



**11th Annual  
Earth Day  
Cleanup is set  
with 11 Sites**

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**LaPortes Host  
Egg-stravaganant  
Easter**

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# Dixon **Independent Voice**

VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 17      *Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993*      APRIL 25, 2025

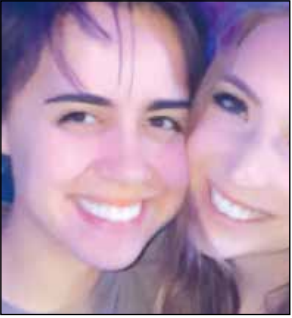
**SEE  
INSIDE**

**TOASTMASTERS  
TELL TALL TALES**



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**LICENSE  
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## May Fair Will Be Fun for All



The Dixon May Fair, from May 8 to May 11, will have plenty of family-friendly entertainment, including the K-9 Kings Flying Frisbee dogs, The Throw Zone and the return of Flo the Clown. Smart Cards can also be purchased and loaded with ride tickets for ease of use. Photo courtesy of the Dixon May Fair

### Dixon May Fair News Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon May Fair, the oldest fair in California, will open its gates for the 148th time on May 8 to May 11 with all the excitement of carnival rides, live music, fair food and competition. It's time now to gather with family and friends and enjoy this tradition.

There will be plenty of family-friendly entertainment, including the K-9 Kings Flying Frisbee dogs, The Throw Zone and the return of Flo the Clown. Kids Town America is back with its interactive exhibits that are perfect to give youth a break from the hustle and bustle of the fair and an AG-tivity area will highlight farming activities.



All youth intending to exhibit market livestock at the 2025 Dixon May Fair must have their animals pre-tagged to compete during the fair that runs from May 8 to May 11. Competitors can bring two large or small market animals to the fair and can only sell one animal. Photo courtesy of the Dixon May Fair

Live music features, for the first time, Unchained: a Van Halen Tribute, The Summer of Love Band and the Sunset River Band. Returning are fair favorites the School of Rock, Maya Band, Robby James and the Streets of Bakersfield and Rhythm Method Trio.

Following the downtown parade, Picnic Lawn comes alive May 10 with the return of the Dixon May Fair Classic Car Show and May 11 with a lineup of Latin music all afternoon, featuring Banda Zeta and Banda La 8va Maravilla.

You'll find excitement in the First Northern Bank's Grandstand arena with Flying U Bull Riding on May 9, Maxx Kakl Powersports Tractor & Truck Pulls on May 10, and the Moondog Motorsports

*Continued on page 2*

## Council Approves Environmental Review for Potential Residential Development

By Shaunna Boyd

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - During the April 15 Dixon City Council meeting, Councilmember Don Hendershot pulled Item 9.5 from the Consent Calendar for discussion and a separate vote.

Item 9.5 was a contract with CSG Consultants for an environmental review of a proposed residential development, Independence East. The 15-acre vacant site, between Vaughn Road and East Dorsett Drive, is currently zoned as commercial and industrial, so if eventually approved, the project would require General Plan and zoning amendments.

Councilmember Hendershot said more businesses are needed in Dixon, so while he was "not pre-judging" the project, he was concerned that too many commercial areas are being rezoned for residential development.

Vice-Mayor Thom Bogue, agreeing with Hendershot, said that there are already "a lot of residential developments" in the works.

Staff clarified that the item before the council was not to approve the residential development plan or any associated rezoning. The request at this time was to approve a contract for the required environmental review process, which will be paid for by the applicant. The project plans will eventually go to the Planning Commission and the City Council for consideration, which will require environmental review.

After clarification, the council voted unanimously to approve the consultant contract.

The council then considered updates to the city's Master Fee schedule, based on the updated 2024 Consumer Price Index (CPI). Finance director Kate Zawadzki recommended a 2.4% increase to ensure that the fees cover the costs of providing the services.

Vice-Mayor Bogue requested that fees for appealing Planning Commission and City Council decisions be charged based on the applicant, with commercial developers paying the highest fees and reduced costs for local businesses and private citizens.

Zawadzki said changes to specific fees can be

*Continued on page 2*

## Anderson Joins Team USA



Anna Anderson will represent Ramtown Karate and Team USA at the Pan-American Championships in Monterrey, Mexico from May 18 to May 26. Anderson could be the seventh international champion that Ramtown has trained. Photo courtesy of Ramtown Karate

By Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Anna Anderson of Ramtown Karate competed at the 2025 USA Open Karate

Championships and Junior International Cup from April 15 to 21.

The event, held in Las Vegas, brought together the best young karate athletes

from across the nation to show off their skills and vie for a spot on the U21 team.

According to Anderson, going into the competition,

she felt confident.

"I had my plan that day and I knew it was going to work out," said Anderson.

Anderson is an instructor

*Continued on page 4*



# Council Approves Environmental Review for Potential Residential Development

*Continued from page 1*

considered in the next Fee Study, which will be held in 2027.

The council voted unanimously to approve the increased fee schedule, which will be implemented for most fees this July and for business licenses in January 2026.

The council then considered setting the July 1 meeting as the public hearing for adding past due sewer accounts to the county's property tax roll for collection. Zawadzki said that the city cannot turn off sewer service for non-payment, so collecting the funds through property taxes is the most efficient way for the city to recoup those costs.

Councilmember Hendershot requested that staff do more than call or send letters to notify these owners. He asked that site visits be conducted to see if the properties are vacant.

Zawadzki explained that many of them are commercial properties and the property owners are responsible for the sewer charges, regardless of whether anyone is using or occupying the property.

Bogue made a motion to approve the date for the public hearing, with the additional requirement of sending code enforcement officers to visit the properties in question. The motion was seconded by Hendershot but failed 2-3, with Councilmember Kevin Johnson, Councilmember

Jim Ernest and Mayor Steven Bird dissenting.

Councilmember Ernest made a second motion to approve the recommendation for the public hearing as written, which passed 3-2, with Bogue and Hendershot dissenting.

The council also considered setting the July 1 meeting as the public hearing for adding a past-due weed abatement account to the property tax roll. This is the second year that this particular property has required weed abatement to be performed by the city and Zawadzki said the property owner has previously contested responsibility.

The property is in Councilmember Hendershot's district and he said that the abatement work was necessary because weeds were invading adjacent properties. The council voted unanimously to approve the date for the public hearing.

During general public comment, one resident shared the concerns expressed by Bogue and Hendershot about the proposed Independence East residential development.

"Do we have the business to support it?" he asked. The resident said that it would be better to deny new residential developments early in the process, before the developer has invested millions of dollars into the process.

The next Dixon City Council meeting is scheduled for May 6. ★

# Dixon News Briefs



Dixon Women's Improvement Club is hosting a scholarship and community grants dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. May 2. In addition to food and raffle prizes, participants will also have access to a silent auction including wines, jewelry and more. Photo courtesy of Dixon Women's Improvement Club

By MPG Staff

## Take Back Day

The Dixon Police Department is participating in the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Take Back Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 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, 201 W. A St., 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.

## EP Patrollers Needed for Dixon May Fair

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is seeking out Environmental Protection (EP) Patrollers for the Dixon May Fair Parade 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, 220 N. Jefferson St. 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.

