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Dixon Independent Voice

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Dixon Appoints City Manager, Assistant City Manager



The City of Dixon has announced the appointment of Melissa Eads (left) as city manager and Kate Zawadzki (right) as assistant city manager, effective Aug. 1. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

City of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The City of Dixon has announced the appointment of Melissa Eads as city manager and Kate Zawadzki as assistant city manager, effective Aug. 1.

Eads joined the City of Dixon in December 2025 as assistant city manager after serving with the City of Sonora. During her time in Dixon, she has worked closely with city staff, the city council and the community on a variety of organizational and strategic initiatives. Her appointment as city manager reflects the city council's confidence in her leadership, experience and commitment to the Dixon community.

Zawadzki has served the City

of Dixon for more than 16 years, most recently as finance director. Throughout her tenure, she has played a key role in maintaining the city's strong financial position while helping guide major organizational and operational initiatives. Her promotion to assistant city manager recognizes her extensive institutional knowledge, collaborative leadership style and long-standing dedication to public service.

Together, Eads and Zawadzki bring a strong combination of experience, continuity and leadership that will support the city's ongoing priorities and future growth.

"Melissa and Kate each bring tremendous knowledge, professionalism and a genuine commitment to

serving the Dixon community," said Mayor Steve Bird. "Their leadership will help ensure the city continues to provide exceptional service while thoughtfully planning for Dixon's future."

As city manager, Eads will oversee the city's day-to-day operations, implement the city council's policy direction and lead the organization's strategic initiatives. As assistant city manager, Zawadzki will continue supporting organizational leadership, cross-department collaboration and key city projects while maintaining a focus on operational excellence.

"I am honored to serve the City of Dixon as City Manager," said Eads. "Over the past several months,

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CHP Recovers \$1.05 Million in Stolen Goods

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) continues to make steady progress in dismantling organized retail crime networks throughout the state. Recently, the CHP joined more than 100 law enforcement agencies for a National Organized Retail Crime Blitz, helping recover \$1.05 million in stolen goods. Building on last year's success, this event reaffirms the CHP's commitment to holding retail theft suspects accountable.

From Aug. 1 through 9, the CHP Organized Retail Crime Task Force (ORCTF) saturated communities and led coordinated enforcement operations at several businesses, shopping centers and retail stores statewide. Officers proactively identified and apprehended offenders suspected of organized retail theft.

"The impacts of retail theft on businesses and communities are long-lasting," said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. "The CHP will continue to dedicate resources to catching perpetrators and holding accountable those who take from businesses and victimize communities."

As a result of the CHP's statewide efforts, officers arrested 97 suspects, including eight on felony charges, and recovered more than 8,500 stolen items valued at approximately \$1.05 million.

"The proactive operations conducted during the blitz are a snapshot of the work the Organized Retail Crime Task Force is committed to doing every day," added Commissioner Duryee. "We will continue to do our part year-round to identify problematic areas, reduce retail theft and make California a safer place to work, live and visit."

Yearly Progress Snapshot

Looking at the broader picture, the blitz builds on years of steady enforcement. Since the ORCTF's inception in 2019, the CHP has been involved in more than 4,700 investigations, resulting in more than 5,300 arrests and the recovery of more than 1.6 million stolen items valued at more than \$76.6 million as of July 30.

In the first seven months of 2026, the CHP made nearly 350 retail theft arrests, investigated more than 280 incidents, and assisted partner agencies with more than 80

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'Jeans and Jewels' Set Sept. 26 in Vacaville Museum Courtyard

By Kathy Keatley Garvey

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Vacaville Museum will present its second annual and wildly popular "Jeans and Jewels: A Country Dinner" from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26 in the Vacaville Museum courtyard, 213 Buck Ave.

It will feature a buffet, music by Fox and Friends, a raffle and a silent auction. The event is the brainchild of Museum Guild founding member Jean Cox, who is chairing the event this year with fellow Guild member Annie Lopez.

"Jeans and Jewels is a boot-scooting good time," said Cox.

Tickets, \$65, are available at the Vacaville Museum and online at <https://vacavillemuseum.org/events/>. Last year's event was a sellout. All



Don Fox (foreground) of Fox and Friends will entertain for the second consecutive year at the "Jeans and Jewels: A Country Dinner," a Vacaville Museum Guild-sponsored event set for Saturday, Sept. 26 in the Vacaville Museum courtyard, 213 Buck Ave. Photo courtesy of Kathy Keatley Garvey

proceeds are earmarked for Vacaville Museum events, programs and exhibits. The Vacaville Museum, serving all of Solano County, explores history, connects community and cultivates a future inspired by arts and culture, according to executive director Clara Dawson.

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Local Transportation Heroes Honored



Veronica Morales is the 2026 Super Commuter Hero. Veronica rides her bike every day to her job at UC Davis, often toting her two children along in a bike trailer. Photo courtesy of Yolo Transportation District



Cory Frost is the 2026 Bike Hero. Cory uses the same streets, bike paths, sidewalks and transit services that the local community relies on, giving him firsthand experience that helps inform his work. Photo courtesy of Yolo Transportation District



Duncan McMartin is the 2026 Super Bike Hero. He began commuting via e-bike after discovering the joy of riding through the YoloTD/Yolo Commute e-bike lending program. Photo courtesy of Yolo Transportation District

Yolo Transportation District News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Yolo Commute, the transportation demand management agency for Yolo County, has selected three local trailblazers as recipients of its second annual Commuter of the Year Awards. The award recognizes the unsung heroes who make sustainable commuting a daily habit, supporting their health and that of the planet while inspiring others to explore new transportation options.

This year's Commuter of the Year Award has two categories: Bike Heroes transform their commute into an energizing and peaceful bicycle ride; and Super Commuter Heroes are the bold commuters who take on long distances, brave any weather and show an unstoppable commitment to getting to work without relying on a car. Cory Frost and Veronica Morales of Davis, and Duncan McMartin of Yolo

County, are this year's winners.

President of Yolo Commute Jennifer Donofrio, says, "These awards celebrate people who make sustainable transportation part of their everyday lives. By sharing their stories, we recognize their commitment and inspire others to see that biking, transit and other alternatives to driving can be practical and rewarding choices for their own commutes."

Veronica Morales is the 2026 Super Commuter Hero. Veronica rides her bike every day to her job at UC Davis, often toting her two children along in a bike trailer. Her kids absorb the beauty and vibrancy of Davis throughout the seasons while learning the pleasures of active transportation.

While a sustainable commute aligns with her ethics, Veronica also gets deep enjoyment from her daily pedal. She notes, "The biking commuter choice is about as healthy and as environmentally friendly as it gets. It also

beats being stuck in rush hour traffic. It gives you a chance to soak in the beautiful Davis mornings all the while getting a little workout in. For me, the 30-minute bike commute is a protected window of time to plan out my day in the mornings and review how it went in the afternoons. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Duncan McMartin is the 2026 Super Bike Hero. An employee at Yolo County Health and Human Services, he began commuting via e-bike after discovering the joy of riding through the YoloTD/Yolo Commute e-bike lending program. He shares, "I love riding the back roads to work amongst all the fields. You really get a chance to see more of the county and the countryside. I love riding at night when it's just you out there, it's so peaceful."

Cory Frost is the 2026 Bike Hero. As the City of Davis' Active Transportation Coordinator, Cory uses the same streets, bike paths, sidewalks

and transit services that the local community relies on, giving him firsthand experience that helps inform his work. "What makes my commute unique isn't the distance, it's the consistency," he says. "My commute is only about 1.2 miles, but I bike it every workday, rain or shine. Even when things don't go as planned, I stay committed to traveling car-free."

