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Dixon

Independent Voice

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Lambtown Festival Winners Announced



Sheep competition during the Lambtown Festival, Oct. 4 in Dixon. Photo by Kevin Dietrich

By Kevin Dietrich

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The winners from the 40th annual Lambtown Festival, held Oct. 3 and Oct. 4 at the Dixon May Fairgrounds, have been announced.

Ann Robinson won first place and division champion in the wool show for the breed division.

Sue Fox won the division reserve for the breed division and placed first in the other breeds class.

Terry Mendenhall was named both the division champion and division reserve in the handspinning division.

In the sheep show, David Howard was the grand champion in meat breeds and Emma Hill was grand champion in wool breeds.

In the sheep to shawl competition, the Del Oro Spinners and Weavers team of Lee Bergman,



Individuals from across the western United States came to the festival, which drew thousands of spectators. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Kathy MacPherson and Wendy Brown took first place and grand champion in the fairgrounds division, while the Asheep at the Wheel team took first place in the virtual division.

In the skeins and textiles competition, Jesse Gipe took first place in amigurumi; Lindsay Remer won

top honors in crochet general; Sarah Powell was first in felted items; Janice Niblock took top spot in knit-cardigan; and Jackie Montgomery won first in knit-other wearable.

Kelsey Littell took first in knit-pullover; Louise Nielsen won the knit-hand-spun competition; Cheryl Brookshear finished first in

woven-commercial yarn; woven-handspun yard was captured by Lucille Hoefnagels; and Marija Kalebota Kodzoman prevailed in handspun yarn 100 percent wool (dyed).

In handspun yarn 100 percent wool (natural), Ann Jensen finished first; Jennifer Tang took top honors in handspun yarn-wood blend; Beth Callahan triumphed in handspun yarn-other fibers; while Michelle Lee won the handspun yarn-novelty category.

The people's choice (textile) competition went to Sarah Grobman, and the people's choice (skein) went to Beth Callahan.

Individuals from across the western United States came to the festival, which drew thousands of spectators. The next Lambtown Festival will take place on Oct. 2 and Oct. 3, 2027. ★

Californians to Consider 14 Ballot Measures

By Kevin Dietrich

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon residents will see a lengthy ballot when they cast votes in the Nov. 3 election.

In addition to choosing statewide offices such as governor, local offices including city council and school board, and other races such as U.S. House of Representatives and California Supreme Court, voters will consider 14 citizen- or legislature-initiated ballot measures this election cycle – the most since 1994.

Proposition topics this year include voter ID, the billionaire tax and limits to the California Environmental Quality Act.

California has a long history with initiatives dating back to 1911. Since then, more than 400 have been placed on the ballot by citizen initiatives and the California State Legislature.

The initiative process offers California voters a means to amend the state constitution. The term proposition is used for any ballot measure to be voted on by the people and can be an initiative or a referendum. An initiative requires a simple majority of votes to pass.

Populist Gov. Hiram Johnson, elected in 1910, led the fight for direct democracy in the state. In a bid to offset the Southern Pacific Railroad political machine, which controlled much of California state government, Johnson pushed through California's initiative, referendum and recall processes to help bolster the power of citizens.

"And while I do not by any means believe the initiative, the referendum, and the recall are the panacea for all our political ills, yet they do give to the electorate the power of action when desired, and they do place in the hands of the people the means by which they may protect themselves," Johnson said in his first inaugural address on Jan. 3, 1911.

Some 115 years later, the ballot initiative process continues to give California citizens a way to propose laws and constitutional amendments. It is not without criticism, however.

"California's version of direct democracy has led to some of the Golden State's most notable – and infamous – policies," the Hoover Institution wrote in 2016. "While California's initiative system is often romanticized,

Continued on page 5

Council, School Board Seats in Play

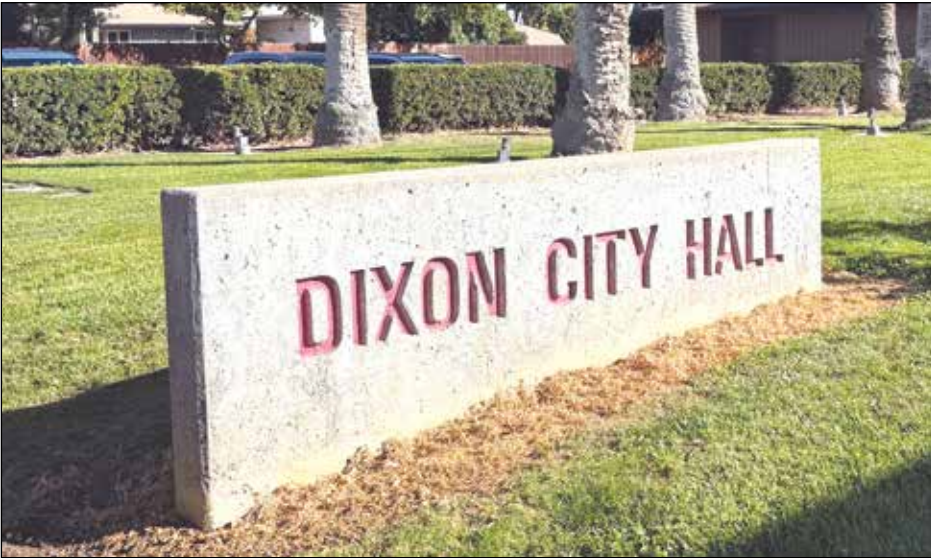
Story and photo
by Kevin Dietrich

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon voters will cast ballots for several local candidates in the upcoming Nov. 3 election.

Residents will vote for two city council seats, three school board seats and the city clerk post. Also on the ballot is a seat on the Solano County Board of Education and a Solano County Board of Supervisors position.

On the Dixon City Council, businessowner Jim Ernest is running for his third term in District 1. He is being challenged by Emily Schroeder, a legislative assistant with the California Hospital Association.

In District 2, Thom Bogue, a Dixon businessowner, is running against Dixon businesswoman Christine Cerna. Bogue, an incumbent, previously served on the City Council from 2010-14 and as mayor from 2016-2020.



Dixon voters will be casting ballots for several local offices, including Dixon City Council, in the Nov. 3 election.

He lost his re-election bid in 2020 but was elected to City Council again four years ago.

The Dixon Unified School Board has three positions open this election. Incumbents Julian Cuevas, Jewel Fink and John Gabby are on the ballot, as are Michael Ceremello Jr., Phil Lockwood, Michael Monson and Cheryl Sommers.

In the Dixon city clerk's race, incumbent Lupe Ruiz is running unopposed.

The Solano County Board of Education Governing Board features two challengers – Tamika Hamilton and Kathryn Kedarisetty – running for Area 6, which represents the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Dixon and southeast Vacaville. Hamilton is a Dixon resident who is involved

with nonprofits, while Kedarisetty is an elementary school teacher.

In the race for the 4th District of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, John Carli, current mayor of Vacaville, is running against Mike Silva, a Vacaville City Councilmember. District 4 includes all of Dixon, a large portion of Vacaville and unincorporated Solano County. ★

Persons listed in this log from the Dixon Police Department are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Only activities deemed significant by the Police Dept. are included.