## Veterans' Dinner

American Legion Post 208 is hosting a Veterans' Dinner from 5:30 to 7 p.m. April 25. The dinner, held at Veterans' Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St. offers an all-you-can-eat meal for \$12 per guest. Dishes include pasta in a red sauce, meatballs and salad.

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

## Rummage Sale at Grace Fellowship Church

Grace Fellowship Church is hosting a rummage sale from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 26. Held at the church, 535 W. H St., gently used items for donation will be accepted until April 25. All proceeds benefit Interstate 180 Student Ministries at Calvary Chapel Dixon.

For more information, visit the Grace Fellowship of Dixon Facebook page or call 707-678-5700

## Scholarship and Community Grants Dinner

Dixon Women's Improvement Club is hosting a scholarship and community grants dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. May 2. Held at Pedro's Cocina, 1425 Market Lane, the event includes a gift basket raffle and silent auction. For \$33, participants can also enjoy a dinner of beans, rice, green salad, chicken chili verde, carnitas, grilled vegetables, tortillas and a non-alcoholic drink. Dinner tickets

support scholarships for Dixon and Maine Prairie High School seniors. Gift basket raffle and silent auction items support community grants.

For ticket information, text Teri Brown at 916-601-3371 or Jewel Fink at 510-301-1887.

## Dixon Chamber Connections Networking

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a networking event from noon to 1:30 p.m. 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.

## Easter Horse Day Camp

Serenity Saddles, a nonprofit therapeutic horse-riding organization, is hosting a free day camp from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. April 27. Held at 7776 Nunes Road, the camp offers participants horse riding, arts and crafts, snacks and an Easter egg hunt.

For more information, visit the Serenity Saddles Facebook page or call 203-392-4102.

## Under the Lights Parent Tournament

Dixon Girls Softball is hosting a parents' softball tournament at 5:30 p.m. May 2. Held at Hall Park, 450 Hall Park Drive, will see parents playing while softball players' coach. One team from each softball division will be created, with 6 men and 6 women for \$20 per player. Participants should include the names of teammates and the division they represent. Registration closes May 2.

For more information or to register, visit [dixongirlssoftball.com](http://dixongirlssoftball.com).

## Dixon Moose Lodge Cornhole

Dixon Moose Lodge is holding cornhole Mondays at 6 p.m. Hosted by 4bagzin, a cornhole apparel shop, the weekly event offers drinks, snacks, music and competitive cornhole. Held at the Moose Lodge, 180 W. B St., participants can sign in using the Scoreholio app for \$10 per person. Newcomers can expect tutorials on cornhole from on-site personnel. Members and qualified guests are invited to play and support the lodge.

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

## Mother's Day Celebration at Freedom Church

Freedom Church is hosting a Mother's Day service at 10 a.m. May 11. Held at the church, 470 E. H St., the senior pastor is offering blessings to each mother in attendance. 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. ★

# May Fair Will Be Fun for All

*Continued from page 1*

Demolition Derby on May 11. Tickets for these events traditionally sell out, so early purchase is recommended.

For most kids and many adults, the fair is not the fair without a spin and twirl on one of the many carnival rides. Butler Amusements is back with a selection of spectacular rides. Its Smart Card can be purchased and loaded so that you do not have to worry about handfuls of tickets.

Fair food is a once-a-year treat for most people and there will be no lack of treats to tempt you, from traditional corn dogs and curly fries to the famous Dixon May Fair rolled tacos.

Be sure to wander through the buildings featuring exhibits entered by community members of everything from quilts and preserves to art and photos to flowers and gardens. A visit to the livestock barns is a must, with the hustle and bustle of local youth caring for and showing their animals.

Tickets for the Dixon May Fair from May 8 to May 11 are available online, including discounted admission, carnival wristbands and grandstand events that include fair admission when purchased in advance. May 8 is KUIC's \$5 Thursday and May 9 is Kids Day. For details, visit online [dixonmayfair.com](http://dixonmayfair.com). ★

# Moose Lodge Rummage Sale Includes Delicious Tacos

## Dixon Moose Lodge News Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Come to the Moose Lodge and find your treasure at the first annual Dixon Moose Rummage Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 4, behind the Dixon Moose Lodge, 180 W. B St.

Delicious tacos will be available from

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 4.

To donate to this fundraiser, either deliver to the Dixon Moose Lodge between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m. any day (except April 26) at 180 W. B St. or call either (530) 219-1653 or (530) 867-1693 to schedule a pick-up for May 3 between 9 and 11 a.m. We hope to see you at the rummage sale. ★

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# LaPortes Host Egg-stravagant Easter



After collecting the eggs, participants were instructed to return empty eggs to a specific area to make clean up easy.

Story by Kendall Brown, photo by Nicolas Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The inaugural Dixon Egg-stravaganza held from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. April 19 at Northwest Park, West H Street offered raffle prizes, arts and crafts, pictures with the Easter Bunny, and more than 8,000 eggs up for grabs.

According to event organizer and sponsor Christina LaPorte, her family wanted to bring an event to the community that stays in the community.

“It is just about giving back. Being military, we move from place to place but since we have moved here, everyone has welcomed us with open arms,” said LaPorte.

LaPorte and her husband, James LaPorte, own and operate Nomads and Company Events, an event-planning company started in 2013, right before Christina LaPorte was deployed. She and her husband are in the Air Force, and being a military family is a point of pride for her.

Unfortunately, James LaPorte was unable to attend the Egg-stravaganza due to being tasked with a mission the morning of the event. Even so, the egg hunt had the support of Christina LaPorte’s unit, the 321st Airmobile Squadron.

The egg hunt itself began at 10 a.m., with families arriving at 9:30 a.m. The children were separated into five groups: 0- to 2-year-olds, 3- to 5-year-olds, 6- to

9-year-olds, 9 and up and special needs. At 10 a.m., the children were let loose to collect the 8,242 hand-filled eggs. LaPorte’s children, Gray, Cru and Lux, took part in the hunt.

Each plastic egg held a trinket or candy. Participants who didn’t bring a bucket were provided with a paper bag to collect the eggs. Glitter, markers and glue were also available to allow children to add their own artistic touches. Prize raffles were held, including items such as a cake topper and a balloon display, worth \$1,500. Guests were also allowed to guess the number of jellybeans in two large plastic eggs. The closest guess won the eggs.

According to LaPorte, the event was to create continuity, both for her family and Dixon residents. The LaPortes have more projects in store, including a summer picnic bash and Month of the Military Child.

Month of the Military Child is a program hosted by Nomads and Company that aims to collect handwritten letters for the children of military families, as they also serve in a sense. As of press time, Nomad has accrued 4,000 letters from three countries and 14 states. Letters are being accepted until April 28 at the Dixon Library, 230 N. First St.

“I wear a uniform but this is my creative wheelhouse,” said LaPorte.

For more information on future events, visit [nomadscoevents.com](http://nomadscoevents.com) or @nomad-scoevents on Instagram. ★

# Toastmasters Tell Tall Tales

Story by Kendall Brown and photos by Nicolas Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Toastmasters International is a nonprofit organization focused on educating the masses about public speaking and leadership skills worldwide, with more than 14,000 clubs. From 1 to 5 p.m. April 12, close to 100 spectators witnessed 13 competitors, each representing a different club, participating in the Division C and Division W Tall Tales and International Speech Contest.

According to District 39 Toastmasters Club Extension Chair and Outreach Coordinator Louise Houdelette, everyone can benefit from Toastmasters.

