



SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

February 14, 2025



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**Important Numbers
Resources and Dates**

District 2 Office

(707) 784-3031

**Clerk of the Board &
County Administrator's
Office**

(707) 784-6100

Veterans Services

(707) 784-6590

Health & Social Services

(707) 784-8400

Assessor/Recorder

(707) 784-6200

Resource Management

(707) 784-6765

Registrar of Voters

(707) 784-6675

**Tax
Collector/Treasurer/County
Clerk**

(707) 784-7485

Area Agency on Aging

Holiday closure



The Solano County Administrative Center will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of Washington's Birthday. The Solano County Library system will also be closed on the same date.

Protesting Executive Overreach event



**PROTESTING
EXECUTIVE
OVERREACH**

February 17th

1st & Military, Benicia
In front of the Gazebo
12:00PM

675 Texas St, Fairfield
County Building Flags
12:30PM

555 Santa Clara St, Vallejo
City Hall Flags
5:30PM



From the Solano Pride Center's Facebook page:

Many are meeting at their State Capital Buildings on President's Day. We will be meeting at three places around Solano County that day!

- by the Gazebo at First Street Park, Benicia at noon
- at the County Building's flagpole in Fairfield at 12:30 pm
- and at Vallejo City Hall, by the flag poles, at 5:30 pm.

Please join the ones that work best for you! Bring a sign, share your outrage at the loss of our governmental checks and balances, and the takeover of our information through the illegal overreach of the President and his Oligarch!

Make sure to wear proper footwear, bring your own water, dress for cool weather, hat sunscreen etc.

Attorney General Bonta Provides Guidance for Businesses on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Initiatives in the Workplace



An announcement from California Attorney General Rob Bonta:

California Attorney General Rob Bonta today, as part of a coalition of 16 attorneys general, issued guidance to help businesses, nonprofits, and other organizations understand the viability and importance of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility policies and practices in creating and maintaining legally compliant and thriving workplaces. The guidance comes in response to concerns from employers stemming from President Trump's executive order purportedly targeting "illegal DEI and DEIA policies." The guidance emphasizes that efforts to seek and support diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible workplaces are not illegal and that the federal government cannot prohibit these efforts in the private sector through an executive order.

"The Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Americans with Disabilities Act. The Age Discrimination in Employment Act. All of these 'diversity, equity, and inclusion' laws have made our country fairer and stronger and a place where everyone can thrive. Despite what the President may say, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility initiatives are not illegal – nor can he unilaterally make it so," said Attorney General Bonta. "I urge California businesses not to fall for this scare tactic. Diverse and inclusive workplaces are good for businesses, consumers, and employees alike. In fact, it's our culture of inclusivity and valuing of diverse perspective that has led California to become a global hub of innovation and the fifth largest economy in the world. To all the businesses hoping to grow and thrive in California, rest assured: We will

(707) 784-8960

U.S. Social Security

(800) 772-1213

SUICIDE PREVENTION

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE

800-273-8255

SPANISH LINE

888-628-9454

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

800 799 4889

FRIENDSHIP LINE FOR SENIORS

800 971 0016

CRISIS TEX LINE

741741

THE TREVOR PROJECT FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

866-488-7386

TRANS LIFELINE PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

877-565-8860

continue to support your efforts to build and sustain successful and inclusive workplaces.”

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Initiatives are Consistent with Federal and State Law

The Trump Administration has recently targeted private sector diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility policies and practices through an executive order directing agencies to “combat illegal private-sector DEIA preferences, mandates, policies, programs, and activities.” This order conflates valid and legal programs and practices supporting diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility with unlawful preferences in hiring and promotion.

These initiatives are not the same as illegal hiring or promotional preferences to individuals based on protected characteristics. Instead, diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility practices focus on ensuring that businesses can recruit, hire, and retain qualified employees, and that workplaces provides support needed for all employees to have respect, belonging, and exercise their individual potential to develop their skills and contribute to the success of the business.

For decades, state and federal courts have consistently recognized that diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility policies do not amount to impermissible discrimination. In fact, employment discrimination laws generally require employers to pay attention to the impact their policies and practices have on different groups in order to avoid and limit liability for unlawful conduct.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Initiatives Help Businesses Prevent Workplace Discrimination

In their guidance, the coalition reminds businesses that state and federal law prohibits discrimination in the workplace on the basis of race, sex, national origin, and other protected characteristics. In order to effectively avoid liability for discrimination, employers must take steps to proactively prevent and address discrimination, including by identifying and remediating policies and practices that have an unlawful impact on current and prospective employees. Decades of research and data demonstrate that properly developed and implemented diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility initiatives help prevent unlawful discrimination and ensure that discriminatory conduct is promptly identified, reported and addressed when it does occur.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Initiatives Foster Inclusive Recruiting, Hiring and Retention Practices

A [study](#) found that companies in the top quartile for diversity were 35% more likely to have financial gains above their respective industry counterparts. When diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility principles are embedded within an organization’s culture, they reduce bias, boost workplace morale, foster collaboration, and create opportunities for all employees. Diverse organizations that

prioritize inclusivity tend to outperform their peers, with higher returns, lower turnover, and a more attractive workplace for top talent.

The coalition's guidance highlights best practices for recruitment and hiring, including:

- Prioritizing widescale recruitment efforts to attract a larger pool of applicants from a variety of backgrounds.
- Using panel interviews, which ensure that multiple people are involved in a hiring or promotion recommendation, helping to eliminate bias.
- Setting standardized criteria for evaluating candidates and employees, focused on skills and experience.
- Ensuring accessible recruitment and hiring practices and protocols, including reasonable accommodations as appropriate.

