



## Sac State Blows Past Portland State, 45-17

PAGE 4

## Dixon Pulls Off Playoff Upset, Makes History

PAGE 10



# Dixon Independent Voice

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### SEE INSIDE

## SCHOOL BOARD WINS



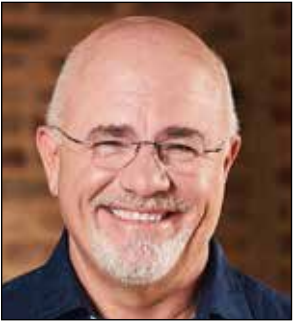
PAGE 3

## CHP'S FOCUS ON SIDESHOWS AND STREET RACING



PAGE 4

## DON'T BUY UNTIL THE FIRST ONE SELLS



PAGE 7

## Nutty Cross Coming To Ruhstaller's



About 150 bicyclists will participate in Nutty Cross 2022, a Cyclo-cross bike race through the walnut orchards on Sunday, November 20. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Bike riders just want to have fun, too, and after serious riders spend time under duress and on asphalt, racing through a brewery, hopyard, and walnut orchard at Dixon's Ruhstaller's with beer, music, and great food sounds truly fun. Enter Nutty Cross 2022, a Cyclo-cross event.

"This is not very serious. Having fun is a big part of this," said Ruhstaller's owner JE Pano. "This is about drinking some beer, having some fun, getting dirty, and getting a little irreverent." The Cyclo-cross event on Sunday, November 20, was the conclusion of a great visit with a former employee turned great friend, Chris Stastny, who



Dixon's Greg Gno will be one of the many participants in the first Nutty Cyclo-cross bike race at Ruhstaller's Farm in Dixon. Courtesy photo

grew up in Vacaville and was a full-time semi-professional road cyclist. He now works at Intel in

Folsom but has kept in touch with Pano. "He is awesome, and he gets all the credit; all

I did was say yes," Pano said about their visit over possibly doing a cyclocross at the brewery. "Cycling professionally is one thing but it can take some of the joy out of it and he wanted to keep the fun now that he exited the professional ring. He wanted to bring the fun back in so he started Boundless Locomotion," explained Pano.

Stastny's vision is 'Building an Approachable Cycling Community' and has scheduled racing to begin at 10:45 a.m. and will go to 4 p.m. Registrations and coordinating the day of the event, he won't have time to ride this time but that is rare.

"Having an event on the calendar keeps me fresh and motivated and helps

*Continued on page 3*

## Locals Encouraged to Shop Small

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Downtown Dixon's annual Holiday Open House is back, and merchants are ready to help you do your holiday shopping without ever hitting a freeway. Staying in town saves you gas, time, money and supports local merchants. You also support our local economy.

Several downtown stores and services will be kicking off the holiday season with special shopping discounts as well as holiday drinks and treats in downtown Dixon beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 19, till evening.

The Downtown Dixon Business Association is encouraging residents to 'Shop Small Businesses First!'

"We have really grown our retail downtown and it will be lots of fun," said Rebecca Robinson, a DDBA member and active promoter for downtown merchants.

**Uptown Collective**, 120 North First Street, is participating. This store, created by Rebecca Robinson, is actually a dozen stores in one as upscale handcrafted items as well as unique affordable clothing and accessories for men and women. Also, inside are kitchen and home-ware, kitchen, jewelry, books, scents, soaps, and more. Special sale hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be Christmas treats, raffle items and giveaways.

The **Dixon History Museum** will offer hot wassail and a nice offering of Dixon memorabilia items such as Milk Farm ceramic coffee mugs, water bottles, baseball hats with the Milk Farm logo on the front in green or black, magnets, calendars, and more. They will be open from noon to 4 p.m.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at **Cynde's Place, Salon and Boutique** you can sip on a Christmas Mimosa while you shop through this salon full of retail, not just for hair products but also clothing, accessories, and home decor. They have a nice selection of Christmas decorations, scarves, hats, and mittens, too, and will offer 20-percent off one's entire retail purchase at 201 North First Street. Phone is (707) 693-1105.