“Everyone benefits from improved communication skills. It is just nice that you get leadership opportunities at the same time,” said Houdelette

Held at Living Hope Church, 410 Gateway Drive, the event was divided into five parts, beginning with the Tall Tales Contest. Division C competitors went first, with Orlando Redden winning third place, Kim Goodie attaining second and Dave Holzknacht achieving first.

“It is always nice to get first-place but there were a lot of great competitors,” said Holzknacht.

According to Holzknacht, Toastmasters enhances self-esteem. While nerves may arise before going on stage, they all fade away. Division W followed, with Karen Roach winning second place and Sandy Kotowski earning first. The Tall Tales contest, according to the Toastmasters International website, focused on topics considered



District 39 Toastmasters Division W Director Rose Cooke (left) addressed international competitors, taking time to interview them and present certificates for participating.



Dave Holzknacht, one of four competitors in the Division C Tall Tales Contest, won first-place. According to Holzknacht, Toastmasters improves self-esteem.

Rose Cooke, the Division W Director for District 39, was quite pleased with the event’s turnout.

“You all know this is a volunteer operation, and we could not do it without everyone pitching in. That’s why people outside the organization do not have a clue what we can do. We need to bring more people in,” said Cooke.

First-place competitors from the Tall Tales and International Speech Contest are eligible for the Toastmasters District 39 Spring Conference May 16 and 17. The two-day event, held in Reno, NV, includes keynote speakers, educational workshops, and networking opportunities, plus a Tall Tales and International Speech Contest. Winners at this event are eligible to compete in the Toastmasters International Convention from Aug. 20 to 23. Held in Philadelphia, contestants will compete for the World Championship of Public Speaking.

For more information or to join the Dixon Toastmasters Club, visit [toastmasters.org/find-a-club](http://toastmasters.org/find-a-club) or call 916-801-6234. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month from 6 to 7 p.m. at 651 W. D St. South. ★

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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

Friday, April 4

1000 - Battery Report 800 block North Adams Street Brendan Armstrong (25) of Dixon was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and booked into the Solano County Jail.

1350 - Vandalism report at Hall Park.

1420 - Battery report at Hall Park. Two juveniles were cited and released to their parents after shooting other juveniles with water beads.

2349 - Officer contacted Tessa Stokes (46-year-old, out of Sacramento) in the 800 block of North Adams St. She was arrested for possession of narcotics and probation violation. Stokes was transported to Solano County Jail and booked.

Thursday, April 3

1400 - Traffic Stop 1400 block Ary Lane. The driver had an unserved Criminal Protective Order they were served.

1540 - Traffic Stop Porter Road at Pitt School Road. The driver, Christen Farrel (40) of Dixon was arrested for an outstanding bench warrant and booked into the Solano County Jail.

0011 - DUI arrest at East A Street and South Fifth Street. Officer observed a vehicle with expired registration and conducted a traffic enforcement stop. Officer immediately smelled the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from his breath and noticed the driver's eyes were bloodshot and watery. Field sobriety tests and a preliminary alcohol screening were conducted. Hugo Palomino (52-year-old, out of Dixon) was arrested for driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage.

Wednesday, April 2

0752 - Burglary reported in the 200 block of East D Street.

1033 - Grand theft reported in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.

1532 - Report of two abandoned vehicles in the 1400 block of Legion Avenue.

1838 - A battery report was taken at Northwest Park.

0442 - A confidential report was taken in the 1900 block of North First Street.

Tuesday, April 1

1019 - Vandalism report taken in the 1300 block of North Lincoln Street.

1705 - Hit and run accident reported in the 200 block of Dorset Court.

1904 - A battery report was taken at Northwest Park.

0249 - A warrant arrest report was taken in the 1300 block of North Lincoln Street. Officers contacted (S) Jose Solario, and he was taken to the Solano County Jail.

Monday, March 31

0827 - Death investigation in the 1300 block of Hemingway Court.

0830 - Restraining order violation reported in the 1200 block of Baylor Drive.

1216 - Stolen license plate report taken in the 1200 block of Linford Lane.

1631 - Non-injury traffic accident reported in the 100 block of South First Street.

1702 - Threats report taken in the 400 block of West Chestnut Street.

0416 - A burglary report was taken in the 1400 block of Market Lane.

Sunday, March 30

2031 - A hit-and-run and D.U.I arrest report was taken in the 100 block of South Lincoln Street. Officers later contacted (S) Tammy Andrews (59). Andrews was arrested and later cited and released to a sober adult.

0251 - A warrant and possession of a controlled substance arrest report was taken at the intersection of North First Street. at Atkinson Ct. Officers contacted (S) Dimetris Johnson (31) of Sacramento. A records check revealed Johnson had an outstanding parole warrant out of Indianapolis. The warrant was confirmed, and he was arrested. Incident to arrest, Johnson was in possession of a controlled substance. Johnson was transported to the Solano County jail.

Saturday, March 29

0747 - Recovered a stolen vehicle at South First Street. and Parkway Blvd. Sean Hite (57-year-old, out of Dixon) was taken into custody and found to be in possession of crystal methamphetamine and a methamphetamine pipe. He was transported to Solano County Jail and booked. The registered owner of the vehicle came and recovered his property.

1239 - Petty theft from a vehicle in the 1300 block of South Lincoln Street.

1717 - Report taken for a hit and run with injury in the 200 block of Archer Place. Juvenile victim was walking her bike across the street when the suspect (unidentified at this time), driving a red sports car, with a spoiler, struck the victim's bicycle. The victim was thrown to the ground, landing on her elbow. The investigation is on-going.

Friday, March 28

0824 - Vandalism report in the 800 block of North Adams Street.

0830 - Vandalism report in the 1000 block of North First Street.

0840 - Towed vehicle on Martin Ct. at Moore Drive for registration expired over six months.

0942 - Grand theft in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive. Three appliances were stolen during transit, valued at \$1186.08.

0950 Towed vehicle on Linford Lane at North Lincoln Street for registration expired over six months.

1304 Officers responded to call of parent harassing a student in the 500 block of College Way.

Thursday, March 27

0918 - While conducting patrol in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive, a missing person out of West Sacramento was contacted, found to be in good health, and removed from the Missing and Unidentified Persons System.

1215 - Follow-up on a Child and Welfare Services referral (physical child abuse). The investigation is ongoing.

1750 - Vehicle accident in the 1100 block of North Lincoln Street 14-year-old bicyclist suffered minor injuries.

2020 - Petty theft from a business in the 2500 block of North First Street.

Wednesday, March 26


0818 - Officer observed Steven Templeton (42-year-old, out of Dixon) in the 100 block of North Adams Street dancing near the busy street, hugging light poles and lying down in random locations. Further evaluation of his condition led to his arrest for public intoxication (narcotics related). S-Templeton was transported to Solano County Jail, where he was later released (pursuant to 849 (b) PC).

1025 - Information report at Dixon High School. A student was found in possession of a vape pen. The contraband was taken for destruction, and the matter was handled administratively.


1955 - Found property from a business returned to the property owner in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.

2150 - Towed vehicle in the 1100 block of North First Street.

0405 - Female placed on mental health hold.



