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# Dixon Independent Voice

The Official Newspaper of Record for the City of Dixon

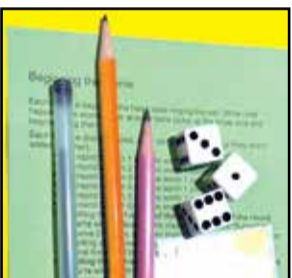
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## Dixon Honors Graduating Seniors



During the event, Brown recognized students who earned academic distinctions, including the 44 distinguished scholars and 38 students who have earned their Seal of Biliteracy. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - More than 200 graduates crossed the stage June 6 as Dixon High School celebrated the Class of 2026 during its commencement ceremony.

The graduation ceremony began at 9 a.m. at Finney Field, 555 College Way, with Dixon High School Marching Band performing the National Anthem. Translator Diana Meneses joined Principal Angela Brown on stage throughout the ceremony, providing Spanish translation for attendees.

Brown welcomed students, families, faculty and honored guests while recognizing members of the Dixon Unified School District Governing Board,



Members of the Dixon Unified School District (DUSD) Governing Board were in attendance, sporting black robes to further officiate the occasion. Photo by Nicolas Brown

including President Julian Cuevas, Vice President Regina Espinoza, Clerk Jewel Fink, trustees John Gabby and Robert

Sanchez. Superintendent Brett Barley also attended the ceremony.

Before addressing the graduates, Brown thanked

district employees, community organizations and local businesses that helped make the event possible.

“Class of 2026, you sit in your seat today because of the hard work and commitment you’ve shown,” said Brown. “But you didn’t do this alone.”

Brown recognized district maintenance staff, custodians, community members, the Dixon Police Department and the Parent-Teacher Organization, as well as faculty and staff members.

“Today, we gather to celebrate a significant milestone — the graduation of the Class of 2026,” said Brown. “This is a moment filled with pride,

*Continued on page 3*

## Lawmakers Urge Quebec to Lift Ban on U.S. Wine Imports

Office of Mike Thompson News Release

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG)** - June 5, Representatives Mike Thompson (CA-04), Jimmy Panetta (CA-19) and David Valadao (CA-22) led a bipartisan coalition of 14 California lawmakers in requesting that Québec Premier Christine Fréchette remove the current restrictions barring the importation and sale of American wine in Québec.

“Unfortunately, the restriction on American wine has had damaging consequences for regional consumers, businesses and producers who had no influence over national policies,” wrote the lawmakers. “Québec consumers have historically enjoyed access to a wide variety of American wines, and their absence limits choice in the marketplace, while cutting off a \$434 million market.”

“Reopening the market to American wine would restore consumer choice and signal a commitment to restoring fair and balanced trade for Québécois consumers and American wineries who have no connection to the underlying trade disputes,” continued the lawmakers.

The lawmakers highlighted the United States’ extended history of close collaboration with Québec through a relationship built on shared trade, culture and economic success. Québec’s top export market is the United States, and the United States is Québec’s largest supplier. Nearly three-quarters of Québec’s 2024 exports went to the United States, worth a total of \$91.2 billion, and a third of Québec’s total imports in recent years have come from the U.S.

In addition to Reps. Thompson, Panetta and Valadao, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (CA-11) and Reps. Julia Brownley (CA-26), Salud Cabajal (CA-24), Gil Cisneros (CA-31), Jim Costa (CA-21), John Garamendi (CA-08), Jimmy Gomez (CA-34), Young Kim (CA-40), Doris Matsui (CA-07), Dave Min (CA-47) and Kevin Mullin (CA-15) also signed the letter.

Full text of the letter is available below:

Dear Premier Fréchette:  
 Thank you for your recent visit to Washington and your work to promote U.S.-Québec trade relations. In pursuit of that shared goal, we are writing

*Continued on page 6*

## Maine Prairie HS Celebrates Class of 2026

By Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Maine Prairie High School honored its graduating Class of 2026 during a commencement ceremony held 6 p.m. June 3 at Dixon Performing Arts Center, 555 College Way.

The ceremony began with the traditional playing of “Pomp and Circumstance” as the 18 graduates entered the venue. Members of the Dixon Unified School District Governing Board were in attendance, including President Julian Cuevas, Vice President Regina Espinoza, Clerk Jewel Fink, trustees John Gabby and Superintendent Brett Barley.

Graduate Logen Barr led the Pledge of Allegiance before Principal Angelina Arias welcomed families, staff members, district personnel and community partners.

Student speakers Leah Lopez and Nalleli Cabanillas-Medina



The Class of 2026 concluded the evening by crossing the stage and celebrating the milestone with loved ones, including graduate Liam Bourland. Photo by Nicolas Brown

addressed their classmates and families before Arias delivered remarks in both English and Spanish.

“Good evening family, staff, distinguished guests, but most importantly, the class of 2026,” said Arias. “There’s something important I want you to know: your story is not defined by where you started, but

by the fact that you kept going. Here you are, not because the road was easy, not because everything went according to plan, but because you refused to quit.”

Arias later recognized Office Coordinator Denise Diaz for creating a slideshow featuring baby photos of graduates

alongside their senior portraits. The presentation, accompanied by music, also highlighted each student’s plans after graduation. The video concluded with a congratulatory message to the graduating class.

Following the slideshow, Arias thanked Diaz and the

*Continued on page 3*



# Dixon Honors Graduating Seniors



More than 200 graduates crossed the stage June 6 as Dixon High School celebrated the Class of 2026 during its commencement ceremony. Photo by Nicolas Brown

*Continued from page 1*  
emotion and excitement.”  
Student leadership opened the series of commencement speeches with a presentation titled “New Beginnings” by Student Body Vice President Max Graef and Student Body President Madison Wartson.  
“As I stand before you, I wish you nothing but continued success and best wishes leading into this moment,” said Wartson. “The challenges we have gone through have defined our class as a whole.”  
Following their remarks, Brown recognized students who earned academic distinctions.  
“At Dixon High School, we

honor all students who have earned a 4.0 and above,” said Brown. “This year, we have 44 seniors who met that mark.”  
The distinguished scholars stood and were recognized by the audience. Brown also honored recipients of the California State Seal of Bilingual Proficiency, awarded to graduates who demonstrated proficiency in English and another language. In total, 38 seniors earned the distinction.  
Student speaker Leslye Rivera then delivered a speech titled “Because They Believed In Us.”  
“I am honored to be standing on this stage officially giving

my last speech to say we made it,” said Rivera.  
Rivera invited parents of graduating seniors to stand and be recognized for their role in supporting students throughout their educational journeys.  
The diploma presentation began after Rivera’s speech and was divided into three segments, with additional student speakers addressing graduates between presentations.  
Jamison Abrenica delivered a speech titled “Life Life,” encouraging classmates to embrace uncertainty and pursue opportunities.  
“As we grow older, we learn life does not always go to plan,”

said Abrenica. “Living life to the fullest is not about having everything figured out, but taking risks for opportunities... Live life with hope.”  
The final student speaker, Benjamin Burnett, presented “The Silent Count Down,” reflecting on the years leading up to graduation.  
“When we first walked into this campus as freshmen, graduation felt so far away,” said Burnett. “What makes today so emotional is not just the diplomas, the speeches, or graduation in general, but the moments that led to this.”  
Burnett encouraged classmates to appreciate the present

rather than rushing toward future milestones.  
“I hope you all remember one thing: stop and enjoy life sometimes,” he said.  
As the ceremony concluded, Brown offered final words to the graduating class before formally certifying the graduates.  
“Congratulations, Class of 2026,” said Brown. “Go forward with courage, confidence and the knowledge that you are ready for whatever comes next.”  
The Class of 2026 then celebrated the completion of their high school careers as family members, friends and supporters applauded the newest Dixon High School alumni. ★

