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Dixon

Independent Voice

The Official Newspaper of Record for the City of Dixon

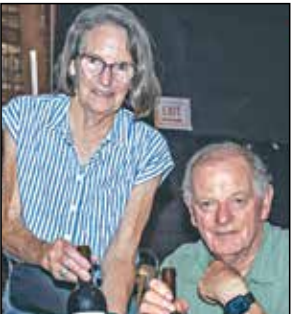
VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 30

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JULY 24, 2026

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HOW DO
BUTTERFLIES
TASTE WITH
THEIR FEET?



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Independence From Hunger Campaign Underway



Grocery Outlet's annual Independence From Hunger campaign is underway in Dixon, allowing residents to support local food assistance programs through July 31. Store owners Joe and Christa Bruch said every dollar raised remains in the community, benefiting Dixon Family Services and the Ram's Vault at Dixon High School. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Grocery Outlet's annual Independence From Hunger campaign is underway in Dixon, allowing residents to support local food assistance programs through donations made at the checkout counter through July 31.

Customers shopping at Dixon Grocery Outlet can purchase pre-packed \$10 donation bags filled with food or make a monetary contribution at checkout. Store owners Joe and Christa Bruch said every dollar raised remains in the community,



In addition to supporting local food programs, customers who make a qualifying donation also receive an incentive for a future shopping trip. If they give a \$5 donation, they will receive a \$5 off coupon. Photo by Nicolas Brown

benefiting Dixon Family Services and the Ram's Vault at Dixon High School.

The campaign, held

annually at Grocery Outlet stores nationwide, is designed to address food insecurity during the summer months, when many

children no longer have access to free or reduced-price school meals.

"It's important because during the summer months, a lot of people, especially kids, go without having lunch, so this is a campaign to ensure food security for the community," said Joe Bruch.

He said the Dixon store has participated in the campaign since opening six years ago.

"We've been doing it since our inception, so we've been doing it for six years," said Bruch.

This year's campaign supports two organizations

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West Nile Virus Activity Detected in Solano County



The community is encouraged to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and eliminate standing water to reduce mosquito breeding. Photo designed by Magnific

Solano County
News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Public Health Division and the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) have confirmed that a deceased bird has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). The specimen sample was collected July 14 in Vallejo. There are currently no confirmed human cases of WNV in Solano County. As of July 10, the California Department of Public Health reports that there have been two human cases statewide this year.

"We are seeing the first evidence of West Nile virus activity in our area this year," said Dr. Cameron Kaiser, acting health officer for the Solano County Health and Social Services, Public Health Division. "The detection of West Nile virus in mosquitoes is an important reminder that everyone should take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and eliminate standing water to reduce mosquito breeding."

West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. People may reduce the risk of contracting mosquito-borne illness by following guidelines. Mosquitoes are most active in the early morning and evening. Residents should avoid being outside at these times. If you are outdoors, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants and use insect repellent.

Drain standing water; mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Residents should eliminate all sources of standing water on their property and drain empty flowerpots, buckets, barrels, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls. If you have an ornamental pond, contact SCMAD at 707-437-1116 for free mosquito fish.

Insect repellents help keep mosquitoes from

Continued on page 5

Popsicles in the Park Encourages Community Dialogue

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Grown's Popsicles in the Park series is allowing residents to meet with City Council members and staff in neighborhood parks while discussing topics ranging from growth and development to parks and public services.

The final event in the series is scheduled for 6 p.m. July 29 at Veterans Park, 1300 Valley Glen Drive. Councilmember Don Hendershot will attend, and complimentary popsicles will be available for participants.

The series was developed in response to community feedback requesting additional opportunities for residents to engage with city leaders outside of formal public meetings.



Dixon Grown's Popsicles in the Park series is allowing residents to meet with City Council members and staff in neighborhood parks while discussing topics ranging from growth and development to parks and public services. Photo by Nicolas Brown

"Dixon created the Popsicles in the Park series in response to community feedback and as a way to continue fostering

transparency and open communication with Dixon residents," said Public Information Officer Emma McNeil.

McNeil said the idea grew out of the city's Dixon Grown workshop series, where residents

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Dixon News Briefs

McNeil said residents also have a formal opportunity to provide input through the city's current Notice of Preparation

For more information, visit dixongrown.com/Popsicles-in-the-Park/ or email news@cityofdixonca.gov. ★

Downtown Dixon Business Association will present its fourth annual Art and Wine Stroll Aug. 22. The event is expected to feature local wineries, food trucks, live music, art displays and shopping throughout downtown. Photo by Nicolas Brown

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a networking event from noon to 1:30 p.m. Aug. 20. This free in-person event, held at Farmstead at Dixon, 350 Gateway Drive, allows local professionals to connect. Offering a diverse range of potential connections, attendees

For more information, visit joystickdixon.com or call 707-676-5697. ★

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Independence From Hunger Campaign Underway



This year's campaign supports two organizations that provide food assistance to residents. Dixon Family Services serves families throughout the community, while the Ram's Vault helps Dixon High School students experiencing food insecurity. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Continued from page 1

that provide food assistance to residents. Dixon Family Services serves families throughout the community, while the Ram's Vault helps Dixon High School students experiencing food insecurity.

"This year, we're supporting the Ram's Vault and Dixon Family Services," said Bruch. "Every dollar we raise stays in the community. Both those organizations are critical for Dixon."

Bruch also credited Dixon High School Principal Angela Brown with establishing the Ram's Vault.

"Principal Brown bringing the Ram's Vault to Dixon is innovative and has gotten a lot of great feedback," he said.

According to the Bruchs, their decision to prioritize the fundraiser stems from seeing the work both organizations perform throughout the year.

"Seeing what Dixon Family Services and the Ram's Vault does in the community, that's what inspired us to help support them," said Bruch.

Since the campaign began in late June, the store has raised about \$1,200 toward its \$3,000 goal.

"We're at \$1,200. Our goal is \$3,000," said Bruch.

In addition to supporting local food programs, customers who make a qualifying donation also receive an incentive for a future shopping trip.

"The benefit for the customer is that if they give a \$5 donation, they get a \$5 coupon for a future visit," Bruch said.

While shoppers may donate food

through the pre-packed bags, the Bruchs said monetary donations are especially valuable because they give recipient organizations flexibility to purchase items as needs arise.

"Just more cash donations," said Bruch when asked what is needed most. "I think that directly helps both organizations and they can spend that as they need."

Store employees also play a key role in the campaign by encouraging customers to participate at the registers.

"They're our main source of donation at the check stands," said Bruch. "Our cashiers are doing a great job."

The Bruchs said community support has remained strong throughout this year's campaign. One shopper recently purchased 10 donation bags without being asked.

"We had one customer come in and buy 10 food bags without being solicited," said Bruch. "Dixon's always been good at supporting Dixon and giving back."

Christa Bruch said the campaign offers residents an opportunity to directly support neighbors in need.

"It's a win-win," she said. "One hundred percent of the donations go back to the community. As local as you can get."

She added that the store is also seeking community sponsors interested in helping the campaign reach its fundraising goal before it concludes July 31.

For more information, visit groceryoutlet.com/donate or call 707-676-5556. ★

Educational Activities in August



August begins with the Dixon Unified School District's fourth annual Back to School Festival from 9 to 11 a.m. Aug. 1 at Pardi Plaza, 132 E. A St. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Community organizations and the Dixon Library will offer a variety of educational programs, family activities and fundraising events throughout August, giving residents opportunities to prepare for the school year, learn new skills and support local causes.