Additionally, organizations that offer benefits such as employee resource groups, mentorship programs, professionalism trainings, and work groups focused on diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility are proven to have heightened employee retention and engagement. Best practices for professional development and retention include:

- Ensuring equal access to all aspects of professional development, training and mentor programs that provide clear pathways for career growth.
- Setting up Employee Resource Groups to create inclusive and supportive spaces where employees of particular backgrounds or common experiences feel valued and heard.
- Conducting training on topics such as unconscious bias, inclusive leadership, and disability awareness to improve employee confidence and create a shared understanding around cultural norms.
- Ensuring equal access to all aspects of employment, including through reasonable workplace accommodations.

Attorney General Bonta joins the attorneys general of Massachusetts, Illinois, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Oregon, and Vermont in issuing the guidance.

A copy of the guidance is available [here](#)

Trans Political Advocacy

Multiple people have asked me for ways in which they can advocate for trans rights. Here are multiple steps YOU can take to help one of our most vulnerable groups in America. Don't be daunted by the number of steps - start with your Legislators and take a few additional steps each day. Thank you for being a strong ally!

Resisting Anti-trans Policies – What You Can Do Now

1) Contact your Legislators (members of Congress):

1. a) Call the switchboard: (202) 224-3121
2. b) Email or call your Senator and Representative
3. i) Find Your Representatives and Senators:

<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

2) Contact the White House and Federal Agencies: usa.gov/federal-agencies or (202)224-3121

3) Contact your Governor: CA Governor Newsom: gov.ca.gov or (916)445-2841

Calling Tips

- Put frequently called numbers in your phone - Senators, Congressman, White House • If you reach a human and they don't ask for your address, that means they're *not recording your comment* (even if they say they are). **Give your address or at least your zip code.** Do that even if you leave a message (and VMs are counted too). • While we've given a variety of talking points, focus on 1-2 issues per call and then call again or call another day to make additional points. Two issues are logged per call. • Make it personal if you can - e.g., As a mother, I... / I worked hard to get the congressman elected and I'm really disappointed about.... / As a teacher, I feel very strongly that...
- Be clear about what you want - e.g. I want the Senator to vote "No" on... / I'm so disappointed in the Senator...

Sample Script for Calling Your Senators and Representative

From Jessica Craven from "Chop Wood, Carry Water"

Hi, I'm a constituent calling from [zip]. My name is _____.

I'm calling to express my extreme dismay with the Trump Administration's attacks on transgender Americans. These are American citizens, protected under the Constitution, who are

just trying to live their lives. They are a tiny majority—only about 1.14% of the nation's adult population. The fact that the government is spending so much time attacking them is shameful. Trump's bans on transgender people in the military will make us less safe, and his attacks on gender-affirming care will lead to actual harm. Trans youth especially will suffer. Suicide rates will increase. Is that what the Congressman wants?

[If Democrat add:] If not, it's not enough to silently oppose these policies. I need the Congressman to speak out loudly and often on behalf of transgender Americans. I need them to be an ally. Thanks.

[If GOP add:] If so, then they should stop calling themselves a Christian. Christianity is a religion of love. These actions are hateful. Don't forget it. Thanks.

Key Points for contacting the Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice and Legislators RE: Executive Order (EO): "Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government"

Email <https://touchpoints.app.cloud.gov/touchpoints/578cddcd/submit> Call (202) 514-3847

As an ally/family member/etc of a trans individual I oppose this EO.

- This EO is keeping my loved one from being able to travel. Please immediately allow for passports to be in the gender of the traveler's current gender.
- This EO is being used to justify a national bathroom ban. Did you know that transgender citizens already limit bathroom usage due to safety fears and have a higher risk of urinary tract infections because of it?
- This EO "rescinds Title IX guidance that protects transgender individuals, guidance to schools aimed at addressing anti-LGBTQ+bullying and protections for intersex youth (Erin)." It is unjust and eliminates basic rights for transgender people.
- This EO is scientifically inaccurate (sex at conception is all female; sex differentiation develops at a later stage). This EO "changes the legal definition of sex and effectively erases transgender people (Erin)."
- This EO endangers transgender inmates who are now forced to be housed with inmates of the opposite gender.

Key Points for Calling the Secretaries of Defense at the Department of Defense or Your Legislators RE: Executive Order

(EO): "Prioritizing Military Excellence and Readiness" Call: (703) 571-3343

As an ally/family member/retired military member/etc., I oppose this EO.

This EO leads to the discharge of 15,000 transgender service members currently serving in the US military by declaring that being transgender is "incompatible with service" and states a servicemember's identity is at odds with "a soldier's commitment to an honorable, truthful and disciplined lifestyle, even in one's personal life (EO)"

- There is nothing dishonorable, untruthful or undisciplined about being transgender. • There is nothing incompatible with being transgender and serving in the United States Armed Forces with

its focus on “lethality, meritocracy, standards, accountability, and readiness.”

- This EO mandates all transgender personnel must be misgendered in official military communication and policy - this causes direct harm and suffering to these members. • This EO states that the medical needs of transgender individuals are “incompatible with military service despite the evidence that treatments like hormone therapy lead to no operational downtime” (Erin)
- SPARTA (a leading trans military advocacy organization) estimates a loss of \$18 billion capital investment through the ban of 15,000 trans servicemembers. 73% of the banned service members are senior enlisted personnel with 12-21 years of experience (Erin).