# Maine Prairie HS Celebrates Class of 2026

*Continued from page 1*  
graduates for sharing their photos before inviting teachers and staff members to speak about individual students.  
English, Art and English Language Development (ELD) teacher Lindsey Balidoy addressed several graduates, including Ryan West and Eden Henderson.  
“Ryan, you did it, congratulations,” said Balidoy. “While I know you have been enjoying being out of high school, I hope you continue to find the light and humor in everyday life.”  
Speaking about Henderson, Balidoy said, “You are the one who took charge of your education, you are the one who knew exactly where you wanted to go and got there.”  
Arias noted that several students completed graduation requirements ahead of schedule.  
“We have several juniors graduating tonight because they put themselves on a fast track to success,” said Arias. “We have a lot to celebrate here tonight.”  
Math teacher Andrea Ferguson



Members of the Dixon Unified School District Governing Board were in attendance, including President Julian Cuevas, Vice President Regina Espinoza, Clerk Jewel Fink, trustees John Gabby and Robert Sanchez, and Superintendent Brett Barley. Photo by Nicolas Brown

praised Cabanillas-Medina, who plans to join the U.S. Marine Corps.  
“I am so excited having you up here on the stage with me right now,” said Ferguson. “You’re joining the Marine Corps and you’re going to be awesome at it.”  
Ferguson also delivered remarks on behalf of Social Science teacher Jairo Romero,

who was unable to attend.  
Science, Physical Education and Virtual Reality teacher Dina Flamik recognized several graduates, including Liam Bourland and Lopez.  
“Everything you turned in was thoughtful, creative and exceptionally well done,” Flamik told Lopez. “The world needs people who can tell stories.”

Balidoy later returned to the stage to speak on Romero’s behalf about graduates Hailey Troyer and Barr.  
“From the very beginning, Barr carried himself with maturity, consistency and a calm confidence,” said Balidoy. “There was honestly never a day he wasn’t engaged in classroom discussion.”

Bilingual Communication School Liaison Susanna Perez spoke about Rachel Chavez, noting that she completed her studies early.  
“Not only is she graduating, she is also graduating as a junior,” said Perez.  
At-Promise Counselor Ricardo Rodriguez recognized Juan Roberto Lopez Alvarez and Ernesto Raygoza Martinez, another early graduate.  
As the ceremony neared its conclusion, Arias asked the audience to applaud the graduating seniors.  
“You all have your individual stories, you all have your own reasons for coming to Maine Prairie, and we’re so proud of you,” she said.  
Arias then formally certified the class and presented the graduates to those in attendance.  
“It is my honor to present the Maine Prairie High School graduating class of 2026,” said Arias.  
The Class of 2026 concluded the evening by crossing the stage and celebrating the milestone with loved ones. ★

# Teri Brown Receives Soroptimist Ruby Award

## Soroptimist International of Dixon News Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Congratulations to Teri Brown for being this year’s recipient of the Soroptimist Ruby Award.  
Each year, Soroptimist International of Dixon honors a woman who, through their professional or personal efforts, is making extraordinary differences in the lives of those in her community. Some women work to improve conditions through their personal or volunteer efforts; others do so through professional avenues. Although not a Soroptimist, their work helps promote the issues that are important to Soroptimists. It is a way for the club to say thank you. The Soroptimist Ruby Award is named in honor of the first Federation President, Ruby Lee Minar.  
Such as a ruby gemstone is associated with wisdom, importance, vitality, strength, power and love, Brown embodies all of these things. Brown “can see the light in the darkest of situations,” according to her daughter, Elizabeth Fuller.



Congratulations to Teri Brown for being this year’s recipient of the Soroptimist Ruby Award. From left are Elizabeth Fuller; Barbara Rigdon, SI Dixon President; Jewel Fink; Teri Brown; Mary Lou Batchelor, Ruby Award Chair; James Fuller. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Dixon

Brown prioritizes her family and their needs; she is a best friend to so many; she loves her community and is always willing to support others with her enthusiasm; she is a visionary by promoting a community garden with her desire to beautify the world for generations to come.  
Brown is a champion, according to her daughter. She puts in the time needed as a member of the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club and a volunteer at Anderson Elementary, both in the classroom and as a member of the PTO, all of the years that her grandsons attended. Additionally, she served on the board for four of those years.  
“She has tremendous heart for people, and with intent she tries to better situations whenever she can,” said Brown’s son-in-law.  
This award comes with \$500 that is donated to a charity of Brown’s choosing. Brown has chosen that the money go towards the Dixon High School Rams’ Vault, benefiting students and the community; Cornerstone Baptist Church’s food pantry; and Anderson Elementary PTO. ★



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BY JOSH F.W. COOK

# A Changing Election System

By Josh Cook

Noted political scientist and former Yolo County supervisor Matt Rexroad ruffled some feathers with an opinion piece he wrote for a local Sacramento newspaper expressing his opinion, after having been involved in elections for more than 30 years, that there is not widespread voter fraud happening, like stuffing ballot boxes.

I've been asked if I believe President Trump when he says elections are rigged. I would say both are correct. Matt is right - there is no widespread voter fraud. But the election process has been constantly changing for the last 20 years: 1. California expanded same-day registration so eligible voters could register and vote closer to Election Day. 2. It adopted top-two primaries, which let all voters participate in the same primary ballot for most state and federal offices. 3. It created an independent citizens commission to draw political districts instead of leaving that job to politicians. 4. It moved toward universal vote-by-mail, sending ballots to all registered voters. 5. It added vote centers, ballot drop boxes, and earlier in-person voting options so people could vote in more ways and over a longer period. 6. It also pushed some local elections onto statewide election dates to improve turnout. 7. After we voted for an independent commission to draw districts, we had a statewide election to just draw some districts right before this

election. 8. Previously, it was a crime if you went door-to-door and gathered people's ballots and put them in the mail for them. That is now legal. It's called ballot harvesting.

Wait, there is more. The issue of whether or not county clerks have to count ballots that come in late is at the Supreme Court. If that's not enough, someone just sued the Secretary of State to have more inactive voters purged from the voter rolls. I have worked with Dr. Shirley Weber, the California Secretary of State, and she is a woman of impeccable, unassailable 100% absolute integrity, and she's also a competent administrator. She runs the office properly and legally.

That said, the number of changes that continue to occur to the methods in which we exercise democracy could make somebody feel like they're in a game in which the rules constantly change. Not like "moving the goal post" but putting the goal post in the parking lot on a truck that drives around the stadium.