"Biking to work is one of my favorite parts of the day," he continues. "It helps me wake up, clears my mind and gives me a sense of accomplishment before I even arrive at the office. While it may seem slightly less convenient at first, breaking the habit of automatically driving opens the door to a healthier, more rewarding and often more enjoyable way to travel."

As part of its commitment to promoting eco-friendly and low-impact transportation, Yolo Commute created the Commuter of the Year Awards in 2025.

Winners of the awards are eligible to receive up to \$300. Yolo Commute is a membership-based nonprofit partnership of public and private employers working together to address regional transportation and air quality issues. The partnership is administered by the Yolo Transportation District.

The awards are open to all employees at Yolo Commute member organizations, which include major public and private sector employers including UC Davis and Cache Creek Casino Resort, the County of Yolo and all cities in the county. Organizations interested in enhancing their employee benefits package through Yolo Commute membership can find information at yolocommute.net.

For more information visit www.yolocommute.net or contact Associate Transportation Planner Brenda Lomeli by email at blomeli@yctd.org or call 530-402-2865. ★

'Jeans and Jewels' Set Sept. 26 in Vacaville Museum Courtyard

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The Vacaville Museum was incorporated in 1981, with its inaugural exhibit open to the public in May of 1983. The museum collects and preserves artifacts related directly to the history of Solano

County and promotes an awareness and understanding of county history and culture by offering interpretive exhibits and associated programs.

For more information contact 707-447-4513 or info@vacavillemuseum.org. ★

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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.

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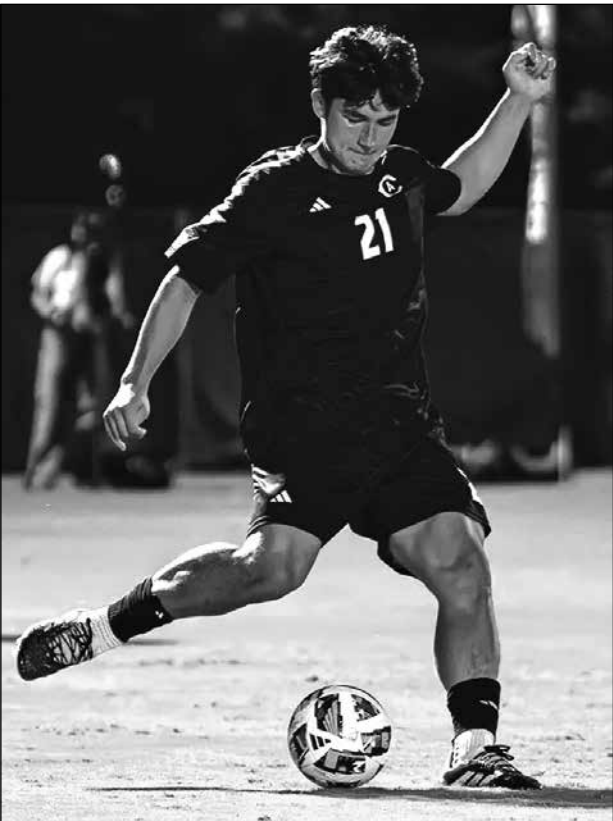
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Three Aggies Named to Inaugural Mountain West Men’s Soccer Watch List



UC Davis placed sophomore defenders Nami Banks and Josh Gault and junior midfielder Rafael Matiello on the inaugural Mountain West Men's Soccer Watch List on Wednesday, Aug. 12 selected by the league's head coaches. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - UC Davis placed three players on the inaugural Mountain West Men's Soccer Watch List on Wednesday, Aug. 12 with sophomore defenders Nami Banks and Josh Gault and junior midfielder Rafael Matiello selected by the league's head coaches.

UC Davis was also picked third in the Mountain West's first pre-season coaches' poll with 15 points. Grand Canyon and San José State each totaled 22 points, with the Lopes receiving four first-place votes and the Spartans

receiving two. The announcement came one day before the Aggies took the field for the first time in 2026. UC Davis hosted Cal in an exhibition at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, at Aggie Soccer Field, the opening step toward its first season of Mountain West competition.

Banks made an immediate impact in his first college season, appearing in all 19 matches, starting 18 and ranking third on the team with 1,571 minutes. The Watsonville, Calif., native earned Big West All-Freshman Team honors after scoring twice on 20 shots. Both goals came in the opening 23 minutes of a 3-2 Senior Night win

over UC Riverside, a performance that also earned him Big West Freshman of the Week honors.

Gault also took on a full-season role in the back line. The Clovis, Calif., native appeared in all 19 matches, made 13 starts and logged 1,449 minutes as a freshman. He played the full 90 minutes nine times and stayed on for all 110 minutes of UC Davis' Big West Tournament quarterfinal match at Cal State Fullerton, which the Aggies won 5-4 on penalty kicks.

Matiello enters his junior season after not appearing in a match in 2025. His freshman campaign in 2024 showed the attacking

threat he can provide: three goals in 16 appearances, including a two-goal performance in a 2-1 win over Cal State Fullerton that ended the Titans' 10-match unbeaten streak. The showing earned Matiello both Big West Offensive Player of the Week and Freshman of the Week honors. He was also part of the UC Davis team that won the 2024 Big West Tournament and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

The three watch-list selections return to a program that averaged 15.3 shots per match last season, ranking 21st nationally and second in the Big West. UC Davis went 4-3-2 in its final Big West

campaign, finished 3-0-1 at home in conference play and reached the tournament semifinals.

Head coach Dwayne Shaffer enters his 30th season at UC Davis with 269 victories as an NCAA head coach, the 17th-highest total among active Division I men's soccer coaches.

Following the Cal exhibition, the Aggies hosted Chico State at 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16. UC Davis opened the regular season Aug. 20 at Sacramento State and begins Mountain West play Sept. 26 at San José State. The complete 2026 schedule is available online at ucdavisaggies.com/sports/mens-soccer/schedule/2026 ★

Sacramento Kings to Open New Official Team Store in Downtown Commons

New Retail Destination Expands Access to Exclusive Kings Apparel and Elevated Fashion Collections

Sacramento Kings News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Kings announced the opening of a new official Kings Team Store at Downtown Commons presented by Sutter Health (DOCO), creating a year-round destination for fans to shop the latest team apparel, exclusive collections and premium merchandise.

Located across from Golden 1

Center, the official Kings Team Store will deliver an expanded retail experience featuring elevated apparel collections, fashion-forward accessories and exclusive merchandise designed to showcase the Kings brand in new and distinctive ways. Open daily, the official Kings Team Store will make Kings merchandise more accessible than ever for fans and visitors throughout the year. On Sacramento Kings home game days and select arena

events, the Label K Store inside Golden 1 Center will continue to operate, providing guests with convenient access to merchandise within the arena.

“Our fans continue to embrace the Kings as both a team and a lifestyle brand, and this new official Team Store gives them a retail experience that reflects who we are today,” said Sacramento Kings President of Business Operations John Rinehart. “Located in the heart of DOCO,

just steps from Golden 1 Center, it extends the Kings experience with exclusive merchandise and apparel that celebrates our team, our city and the pride of being part of Kings basketball.”

The more than 4,000-square-foot store will feature a wide assortment of merchandise for fans of all ages and styles, including exclusive apparel, everyday fan gear, fashion-forward collections, accessories, headwear, collectibles and gifts. Designed

to make Kings merchandise more accessible than ever, the store will offer everything from classic team essentials to elevated lifestyle pieces that celebrate team pride.

The opening of the new Kings Team Store will coincide with the start of the 2026-27 NBA season. Additional details regarding the store's grand opening celebration, special promotions and exclusive merchandise will be announced in the coming weeks. ★

The Sacramento River Cats Announce Their Schedule for the 2027 Season

Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento River Cats, proud affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, have announced their 150-game schedule for the upcoming 2027 season and are offering a limited time opportunity to be the first to secure tickets for next season. Fans who purchase tickets to remaining contests in 2026 will receive an equal number of tickets for the 2027 season. Fans can visit rivercatspromos.com/schedulelaunch27 to be eligible for this ticket promotion.