DIXON POLICE LOG

Wednesday, October 7, 2026
0848 Traffic Collision report was taken in the 900 East A St.
0851 A missing juvenile report was taken in the 600 block of Cypress St.
1251 A theft report was taken in 1500 Mc Cormack Ct.
1930 Officers conducted a traffic enforcement stop at Industrial way and Business Park Dr. The driver, Susanne Hodgkin (73 year old female of Dixon) was arrested for Driving under the Influence.
1948 A theft report was taken in the 2000 block of Hopewell Rd.
0037 Officers attempted a traffic enforcement stop at Pitt School Rd and Market Ln. on a vehicle with no lights during darkness. The driver initially failed to yield, but ultimately yielded to officers at Pitt School Rd and Rehmann Dr. The driver, Crystal Cerezo (24 year old female of Suisun City) was issued a citation for failure to yield.

Thursday, October 8, 2026
0741 Welfare check in the 300 block of Mc Kenzie Dr.
0801 A traffic collision report was taken at the intersection of West A St. at Gateway Dr.
0949 A suspicious circumstance report was taken at the Dixon Police Department.
1225 A warrant arrest report was taken in the 100 block of Dorset Dr. Officers contacted (S) Juan Hernandez Tomelloso (57) of Vacaville. A records check revealed he had a misdemeanor warrant out of Solano County. Subject was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail and released to the jail staff.
1235 A missing person report was taken in the 600 block of Evans Rd.
1319 A fraud report was taken in the 1700 block of Margurite Dr.
1440 A vehicle tampering arrest report was taken at the intersection of West H St. at Newgate Wy. Officers contacted (S) Julian Alvarado (18) of Dixon. He was arrested and taken to the Solano County Jail.
1939 Welfare check in the 700 block of West D St.

Friday, October 9, 2026
1113 Information report taken in the 1800 block of North 1st Street.
1618 Welfare check in the area of West A Street and Gateway Drive.
1921 An officer conducted a traffic stop near N First St and Atkinson Ct. The driver, Timothy Avila (69 year old male of Bend Oregon) was found to have an active warrant out of Madera County. He was released on an agreement to appear.
2058 Officers responded to a domestic violence report in the 1500 block of Marena Dr. Stephanie Sawyer (65 year old female of Dixon) was arrested on domestic violence related charges.
2149 Officers responded to a suspicious person in the 100 block of W Dorset Dr. Jeffrey Carlson (39 year old male of Fairfield) was arrested for possession of controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to identify.
2200 Officers responded to a reported domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Mourning Dove Dr. Angelina Ramirez (28 year old female of Dixon) was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and child endangerment.
2243 Officers responded to Kaiser Hospital in Vacaville for a reported assault that occurred near West H St and N First St.
0037 Officers responded to a fraud report originated in the 1900 block of N First St.

Saturday, October 10, 2026
0911 518 PC, Extortion report, taken in the 1600 block of Apricot Court.
1041 488 PC, Theft report, taken in the 600 block of North 1st Street.
1753 Officers were contacted regarding a harassment complaint in the 200 block of Fuller Ln.
2047 Officers received a report of a missing adult in the 100 block of S. Second St. The subject was located shortly after the initial report.
0208 Officers were contacted regarding a possible court order violation in the 800 block of Newgate Way.

Sunday, October 11, 2026
1314 Domestic violence investigation in the 500 block of South Jefferson Street led to the arrest of Yarismel Gonzalez-Andrade (21) of Dixon for an outstanding warrant.
1620 Female placed on mental health hold.
1922 Vandalism reported in the 1100 block of Autumn Breeze Drive.

Tuesday, October 13, 2026
1005 Found property report in the area of South First Street and East Mayes Street.
1315 APS investigation.
1423 Vehicle accident with no injuries in the area of Harvard Way and East Parkway.
1530 Confidential report.
1658 Female placed on mental health hold.

Wednesday, October 14, 2026
0830 Mayolo Quezada-Martinez (60) of Winters was contacted in the 1600 block of North Lincoln Street and later arrested for DUI.
1127 Confidential report.
1400 Fraud report in the 1300 block of North Lincoln Street.
1530 APS referral in the 600 block of Brians Way.



Dixon News Briefs



Members of the Ramtown Karate Competition Team celebrate a successful Fall Classic Karate Tournament in Yuba City, bringing home multiple gold, silver and bronze medals. Photo courtesy of Ramtown Karate

By MPG Staff

Two Stabbed at Cool Patch Pumpkins

Two people were stabbed Oct. 16 at Cool Patch Pumpkins in Dixon. The victims, a 19-year-old woman from Dixon and a 20-year-old man from Vallejo, were treated at an area hospital after the attack, which took place at about 9:15 p.m.

Alfonso L. Linarez, 28, of Sacramento, was arrested after the attack in a corn maze and charged with two felonies and a misdemeanor, according to the Solano County Sheriff's Office.

Cool Patch Pumpkins said on its Facebook page that safety is a priority.

"We are committed to providing a safe, family-friendly environment for everyone who visits Cool Patch Pumpkins and we look forward to serving our community for the remainder of our season."

Cool Patch Pumpkins, at 6150 Dixon Ave. West, is a you-pick pumpkin patch and corn maze.

District, Employees Reach Contract Agreement

After more than a year of bargaining, the Dixon Unified School District and Members of Service Employees International Union Local 1021 reached an agreement on a three-year contract.

The agreement followed mandated mediation sessions last month.

The contract includes an average 9.67 percent wage increase, with some employees receiving a bump of as much as 21 percent. The contract includes wage increases in the first two years based on the median wage of competitor school districts and the Class Comp study. Less-competitive wages will see higher wage increases while more competitive wages will see lower increases, according to SEIU.

The contract also established a \$20 minimum wage for DUSD classified employees for the 2026-27 school year.

"After a year of challenging negotiations, we are proud of what we were able to achieve for our members and look forward to future opportunities to continue to advocate for the backbone of DUSD, our classified workers," said Julie Galindo, vice president of the SEIU 1021 Dixon Unified School District chapter.

SEIU Local 1021 members can expect to receive retroactive salary increases at the end of December. The contract runs from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028.

Reyes Takes Gold at Karate Tournament

Dixon Montessori School student Sydney Reyes brought home a gold medal from the Fall Classic Karate Tournament, held Oct. 4 in Yuba City.

Competing as a member of the Ramtown Karate Competition Team, Reyes earned three decisive victories on her way to first place, winning her gold medal match with a perfectly executed head kick.

Reyes was among more than a dozen Ramtown Karate competitors and officials representing Dixon at the tournament, with participants ranging in age from 6 years to more than 50. The team enjoyed a successful day of competition, earning numerous first-, second- and third-place finishes across multiple divisions.

The annual Fall Classic brought together martial artists from throughout the region to test their skills in competition.

The Ramtown team is now preparing for an even bigger event closer to home. On Saturday, Nov. 7, Ramtown Karate will host the 25th Annual Ryukyukan Karate Tournament at Dixon High School, welcoming competitors of all ages and belt levels from several states.

Dixon Fire Department Tackles Blaze

The Dixon Fire Department made quick work of a structure fire on Oct. 9.

A fire was reported in the 600 block of McKenzie Drive in Dixon just after 12 p.m. It took firefighters 14 minutes to bring the blaze under control. All residents and animals were accounted for, and no injuries were reported.

Firefighters remained on scene for approximately two hours conducting

overhaul and mop-up operations. The cause of the fire is currently unknown and remains under investigation.

The Dixon Fire Department was assisted on scene by the City of Vacaville Fire Department, while the City of Davis Fire Department provided station coverage to ensure continued emergency response capabilities throughout the community.