Anderson Joins Team USA



From left, Kathy Ernest, Jim Ernest, Anna Anderson and Kiera Mackenzie of Ramtown Karate were excited to participate in the 2025 USA Open Karate Championships and Junior International Cup from April 15 to April 21. Photo courtesy of Ramtown Karate

Continued from page 1

at Ramtown Karate, 1680 N. Lincoln St., and has been practicing martial arts for about seven years. Anderson and her sister attended a self-defense training event hosted by Sensei Jim Ernest and she signed up for classes the same day. Several years later, Anderson finds herself competing among the nation's top karateka under 21 years old. The top two competitors from each division were given the honor of representing Team USA at the Pan-American Championships in Monterrey, Mexico.

After several hours of grueling competition, Anderson won first-place at the US Open Under-21 team trials. Through this victory, Anderson has secured her spot on the United States Junior National Point Kumite team. Currently, Anderson is considered the number one seed for the Elite Kumite division.

"I'm really excited. My coaches have been helping me for a long time, and I'm just thankful for the support from everyone at Ramtown Karate, who has been encouraging me and making sure I know I deserve this," said Anderson.

Ramtown Karate, owned and operated by Jim and Kathy Ernest, has a mission to empower students through excellent martial arts training. According to Ramtown Karate's website, this training is attainable through humility, confidence, passion and an open mind. Ramtown has crafted at least six international champions with these disciplines, and Anderson is following suit.

"We're just so proud of every one of them. As they get better, they come back and feel they owe the next person. We are going against these big schools out in New York, Boston and Chicago, and we are beating them. We have created a little Dixon dynasty," said Jim Ernest.

From May 18 to May 26, Anderson will represent Ramtown Karate and Team USA on an international stage at the Pan-American Championships in Monterrey, Mexico.

For more information about Ramtown Karate, visit ramtownkarate.com or call 707-678-4899.

To follow Anderson's journey on Team USA, visit her Instagram, @anna\_anderson\_karate.

★

Salmon Fishing Shutdown Marks a Grim Milestone

By Charlton H. Bonham

This week, a public federal process determined there will be no commercial salmon fishing off California's coast for the third year in a row. It's a grim milestone for our state.

While we will see some recreational ocean fishing, we're at the low-water mark. With so few fish available, we know this won't be enough to meet the demand of our state. That's hard news in hard times.

Thirty years ago, the idea we would be implementing, yet alone discussing, these restrictions would have been unthinkable. Back then, millions of salmon swam through the rivers of California every year. It was a bountiful, thriving species.

But last year, the number of adult salmon in the Sacramento Index, a critical measure of the Sacramento River salmon population and an indicator of the overall health of California's salmon, shrank to roughly 100,000 fish. It's a tiny fraction of salmon's former might.

The reasons for the decline are numerous and complicated. Decades of severe drought, climate disruption, water management challenges and habitat loss threaten the future of salmon in California. The loss of salmon would wound California deeply.

Salmon are the basis of a multibillion-dollar fishing economy that creates jobs across the state. They support thriving forests, rivers and floodplains and serve as one of the most popular seafood choices across the country. Salmon provide vital subsistence to numerous California tribes. Recreational salmon fishing trips form the basis of family legend and lore.

For the salmon lovers among us, these are dark times. But I see glimmers of hope.

Two weeks ago, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife revealed the progress on California's "Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future." It was an update on the strategy Gov. Gavin Newsom released last year, which outlined dozens of key action items the state must take to better support healthy salmon populations.

In the last year alone, state fish and wildlife and its partner agencies have made critical headway on nearly 70% of the action items set by Governor Gavin Newsom. Another 26% are already done.

California finished removing the outdated and obsolete Klamath River dams, allowing for a free-flowing river and access to cold-water habitats blocked for more than a century.

California's initiative to fast-track approvals for salmon restoration projects led to the streamlining of more than 60 important projects to support salmon populations over the past year.

Fish and wildlife has also worked with the State Water Resources Control Board to develop flow recommendations in drought-prone watersheds like the Scott and Shasta rivers and Mill and Deer creeks. This ensures salmon populations have enough cold water to survive during dry periods.

Investments to expand and modernize the state's fish hatcheries, ensuring California is supporting the production of a resilient salmon population, have increased fall run production from state-operated hatcheries in the Central Valley by over 9.7 million fish.

The state's salmon strategy was designed for long-term salmon support. But we're already seeing early benefits, some that even surprised fish and wildlife officials. Ten days after the final Klamath dam came down, state scientists spotted salmon swimming north of the dam sites into Oregon.

Experts originally estimated that would take 10 years.

Data shows that, while salmon numbers from 2024 are down, California saw the highest number of jacks (2-year-old fish) returning to the Central Valley since 2019. Jacks are an important predictor of the number of adult salmon that will return to spawn the following year.


In Lagunitas Creek, there's been a 60% increase in spawning of endangered Coho salmon. In Mendocino County, adult coho salmon returns have almost quadrupled their 15-year average.


To be clear, these wins are just the beginning. The road to reviving California salmon will be long. But these successes give me hope and the drive to keep fighting for salmon.


This commentary appeared on CalMatters.org on April 18, written by Charlton H. Bonham, director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

★

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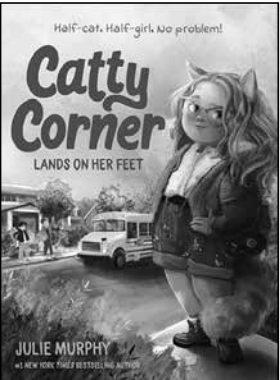




FOR THE LOVE OF  
**BOOKS**  
By Amy Shane

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

# Middle Grade Reads that are a Celebration of Differences



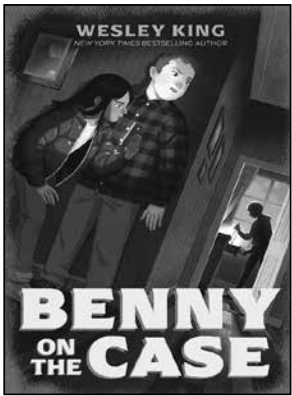
**Catty Corner Land's on Her Feet**  
*by Julie Murphy,*  
*Union Square*

Third Grade is hard enough, but try being half-cat and half-human! Now that Catty has to go to school, instead of being homeschooled, she has to follow three essential rules. – No hissing, No biting, and definitely no scratching. The rules used to be easy when she was at home, but now she is in a classroom full of other humans; thank goodness for Catty, she has her diary, named the Scratch Pad, where she can share everything, she is feeling, and sometimes it even writes back.

Even though Catty is strong and confident, this is going to be different, and Catty needs to decide whether she should hide who she is or let her true self shine. But after some time, Catty confidently settles into who she is, even if that means it's sometimes hard—ask the map she

accidentally shredded and the laser pointer she chased after.

Catty Corner is an empowering new series that combines the adorable nature of cats alongside the difficulties and pawsibilities of being a half-cat, third grader. Catty Corner is here to entertain, empower, and uplift a whole new generation of young readers and is the perfect gateway series to head into the Junie B. Jones and Judy Moody series.



**Benny On the Case**  
*by Wesley King,*  
*Simon and Schuster*

Benny is on the case, and he is not your average detective. Benny's best friend is an eighty-six-year-old named Mr. Tom, and Benny has Mosaic Down Syndrome, but he doesn't let his differences get him down. However, Benny is about to face his greatest challenge, even including living in a retirement home that this mum runs. Benny is now transitioning to a

main-stream classroom!

