



February 17, 2023

**SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER -  
FEBRUARY 17, 2023**



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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

**Recognizing Fannie Lou Hamer**



Fannie Lou Hamer is my person for this third week of Black History Month. Ms. Hamer was born in Montgomery County, Mississippi on October 6, 1917. In 1961 Ms. Hamer attended a meeting led by civil rights activist James Forman and James Bevel. She was incensed by efforts to

deny Blacks the right to vote. In 1962 she led 17 volunteers to register to vote at the Indianola, Mississippi Courthouse. They were denied the right to vote due to an unfair literacy test.

In 1964 she co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) which challenged the local Democratic Party's efforts to block Black participation. Members of the MFDP went to the Democratic National Convention arguing to be recognized as the official delegation.

At the next national convention, 1968, Ms. Hamer's vision of racial parity in the delegation had become a reality. She served as a member of Mississippi's first integrated delegation.

The following is one of her favorite quotes: "Sometimes, it seem like to tell the truth today is to run the risk of being killed. But if I fall, I'll fall five feet four inches forward in the fight for freedom. I'm not backing off."

I only touched the surface of her life. Please look at the American Experience (PBS) Freedom Summer, Women in American History. Ms. Hamer is in the National Women's Hall of Fame (1993).

## Statement on the Michigan State University shooting

I am not sure what words to use for the loss of the lives of the three MSU students on Monday. As I write this, the five wounded students are still in intensive care. Reading articles Tuesday, I found out an MSU student attended Sandy Hook Elementary school 10 years ago. "The fact that this is the second mass shooting that I have now lived through is incomprehensible," she said. Another MSU freshman survived the November 2021 shooting at Oxford High School. Her mother stated her daughter is traumatized.

Doing nothing is not the answer. Yet, I predict that is what will happen.

Page 11 of the February 10 issue of the LA Times had these statistics: In 2020 45,222 people died from gun-related injuries in the US. Of those, 19,384 were murders. That's nearly 53 people each day or a little over 2 people every hour.

I have no words.

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## Information this week

### Reminder: County Buildings closed on Monday

All Solano County buildings will be closed Monday, February 20, 2023 for Presidents' Day. They will re-open Tuesday, February 21 at 8 am.

#### Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk

(707) 784-7485

#### Area Agency on Aging

(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 TEXT LINE

741741

THE TREVOR PROJECT FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

866-488-7386

TRANS LIFELINE PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

877-565-8860

## Medi-Cal changes - keep yourself and your family covered

Soon a new requirement to re-establish eligibility for Medi-Cal will affect many Californians. If you receive Medi-Cal coverage, be aware that you may need to renew your coverage soon as continuous coverage is ending.

**What to look out for:** Starting April 1, 2023, those with Medi-Cal coverage will need to ensure their contact information (address, phone number, and email address) is updated on



the [MyBenefitsCalWin](http://MyBenefitsCalWin) website. Then, keep an eye on your mail as Solano County will send you information on your eligibility. You may need to complete a renewal form.

For more information, please visit [this website](#) or view these flyers [here](#) and [here](#).

## Changes to SNAP benefits



SNAP benefits have recently undergone a 12.5% cost-of-living adjustment to account for inflation. This change took effect in October 2022 and will continue through September 30, 2023. To see how much more per person the adjustment provides, you can read Yahoo! News' full report on the changes [here](#).

## For teachers: Black History Month Resources, upcoming events, and opportunities from CHSSP

The California History-Social Science Project (CHSSP) has created an excellent list of resources highlighting new ways to teach Black history in the classroom - check it out [here](#) and share it with the educators you know!



CHSSP also has some upcoming events for teachers with a wide variety of topics. You can view the full list [here](#) but some highlights include:

**Integrated Action Civics Workshop Series:** Next virtual workshop on **February 18** from 9am-12pm on the topic of Power Analysis.

**Teaching English Learners in the History Classroom:** Free webinars on **March 1** and **April 5** from 3:45pm-5:15pm.

**Re-thinking Social Studies in the Elementary Classroom:** Free webinar on **March 7** from 4-5:30pm.

## **New legislation proposes limits on contributions to school board candidates**

In an effort to promote fairness in school board campaigns at both the local school and community college level, Senator Bill Dodd has introduced a bill that would limit campaign contributions to \$5,500 per person, business, or committee. This bill will be presented to a committee next month. You can read more about the legislation [here](#).

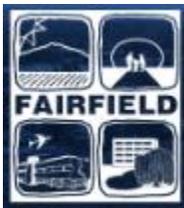
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## **Updates from around Solano County**

### **Loans for crop loss now available from USDA**

If you or someone you know is an agricultural producer in Solano County that lost crops to the recent winter storms, you can now apply for emergency farm loans from the USDA. Affected growers can contact the USDA Vacaville Service Center at (707) 448-0106. You can read the full declaration [here](#), which includes qualifications and information on how to apply for the loan.

