force was established in 2022 by Governor Newsom to enhance collaboration and enforcement coordination between state, local and federal partners. Partners on the task force include the Department of Cannabis Control, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, among others.

In September, Governor Newsom announced emergency hemp regulations in response to increasing health incidents related to intoxicating hemp food and beverage products, which state regulators found sold across the state. The new regulations ban any detectable quantity of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) from consumable hemp products to protect youth and mitigate the risk of adverse health effects.

The emergency regulations better align the sale of hemp products with certain restrictions currently seen in the California legal cannabis market. Regulations include limiting serving and package size and establishing a minimum age of 21 to legally buy industrial hemp food, beverage and dietary products.

In October, Governor Newsom issued a statement online, called “Court shuts down industry attempt to block enforcement of California’s hemp regulations,” following the Los Angeles County Superior Court’s recent decision to reject the hemp industry’s attempt to block enforcement of the regulations.

Since the emergency hemp regulations were put in place, agents from California’s Alcoholic Beverage Control have visited 9,251 locations and seized 7,007 hemp products from 141 violators.

Visit [cannabis.ca.gov](https://cannabis.ca.gov) to learn more about the legal California cannabis market, state licenses and laws. ★

# State Library Receives Notice of Termination of Federal Grant

## California State Library News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)**

- The California State Library has been notified by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that, effective April 1, the 2024-25 federal grant awarded under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) has been terminated.

In the current fiscal year (2024-25), the State Library received \$15,705,702 in funding to assist local California libraries to provide programs and services, as well as supporting the services provided by the State Library to state government, policymakers, and the public. Over 21 percent of that funding has yet to be sent to California.

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) has provided critical funding for a wide range of programs that benefit communities across California. These funds support early learning and literacy programs, such as storytimes and play spaces for low-income families, summer reading initiatives that engage over a million children and teens, and programs that help at-risk youth develop workforce-readiness skills. Additionally, Library Services and Technology Act funds have enabled State Library staff to assist with the expansion of the Student Success Card program, ensuring that all California students receive a public library card by third grade.

Beyond literacy, Library Services and Technology Act funding strengthens communities by supporting diverse programs that align with California’s cultural, educational, and environmental priorities. Local libraries have used these funds to create climate education programs, community gardens,



Effective April 1, the 2024-25 federal grant awarded under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) has been terminated. Image by Michal Jarmoluk from Pixabay

tool libraries, and telehealth privacy pods for individuals without home internet access. Libraries also provide valuable services for veterans, formerly incarcerated individuals, and tribal and rural communities. High-speed broadband initiatives, along with programs like California Revealed and the Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Program, ensure that California’s history and cultural treasures are preserved and accessible to the public.

Library Services and Technology Act funding also expands access to learning resources for Californians of all ages. It supports the state’s only shared eBook collection, free access to major news publications like The New York Times and CalMatters for Learning, and databases that serve state employees, lawmakers, and the general public. The Career Online High School program, supported by State Library staff, enables adults to earn their high school diplomas through local libraries, while the Braille and Talking Book Library ensures that visually impaired Californians have

free access to books in accessible formats.

Additionally, these funds help strengthen California’s library workforce through statewide training, leadership development, and tuition reimbursement for those studying to become librarians. Libraries also benefit from partnerships with state agencies, including the Departments of Aging, Public Health, and Technology, which allow public libraries to serve as vital hubs for government resources and community engagement.

*Established in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for state government and the Legislature. The library collection includes more than 4 million titles, 6,000 maps and 250,000 photographs, and includes an extensive collection of documents from and about the state’s rich history. The State Library also serves California’s local libraries, providing state and federal funds to support public libraries and deliver statewide programs and services.* ★

# Economic Concerns Lead to Drop in Home Sales

## North State Building Industry Association News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Economic uncertainty and an increase in the number of existing homes on the market led to a decline in new home sales in the Sacramento region in March, the North State Building Industry Association reported on April 8.

Building Industry Association members sold 472 homes during March. That is down 9% from February, down 22% from March 2024 and 11% below the average number of sales reported during the month. March sales were the lowest for the month since the COVID-19 pandemic year of 2020 but were in line with sales immediately preceding the pandemic.

North State Building Industry Association President and Chief Executive Officer Tim Murphy said the primary reason for the drop-off appears to be the decline in stock markets and concerns about the economy. This comes as the United States and its trading partners impose new tariffs.