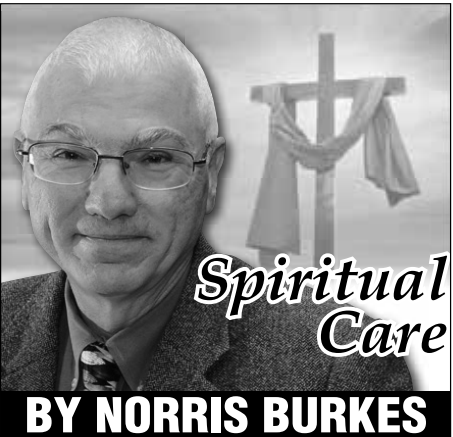
While the other kids tease Benny for his differences, he has found a true friend in a new girl, Salma. Salma has everything going for her: she is tech-savvy, plays basketball, speaks Arabic, and likes hanging out with Benny,

Then, a thief strikes the retirement home—and it's not just Salma's Grandmother; it's the other residents, too. Now, with the retirement home facing closure, Bennett and Salma are on the case. Now Benny has to figure out how to juggle school bullies, new friends, and trying to catch a thief. Can Benny save the retirement home, the residents, and his friendship? There's only one way to find out.

Benny on the case is an endearing middle-grade read that touches on friendships of all ages, bullies, and the feeling of being judged by your differences than for the person you are on the inside. This book celebrates the beauty of differences while also explaining Mosaic Down syndrome and giving a voice to a disability not seen in middle-grade literature.

Taking place in Newfoundland, the author also adds a fun little glossary of popular Newfoundland sayings that make this book even more enjoyable to read. ★

# Learn To Share the Road on Life's Highway



Some years back, I was driving Interstate 99 south of Sacramento, Calif when a man began aggressively tailgating me. Known as the most dangerous freeway in California, there is little room for traffic weavers like him. He was close enough that I could see his face redden in my rearview mirror. And of course, he could read the smirk on my face as I gloated over my strategic position ahead of him.

When traffic finally allowed me to move into the right lane, I displayed an upturned palm that invited His Excellency to proceed. But appeasement was too little, too late.

He initiated aggressive movements, dropping back and speeding past and changing lanes. I answered his vulgar hand signals with moronic smiles and have-a-nice-day waves until he flashed a doubled fist, suggesting a roadside fight.

With evasive maneuvers exhausted, I finally led our rage parade onto the highway's shoulder hoping to sucker him into exiting his pickup. With him afoot, my plan was to floor my Hyundai to escape velocity.

I knew this was a bad plan when I noticed he was searching for something behind his seat.

Being a smart aleck to a dangerous stranger is wrong, but my problem really began with the assumption that most of us make when we become randomly targeted by rage.

I assumed this man's anger really was about me.

You've probably made the same assumption. It happens when the guy flips you off on the road or the woman screams at you for taking her parking space.

While it's natural for you to go into a

defensive mode claiming your righteous innocence, it's best to remember that their rage isn't really about you. In fact, it's even a little self-centered to think it is about you.

The reality of these rages is that we are collateral damage for folks like these.

For instance, I occasionally receive a caustic e-mail, something Anne Lamott aptly calls, "Orwellian memos detailing my thought crimes."

Most of the time I know that, like the freeway driver, their anger isn't about me; they are fighting battles I'm not privileged to see.

Recently, I got an e-mail from such an angry reader. When I replied from a defensive mode, he escalated our discussion by calling me every synonym of idiot. Recalling the road-rage incident, my second reply took a reconciling approach.

The reader sent a confessional apology adding details of his wife's terminal illness and children who weren't talking to him. Just like the interstate guy, this reader's rage wasn't about me.

It never ceases to amaze me that when I remember to squelch my defensiveness and respond in a caring manner, I will often get a sincere response. My smug attitude toward the driver only stirred his rage, but my soft answer to the reader turned away his wrath and made a friend.

Short of a soft answer on the freeway, I sped back into traffic, spitting gravel on the man's truck. After another 10 minutes of cat-and-mouse, I took the freeway exit labeled, "Galt Police Station." Amazingly, the man followed me into town but finally broke off his chase when I entered the station's driveway.

At the end of the day, the best answer to road rage on life's highway may be contained in the sacred proverb that suggests, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh answer stirs up anger."

After all, we are all on a journey, so maybe it's time to share the road.

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*

# Riley Reviews

**“THE AMATEUR” ESPIONAGE CAPER;  
“DROP” CAT-AND-MOUSE THRILLER**

**“THE AMATEUR” RATED PG-13**

The television series “Tom Clancy’s Jack Ryan” transformed John Krasinski’s titular character from a CIA analyst working from the safe position of a desk job into dangerous field assignments that go with the territory of an espionage thriller.

The premise of this type of work-related transition in the spy world is hardly new, but along comes “The Amateur” to offer its own twist of thrusting, and in this case under unusual circumstances, a deskbound introverted CIA decoder into an international pursuit of ruthless killers.

Charlie Heller (Rami Malek), a brilliant but socially awkward decryption and analysis expert, is confined to a basement office at Langley where he works alone and sequestered from interaction with other colleagues.

A man enjoying a bucolic lifestyle in a lovely farmhouse, Charlie is blissfully in love with his wife Sarah (Rachel Brosnahan), who gifted him with a vintage plane he’s working to restore.

Loathe to travel far from home, Charlie decides not to join Sarah on her trip to a conference in London. Tragically, she’s taken hostage during a terrorist attack and meets a horrible fate.

After returning to work, Charlie is summoned by his superior, Deputy Director Moore (Holt McCallany), to the office of CIA Director O’Brien (Julianne Nicholson), where a viewing of gruesome video footage reveals the senseless murder of his wife.

Unable to face a life without his beloved spouse, Charlie decides to avenge her death by going after three killers, an understandable course of action that gets stonewalled by Director Moore and his colleague Caleb (Danny Sapani).

Given the shadowy world of espionage, it seems like more than bureaucratic roadblocks may impede Charlie’s path, but he knows enough inside secrets to black-mail superiors into getting field training from veteran agent Robert Henderson (Laurence Fishburne) to hunt down the assassins on his own.

Charlie doesn’t have the physical skills or killer instinct of James Bond. He proves inept at shooting or fighting. But fearing a nefarious motive by his superiors, Charlie decides to go rogue and run off with a bunch of fake passports to attempt his mission.

Utilizing intelligence talents gathered from work, Charlie also taps into the dark web where the mysterious Inquiline (Caitriona Balfe) assists in his journey to Paris, Marseille, Istanbul and other exotic locations in his search.

Ingenuity works well for Charlie, and sometimes amusingly as when he

employs a video tutorial on how to pick locks to break into an apartment. One of the best scenes in the movie, also featured in the trailer, is the dramatic pool-collapse on a high-rise glass bridge.

While the climactic confrontation on the Baltic Sea lacks plausibility, “The Amateur” does benefit from Rami Malek’s quirky performance of a novice field agent out of his depth but driven by vengeance to make it interesting.

**“DROP” RATED PG-13**

Have we become slaves to our smart-phones? That’s not the question asked in the thriller “Drop,” but it may be one to take into consideration if you are on a first date at a fancy restaurant and your cell phone turns from an annoyance to a serious threat with a lot of memes.