The month begins with the Dixon Unified School District's fourth annual Back to School Festival from 9 to 11 a.m. Aug. 1 at Pardi Plaza, 132 E. A St. The free event will feature backpacks while supplies last, school supplies, arts and crafts, music, community resources and educational information. The festival is presented in partnership with Dixon Library and Solano County Library.

More information is available on the Dixon Unified School District Facebook page or by calling 707-693-6300.

Dixon Family Services will host its annual Comedy Night fundraiser beginning at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 8 at the Olde Vets Hall, 231 N. First St. The evening includes dinner, raffle prizes, desserts and live entertainment. Comedian Jeff Applebaum will serve as master of ceremonies after being invited by returning performer David Studebaker.

Information about tickets and the event is available at givebutter.com/DFSCComedyNight2026 or by emailing info@dixonfamilyservices.org.

The Dixon Lions Club will hold its 19th annual Texas Hold 'Em Poker Fundraiser on Aug. 29 at the Olde Vets Hall. Cocktails begin at 5 p.m., followed by tournament play at 7 p.m. The fundraiser is open to adults 21 and older.

Professional dealers will oversee tournament play, and prizes will be awarded to table winners. Proceeds will benefit youth sports and activities, local school programs, Dixon High School scholarships and the Lions Club Vision Program.

Additional information is available on

the Dixon Lions Club Facebook page or by calling 707-301-8483.

Dixon Library, 230 N. First St., will also host several free educational programs during the month as part of its UC Master Gardener series.

Rich Marovich will present "Monarch Butterfly Logistics" from 10 to 11 a.m. Aug. 15. The presentation will focus on propagating milkweed host plants and nectar plants while explaining how shared greenhouse spaces can help distribute plants to gardeners and community members interested in supporting monarch butterfly habitats.

Aug. 22, Janet Arias will present "Composting with Worms" from 10 to 11 a.m. Participants will learn how to set up and maintain a worm bin, recycle food scraps into nutrient-rich worm castings and use the compost to improve garden soil.

The series concludes Aug. 29 with "Permaculture," presented by Spring Tseng from 10 to 11 a.m. The class will introduce sustainable gardening practices, including techniques for building healthy soil, conserving water and creating habitats that support beneficial wildlife.

In addition to the gardening classes, the library will host Story Walks every Monday in August in its community garden. Visitors can stroll through the garden while reading "The Plant Rescuer" by Matthew Rivera, a children's story about a young boy learning to care for his first plant with guidance from his father and library books.

The community garden is open during library operating hours Monday through Saturday. Visitors should ask library staff to unlock the garden gate. Depending on the growing season, fruits and vegetables may be available for harvesting from designated community garden beds, with library staff identifying which beds are open for public picking.

For more information, visit solanolibrary.com or call 1-866-572-7587. ★

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



City Editor Wanted for Dixon Independent Voice

We are seeking a part-time City Editor for this local newspaper.

Previous reporting or editing experience is necessary. Position includes covering or reporting on four or five stories per week. Must be able to take quality photographs for publication. Hours are flexible, with most work performed in our local office. This is not a remote or work from home position. Position includes other light office duty and attending public events.

Hours expected are 5 hours daily from Monday through Friday. Covering events on some Saturdays would mean adjusting the weekday work schedule.

Dixon Independent Voice is a member of Messenger Publishing Group. Check out the company at www.mpg8.com. This employment position is open now.

To apply, send your resume and cover letter to Publisher@mpg8.com.



The festival is presented in partnership with Dixon Library and Solano County Library. Dixon Library, 230 N. First St., will also host several free educational programs during the month as part of its UC Master Gardener series. Photo by Nicolas Brown

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Dixon Rams Vault and Dixon Family Services

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Sarah Puddicombe Elevated to Head Rowing Coach

Sacramento State Athletics Sports News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State Director of Athletics Mark Orr announced July 13 that Sarah Puddicombe has been elevated to head coach of the Hornets’ rowing program. She becomes the fifth head coach in the team’s history (1995-pres.).

Puddicombe assumes leadership of the program after longtime head coach Mike Connors announced his retirement in June.

A two-time first team All-American, and NCAA national champion as both a coach and student-athlete, Puddicombe has spent the past three seasons (2024-26) as assistant coach with the Hornets and also had an earlier stint as a Sacramento State assistant from 2005-07.

Puddicombe brings continuity, experience and a deep understanding of the Hornets’ culture. During her tenure at Sacramento State, she has her fingerprints all over the program, which includes coaching the novice squad, recruiting, running practices, developing race strategies and lineups, academics, travel, administrative duties and much more.

“We are thrilled to name Sarah Puddicombe as the next head coach of our rowing program,” Orr said. “She is an outstanding leader with deep ties to Sacramento State, a championship pedigree and a genuine passion for developing student-athletes. She understands the tradition that has been built here, has earned the respect of our team and the rowing community and is the right person to lead our program into its next chapter. We are excited to see her continue the program's tradition of excellence both on the water and in the classroom.”

A local product from Orangevale, CA, Puddicombe has 23 years of coaching experience. Prior to her second stint with the Hornets, she spent seven years as the head coach of Capital Crew - the Sacramento State Aquatic Center’s youth rowing program for high school students (2016-23). In addition, she had collegiate coaching stops at Cal (2008-16), UC Davis (2007-08)



Puddicombe assumes leadership of the program after longtime head coach Mike Connors announced his retirement last month. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

and Sacramento State (2005-07).

“First and foremost, I want to congratulate Mike Connors on a wonderful career and his continued dedication to this team over the past the 24 years at Sacramento State,” Puddicombe said. “Coaching has never been just a job for me - it has been my life’s passion. The opportunity to become a head coach represents the chance to bring together everything I have learned over two decades of developing student-athletes and building successful teams.”

“I am excited to build off a program defined by excellence, integrity and unity, where student-athletes are inspired to exceed expectations and leave a legacy that extends far beyond the finish line. Thank you to Mark Orr and the hiring committee for trusting me to lead this program that will compete for championships while fostering a lifelong love of the sport and the University.”

Puddicombe competed four years at UC Davis (1999-02) where she was a two-time All-American coxswain, three-time team captain and helped the Aggies to a 2002 NCAA Div. II national championship.

She would later add another national championship at Cal, where she helped coach the Bears to a 2016 title. During her time at Cal, the team also had eight consecutive top three finishes at the NCAA Championships and seven Pac-12 Conference team titles. That included a run of five straight Pac-12 titles from 2009-13.

Puddicombe was promoted to associate head coach at Cal in 2012, and was responsible for signing 67 student-athletes to National Letters of Intent from 2008-14. She coached four individual boats to top four finishes at the NCAA Championships (including a gold in 2014 and 2016) and five individual boat Pac-12 titles.

During her seven-year stint at Capital Crew, a total of 72 of her 105 seniors were recruited to row in college. In addition, she qualified boats to the US Rowing Youth National Championships every full season of her tenure, which included winning a national championship in the Junior 4+ in 2017 and the Junior pair in 2022.

Other coaching stops included serving as a volunteer coach at the Under-23 National Team Camp in 2008 and 2010. She also worked as a Jr. Pre-Elite Rowing Coach from 2004-06, and made her coaching debut with Capital Crew from 2004-05.

Puddicombe graduated in 2002 from UC Davis with a degree in wildlife, fish and conservation biology. She would later add a master’s degree in 2009 from the University of Phoenix. ★

Rex Connors Earns Third Straight Buck Buchanan Award Preseason Watch List

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Senior defensive back Rex Connors has been named to the 2026 Buck Buchanan Award Preseason Watch List, Stats Perform announced on the morning of July 14. The Buck Buchanan Award recognizes the top defensive player in NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) football, with this year's preseason watch list highlighting many of the nation's top defensive standouts entering the 2026 season.