Before the 2027 regular season gets underway, the River Cats will welcome the San Francisco Giants back to West Sacramento for a preseason exhibition game on Sunday, March 21. This will be the fourth straight and sixth overall exhibition matchup between the two sides in their shared history.

The River Cats will begin the regular season on the road for the

first time since 2024 with a three-game series at Albuquerque. They will then return home for the first of 13 series hosted by the River Cats at Sutter Health Park, opening with a six-game set against the Salt Lake Bees (Los Angeles Angels) from March 30 to April 4.

Four of Sacramento's first five series at home will see teams from the Pacific Coast League West Division, as they host Salt Lake twice from March 30 to April 4 and April 27 to May 2, Tacoma (Seattle Mariners) from May 11 to 16, and Reno (Arizona Diamondbacks) from May 25-30. They will also see Round

Rock (Texas Rangers) from April 13 to 18, which will be the Express' only visit to Sutter Health Park.

The River Cats will take a two-week road trip at the beginning of

the final series of the second half against Las Vegas (Athletics).

They will kick off the second half on the road at Salt Lake from June 22 to 27.

Following the All-Star Break, the Cats will host two consecutive series at home, beginning with a three-game set vs. Oklahoma City from July 16-18, then a six-game set vs. Reno from July 20 to 25. The Comets' visit in July will be the Dodger affiliate's only trip to Sutter Health Park in 2027.

Sacramento will finish out the season at home for the fourth-straight year, facing Las Vegas from Sept. 14 to 19.

Each Pacific Coast League team will visit Sutter Health Park at least once, with Salt Lake, Tacoma, Reno and Las Vegas

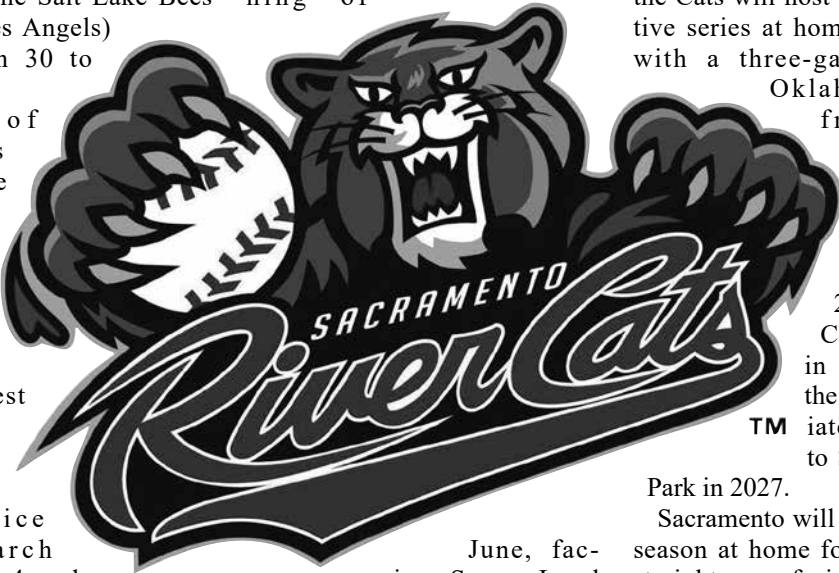
each making two trips.

The River Cats will play at home on the Fourth of July for the first time in recorded franchise history. It will mark the series finale vs. El Paso, taking place from June 29 to July 4.

The only other holiday Sacramento will host is Father's Day on June 20, also marking a series finale vs. Las Vegas, occurring June 15 to 20.

The River Cats will play a total of 39 weekend home games, with 13 each on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Meanwhile, Sacramento will play 36 weekday home games with 12 games each on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Due to the six-game series format, the River Cats will not play on Mondays.

The full 150-game schedule can be viewed online. Game times for all 150 contests, 2027 membership information and a full 2027 promotions schedule are to be announced. First access to single game tickets for the 2027 season are available for a limited time. ★



Partnership’s Foster Care Model Featured in New Study

Collaborative Approach Strengthens Healthcare Access and Improves Outcomes for Youth Involved in the Child Welfare System

Partnership Healthplan of California News Release

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) - Partnership HealthPlan of California’s innovative regional approach to providing health-care access to 15,000 youth involved in the child welfare system was featured in a recent Public Works Alliance study. The study found that this cross-agency partnership model strengthens health access, coordination and outcomes for thousands of foster youth across Northern California.

Children and youth in foster care face some of the most complex health-care barriers in the state, often navigating fragmented systems; frequent moves between households, cities and even counties; and inconsistent access to timely care. When a child moves to a new foster home or is placed with a family member, there are so many challenges that arise, from adjusting to a new school to making new friends to getting used to a new neighborhood. Partnership wants to make finding a new counselor or doctor as easy as possible, so any and all restrictions on where a child can go for care were removed. That commitment led to a new, integrated approach that brings together health care, child welfare, behavioral health and community partners around a shared vision.

“As a Medi-Cal health plan, we have

both a responsibility and an opportunity to ensure these young people receive consistent, compassionate and coordinated care,” said Partnership CEO Sonja Bjork. “These young people deserve to feel supported. By breaking down barriers, we can meet them where they are and help them be healthy.”

Partnership has removed network restrictions and barriers, so foster youth can get care from any Medi-Cal provider within their service area. They also identify members in foster care to ensure they are tracked and supported even when they move. Partnership created a Child Welfare Liaison team, comprised of staff with experience in working with foster youth, assigned to work with local agencies to coordinate care for some of California’s most vulnerable children.

Through their efforts, Partnership has seen improved access to timely care, with fewer restrictions when moving between placements or counties. As a result, foster youth in their network face less delays in getting proper care and achieve higher engagement in behavioral health due to increased follow-up visits and reduced wait times. Partnership also created strong interagency alignment that has led to improved lines of communication, shared protocols and reduced duplication. ★



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“A TOXIC LOVE STORY” Film on Netflix

There is no shortage of true crime documentaries on Netflix. The genre seems to be one of their specialties. Now along comes “A Toxic Love Story” about a love triangle with a surfeit of twists and turns.

Ian Diaz, a US Marshal, meets Angela Connell at a Starbucks in Anaheim, and very soon she moves into his condo, which had been purchased in partnership with his previous girlfriend Michelle Hadley.

With Michelle out of the picture, Ian and Angela soon get married and quickly expect to have twins. Then Angela starts getting weird emails from someone identified as “LilithIsTruth,” which may have in folklore a Biblical connotation.

The emails are constant and growing increasingly menacing, with messages like “You have stolen my life” and “Enjoy your last night of safety,” only getting worse with death threats.

Part of the narration comes from Leslie, Ian’s platonic female friend from a history of having worked together at Disneyland. It seems a bit strange that adult Ian is described as an almost daily visitor to Disneyland.

The barrage of emails appears to obviously come from Michelle, and Leslie serves a restraining order on Ian’s former girlfriend. But the emails keep coming, going so far as threatening death to a child and specifying a man would come over to rape Angela.

Anaheim police get involved in responding to calls from Ian and Angela to witness the trove of intimidating emails as they persistently ask what it will take to arrest Michelle as the culprit.

The arrest of Michelle leads to posting \$1,000,000 bail with the possibility, as reported in newscasts, of a potential life sentence. While the case may seem closed, we are only about halfway through the documentary. As they say, stay tuned for more.

One twist involves strange behavior from Angela, who gets challenged by family and friends about a claim of undergoing cancer treatments and other things that don’t add up. “A Toxic Love Story” weaves its way through police bodycam footage, texts of the harassing emails, interviews with law enforcement and family members. With Michelle sitting for extensive interviews, more questions may come to mind. All in all, it’s an interesting saga of deception and lies.