“Our members reported that the number of people visiting their communities last month was similar to levels from January and February, indicating that prospective buyers are still interested in purchasing a new home,” Murphy said. “But given the economic uncertainty, many appear reluctant to pull the trigger.”

“In addition, while still below pre-pandemic levels, the number of existing homes on the market in the region is up by about 20% from last year, giving prospective buyers a larger pool to choose from.”

The most sales were the 264 reported in



North State Building Industry Association President and Chief Executive Officer Tim Murphy said the primary reason for the drop-off appears to be the decline in stock markets and concerns about the economy. MPG file photo

Sacramento County new home communities, followed by 134 homes in Placer County, 35 homes in the Yuba-Sutter market and 20 homes in El Dorado County.

Roseville remained the most active sub-market with 101 sales, followed by Rancho Cordova (76), Sacramento (60), Elk Grove (56) and Folsom (27.) Natomas and Plumas Lake tied for sixth with 22 sales, followed by El Dorado Hills (17), Lincoln (16) and Antelope (13).

Building Industry Association statistics include sales by members in Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties.

Representing more than 500 members who provide 55,000 industry jobs, the North State Building Industry Association is committed to preserving and furthering the economic interests of its members. It also works to enhance the industry’s standing as a significant contributor to the regional economy. For more information, visit [northstatebia.org](https://northstatebia.org). ★

# Polling Shows Strong Support for Small Business Deduction

## National Federation of Independent Business News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - A new poll released April 9 by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) shows broad bipartisan support for America’s small businesses. It also shows overwhelming support for keeping the 20% Small Business Tax Deduction in the tax code.

“California is not a low-tax state, which is why allowing the Small Business Deduction to expire at the end of the year would hit our small business owners much harder here than it would elsewhere in the nation,” said California director of the National Federation of Independent Business John Kabateck. “Small businesses make up 99.9% of all businesses in California, employing seven million people, so it’s vital for the health of the nation’s economy that the Small Business Deduction be made a permanent part of the tax code. Small business owners have used the deduction to create new jobs, create new benefits, buy new machinery and expand their business.”

According to the survey, more than eight in 10 Americans feel it is important for the federal government to support small businesses, including strong majorities of Republicans, Democrats and Independents.

That support translates to strong agreement (93%) that making the 20% Small Business Tax Deduction permanent should be a top priority for Congress, with nearly all Americans (95%) expressing some concern about the impact an expiration of the deduction would have.

Key findings from the nationwide poll include:

Americans overwhelmingly support small businesses.

About 83% of respondents said that it was important for the federal government to support small businesses. Findings also show that 45% of Americans said supporting small businesses was extremely important.

More than two-thirds of Republicans (83%), Democrats (86%) and Independents (79%) said that federal support for small

businesses was essential.

Nearly eight in 10 respondents (79%) want to see more support for small businesses.

Americans support the expiring 20% Small Business Tax Deduction that was included in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA).

About 62% of respondents want to keep the Small Business Tax Deduction in the tax code, while only one in five respondents supports letting it expire.

Approximately 77% agree that the Small Business Tax Deduction helps level the playing field for small businesses by keeping their tax rates closer to those of larger corporations.

Americans say that the 20% Small Business Tax Deduction has helped small businesses and the American economy.

Nearly 91% of Americans agree that small businesses rely on the Small Business Tax Deduction, according to the respondents.

Around 79% of Americans say that the Small Business Tax Deduction has a positive impact on the economy overall.

About 75% of Americans believe the Small Business Tax Deduction has a positive impact on the local economy where they live.

Lastly, 51% of Americans are extremely or very concerned about the impact on the economy if the Small Business Tax Deduction expires. Nearly all Americans (95%) express some concern about the impact an expiration of the deduction would have.

The 20% Small Business Deduction was established under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) to level the playing field between small businesses and their large, corporate competitors.

However, this vital deduction is set to expire at the end of 2025. Without Congressional action, nine out of 10 small businesses will be hit with a massive tax hike, decimating their ability to expand business operations and raise wages for employees.

*The National Federation of Independent Business is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven association. For more information, visit [nfib.com](https://nfib.com). Follow on X @NFIB\_CA and on Facebook @NFIB.CA.* ★