Connors earns preseason recognition for the third consecutive year after establishing himself as one of the premier defensive backs in the FCS.

A team captain in 2025, Connors appeared in four games before suffering a season-ending injury but still delivered standout performances. He recorded a season-high 15 tackles against Utah Tech, earning both Stats Perform FCS National Honorable Mention Defensive Player of the Week and Big Sky Defensive Player of the Week honors following the victory.

Connors also reached one of the most significant milestones in program history during the 2025 season, becoming UC Davis’ all-time leading tackler with the



Connors earns preseason recognition for the third consecutive year after establishing himself as one of the premier defensive backs in the FCS. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

313th tackle of his career against Washington.

Entering his final collegiate season, Connors returns as the leader of an experienced Aggie defense and once again stands among the top candidates for one of the FCS’s highest individual honors.

UC Davis opens the 2026 season on Aug. 29 at Portland State.

Single game tickets are on sale now. Secure your seats for any of UC Davis’ six home games today. Mini Plans offer a great way to save by bundling multiple games. Choose from two different options

and select the games that fit your schedule.

Both Mini Plan options include the Montana game and allow fans to add one or two additional home games at a discounted rate compared to purchasing single-game tickets. All Mini Plan seats are

located in Sections 119 or 125 on the west side of UC Davis Health Stadium.

Season tickets start at just \$100 for new alumni (2017–26 UC Davis graduates) and \$140 for the general public. Season ticket holders also receive a variety of exclusive benefits, including priority access to postseason tickets, select away games and parking.

Additional benefits include a dedicated Aggie Ticket Representative, flexible payment plan options and invitations to exclusive season ticket holder events. Purchase your season tickets today. For more information, email the Aggie Ticket Office at aggietickets@ucdavis.edu or call 530-752-2471.

Group ticket discounts begin with just 10 tickets and provide the perfect opportunity for company outings, family gatherings, birthday celebrations and more.

Create a memorable birthday experience with a player high-five tunnel or reserve a turnkey tailgate space for your group before kickoff. Call the Aggie Ticket Office at 530-752-2471 to customize an unforgettable game-day experience.

For more information about purchasing tailgating or parking for the 2026 season, contact Jordan Kurtz at 530-304-1433 or jkurtz@ucdavis.edu. ★

Applications Open for Republic FC and Wilton Rancheria Indigenous Future Leaders Scholarship

Republic FC Sports News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On July 13, Republic FC announced its second-annual Indigenous Future Leaders Scholarship, in partnership with Wilton Rancheria, for a local student. Applications are now open and must be submitted by July 31 at 11:59 p.m. Students can find more information and apply at SacRepublicFC.com/Scholarship.

Republic FC Rising Scholars powered by the PG&E Corporation Foundation offers multiple scholarships throughout the year to support students from underrepresented communities as they continue their academic journeys.

“We believe that every student deserves the opportunity to pursue their dreams while staying connected to the communities that shape who they are,” said Republic FC Vice President of Business Operations and Community Investment Scott Moak. “We’re proud to continue to recognize and invest in Native American students whose



Applications are now open and must be submitted by July 31 at 11:59 p.m. Photo courtesy of Republic FC

leadership will help strengthen our region for generations to come.”

Applicants are required to be residents of the six-county Sacramento region and of Native American heritage. In addition, they must be a high school senior who will pursue higher level education at a

four-year college/university or California community college or are currently enrolled at a California community college or university with a minimum of six units. A committee of Republic FC representatives and Native American leaders, including last year’s scholarship recipient,

will review applications and select a winner.

“Wilton Rancheria is proud to invest in our youth and create opportunities for future generations to thrive. This scholarship reflects our commitment to continuing that legacy,” said Wilton Rancheria Chairman Jesus Tarango. “Together with Republic FC, we are investing in the next generation of students who will carry their communities forward with pride and use their education to make a lasting impact.”

The winner will be recognized on Aug. 15 at Heart Health Park during Republic FC’s Native American Heritage Night and will receive the \$2,000 prize as well as a VIP experience and presentation of the scholarship during halftime.

The match will also feature an exclusive scarf giveaway at entry, a Makers Market with works from Native American artists, special food options, on-field recognitions and more. Kickoff is slated for 8 p.m. and tickets are available now at SacRepublicFC.com. ★

West Nile Virus Activity Detected in Solano County

Continued from page 1
biting. Apply an EPA-registered insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR3535 or para-methane-diol products per the manufacturer's instructions.

Residents should ensure that their doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.

Most people (about four in five) infected with the West Nile virus will not develop any symptoms. About one in five will develop mild flu-like symptoms, including fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting and swollen lymph glands. However, about one percent (about one in 150) of persons with WNV infections will develop severe neurological disease. In rare cases, WNV infection can be fatal.

Anyone can be infected with WNV, but people who are 60 years old and older and those with certain medical conditions, like cancer, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease and people who have received organ

transplants, are at greater risk of developing severe illness and complications.

The SCMAD staff is conducting surveillance activities in the affected area to apply appropriate control measures.

“The Solano County Mosquito Abatement District will increase surveillance efforts in the affected area, which includes inspecting and treating mosquito breeding sources and sampling mosquitoes to monitor activity and assess potential disease transmission risks,” said Bret Barner, the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District biologist. “Community involvement remains vital. Residents should drain any sources of standing water around their homes, and we urge anyone who notices increased mosquito activity or neglected swimming pools to contact us at 707-437-1116 or visit SolanoMosquito.com for more information and resources.”

Residents are encouraged to report dead birds online at WestNile.Ca.Gov or by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD 1-877-968-2473. ★



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Riley Reviews

“SHARK WEEK” FILLS THE INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR PREDATOR STORIES

A Film and TV Review
by Tim Riley

“SHARK WEEK” on Discovery Channel
The ocean’s most formidable apex predators are back and bigger, bolder and more thrilling than ever as Discovery Channel’s “Shark Week” launches on Sunday, July 26th.

Edging closer to four decades of annual week-long programming, Discovery promises, and usually delivers, pulse-pounding action, featuring pioneering technology, unbelievable stunts, with special dives into the mysterious worlds of sharks.

Kicking off the action, actor/comedian Ken Jeong (“The Hangover” trilogy) joins with shark lover and singer Rei Ami on a mission to reshape the perception of sharks across East Asia and around the globe, fueled by the power of K-pop, in “K-Pop Shark Heroes.”

“Air Jaws: Red, White and Breach” investigates a new phenomenon emerging as great white sharks are captured on film breaching the California coastline like never before.

Shark researcher Dr. Neil Hammerschlag, joined by Shark Week expert Paul de Gelder, leads a team on a high-risk mission to track down “Big Rose,” a record-breaking great white believed to be one of the largest predators in the North Atlantic in “Invasion of the Mega Sharks.”

“Bull Shark Dinner Bell” finds shark attack survivor and advocate Paul de Gelder teaming up with apex predator specialist Rosie Moore in Florida to investigate what triggers giant bull sharks to confront humans.

Off the coast of New Zealand lies a hidden shark battleground, where three distinct groups of great whites organize into competing “houses” and may be contesting with one another to gain control of a major seal feeding ground.

“House of Sharks” brings marine biologist Dr. Tristan Guttridge and underwater cinematographer Kina Scollay to venture into the middle of the action on an epic expedition to document the competitive behavior of these sharks.

For decades, rumors have swirled about massive, 15 to 20-foot mako sharks patrolling the deep waters off Southern California. “Biggest Mako on Earth” explores new footage of a mako pushing 15 feet in length, forcing scientists to rethink what they know about these predators.