US OPEN FAN WEEK
Major sporting events everywhere are getting more expensive to attend. Super Bowl tickets were once affordable many decades ago, but no more. Though the recent World Cup was a spectacular success, ticket prices were out of reach for most fans.

The US Open tennis tournament in New York, the last leg of the Grand Slam competition gets underway on Sunday, August 30th. A daily grounds pass may cost roughly \$300, which is affordable as compared to some other major events.

Better still is the US Open Fan Week, which begins on Sunday, August 23rd and runs through Saturday, August 29th. Grounds admission is free with a Fan Access Pass that may be obtained on the US Open website.

Not everything is gratis during the Fan Week. The highlight this year will be the return of Roger Federer (who retired four years ago) for a marquee exhibition event on the main court of the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion will appear for “Roger Federer: An Icon Returns to New York” on the night of Tuesday, August 25th. The Swiss champ last competed at the US Open in 2019.

Remarkably, Federer won five consecutive US Open titles from 2004-2008, the only man or woman to accomplish that feat. In 2004, Federer entered the New York contest after triumphs the same year at the Australian Open and Britain’s Wimbledon.

The Federer event will also feature other legends of the sport, as the Swiss icon will be joined by 2003 US Open champion Andy Roddick, two-time US Open winner Andre Agassi, and four-time US Open champion John McEnroe, who was known for his combative behavior on the court.

A popular event requiring paid tickets is the Mixed Doubles Championship matches for Tuesday and Wednesday, August 25th and 26th. Bringing women and men together on the same team allows for a showcase of tennis at its best.

Belarussian Aryna Sabalenka, ranked number one for women’s singles, is paired with Serbian Novak Djokovic, ranked number four for men’s singles. American Taylor Fritz, ranked at number five for men, is teamed up with 10th ranked Elena Rybakina from Kazakhstan.

While all the players are too numerous to mention, there are several top-ranked Americans joining the doubles matches, including fourth ranked Amanda Anisimova, Learner Tien, Frances Tiafoe, and Taylor Townsend.

Over the course of four days, various courts around the premises feature the US Open Qualifying Tournament where 128 men and 128 women compete for one of the final 16 spots in the Singles Main Draw.

On Friday night, August 28th, the US Open Block Party is a dynamic festival-style celebration with an unforgettable evening of good music and fun. The nightly Heineken Happy Hour experience offers live music and special drink offers. ★



BY JOSH F.W. COOK

★ CALIFORNIA ★ POLICY AND ETHICS

Gay Bar Data Harvesting Cameras Mark Turning Sentiment

By Josh Cook

The last few weeks have seen some amazing instances of a growing policy problem that you face, whether you want to face it or not, just because you have a face.

The most interesting episode was the Gay tracking feature discovered at a group of San Francisco Gay bars that installed PatronScan Guard+ systems (ID scanners + cameras that photograph patrons and collect personal data like names, addresses, genders, and behavior notes).

The customers revolted. The data could be retained and shared across a network of venues using the system for blacklisting problem patrons.

In Chico, the Police Chief apologized that the Flock Camera Data had been shared with other agencies because one of the privacy settings was off.

It’s not just the government. Private businesses that take pictures of your face, record what you say and where you go, all claim that the data is not shared, protected, or “encrypted.” The fundamental problem is they all lie, and the data miners are getting what they want every time.

One Gay privacy advocate noted that PatronScan does allow you to have your personal information removed from their system... if you go to their website and fill out a form, and the website, yep, it tracks who visits there. It is as if no one has ever heard about what happened to

the Jews in Europe, the Native Americans, and Blacks in the 1940s when Eugenicians would run for County Clerk or Commissioner of Health to add “non-white” information to their list of families that were of “mixed race”. Like Christians in Iraq and Lebanon, who were put on “the list” before their houses were bulldozed.

It seems as if our history curriculum in schools has skipped over how many times the people in power make a list and then systematically eliminate the listed individuals.

The Government is prohibited by law from gathering a lot of the data that is being harvested by private industry. Then, by “accident” or by “clicking agree” to a 400-page privacy policy, all the data consolidates. It is insidious and no rational person will believe that the government will protect them while it is acting as a co-conspirator in laying the groundwork for amassing a database that can easily be turned into a “cultural” hit list.

There is a policy solution for this: make gathering consumer data and storing it for more than 60 days illegal, make the fines for “leaking” data massive, increase the amount victims of information theft can receive by lawsuit, and make government data leaking a crime with real consequences.

The jig is up; the American people are seeing every day how this data harvesting is a violation of their rights, and they no longer trust the system.

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Dr. Universe: How does the wind move?

- *Elijah, 10, North Carolina*

Dear Elijah,

When I’m not answering science questions, you can usually find me at the river. I enjoy the cool water and tasty fish. And I really love the gentle breeze ruffling my fur.

I asked my friend Jun Meng about that wind. He’s an atmospheric scientist at Washington State University. He leads a lab that studies air quality. That includes wildfire smoke and dust that ride the wind.

He told me that wind is air on the move.

“Air moves because the sun doesn’t hit the Earth’s surface evenly,” Meng said. “Some places get warmer than others. When the air warms up, it rises. When it’s cool, it sinks.”

Air is mostly nitrogen and oxygen molecules. When they warm up, those air molecules move faster. They drift apart. Scientists say that the air expands.

Have you ever opened a car door on a super-hot day? You can feel the warm air rush out. The trapped air inside the car heated up and pushed outward. When the door opened, it flowed out.

When the air molecules are farther apart, there are fewer molecules in one space. The warm air is less dense. It rises above the cooler, heavier air.

When they’re cool, air molecules move more slowly. They crowd close together. That makes the air denser. Cooler, heavier air sinks.

“That leaves some spots with extra air piled up and other spots with less,” Meng said. “So, air just flows from where there’s



Scientists describe an area with air molecules packed together as high pressure. A place where they’re spread out is low pressure. So, air moves from high pressure to low pressure—like a slide called the pressure gradient. This weather map (right) shows black loops called isobars. Each loop connects places where the pressure is the same. If isobars are drawn close together, the pressure gradient is stronger. That means the wind will blow faster there. The arrows curve a little because the spinning Earth bends the wind’s path. @NOAA

more of it to where there’s less. And that flowing air is what we feel as wind.”

It’s like blowing a bunch of air into a balloon and pinching the neck closed. If you let go, the air flows out of the small balloon—where it’s packed in tight—and into the big room.

Wind does important jobs.

Wind shifts warm air to help regulate the temperature all over the planet. It also moves moisture in the air, so it rains in different places. It can blow away smog and wildfire smoke.

Wind carries seeds, spores and pollen to new places. That helps plants spread. It pushes against young plants, encouraging them to grow stronger stems and roots.

Meng told me it even carries phosphorus-rich dust from the Sahara Desert all the way across the ocean to the Amazon rainforest.

That replaces the nutrients washed away by tropical rains in the rainforest.

It turns out the sun makes the breeze at the river, too. The land warms up faster than the water. So, air rises over the sand and sinks over the river. Then the cool air over the water flows toward the land. That’s the wind tousling my fur.

When the water is big—like an ocean—that cycle is big enough to get names. On a sunny afternoon, when the land is much warmer than the water, the wind blows from the sea toward the beach. That’s a sea breeze. At night, the land cools off faster, so the wind flips and blows back out to sea. That’s a land breeze.