Trunk or Treat on Oct. 30

Trunk or Treat will take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30. Children wearing costumes are invited to visit businesses in downtown Dixon which will be handing out treats. Afterward, they're invited to the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, 220 N. Jefferson St.

Brewski Fest to Feature Music, Beer

The 2026 Brewski Fest will feature live music, food and beer tasting. Set for 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 24, Brewski Fest check-in will be at First Street and A Street in downtown Dixon.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased online at DowntownDixonCA.com. You must be 21 years old to participate.

Halloween Cookie Decorating at Dixon Library

The Solano County Library will feature teen Halloween cookie decorating from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 28, at the Dixon Library, 230 N. First St.

Twens and teens ages 10 to 18 are invited after school to decorate free Halloween cookies.

For more information, visit www.solano-library.gov/events.

Final 2026 Dixon Farmers Market

The last scheduled weekly Dixon Farmers Market for the year will be held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at Pardi Park Plaza.

Among items expected for sale will be fruits and vegetables, fresh-baked bread, homemade salsa and tamales, hummus and olive oil.

There will be live music at the event, which runs through 7 p.m.

Day of the Dead at Dixon Cemetery

The Silveyville Cemetery District and Friends of the Dixon Cemetery will celebrate Dia de los Muertos from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 1.

The free event at 800 S. First St. in Dixon will feature food, music, dancers and vendors.

Vacaville Breaks Ground on Harmony Village

Site excavation has begun at Harmony Hill, an affordable housing development in Vacaville.

Eight years after officials first identified the single-acre property in Vacaville as a potential site for affordable housing, grading work is underway, according to Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity.

Harmony Village will provide 10 local low-income families with an opportunity to build their homes in partnership with Habitat and then buy them with affordable financing.

The family-selection process is underway for the first two homes, following the application deadline last month. It is anticipated that the application process for the next two homes will take place in summer 2027.

Once constructed, Harmony Village will feature 10 single-family homes and a public street on Scoggins Avenue. Each home will include four bedrooms and three bathrooms.

Dixon Planning Commission Meeting Postponed

The Dixon Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Oct. 13, to include an update on the proposed General Plan 2040 amendments, has been rescheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 10.

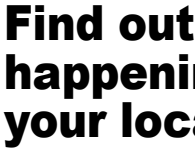
The informational update will include proposed green line, sphere of influence and policy refinements shaped by public feedback. No final decisions will be made at the meeting. The public is invited to attend in person at City Council Chambers or virtually.

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Angela Vega is Soroptimist Young Woman of the Month

Soroptimist International of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Angela Vega is Soroptimist International of Dixon (SI Dixon) Young Woman of the Month for September. She was presented by teacher, Stephanie Kelso, representing the Dixon High School Science Department. Kelso expressed how Angela absolutely loves science, having taken five of the six science classes available to her.

Angela is the daughter of Gilberto and Jennifer Vega, and she has two siblings, Vivienne and Sarah.

Angela has been very involved in her community and school. She volunteers at her church and for the local Rotary Club. She is president of the Interact Club and academic decathlon, an active member of Club Unidos, plays water polo and is on the track team.

Angela participated in a service project in the Dominican Republic with Global Glimpse where she learned about Dominican culture and painted murals at an elementary school to inform kids about agricultural sustainability. Even more notable, Angela was the only student in our area who was accepted, selected and participated in the Yale Young Global



From left, Dixon High School Science Department teacher Stephanie Kelso presents Angela Vega Soroptimist International of Dixon Young Woman of the Month. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Dixon

Scholars Program this past summer. The Yale Young Global Scholars Program is an academic enrichment program for outstanding high school students from around the world. Each summer, students from over 150 countries participate in one interdisciplinary, two-week session on the Yale campus.

Beyond these achievements that Angela is proud of, she is also proud of earning the AP Scholar

Award, has a black belt in Karate and is a Distinguished Scholar in Chemistry.

Not surprising to anyone who knows Angela, Angela plans to attend a four-year college in California and then go on to medical school.

Soroptimist International of Dixon members are truly inspired by Angela's commitment to her community and her love of science. Congratulations Angela! ★



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Christina CERNA



DIXON CITY COUNCIL

ROOTED IN DIXON

FOCUSED ON OUR FUTURE

WORKING FOR YOU

CHRISTINA CERNA

Occupation: Education Compliance Specialist/ Businesswoman

Education and Qualifications: I graduated from Dixon High School and went on to college, graduating from UOP (University of the Pacific) with a B.A. degree.

Raised locally in Dixon on our family ranch, I have a strong commitment and connection to the community. I care about community concerns and want folks to feel that they are really being heard and have a voice on matters of interest, including large-scale development projects, and what that may mean to their way of life. Increased Traffic and Safety Impacts are important,

I want to ensure we can contribute effectively to decisions, as growth is upon us. Infrastructure requirements are needed for safe living in a small town bi-sected by the railroad in emergencies. Safe roads and pathways for children bicycling/walking to school and pedestrian safety matters, including safe sidewalks.

Enhanced financial efforts to seek additional extramural funding sources are important. Protecting our Farmland, Open Spaces, Natural Habitats and peaceful community matters, for a healthy quality of life.

I will work hard, and can do a terrific job for our community, as a locally grown candidate for City Council.

Ocupación: Especialista en cumplimiento normativo educativo / Empresaria Educación y cualificaciones: Me gradué de la escuela secundaria Dixon High School y continué mis estudios universitarios, obteniendo una licenciatura en la UOP (University of the Pacific).

Criada aquí mismo en Dixon, en el rancho de mi familia, tengo un fuerte compromiso y conexión con la comunidad. Me importan las inquietudes de la comunidad y quiero que las personas sientan que realmente se les escucha y que tienen voz en asuntos de interés, incluidos los proyectos de desarrollo a gran escala y lo que estos pueden significar para su estilo de vida. El aumento del tráfico y los impactos en la seguridad son temas importantes; quiero asegurar que podamos contribuir eficazmente a las decisiones a medida que la ciudad crece. Se requieren infraestructuras adecuadas para garantizar la seguridad en una ciudad pequeña que queda dividida por la vía del tren en situaciones de emergencia. Son fundamentales las carreteras y caminos seguros para los niños que van a la escuela en bicicleta o a pie, así como la seguridad de las personas que caminan incluyendo banquetas seguras.

Es importante reforzar los esfuerzos financieros para buscar fuentes de financiación externas adicionales. Proteger nuestras tierras agrícolas, espacios abiertos, hábitats naturales y la tranquilidad de la comunidad es esencial para una buena calidad de vida.

Trabajaré duro y realizaré una labor excelente para nuestra comunidad como candidata al Concejo Municipal criada en Dixon.

https://cernafordixon.com



Riley Reviews

“SOCIAL RECKONING” PROBES MEDIA EXCESS; SUCCESS OF THE US OPEN

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

“THE SOCIAL RECKONING” **Rated R**
Aaron Sorkin, the writer of the films “A Few Good Men” and “Moneyball” among many others, is also the scribe behind “The Social Network” and now “The Social Reckoning.”

To have written scores of well-known films and some with political themes, it is rather amazing that Sorkin admitted that in 1984 he didn’t know anyone who voted for President Reagan in his landslide victory to carry 49 states.

Now, the question is whether he was living in a bubble on the Upper East Side of tony Manhattan or was he just clueless? Or maybe just completely not inquisitive, in which case how did he write the film “The American President” and TV’s “The West Wing?”