In “Jurassic Sharks,” revolutionary CGI resurrects the ocean’s most bizarre Jurassic sharks, bringing them to life like never before. Guided by the rare living sharks that once shared the seas, real-world expeditions uncover stories from the prehistoric seas in ways never before possible.

The killer whale emerges as the new challenger to the great white shark’s reign as the ultimate apex predator. “Jaws vs Orca” explores sharks washing ashore with their livers removed, while in the Strait of Gibraltar orcas are targeting sailboats and sinking vessels. ★

To investigate this alarming shift in behavior, Dr. Tristan Guttridge places himself directly in the path of an orca encounter, using their attacks on boats to reveal how these predators hunt and may be taking down great white sharks.

In the “Chum Island: Catching a Killer” whodunnit, marine biologist Dr. Riley Elliott investigates a rare surge of highly aggressive shark attacks hitting a tight-knit community off Australia’s southern coast by finding and tagging the oceanic suspects.

Upon discovering what could be a new, elusive population of sharks, Dr. Elliott builds the world’s first “chum island” to lure them in and uncover if they are the ones responsible for the attacks.

In celebration of America’s 250th anniversary, wildlife biologist Forrest Galante embarks on a nationwide quest in “Alien Sharks: Untamed America” to find the nation’s most bizarre and dangerous alien sharks – from glowing swell sharks to elusive sawfish.

The premise of “What Shark Attacked?” is that shark attacks are extremely rare, but when they happen, the first question is always the same: what kind of shark was it? Leading shark scientists Tom “Blowfish” Hird and Rosie Moore investigate mysterious attacks.

These scientists use forensic analysis, including bite pattern comparison, geographic profiling, video evidence, and eyewitness testimony to identify the species responsible and uncover why these life-threatening encounters occur.

In “How to Train a Great White,” Dr. Tristan Guttridge (who’s busy with many of these specials) ventures into the shark-infested waters of New Zealand to answer a provocative question: can sharks be trained?

Using techniques pioneered by the U.S. Navy to train dolphins in complex cognitive tasks, the team applies similar methods to great white sharks, testing whether these apex predators can learn, solve problems, and respond to cues.

If successful, the experiment can potentially redefine shark intelligence and transform our understanding of one of the ocean’s most misunderstood predators. It would be nice if we could train them to be like dolphins.

“Sharkzilla Takes New York” sounds like science-fiction. After a wave of mauled marine life washes ashore in New York, conservation biologist Dr. Craig O’Connell launched an investigation to find the culprit.

When it leads to an old nuclear dumping ground teeming with great whites and makos, O’Connell is left with the chilling theory that these predators may be radioactive.

A deeper dive reveals an unexpected hotspot for massive makos off the coast of the Hamptons, suggesting that these waters may be hiding something even bigger beneath the surface.

There is plenty more programming for “Shark Week” to satisfy an insatiable appetite for cold-blooded vertebrate stories. ★



BY JOSH F.W. COOK

★ CALIFORNIA ★ POLICY AND ETHICS

Making the Gut Punch of Inflation Personalized Just for You

By Josh Cook

Californians have suffered through a troubling period of rising consumer costs, commonly referred to as inflation. Over the past three years—June 2023 to June 2026—consumer prices have risen about 9.5% cumulatively.

If you are eager to blame bad government monetary policies, you might want to check in on the latest exploits of AI and big Tech companies. The pricing technology and market power of large retailers increasingly out-match shoppers. Two recent developments show how these tools can drive up the cost of everyday goods.

Maryland is set to become the first state to ban dynamic pricing in grocery stores. The Protection from Predatory Pricing Act, championed by Governor Wes Moore, targets the practice of adjusting prices in real time based on demand, time of day, or personal data gathered through loyalty apps and electronic shelf labels. Once signed, the law will require prices to stay fixed for at least one business day.

Questions remain, however, about loopholes and enforcement.

In California, the Attorney General’s office has released unredacted evidence in the

state’s 2022 antitrust suit against Amazon. California alleges the company illegally fixed prices by pressuring vendors and major competitors—including Target, Walmart, Chewy, Best Buy, and Home Depot—to raise prices or pull discounted products from rival platforms, protecting Amazon’s margins at consumers’ expense.

The report called the conduct “strong-arm tactics” that stifle fair pricing amid broader affordability struggles. A preliminary injunction hearing is set for July, with trial scheduled for January 2027.

Together, these cases point to a troubling pattern: new technology and market dominance allow retailers to manipulate prices quietly, and consumers foot the bill. Two people look at the same thing but get two different prices.

Assemblymember Chris Ward (D-San Diego) introduced AB 2564 on February 20, 2026, targeting “surveillance pricing” — the use of consumers’ personal data (age, gender, location, browsing history, etc.) to charge individualized prices. Ward’s efforts and Maryland’s ban and California’s lawsuit are real progress. Still, they underscore how much sustained consumer protection oversight it will take to keep “new” innovations working for the public rather than against it. ★

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nextdoor.com/page/dixon-independent-voice

Ask DR. UNIVERSE

How do butterflies taste with their feet?

- Kalani, 12, Texas

Dear Kalani,

As a cat, I don’t have many sweat glands. That can be a bummer. Especially when I’m chasing butterflies with my human friends. Sometimes butterflies land on my less-furry pals. They’re tasting the salt on their sweaty skin—with their teeny butterfly feet.

I asked my friend Rich Zack about that. He’s an insect scientist at Washington State University.

He told me that butterflies use their feet to sample what they land on.

“If they’re walking across a leaf, that leaf is giving off all kinds of signals,” Zack said. “So, instead of having to feed on that leaf to evaluate it, the structures on their feet allow them to walk over the leaf and do preliminary tasting. That’s a first evaluation.”

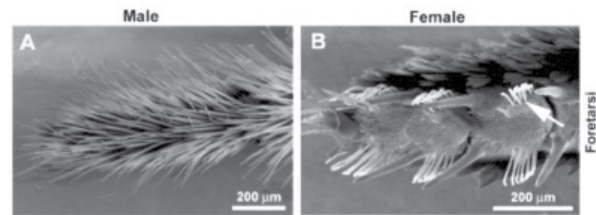
Tastes are chemical signals. They’re picked up by gustatory (taste) receptors in some of the butterfly’s cells.

Let’s say a butterfly is looking for a sweet meal. As it walks around, it taps the plant with its feet. If the plant contains the right sugar, its taste receptors will grab little bits. When the sugar binds the receptor, the receptor changes shape. That opens a channel in the receptor.

Ions—positive and negative particles like sodium—flow through the open channel. That flow makes an electrical signal. It zooms down the butterfly’s nerves with a clear message:



Sometimes butterflies puddle in mud. They’re tasting salt and nutrients in the mud. That’s what these Eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies are doing. Some butterflies puddle on specialized things—like mammal sweat and tears or even carrion. ©Grayson Smith/USFWS



These are the feet of male (left) and female (right) postman butterflies. You can see the female butterfly has extra taste sensors (arrow) and spikes. When male and female individuals have a big physical difference like this, it’s called sexual dimorphism ©Grayson Smith/USFWS

“Yummy. Eat this.”

Some taste receptors are universal. All insects have them. They could be on an insect’s mouthparts, antennae, wings, egg-laying organs or feet. Other taste receptors are unique to different species. They can bind salty or sweet things. They can bind bitter stuff—like toxins in a poisonous plant.

Male butterflies use their feet to find tasty meals and nutrients for themselves. But female butterflies need to find the right plants for their babies, too. Most caterpillars are specialists. They only eat specific host plants.