It all works because air knows how to go with the flow.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MILKLAND

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

GRIN AND BEAR IT

by Dave T. Phipps

Just Like Cats & Dogs

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • FICTIONAL DETECTIVES

CLUES

ACROSS

1. Invitation request, acr.

5. Workout unit

8. Prohibit

11. Affirmative response

12. Type of lure, pl.

13. Small silvery fish

15. Seed covering

16. Gumbo vegetable

17. Like Siberian winters

18. "Murder, She Wrote" amateur sleuth

20. Descartes's "therefore"

21. "Apparition investigated in a Scooby-Doo cartoon"

22. ____ Air in L.A.

23. "Arthur Conan Doyle's detective"

26. Deposit, in Paris

30. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase (2 words)

31. Always, in Rome

34. "She ____ blue velvet..."

35. From then on

37. Am is to I as ____ is to we

38. Prison-related

39. International Civil Aviation Organization

40. Window-shop

42. "He ____ and drank the precious words..."

43. Announce

45. "Agatha Christie's Hercule"

47. Ryder Cup participant

48. Fern leaf

50. Charitable contribution

52. "The Pink Panther" Inspector

55. Diver's breathing device

56. Vietnam neighbor

57. Bald eagle's home

59. Bother

60. Highland tongue

61. Get checkmated

62. Cribbage piece

63. Like certain nurse

64. Ginger cookie

DOWN

1. Shag rug

2. Lord's worker

3. Colorado skiing destination

4. Mucus in lungs

5. Adherents of Sikhism

6. Wading bird

7. Russia's 1917 abdicator

8. Titanic's inanimate foe

9. "The Sun is ____ a Star"

10. Unknown power

12. Humorous

13. Blind followers

14. "Raymond Chandler's hardboiled detective"

19. Not those

22. Quilting gathering

23. Orthodox Judaism adherent

24. Chilled (2 words)

25. Cancer-treating machine, acr.

26. "Carolyn Keene's amateur sleuth"

27. Navigational aid

28. Inspiration for poets and musicians

29. Get a new tenant

32. Stud's companion

33. Trained instructor at a country club

36. *Peter Falk's Lieutenant

38. Lowly workers

40. Lingerie item

41. *Nick to Nora in The Thin Man series

44. Analyze

46. Paragons

48. Bell-bottoms bottom

49. Fowl perch

50. Skin problem

51. Miner's black one

52. Ball of yarn

53. Same as eon

54. Major one in the sky

55. Tree juice

58. Casual affirmative

CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Culture

By V.G. Harris

Well, Kings fans, while the NFL is already in preseason mode and only weeks away from regular season games, the NBA is not far behind.

In less than 60 days your own Sacramento Kings will once again be gracing the hardwood, and many are asking what can they expect?

Ask any 10 people and you'll get 10 different answers.

That would not be true of many organizations that have developed expectations based on recent successes and possibly on additions that were made to the team during the off season.

The Sacramento Kings made the post season just four years ago and appeared to be on a roll. So, what happened that brought them to a paltry 22 wins last year?

Injuries certainly played a critical role, but it is much more than that.

I took a look at the most storied franchise in the NBA with a total of 18 championship rings.

The Boston Celtics were once almost invincible, putting together eight straight championships, and sending a message that you may compete with us, but don't expect to win.

What made the Celtics such a dynasty? One word describes how Boston got there. Culture.

The Celtics developed a culture that didn't just spell team, it defined it.

Led by legendary Red Auerbach, the Celtics coach developed a team culture that many have tried to emulate but few have been successful. Perhaps the San Antonio Spurs may break into the conversation, as Gregg Popovich led the Spurs to five championships spanning a 29-year run.

Gregg Popovich simply had a modality that much like Red Auerbach, not only grasped the attention of his team, but transformed it.

So, what you ask, is the culture of the Sacramento Kings?

If I had that answer or even a good guess, I would certainly venture it.

What I can tell you is that denigrating players and constantly discussing their lack of ability as it relates to defense, or some other basketball related issue, is not something that will ever build a lasting relationship and is conducive to anything related to culture.

The Sacramento franchise while extolling

their past two drafts, have become cataleptic in their approach to anything resembling a culture.

Whether the national media can see it or not, the Kings have an abundance of talent on the current team, but a culture is badly needed. Something that isn't just lip service but shows up and supports the players in a way that builds confidence and a trust.

Domantas Sabonis has bought into what the Sacramento Kings have preached every season he's been here and has been the epitome of a leader literally from the day he arrived.

Domantas had to overcome the many fans that were crushed by the loss of Tyrese Haliburton, and all he did was cover his ears and lead the entire league in rebounding three years in a row.

Imagine breaking a thumb and playing through the pain to lead the league in rebounding and double-doubles.

Not lost in his stellar play has been the attitude of a true leader. Always the first player to help his teammate to his feet, a constant source of encouragement, Sabonis has been the poster boy for what an NBA teammate should look like.

But Sabonis isn't the only player to be shopped for a trade and criticized for his perceived lack of defense.

Zack Lavine has had to endure constant dialogue about the over inflated salary he is receiving and how he is keeping the Kings from moving forward because of his price tag and lack of defensive skill.

After these two have been trashed will no restraint, let's encourage them to be team leaders and approach the upcoming season will renewed enthusiasm.

Earth to the Kings. This is not how team culture is taught and developed.

Both Sabonis and Lavine have been former NBA all-stars, and contrary to popular opinion they both hit the hardwood with the same acumen that made them all-stars.

Let's start but extolling the virtues and building a culture that the glass is half full and not the opposite.

I know leaders when I see them, and Domantas Sabonis and Zach Lavine fit the description to a tee.

I'm showing up to see them play and I hope you will too!

All the best! ★

Interested in How California Pays for State Government? Here's Where to Find the Data



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The state budget is an obvious source for anyone interested in how California finances its programs.

However the budget, including the latest version enacted in June, is only a rough outline, a collection of suppositions and guesses, some educated, others politically motivated.

An obvious example is what happened four years ago when Gov. Gavin Newsom declared that California had a \$97.5 billion surplus, bragging “no other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this.”

That number never appeared in the budget, but legislators immediately pumped up spending. The surplus turned out to be a mirage based on what officials later acknowledged was a \$165 billion error in revenue estimates.

However, the spending increases were already in effect, leading to chronic, multibillion-dollar deficits ever since. Moreover, one piece of increased spending, the extension of health care coverage to undocumented immigrants, cost \$6.2 billion more than assumed in the budget, resulting in cutbacks of coverage.

While the budget itself is an imprecise source of financial information, its addenda provide troves of useful

data for those savvy enough to find them. They reveal such statistics as how many employee positions the state has (482,088), a list of the state's outstanding bond debts (\$73 billion) and how much the state collects from dozens of specific taxes and fees (\$328.4 billion).

One particularly interesting chart provides details on revenues and spending year-by-year, dating back to 1975. It reveals that income, outgo and the size of the state payroll remained stable relative to the growth in California's population and personal income, until Newsom became governor in 2019.

Since then, the state has added about 100,000 positions to its payroll, increasing it by one-third, relative to population. State general fund spending rose from 7.9% of total personal income in 2019-20 to 9.58% in 2023-24, the highest ever recorded since 1975. It now stands at 9.42%.

Those numbers are why Newsom will be leaving his successor a very unbalanced budget — no matter what he claims. In fact, one addendum projects shortfalls lasting through the next governor's first term, even if general fund spending remains virtually static, which it will not.

Those seeking an even deeper understanding of the state government's financial position have another source: The 372-page “Annual Comprehensive Financial Report” that the state controller's office files with the federal government. Its numbers are rock solid because they have to be and are backed up by audits.

State Controller Malia Cohen issued the 2024-25 report in May, two months after the federal government's deadline — but that

was an accomplishment. The state hadn't issued a timely report since 2018 because it was struggling with a new financial reporting tool, the Financial Information System of California, dubbed FISCal, that was years overdue, many millions of dollars over budget and incapable of generating accurate data.