This brings me to “The Social Reckoning,” which is not a sequel to the 2010 film “The Social Network.” However, it’s centered once again on the enigmatic, stoic Mark Zuckerberg, this time played by Jeremy Strong instead of Jesse Eisenberg.

Not dissimilar to Sorkin’s other works with political overtones, in this latest film about the Facebook CEO (now it’s Meta), the political edge comes from the focus of Wall Street Journal investigative reporter Jeff Horwitz (Jeremy Allen White) looking into sinister aspects of social media.

The film begins with an outrageous confrontation by an inebriated young woman on a highway getting into a nasty spat with two police officers, one Black and the other Hispanic. She launches into an unhinged racist rant that she posts on Facebook.

The significance of this shocking event is that Facebook employee Frances Haugen (Mikey Madison) has known this person as a leftist who may have been radicalized by the ill effects of Facebook’s social media algorithms.

Becoming a whistleblower at great peril to her career, Frances connects with the Wall Street Journal reporter in secret meetings because she’s committed to the company’s Civic Integrity Team’s desire to reign in questionable practices.

Meanwhile, a parallel story finds the impassive, robotic Zuckerberg being prepped for testimony before the U.S. Senate, with a crisis management expert trying to make him look likeable. Acerbic comedian Bill Burr plays a former colleague skeptical about the company’s ethical lapses.

Maybe “The Social Reckoning” would prove more interesting for anyone consumed by social media and steeped in the foibles of algorithms, but it is rather bland and failing to be a gripping media drama like “All the President’s Men” and films in that genre.

US OPEN IS A SUCCESS

The United States Tennis Association

(USTA) is reporting the good news of milestones set with this year’s recent concluded US Open Tennis Tournament, which was attended by record number of 1.2 million fans.

The record included sellouts of every ticketed event of the entire tournament. In total, more than 300,000 fans visited during the US Open Fan Week, also a record. USTA noted that high demand drives up the secondary market to levels beyond their control.

What is most notable about the 2026 Grand Slam in Flushing Meadows is that the American players had more success than usual, with Ben Shelton reaching his first major singles final, becoming only the second American to reach the Grand Slam final in the last decade, alongside Taylor Fritz.

Other notable American results included Taylor Townsend winning the women’s doubles title to achieve the Career Grand Slam in doubles, and Christian Harrison who captured the men’s doubles championship, following his Australian Open title earlier this year.

A total of 10 American singles players reached the Round of 16 (fourth round), including an equal number of men and women at five apiece. Aside from Shelton in the final, Alex Michelsen and Frances Tiafoe reached the quarterfinals.

On the American female side, Coco Gauff, who won the US Open champions title in 2023, reached the semifinals, while Jessica Pegula and Emma Navarro made it to the quarterfinals.

Other American players offer hope for glory in the future, hopefully as soon as next year. Entered as a top-10 seed, Taylor Fritz is a force to reckon with. Young talent Learner Tien reached a high level in world rankings.

For the women, Coco Gauff is still young and an elite contender, while Amanda Anisimova was seeded in the top tier. Iva Jovic is only 18 years old and was deservingly ranked high following a quarterfinal run at the Australian Open this year.

Even younger American talent success followed in the juniors’ competition with 17-year-old Marcel Latak winning the boys’ singles title and twin sisters Annika and Kristina Penickova winning the girls’ doubles title and celebrating their 18th birthday only the day before the ultimate victory.

Another innovation not previously reported was the US Open Experience at Hudson Yards in Manhattan. The immersive, free-to-the-public pop-up event was held at the same time as the first seven days of the Main Draw competition.

Drawing a quarter-million visitors and 10,000 players on court over the course of the seven-day run brought energy and excitement of the Open to those unable to gain entry at the Queens facility. ★



Vineyards Turn to UV-C Light to Fight Powdery Mildew

Nonchemical, ultraviolet disinfection systems originally designed for industrial and medical uses have begun to take root in winegrape vineyards to manage powdery mildew. Norway-based Saga Robotics introduced its Thorvald autonomous ultraviolet-C light-application robot to Central Coast winegrapes three years ago. Applied at night, the low-dose UV-C light disrupts the powdery mildew’s DNA without damaging plant tissue. Norm Peters, director of vineyard operations for Oakville-based Silver Oak, said he was attracted to the system because it met the company’s sustainability priorities of putting people first and producing quality vines and wines. “It’s nice when you try something and trial it and it does what it’s supposed to do,” he said. Silver Oak’s winemaker is fermenting the fruit and will determine whether the light treatments affected wine quality, and if so, how.

Commentary: Roadless Rule has Kept Forests from Being Managed

In a recent Ag Alert® commentary, California Farm Bureau Vice President Shaun Crook applauded a proposal from the U.S. Forest Service to rescind the federal Roadless Area Conservation Rule, or Roadless Rule. Enacted by the Clinton administration in 2001, the policy prohibits road construction, road reconstruction and commercial timber harvesting across millions of acres of undeveloped national forests. “I believe it is an important step toward ending a rigid, one-size-fits-all approach and returning management decisions back to local forests,” said Crook, who is a logger in Tuolumne County. He

said some of the criticism of the proposal has been unfounded. “Some conservation groups are acting as if the sky is falling and that the last untouched areas are about to be paved over. This is simply not the case,” Crook said. “If rescinded, active management, mechanical thinning, fuel reduction and all modern efforts to create fire resiliency would once again be allowed on the 4 million acres of California land that have been off limits for a quarter of a century.”

Calls Open for Agricultural Educator of the Year Award

The California FFA Foundation, in partnership with Nationwide and the California Farm Bureau, is accepting nominations for California’s top agricultural teachers for a chance to be named Agricultural Educator of the Year. Nominate any California agricultural educator for the 2026-2027 Golden Owl Award through Dec. 15. Since its inception, the Golden Owl Award has given more than \$800,000 to support teachers, students and FFA programs. California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass, an FFA alum, highlighted the youth organization’s lasting influence on the agricultural community and the leaders who serve it. “Farm Bureau sees firsthand the tremendous impact that FFA makes, as many of our current leaders across agriculture have roots in FFA,” Douglass said. “We are so appreciative of the hard-working ag teachers who provide a great foundation for FFA members that in turn benefits all of agriculture.” To nominate, visit www.cognitofarms.com/CaliforniaFFAAssociation/GoldenOwlAwardApplication3. ★



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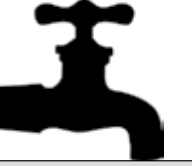
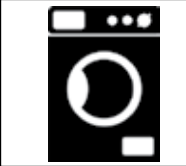
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May I ask how fish breathe?

– Nghi, 11, Vietnam

Dear Nghi,

When you and I take a deep breath, we pull air into our lungs. That’s because humans and cats are mammals. But fish aren’t mammals. They usually don’t breathe air. They usually don’t have lungs.

That’s what I found out from my friend Michael Berger. He’s a biologist at Washington State University.

He told me that you can actually see a fish breathe water. Its face gets bigger when it takes in a big gulp of water. Just like when you take a big bite of food.

When you look at a fish, you can usually see the gill openings—called gill slits. Most fish have five gills on each side of the body, right behind their heads.

If you peek inside the gill slits, you’ll see the gill filaments. They’re small, thread-like bits that make up the gill.

Each filament is full of tiny blood vessels called capillaries.

To breathe, a fish takes in a gulp of oxygen-rich water and pushes the water down to the gills. As it flows over the gill filaments, oxygen in the water moves into the blood-filled capillaries. Then the fish’s blood transports that oxygen all around its body.