### **City of Fairfield news**



The City of Fairfield has some upcoming events and information in their newsletter that you can read [here](#). Some brief highlights include:

**PUMP podcast:** Public Utility Master Plan has released their podcast discussing the development of the plan to keep the water system well funded for the future. You can listen to the podcast by visiting the above link and downloading the file.

**Seeking artisans and makers:** The MAYkers Market on May 20, 2023 is now accepting applications from pop-up shops and local businesses to be highlighted on Small Business Saturday. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, click [here](#).

**Housing Choice Voucher program:** Landlords looking for tenants are encouraged to list their units for low-income families to find housing. Listing units for rent is free of charge at [www.affordablehousing.com](http://www.affordablehousing.com)

See the events section below for more on events included in the Fairfield newsletter.

## Trade pre-apprenticeship program

If you or someone you know is interested in getting into a career in a trade, register for the Workforce Board of Solano County's **free** 6-week pre-apprenticeship training program. This opportunity runs from **April 3 - May 19, 2023** and is open to those ages 18-24. For more information or to register, contact Joyce Ugweje at (707) 863-3533 or [jugweje@solanowdb.org](mailto:jugweje@solanowdb.org). You can also view the flyer [here](#) for more info about qualifications and requirements. Space is limited so call today to claim your spot.

## Humane Society North Bay updates

Humane Society of the North Bay (HSNB) recently hosted their Betty White Challenge fundraiser in support of shelter animals. The event was successful thanks to the help of Provisions, volunteers, staff members, and the community. HSNB has also published their shelter report for January which you can read more about [here](#) with the reminder to microchip your best in case they get lost. Finally, HSNB has some upcoming events to help support their cause:

- **Vallejo Farmer's Market:** Saturday, February 18 9 am-2 pm
- **Hops and Hounds:** Saturday, February 18 1 pm-5 pm at the Coal Shed Brewery, Mare Island, Vallejo
- **HSNB Open Shelter:** Saturday, February 25 Noon-4 pm

## Teachers participate in Project WET



On Saturday, February 11, teachers from around Solano County participated in the Project WET workshop, part of the international, award-winning education program that focuses on teaching students about water issues worldwide and empowering them to take action in their community to protect this resource. Saturday's workshop was in partnership with the Solano Resource Conservation District (SRCD) and integrated information about Solano's water system and included activities for teachers to use in their classroom.

Here's a bit more about SRCD's education efforts from the workshop press release:  
"The Solano Resource Conservation District aims to connect teachers to resources that help them integrate lessons about water conservation and our local water resources into their curriculum. For more information on Solano RCD's Teacher Training programs, including the four-day Solano Water Institute for Teachers, held in August, visit our website at [www.solanorcd.org/events](http://www.solanorcd.org/events) or email [education@solanorcd.org](mailto:education@solanorcd.org). Learn more about Project WET at [www.projectwet.org](http://www.projectwet.org)."

Thank you to the Solano Resource Conservation District for providing this information. If you would like to read the full press release, please click [here](#).

## Water Awareness video contest for middle and high schoolers

The Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) has opened their yearly video contest for middle and high school students in Solano County. Students are encouraged to submit videos that fit the theme *Saving Our Water is Saving Our Future* and tell a story about the importance of water conservation. The first place winner will receive \$1,500, second place \$1,000, and third place \$500. For full details, including participation incentives for schools and teachers, read the [press release](#) here or visit the [contest website](#) to learn how to submit. The deadline to submit is **April 5 at 5 pm**.



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## Public Notices

### BAHFA virtual workshops



The Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) is hosting two virtual workshops for the public to learn about and provide feedback on their [Draft Equity Framework](#) and [Draft Funding Programs](#), two documents that will strengthen BAHFA's commitment to equity and help to create self-sustaining funding programs to secure the Authority's future. Your feedback helps to make these the best documents they can be.

The first workshop is on **Tuesday, February 28** from **2pm-3:30pm** and you can register for it here: <https://bit.ly/3HQjAcS>  
The second workshop is **Thursday, March 2** from **12:30pm-2pm** and you can register for it here: <https://bit.ly/3jMoWy0>

Comments are also being accepted by email through 5 pm on March 6: [bahfa@bayareametro.gov](mailto:bahfa@bayareametro.gov)

## Mayrene Bates Celebration of Life



The Celebration of Life for Mayrene Bates, a major figure in Solano's education system, will be held on **Thursday, February 23 from 2 pm to 4:30 pm** at the Solano County Events Center, 601 Texas Street (next to the fountain). Refreshments will be provided and a slideshow of pictures from Ms. Bates' collection will be presented.