Key Points for Contacting the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services or Your Legislators RE: Executive Order (EO): “Protecting Children From Chemical and Surgical Mutilation”

Email: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/contact-us/index.html>

Call: 1-877-696-6775

As an ally/family member/physician of a trans person I oppose this EO.

- This EO bans gender-affirming care for trans people under 19. Numerous studies demonstrate that gender-affirming care (GAC) is life-saving, has a LOW rate of reversal (less than 1-4%) and even LOWER rate of regret.
- Halting puberty blockers will lead to irreversible physical changes that the youth do not desire and which will cause serious safety issues, even homicide, if they are forced to develop secondary sexual characteristics of the opposite gender. Puberty blockers are reversible and safe. They’ve been used for decades in cis-gender youth and for years in transgender youth without adverse effect.
- This EO sets a frightening precedent which I believe will lead to the restriction of gender affirming care for trans ADULTS.
- This EO argues that gender-affirming care is “chemical and surgical mutilation” and claims that female genital mutilation laws apply to transgender care. I strongly oppose this wording. This is setting the stage for criminal charges against parents and physicians. It is a life-saving treatment for those transmen who need it. There are NO trans surgeries on the genitalia allowed in the US for individuals under 18. There are extremely limited transgender chest reductions performed in the US. Did you know more cis-gender teen boys have surgery for gynecomastia than transgender teen boys do? (6619 surgeries in 2019 (2019 Plastic Surgery Statistics report) for teen cis-gender boys vs 776 in 2019-2021 in transgender boys (Reuters) One year comparison: (6619/1 year vs 259/1 year).
- This EO bans insurance coverage for GAC. Multiple courts have already ruled that such exclusions are unconstitutional (Erin)

- This EO instructs federal agencies to investigate and take action against doctors and pharmaceutical companies. These provisions do not contain an age limit, so they may be used to target adults as well as people under 19 (Erin). Again, these are life-saving medications.
- Healthcare decisions belong in the treatment room between the teen, their parents and their doctors. Making healthcare decisions a government prerogative is a dangerous precedent to set.
- Due to this EO, multiple hospitals have already stopped care and insurances have denied care. This will adversely impact the health of those teens who need gender-affirming care.

Key Points for Emailing or Calling the Department of Education and your Legislators RE Executive Order (EO): “Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling”

As an ally/family member/teacher I oppose this EO.

This EO mandates discrimination in school bathrooms and locker rooms. This is simply not safe for many transgender individuals to use the bathroom of their assigned sex. • This EO threatens teachers who respect trans youth’s chosen name and pronouns with criminal charges. This is basic human respect, not a crime. Further, it states these school officials and teachers are “sexually exploiting minors,” which is an appalling assertion. • Showing respect for an individual who requests a different name or pronoun is in no way a form of sexual exploitation.

- Using this terminology will severely weaken protections from ACTUAL sexual predators.

References: The executive orders and Erin in the Morning’s summary of these EOs. Some wording is verbatim from her blogposts.

Resources for more information or to financially support in the fight for trans rights: 1) Advocacy For Trans Equality (A4TE)

2) ACLU

3) Human Rights Campaign

4) Lambda Legal

5) Southern Poverty Law Center

Another great option for calling everyone to address various topics is the app, 5 Calls. It will load your legislators and their phone numbers with a sample script for each issue you opt to call about.

Information this week

February is Black History Month



Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by Black people and a time to recognize their central role in history.

Learn about and honor Black History Month with books, movies, music, programs, and digital resources from the Solano County Library.

For a listing of featured events, click [here](#).

The San Francisco Chronicle also provided a listing of ten books to read during Black History Month. To view the list, click [here](#).

Library Celebrates Black History Month



As part of Benicia Library's Black History Month events, the library is hosting a film screening of "Just Mercy" on Tuesday, February 18, a 2019 film, rated PG-13.

The film will start at 6 p.m. inside the Benicia Public Library, 150 E L Street.

Starring Michael B. Jordan as defense attorney Bryan Stevenson, this film explores the work of Stevenson who represents poor people on death row in the South. The film is based on Stevenson's 2014 eponymous memoir, in which he explored his journey to making his life's work the defense of African American prisoners and features his work with Walter McMillian who was wrongfully convicted of the murder of a young woman.

African Americans and Mental Health

What happens at the intersection of mental health and one's experience as a member of the Black community? While the experience of being Black in America varies tremendously, there are shared cultural factors



that play a role in helping define mental health and supporting well-being, resiliency and healing.

Parts of this shared cultural experience — family connections, values, expression through spirituality or music, reliance on community and religious networks — are enriching and can be great sources of strength and support. However, another part of this shared experience – being subject to racism, discrimination and inequity- can significantly affect a person’s mental health. Being treated or perceived as “less than” because of the color of your skin can be stressful and even traumatizing. Additionally, members of the Black community face structural challenges accessing the care and treatment they need.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

79-hour Closure Scheduled in March for Eastbound U.S. Highway 50 in Yolo County



From Caltrans:

Caltrans is alerting motorists of an upcoming extended weekend connector closure for the ongoing Yolo Interstate 80 (I-80) and U.S. Highway 50 (US-50) Pavement Rehabilitation Project.