Animals use oxygen to change nutrients we eat into the energy that powers our bodies. That process makes some waste—called carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide

waste leaves a fish’s body through the gills. It flows out along with water that’s depleted of oxygen.

Trading oxygen and carbon dioxide like that is called gas exchange.

Berger told me that gills work because

a fish’s blood flows through its gills in the opposite direction the water flows. That’s a counter-current exchange system. It makes the gills work better. So, those fish can take in more oxygen and get rid of more carbon dioxide.

All kinds of water-living animals breathe with gills. That includes many fish, amphibians, worms, mollusks and aquatic insects.

But some fish don’t have gills or only use them part-time.

They might breathe air using lungs like us. That’s

how African Lungfish breathe. They rise to the surface and grab a gulp of air.

Or they could breathe air through their skin or mouth tissue. Mudskippers get about half their oxygen that way. That’s handy when they’re hanging out outside the water. So long as they stay moist, they skin-breathe just fine.

You could say it’s a very useful a-gill-ity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe



If you look closely, you can see the gills are made of tons of small, red threads. These are gill filaments.
Image: ©Uwe Gille



African lungfish have adapted to breathe air. Image: ©Mathae

Vacaville to Celebrate Día de los Muertos Through Community

City of Vacaville News Release

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - The City of Vacaville announced its fifth annual Día de los Muertos celebration will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. Nov. 7 at CreekWalk Plaza in Andrews Park, 614 E. Monte Vista Ave.

Since its beginning in 2022, Vacaville’s Día de los Muertos event has grown into a community celebration inspired by the traditions of remembrance, family and connection associated with Día de los Muertos. The event brings residents together to honor loved ones while sharing cultural traditions, music, dance, art and food. Each year, local performers, organizations, businesses and community members help shape a celebration that reflects both the cultural roots of Día de los Muertos and the diverse community that calls Vacaville home.

The event will feature with two backdrops – the “Photo Op Hop” – hosted by Visit Vacaville and chalkboard art by Timothy Tang. Capture your memories and share them on social media using @VacavilleRec. Attendees are encouraged to bring a chair to sit back and take in the music by Bomba Fried Rice and performances by Folklorico Netzahualcoyotl, Arteritano Flamenco and more. Free kids’ crafts will be hosted by the PAL (Police Activities League) and TAG (Teens



Advisory Council) members.

Craft and Cork will have Mexican lagers, wine and cider available for purchase. Pika Dulces 707 will serve assorted agua fresca beverages, along with candies coated in tajin and chamoy. Local favorites – Shula’s Kitchen, Baby O’s and Thirsty Dog – will be on hand to offer delicious food and treats. Face painting by Kristi’s Place will also be available for a nominal fee.

Attendees may bring photos of loved ones to place on the community altar. (Participants should include their name and phone number on the back of picture(s) if they wish them to be returned).

Marigolds, electric candles and hand-crafted picture frames will be provided and are intended to go home with each family to become part of their familial altar.

Any pictures left behind can be retrieved at McBride Senior Center, 91 Town Square Place by Nov. 13. It is recommended that participants bring a copy of their picture. The city is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged pictures.

For more information, visit: <https://www.cityofvacaville.gov/government/parks-and-recreation/special-events/d-a-de-los-muertos>

All entertainment and vendors are subject to change. ★

Application Deadline Quickly Approaching for Merriment on Main Vendors and Performers

City of Vacaville News Release

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - Don’t let your organization miss the chance to participate in this year’s Merriment on Main Tree Lighting held in Downtown Vacaville on Tuesday, Dec. 1 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Applications are due by Sunday, Oct. 25. Interested vendors and booths can apply at: <https://cityofvacaville.formstack.com/forms/2026momvendor>

Interested performers and crowd entertainers can apply at <https://cityofvacaville.formstack.com/forms/2026momperformer>

W a y s t o Participate

This is the second year of the Merry Market at Creekwalk Plaza, which welcomes food and merchandise sales. Businesses interested in selling at the event must submit a vendor and booth application and pay an applicable fee.

The city continues the tradition of welcoming vendors who wish to provide free food and giveaways in the downtown corridor. Interested vendors should complete the same vendor and booth application.



Performers and crowd entertainers wow event attendees by showcasing engaging, unique and remarkable talents. From holiday carolers and dance troupes to interactive entertainers, these participants bring the energy and spirit that make Merriment on Main one of Vacaville’s most beloved community celebrations.

All applications must be completed in full, online and include required documentation.

Vendors and booths distributing or selling any food or drink items must obtain a Solano County Environmental Health permit.

After submitting, participants will receive an email confirmation with next steps.

Downtown businesses that plan to be open during the event are encouraged to complete the same vendor and booth application. This will help event organizers keep business entrances accessible and include participating businesses on the event vendor map.

For sponsorship opportunities and more information, visit CityofVacaville.gov/MerrimentOnMain or email MerrimentOnMain@CityofVacaville.gov. ★

Californians to Consider 14 Ballot Measures



Dixon residents will see a lengthy ballot when they cast votes in the Nov. 3 election. Photo designed by Magnific

Continued from page 1

its inflexibility often leads California down a path ripe with unintended consequences and few options for fixing past mistakes.”

Notable ballot measures include Prop. 13, the 1978 initiative that capped property taxes and required local and state governments to get two-thirds of the vote to introduce new taxes, and Prop. 4 in 1911, which granted women the constitutional right to vote in California.

Among the oddball measures that have made their way onto California ballots over the decades was Prop. 15, sponsored by movie theater owners in 1966, which banned cable television, and 1982’s Prop. 12, which required the governor to send letters to members of the federal government proposing that governments halt nuclear weapon production.

Some of this year’s measures are just as high-profile as those of the past.

Prop. 39 would prohibit citizens from voting unless they present government-issued identification. It would invalidate mail-in ballots without the last four digits of a designated government-issued identification number written on the ballot envelope, and it would prohibit in-person voting without presenting an ID issued by a government entity.

Prop. 40 would impose a 5 percent tax on California residents with more than \$1 billion in assets. If passed, it would be the first such state tax enacted in U.S. history. Concerns about Prop. 40 include a provision allowing the Legislature to amend the tax after passage and changing the level of taxation and the income levels of those who would have to pay it.

Other measures may not be as prominent, but deal with critical issues such as taxes, housing and healthcare:

Prop. 1 would borrow more than \$11 billion for an array of affordable housing projects.

Prop. 2 would allow the state to deposit up to 20 percent of its general fund tax revenue in the state’s reserves, double the current ceiling. “The deposits would not count toward the voter-approved Gann Limit, which caps the amount state lawmakers can spend each year and requires excess funds to be returned to the people,” according to CalMatters, a nonprofit news organization covering state politics.

Prop. 3 would make permanent tax

increases on top earners, first passed as a “temporary” measure in 2012 to deal with a fiscal emergency.

Prop. 4 would authorize state and local governments to establish public campaign funds for candidates, reversing a 1988 ban that applies to most government entities.

Prop. 5 would take away voters’ ability to choose a replacement for a recalled candidate at the time of recall. Placed on the ballot by state lawmakers, it would enable a recalled official to run in the ensuing election.

Prop. 37 would allow the state’s housing finance agency to borrow up to \$25 billion in revenue bonds to provide middle-income buyers with loans covering as much as 17 percent of a new home’s price.