There will be much discussion of this topic in the next few days because it takes so long to count all the ballots. There used to be an election day and there were election results that night. Election day as a concept no longer exists, and election results will no longer come in on the date we start counting ballots. So I don't hold it against anyone who feels like elections are being manipulated. They have been non-stop for two decades. ★

Go to [Policy-Ethics.com](http://Policy-Ethics.com)



# Riley Reviews

“THE CRASH” QUESTION OF GUILT OR INNOCENCE FOR A TROUBLING CASE

A Film and TV Review  
by Tim Riley

“THE CRASH” on Netflix

The opening scene involves dashcam footage from a police cruiser in the early morning when coming upon a horrific car accident where an officer describes the vehicle being “split in two” with three occupants inside.

Appropriately, the Netflix film is titled “The Crash,” and the tag line on the poster is “Was it an accident?” The driver, 17-year-old Mackenzie Shirilla, is found to be breathing, while the passengers Dominic Russo and Davion Flanagan are not so fortunate.

Dominic is Mackenzie's boyfriend and Davion was the star running back at Strongsville High School in Ohio. Dominic was in the passenger seat and Davion riding in the back. By the looks of the mangled vehicle, it's a wonder anyone could survive the crash.

Not even two minutes into the documentary, voiceovers raise the question of whether it was an accident or murder. The tragic calamity follows an evening where Mackenzie and her friends celebrated her high school graduation along with fellow graduate Davion.

Social media plays a big part in the storytelling of the adolescent behavior of the central characters and much of it is not pretty or flattering. Footage of doing drugs and smoking weed while driving suggests reckless and dangerous conduct more likely to result in disaster.

More disturbing is the surveillance recording showing the vehicle racing up to 100 miles per hour just moments before the crash. Investigation into the vehicle's black box also shows that the brakes were not applied prior to the headlong smash into a brick building.

The initial conclusion is that reckless teenage driving caused the crash soon gave way to investigators questioning if this was an accident at all or a deliberate act that would lead to a charge of aggravated murder.

Early in the investigation, Dominic's father, Frank Russo, observed that he walked the crash site and said the accident made no sense because of the absence of skid marks at the stop sign at the end of the street.

Early on, Tim Troup, assistant prosecutor, mentions his goal of bringing justice to the families that lost their loved ones and his determination to figure out what happened at the scene.

Police discovered that Mackenzie had small amounts of marijuana in her purse, a digital scale, and eight grams of mushrooms concealed in her clothing. All this was deemed significant information.

Troup begins picking through the potentials of what had caused the crash. Was it operator error or substance

abuse? Or could it be a much more serious felony? Thus, a full picture of who Mackenzie was became necessary for the investigation.

There is footage showing Mackenzie playing with her pets, eating ice cream, hugging friends and the like. On the other hand, social media also painted a different picture with selfies that made her look more awful than the cliquish trio of wealthy mean girls in 2004's “Mean Girls.”

While a blood sample was tested out of state, there was no indication Mackenzie had the presence of any psychedelic drugs in her system, even though her phone showed evidence of her tripping on mushrooms and an apparent daily ritual of smoking marijuana from a bong.

The eventual verdict in Mackenzie's trial raises plenty of questions. Was the right decision made by the defendant or her attorney when given the choice of a bench trial or a judgment rendered by twelve members on a jury? Think about the ramification of one juror deciding not to vote guilty.

“The Crash” puts the viewer in the position of evaluating all investigative circumstances during its 90 minutes duration. Mackenzie's parents, Steve and Natalie Shirilla, often look oblivious to their daughter's reckless and cruel nature.

It also seems absurd that the Shirillas think their 17-year-old adolescent was mature enough to live with her 21-year-old boyfriend, who may have some financial savvy but still does not appear grounded for a serious relationship.

While Mackenzie's parents prove to be anything but sympathetic characters, Davion's father, Scott Flanagan, is anguished when it is revealed that Mackenzie, an aspiring model, is thrilled for an opportunity for public relations use of her “look” coming days after the accident.

Multiple videos of Mackenzie smoking marijuana while driving caught the attention of the prosecutor. Meanwhile, Steve Shirilla, proving he lacked decent parenting skills, said he had “no problem with her smoking dope and I don't have a problem with me smoking dope.”

Several parties interviewed had the impression that Mackenzie and Dominic were destined to get married, which on its face would seem to be a bad idea for a relationship which seemed based in part on how much Dominic showered her with endless gifts.

In fact, what is damning for Mackenzie's case is not just the lack of adult oversight in her life, but phone evidence of how her relationship with Dominic was volatile. What is worst of all is how Mackenzie and her parents are so unmindful of any accountability. ★

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# Pony Express National Re-Ride Departs June 15

## Historic 1,900-Mile Journey to Feature America 250 Celebration

### National Pony Express Association (NPEA) News Release

**POLLOCK PINES, CA (MPG)** - Riders, history enthusiasts and communities along the historic Pony Express Trail are gearing up for the 2026 National Pony Express Re-Ride. This year's event promises to be an extraordinary milestone as it aligns with the nation's semi quinquennial. The Missouri Pony Express President will officially open the event at 2 p.m., and the first rider will depart from the Patee house in St. Joseph, MO at 3:00 p.m. CDT on Monday, June 15.

The grueling, 1,900-plus-mile journey will continue 24/7 on horseback, following the original 1860-1861 mail route across eight states. The non-stop relay will conclude with the final rider arriving in Old Sacramento, CA at 4:30 p.m. PDT on Thursday, June 25. Riders in authentic attire will carry a traditional mochila packed with 1,570 letters, honoring a vital chapter in U.S. communication history.

#### Honoring the Past, Celebrating America 250

Each year, the National Pony Express Association (NPEA) commemorates the legendary Old West mail service by carrying a historical mochila filled with commemorative letters. However, the 2026 Re-Ride holds unique historical significance.

An America 250 highlight of this year's re-ride will take place on Tuesday, June 24 in Carson City, Nevada, where the NPEA will partner with the Carson City Historical Society to present "Saddle-up Carson City". A special Presentation by Chautauquan Kim Harris will be featured - listen to the story of Warren Upson and the important role the Pony Express Played in



Youth Rider near Cold Springs, Nevada. Photo courtesy of Petra Keller

keeping the Union connected: <https://nationalponyexpress.org/celebrating-the-250th-birthday-of-america/>.

"Community support is what keeps this tradition alive, but tying this year's ride into the America 250 celebration adds a profound layer of pride," said Petra Keller, NPEA corresponding secretary. "The Pony Express exemplifies the enduring American spirit of perseverance and connection. We invite everyone to come out to Carson City and all along the trail to celebrate this monumental piece of our collective heritage."

#### Event Details & Public Invitation

The continuous relay will press through Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and California. The public is highly encouraged



Swearing in Riders in Nebraska. Photo courtesy of Petra Keller

to participate in the festivities:

**Attend Local Events:** Spectators are welcome to witness live mochila exchanges, meet the riders and horses, and engage with trail volunteers.

**Track the Ride Live:** A

real-time GPS tracking map will be active around the clock at: [nationalponyexpress.org/re-ride/follow-the-ride/](https://nationalponyexpress.org/re-ride/follow-the-ride/).

**Join the Conversation:** Share your photos, experiences, and community celebrations on

social media using the hashtags #2026PonyExpressReRide #PonyExpressAmerica250th #PonyExpressReRide2026.