(Photo source: [The Daily Republic](#))

## Upcoming events in Solano County

### Black History Month scavenger hunt and movie screening



On **Sunday, February 19** from **1 pm - 4 pm** Benicia Black Lives Matter is hosting a scavenger hunt for kids highlighting Black icons of the past and present. A screening of the documentary *We Are the Dream: The Kids of the Oakland MLK Oratorical Fest* will follow at 4 pm - 5 pm. The event is free to the public! View the full size flyer [here](#) for more info.

## The History of the Peñas and the Vacas, Part II

The Dixon Historical Society will host Cecelia Peña and Armando Perez for part two of their talk on the history of the Peñas and Vacas, this time covering California settlement from the 1690s to the 1880s. Both presenters will discuss their family history in Peña Adobe in Vacaville, as well. This event will be at Dixon Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, **Sunday, February 19 from 2 pm - 3:15 pm**. The event will also be available via Zoom. To request registration for the Zoom lecture, please email [dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com),



penaadobe@gmail.com, or call 1-707-693-3044 with your intent to RSVP.

## Free community cooking classes with Touro University



Touro University California is offering three free online cooking classes on **Sunday, February 26, Sunday, March 5, and Sunday, April 2**. These classes give you the opportunity to ask questions in real time while you cook in your own kitchen alongside Touro University

students. A variety of dishes will be taught. Register for any session today by visiting [this link](#).

## From Pen to Purpose

You're invited to join Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce and Professor Michael Wyly of Solano Community College for an afternoon reading by creative writing students on **Tuesday, March 3** from **12 pm-1:30 pm** in the Quinton Duval Reading Area, Building 100 at Solano Community College. If you would like to attend to the event via Zoom, you can register [here](#).



## Stride and Ride at Paradise Valley Golf Course

Take a walk or ride your bike around Paradise Valley Gold Course on **Tuesday, March 14**, from **8 am - 2 pm**. Admission is free and all ages! Register for the event [here](#).

## Upcoming events at the Benicia Historical Museum

The Benicia Historical Museum is hosting a few events in the coming months - check them out:

### Big Guns: The History and Preservation of Battery Townsley with John Martini

Join John Martini, a former National Park Ranger around parks in the Bay Area and lifelong researcher of California, as he discusses his work on preserving Battery Townsley. Purchase your tickets for the event on **Saturday, February 18**



**from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm**, at the Benicia Historical Museum [here](#). Tickets are free for museum members or \$10 for non-members.

**Roaring '20s Trivia Night:** Think you know the 1920s? Registration is open now for the Museum's trivia night. There will be two ways to win a prize - place 1st in the trivia competition or win the costume contest. Registration for a group of 8 is \$220 while individual registration is \$30. Get your tickets for the event on **Friday, March 24** from **6 pm - 9:30 pm** [here](#).

**Callie's Kids Camp:** Registration is open for Callie's Kids Camp, a summer program for kids ages 7-12 that runs from June - July. To view weekly themes and register, view the website [here](#).

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## Events I attended this week:

It was a busy week!

**Friday**, I attended the event at the City of Fairfield to honor Mayrene Bates. I left early to attend the parent meeting concerning the closing of the Matt Garcia Elementary School.

**Saturday:** I attended the Chinese New Year Celebration and Scholarship Fundraiser held in Vacaville. The event is sponsored by the Chinese American Association of Solano County. I enjoyed the Lion Dance. The dancers from the Xiaopei Dance School were mesmerizing. The year of the Rabbit started on a happy note.

**Monday:** I was invited to a meet and greet from Congressman Mike Thompson held in Vacaville. The congressman invited his DC staff as well as his local district staff to the meet and greet. In fact, the congressman was visiting his new district with the entire staff. They were spending the entire week visiting areas such as Rio Vista to Lake County. I enjoyed the personal touch as now I have a face to a name.

**Thursday:** I attended the Benicia Leaders Roundtable Agenda. I attended the meeting in person. I would like to share the following: **Tuesday, February 21 from 7:30 to 8:30 am at the 9th Street Park**, city staff will be holding a pop-up to discuss the latest on the bridge with Mary Farmer Elementary parents. The crossing guard issue will be discussed. If you know anyone whose child attends the school, please share this message. It is important to keep our children safe when they cross a road.

**Thursday afternoon** I attended an event with Congressman John Garamendi. In addition to the county rescue plan money, the congressman was able to get \$1 million to help the county digitize medical records for our patients. This will allow the county to keep track of our patients to make sure their needs are met in a timely fashion. It is always a pleasure to talk to the congressman.

**Thursday night**, I attended the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District's school board meeting. The item on the agenda of interest to me was what would happen to Matt Garcia School. The board members stated in public that they did not want to close the school. While the group consensus was not to close the school, there was no motion made. There was no vote taken. Therefore, the item can come back to the board. Personally, I am not comfortable with the action taken. The "decision" does not feel permanent.

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## 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](#)



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.

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Mare Island header photo by [Almonroth](#).