Prop. 38 would create an \$8.4 billion bond to help fund medical research. Half the money would almost certainly go to the California Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy, an entity begun by the billionaires Gary K. Michelson and Meyer Luskin, who got the proposition on the ballot. The remainder would be distributed to select public universities and other institutes.

Prop. 41 and Prop. 42 were placed on the ballot as countermeasures to Prop. 40, the billionaires’ tax. Prop. 41 would require audits of new tax programs before they go to voters. Prop. 42 would make it more difficult to create a wealth tax in the state by prohibiting new taxes on the ownership of assets such as personal property, investment accounts and business interests. If either Prop. 41 or Prop. 42 passes, it could nullify Prop. 40, should it be approved.

Prop. 43, called the “Save Prop. 13” initiative, would make it harder to impose or increase local taxes by raising the threshold for citizen-initiated special tax ballot initiatives from a simple majority to fully two-thirds.

Prop. 44, placed on the ballot by the Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West, would dictate how nonprofit community health clinics can spend their money.

Prop. 45 would streamline the California Environmental Quality Act review process for housing projects and other key developments. ★



BY JOSH F.W. COOK

★ CALIFORNIA ★
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AND
ETHICS**

Beccera (And Us) Will Pay for Newsom’s Last Budget

By Josh Cook

California’s budget has grown faster than its revenue for years, and the gap is now structural. State spending has risen roughly \$100 billion since Newsom’s first full fiscal year, outpacing revenue growth by about 10 percent.

The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office projects an eighteen-billion-dollar budget problem for twenty twenty-six twenty-seven, with structural deficits climbing to around thirty-five billion dollars a year starting in twenty twenty-seven twenty-eight if nothing changes. And don’t expect the federal government, whose debt topped 40 trillion, to come in and somehow cover the shortfalls.

That growth in the income-to-spending ratio has been papered over with short-term fixes.

The state has already solved \$125 billion in budget problems over the last three years, mostly with one-time measures. Internal borrowing has climbed to \$21 billion, the rainy-day fund sits near \$14 billion, and California still owes nearly \$20 billion in pandemic-era unemployment

debt to the federal government.

The books look balanced on paper, but the underlying imbalance keeps widening. The Los Angeles Times reported in May that if Newsom does not fix the structural deficit, the problem lands squarely on the next governor. That successor would face drastic across-the-board cuts with limited reserves, especially if a recession hits. Former Controller Betty Yee said one-time solutions have only made the chronic problem worse.

Whoever takes office in January—likely Xavier Becerra—inherits a maxed-out, complicated credit card, and everyone who watches government sees it. The delayed Medi-Cal cuts and asset-test changes from this year’s budget only kick in after July twenty twenty-seven, so the new governor will be the one actually implementing the hard choices the outgoing administration pushed down the road.

A stock-market downturn or federal funding cuts would turn a difficult situation into a genuine crisis, with far fewer options than previous administrations had.

You can only do bad government fiscal policy for so long until it collapses.



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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Cupcake is moved. 2. Money is missing. 3. Sign is moved. 4. Man is taller. 5. Counter is wider. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

Wagner

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phippe

BRAM LED WADI
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ACROSS
1. *Count Dracula's creator
5. Zeppelin lead-in
8. Dry riverbed
12. Stew bean
13. Workbench holding device
14. Thing of the past
15. Just right (3 words)
16. "If all ____ fails..."
17. Thin mountain ridge
18. *Michael Jackson's Halloween party song
20. Exclamation, with Louise
21. Like days long gone
22. Lion's "hand"
23. Large seabird
26. YHWH
30. 50 states, acr.
31. Gone (2 words)
34. Drawn in the sand?
35. Long stories
37. Over there
38. Subsequently
39. Doris Day's "Que ____"
40. One million ohms
42. Vatican vestment
43. Causes of PTSD
45. Theater passages
47. Local Area Network
48. Like autumn air
50. '60s British teen-agers
52. *Jason's last name
55. Subway in Paris
56. Pinnacle
57. First Nation nation
59. Cheerleader's prop
60. * ____'s "swelter'd venom" in #36 Down
61. Capital of Ukraine
62. Any day now
63. Francisco lead-in
64. Dried-up

DOWN
1. Club alternative
2. '80s band "Quiet ____"
3. Wet nurse
4. Maid, after getting married
5. City in Northern France
6. Ruhr's industrial center
7. Hunted ruminant
8. *Full moon shapeshifter
9. Sheltered, nautically speaking
10. Flighty one
11. Skater's turf
13. South African grass-lands
14. Indian prince
19. Intestinal obstruction
22. Liveliness in one's step
23. *Ghost at a Halloween party
24. According to
25. Nigerian money
26. Jupiter's sister and wife
27. Essential to life
28. Anoint
29. *Witches' hemlock and belladonna, e.g.
32. *Pennywise's are mismatched
33. *Wool of bat, and tongue of ____
36. * ____toil and trouble; fire burn and ____ bubble"
38. Anabaptist group
40. Gingerbread shape
41. *Red-____, like Winifred Sanderson of "Hocus Pocus"
44. Wide-mouth jar inventor
46. Small spots
48. "Cuckoo for ____ Puffs"
49. Kieran Culkin as ____ Roy
50. Not nice
51. Von Bismarck or Hahn, e.g.
52. Giant kettles
53. Great Lake
54. Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex," e.g.
55. Business degree, acr.
58. *All Hallow's ____

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Gut Punch as Simmons Is Out

By V.G. Harris

Golden One Center will entertain a slightly different attitude as the Sacramento Kings are poised to begin the start of the 2026-27 NBA season.

Former three-time all-star and defensive standout Ben Simmons will not only be out for the start of the season, but it has also been reported that he will be out for the entirety of the 2026-27 campaign.

In practice Simmons sustained an Achilles tear to his right ankle which will take at least a year of rehabilitation.

For a team already spiraling after an abysmal 0-5 preseason, and the only team in the NBA to not win a single preseason game thus far, the Kings are staring at the Friday night opener in utter shock.

Sacramento is no stranger to adversity, but this disheartening news comes on the heels of a preseason that has not been kind to coach Doug Christie. Multiple articles have come out in recent days critical of this frenetic style of managing the preseason lineups and substitution patterns.

The current 0-5 record is not only the worst record in the NBA, it portends a myriad of issues as the Kings look to the opener with the Trailblazers on Friday night.

One article went so far as to rate Christie as the worst coach in the NBA. Amid the distraction of sordid shots aimed at the coach, notable former head coaches with a bevy of experience sit on the sidelines hoping for a call. At the top of the list is Mike Budenholzer, former coach of the Milwaukee Bucks and holder of an NBA title. Budenholzer spent 17 years learning his craft under legendary coach Gregg Popovich. Two-time coach of the year, Budenholzer compiled a 520-363 in 11 seasons as an NBA coach, and along with Tom Thibodeau ranks among two of the most employable candidates today.

Suffice it to say, if the noise gets any louder in Kings land, fans will be clamoring for better leadership, and who can blame them.

I still cannot believe the lineups coach Christie put on the hardwood during the pre-season, or the confounding reason he had for sitting 6-8 players at a time, while players

that have already been cut from the team not only played considerable minutes, but actually started games.

That being said, the Kings have a game to play, and going into that game with a positive spirit will be the order of the day.

Coming out of the preseason, Sacramento has every reason to believe that first round draft choice Darius Acuff Jr. is going to be the point guard of the future, and Emmanuel Sharpe has given fans every reason to be excited about the energy and defense he brings to the table.