That’s why a female

butterfly has way more taste receptors on its feet. It drums on different plants, tasting for the perfect place to lay eggs.

“If you think about the purpose of the different receptors, it makes sense that the female has a lot more receptors bringing in information for the survivability of her offspring,” Zack said. “She has to find the right food. She has to find the right habitat. That’s all up to her.”

It’s a big responsibility. But thanks to all those taste receptors, butterfly moms don’t have to wing it.

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Subscriptions should be mailed to:
Dixon Independent Voice
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Subscription rate is \$52 per year within Dixon and Solano County. \$72 per year (Mail only).

Main Office Address: 2508 Garfield Ave., Suite A, Carmichael, CA 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. The *Dixon Independent Voice* is published weekly on Friday.

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1. Soapy enemy

5. Architect's software, acr.

8. Professional number cruncher, acr.

11. Through, to a poet

12. Z, NATO phonetic alphabet

13. Garden pest

15. Chinese monetary unit

16. Sportscaster Andrews

17. Certain water birds

18. "Luxury camping

20. Scratch's target

21. Same as coho

22. DNA transmitter

23. Explanation backed by evidence

26. Gottfried _____, calculus co-creator

30. R in rpm

31. Er on Periodic table

34. Bowling ball path

35. Arabic VIPs

37. .000001 joule

38. Financial woes

39. Cecum, pl.

40. "Et tu, Brute?" speaker

42. Food morsel

43. Siren, e.g.

45. * _____ camping, or camping without shelter

47. Siesta

48. "There it is," à Paris

50. Gold or frankincense or myrrh, e.g.

52. *Fire starter

55. American chameleon

56. Antioxidant-rich berry

57. New Mexico art colony

59. Nymph chaser

60. Nonclerical

61. Poet Pound

62. High school parent org.

63. Be off base

64. Ready for picking

DOWN

1. Eye infection

2. College party chant

3. Russia's _____ Mountains

4. Western European city-state

5. Collectible in a cabinet

6. Skirt shape

7. Animal waste

8. Chocolate candy, to a Brit

9. Essence

10. Marketing creations

12. Gentle breeze

13. Raspberry drupelets

14. *Like drinking water

19. Customs and conventions

22. "Losing My Religion" band

23. *Leave no _____

24. Egyptian falcon god

25. Put out on a curb

26. Totes or tugs

27. Orient's bigwig

28. Preface, e.g.

29. Piquant

32. * _____ bag or _____ canister

33. Rage

36. *Waterproof cover (2 words)

38. Funny

40. Large edible mushroom

41. Of low pH

44. Serve food at events

46. Restaurant staff member

48. "The _____ of Wake-field"

49. On the radio (2 words)

50. *Annoying biting fly

51. Tiny quantity

52. Leafy green

53. Like Hitler's Germany

54. *Good Ol' Raisins and Peanuts

55. Venomous snake

58. Greek letters on campus

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

A Stellar Summer League

By V.G. Harris

Well, Kings fans, the 2026 NBA summer league is officially over, and the No. 1 draft choice of the Golden State Warriors, Yaxel Lendeborg, shined as he led the Warriors to the 2026 championship over the Memphis Grizzlies.

Lendeborg was only the second player to ever play in an NCAA championship and an NBA summer league championship in the same year. The other player? None other than Davion Mitchell in 2021.

Still a sore spot with me, trading Davion away for basically nothing will go down as one of the dumbest moves the Sacramento Kings have ever made.

But on to the more positive parts of this year’s summer league.

The Sacramento Kings got what they were hoping for and so did the Kings faithful. Coming out of the gate strong in the friendly confines of Golden One Arena, Sacramento treated their fans to back-to-back victories and showcased their No. 1 draft choice Daius Acuff jr.

Darius did not disappoint, averaging 19 points and 4.6 assists throughout, and although his field goal percentage of 35% was less than desirable, Darius comported himself admirably, and considering the hype and his age, I give Darius a B++ for his summer league effort.

At only 19 years of age, Darius showed up and gave the Sacramento fans plenty to cheer for, and without a doubt Golden One will be filled to the brim with the start of the preseason to see what this young baller can bring to this young team.

Not to be overlooked are three players that stood out and surprised many fans. Drafted late in the first round, Emanuel Sharp showed Kings fans why GM Scott Perry traded down to snatch this young guard who shined in every aspect on both ends of the floor.

Sharp scored 15.7 points per contest, boasting 2.6 steals and three rebounds, while looking more like an NBA veteran than the rookie he is. Look for Sharp to make a significant contribution to the full squad in the upcoming season.

Likewise, newcomer Jonathan Mogbo made a splash as he seemed to be all over the court and gave the Kings a much-needed defensive

effort in the paint. At six-foot-nine and 225 pounds, Mogbo is a great complement to crowd favorite Dylan Cardwell, and suddenly an area of great concern appears to be getting noticeably better.

The Kings are looking balanced for the first time in memory, as their once weak backcourt is showing up and giving fans a real reason for optimism.

One player that every Kings fan should be watching with real excitement is rookie Marquel Sutton who at six-foot-nine and 225 pounds came out of nowhere to literally steal the show. Marquel showed an aptitude for not only rebounding and low post scoring but had no problems hoisting the threes with regularity.

Will Dylan take a big step forward this year and not only help Domantas Sabonis on the boards but add to the scoring column as well?

Dylan has had his troubles scoring down low and hasn’t much of a midrange game, but can he improve in this area and learn to shoot free throws? He needs to, and as much as he represents a crowd favorite, he has the ability to energize the team as well with his tenacious defense and crowd-pleasing enthusiasm.

Fans buy tickets to see players like Cardwell perform, but the name of the game is “getting better.”

The same is true for Keegan Murray who is about to embark on his fifth NBA season, and after a tepid season last year when he was rarely on the court due to injuries, Keegan needs to find his stroke and become the player the Kings have always believed he can be.

Everyone is rooting for Keegan, but 2026-27 becomes a critical time for Keegan to demonstrate why he was a first round draft pick, and another season like the last one will likely end his time in Sacramento.

Have heart Kings fans and get ready to do some significant hand clapping because there is reason to celebrate and we’re just getting started.

What will a healthy Sacramento Kings team look like and can some of the young veterans up their game. That’s why we buy tickets, and although the pundits are already predicting a less than stellar year for Sacramento, I remain the eternal optimist.

All the best!

★

Does Crowning California’s Governor the Education Czar Mean Academic Results Will Improve?



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

In late June, after only a few minutes of discussion, both houses of the Legislature completely overhauled how California manages the nation’s largest public school system and its nearly 6 million students.

The votes for Assembly Bill 181 — 21-4 in the Senate and 52-4 in the Assembly — reflected a bipartisan consensus, rare for major issues, that the system has been failing California’s children. The votes were based on an implicit, perhaps even desperate, hope that streamlining administration might raise the state’s mediocre levels of academic achievement.

The measure demotes the elected state superintendent of schools from the head of the state Department of Education to a member of the state school board and replaces the superintendent with an “education commissioner” appointed by the governor.

Assemblywoman Darshana Patel, a San Diego Democrat, research scientist and local school board member, cogently expressed that hope during the Assembly’s brief floor debate.

“We can’t keep doing the same thing and expect different outcomes for our students, our schools and our communities. They are the ones who are the real victims of this misalignment of our systems and structures,” she said,

adding, “The proposal before you today would promote a more coherent policy making. The change will allow policy makers and the public to hold the governor accountable for educational outcomes.”

The last sentence of her remarks is the key element. While the governor has always been an important member of California’s complex education leadership structure, the multitude of other participants has made it easy to pass the buck when academic test results and other measures expose academic shortcomings.