To help raise awareness and support along the trail, the NPEA encourages local businesses, organizations and residents to display the official 2025 Re-Ride Flyer, now available online. The flyer includes key information, and a QR code for live tracking during the Re-Ride.

#### About the National Pony Express Association (NPEA)

The NPEA is a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of the Pony Express (April 1860 - October 1861). Through educational programs, trail preservation, and annual reenactments, the NPEA keeps the spirit of the American West alive for generations to come. ★

# Sixth Year of Resilience Fund Supports Independent Restaurants

## \$1.28 Million Available to Help California's Food and Beverage Businesses Invest in Growth, Stability and Long-term Success

### California Restaurant Foundation News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The California Restaurant Foundation (CRF), a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening California's restaurant community for 45 years, announced the launch of the sixth annual Restaurants Care Resilience Fund with \$1,280,000 in grants to be awarded in 2026 through the continued support of The PG&E Corporation Foundation (PG&E Foundation) and SoCalGas.

Through June 30, eligible independent restaurants and commercial caterers across the state can apply for \$5,000 grants that help operators strengthen their businesses, support their teams and navigate ongoing industry challenges.

"The Resilience Fund has evolved into a powerful engine for growth and stability within California's restaurant community, and each year, we see firsthand how these grants help operators overcome immediate challenges while also investing in their future, whether that's upgrading kitchens, adopting new technology or supporting and retaining their teams," said Alycia Harshfield, president of California Restaurant Foundation. "As the industry continues to navigate new pressures, this fund remains a critical resource for helping independent restaurants adapt, grow and thrive."

Resilience Fund grants support the most critical areas of restaurant operations, from kitchen equipment upgrades and technology improvements to employee



Grants are available to eligible restaurant owners and commercial caterers who are customers of PG&E or SoCalGas, operate in California and meet program requirements, including having one to five locations and annual revenue of up to \$3 million at the location for which they are requesting funding. Designed by Magnific

training, retention and recovery from unforeseen hardships. These investments go beyond day-to-day needs, helping operators run more efficiently, elevate the guest experience and build stronger, more sustainable businesses. At a time when costs remain high and margins are tight, this type of targeted support gives independent restaurants the flexibility to reinvest in their operations and continue serving their communities.

"We are proud to partner with the California Restaurant Foundation as it continues to grow its support for our hometown restaurants. The PG&E Foundation has contributed nearly \$5.6 million in charitable funding

to date for CRF's Restaurants Care Resilience Fund. This funding has provided grants of up to \$5,000 each to nearly 900 Northern and Central California restaurants — and we're excited to do it again this year. The success of our local restaurants strengthens our local economies and communities," said Carla Peterman, president of PG&E Corp., and executive vice president of customer and corporate affairs and chair of the board of the PG&E Corporation Foundation.

Since its inception in 2021, the program has delivered more than \$11 million in funding to 2,087 independent restaurant

operators and caterers across 50 counties in California, reinforcing its role as one of the state's most meaningful investments in small business resilience. Over the past five years, the Resilience Fund has supported a wide range of operator needs, with 31% of grants going toward equipment upgrades, 21% toward employee training and retention, and additional funding addressing impacts from COVID-19 (15%), natural disasters including recent Los Angeles fires (12%), technology upgrades (9%), and industry disruptions such as the Hollywood strikes (8%). Notably, 90% of grant recipients are single-unit operators, with an average of 10

years in business, collectively employing more than 26,500 people across the state.

"SoCalGas is proud to continue supporting the California Restaurant Foundation's Restaurants Care Resilience Fund, delivering critical grants that help stabilize local economies, sustain jobs and strengthen independent restaurants across the region. Our collaboration invests in businesses that play a vital role in California's long term economic stability," said Sarita Figueroa, senior manager, Community Affairs & Relations, SoCalGas.

Grants are available to eligible restaurant owners and commercial caterers who are customers of PG&E or SoCalGas, operate in California and meet program requirements, including having one to five locations and annual revenue of up to \$3 million at the location for which they are requesting funding. To qualify for the grant, a restaurant must currently be open and have been in operation for at least one full year. Previous grant recipients may apply again for a different location or concept. Existing food businesses that are expanding into a brick-and-mortar location are also eligible to apply.

Applications for the 2026 Resilience Fund will be accepted until June 30, with grant recipients to be announced the week of August 23. To apply or learn more about eligibility requirements, visit <https://restaurantcare.org/resilience>. For more information about the California Restaurant Foundation or Restaurants Care, visit [www.calrestfoundation.org](http://www.calrestfoundation.org). ★

# Lawmakers Urge Quebec to Lift Ban on U.S. Wine Imports

*Continued from page 1*  
to express our belief that lifting the current restrictions on the importation and sale of American wine in Québec would be beneficial to both Québec and the United States.

The United States and Québec share a long-standing relationship

grounded in trade, cultural exchange, and mutual economic benefit. As you know, the U.S. is the top export market for Québec and received 73.5 percent of Québec's exports in 2024, worth \$91.2 billion. The United States is also Québec's largest supplier, accounting for 33.3 percent of

total imports in past years.

Unfortunately, the restriction on American wine has had damaging consequences for regional consumers, businesses, and producers who had no influence over national policies. Québec consumers have historically enjoyed access to a wide variety

of American wines, and their absence limits choice in the marketplace, while cutting off a \$434 million market.

Reopening the market to American wine would restore consumer choice and signal a commitment to restoring fair and balanced trade for Québécois

consumers and American wineries who have no connection to the underlying trade disputes. We would welcome the opportunity to continue to engage in dialogue and work collaboratively toward a resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration. ★

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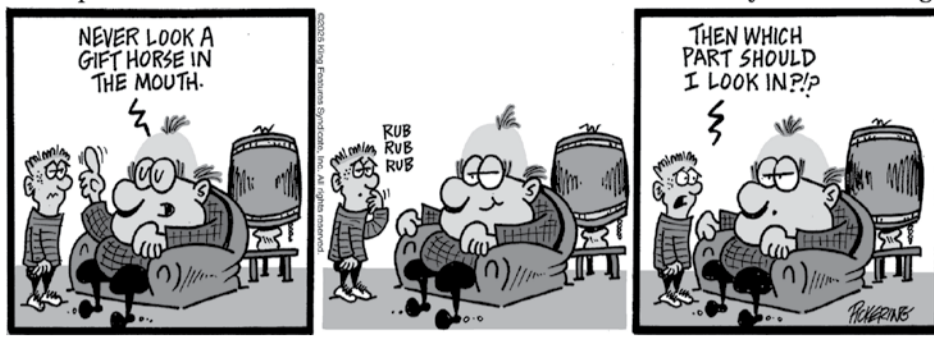
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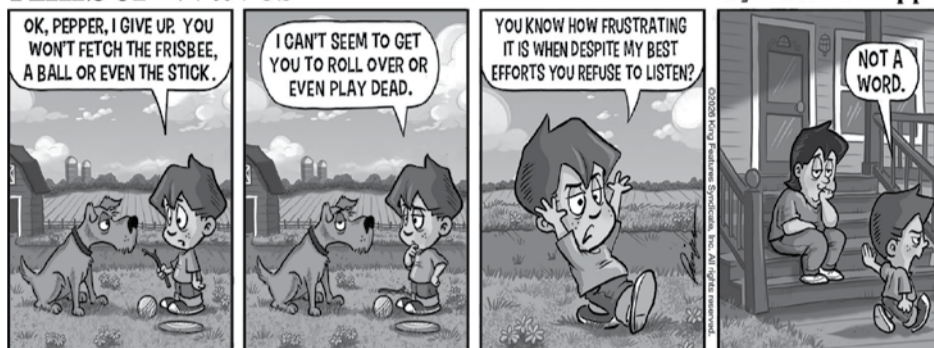
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TIGER