The loss of Ben Simmons is a multiple gut punch, but throwing in the towel is not in the equation, and responding to adversity is how teams grow into something bigger.

I look for opening night to bring a sell-out crowd to Golden One Arena, and with them a chance for head coach Doug Christie to hit the reset button and silence some of his critics.

Everyone loves an underdog and look no further than coach Christie if you’re looking for someone to root for.

Both Domantas Sabonis and Zach Lavine have shown no signs of lingering injuries, and Wednesday night looms large as the last opportunity for Christie and his Kings to break a preseason losing streak and go into the regular season on a high note.

The Trailblazers have already bested Sacramento just last week, and it wasn’t a contest from the jump. That needs to change and players need to come to play.

I expect a much different season out of Zach Lavine. The same can be said of Keegan Murray, who thus far has been disappointing in preseason. That needs to change and no better time than Wednesday night.

On your feet Kings fans because the rest of the NBA has already counted you out and wouldn’t it be something special to prove them wrong.

Look for GM Scott Perry to make some type of move soon that will bring support to Darius Acuff Jr. at the point guard position.

Does Russell Westbrook shock the world and return for one last season. Anything is possible but stay tuned.

All the best Kings fans! ★

New California Laws Arise From Latest Legislative Skirmishes in Endless ‘Tort Wars’



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The state Capitol is an arena where lobbyists for thousands of interest groups battle over issues that mostly involve money — very often big money. The Legislature and the governor can, and often do, write into law new provisions that financially benefit one interest or are costly for another.

One of the longest-running conflicts, dubbed “tort wars,” pits lawyers who file personal injury lawsuits and their allies against business interests and their insurers.

They fight over laws that specify which actions cause damages, known as “torts,” which can be the subject of liability lawsuits and what compensation can be collected if such cases prevail.

The stakes can be immense, involving many billions of dollars, so for tort warriors it’s a perpetual game of defining new, legally actionable acts; expanding or shrinking those already on the books, or devising tactics to thwart those employed by the other side.

The dynamics of tort politics were demonstrated one night in September 1987, as that year’s legislative session was nearing adjournment.

Veteran lobbyists for major tort war interests had been exploring a potential multi-point deal to resolve some long-simmering issues with key legislators behind closed

doors. The negotiators took a break for dinner and drinks at what was then Sacramento’s famous political watering hole, Frank Fat’s restaurant.

Spontaneously, as the liquor flowed and food was consumed, negotiations restarted right there, as Willie Brown, then the much-celebrated speaker of the state Assembly, bounced from table to table.

The result was the infamous “napkin deal” that gave everyone involved at least part of what they wanted. It was jotted down on a napkin, quickly drafted into legislation and passed with no public input.

One provision — which years later haunted Brown and other politicians — protected the tobacco industry from lawsuits by disease-stricken former smokers. (Footnote: I and the late Jay Michael, a lobbyist for medical interests who was one of the participants, co-wrote a book about lobbying that includes a detailed account of how the napkin deal came about.)

This brief history of tort wars sets the stage for what has been happening recently, including in the just-concluded 2026 legislative session.

Two years ago, the business side scored a significant victory with passage of two bills that narrowed the scope of the Private Attorneys General Act, which allows workers to sue their employers in the name of the state for alleged violations of workplace laws.

Employer groups had qualified a ballot measure to overhaul PAGA, as the law is known, which prodded lawyers and other rival interests to agree to a compromise in return for dropping the measure.

The 2026 session, as usual, featured a couple of other tort-related measures.

One, Assembly Bill 1776, is a significant expansion of the Cartwright Act, California’s long-standing law prohibiting monopolistic arrangements among businesses.

The state’s Law Revision Commission proposed extending it to actions by a single corporation that had monopolistic effects and allowing private parties to file suits under the revised law.

Business interests opposed the entire concept, saying it was unneeded, and they particularly disliked the private right of action. Before the bill received final approval that part was stricken, limiting enforcement to the attorney general or a local prosecutor.

The second measure, Senate Bill 690, arose out of an American Bar Association publication describing how some California attorneys were using, or misusing, California’s law against secret wiretaps to demand payment from corporations for using website tracking software to gather information.

Business groups depicted the practice as extortion, and SB 690 was drafted and enacted to make using the wiretap law this way much more difficult.

This year’s legislative session is over, but tort warriors already are gearing up for the next one.

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

Did I Understand you right - I won't get all my SS benefits immediately?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I was a little confused with one of your past articles. This September I hit my full retirement age and for every month I continue to delay, my SS benefit goes up a little more. But reading your article sounds like the extra benefits are only added at the end of the year. For example, let’s say that at my full retirement age in September I get \$3,524, and in January 2027 I would get \$3,619. According to the Ask Rusty article I read, if I start my benefits in June of 2027, I will have earned \$3,735, but it sounds like I would only get \$3,619 up until the end of the year, and then they would adjust it. If this is the case, would I get retroactive money back for the 6 months I did not get the correct amount? **Signed: Seeking Clarification**

Dear Seeking: Thanks for your inquiry. Your understanding of the previous Ask Rusty article is correct. If you start your benefits in June 2027 (10 months after your full retirement age (or your “FRA,” in Sept. 2026), you will initially only get

the Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) you earned through the end of 2026. The DRCs you earned from January 2027 to June 2027 would not be credited until January 2028, and you would not get any retroactive benefits for the DRCs earned during the January – June 2027 timeframe.

SSA’s reasoning for this is somewhat confusing but has to do with your ability to claim retroactive benefits when you claim after reaching your full retirement age. When claiming after reaching your FRA you have the ability to claim benefits retroactively for up to six months. So, to avoid potentially overlapping benefit payments, SSA defers applying your current year’s DRCs until January of the following year. Thus, you essentially lose the extra 2027 DRC money for the remainder of 2027. And, FYI, the one exception to this rule is that when benefits are claimed mid-year at age 70, all DRCs are immediately paid. Please understand that I’m not endorsing this SSA rule; only trying to explain how it works and why. Like many SSA rules, there are nuances to how benefits are paid. And this is a classic example. And just remember, as attractive as taking 6 months of retroactive benefits may sound, it also means your monthly amount would be reduced by about 4% for the rest of your life.

As you contemplate

when you should claim your Social Security retirement benefits, you should always keep in mind your anticipated life expectancy when making that decision. If you expect to live at least to the “average” life expectancy for those in their mid-60s (about mid-80s for someone your current age), then waiting longer to claim is usually a better long term financial decision (even considering the DRC issue described above). But if your life expectancy is less than “average,” claiming sooner is usually a better choice.

If you have further questions about when to claim for Social Security, please contact us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org or 1.888.750-2622. There is never a fee for our advisory service because we are a non-profit organization.

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 (<http://amacfoundation.org/services>) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★



Iran Exposes an Intolerable U.S. Vulnerability

targets. Camp Arifjan in Kuwait, where buildings and radar domes were hit, is just over 60 miles away.

A number of bases have been fully or partially evacuated, and the effects have been felt on U.S. operations. One reason that there was so much strain on the USS Abraham Lincoln during its lengthy deployment is that Bahrain was no longer available as a supply hub. We had to rely on facilities in Diego Garcia and Singapore, creating a supply chain thousands of miles long.

The Iranian missile and drone threat to our bases was foreseeable, and yet we didn’t do enough to protect them. One option now is a broad pullback of our presence in the region. But so long as hydrocarbons power the modern economy, this is a nonstarter. The Gulf states would have an incentive to look elsewhere for strategic partners, most worryingly to Russia or China, and might conclude that they should do more to accommodate an Iran that would have effectively chased us from the Persian Gulf.