Construction work will include a full closure of eastbound US-50 after crossing the eastbound I-80 Yolo Causeway from Davis in Yolo County. Caltrans urges motorists to plan for additional travel time and to expect delays.

SCHEDULED CLOSURE:

- 9 p.m. Friday, March 7 to 4 a.m. Tuesday, March 11

DETOUR:

- Eastbound US-50 motorists can exit at Enterprise Boulevard (EXIT 81) or continue eastbound on I-80 and exit at Reed Avenue (EXIT 83) for access to West Sacramento. (see detour map below).

The work zone is from just west of the Yolo Causeway along I-80 and US-50 in West Sacramento. The speed limit has been reduced to 55 miles per hour 24/7 for the safety of workers and motorists. Work is scheduled to begin as listed but is subject to change due to traffic incidents, weather conditions, availability of equipment and/or materials, and construction-related issues.

The extended lane closures will help to minimize the duration of the work and improve workers’ safety.

This \$280 million project includes \$47 million from Senate Bill (SB 1), the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. SB 1 provides \$5 billion in transportation funding annually, shared equally between state and local agencies. Road projects progress through construction phases more quickly based on the availability of SB 1 funds, including projects partially funded by SB 1. To view the latest news and information on state and federal infrastructure investments, visit RebuildingCA.ca.gov, which contains data on state and federal funding.

Montezuma NorCal Carbon Hub/Montezuma Carbon LLC

Project will inject into the Montezuma Wetlands. CO2 will be sourced from refineries, hydrogen plants, and power plants.

To review the materials, click [here](#).

Public meetings

VCUSD Board of Education narrows down school closure and consolidation options



On Wednesday, Jan. 22, the Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD) held a Governing Board Study Session to address the critical issue of school closures and

consolidations. After further evaluation, the board identified three amenable options to move forward with and instructed staff to draft resolutions for a vote at the Feb. 19 regular board meeting.

The proposed options, set to take effect at the start of the 2025-26 school year, include the following:

1. **Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy Closure and Relocation of Vallejo Charter School:** Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy will close. Vallejo Charter School will move to the Mare Island campus for the 2025-26 school year. The district would repurpose the Vallejo Charter School property.
2. **Reconfiguration of Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy:** Grades 6-8 would move to Solano Widenmann Leadership Academy, converting Loma Vista into a TK-5 school. The district will convert the middle school's current space for expanded learning programs or other needs, such as professional development.
3. **Closure of Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy:** The district will close the entire school and allocate the space for district use, excluding the farm.

Additionally, discussions touched on the potential future consolidation of Pennycook Elementary and Steffan Manor Elementary into a single school and the closure and/or consolidation of Federal Terrace Elementary and Lincoln Elementary. However, these actions would not occur in this initial phase of cuts but are being considered for the 2026-27 school year and beyond.

“We understand that these decisions significantly affect families, and we remain committed to prioritizing student success and equity throughout this process,” said VCUSD Superintendent Rubén Aurelio. “Our goal is to maintain fiscal responsibility while providing high-quality educational opportunities.”

Discussions about school closures and consolidations stem from a steady decline in enrollment, ongoing deficit spending, and the district's commitment to improving academic outcomes for all students.

To accommodate a larger audience, the Board of Education will hold its Feb. 19 meeting at Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy, located at 400 Rickover St, Vallejo, CA 94592.

The public portion of the meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and will be live streamed on the district's [YouTube page](#) for those unable to attend in person. Spanish translation services will be provided. For accommodations, please contact the superintendent's office at 707-556-8921 x50002.

VCUSD encourages all community members to stay informed and participate in upcoming discussions. For more information, to view the recording of the study session, or to provide feedback, visit the [district's closure and consolidation website](#).

Corby Virtual Information Session



Please mark your calendars to attend a virtual informational session on Tuesday, Feb. 25 to learn more about an innovative battery energy storage project proposed by Corby Energy Storage, LLC, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, for Solano County. You are invited to log in or call in to meet our team and discuss the proposed project.

For additional information visit: www.CorbyProject.com.

Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 3 p.m. PT

JOIN MEETING BY PHONE: Dial in (toll-free): 1-866-807-9684

JOIN MEETING ONLINE: <https://ccredsaframe.com/j25-hC9kLQJ>

QUESTIONS: If you have questions in advance of the meeting, please e-mail them to: CorbyProject@nexteraenergy.com

NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES


For reference, the Solano County Board of Supervisors have yet to decide on this issue.

Air Toxics and Your Health

Benicia Community Air Monitoring Program Presents

Air Toxics & Your Health

Feb. 27th 7- 8:30 pm
Benicia Public Library
150 East L Street, Benicia
In person and on zoom



Are YOU concerned about breathing wildfire smoke, refinery and tailpipe emissions?

Come to hear our featured speakers!

Dr. Michael Jerrett: UCLA - Public Health Risks renowned researcher. What are the public health risks of wildfire smoke and toxic chemicals?

Dr. Jochen Stutz: UCLA - UCLA Assistant Professor for Atmospheric Chemistry. What new technology is there for monitoring refinery emissions?

Eric Stevenson: Argos Scientific, Inc - Air Monitoring & Data Quality
Former Manager, Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Why we need high quality air monitoring.

Josh Chadwick, Fire Chief, City of Benicia - Community Safety
Why the proposed Industrial Safety Ordinance (ISO) can make us safer.

Maureen Breenan and Marilyn Bardet community activists
What problems do we have now and what is the vision for the future?

Register for zoom link You can also find registration information at the Benicia Community Air Monitoring Program website.