You may not know this, but **Kula's** is not only a tanning salon but also a boutique full of women's clothing and accessories and also some home decor. Kula's will offer 20 percent off everything in the store and that includes the tanning packages. Look for the yellow door at 120

*Continued on page 3*

## Serving Thanksgiving and Faith

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Greater Faith Baptist Church is notably one of the smallest churches in Dixon but it took on a big endeavor to feed the needy in Dixon a Thanksgiving Dinner via a Drive-Through next Wednesday, November 23, 2 to 5 p.m.

Grateful, thankful, and blessed is how the congregation of Greater Faith Baptist Church feels and great reasons for this year's Thanksgiving celebration where Pastor Virgil Robinson and Lady Krista Robinson will lead an offering of turkey dinners for "free to all in need" at their church, 320 West A Street, they said.

"We're sharing HIS goodness with a Thanksgiving meal until all the food is served," Virgil said. It includes turkey, stuffing, green beans, yams and a roll.



Lady Krista Robinson and Pastor Virgil Robinson of the Greater Faith Baptist Church and their congregation will be serving Thanksgiving Dinner to the needy.

"I've done this before at a church I was with years ago plus we were doing it in Fairfield and delivering to the homeless, but we want to do

more in Dixon," he said. "This is the first time in Dixon and it's a drive-up and pick-up. If they come by, there will be a plate for them."

The Robinsons started the church at the Veterans Memorial Hall about four years ago but two years ago relocated it to the small building housed many years by Allied Propane. He said the church is growing and just added two additional services. His church services are on Sunday from 11 a.m. till about 1:30 p.m. and after that, Pastor Nunes runs a church for those who are Spanish speaking from 2 to 5 p.m. and another Pastor from El Salvador comes in from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

"We don't want anyone to miss out on hearing the word of our Lord," Robinson said in regard to the variety. "We want to reach everybody and we're a loving church. We may not be a big church, but we have a big spirit."

The church is located at 320 West A Street next to the railroad tracks. ★





# Life's too SHORT

## Why Did Measure D Fail?

By Debra Dingman

Even I was surprised that Measure D – the 1% sales tax increase failed – especially as much as it failed. Could it have been because Solano County also put a tax increase on the ballot listed just above Dixon's Measure D? Could people have seen the words "tax increase" and rebelled against both? Or were the citizens of Dixon distrustful of the way our City Council manages our tax dollars?

Considering that in the past few years, there have been the following: the cost of the nearly \$4 million town park; providing the City Manager a nearly \$60,000 pay raise after a few years ago providing him with a low interest home loan; increasing the city attorney's budget to \$714,000 yearly; increasing fees on home improvement projects, park and pool use; and all while still hunting down monies for the Parkway Boulevard Overpass despite receiving \$4 million for Federal COVID Relief clearly designated for streets and infrastructure.

My personal nugget of dissatisfaction was learning that the City decided to RENT an office trailer for \$19,246 a year when there is a small home that could have been restored on the same city-owned lot.

We'll never know the true feelings of citizens about

why that tax measure did not pass, but what we do know is the City spent taxpayer's dollars to create and mail at least three different 8.5 x 11 glossy advertisements for passing Measure D. (That wavered on the legal line with the Fair Political Practices Act as we are not supposed to use taxpayer's money to promote a tax.) Plus, City Councilmen encouraged it to pass whenever they were able to converse.

No matter how much it made sense to our Mayor and City Council, voters disagreed with this route to improve their "Quality of Life and Essential City Services" as the cleverly worded measure was titled to gain their support. The City also paid for two phone surveys which essentially was getting the feel of the public before crafting this resolution.

Measure K in 2016 as to help fund general municipal services, including but not limited to police and fire protection services, parks, recreation and library facilities, shall an ordinance be adopted to impose a business license tax at a rate of up to fifteen percent (15%) of gross receipts on marijuana businesses and dispensaries. It passed and the City got plenty from Dixon Wellness.

Measure N in 2018 would have allowed the city to impose a 0.5 percent sales tax for ten years to fund

street repairs and transportation infrastructure. It did not pass.