The answer to the threat to the bases is the same thing that created the threat in the first place -- innovation. We’ve long had bases in the Gulf, including a naval command headquarters in Bahrain since 1948, but the purpose and the nature of the presence has changed over time. As Kristian Alexander writes in an analysis for the Stimson Center, during the Cold War we didn’t have a large

land presence at bases. After Saddam Hussein’s 1990 invasion of Kuwait, that changed.

Today, the question is how to reconfigure our presence again to make it more defensible and sustainable. “U.S. bases,” Alexander writes, “remain indispensable for intelligence collection, command and control, maritime security, air and missile defense, logistics and long-range power projection.”

One option is to locate more facilities in Israel. Elliott Abrams of the Council on Foreign Relations points out that the Jewish state is much further away -- more than 1,000 miles from Iran --and would impose fewer restrictions on our access and overflight rights.

But we still require bases in the Gulf. We’re going to need to disperse them, harden them (including with more underground elements) and build in more redundancy. The air defense needs to be more robust and layered, and less dependent on expensive missiles that are in short supply.

The war with Iran was supposed to represent a short, sharp defanging of the Iranian regime. Instead, it has dragged on and served as a lesson in key shortcomings of U.S. military power that must be addressed, lest they bite us again in a conflict with a much more powerful adversary.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001642

The following persons are doing business as: Rosette Western Wear, 119 Falaise Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687

Lourdes Lizbeth Ornelas, 119 Falaise Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687.

Date filed in Solano County: September 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 September 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: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

CME 10-23-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001679

The following persons are doing business as: Red Lion Wildfire Defense, 47 Monte Vista Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94590.

Kvon Wildfire Mitigation and Forestry Consultancy LLC, 47 Monte Vista Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94590.

Date filed in Solano County: September 25, 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 September 24, 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: October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

ROSETTE 10-23-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001474

The following persons are doing business as: CME Smog & Auto Repair, 777 Elmira Road Suite A, Vacaville, CA 95687

Phoenix Legacy Ventures LLC, 210 Lenis Avenue, Winters, CA 95694.

Date filed in Solano County: August 21, 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

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 September 28, 2031. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)

Publish: October 9, 16, 23, 2026

SUPERIOR 10-30-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001738

The following persons are doing business as: Integrity Bookkeeping and Notary, 1843 Shirley Drive, Benicia, CA 94510

Laura Krause, 1843 Shirley Drive, Benicia, CA94510.

Date filed in Solano County: October 6, 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 October 5, 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: Oct 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 2026

INTEGRITY 11-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001736

The following persons are doing business as: IRP and Drug

Testing Services, IRP Services, 1335 Oliver Road, Fairfield, CA 94534

Masuta Logistics Inc, 65 Quinta Court Suite D, Sacramento, CA 95823.

Date filed in Solano County: October 6, 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 October 5, 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: Oct 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 2026

IRP 11-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001772

The following persons are doing business as: Discovery Land Care, Inc., 5778 Dixon Avenue West, Dixon, CA 95620.

Discovery Land Care, Inc., 5778 Dixon Avenue West, Dixon, CA 95620.

Date filed in Solano County: October 14, 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 October 13, 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: Oct 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 2026

DISCOVERY 11-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001577

The following persons are doing business as: The Delinquent Urchin, 443 Larkin Drive, Benicia, CA 94510.

Julia Bernard, 443 Larkin Drive, Benicia, CA 94510.

Date filed in Solano County: September 8, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: August 6, 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 September 7, 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: Oct 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 2026

DELINQUENT 11-13-26

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE # 2021002417

The following person(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name: Rapid First Plumbing, 5013 Roberts Avenue Suite B, McClellan, CA 95652.

The Fictitious Business Name referred to above was filed in Solano County on December 15, 2021, File Number: 2021002417

Rov Enterprises, Inc., 5013 Roberts Avenue Suite B, McClellan, CA 95652.

This business is conducted by: A Corporation

Filed with the Clerk of Solano County on September 8, 2026.

Publish: October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

RAPID 10-30-26

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SSUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

CASE #CU26-08663

Sarah Woehler and Anthony Wharton filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Rylie Rae Woehler to Rylie Rae Wharton.

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. November 12, 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: September 30, 2026

Publish: October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

PHAM 10-30-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

CASE #CU26-08846

Matthew Miles Riley filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Matthew Miles Riley to Nox Nyx Zyer.

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. November 18, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room 301, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533

Judge of the Superior Court: Unable to read on document.

Dated: October 9, 2026

Publish: Oct 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 2026

RILEY 11-13-26

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. December 3, 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: September 30, 2026

Publish: October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

MARTINEZ 10-30-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

CASE #CU26-08565

Teresa Pham filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Teresa Pham to Teresa Pham Lam.

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. November 5, 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: September 30, 2026

Publish: October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

PHAM 10-30-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

CASE #CU26-08846

Matthew Miles Riley filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Matthew Miles Riley to Nox Nyx Zyer.

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. November 18, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room 301, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533

Judge of the Superior Court: Unable to read on document.

Dated: October 9, 2026

Publish: Oct 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 2026

RILEY 11-13-26

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: **Data Center Temporary Moratorium** - Consideration of an interim Urgency Ordinance extending the Temporary Moratorium on data center land uses for an additional 10 months and 15 days, pursuant to California Government Code Section 665858; The initial Urgency Ordinance was adopted on September 30, 2026, for 45 days by Ordinance No 26-.006 APN: Citywide; General Plan/Zoning District: Citywide; File No's: PLAPP26-0268/PDZR26-0269.

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that the adoption of this Urgency Ordinance is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.; "CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3). The Ordinance extends a temporary moratorium on the approval of new land-use applications for data centers while the City studies potential regulatory amendments. It does not authorize any development, approve any land-use entitlement, or result in any physical change to the environment. Accordingly, it can be seen with certainty that adoption of the Ordinance will not have a significant effect on the environment.

HEARING DATE & LOCATION: **Tuesday, November 3, 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) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

MORE INFORMATION: Contact **Raffi Boloyan, Community Development Director** at (707) 678-7000 or rboloyan@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 Mondays to Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and every other Friday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 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, 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: 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.

Prior to 4:30pm 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 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," 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 10-23-2026

CITY OF DIXON
NOTICE OF NOMINEES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE
AND POLLING PLACES

NOMINEES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following persons have been nominated for the offices mentioned below to be filed at the General Municipal Election to be held in the City of Dixon, California, on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. The nominees are listed below in the order in which they will appear on the ballot.

For Member of City Council, District 1	Full Term of Four Years
1. Emily Schroeder	
2. Jim Ernest	
For Member of City Council, District 2	Full Term of Four Years
1. Christina M. Cerna	
2. Thom Bogue	
For Elected City Clerk (Elected At-Large representing entire City)	Full Term of Four Years
1. Lupe Ruiz	

NOTICE OF POLLING PLACES:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Solano is conducting the General Municipal Election described in this notice. The following polling places have been designated for use in the election and will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2026:

Dixon Senior Multi-Use Center, 201 S. Fifth Street, Dixon
Maine Prairie High School, 200 N. Lincoln Street, Dixon
Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First Street, Dixon

Voters are encouraged to refer to their official voter information materials and the Solano County Registrar of Voters website for information regarding their designated polling place and other election information.

Melissa Eads
Elections Official

Dixon Independent Voice 10-23-2026

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