The financial report covers a much broader array of state agencies (201) and programs than the budget, and therefore a much larger financial spread: \$595.5 billion in revenue and \$582.5 in spending — 66% larger than the \$351.7 billion current state budget.

Among its revelations is that the state has \$176.5 billion in unfunded liabilities for state employee pensions and retiree benefits, primarily healthcare. The report also contains detailed data about taxable sales, personal income and other economic sectors from which the state derives income.

One chart is especially timely, given the current debate over Proposition 40, a ballot measure that would impose a tax on the wealth of California's approximately 200 billionaires. Opponents of the wealth tax argue it could impel one-percenters to leave the state if it passes.

A chart on page 322 hints at the ramifications, supporting the oft-quoted assertion that California's top 1% of taxpayers by income — about 175,000 people — generate nearly half its income tax revenues.

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

I Worked for my Ex-husband but Wasn't Paid and now have little Social Security; What are my options?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Sadly, I was in business with my ex-husband. I'm a nurse and he was a chiropractor. He refused to pay me “on the books” and now, at age 73, after divorcing him due to his financial irresponsibility (I don't want to burden you with the thefts that he perpetrated), I am stuck with a small \$773 Social Security payment each month. At age 73 I am now faced with having to go back into the workforce. Is there anything I can do to prove that I worked 40 years for my husband but wasn't paid? **Signed: Distressed Divorcee**

Dear Distressed: We are so sorry to hear of your unfortunate circumstances. Assuming your ex-husband is now collecting Social Security retirement benefits (or is at least eligible to if you are divorced at least 2 years), you should be able to collect an ex-spouse benefit as his former wife. In that case, you would be entitled to receive 50% of the Social Security benefit he was entitled to at his own full retirement age (because he and you were married

for over 10 years).

The way that will work is that you would continue to receive your personally-earned \$773 monthly Social Security retirement amount earned from other employment, but you would also be entitled to a supplemental “spousal boost” to bring your payment up to half of the SS payment amount your ex-husband is entitled to at his SS full retirement age. In other words, because you were married to your ex for more than 10 years, you are entitled to the same Social Security benefits as though you were still married. That is true, even if he has remarried and his new wife is also getting a spouse benefit from his record. You will still be entitled to an ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband as his former wife. And if he dies before you, as a surviving ex-spouse you will get the same Social Security benefit he was receiving at his death, instead of the smaller amount your will get while you are both living.

Regarding rejoining the workforce, while you can certainly go back to work at age 73 without it negatively affecting your Social Security benefits, if you are struggling financially, I suggest you visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging: www.benefitscheckup.org. At this website, you can enter your zip code and find much information about other supplemental

assistance you may be entitled to where you live, including healthcare and medication assistance, housing, nutritional assistance, etc.

Regarding your question: “Is there anything I can do to prove that I worked 40 years and wasn't paid?” Social Security determines benefits based solely on your personal earnings as reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which is, in turn, dependent on how your joint income taxes were filed over the years you worked in your husband's business. Social Security is unable to assist you with IRS matters. I'm afraid yours is more of a legal matter you would need to pursue by discussing your situation directly with the IRS or engaging an attorney for assistance.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. ★



During the 1979-1980 hostage crisis, a defiant Iran starkly demonstrated the limits of American power. Forty-five years later, it is doing the same thing, although in vastly different circumstances. Back then, when the post-Vietnam military was at a low ebb, we didn't strike Iran, and a long-shot rescue operation ended in abject failure.

Now, with the U.S. military at its most proficient and professional in history, we have inflicted punishing blows against the regime but still haven't been able to impose our will, in part because we are running low on the munitions necessary to prosecute the war. Not only is this embarrassing, it is dangerous.

If Operation Midnight Hammer -- last year's lightning strike against Iranian nuclear facilities -- demonstrated the prowess of the U.S. military and sent a useful deterrent message to our enemies, the Iran War is now doing the opposite. We're running low on missiles and interceptors in a months-long conflict with a beleaguered second-rate power. What would happen in a drawn-out war with a major adversary?

President Trump has posted a thunderous denunciation of leaks to the media about our depleted weapons stocks, and the leaks are indeed irresponsible. But this problem is a matter of public record and has been tracked by outside organizations.

A Foreseeable and Dire Munitions Crisis

At the end of July, the Center for Strategic and International Studies estimated that, out of an arsenal of 2,330 Patriot interceptors before the Iran war, we had roughly 800 remaining. We were down to roughly 250 THAAD interceptors from 450 at the start of the war.

On top of this, news organizations are reporting that we are almost out of ATACMS -- a ground-launched precision-strike missile -- and Precision Strike Missiles, the newer, longer-range successor to ATACMS.

This isn't comforting at a time when a war with China could be in the offing. Even before Operation Epic Fury, a war game involving a conflict in the Taiwan Strait conducted by CSIS had the U.S. running out of key munitions in days or weeks.

What happened? This is a crisis a long time in the making. As defense analyst Mackenzie Eaglen of the American Enterprise Institute has warned for years, skimping on the acquisition of munitions was an easy way to meet constrained Pentagon budgets, and we relied on optimistic scenarios about potential wars to justify chronically insufficient production.

For some understandable reasons, we also emphasized sophisticated missiles and interceptors over “good enough” systems. This led to Iran, for instance, forcing us to use highly expensive, difficult-to-replace interceptors against cheap, bulk threats from drones. All this means that we've expended ordnance that it will take us years to build

again. According to media reports, we've used about half our supply of Tomahawk cruise missiles, when we've been manufacturing fewer than 100 a year.

We need to put missile production on a wartime footing, and leverage hungry new defense firms to produce cheaper precision missiles and interceptors at scale. In World War II terms, it's the difference between the easy-to-maintain and mass-produced Sherman tank and the exquisite and powerful, but ultimately impractical Tiger. Whatever advantages the Tiger had in armor and punch, you'd still rather be the U.S. with 50,000 Sher-mans than the Germans with 1,500 Tigers.

The Trump administration has been talking the right game, and there have been encouraging moves. It has signed agreements to acquire 10,000 cruise missiles over three years at a cost of a few hundred thousand dollars each, far less than a Tomahawk at more than \$2 million.

Wars always bring surprises. It should have been a shock to no one, though, that contemporary military conflict is largely missile warfare, or that we'd have trouble sustaining prolonged hostilities given that we started out with inadequate stocks. The American way of warfare is often to mess it up before adjusting and getting it right. The course correction here should be considered the most urgent priority of U.S. national security.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001049
The following persons are doing business as: Iron Sight Construction Co, 603 Alexander Court, Suisun City, CA 94585.
Ramon Alejandro Avellar II, 603 Alexander Court, Suisun City, CA 94585.
Date filed in Solano County: June 9, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: June 1, 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 8, 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 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2026
IRON 8-21-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001250
The following persons are doing business as: Urban Earth Sound, 420 Virginia Street 1B, Vallejo, CA 94590.
Urban Earth Enterprises, 420 Virginia Street 1B, Vallejo, CA 94590.
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: 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 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 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2026
URBAN 8-21-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001276
The following persons are doing business as: Havenstars Living, 249 Lighthouse Way, Vacaville, CA 95688.
YX&Associates LLC, 249 Lighthouse Way, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Date filed in Solano County: July 20, 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 July 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: July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2026
SUMMIT 8-21-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001291
The following persons are doing business as: Summit Commercial Services, 130 Allison Court, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Hector Serafin, 130 Allison Court, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Date filed in Solano County: July 22, 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 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: August 14, 21, 28, Sept 4, 2026
FT 9-4-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001423
The following persons are doing business as: Holistic Services Consulting, 212 Stonyford Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687.
Vanessa Audelo, 212 Stonyford Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687.
Date filed in Solano County: August 12, 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 August 11, 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: August 21, 28, Sept 4, 11, 2026
HOLISTIC 9-11-26