And the most recent, Measure D. Each time it has been tweaked to gain the voter's approval –this time included a citizen's oversight committee and a reduced percentage required for approval (instead of the traditional 2/3 voter approval needed, only 51% was required thanks to the careful wording by our City Attorney Doug White.) These changes were still not enough to sway the voters.

During this time, there has been no efforts to make cuts or be frugal and there is no evidence the city is hurting as there has been plenty of money from the development of houses and new businesses.

So, going forward, what does this mean to the City of Dixon? The City's financial forecast has the reserves being depleted in 2025 to 2026. In layman's terms, that means our savings account will be empty.

Do not be too alarmed – we will still have police and fire and revenues will come in through new homes and businesses that will generate new tax revenue, but there will have to be some cuts.

Will the Council revisit this year's budget and make changes to operations, or will they go for another round and put another increase on the ballot again? ★

# Dixon News Briefs



This lush setting sprinkled with turkeys is right here in town off Pitt School Road. Watch for our fun turkey caption contest in next week's issue. The many visits around town by as many as 34 turkeys have created plenty of opportunities for fun photos. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

### Fish Fry Time

Beer-battered fish, french fries, hush puppies and cole slaw will be the dinner for \$12 at the Veterans Memorial Hall Friday, November 18, 6 - 8 p.m. They also have an open bar if a cold beer sounds good with that. Support your local veterans and join the informal and fun Friday nights at 1305 North First Street.

### Tremont Fair

There's going to be a Holiday Party at Tremont Elementary School on Friday, December 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. and Jennifer Roman of the Parent Teacher Organization is looking for vendors. For more information, call her at (916) 541-9731 or reach out through Facebook Messenger.

### Parks Meeting

There will still be a Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting this Tuesday, November 22, in the Council Chambers at 600 East A Street beginning at 7 p.m. Call City Hall at (707) 678-7000 to locate the current agenda.

### Coaches Needed

Dixon Youth Basketball League is looking for a few good men...or women! Coaches are needed for grades Kindergarten through 8th grade. If you have never coached before, it is a wild and fun thing to do with enthusiastic children.

Games will be held on Sundays at the John Knight Middle School gym and practices will be held in other school's gyms such as Dixon Charter Montessori School, Gretchen Higgins, and Tremont Elementary.

"We have a curriculum to help first-time parent coaches," said Brian Jensen. But if you don't want to be a head coach, you can be an assistant coach instead. Go to [dixonyouthbasketball.com](http://dixonyouthbasketball.com) for signing up, board member applications for more information, email [secretary@dixonyouthbasketball.com](mailto:secretary@dixonyouthbasketball.com). Alana Robinson will be happy to help and will give the date for the planned coach's meeting.

"The parent-led organization relies a lot on parent contribution," said Jensen. "We are not a business, we're a non-profit." November 22 will be the very last day youth can register.

### Blood Drive

Donate your most valuable offering: Your blood. On Monday, November 21, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. there will be a blood drive at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street. To schedule your appointment, call Vitalant at (877) 258-4825 and mention blood drive code SMFM014 to sign up and receive instructions. All donors will receive a free T-shirt as a token of appreciation.

### Tunnel Carols

Mark your calendar for Friday, December 16, starting at 7 p.m. for the annual Christmas Carols in the Tunnel where local churches including Living Hope Church that promote it each year. More news on that is to come.

### Park Planning

The last opportunity to give your thoughts and ideas for the new Parks & Recreation Master Plan will be on Thursday, December 8. The last workshop will be held at the Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 South Fifth Street from 6 to 8:00 p.m. For more information, go to [cityofdixon.us.com](http://cityofdixon.us.com).

### Long Winter Break

Dixon Unified School Students will be out of school for three weeks starting December 19 through January 6 so if you want to send them to Grandma's house, that would be a good time. If you consider the Saturday after they are out through the Sunday before they go back, there is a total of 22 days out of the education grind.