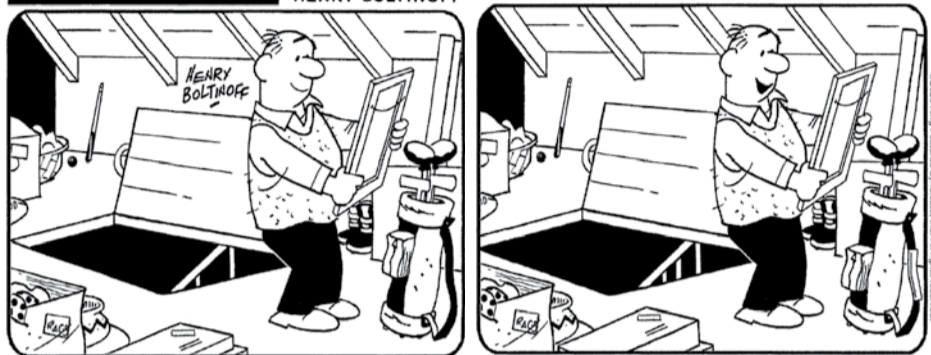
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Calculus, e.g.
- Emerald \_\_\_ borer
- Web journal
- Eurozone money
- Ginger beer cocktail
- Overabundance, pl.
- "Mike Brady's sons in "The Brady Bunch"
- Taylor Swift's sixth tour, with The
- Bob Marley, spiritu-ally speaking
- \*Howard Cunning-ham's TV show
- Answer from a tunnel
- Calms
- Albanian currency
- House that's mostly gable
- Smallest
- Ante-
- Magi's gift, pl.
- Of a particular kind
- Like Scotch whisky, flavor-wise
- "\_\_\_ the land of the free..."
- \*Fred MacMurray in "My \_\_\_ Sons"
- Nessie's hangout
- Passport-giving organization, e.g.
- A Beetle bride
- Give right or privilege
- 3.26 light-years
- Sun, in Spain
- The Gem State capital
- London native, e.g.
- \*Danny Tanner's show
- Make awake
- Popular sandwich cookie
- Elephant trainer's poker
- Loathing
- Hot rum drink
- Goodness gracious!
- Yearnings
- Letters of distress
- Infamous Roman Emperor

**DOWN**

- Crystal in the street
- Atmosphere
- Acid "journey"
- Commotion
- Pertaining to ear
- Kills a dragon
- Hitler's deputy
- \*Dre Johnson's show
- Verdant
- "The Simpsons" palindrome
- General Services Administration
- Assortment
- \*Dr. Leonard \_\_\_ of "Friends"
- Delectable
- Fleur-de-\_\_\_
- Granny Smith, e.g.
- Banned aerosol propellant
- Strike back, e.g.
- Through, for short
- #12 Across, pl.
- Part of an act
- \*Sandy Cohen's show
- \*Johnny \_\_\_ of "Schitt's Creek"
- High-\_\_\_ image
- \*Jack Pearson's show

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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



## The Finals Are Revealing

Well, if we listened to the experts and the NBA prognosticating, we would shortly be crowning the Oklahoma City Thunder with their second Larry O'Brien trophy in as many years.

By now we all know that coming from a 3-2 deficit, the upstart San Antonio Spurs did what few thought was possible and not only won two games in a row to win the western divisions championship but put the exclamation mark on their final victory by winning on the opposing teams home court. A herculean task accomplished, and once again the experts let us know that you can watch the finals if you wish, but the outcome is all but decided.

Victor Wembanyama had already put on his superman's cape and punished what most pundits believed was an organization that had put together one of the best consummate teams that anyone had seen in years. Yes, and that's not to say that the Oklahoma City Thunder are not every bit of that, but tremendous credit needs to go to the San Antonio Spurs for putting on an epic performance and one of the best playoff series seen in years.

All that said, the well-rested New York Knickerbockers have been waiting in the wings and would like to be heard from.

Heard from they were, doing the unthinkable by defeating the Thunder on Oklahoma City's home court two straight games, and setting the experts back on their heels in amazement.

NBA fans got an up front and personal look at how team basketball is supposed to be played, and without an MVP or a 7-foot-4 center, the Knicks have posted a commanding two-game lead as the two teams convene at Madison Square Garden Monday night for game three.

Surprising? I would have to say yes, but encouraging is a more apt description.

Although the Knick's had a solid regular season record of 53-29, it paled in comparison to the Thunder's 64-18 or that of San Antonio who posted 62-20.

The city of New York is going crazy as their beloved Knicks haven't secured an NBA championship in 53 years.

Not since Willis Reed, Bill Bradley, Dave Debuschere, Walt Frazier and Earl the pearl Monroe graced the hardwood of Madison

Square Garden have the New York fans tasted the ultimate success.

New York is a long way from Sacramento to be sure, but don't think that Kings fans aren't paying close attention to what has become a true surprise.

The very fact that the Knick's have won 13 consecutive playoff games is nearly record setting, and two more wins would not only secure the championship, but tie them for the most consecutive playoff wins in NBA history.

Those games have yet to be played, and San Antonio may have something to say about the outcome to be sure, but the fact that without a true superstar the Knick's are boat racing through the playoffs, should give Sacramento fans something to ponder.

Some would argue that Karl-Anthony Towns and Jalen Brunson are superstars and they may have a legitimate argument but credit the Knicks with building a team in the real sense of the word.

As the finals will finish shortly and one of these two teams will be crowned the champion, and heads turn to June 23 when the NBA draft takes place.

General Manager Scott Perry has remained somewhat of an enigma, but that is about to change.

The ability to truly judge talent will be on full display, and a trade just before the draft remains a possibility.

Will the Kings shore up the backcourt and give Domantas Sabonis some help, or once again try to find the point guard of the future after they inexplicably let DeAaron Fox slip between their fingers.

Will Ja Morant enter the picture by way of a trade is still a possibility, but can the organization look past his transgressions that have put him in the doghouse of the Memphis Grizzlies.

One of the more interesting NBA drafts is about to begin and never let it be said the Sacramento Kings didn't have a chance to enhance their team, because this draft is deep in talent, and one of these hopefuls is about to don a Kings jersey.

Enjoy the finals Kings fans and dream the dream, because that's what New Yorker's are doing right now!

*All the best!* ★

## California's Population is Stagnating as Immigration and Birth Rates Decline



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California's population exploded during and immediately after World War II, from 6.9 million in 1940 to 19.9 million in 1970, thanks to waves of migrants from other states drawn to California's surging economy and the famous postwar baby boom.

California absorbed its 13 million new residents by expanding its public infrastructure of schools, colleges, highways, parks and water systems and by welcoming immense private investment in new housing, new retail complexes, new factories and new office buildings.