To register, click [here](#).

Updates from around Solano County

MCE Program Offered to Independent Small Businesses in Vallejo



The MCE would like to introduce small businesses in Vallejo to their Small Business Energy Advantage Program. They are offering free on-site assessments to identify energy saving upgrades that can lower your monthly bills, reduce maintenance costs, and build your advantage.

If you are interested in saving some needed costs, please go to the link below to fill out an Interest Form, so that they can schedule a free on-site assessment of where you can cut costs for your business.

MCE is partnering with Resource Innovations, who will guide you through the Small Business Energy Advantage program. They offer tailored recommendations as well as providing no- or low-cost installation for a select set of measures. Resource Innovations is a leading industry player in transforming small business communities.

The link is: <https://mcecleanenergy.org/small-business-energy-advantage/>

Benicia High School Debate Team Returns to Nationals



In an extraordinary accomplishment, Cozette Calderon and Daniel Delgado finished second in the prestigious Berkeley High Invitational Debate Tournament several weeks ago, beating top teams from as far away as New York, Pennsylvania and North Carolina, and more than 60 from California. Ending the tournament as one of the top two, of 74 competing teams, they clinched their place in the National Parliamentary Debate League finals.

The arduous nine-round, two-day competition ended with a deciding final debate that was so close that two of the five judges admitted afterward that they changed their final ballots at least once.

With their second-place finish, Cozette, a senior, and Daniel, a junior, become the first pair of debaters from Benicia to auto-qualify for the Tournament of Champions (TOC), earning points for wins in the eight tournaments in which they competed this year. The TOC is generally held in New York but this year takes place in Oakland. Last year's

captains, Michael Delgado and Gabriel Stockwell, attended the 2024 TOC on a wildcard bid. They also coached Calderon and Daniel Delgado when they led the team last year.

The TOC is considered the top national tournament in high school parliamentary debate.

Calderon and Delgado, who also work as team coaches, are presently training with Benicia alumni Tristan Keene, recently named the top college Parliamentary debater in the country, and alumni Tim Knox, pictured here. Benicia alumni Garret Slody, now debating at Diablo Valley College, joined the coaching staff this year, working with the rest of the team as they continue to compete in local and online tournaments.

Caption: Debate Coach, Tim Knox, flashes the victory sign after Daniel Delgado and Cozette Calderon's big win in the Berkeley International Debate Tournament. This win clinched their place in national debate finals.

A message from Solano County

Starting March 1, all Solano County email addresses will transition from the current @solanocounty.com to @solanocounty.gov. The shift to .gov domains aligns with state regulations ([Assembly Bill 1637](#)) and ensures communications are recognized as official and trustworthy. Please be sure to update your contacts and communications accordingly.



GVRD Skate/Bike Park survey

A colorful poster for a community input survey at Wardlaw Skatepark. The poster features a teal background with palm tree silhouettes. At the top left is the Greater Vallejo Recreation District logo. The main text reads "WARDLAW SKATEPARK COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY". Below this are three photos of skateboarders performing tricks. A QR code is prominently displayed with the text "SCAN ME" above it. At the bottom, it says "WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!" and "SCAN THE QR CODE TO TAKE OUR ONLINE SURVEY." with the website "www.gvrd.org" and phone number "(707) 648-4600". A small logo for "Parks Make Life Better" is in the bottom right corner. At the very bottom, it says "CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING IN-PERSON MEETING DATES COMING IN 2025."

The Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) wants to hear from you about the Wardlaw Skatepark. To view the survey, click [here](#).

Solano County Water Agency accepting entries for Water Awareness Video Contest



15TH ANNUAL SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY

WATER AWARENESS VIDEO CONTEST

THIS YEAR'S THEME:

The Water Cycle: Why we need to Think Outside the Sink

Create a one-minute public service announcement video explaining how we can all work together to conserve water on a broad scale.

We encourage students to think about ALL the different ways people, industries, and institutions use water.

FOR 6TH - 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

CASH PRIZES AWARDED FOR OVERALL WINNERS & SPONSORING TEACHERS

LEARN MORE 

OR VISIT WWW.SCWA2.COM

Submissions open January 6, 2025

Contest deadline March 18, 2025



SOLANO 

The Solano County Water Agency is now accepting entries from Solano County students in grades 6 through 12 and their sponsoring teachers for the Water Agency's 15th annual video contest. Winning entries will receive up to \$1,500.

This year's theme is The Water Cycle: Why We Need to Think Outside the Sink. The contest is challenging students to explore the need for Solano County residents to think globally and act locally in order to conserve water.

Students should create a one-minute public service announcement video explaining how we can all work together to conserve water on a broad scale. In their PSAs, we encourage students to think about all the

different ways people, industries, and institutions use water, and to offer creative conservation steps for individuals and our society at-large to take.

This year, the Solano County Water Agency will award prizes of \$1,500 to the first-place video, \$1,000 to the second-place video, and \$500 to the third-place video. Additionally, the winning entry from each school with ten or more submissions will be awarded a \$100 gift card. The three teachers who generate the most student participation in the contest will each win a \$200 gift card.

Entries will be judged by a panel of water efficiency experts and community leaders for content, accuracy, and response to the assigned theme; entertainment value and originality; videography, style and organization; and audio/sound quality.

Complete information about the 2025 video contest, water conservation information, samples of past winning videos, and the 2025 entry packet is available by clicking [here](#).