Neighborhood Christian School's break begins the same day as DUSD, but they are due back on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

Dixon Montessori Charter School's break is December 26 through January 6. Students are due back on Monday, January 9. ★

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Donald Kendrick, Music Director

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TICKETS | General \$20  
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SACRAMENTOCHORAL.org  
online – or at the door

## Students Plan for Positivity

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Two Dixon High School students didn't want another week to pass without actively doing something to prevent another crisis at a school involving a student. They worked together to make a plan to do something--albeit simple--to counterbalance the negative news, worries, and thoughts through a daily dose of positivity.

"We're trying to give students a safe place to share struggles" said Abigail Ayala who along with Katelynn Shipley has lived in Dixon since birth and are seniors at Dixon High. "We've had our fair share of highs and lows within the tight knit Dixon community and when reflecting on the lows, we have come to feel that while the community notices the problems, no support is given to make an active change," they wrote on a promotional plan.

The two hope to create the '4th Period Check In,' a time during the daily school announcements where students will be

given slips of paper to write something they are grateful for, something that is going good for them, or something they are struggling with.

"Teachers can read through them, pick positive ones to share, and reach out to others who may be struggling," they wrote. They believe that too often people think of change as something that is unable to be accomplished but they hope that in doing this "something simple," youth will feel supported and valued, that they can find positivity in tough times, and that they are capable of reaching out for help.

Shipley is currently serving as the DHS Future Farmers of America President and Ayala is the FFA Reporter. They just returned from the FFA National Convention in Indiana where it was all about growing the next generation of leaders. If you'd like to support their cause by placing one of the boxes in your business or by volunteering to distribute some of the boxes, please contact the DDBA at (707) 678-8400. ★





# Locals Encouraged to Shop Small



Terrie Scheel of Kula's Boutique shows off some of their new holiday apparel that will be on sale at the Holiday Open House in downtown Dixon this Saturday, November 19.

Continued from page 1

West B Street next to Cynde's Place. For more information, call (707) 678-2633.

Sharing that location are other services: Brows by Michelle Lavin, Michelle's Reiki Room for energy healing, and Massages by Rose.

Other businesses in the downtown core that will be open with a variety of gift ideas are Dixon Florist and some are offering holiday specials or treats such as **Sister's Salon, Pip Wine Bar, the Unique Boutique,** and the new **Collector's Corner.** ★

# School Board Wins are Clear, Council Too Close



Councilman Jim Ernest pictured here at the Chamber Candidates Forum was able to retain his old but new District representation on the Dixon dais with a clear victory.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - In the most recent voting update on November 15 at the end of the day, new man on the block, Julian Cuevas, nabbed the most votes with 3,109 in a clear victory for the Dixon Unified School District Board race with former trustee John Gabby coming in second with 2,760 and incumbent Jewel Fink in third with 2,560 votes.

"We do not call an election; we only certify results," said John Gardner from the Solano County Voter Registrar Office. "They will be certified on or about November 30 because we are auditing the results and making sure they're correct such as a signature not matching or some reason, we had to double check, the person has until November 28 to get back to us."

Although the votes have not yet been certified for any race, the school board race was one with clear winners.

Garner explained that the other way an election can be "called" is with someone claiming victory or a candidate conceding the loss but that is highly unlikely in the City Council race. Former District 1

Council Rep Scott Pederson who was now competing for a third term but in District 1 was trailing behind former Mayor/Councilman Thom Bogue by only 23 votes.

Although Bogue has already received numerous calls of congratulations, he hasn't claimed victory and Pederson has not conceded.

"To me, it's still too close to call it," said Bogue. He's waiting.

For District 2 Councilman Jim Ernest who was running for the newly redrawn District 1, he has a clear victory with almost twice as many votes as former councilman Michael Ceremello: 980 to 484.

Interestingly, and with the division of Dixon into Districts with a goal to be more 'equal,' in minority representation, there was no minority candidate. In addition, there were 1,464 voters in District 1 and only 1,028 voters in District 2, bringing a significant difference of 436 voters. One has to wonder why.

City Clerk Kristin Janisch will continue in her role after garnering 4,526 votes although that was a given in that she was uncontested. ★

# Nutty Cross Coming To Ruhstaller's

Continued from page 1

me look after my physical health. Beyond that, riding a bike in general helps me organize my thoughts and resets me," said Stastny. "For the off-road aspect, it's just fun. It's like being a kid again."