Population growth slowed in the 1970s in the aftermath of the baby boom and as an economic evolution, from manufacturing to technology and services, changed the job market. The leading politician of the decade, Gov. Jerry Brown, declared that California had entered "an era of limits" and major infrastructure expansion was no longer needed.

However, the 1980s saw a new population surge, driven by immigration from other countries and a new baby boom. California's population jumped by 6 million — 5-plus million of them babies — during the decade, a more than 25% gain.

The increase was so large, relative to the nation as a whole, that California was awarded seven new

congressional seats after the 1990 census.

Unlike California's expansive reaction to its postwar population increase, the 1980s boomlet sparked an adverse reaction in the 1990s, including new laws aimed at denying public services to undocumented immigrants and a power struggle within the Sierra Club over immigration's impact on the environment.

Meanwhile, population growth slowed again, and in this decade virtually halted as immigration and birth rates declined and substantial numbers of people left California, thanks largely to the state's sky-high living costs.

A recent study by researchers Hans Johnson, Julien LaFortune and Eric McGhee at the Public Policy Institute of California found that the total fertility rate has dropped from 2.21 children per woman in 2007 to 1.48 in 2023, far below what demographers call the "replacement level of 2.1 necessary to keep a population from declining."

The state lost a congressional seat after the 2020 census and is likely to lose several more after the 2030 census. However, the impacts of California's population plateau extend far beyond politics.

"A smaller population can offer benefits; it reduces pressure on housing and infrastructure needs," the researchers wrote, "easing congestion and reducing the need for expansive public works projects." They also cited potential improvements in the environment and increasing per pupil spending on education as enrollment declines.

"At the same time," they added, "fewer births — and a smaller population — may

bring challenges: they could accelerate K-12 enrollment declines and strain the state's economic and safety net systems as fewer workers support a larger share of older Californians. Labor shortages could also hinder California's economic development."

Those are all valid points and many more potential impacts could be mentioned. But the underlying issue is whether political policies will reflect the new demographic reality.

The post-World War II population explosion manifested itself in a bipartisan effort to do what was needed to make the transition relatively painless. We haven't seen such political adjustment to changing demographic trends since.

Meanwhile, the state's population is twice what it was in 1970 and we still depend on what politicians wrought in the post-war era — such things as the State Water Plan and our extensive freeway network.

A stagnant population eases pressure for new infrastructure but we still need to maintain what we have and expand it to meet current needs. However, water projects have languished and we no longer build new highways.

Jerry Brown, who proclaimed the "era of limits" in the 1970s, returned to the governorship in 2011 and declared, "I want to get shit done."

There's still much that should be done.

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

## Social Security Matters

### Why Can't I get a Lump Sum Death Benefit from my Wife?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** My wife passed away in September 2025 at age 64. We had been married for 43 years and started collecting benefits when I turned 62 and she was 63. She did not have enough work credits to claim her own SS and thus collected on my record. SSA told me that I was not entitled to receive the lousy \$255 death benefit because my wife was collecting on my work record. Is this correct? **Signed: Grieving Widower**

**Dear Grieving:** We extend our sincere condolences on your wife's passing. But I must tell you that what the SSA (Social Security Administration) told you is correct.

Although we often see assertions that the so-called "one-time lump sum death benefit" is always paid, there are specific rules for when that admittedly small SS benefit is available. And there are also specific rules regarding who is eligible to receive it.

Essentially, the lump sum death benefit is paid when the deceased person

was collecting Social Security retirement benefits (or at least entitled to SS retirement benefits). And that one-time lump sum death benefit usually goes to the deceased person's surviving spouse (more on that later). But for the death benefit to be paid, the deceased person must have been collecting Social Security retirement benefits (or was at least entitled to SS retirement benefits). In your specific case, because your wife was not eligible for her own SS retirement benefit and was, instead, just collecting a spousal benefit from your SS record, you unfortunately are not able to collect the lump-sum death benefit as your wife's surviving spouse. So, what you were told by Social Security about this special survivor benefit is, indeed, correct.

For information, here is a bit more on who can collect the SS death benefit: the one-time lump sum death benefit is normally paid to the eligible surviving spouse of a deceased person who was collecting Social Security. But if there is no surviving spouse to receive the one-time payment, the death benefit may be paid to someone else who was also a dependent of the deceased. That might be a minor surviving child or a surviving adult disabled child who was collecting dependent benefits from the deceased person's SS record. In rare cases, a dependent parent may be

paid if no other surviving dependents are eligible. FYI, ex-spouses are not eligible for a death benefit from a former spouse.

The lump-sum death benefit must be applied for by contacting Social Security and the benefit must be claimed within two years of the person's death. You will need to verify your identity and confirm your eligibility for this survivor benefit, and you will need to provide other information about the deceased also (including a death certificate). There is an SSA form to apply for the lump sum death benefit (SSA-8), but calling your local SS office (or 1.800.772.1213) to make an appointment to apply for the one-time lump-sum death benefit in person is usually all that is needed.

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## The U.K.'s Dumb Exclusion of Left-wing Influencers

cludes controversial figures from traveling to the country from abroad, and actively tries to suppress speech offensive to gays, Muslims, trans people, Jews or others. You can get arrested, as TV writer Graham Linehan found out, for posting pungent opinions about biological males using female locker rooms, or for silently praying outside an abortion clinic.

If we needed a reminder of the wisdom of our Founders writing the First Amendment into the Constitution, the free-floating illiberalism of the British government trying to enforce faddish norms provides it.

The Home Office, which was responsible for revoking the Uygur and Piker visas, says that their presence in the country might not have been "conducive to the public good" -- whatever that means.

Certainly, it would be very bad for Britain if the country were to adopt wholesale the malignant views of Uygur and Piker, but that wasn't going to come about as a result of, say, one of them having a 40-minute speaking slot at a South by Southwest satellite event.

Traditionally, in free societies, people are allowed to say dumb and hateful things. Either they discredit themselves by doing so, or perhaps they eventually win people over to their views. Regardless, free and robust debate has been considered a good in and of itself, something a country run by a raucous, free-wheeling Parliament should readily understand.

Are the Jews behind the

exclusion of Uygur and Piker? Yet, there were Jewish groups who didn't want them to come, but excluding them was a decision entirely in keeping with the government's practice of trying to suppress views that it deems extreme. Just a couple of weeks ago, right-wing figures critical of Islam and supportive of Israel saw their visas revoked.

The British government isn't a tool of the Zionists. It is a left-of-center Labour government. The Home Secretary is a Muslim of Pakistani origin who has attended anti-Israel protests. The government has said it would jail Bibi Netanyahu if he travels to Britain, sanctioned Israeli officials, restricted arms sales to the Jewish state, and recognized a Palestinian state.

If the revocation of the visas is an Israeli op, it's a profoundly counterproductive one. In authoritarian societies, people can truly be suppressed -- if China wants to get rid of a nettlesome figure, it simply disappears him or her. In an open society, in contrast, there are many channels for expression, and official hostility tends to make the targeted voices more famous and interesting, whether it's James Joyce or the Sex Pistols.