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-07094
Jirachaya Smith filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Jirachaya Smith to Jayne Jirachaya Smith
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. October 1, 2026, 8:30 a.m. Department 8, Room TBD, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Wendy Getty
Dated: July 31, 2026
Publish: August 14, 21, 28, Sept 4, 2026
SMITH 9-4-26

Nicole Valderrama Alvarez filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Lorenzo Leonardo Valderrama to Lorenzo Leonardo Valderrama Jacinto.
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. October 1, 2026, 8:30 a.m. Department 8, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Wendy Getty
Dated: August 12, 2026
Publish: August 21, 28, Sept 4, 11, 2026
ALVAREZ 9-11-26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Dixon (the "City") will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on September 1, 2026, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be considered, in the City Council chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620, at which time it will consider public testimony concerning the possible issuance by the Dixon Financing Authority of its Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2026 in the principal amount of not to exceed \$15,000,000 (\$15 million) and the execution and delivery by the City and the Authority of a Lease Agreement, under which the City will make base rental payments to the Authority which shall be sufficient in time and amount to pay scheduled debt service on the Bonds and to finance the design and construction of certain public capital improvements in the City of Dixon, California, including the construction of a new fire station (Fire Station 82) to be located in the southwest area of the City of Dixon, and the renovation and second-story expansion of the existing police station located at 201 West A Street, Dixon, California.

Interested persons are invited to submit written or oral testimony at the public hearing. For further information, please contact Kate Zawadzki, Assistant City Manager at (707) 678-7000.

Dated: August 21, 2026 CITY OF DIXON Dixon Independent Voice 8-21-2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL

The Dixon City Council will hold a hybrid **PUBLIC HEARING** to consider the following project:

PROJECT: **Valley of the Sacred Heart Academy** – [Continued from April 21, 2026 City Council meeting] Request for Design Review, Zoning Text Amendment, Lot Merger, and Conditional Use Permit for the Valley of the Sacred Heart Academy project. The proposal involves the development of a new, two-story, 18,340-square-foot educational center building with associated surface parking and landscaping improvements upon a 0.517-acre property located at 209-231 East A Street, Dixon CA 95620. The property comprises three parcels (APNs: 0115-084-070, 0115-084-080, and 0115-084-090) to be merged into one as a component of the project. The educational center building would serve as a relocation and expansion of the existing "Valley of the Sacred Heart Academy" private school use located to the south of the project site at 105 South 2nd Street. Local vehicular access to the project site would be provided via a new one-way driveway off North 2nd Street, with an exit proposed along East A Street. The Zoning Text Amendment component of the project proposes a revision to Zoning Code Table 18.05.020, *Land Use Regulations – Commercial and Mixed-Use Districts*, to conditionally allow Private Schools within specific areas of the DMX district; Downtown Mixed Use (DMX) Zoning District; File No's: PA25-07/PLAPP25-0181, DR25-0182 (Design Review), PDRZ25-0183 (Zoning Text Amendment), SUBD25-0184 (Lot Merger), UP25-0185 (Conditional Use Permit); Chris Simpson, Owner; SB James Construction, Applicant.

Consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") an assessment of potential impacts (Initial Study) was completed and released for a 30-day public review period, beginning on Friday, February 6, 2026 and concluding on Monday, March 9, 2026. Potentially significant impacts related to Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, and Transportation were identified in the Initial Study, with all the potentially-significant impacts able to be reduced or eliminated by requiring and implementing the recommended mitigation measures. Therefore, the Initial Study (IS) recommends the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), which includes the recommended mitigation measures. The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the application and its Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration on March 10, 2026 and recommended adoption of the Resolutions related to project approval and adoption of the IS/MND. The City Council considered the IS/MND on April 21, 2026 and continued the item to date uncertain. This publication provides notice that the City Council will consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The IS/MND and supporting documents are available for public review at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/EnvironmentalReviewDocuments>

HEARING DATE & LOCATION: **Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 7:00 pm** at Dixon City Hall, City Council Chambers, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620. This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754), after which they will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

MORE INFORMATION: For more information, please contact **Associate Planner Austin Forde at (707) 678-7000 ext. 1126 or aforde@cityofdixonca.gov**. You may also come to City Hall, located at 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620, to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., though closed on alternating Fridays. You may also view the staff report 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing, in person or remotely, to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to making any decision on the application.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Prior to 5:00 pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to CityCouncil@cityofdixon.us or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, City Council, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the City Council and will become part of the official record but will not be read aloud at the meeting.

You may also attend the public hearing at the time and location listed above **or** participate remotely, to provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments **remotely** during public comment period, you may: 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand," or 2) via teleconference press *9.

At the above time and place, all letters received will be noted and all interested parties will be heard. If you challenge in court the matter described above, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the above referenced public hearing (Government Code Section 65009 (b)(2)).

Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Dixon Independent Voice 8-21-2026

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL

The Dixon City Council will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** to consider the following project:

PROJECT: **City of Dixon 5-Year Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Plan Update for Fiscal Year 2027 through Fiscal Year 2031** - The City of Dixon is updating it's CIP for the next five years. A CIP is a five-year forecast which identifies major (capital) projects requiring the use of public funds over and above routine annual operating expenses. A capital project creates, improves, replaces, repairs, or permanently adds to City assets including: land, site improvements, parks, buildings, streets, bike paths, bridges, utility improvements, major equipment, computer hardware, and communication systems purchases.

The CIP plan and the Council's review for General Plan conformity is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 since it is not a "project" as defined under CEQA.

HEARING DATE & LOCATION: **Tuesday, September 1st, 2026 at 7:00 pm.** This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

MORE INFORMATION: Contact **Jordan Santos, Junior Engineer at (707) 678-7030 or jsantos@cityofdixonca.gov**. You can also come to City Hall, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also view the staff report 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to making any recommendation on the application.

The meeting will be physically open to the public and all persons attending the meeting must abide by all State rules and public health guidelines, regarding masking and social distancing in City Council chambers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to citycouncil@cityofdixonca.gov or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, City Council, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30pm on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the City Council and will become part of the official record, but will not be read aloud at the meeting.

You may also attend the public hearing at the time and location listed above or participate remotely, to provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments remotely during public comment period, you may 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand" 2) via teleconference press *9.

At the above time and place, all letters received will be noted and all interested parties will be heard. If you challenge in court the matter described above, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the above referenced public hearing (Government Code Section 65009 (b)(2)).

Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Dixon Independent Voice 8-21-2026



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Informing, Empowering & Engaging Readers With Their Community

Purpose and Passion

Tina Weiss is a visionary. From companies she started in Fashion, Textiles, Skin-care, and others, **Tina** is the definition of entrepreneur for over thirty years. And she still made room for philanthropy. But now she shares her message of resilience, self-discovery, and faith through her story in **“Fear to Faith”** that was inspired by her incredible life journey and her desire for us to know the greatest setbacks can become the greatest comebacks. She really wants us to discover strength, reclaim confidence, and find purpose through adversity. She had a rocky road, but with that experience she wants us to find our purpose and passion. She told me on POPPTALK that purpose begins with self-awareness. Here are key principles for finding YOUR purpose and passion, and so begins your journey! Look for the joy it can bring.

1. STOP LIVING FOR EVERYONE ELSE’S EXPECTATIONS. Many people spend years seeking approval instead of honoring their own path. Your purpose is discovered when you choose authenticity over people-pleasing.

2. YOUR GREATEST CHALLENGES OFTEN REVEAL YOUR GREATEST STRENGTHS. Difficult seasons can become powerful teachers, helping you uncover resilience, compassion, and gifts you never realized you had.

3. TRUST YOUR INTUITION. Your inner voice is often your best guide. Learning to listen to it builds confidence and helps you make decisions that align with your purpose.