Between 100 to 150 registered bicyclists seem to agree, including Dixon's own Greg Gno, a teacher at John Knight Middle School.

"I just discovered Cyclo-cross last year and raced a nighttime series and they mentioned NuttyCross at Ruhstallers. Well, that's in my backyard and I signed up," said Gno who has been racing and riding some type of bike for 30 years. "I love them all--mountain, road, even riding in the snow on fat bikes that have very cushy 5-inch tires. I'm really excited and encouraged [by] all my friends. It looks like a really fun event."

Riders often talk about the great feel of the wind in their face and the feeling of freedom on a bike.

"Every time. It hasn't changed from the beginning," Gno said "I can be in a terrible mood, and I ride my bike and it completely changes my outlook on life. It's something about just being out in nature. I have not met one person who is not nice. We can be fierce competitors and at the end of the race we share a beer together or sit in the sun and talk to each other. I absolutely love these people but, I'm also lucky that my family is so understanding." He gave the example of taking off for a few days to race in a 200-mile event in Oregon recently.

But you have to know that the Nutty Cross in Dixon will be a bit different than those usual races. Boundless Locomotion

learned that by ditching spandex for flannel in the Flannel Grinder hosted just north of Auburn on back roads and gravel, that the locals were a lot more friendly.

"We do look a little bit alien with our spandex," Stastny said with a laugh. "But Cyclo-cross pairs well with beer. It's one of those sports that a lot of people do with beer drinking. Some take it very seriously and we'll have some racers at the global level all the way to some folks who have never raced Cyclo-cross before." He also noted that this is a fun spectator sport.

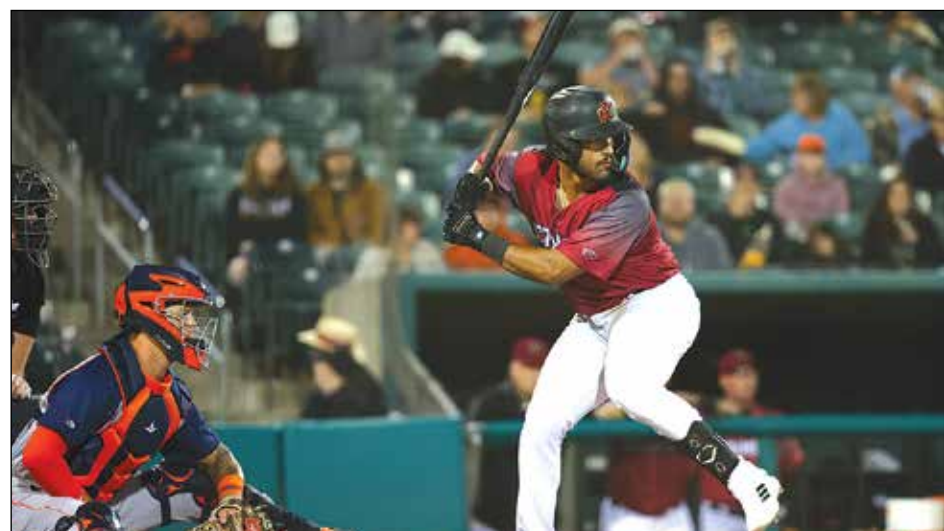
"If you think of the Tour de France, you're getting to a mountain top and the race goes by in 20 seconds but with Cyclo-cross, there are short laps--like five to 10 minutes--and they race for an hour, so you see them repeatedly. It's a great place to bring your family and you can actually watch them," Stastny explained. "Some guy will come racing around the corner and the next will be casually passing while drinking a beer." The prize will be a specially formulated craft Belgium beer just for the occasion.

If you want to participate, you don't have to have a special bicycle either.

"At the higher level, there are restrictions on [frames and] tires but we have none of those. We advise not riding a road bike but everything else is fair game. If all you have is a mountain bike, bring it, let's ride!" he said.