Entries can be submitted through e-mail to Education@solanorcd.org, via Google Drive using the form found on the contest website, or on a USB flash drive via US mail or delivered in person to the Solano Resource Conservation District office in Dixon.

Release forms and entry forms must accompany video submissions in order for them to be considered.

All entries and paperwork must be received by Tuesday, March 18, at 5 p.m.

Contact Shea Kinser at Solano Resource Conservation District at shea.kinser@solanorcd.org with questions or for more information.

Registration is Open for the AI Integration Masterclass



Benicia Publishing and David Perry & Associates Present

AI Integration Master Class

Smart Solutions Made Simple

In association with Benicia Chamber of Commerce

Calling all small and medium-sized businesses!
Stay up to date with the latest tools and trends for your business to make artificial intelligence

A.I.: Authentic Intelligence.
Join our expert panelists for a dynamic half-day session packed with the latest insights on leveraging AI to elevate your business. Gain real-world strategies, stay ahead of the curve, and walk away with actionable knowledge. Plus, attendees will receive exclusive access to the event recording—so you can revisit the insights anytime!

Work smarter, not harder.
Let AI help you grow and thrive!

Thursday, February 27
9am - 1:30pm

Tickets - \$75
<https://ai-masterclass.beniciaeventsite.com>

Hosted by:
Benicia Magazine and
David Perry & Associates, Inc.
in association with
Benicia Chamber of Commerce



Logos for Benicia Chamber of Commerce, Benicia Magazine, and David Perry & Associates.

Golden West Family Carnival



JOIN US FOR A

FAMILY CARNIVAL

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 28
5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

FREE ENTRY

GOLDEN WEST
2651 DE RONDE
DR, FAIRFIELD

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SCAN ME

FAMILY FRIENDLY GAMES

FACE PAINTING

CREATE WITH PASSION

SHRIMP & CHICKEN

MEXICAN FOOD

BOSSALINT'S

FOOD TRUCKS

RSVP



Fairfield Police Department launches upgraded Transparency Portal

From the city of Fairfield:

Fairfield Police Department has long been committed to transparency, integrity, and the community. In a demonstration of our continued commitment to those very things, we are pleased to announce the launch of an upgraded, more intuitive iteration of our existing Transparency Portal.



The new portal will replace the one currently found on the city website and offer members of the community an even more user-friendly interface for exploring crime statistics.

“The trust between law enforcement agencies and the people we serve is a privilege,” said Police Chief Dan Marshall. “The people of Fairfield trust us. They trust we will uphold our responsibility to protect and not harm them. They trust we will treat everyone fairly and equitably. And we trust them to hold us accountable. This portal, and ensuring vital information and statistics are more accessible to community members, will play a large part in ensuring the community’s trust in us is warranted and well earned.”

The city of Fairfield recognizes the critical role transparency plays in effecting equitable and effective policing and heralds the platform as a vital tool many will find helpful.

“When it comes to nourishing the collaborative relationship between law enforcement and the community, transparency is absolutely essential,” said City Manager David Gassaway. “This hub ensures the necessary information is right at community members’ fingertips, making it another powerful tool for maintaining trust and ensuring accountability.”

The PD Transparency Portal is now live and can be accessed at www.fairfield.ca.gov/transparency

February calendar for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall



The February calendar of events for Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall:

February 14: VFW Auxiliary Hamburgers; Valentine’s Day

17 President’s Day

18 House commission meeting 1830 hrs.

19 SONS AMERICAN LEGION meet at 1900 hours; Judy's Hot dogs; birthday of the United States Coast Guard Reserve

21 American Legion Hamburgers 28 Sons of The American Legion Hamburgers; Ramadan, from Feb. 28 to Mar. 29

The Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall is located at 1150 1st Street in downtown Benicia.

Winter Shelter at BayNorth Church of Christ

BayNorth Church of Christ will be providing a winter shelter for city of Fairfield residents who are unhoused.

The winter shelter will operate each night **through March 31, 2025. The intake process will be from 6:30 to 8 pm and the shelter exit time will be 6 am each morning. Those needing shelter are allowed to line up starting at 6 pm.**



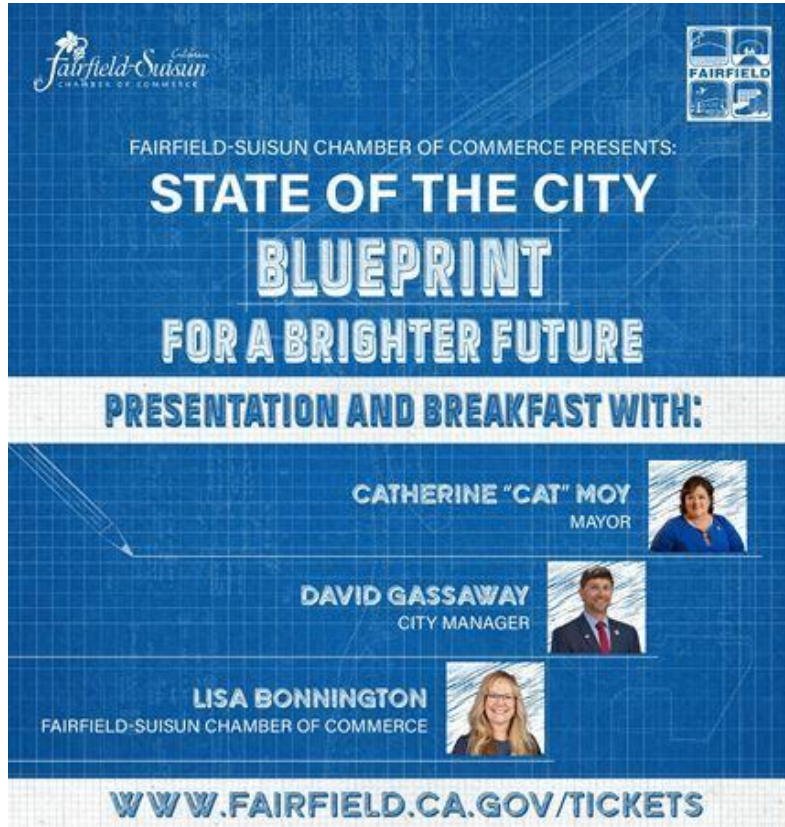
The winter shelter will be filled on a first come, first served basis each night with a limited capacity of ten. Individuals needing shelter must be able to independently manage activities of daily living and agree to comply with program guidelines. There will be limited space for personal belongings.