Suddenly undoing many decades of managerial status quo, as first proposed in Gov. Gavin Newsom’s state of the state address last January, is a remarkable feat unto itself. Doing so over the opposition of the California Teachers Association elevates it to a minor political miracle.

“The proposal would divert attention away from the real needs of students and schools by introducing a significant governance change that is both unnecessary and counterproductive,” the powerful union wrote in a statement before AB 181’s approval. “This proposal does nothing to improve student outcomes or strengthen public education.”

For decades, the teachers association and other education unions have easily gotten their favored candidates for state superintendent elected. And those chosen officials have faithfully echoed the unions’ position that the key to increasing outcomes is allocating more money.

School funding has increased sharply since the turn of the century, but test scores have not followed suit. Some categories, such as elementary school reading levels,

remain embarrassingly low. The first hint that change was on the table came late last year, when Policy Analysis for California Education, a consortium of education faculty at five major universities, issued a lengthy critique of the current system. The report said California’s complicated mélange of state and local authority “often results in overlapping responsibilities, fragmented authority, and challenges in ensuring streamlined decision-making.”

By design, the consortium’s recommendations closely resembled Newsom’s proposal and the final legislation.

The obvious question is if streamlining education governance and making the governor accountable, at least on paper, for academic outcomes will merely rearrange chairs on a sinking ship, or actually generate more achievement for the \$25,000-plus that the new state budget will be spending on each public school student.

California’s education establishment has been reluctant to change its mantra that more money is needed to boost results and equally reluctant to embrace improvements in instructional techniques, such as using phonics to upgrade elementary reading ability.

The onus will be on Newsom’s successor, most likely Xavier Becerra, to become the new schools sheriff in town.

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

Can my spouse file at 63 and then get half of mine when I later claim?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My spouse is 63 and I am 65. I am planning to take my Social Security benefits at age 70. Can my lower earning spouse take his own benefits now, and then - when I take my full benefits at age 70, can he then file for 50% of mine instead of the lower benefit he is getting because he claimed at age 63? **Signed: Higher Earning Spouse**

Dear Higher Earning Spouse: Yes, your lower-earning spouse can take his benefits based on his personal lifetime earnings record at any time (i.e., age 63) and, when you later claim your own SS at 70, your spouse will be evaluated to determine whether he is eligible for a “spousal boost” based on your Social Security record. But to be sure you are clear, if you claim at age 70, your spouse will not get 50% of your age 70 benefit amount.

Spousal benefits are always determined by comparing each partners’

full retirement age (FRA) entitlement and, if your spouse’s FRA entitlement is less than half of your FRA entitlement, your spouse will get a “spousal boost” to bring his monthly SS retirement payment up to what he is entitled to as your spouse. The amount of the “spousal boost” would be the difference between his FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, which would be added to his own (age 63) SS retirement amount. And that means that his total benefit amount would be less than half of your age 70 amount (less also than 50% of your FRA amount, because he claimed at age 63).

One caution for your spouse to be aware of: if he is still working and claims at age 63, he will be subject to Social Security’s Annual Earnings Test (AET), which limits how much he can earn before SS takes away some benefits. The earnings limit for 2026 is \$24,480 (changes annually) and if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 of benefits for every \$2 he is over the limit. FYI, Social Security will “take back” by withholding future benefit payments, so he will not get his benefits for some months if he exceeds the annual earnings limit. And if the

annual earnings limit is significantly exceeded, your spouse could even be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits (until he either earns less or reaches his full retirement age (the earnings limit goes away when FRA is reached)).

The only way your spouse can avoid both a reduced personal benefit and the annual earnings test limitation is to wait until his own full retirement age to claim Social Security. However, if he’s not working full time and needs the Social Security money sooner, then claiming at age 63 may be a good choice. In any case, he won’t get half of your age 70 amount.

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An early period of World War II was known as “the phony war.” What we may be witnessing now in the U.S.-Iran war is the end of a “phony peace.”

The nearly five-month-long conflict has featured a couple of sham cease-fires, each marked by supposed Iranian pledges to reopen the Strait of Hormuz that came to nothing.

With the Iranians firing on shipping in the Strait again, Trump has declared the so-called memorandum of understanding signed about a month ago to be a dead letter. After lifting sanctions on Iranian oil and ending the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports, Trump has reinstituted both. He maintains that the U.S. will control the strait and, at some point, charge a 20% fee on all shipping for our trouble (a bad idea that Trump appears already to have abandoned).

It was clear a couple of days into the war that the Strait of Hormuz had become the key strategic variable and that President Trump wouldn’t easily be able to walk away from the conflict without reopening the strait again.

The MOU was an illusory means of achieving this goal via diplomacy. The problem is that we thought -- or wanted to believe -- that the agreement said the Iranians would allow unobstruct-

Another Sham Deal with Iran Comes Undone

ed passage again, while the Iranians thought -- or wanted to believe -- that it said they would control the strait. That the MOU was subject to these starkly divergent understandings made it a memorandum of obfuscation.

The Iranians, of course, aren’t operating in good faith, but it is a point in their favor that the MOU didn’t simply say, “There shall be freedom of navigation in the strait.” Instead, it talked of how the Iranians would “make arrangements” for ensuring “the safe passage of commercial vessels, with no charge for 60 days only.” In other words, the Iranians held the whip hand in the strait and could charge a fee for transit after a two-month interval. Furthermore, Iran would conduct dialogue with Oman “to define the future administration and maritime services in the Strait of Hormuz.”

Amazingly enough, then, a war that had started with optimistic talk of toppling the Iranian regime was ending with an agreement allowing the Iranians to figure out how to run a waterway vital to the international economy that they hadn’t controlled at the outset of the conflict.

Is it any wonder that the Iranians, who must have been stunned at the success of their gambit in the strait, have been pressing their luck? It must have emboldened them even more to hear Trump say that he was so eager for the MOU be-

cause the economic costs of Iranian disruption of the strait threatened to make him a new Herbert Hoover.

Effectively turning over the control of the strait to the Iranians -- coupled with the inconclusive U.S. war against the Houthis to try to eliminate their threat to shipping in the Red Sea -- would have been a black mark on the Trump administration’s record regarding a long-standing tenet of American grand strategy.

Freedom of navigation has always been considered essential to U.S. national security and a linchpin of global commerce. Trump is right to want to take back the Strait. The question, though, is whether he will be willing to apply enough force and have the staying power to bring a battle for the strait to a successful conclusion. The domestic politics are difficult, given that the American public is not supportive of the war and has now been repeatedly told that it is about to end with a brilliant diplomatic deal.

While we have an enormous firepower advantage, the Iranians have proven that they can disrupt the Strait with threats and a few projectiles. They aren’t going to give up their strategic windfall easily, as two bogus but highly touted peace deals now demonstrate.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2026 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★



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Soroptimist International of Dixon Celebrates Another Year of Service and Impact, Empowering Women and Girls

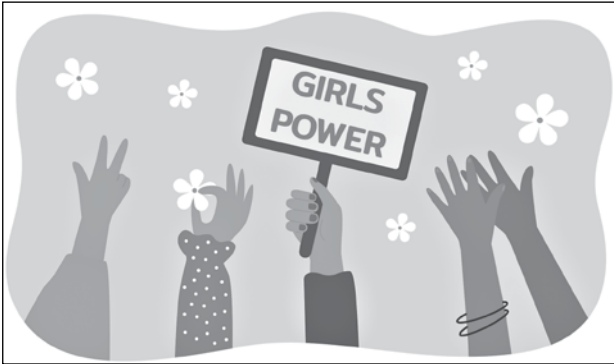
Soroptimist International of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Soroptimist International of Dixon proudly celebrates another remarkable year of service, continuing a 65-year tradition of making a meaningful difference in the lives of women, girls and families throughout Dixon and beyond.