That’s the situation for Violet (Meghann Fahy), a widowed mother of a young boy on her first date in years, who arrives at an upscale Chicago restaurant where she first meets the helpful, pleasant bartender Cara (Gabrielle Ryan Spring).

She encounters an older man named Richard (Reed Diamond), who she’s relieved to find out is waiting for another blind date that is not her. At this point, she’s still waiting for Henry (Brandon Sklenar), who has texted he’s running late.

When Henry arrives, they are seated at a table with a fabulous skyline view and served by overly talkative waiter Matt (Jeffrey Self), who’s obviously waiting for his next theatrical audition.

Charming and handsome, Henry turns out to have a pleasant personality and attentive demeanor. He will soon be put to the test for patience when Violet starts getting a stream of text messages.

Violet’s son Toby (Jacob Robinson) has been left in the care of her younger sister Jen (Violett Beane). Nervous enough for going out for the evening while Toby is at home, Violet’s evening takes a dark turn when someone starts sending “drops” to her phone.

What starts off as irritating interruptions during dinner for Violet turns incrementally more sinister. The “drops” deliver messages growing from annoying to menacing, soon insisting that she will have to kill Henry or else an intruder, appearing in video on her phone, will slay her son.

The “drops,” which operate on a short radius, indicate the messages are coming from someone in the restaurant. This heightens the tension because she’s constantly warned not to call the police or seek help from anyone.

The paranoia is ramped up in this bizarre cat-and-mouse game as Violet nervously checks everyone in the room. What about the guy constantly texting on his phone while waiting for his guest? There are plenty of red herrings to at least keep “Drop” interesting. ★



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**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 sheep rancher Andréa Soares, who operates Star Creek Land Stewards in Merced County.

**Researcher Develops Tool to Deter Spread of Bird Flu on Farms**

Maurice Pitesky, University of California Cooperative Extension poultry specialist, has developed a Waterfowl Alert Network to provide data to farmers and agricultural agency staff about the locations of waterfowl roosting and feeding. Pitesky developed the tool to help poultry and dairy farmers limit contact with the migrating birds, as they can carry the virus that causes bird flu. The network uses data from satellites, weather radar and land-based environmental sensors. “One thing we need to consider in the medium- to long-term is the concept of waterfowl habitat shifting away from food animal production,” he said.

**New Study Finds Sauerkraut Benefits Gut Health**

A new study published in the journal Applied and Environmental Microbiology found that sauerkraut, which is fermented cabbage, may provide substantial benefits to gut health, supporting digestion and helping protect against illness. “Some of the metabolites we find in the sauerkraut are the same kind of metabolites we’re finding to be made by the gut microbiome, so that gives us a little more confidence that this connection we found between the metabolites in sauerkraut and good gut health makes sense,” said Maria Marco, professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of California, Davis, who co-authored the study.

**Research Says Overtime Law Has Cost 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. ★

# 11th Annual Earth Day Cleanup is Set with 11 Sites

## Solano Resource Conservation District News Release

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Celebrate Earth Day by keeping Solano County “clean and green.” Volunteers are encouraged to unite on Saturday, April 26 for Solano County’s 11th Annual Earth Day Cleanup. Residents, students, clubs, organizations, and businesses can choose from eleven sites across the county with at least one located in each city.

It is estimated that about 80 percent of ocean trash originates from land-based sources; these include plastics, cigarette butts, foam products, paper, and recyclable beverage containers. Often, these pollutants enter the local storm drains that lead to creeks, rivers, and ultimately, the sea. Every piece of trash



Earth Day Clean up on April 20, 2024, Ledgewood Creek, Fairfield CA. Photo courtesy of Solano Resource Conservation

picked up and every beverage container recycled does make a difference.

Most cleanup events will take place in the morning, typically from 9 a.m. to noon. Detailed information about the time and location of each Earth

Day Cleanup, as well as future cleanup events, is available at [cleanupsolano.org](http://cleanupsolano.org).

“In just a few hours, volunteers can effectively remove thousands of pounds of trash and recyclables from our community parks, trails, roadsides,

and waterways” says Marianne Butler with Solano Resource Conservation District.

Earth Day Cleanup volunteers are encouraged to bring their own buckets and gloves to minimize waste. Site organizers will provide supplies for those who

need them. Participants can also utilize the Ocean Conservancy’s CleanSwell mobile app to record the number of items collected at their cleanup site, contributing to valuable research on trash removal efforts.

The 2025 Solano County Earth Day Cleanup is coordinated by Solano Resource Conservation District in partnership with the County of Solano, Sierra Club Solano Group, Sprouts Farmers Market in Vacaville, the Solano Center for Volunteer and Non-Profit Leadership, 95.3 KUIK, Grizzly Waters Kayaking, and the California Coastal Commission, Solano County Parks, Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District, Vallejo Watershed Alliance, Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District, City of Benicia, City of Dixon, City of Vacaville, Solano Land Trust, and volunteer site leaders. ★

# 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](mailto: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/northernsolanodemsl/](http://www.facebook.com/northernsolanodemsl/).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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 to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration January 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: April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2025  
PEACE 5-2-25

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  
WILD 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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000366  
The following persons are doing business as: Dream Jewelry, 710 West F Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Andrea Thomas Enterprises LLC, 710 West F Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: March 3, 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 March 2, 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 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2025  
DREAM 5-16-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000521  
The following persons are doing business as: JFC 107, 430 Epic Street, Vacaville, CA 95688. Jun Wang, 430 Epic Street, Vacaville, CA 95688. Date filed in Solano County: April 1, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration March 31, 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 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2025  
JFC 5-16-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000613  
The following persons are doing business as: The Cheese Steak Shop, 284 Sunet Avenue, #A, Suisun City, CA 94585. FQZN Foods LLC, 612 Citrine Circle, Fairfield, CA 94534. Date filed in Solano County: April 17, 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 March 2, 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 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2025  
CHEESE 5-16-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000621  
The following persons are doing business as: Wild Harts Tallow, 525 Poppy Court, Dixon, CA 95620. Ashley Hart, 525 Poppy Court, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: April 18, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement

must be filed before the expiration April 17, 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 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2025  
HART 5-16-25

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU25-03273  
Adriana Velasco Campechano filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Adriana Velasco Campechano to Adriana Velasco. 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. June 25, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room III, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533  
Judge of the Superior Court: Stephen Gizzi  
Dated: April 17, 2025  
Publish: April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2025  
ADRIANA 5-16-25

MPG

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:** Eligible Bidders must be qualified newspapers of general circulation in the City.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** The printing to be done hereunder will consist of printing and publishing all legal notices for the City required to be printed in a newspaper of general circulation, including, but not limited to, ordinances, resolutions, legal notices, regulations, and advertisements of whatever kind or nature for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

**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:** Qualified and interested parties may submit Bids to the Administrative City Clerk at City Hall, located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California, no later than **3:00 p.m. on May 9, 2025**, at which time all Bids will be publicly opened and read by the Administrative City Clerk. No late Bids will be considered. Bidders may mail Bids at their own risk.

**GENERAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:** Each Bid submitted to the Administrative City Clerk must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked as follows:

**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 **lrui@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

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Dixon City Council adopted Ordinance No. 25-003, adopting a Planned Development District (PD) Amendment for Village 13 of Homestead Subdivision located in the Southwest Dixon Specific Plan. The Village 13 property is located at the northeast corner of Homestead Way and Evans Road (APN 0114-012-120).