Surely, Cenk Uygur and Hasan Piker are better known in the U.K. now than they were a few days ago, and that's not, as they say in Britain, conducive to the public good.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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# Joint County Family Responds to Assembly Budget Proposal

## California State Association of Counties News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The following statement in response to the Assembly's budget proposal released June 1 can be attributed to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), County Medical Services Program (CMSP), California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (CAPH), County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA):

*The Assembly budget proposal is a significant and meaningful step forward. Along with the Senate's framework, the*

*legislative consensus is now clear: The state cannot ignore H.R. 1's devastating cuts to health care and food support in local communities.*

*The County Family stands ready to work with the Governor and Legislature to ensure the final budget deal protects California's safety net.*

### Background/Context

H.R. 1 shifts significant federal safety net responsibilities and costs to states and counties, increasing pressure on county-administered programs across California.

California counties estimate H.R. 1 will result in up to \$9.5 billion each year in new costs.

Counties are requesting a multi-year state partnership to protect local communities' access to indigent care, public hospitals, workforce eligibility and behavioral health. ★

# Vacaville Museum Guild to Host Bunco Night

## Story and photo by Kathy Keatley Garvey

**VACAVILLE, CA (MPG)** - The Vacaville Museum Guild will host a bunco night, "billed as an evening of fun, food and wine, and a chance to win fabulous prizes," on Thursday, July 2 at the Vacaville Museum, 213 Buck Ave.

The event is set from 5 to 8:30 p.m. A complimentary salad and dessert bar will be provided at 5:30 p.m., with bunco beginning at 6:30. Instructions on how to play the dice game will be given at the onset.

Advance tickets (cash and checks) are \$30,



**A packet awaits a bunco player.** Tickets at the door are \$40. To purchase tickets online, access <https://Vacavillemuseum.org/>

events/. Tickets also will be sold at the museum during operating hours.

All proceeds benefit the Vacaville Museum, which covers the history and culture of all of Solano County. Its mission is to explore history, connect community and cultivate a future inspired by arts and culture, according to executive director Clara Dawson.

For more information, contact (707) 447-4512 or email [info@vacavillemuseum.org](mailto:info@vacavillemuseum.org). Gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 1 to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ★

## LEGAL ADVERTISING

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### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000859**  
The following persons are doing business as: C and C Studio, 241 West A Street Unit A, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Cristina Ramos and Christian Vega Sanchez, 412 La Esperanza Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Date filed in Solano County: May 11, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: General Partnership. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration May 10, 2031. 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: May 29, June 5, 12, 19, 2026  
STUDIO 6-19-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000910**  
The following persons are doing business as: Route 88 Fab Shop, 529 North Adams Unit B, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Adrian Olivares Frausto, 529 North Adams Unit B, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Date filed in Solano County: May 20, 2026. 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 May 19, 2031. 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: May 29, June 5, 12, 19, 2026  
ROUTE 6-19-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000924**  
The following persons are doing business as: Northern Star Landscaping, 266 Sungate Court, Vacaville, CA 95688.  
Jose Brisenno Sosa, 266 Sungate Court, Vacaville, CA 95688.  
Date filed in Solano County: May 21, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 2, 2017

This Business is conducted by: General Partnership. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration April 21, 2031. 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: May 29, June 5, 12, 19, 2026  
FOOD 6-19-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000961**  
The following persons are doing business as: Just Work Training, 2404 Lake Club Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533.  
Mentally Strong LLC, 2404 Lake Club Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533.  
Date filed in Solano County: May 28, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

vided 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 May 20, 2031. 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: May 29, June 5, 12, 19, 2026  
NORTHERN 6-19-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000790**  
The following persons are doing business as: True Reflex It, 3069 Alamo Drive #1049, Vacaville, CA 95687.  
Jordan Bruckopoulos, 3069 Alamo Drive #1049, Vacaville, CA 95687.  
Date filed in Solano County: April 29, 2026. 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 28, 2031. 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: May 29, June 5, 12, 19, 2026  
TRUE 6-19-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000742**  
The following persons are doing business as: Food Tree Field, 4870 McCune Road, Winters, CA 95694.  
Bamini Lee, 4870 McCune Road Winters, CA 95694.  
Date filed in Solano County: April 22, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2022

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 21, 2031. 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: May 29, June 5, 12, 19, 2026  
FOOD 6-19-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000931**  
The following persons are doing business as: Just Work Training, 2404 Lake Club Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000767**  
The following persons are doing business as: Just Work Fitness, 2404 Lake Club Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534.  
Melina Armstead, 2404 Lake Club Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534.  
Date filed in Solano County: April 27, 2026. 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 26, 2031. 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: June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026  
JUST 6-26-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000964**  
The following persons are doing business as: Lone Star Welding, 525 Amesbury Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Nestor Gonzalez, 525 Amesbury Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Date filed in Solano County: May 28, 2026. 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 26, 2031. 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: June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026  
WORK 6-26-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000903**  
The following persons are doing business as: Turboride, 1350 Travis Boulevard, Fairfield, CA 94533.  
Sergio Cardenas-Mata, 11630 Arroyo Avenue, Hesperia, CA 92345.  
Date filed in Solano County: May 18, 2026. 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 May 17, 2031. 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: June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026  
TURBORIDE 6-26-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000982**  
The following persons are doing business as: Agudelevision, 5313 Dynasty Court, Fairfield, CA 94534.  
Abigail Agudelo, 5313 Dynasty Court, Fairfield, CA 94534.  
Date filed in Solano County: June 2, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: June 1, 2024

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 June 1, 2031. 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: June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 2026  
AGUDELEVISION 7-3-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000964**  
The following persons are doing business as: Lone Star Welding, 525 Amesbury Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Nestor Gonzalez, 525 Amesbury Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Date filed in Solano County: May 28, 2026. 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 June 1, 2031. 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: June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 2026  
LONE 7-3-26

**ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-04307**  
Ching-Dao Kong. filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Ching-Dao Kong to Daniel Ching-Dao Kong. 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. July 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room

301, Hall of Justice, 600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533  
Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer  
Dated: May 13, 2026  
Publish: June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026  
KONG 6-26-26

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-04031**

Isaias Villegas Gudino filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Isaias Villegas Gudino to Isaias Preciado 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. July 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m. Department 7, Room 2, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533  
Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer  
Dated: May 6, 2026  
Publish: June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 2026  
GUDINO 7-3-26

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DWIGHT L. JACKSON CASE NO. PR26-00302**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Dwight L. Jackson. A Petition for Probate has been filed by Marlene Jackson, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting Marlene Jackson be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: June 24, 2026, 9:30 a.m. in Dept 22; Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 600 Union Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.

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

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

**YOU MAY EXAMINE** the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Jerilyn Paik, ESQ, Law Offices of Jerilyn Paik, 555 University Avenue, Suite 235, Sacramento, CA 95825; 916-568-1222  
Publish: May 29, June 5, 12, 2026  
JACKSON 6-12-26

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF HANS JOACHIM ROEPER CASE NO. PR26-00340**

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

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Joanne Marie Roeper-Klein, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting Joanne Marie Roeper-Klein be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: July 16, 2026, 9:30 a.m. in Dept 22; Old Solano Courthouse, 580 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.