Founded on April 19, 1961, the club recently celebrated its 65th anniversary, honoring decades of leadership, friendship and community service. While reflecting on its rich history, members also looked ahead with renewed commitment to their mission: Empowering Women and Girls. Strengthening Our Community.

Through education, leadership opportunities, training and essential resources, Soroptimist helps women and girls achieve economic independence and reach their full potential. By working alongside community partners, volunteers and local organizations, the club continues to expand opportunities and create lasting change.

Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate community. Your generosity—through financial contributions, volunteer service and in-kind donations—is the driving force behind every program and every life touched.



The club remains dedicated to creating opportunities for women and girls while serving the broader community with compassion, purpose and action. Photo designed by Magnific

This year alone, Soroptimist International of Dixon proudly supported donations of awarded scholarships and educational awards to 12 graduating high school seniors, Continued the Young Woman of the Month program, recognizing exceptional young women making a positive impact in their schools and communities. Presented the Live Your Dream Award, helping women who are heads of household continue their education and improve the lives of their families. As well as honored an outstanding community leader

with the Ruby Award and recognized an exceptional teen volunteer through the Violet Richardson Award.

The club also continued supporting a wide variety of organizations and programs that enrich the community, including veterans and the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Meals on Wheels, Dixon May Fair and Parade, Youth sports programs, Camp Kesem, SOCK (childhood cancer support programs), family services, scholarships and educational initiatives and many other local nonprofits and community causes.

Beyond fundraising and service projects, members enjoyed a year filled with inspiring speakers, meaningful connections and opportunities to learn from remarkable individuals who are making a difference in our region. These experiences continue to strengthen the club's commitment to service and inspire members to expand their impact.

As Soroptimist International of Dixon begins another year, the club remains dedicated to creating opportunities for women and girls while serving the broader community with compassion, purpose and action.

For more information about Soroptimist International of Dixon or to learn how to become a member or supporter, visit a meeting or contact the club at soroptimistdixon@gmail.com.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001099 The following persons are doing business as: Lavender Notary Public, 1285 Stratford Avenue Suite G Box 175, Dixon, CA 95620.

Jennifer Crone, 1285 Stratford Avenue Suite G Box 175, Dixon, CA 95620.

Date filed in Solano County: June 17, 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 16, 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: July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026 LAVENDER 7-24-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001173 The following persons are doing business as: AC Tax Pro, 530 Birds Nest Court, Dixon, CA 95620.

Aamit Chowdhury, 530 Birds Nest Court, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: June 30, 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 29, 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: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026 AC 7-31-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001159 The following persons are doing business as: Quinta Alianza, 1097 Amber Ridge Lane, Vacaville, CA 95687.

Juan Hurtado Avina, 1097 Amber Ridge Lane, Vacaville, CA 95687. Date filed in Solano County: June 26, 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

June 25, 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: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026 QUINTA 7-31-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001168 The following persons are doing business as: Castillo's Legal Life Support, Castillo's Legal Support and Document Services, Dixon Express Auto Registration Center, 1450 Ary Lane Suite D, Dixon, CA 95620.

Lisa Angel Castillo, 1285 Stratford Avenue G121, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: June 30, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: March 1, 2018 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 29, 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: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026 CASTILLOS 7-31-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001181 The following persons are doing business as: Pickled Social Co, 2401 Waterman Boulevard Suite A4-210, Fairfield, CA 94533.

Ryan Brown, 2401 Waterman Boulevard Suite A4-210, Fairfield, CA 94533. Date filed in Solano County: July 1, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: June 29, 2026

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 30, 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: July 10, 17, 24, August 1, 2026 PICKLED 7-31-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001146 The following persons are doing business as: Punjabi Dhaba Dixon, 7800 Batavia Road, Dixon, CA 95620.

Dilawar Singh Rai Inc, 7800 Batavia Road, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: June 24, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office

of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 23, 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: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026 PUNJABI 7-31-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001167 The following persons are doing business as: Double A Ranch, A & A Investments, 900 Hillview Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.

Joe F & Mary E. Anderson, Trustee, J & M Anderson Revocable Trust, Trust, 900 Hillview Drive, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: June 30, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: June 1, 2006

This Business is conducted by: A Trust. 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 29, 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: July 17, 24, 31, August 7, 2026 DOUBLE 8-7-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001253

The following persons are doing business as: Paseo Psychotherapy, 1250 Oliver Road #1092, Fairfield, CA 94534. Erika Medina McGee, 1250 Oliver Road #1092, Fairfield, CA 94534. Date filed in Solano County: July 15, 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 July 14, 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: July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2026 PASEO 8-14-26

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF EDWARD JOHN PRITCHARD CASE NO. PR26-00257

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

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Grace Manago, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting Grace Manago 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: August 20, 2026, 9:30 a.m. in Dept 22; Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 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 Petitioner is: Grace Manago, 612 Seagull Drive, Suisun, CA 94585; 707-761-2135 Publish: July 17, 24, 31, 2026 PRITCHARD 7-31-26

TRUSTEE SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-25-1011391-AB Order No.: 250171552-CA-VOI YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 6/9/2022. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, or cash equivalent if deemed acceptable to the trustee, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): **TAMMY STEWART, A MARRIED WOMAN AS HER SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY** Recorded: **6/10/2022** as **Instrument No. 202200040584** of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of **SOLANO** County, California; Date of Sale: **8/17/2026 at 09:30 AM** Place of Sale: **At the Santa Clara Street entrance to the City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA 94590** Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$749,296.52** The purported property address is: **625 CYPRESS ST, DIXON, CA 95620** Assessor's Parcel No.: **0114-143-100** All bidders, at the date, time, and place of the scheduled sale, will be required to show satisfactory support to the auctioneer of their ability to pay the amount they intend to bid, unless arrangements have been made with the trustee prior to the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call **866-539-4173** for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-25-1011391-AB**. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to

exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call **866-645-7711**, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-25-1011391-AB** to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT:** Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE POST-SALE OVER BIDDERS:** For post-sale information in accordance with Section 2924m(e) of the California Civil Code, use file number **CA-25-1011391-AB** and call (866) 645-7711 or log-in to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>. The above statutorily mandated notices to Tenant, Prospective Owner-Occupant, and Prospective Post-Sale Over Bidders are brief summaries of what may be required under Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. Compliance with all relevant provisions will be required. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders rights against the real property only. Date: **QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 866-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 866-539-4173 Or Login to: http://www.qualityloan.com Post-Sale Information (CCC 2924m(e)): (866) 645-7711 Reinstatement or Payoff Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION TS No.: CA-25-1011391-AB IDSPub #0315916 7/24/2026 7/31/2026 8/7/2026 DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 8-7-26**



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Honey Bees Trapped in Milkweed

By Kathy Keatley Garvey,
UC Davis

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - When honey bees become trapped in a milkweed’s elaborate pollination system and die, what are the ecological consequences? Is the presence of dead bees a deterrent to future visitors, such as honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and non-*Apis* visitors? Do the dead bees result in an influx of predators, like ants?

UC Davis Professor Louie Yang of the Department of Entomology and Nematology (ENT-NEM) and research scholar Ian Jett answer those questions in newly published research, “Trapped Honey Bees Reduce Floral Visitation on Milkweed Flowers,” in the journal *Ecology*.

The research is unique in that it examines the potential costs of arthropod entanglement. Jett, a 2025 UC Davis graduate in entomology, worked with Yang for three years as part of the Research Scholars Program in Insect Biology (RSPIB).