The farm and brewery are located at 6686 Sievers Road in Dixon off Pedrick Road and I-80. It's just up the road from their 7.5 acre hop yard that you can see off the highway between Davis and Dixon. For more info on the Nutty Cross 2022, see boundlesslocomotion.com. ★

# River Cats' Villar Wins PCL MVP



Sacramento River Cats infielder David Villar has been named the 2022 PCL MVP, as voted by league managers. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento River Cats

River Cats News Release

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Minor League Baseball announced Triple-A league awards and All-Star teams on November 7, with Sacramento River Cats infielder David Villar being named the PCL's MVP, as voted by league managers.

In addition to MVP, Villar is also the PCL's Post-Season All-Star third baseman after hitting .275 with 67 runs, 19 doubles, 27 homers, 82 RBIs, and a 1.021 OPS in 84 games with Sacramento.

Prior to receiving his first MLB promotion on July 4, Villar was first in the PCL with 20 homers,

third with 57 RBIs, sixth with a .408 on-base percentage, second with a .631 slugging percentage, second with a 1.039 OPS, and fourth with 42 walks.

"I'm honored to receive the PCL MVP award," Villar said. "Thank you to the San Francisco Giants and the Sacramento River Cats for this opportunity. Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported me."

Villar was named a PCL Player of the Week May 10-15 at El Paso, going 8-for-20 (.400) with nine runs, two doubles, four homers, 10 RBIs, and a 1.620 OPS in six games.

After earning Double-A Richmond's team MVP award in 2021, Villar

followed that up with career-highs in home runs and RBIs in 2022 en route to winning the River Cats' team MVP award in his debut Triple-A season.

The infielder made his MLB debut on July 4 with San Francisco, doubling off Arizona lefty Madison Bumgarner in his first career at-bat. He finished with 52 MLB games, batting .231 with 21 runs, six doubles, nine homers, and 24 RBIs.

Villar is the fifth PCL MVP in River Cats' history, first since becoming an affiliate of the San Francisco Giants. Past winners are infielders Jose Ortiz (2000), Graham Koonce (2003), Dan Johnson (2004), and Scott McClain (2006). ★

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# Sac State blows past Portland State, 45-17, to improve to 10-0

## Sac State Athletics News Release

**HILLSBORO, OR (MPG)** - The No. 2 ranked Sacramento State football team remained unbeaten, earned its school-record 10th regular season victory and dominated Portland State in a 45-17 win at Hillsboro Stadium on a cold Friday night.

The Hornets are now 10-0 overall and 7-0 in the Big Sky Conference. The 10 wins breaks the school regular season record of nine which came in 2019 and 2021. It also equals the best win total for any season, matching the effort of the 1988 team which ended the year 10-3 with the help of two NCAA Div. II playoff wins.

Sacramento State has now won 18 consecutive Big Sky games which is the second longest streak in league history. The team has also won 14 straight road games against FCS teams, and 10 road games against all opponents — the longest streak in FBS or FCS.

The game had a wild start with three combined fumbles, two plays of at least 30 yards, and a touchdown in the first six minutes. The Vikings took the opening kickoff and picked up 33 yards on their first play of the game. The team then coughed it up on the next play and the ball was recovered by Brock Mather.

Sacramento State quickly gained 44 yards on a pass from Asher O'Hara to Pierre Williams to get inside the 10-yard line. Facing 3rd-and-goal, Asher O'Hara tried to spin his way into the end zone but had the ball knocked loose and recovered by PSU for a touchback.

Two plays later, Portland



Sacramento State sophomore running back Cameron Skattebo prepares to stiff arm Portland State sophomore defensive back Tyreese Shakir during a 45-17 Hornets win over the Vikings on Friday, November 11 in Hillsboro, Oregon. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

State attempted a trick play with a double reverse which was bobbled on the toss and recovered by Killian Rosko inside the 20. Sacramento State finally broke through with a 5-yard pass from O'Hara to Williams to give the Hornets a 7-0 lead.

The Hornets added to their lead early in the second quarter with a 41-yard field goal from Kyle Sentkowski. The Hornets brought the ball to the 11-yard line during the drive but were driven back to the 23 following a sack on third down. A strong headwind was no challenge for Sentkowski who made his 12th consecutive field goal this year.