4. CREATE HEALTHY BOUNDARIES. Saying “no” isn’t selfish. It’s an act of respect. Protecting your time and energy allows you to focus on what truly matters.

5. DON’T LET FEAR MAKE YOUR DECISIONS. Fear will always give you reasons to stay where it’s comfortable. Growth begins when you choose faith, courage, and possibility instead.

6. TURN YOUR EXPERIENCES INTO YOUR PURPOSE. Every chapter of your life, both joyful and painful, holds lessons that inspire, encourage, and serve someone else.

7. STOP COMPARING YOUR JOURNEY TO OTHERS. Everyone’s timeline is different. Focus on your own progress, celebrate your growth, and trust that your path is unfolding exactly as it should.

8. PASSION GROWS THROUGH ACTION. You don’t have to know every step before you begin. Small, consistent actions create momentum and often lead to opportunities you never expected.

9. SEEK SUPPORT FROM POSITIVE, SUPPORTIVE PEOPLE. The right people can offer guidance, encouragement, and perspective, helping you move toward a place of greater peace and purpose.

10. FORGIVE TO MOVE FORWARD. Forgiveness is not about excusing what happened, it’s about freeing yourself from the weight of resentment. When you release the past, you create space for healing, peace, and the life you were meant to live.

Want to find out how to achieve your greatest purpose? Check out **Tina Weiss** at **www.TinaWeiss.com**. And she has a little gift for you too. I’m sure building strength after adversity is not easy, but seems like such great satisfaction. But you have to start somewhere and now is the sometime. **Tina** believes in you and **SO DO I!** ★



By Patsy McGavock

This column was originally published in the Feb. 21, 2025, issue of the American River Messenger.

Last February, I gave my first public comment at a San Juan Unified School District Board meeting, addressing feelings of disconnect, disillusionment and even distrust some feel toward their district. I hoped to inspire dialogue, understanding, and an expectation of goodwill in the public square – principles needed well beyond one school district.

I write to anyone feeling disillusioned, divided, angry or afraid, offering thoughts on fear’s impact and the power of our own expectations.

The public square can seem dangerous, complex or exclusionary - even in conversations with our neighbors. We often feel safe speaking openly only with those who share nearly our exact view. We speak of ‘the government’ as a distant entity set on argument, rather than individuals who entered public service to support their communities while navigating the same divide we feel.

How have we become this way, when locally I regularly witness government staff, district staff and community - people from various backgrounds - accomplishing tremendous good with creative solutions?

Cognitively speaking, creative collaboration thrives when we feel safe. Fear shuts it down. Fear is the mind’s reactive, not proactive, self-talk—it isn’t truth. It is the mind creating ideas that trigger fight or flight, anger, or anxiety, leaving only two options: us versus them. The third, and perhaps most effective, alternative never surfaces.

We are divided by the belief, the fear, that the ‘other side’ will take away what we value. We stand with iron fences defending our own place on the hill, never lifting each other to the higher, unobstructed view only seen from the top of the mountain. Solutions are at the mountain’s peak, visible only because of the many perspectives we gain through the climb.

Brain scans show that learning is the direct opposite of fear. With a learning mindset, we see others not as threats, but as sources of insight and growth.

Assuming goodwill can help us move from fear to learning.

Psychology, sociology, communication studies – all affirm that we treat our perceptions as reality and our expectations are self-fulfilling.

Which means – we have great power to change outcomes by challenging our own expectations. Yes, it is hard. It is uncomfortable. But every cycle of growth begins with discomfort.

As human beings, it takes courage to assume goodwill. It takes courage to heal any divide. Someone must be the first person to challenge the expectation of conflict. Will you accept the challenge?

Principals of collaboration (in the public square or the dinner table):

Begin with the end in mind. Seek solutions that uphold your values. Stay focused on the core purpose, returning as needed. What is at the heart of the matter?

Creating Civil Voice in the Public Square

Assume goodwill. Expect collaboration - even if your prior experience tells you not to. Fear perpetuates fear; be the one who brings goodwill.

Listen to understand, then speak to be understood. Listen first, slow down, and respond as you would to a friend. Revisit the purpose often to stay on track.

Bring actionable suggestions. A concern without a suggestion sounds like a complaint. Offering solutions shows commitment to collaboration.

Seek the third alternative. The best, most workable solutions often haven’t been thought of yet. You’re creating something new, not just debating limited existing options.

Remember: Disagreement is not conflict. It’s a vital part of dialogue and problem-solving. It is a good thing. Embrace it as an opportunity to learn from one another.

There are no perfect words, only honest, respectful ones. Speak from the heart.

We can heal our divide - one person, one community, maybe even one school district or one county at a time.

To understand these principles and tools better, I recommend the following books: “The Fearless Mind” by Craig Manning, “The Anatomy of Peace” by The Arbinger Institute and “The 3rd Alternative” by Steven R. Covey

Patsy McGavock is a volunteer writer and community advocate “informing, empowering and engaging readers with their community.” and can be reached at PatsyMcGavock. JustServe@gmail.com. ★

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Food & Farm NEWS



‘Rough’ Peach Crop Caps a Bitter Season

Harvest is expected to conclude later this month for California cling peaches, which are used for canning. For the first time, nearly all the fruit is bound for a single processor-Pacific Coast Producers-after Del Monte Foods filed for bankruptcy last year and closed its Modesto cannery earlier this year. The loss of Del Monte’s business puts California cling peach growers at a precarious crossroads, with several dozen growers going without a buyer for some or all their fruit. As a result, about 3,000 acres of peach trees are expected to be removed this year, according to the California Canning Peach Association. “It’s a huge setback,” said Sarb Johl, who grows cling peaches in Yuba and Sutter counties, and has pulled 80 of his 120 acres of peach trees this year. “They’re all pushed out and burned up.” Cling peach harvest, which started in late May, has hardly improved fortunes. A heat wave this past spring sped fruit ripening before the crop had a chance to size up, with a lot of peaches being rejected for being too small. “The fruit is looking pretty rough,” Johl said.

Processed Tomato Growers Hope for Market Recovery

After their big crop in 2025, California growers of processing tomatoes are harvesting fewer acres this season. Higher inventories of tomato products and decreased sales led California tomato processors to cut how many acres they want growers to plant this year, with contracted acres at their lowest in more than 30 years. The hope is that the reduced acreage will allow inventory levels to come into balance with market demands, said Mike Montna, president and CEO of the

California Tomato Growers Association. “It’s going to take a couple of years,” he said, adding that the industry has “turned the corner” on slower sales. Unusually warm weather in March accelerated plant growth, leading to an earlier start to harvest this year. Growers with later plantings expect to finish harvest by the end of October. Fresno County grower Don Cameron described the quality of his crop as good, with yields exceeding his contracted amount. But with months of harvest left, Montna said weather could still impact the crop.

State’s Farmers Seek Fairness in Trade Talks with Canada

California farm groups are closely watching the trade relationship between the U.S. and Canada-the state’s top export market for its agricultural products-as negotiations of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement continue. The Trump administration last month announced new tariffs on some Canadian goods and chose not to automatically extend the trade pact, leading to annual negotiations. California Farm Bureau hosted a meeting last week with Canadian officials and various agricultural commodity groups to discuss trade concerns and ways to strengthen cooperation. One major issue is Canada’s ban on U.S. alcohol sales, which caused California wine exports to Canada to drop sharply. The decline has made conditions more difficult for California’s struggling wine sector, which is already facing lower global demand and an oversupply of grapes. Matthew Viohl, director of federal policy advocacy for the California Farm Bureau, said California farmers want to ensure trading partners follow labor and environmental standards outlined in trade agreements. “What we really stress when it comes to trade is stability and fairness,” he said. ★

DON’T WAIT! CALL NOW! 916-773-1111