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

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

**YOU MAY EXAMINE** the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Joanne Marie Roeper-Klein, 2128 Byron Road, Sacramento, CA 94533; 916-799-4347  
Publish: June 12, 19, 26, 2026  
ROEPER 6-26-26

### LIEN SALE AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will conduct a Lien Sale Auction on JUNE 29TH, 2026, at 1:00 AM. This is authorized by Division 8, Chapter 10 of the California Business and Professions Code. CASH ONLY. All items must be removed from the property immediately after sale.

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UNIT A064 - FALLON THOMAS - holiday decor, plastic bins with shoes, flat screen tv, floor fan, hats, side table, suitcase, bedding, clothes, misc. boxes and bins.



# Dixon Community Theater Announces New Season



Following the conclusion of its spring production of "Cinderella" May 3, Dixon Community Theater (DCT) is preparing a new season of youth productions, educational classes and holiday programming. Photo courtesy of Dixon Community Theater

By Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Following the conclusion of its spring production of "Cinderella" May 3, Dixon Community Theater (DCT) is preparing a new season of youth productions, educational classes and holiday programming.

The organization recently announced auditions for its fall youth production, "The Addams Family: a Young@Part Musical," a 60-minute adaptation of the Broadway musical designed specifically for young performers.

Auditions for actors aged 8 to 18 years old will take place at Dixon High School, 555 College Way, Room D302. Scheduled audition dates are from 5 to 6:30 p.m. July 12, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 13 and 14, and 5 to 6:30 p.m. July 19. Callbacks, if needed, will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 20 and 21.

Rehearsals are scheduled to begin during the first week of August. Performances are planned for Oct. 9-11 and Oct. 16-18. The production is funded in part through a grant from the Dixon Women's Improvement Club and will be directed by DCT Vice President Kelly Pidgeon James.

The musical follows Wednesday Addams as she falls in love with a boy from an ordinary family, setting off a series of secrets, surprises and comedic complications for the Addams family.

In addition to theater productions, DCT is offering two summer educational programs for young performers.

"Find Your Voice with Angi Wolf" will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursdays on June 11, 18 and 25 as well as July 2. The four-week vocal course is open to participants aged 8 to 17 years old and will focus on breath support, projection, pitch accuracy, diction and healthy singing habits. The cost is \$35 for the full session, and registration is required.

DCT also launched "Crafting Your Character," a four-week theater class led by DCT President Cheryl Sommers. The course began June 9 and continues June 16, 23 and 30 from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. at Dixon High School. The class is open to students aged 7 to 17 years old and includes acting games, movement, voice work, improvisation and creative storytelling. The fee is \$35 per student.

Looking ahead, DCT has announced its holiday production, "Bah Humbug! Scrooge's Christmas Carol," directed by Stevie Carr. Rehearsals will begin during the last week of September, with casting open to performers aged 8 and older.

The musical adaptation of Charles Dickens's classic tale is scheduled to premiere Dec. 4-6 at the Dixon Performing Arts Center, 555 College Way.

For more information, visit [dixoncommunitytheater.org](http://dixoncommunitytheater.org) or email [info@dixoncommunitytheater.org](mailto:info@dixoncommunitytheater.org). ★

# Women's Improvement Club Hosts Scholarship and Grants Luncheon

**Dixon Women's Improvement Club News Release**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - May 20, Dixon Women's Improvement Club (DWIC) celebrated its final event of the 2025-26 season, a luncheon with dispersal of scholarships and community grants. At the event, they celebrated the hard work of seven students from Dixon and Maine Prairie High Schools with scholarships so that they could continue their educational pursuits.

\$1K Jamison Abrenica - University of California - Davis - Attending Davis passionate about biology and athletics and expressed gratitude in the Club's investment.

\$1K Macee Boykin - University of California - Davis - Plans to become an Agriculture attorney based on her own life experience.

\$1K Ava Brady - University of Tennessee - Knoxville - Plans to major in agricultural science and hopes to be a livestock vet from her own experience in our rural town and with FFA.

\$1K Valeria Gamino - Cal Poly SLO - Plans to major in business; her love for math helped her to find this path.

\$1K Bailey Giusto - California State University - San Diego - Plans to major in Early Child Development to teach second or third grade.

\$1K Isabella Rodriguez - University of California - Los Angeles - Plans to major in Biology to become a Physician's Assistant to help others struggling with autoimmune diseases.

\$1K Abigail Seibert - University of California - Merced - Plans to major in psychology and be the first generation in her family to attend college.

At the same meeting, the club distributed 17 community grants to programs doing exceptional community service work.

\$1K Julie Monson - Anderson Elementary School - Funds to continue work on the Maker's Space, helping children learn to share tools, new skills, and build projects.

\$1K Lindsay Snyder - Anderson Elementary School - Funds for bus costs to gain hands-on experience.

\$1K Corrine Boicelli - Cornerstone Baptist Church Food Pantry Director - Funds for the program where 23 volunteers work at this five-day-a-week, diaper program and grocery recovery program, also 95,000 lbs. of food and senior food program and the USDA food pantry, 6,434 families or 17,370 individuals fed in 2025 through their programs.

\$850 Kelly Pidgeon James - Dixon Community Theater - Funds for Fall 2026 production costs and outreach expansion.

\$1K Principal Angela Brown - Dixon High School Ram's Vault - Items for continued use and expansion of the

vault with access available to students, staff and the community.

\$1K Caroline Karuti - Dixon High School - Food science program where the kids learn to make food from all around the world and funds will go to equipment such as mixers for baking.

\$1K Stephanie Kelso - Dixon High School - Funds will be used for the science program lab supplies, the program starts with investigation, then hands-on, then vocabulary and key terms, problem solving with coordination and manipulations.

\$1K Diane Schroeder for Frank McKinney - Dixon Historical Society-History outreach suitcase program.

\$1K Monica Fisher - Dixon Montessori Charter School - Library books and digital access with a goal of changing the framework of a library not just book storage but a reading hub of learning what we love.

\$700 Principal Angelina Arias - Maine Prairie High School - Accepted by Jewel Fink, funds for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program prizes.

\$500 Principal Angelina Arias for Andrea Ferguson - Maine Prairie High School - Accepted by Jewel Fink, funds for scientific calculators.

\$200 Principal Angelina Arias for Lizeth Martinez - Maine Prairie High School - Accepted by Jewel Fink, implementing a social-emotional learning curriculum.

\$1K Denise Diaz - Maine Prairie High School - Accepted by Jewel Fink, for transportation costs for a salmon research project, where students gain hands-on experience in environmental science and conservation.

\$1K Erica Morse - TEAM Dixon - Started 14 years ago, inspired by her own experience that offers a safe and inclusive environment FOR children with special needs and neurodiversity and partner with a buddy, an upcoming theatrical performance is being finalized.

\$1K Principal Treva Foster - Tremont Elementary School - Transportation costs for second graders to get to the Mondavi center next year to see the drumming program and be on the UC Davis campus.

\$1K Devin Pitto - Tremont Elementary School - Transportation costs for the fourth-grade trip to Sutters Fort and Ms. Devin was selected as Teacher of the Year.

\$1K Chris Simpson - Valley of the Sacred Heart Academy - Accepted by Rebecca Robinson for art show and Music Man play.

DWIC is looking forward to another year of community service for 2026-27 with its first meeting scheduled for noon Sept. 16 at the Dixon United Methodist Church Social Hall, 209 N. Jefferson St. ★

# LOCAL NEWS

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