The PD Amendment was adopted in conjunction with a Tentative Map Amendment, which changed the design of Village 13 from 58 alley-loaded, single-family lots to 58 conventional front-loaded, single-family lots. The PD Amendment establishes the allowed lot sizes, setbacks, maximum lot coverage, building height, and other standards for development of Village 13 in the Homestead Subdivision. The primary zoning designation for Village 13 is medium-density residential. Development of Village 13 will be consistent with the Southwest Dixon Specific Plan and the approved Tentative Map.

This Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 1st day of April 2025, and adopted at a regular meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 15th day of April 2025, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: ERNEST, HENDERSHOT, JOHNSON, BOGUE, BIRD  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE

A copy of the full text of the adopted ordinance is available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or at [www.cityofdixon.us](http://www.cityofdixon.us).

Kristin M. Janisch  
Elected City Clerk

Dixon Independent Voice 4-25-2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DIXON AMENDING CHAPTER 12.11, BICYCLES, AND ADDING CHAPTER 12.12, ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, TO TITLE 12, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, OF THE DIXON MUNICIPAL CODE TO REGULATE ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of Dixon (“City”) City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 12.11 Bicycles, and adding Chapter 12.12 Electric Scooters, to Title 12 of the Dixon Municipal Code.

The proposed ordinance would establish regulations governing electric bicycle and electric scooter use in the City of Dixon. The proposed regulations include, but are not limited to, helmet requirements, speed limits, and enforcement mechanisms for operating violations.

**ALL INTERESTED PARTIES** are invited to attend the Tuesday, May 6, 2025, public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the approval of the ordinance. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking action or making any recommendation on the ordinance. This meeting will not be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting via video conference and teleconference. Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the special meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Interested individuals will be given an opportunity to speak in favor or opposition to the above proposed action. Written comments are also accepted prior to the meeting by mail at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be provided to interested individuals upon request. If a challenge to the above proposed action is made in court, persons may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City before the meeting.

Copies of the proposed ordinance will be available, upon request. If you have any questions, please call the City at (707) 678-7000.

Dixon Independent Voice 4-25-2025

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We are proud members of these newspaper associations.



# License to Kill

By Robert Lewis,  
CalMatters.org

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (MPG)** - Ivan Dimov was convicted of reckless driving in 2013, after fleeing police in Washington state while his passenger allegedly dumped heroin out the window. Before that, he got six driving under the influence (DUI) convictions in California over a six-year period. None of that would keep him off the road.

The California Department of Motor Vehicles reissued him a driver's license in 2017. The next year, on Christmas Eve, he drove drunk again, running stop signs and a traffic light in midtown Sacramento, going more than 80 miles per hour, court records show. He T-boned another car, killing a 28-year-old man who was going home to feed the cat before heading to his mom's for the holiday.

Kostas Linardos had 17 tickets, including for speeding, reckless driving and street racing, and had been in four collisions. Then, in November 2022, he gunned his Ram 2500 truck as he entered a Placer County highway and slammed into the back of a disabled sedan, killing a toddler, court records show. He's now facing felony manslaughter charges.

In December of last year, while that case was open, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) renewed his driver's license.

The California Department of Motor Vehicles routinely allows drivers like these, with horrifying histories of dangerous driving, including driving under the influence, crashes and numerous tickets, to continue to operate on our roadways, a CalMatters investigation has found. Too often they go on to kill. Many keep driving even after they kill. Some go on to kill again.

With state lawmakers grappling with how to address the death toll on our roads, CalMatters wanted to understand how California handles dangerous drivers. We first asked the district attorneys for all 58 counties to provide us with a list of their vehicular manslaughter cases from 2019 through early last year. Every county but Santa Cruz provided the information.

Because California has no centralized court system and records aren't online, we then traveled to courthouses up and down the state to read through tens of thousands of pages of files. Once we had defendants' names and other information, we were able to get Department of Motor Vehicles driver reports for more than 2,600 of the defendants, providing details on their recent collisions, citations and license status.

The court records and driving histories reveal a state so concerned with people having access to motor vehicles for work and life that it allows deadly drivers to share our roads, despite the cost. Officials may call driving a privilege, but they treat it as a right, often failing to take drivers' licenses even after they kill someone on the road.

We found nearly 40% of the drivers charged with vehicular manslaughter since 2019 have a valid license.

That includes a driver with two separate convictions for vehicular manslaughter, for crashes that killed a 16-year-old girl in 2009 and a 25-year-old woman in 2020. In July of last year, the Department of Motor Vehicles issued him a driver's license.

The agency gave licenses to nearly 150 people less than a year after they allegedly killed someone on the road, CalMatters found. And many drivers accused of causing roadway deaths don't appear to have stopped driving recklessly. Records show that nearly 400 got a ticket or were in another crash, or both, after their deadly collisions.

"It is somewhat shocking to see how much you can get away with and still be a licensed driver in the state of California," Placer County District Attorney Morgan Gire said. "I don't think anyone fully understands what you need to do behind the wheel to lose your driving privilege."

Almost as interesting as the information in the drivers' Department of Motor Vehicles records is what not there.

Hundreds of drivers' Department of Motor Vehicles records



Jerrod Tejeda holds a framed photo of his daughter Cassi Tejeda, at his home in Visalia on March 6. Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters

simply don't list convictions for manslaughter or another crime related to a fatal crash, we found. The apparent error means some drivers who should have their driving privileges suspended instead show up in Department of Motor Vehicles records as having a valid license.

The cases we reviewed cut across demographics and geography. Defendants include farmworkers and a farm owner. They include off-duty police officers and people with lengthy rap sheets, drivers who killed in a fit of rage and others whose recklessness took the lives of those they loved most, high school sweethearts, siblings and children.

The tragedies span this vast state. From twisty two-lane mountain roads near the Oregon border to the dusty scrubland touching Mexico. From the crowded streets of San Francisco to the highways of the Inland Empire. From Gold Country to Timber Country, to Silicon Valley, to the almond capital of the world. So much death. More people than are killed by guns.

Dangerous drivers are able to stay on the roads for many reasons. The state system that targets motorists who rack up tickets is designed to catch clusters of reckless behavior, not long-term patterns. And while there are laws requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles to suspend a driver's license for certain crimes, like driving under the influence, there is no such requirement for many vehicular manslaughter convictions.

It's often up to the Department of Motor Vehicles whether to act. Routinely, it doesn't.

The Department of Motor Vehicles declined to make its director, Steve Gordon, who has been in charge since Governor Gavin Newsom appointed him in 2019, available for an interview to discuss our findings.

Chris Orrock, a Department of Motor Vehicles spokesperson, said the agency follows the law when issuing licenses. "We use our authority as mandated and as necessary," he said.

Even when the Department of Motor Vehicles does take away motorists' driving privileges, state officials, law enforcement and the courts are often unable or unwilling to keep them off the road. We found cases where drivers racked up numerous tickets while driving on a suspended license and faced little more than fines before eventually causing a fatal crash, even though authorities could have sent them to jail.

Taking away someone's driving privilege is no small decision. It can consign a family to poverty, affecting job prospects, childcare and medical decisions.

Still, the stakes couldn't be higher. More than 20,000 people died on the roads of California from 2019 to early 2024.