The lead continued to grow with a 7-play, 80-yard

drive which resulted in a touchdown with 7:49 left in the second quarter. The big play during the drive was a 41-yard rush from Cameron Skattebo and the drive ended with a 4-yard pass from Jake Dunniway to Pierre Williams for the score. The score marked, surprisingly, just the second multi-touchdown game of Williams' brilliant career. The second score moved him into a tie with Marshel Martin for third place in school history with 21 receiving TDs.

After a three-and-out from the defense, the offense kept rolling with a 5-play, 73-yard drive which ended with a 39-yard TD run from O'Hara for his longest rush of the season. The touchdown also

extended O'Hara's streak to all 10 games of this season and 12 straight games dating back to last year.

Sacramento State needed just three plays to score on the first series of the second half. The drive was setup by a 38-yard kickoff return from Elijah Tao-Tolliver. Jake Dunniway then found Williams for a 51-yard gain which pushed the receiver over the century mark. Marcus Fulcher then cut back to his left for a 4-yard score just 70 seconds into the half.

Portland State started the second half with senior Nathan West at quarterback. The Vikings ran on the first 11 plays of the drive and were able to bring the ball into the red zone before

settling for a 32-yard field goal from Gianni Smith for the team's first points.

Sacramento State answered with another quick touchdown drive. After Skattebo went over 100 yards during the series, Fulcher took an option toss from O'Hara and eluded defenders for a 35-yard score.

The fourth quarter had another wild stretch. The Hornets first stopped Portland State inside the 1-yard line on fourth down. The offense moved the ball out of the shadow of its own goalpost but fumbled. That turnover set up a 36-yard touchdown rush from Quincy Craig for Portland State's first touchdown.

The Viks then attempted

an onside kick which was picked cleanly by Martin who returned it 45 yards for a touchdown.

Sacramento State finished the game with 451 yards on just 56 plays for an average of 8.1 yards per play. The team rushed for 237 yards and threw for 214.

The quarterback tandem of Dunniway and O'Hara combined to complete 15-of-21 passes with each throwing a touchdown without an interception.

Sacramento State's final regular season game will come on Nov. 19 in the Causeway Classic against UC Davis at 2 p.m. The Hornets can clinch at least a share of the Big Sky title with a win. ★

## Grant Bolsters CHP's Focus on Sideshows and Street Racing



CHP recently received a federal grant that will support the state's redoubled efforts to crack down on reckless driving behaviors that continue to wreak havoc throughout the state. Photo courtesy of the CHP

### CHP News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Illegal sideshows, takeovers, and street racing remain a major cause of death and injury on California roadways.

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) recently received a federal grant that will support the state's redoubled efforts to crack down on reckless driving behaviors that continue to wreak havoc throughout the state.

Building on the \$5.5 million in the 2022-23 state budget for the CHP to implement the Campaign to Eliminate Street Racing and Sideshows (C.E.S.R.S.), the \$1.5 million Sideshow, Takeover, Racing, Education, and Enforcement Taskforce (STREET) grant will help efforts to decrease the number of fatal and injury traffic crashes attributed to illegal sideshows, takeovers, and street racing.

In 2019-2020, speed was a factor in

approximately 40 percent of all fatal and injury crashes in California. In years 2020-2021, preliminary data reflects the number of people killed in crashes caused by reckless driving increased 21 percent from the previous period. The CHP continues to receive a high number of reports on sideshows and street racing and the negative consequences associated with such careless exploits.

"Reckless driving behaviors are a significant threat to all who use California's roadways," said CHP Commissioner Amanda Ray. "The STREET grant will provide for a focused education and enforcement campaign, targeting aggressive driving behaviors, street racing, and sideshow activities."

During the past two years, California has seen significant increases in the number of incidents from unsafe driving behaviors, including motorists exceeding 100

mph on state highways, illicit street racing and sideshow activities, and speed-related crashes.