The winter shelter address is 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, and the phone number is (707) 260-9794.

FAST will provide free bus rides to the winter shelter on FAST route 3 from 6 to 7 pm Monday-Friday. Those who need a ride will need to board the bus at the Fairfield Transportation Center and let the driver know they are going to the winter shelter. Exit the bus at Solano Town Center, make a left on Pennsylvania Ave. and walk one block to Bay North Church of Christ.

Upcoming events in Solano County

State of the City Event to unveil “Blueprint for a Brighter Future”



The Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the city of Fairfield, invites the community to the State of the City Event, "Blueprint for a Brighter Future," on **February 20 from 8 to 10 a.m.** at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2200 The Courtyard in Fairfield.

Mayor Catherine "Cat" Moy, City Manager David Gassaway, and Chamber President Lisa Bonnington will host the event, which will include breakfast, a State of the City presentation, and a panel with local business and sector leaders. Discussions will focus on key topics such as Fairfield's economic climate, commerce, growth, manufacturing, workforce development, and real estate trends.

Registration is now open for attendees at \$55 per person. Space is limited, so interested individuals are encouraged to secure their spots now.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to gain a broader perspective of the city of Fairfield's achievements and future endeavors.

For tickets and reservations, click [here](http://www.fairfield.ca.gov/tickets).

NAACP Vallejo Branch #1081: Pastor and Clergy meeting

NAACP VALLEJO BRANCH #1081

PASTORS CLERGY

NAACP
Vallejo Branch

VM
VALLEJO
NAVAL & HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

Religious Affairs Meeting
FEBRUARY 20, 2025 AT 6:30 PM
VALLEJO NAVAL AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM
734 MARIN STREET VALLEJO CA 94590

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS ARE MOTIVATED BY
CREATING A POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

The NAACP Vallejo Branch #1081 will be hosting members of the North Bay Minister Union along with local Pastors and clergy re: public safety and other topics at **6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 20 at the Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum, located at 734 Marin Street in downtown Vallejo.**

Medicare Fundamentals

Welcome to this Free & Unbiased seminar
from the only agency authorized
by the CA Dept. of Aging to
offer Medicare seminars

Medicare

Fundamentals

Join the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Programs (HICAP) for a free Medicare education class, the only agency authorized by the California Department of Aging, to offer Medicare Seminars. HICAP does not sell or endorse insurance products

Medicare is as “easy” to understand as taxes. Ok, so it’s not so easy. Question: Who’s responsibility is your healthcare? Gain a detailed understanding of Medicare so you can be more informed when you step out there and have to deal with agents and plans. We will cover all the parts of inpatient coverage, outpatient coverage, prescription plan choices, Medigap supplemental products, managed care nuances and more.

The event will take place on Wednesday, February 26, from 11 a.m. to noon inside the Benicia Senior Center, 187 E. L Street

Registration not required.

Speaker Series: Cryptology



Author Ralph Simpson will discuss over 2000 years of cipher evolution, starting with Julius Caesar and continuing to today with modern public key cryptography.

Throughout human history, militaries of the world have succeeded or failed based on the security of their communications. Mr. Simpson will join the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation to explain the role of cryptology in that history, what it is, and how it has impacted the world.

This is your chance to not only learn about this fascinating subject, but you will also have the opportunity to see and touch a captured German Enigma Machine from World War II.

See the promotional video
at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WON01MNNnB4>

The event will be held on Sunday, March 2, at 3 p.m., inside St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo.

Tickets can be purchased by clicking [here](#).

Glow in the Dark mini golf

**GLOW-IN-THE-DARK
MINI GOLF
FOR TWEENS & TEENS***

Tweens & Teens ages 11-18, register for
a round of after hours
Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf!

You're sure to have a whale of a time!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8
6 - 8 PM**

**Pre-registration required.
Registration opens February 8 at 12:00 PM*

FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

 **Solano County
LIBRARY**

Web: solanolibrary.com
Phone: 1-866-572-7587
f @ solanolibrary

On Saturday, March 8, tweens/teens between the ages of 11 and 18 are invited to the Fairfield Civic Center Library (1150 Kentucky Street) to join in on a game of glow in the dark mini golf for tweens/teens!

This program will take place after hours from 6-8pm.
Preregistration is required and opens on Saturday, February 8 at 12 p.m.

No group registrations. Only one person per sign up. To register, click [here](#).