Kowana Strong thinks part of the problem is that lawmakers and regulators are too quick to treat fatal crashes as an unfortunate fact of life, as opposed to something they can address.

Her son Melvin Strong the Third, who went by his middle name, Kwaun, was finishing college and planning to start a master's program in kinesiology. He was killed by Dimov, the driver with six prior driving under the influence convictions.

Kwaun was a bright and innocent young man, she said, just starting



Cassi Tejeda and Courtney Kendall. Photo courtesy of Butte County District Attorney

his life.

"It's just another accident as far as they're concerned," Kowana Strong said.

Young people think they're invincible. It's the old who know how unfair life is, Jerrod Tejeda said.

His daughter Cassi Tejeda was just 22. She was months from graduating from Chico State with a bachelor's degree in history and a plan to be a teacher. Outgoing and athletic, she wanted to travel, see the world and make her own life.

She had a girlfriend who was visiting. Courtney Kendall was 24 and a student at Louisiana State University.

On a Sunday afternoon in January 2022, a Volvo sports utility vehicle (SUV) topping speeds of 75 miles per hour ran a red light and smashed into their Jeep, court records show. The collision killed them both.

"The most difficult part, besides the incident, is every day that goes by you're always wondering what if. What would they be doing today?" Jerrod Tejeda said. "Would they be married? Would they have developed into the career that they chose? Where would she be living?"

Tanya Kendall lamented not being there to protect her daughter, hold her hand or say goodbye.

"Instead, I was left with the unbearable task of choosing what outfit she would be buried in. Buried, Your Honor. Not the gown she would wear to her graduation from Louisiana State University, the one she will never attend," the mother wrote in a letter to a Butte County judge. She added that she and her husband stood in their daughter's place, accepting her diploma.

Such pain was preventable.

The driver of the Volvo, Matthew Moen, had a blood alcohol level more than three times the legal limit, according to court filings. And it wasn't his first time drinking and driving. Moen was caught driving drunk in Oregon in 2016. He never completed the requirements of a diversion program and had an outstanding warrant at the time of the fatal crash, the Butte County district attorney's office said. In January 2020, he was convicted of driving under the influence in Nevada County for driving with a blood alcohol level more than twice the legal limit, given a couple of weeks in jail and put on probation for three years.

His license was valid at the time of the fatal 2022 crash, records show.

Across the country, states grapple with how to effectively spot and punish drivers who could be a danger on the road. Often they rely on a basic point system, with drivers

accruing points for various types of traffic violations and thresholds for when the state will take away a motorist's driving privileges. But like many, California has such high limits that drivers with a pattern of reckless behavior can avoid punishment.

The state suspends a driver's license for accumulating four points in a year, six points in two years or eight points in three years. What does it take to get that many points? Using a cellphone while driving is zero points. A speeding ticket is a point. Vehicular manslaughter is two points.

Between March 2017 and March 2022, Trevor Cook received two citations for running red lights, got two speeding tickets and was deemed responsible for two collisions, including one in which someone was injured, court records show. (A third red light ticket was dismissed.) At-fault collisions add a point to a driver's license, according to the Department of Motor Vehicles. But the incidents were spaced out enough that none resulted in a suspension.

So Cook had a valid license on April 14, 2022, just a month after his last speeding ticket, when he blew through a Yolo County stop sign at more than 100 miles per hour.

At that exact moment, Prajal Bista passed through the intersection on his way to work after dinner and a movie with his wife, according to details of the crash that prosecutors included in court filings. Bista was driving the speed limit and on track to make it to work 30 minutes early.

The force of the collision nearly split Bista's Honda Civic in half. Investigators determined Bista had been wearing his seat belt, but the crash tore it apart. They found his body 75 feet from the intersection.

On March 28, 2024, Cook pleaded no contest to felony vehicular manslaughter.

Just a month later, on April 30, the Department of Motor Vehicles issued Cook his current driver's license, agency records show. Less than two weeks after that, he got a ticket for disobeying a traffic signal.

Melinda Aiello, chief deputy district attorney in Yolo County, said her office didn't know anything about the new license or the red light ticket until contacted by CalMatters. What's more, the manslaughter conviction, like hundreds of others we found, isn't listed on Cook's driving record.

Cook's license was still listed as valid in California Department of Motor Vehicles records as of early 2025. But for now, he's off

the roadways. Last summer, Cook started serving time in state prison.

"It's stunning to me that eight months later, his license is still showing as valid and the conviction for killing someone while driving is not reflected in his driving record," Aiello said. "You killed somebody. I'd think there might be some license implications."

Orrock, the Department of Motor Vehicles spokesperson, said he couldn't speak directly to why so many convictions are missing. But, he said, "we acknowledge that the process and coordination between the judicial system and the Department of Motor Vehicles must continually evolve to address any gaps that have been identified. And we're looking into that."

Roughly 400 drivers accused of causing a fatal crash since 2019 received a ticket, got in another collision or did both after the date they allegedly killed someone on the road. (The reports don't show whether the drivers were found at fault, only that they were involved in an accident.) That's about 15% of the drivers for whom we could get Department of Motor Vehicles reports.

Drivers like William Beasley.

From 2011 to 2016, Beasley collected five speeding tickets and a citation for running a red light in Sacramento County, court records show. Then around 9 a.m. on a sunny Tuesday in October 2019, he killed a man.

William and Deborah Hester were crossing the street to go to a dentist appointment at a veterans facility when Beasley's silver pickup sped toward them. They thought they would make it across. But the truck didn't stop. At the last minute, William Hester shoved his wife out of the way. She heard the truck smash into her husband's body and screamed, according to court records.

Beasley still didn't stop. He fled the area and tried to hide his truck. Investigators used nearby cameras and license plate readers to track him down days later. Beasley admitted to being in a collision.

He later pleaded no contest in Sacramento to hit-and-run and misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter. A probation report in the case revealed Beasley was nearly blind in his left eye.

"Mr. Hester is with me every moment of my life," Beasley said in an interview. "I took away a father, a grandfather, a husband, and they consider me a murderer. That's not who I am."

"My accident with Mr. Hester was just that, an accident. Nothing more," he said, adding that he worked as a courier for years and sometimes got speeding tickets because he was rushing.

In May 2020, the Department of Motor Vehicles took away his driving privileges.

In November 2022, Beasley got his license back, "because I could and I needed to," he said, adding that people deserve second chances, particularly for accidents.

Almost immediately, less than three weeks after getting his license, he was in another collision, his Department of Motor Vehicles report shows. In early 2024, he got in yet another. His license was suspended when his car insurance was canceled, records show.

"It makes no sense to me that they would give him a license and give him the opportunity to hurt someone else," said Loriann Hester Page, William Hester's daughter.

Her father's death broke the family, she said. He drove a tank in the Army, played guitar in a band, and liked to ride horses.

"My dad was such a wonderful, kind man," she said. "He would always walk in a room and wanted to make everyone smile."

Beasley said he doesn't plan to drive again.

"I am 75 years old," he said. "I am blind in one eye. I have had a situation where a man was killed, he lost his life. I am not going to repeat that situation at all."

*This is the first piece in a series about how California lets dangerous drivers stay on the road. Sign up for our License to Kill newsletter to be notified when the next story comes out and to get more behind-the-scenes information from our reporting.* ★