

Shasta County Update



Matt Pontes is the "Clerk of the Board" and "County Executive Officer." Matt gave a comprehensive program detailing what is going on today in our Shasta County government. His credentials bring plenty of experience. His main objective is to connect the people and businesses of Shasta County with their county officials.



Matt mentioned after two and one half years of very difficult times, Shasta County has come out strong.

Matt Pontes

Current happenings being addressed include the impact of past fires, drought especially in Jones Valley and Sugar Loaf, working with a new sheriff and auditor, retention of deputy sheriffs, retention funding bringing the strategic reserve up to 50%, and illegal marijuana enforcement.

On the horizon will be the upcoming elections and being involved with the City of Redding redoing downtown. Each of the general government offices and their duties were detailed by Matt. Also explained were the Shasta County departments to include Health and Human Services, Ag Commissioner—Sealer of Weights and Measures, Farm Advisor, Public Works and Resource Management. Matt again described the duties of each department and the sub departments. The next department was Public Safety to include County Fire, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation, and the Sheriff's Office.

Matt used his experience working in Santa Barbara County to give his input on the proposed design of the new jail. The spokes of the wheel design reduces staff, improves security and directs those arrested to areas staffed by people with experience with that area. This will be part of the Corrections and Rehibilitation Campus. There are three tiers, Board of Supervisors, CRC Oversight Committee—CEO, Sheriff, HHSA Director and County Counsel, and CRC Project Team—Operational, Financial, Engagement, and Transition. The projected timeline to bring this to reality is five years.

Another Shasta County major project includes the American Rescue Plan Local Recovery Funds. This project includes \$34 million to Shasta County, recent public survey held to gain public input, and



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the Board of Supervisors to establish a spending plan.

Another major project is fire and fuel mitigation. This mainly includes removing fuel near road and structures. Building a new fire station in the southern county is underway. It is hoped to be completed by Labor Day. Dixie and Zogg Fire Funds are being used for fire safe projects.

Illegal marijuana eradication is another major project. The effort involves multiple agencies to include Sheriff, District Attorney, Local Police Departments, State and regional law enforcement agencies, and local ordinances. To date there has been 21 operations, 13 arrests, 23 firearms seized, 29,909 plants eradicated, 3,267 pounds of processed marijuana removed, and \$56,000 in cash recovered.



Last but not least is a new County website that will increase public engagement. This includes new agenda management software, a new county level public information officer, and a new community engagement team in the CAO's office.

The question and answer period was very lively. One question asked about environment crimes.



Matt answered saying these crimes dovetail into illegal marijuana irradiation and is a priority effort.

Another question asked was where do the funds used by the county come from. The answer was 83% from state and federal governments, state and federal taxes, and 8.7% from local taxes.

Thanks Matt for a great program detailing what is going on in our county today.

President Joe's Recognitions

Azi Barzin

Azi was asked about one of his properties along the Sacramento River. Seems there was a major cleanup of the area and with a very large crew. Azi said the work done was well worth \$100 to the club. It was also Azi's birthday so the club sang happy birthday to him.

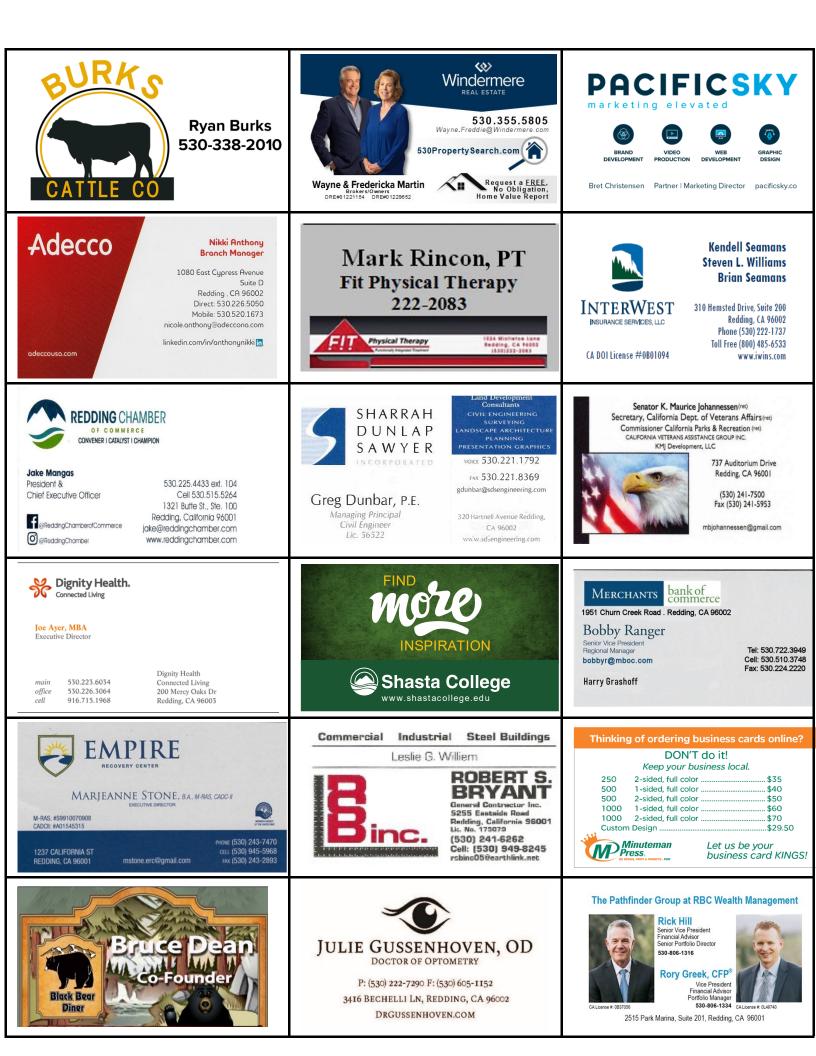


Matt Pontes

Matt is shown in his uniform right side top. This brought back memories for Matt remembering how accident prone he was. Matt donated \$100 to the club.









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