Open Mare Island

The poster features a dark green background with white text and three overlapping photographs of historical sites on Mare Island. The top photo shows a wooden building with a white cross on its gable. The middle photo shows a large white classical building with columns. The bottom photo shows a white gazebo on a lawn. The text on the poster includes the event title, date and time, a list of locations, and registration information.

OPEN
Mare Island

**SUNDAY MARCH 9
12-2PM
FREE SELF-GUIDED
WALKING TOUR**

Admiral's Mansion
Alden Park
St. Peter's Chapel

...AND MORE!

PICK UP YOUR MAP & COFFEE COUPON AT:

- THE QUARTERS COFFEE HOUSE
- 1015 WALNUT AVE

RSVP HERE:
WWW.MIHPP.ORG/EVENTS

To RSVP, click [here](#).

Women in Construction

Fairfield Training Center is offering the Women in Construction career event happening on **Friday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in-person at the Fairfield Training Center located at 800 Chadbourne Rd., Fairfield, CA 94534.**

All people are welcome to attend and must pre-register by Sunday, March 9th [here](#).

Girls on the Rise

On **Saturday, March 22**, from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, the Solano County Event Center will host Girls on the Rise, an inspiring in-person event designed to empower young women (ages 15–25) to explore exciting career paths in Law, STEM, Business, and First Responder professions. **The Solano County Event Center is located at 601 Texas Street in downtown Fairfield.**

This unique event brings together influential women leaders, hands-on experiences, and thought-provoking discussions to help attendees uncover the limitless possibilities awaiting them in their professional journeys. Whether you're a high school student, recent graduate, or someone curious about these dynamic fields, Girls on the Rise is your gateway to inspiration and discovery.

Event Highlights:

1. **Connect with Trailblazers:** Engage with accomplished women leaders who will share their stories, offer career guidance, and inspire the next generation of changemakers.
2. **Gain Valuable Insights:** Learn about diverse career opportunities through interactive discussions and actionable advice tailored to help you succeed.
3. **Step Inside the Legal World:** Experience a courtroom tour to gain a firsthand understanding of the legal system and how it shapes our communities.

This second annual event is proudly supported by the Solano Superior Court, the Solano County Bar Association, and the Solano Commission for Women and Girls.

To Register, scan the QR code above.

For more information, contact Julie Hilt at (707) 290-0955 or SCBA@SolanoBar.org

Speaker Series: All Things Organ



Join the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation in “All Things Organ” and surround yourselves in the resonant and inspiring sounds of the beautiful St. Peter’s Chapel Pipe Organ, the fourth pipe organ installed in 1966. The chapel organ is carefully and expertly maintained by the internationally famous Schoenstein & Co. (Est. 1877), organ builders, of Benicia.

Presenters include the world-renowned Jack Bethards, Chairman and Tonal Advisor for Schoenstein & Co., and Bret Barner, a skilled chapel organist, who frequently showcases his expertise and artistry through organ performances during special chapel events. This event will bring together the rich history of the Chapel organ accompanied by musical demonstrations that showcase its sublime sound. The occasion will

highlight the organ's evolution over time, from its inception to its present-day operation, and feature performances that exhibit its remarkable tonal capabilities. By combining historical context with live music, the event promises to be a unique and enriching experience, allowing attendees to appreciate the Chapel organ's beauty and significance.

The event will take place on Sunday, April 13, from 4 to 5 p.m., at St. Peter's Chapel, 1181 Walnut Avenue on Mare Island in the city of Vallejo.

To purchase tickets, click [here](#).

Events I attended this week

Tuesday, February 11, Since the Board of Supervisors meeting was canceled, I attended the State of the City (Benicia's) Annual report. City Manager Mario Giuliani's remarks and power point reminded members of the audience where Benicia was and how the passage of the different sales taxes will make a positive difference to the city. He reminded everyone the work is not done.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Eyer, PhD, from Sonoma State University. His remarks with the PowerPoint gave all of us snapshot of the economy in Solano County and the city of Benicia.

Later that night, there was a meeting for the community to hear the city manager and see the power point shown at the earlier meeting. Later attendees could talk to city council members or stay and ask questions of the city manager. It was a long day but very informative.

Wednesday night, February 12, I attended the Black History event at the Benicia library. The librarians showed the movie Harriet Tubman. I had not seen it before. Thank you to all our librarians who create safe places for all of us to learn.

Feb. 18, Black History Month Film Festival *Just Mercy* (PG-13)

Feb. 25, Black History Month Festival *Woman in Motion* (NR)

Looking for a job? Consider these links

If you or someone you know is looking for a job, please consider a career with Solano County. Click [HERE](#) to access the website and follow on Facebook [@SolanoCountyJobs](#). Please also consider these other employment resources, including:

[STATE OF CALIFORNIA](#)
[CITY OF BENICIA](#)

[CITY OF FAIRFIELD](#)
[CITY OF VALLEJO](#)
[SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)
[BENICIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)
[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)
[VALLEJO SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)
[POST OFFICE](#)
[GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT](#)
[YOUTH JOBS CORPS](#)
[CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS](#)
[SOLANO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT](#)
[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SEWER DISTRICT](#)

Newsletter photo

The Townhouse Lounge in downtown Vallejo. Photo: John Glidden



First elected in 2016, Monica represents District 2 on the Solano County Board of Supervisors. District 2 encompasses the city of Benicia, the portion of Vallejo south of Georgia Street, Mare Island, Cordelia, Green Valley and a portion of Fairfield.