“Insects get occasionally get trapped on plants,” said Yang, a community ecologist. “In some cases, this helps the plant. For example, carnivorous plants trap insects to provide them with nutrition. In other cases, trapped insects attract scavenging predators which then act like bodyguards defending the plant. In our study, we found that the honey bees that are often trapped on milkweed flowers actually deter floral visitation. We initially thought this



A honey bee with sticky pollinia on its legs heads for milkweed. Photo by Kathy Keatley Garvey

was because the ants that were scavenging on the dead honey bees were scaring other floral visitors away. However, our analysis suggests that honey bees avoided flowers with dead conspecifics, perhaps because dead conspecifics signal increased risks of disease or predation. This study illustrates some unexpected species interactions in nature.”

Jett noted that milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) “have an unusual pollination system that requires relatively large packets of pollen (pollinia) to become attached to the appendages of insect pollinators and be pulled through a narrow opening in the flower.”

The scientists conducted field experiments in the UC Davis Study Garden--located west of the campus-- to examine how dead trapped honey bees affect floral visitation.

“We expected,” they

wrote in their abstract, “that the presence of a dead trapped bee would reduce floral visitation via two non-mutually exclusive pathways: a direct deterrent effect on floral visitors and an indirect deterrent effect mediated by an increased abundance of scavenging predators such as ants. The presence of a dead bee reduced floral visitation by 37 percent compared with controls, and this effect was stronger and more robust for honey bee visitors than non-*Apis* visitors.”

“While ant densities were 51 percent higher on floral umbels with a dead bee and ants reduced floral visitation by 30 percent, our path analysis indicated that the direct deterrent pathway explained 91 percent of the total effect, consistent with an aversion to dead conspecifics among honey bees,” they wrote. “Our results suggest that the lethal

entanglement of honey bees is likely to incur an ecological cost for milkweed flowers, although the deterrence of honey bees could also shift the pollinator communities on milkweeds with unexpected consequences.”

The scientists found that across all visits, 77.3 percent of the floral visitors were honey bees. The non-*Apis* floral visitors included a combination of native bees (*Halictidae* or the sweat bee family, and *Apidae*, such as carpenter bees), 15.1 percent; true bugs (including milkweed bugs and assassin bugs) 5.9 percent; jumping spiders, 0.7 percent; butterflies (gray hairstreaks, Western tiger swallowtails and skippers, 0.6 percent, wasps, 0.4 percent, flies (such as bee flies and tachinids), 0.2 percent; and lacewings, 0.1 percent.

Ant species documented included the Argentine ant, *Linepithema humile*; and *Nylanderia vividula*, *Brachymyrmex patagonicus*, and *Dorymyrmex* spp.

“Because honey bees are common and important pollinators of milkweed and contributed the vast majority of floral visits in our study, their deterrence as floral visitors probably reduces overall pollination services,” the authors wrote. However, recent studies have also shown that honey bees may be less effective pollinators of milkweed in some cases, causing higher self-pollination rates and lower fruit production rates compared with some non-*Apis* pollinators. Thus, in cases where honey bees are less effective pollinators than other floral visitors, their specific deterrence could potentially shift the floral visitor community in ways

that ultimately have a neutral effect on or improve plant fitness.”

Jett said his work in the Yang Lab cemented his “love for the role insects play in ecological communities.”

“Prior to joining his lab I had collected isopods as a kid and enjoyed watching bees pollinate flowers but did not consider that you could actually study these animals professionally,” he said. “Many members of the Yang Lab work on plant-insect interactions, particularly with milkweeds and monarchs, so I quickly became immersed in multiple projects exploring this avenue.”

“In addition to working with monarchs, I also enjoyed curating insect collections to study the diversity of Hymenoptera, for example in different habitats,” Jett shared. “While I greatly enjoyed working with monarchs, my interests focused on the broader insect community on milkweeds including all of its pollinators and herbivores, which led me to explore questions about floral visitation and pollinator behavior.”

“Since developing this project which explored trapped bees on milkweeds and their impacts on conspecific behavior and the diversity of floral visitors,” Jett said, “I have since continued pursuing a variety of questions relating to plant-insect interactions.” These questions include how does habitat fragmentation impacts the diversity, density and pollination services of native bees? As well as what drives the population dynamics and disease outbreaks of various insect pests on trees?

“I hope to have the

opportunity to explore these questions and more in a master’s degree in entomology.”

UC Davis ENT Professor Phil Ward, an ant specialist, identified the ants visiting the site.

A National Science Foundation grant to Yang supported the pollinator-milkweed study. The next steps?

“Our results suggest several avenues for future study,” the authors said. “To better understand this system, future studies could assess the incidence and implications of floral entanglement by other floral visitors and more mechanistic studies could investigate the specific sensory biology associated with aversion to trapped arthropods. Future studies could also contribute to a better understanding of the ecological costs and benefits of trapping arthropods, for example, by measuring seed set as a more direct measure of plant fitness. Another avenue of inquiry might ask if the attraction of scavenging predators to trapped arthropods could benefit milkweeds in other contexts, potentially by reducing herbivory or florivory.”

“More broadly,” they wrote, “the results of this study reflect the complexity and context-dependence of species interactions in nature. While pollination is sometimes described as a simple mutualism, the interactions between flowering plants and their arthropod communities can sometimes yield a much wider range of outcomes in nature. In this context, the entanglement of floral visitors by milkweed flowers presents an opportunity to examine general themes in the ecology of species interactions.”

RSPIB, a campuswide program, was founded in 2011 by a trio of faculty members from ENT-NEM: UC Davis Distinguished Professor (now emeritus) Jay Rosenheim, an insect ecologist; Yang; and molecular geneticist and physiologist Joanna Chiu, now professor and chair of ENT-NEM. Their aim is “to provide academically strong and highly motivated undergraduates with a closely mentored research experience in biology.” Yang and Chiu continue to direct the program. ★

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Wildfire Mitigation Tool Threatened as Goat Herder Wage Soars to \$240k

Growers Look to Grafted Watermelons to Battle Pests

California’s minimum wage for goat herders quadrupled this month due to a shift in the state’s interpretation of its labor code and the expiration of a temporary solution. As of July 1, employees who graze goats on fire-prone landscapes will earn \$240,000 a year, according to an estimate by the California Farm Bureau. The regulatory accident, which unintentionally differentiated sheepherders from goat herders, could soon have real consequences. If the mistake is not fixed, ranchers said that within weeks they will be forced to shut down their businesses and sell off tens of thousands of animals. They said the loss of goats could result in hundreds of herders losing their jobs, and it could cripple one of the primary tools California uses to reduce wildfire fuels. “We will ship all the goats out of California and have them slaughtered,” said Robert McGrew, vice president and CEO of Dixon-based vegetation management company Ecosystem Concepts Inc. in Solano County.

There is increasing interest among California farmers in seedless watermelon production using scion varieties grafted onto hardy rootstocks, according to researchers and plant nurseries. By grafting a desirable fruit-producing scion onto a rootstock that’s resistant to soil-borne pathogens, producers can sustainably manage pests without a yield or quality loss. Hande Saganak, who is responsible for grafting at California Masterplant, a wholesale nursery near Tracy, said she’s definitely seen increased grower interest. “It’s been growing really fast,” she said. “It seems we have producers that don’t want to go back to regular plants again.” University of California Cooperative Extension vegetable farm adviser Zheng Wang estimated about 3,000 of the state’s approximately 10,000 acres of seedless watermelons were grafted this year. Driving the growth are the increasing costs and reduced availability of fumigation. ★