To address the issue, from January 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022, the CHP conducted enhanced speed enforcement operations on state routes that have seen an increase in speed-related issues. During this period, the CHP issued 40,593 citations to motorists exceeding 100 mph. CHP also collaborated with allied law enforcement agencies, leading to the creation of street racing and sideshow task forces and social media campaigns posting the dangers associated with high speed, aggressive driving behaviors, and street racing.

The STREET grant allows for a comparable campaign starting this month through September 30, 2023. Funding for the STREET program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

As an added deterrent, Governor Gavin Newsom recently signed Assembly Bill 2000 (Gabriel), making it illegal for a person to participate and/or engage in a motor vehicle speed contest or in an exhibition of speed in an off-street parking facility. The measure goes into effect on January 1, 2023.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★



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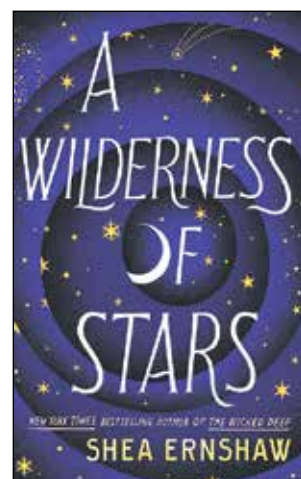
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy\_fortheloveofbooks

## A Wilderness of Stars by Shea Ernsshaw

Vega grew up safely hidden in a valley, far from anyone who might see her or the tattoo marking upon her neck. Born with the knowledge that she was the very last Astronomer, she waited for a sign. Her only solace being the stars. From a very young age, her mother carefully taught her about the stars, their constellations, and the future they hold, and every night she repeated their names as she traced them with her finger.

Then the twin stars appeared perfectly aligning with one another, and she knew it was time to go, but Vega never expected that she would have to go without her mother. With fury burning inside her, Vega knew she must follow the stars and find the last Architect, but she never expected the outside world to be terrifying. Raved by consumption and death, people would kill for a cure, believing the Last Astronomer was the answer.

But when Vega's tattoo is accidentally exposed, it throws her headfirst into danger and



◆ Publisher: Simon and Schuster  
◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult  
◆ Release Date: Nov 29, 2022

straight into the path of a fiery girl named Cricut. Unsure of who to trust and where to run, Vega decides to follow, landing her directly in the path of Noah, who was marked with his own set of tattoos. Both marked their ancestors; one branded as a traitor, while the other bears a sign that people would kill to find. Now, set on a path predestined by the stars, Vega and Noah must risk their lives to follow the stars in order to save their world before it's too late.

Shea Ernsshaw has the power to weave her own stories like an

astronomer charting the stars. Heartbreaking and breathless, *A Wilderness of Stars* casts a story that is just as beautiful as the constellations within. A tale set out over a hundred years before, plotting a course, a timeline, and a fate that only two people can carry through. Readers are cast upon a time and place that is unknown yet familiar, while a carefully woven story takes them on a journey charted in the stars. With two characters bound by a future bestowed upon them, they know the fate of the world is on their shoulders, but are they strong enough to carry it?

Shea Ernsshaw, the story hangs in the air like the stars scattered in the night sky, staying with her readers long after the book's closing. This story takes time to build a plot, and its characters, but it is all worth it in the end. Readers who have come to know Ernsshaw will only fall more in love, and those who have just discovered her writing will earnestly follow her trail coated in stardust. ★



# Get in the Spirit Early with the Solano Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Celebration

## Solano Symphony Orchestra News Release

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - The December program features the orchestra's own concertmaster, Maxim Baluyev, playing Bach's first Violin Concerto in A minor. Also in the program is the Prelude to Humperdinck's opera Hansel and Gretel; a medley of Christmas carols and songs; and selections from Tchaikovsky's beloved Nutcracker ballet.

Baluyev is an active soloist, concertmaster, chamber musician and teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has served as concertmaster of the Solano Symphony Orchestra since 2011. Max received his training in violin performance at San Francisco Conservatory of Music as well as at Rimsky-Korsakov College of Music in St. Petersburg.

Humperdinck's opera Hansel and Gretel was first performed in Weimar in December 1893, conducted by Richard Strauss. It has been associated with Christmas since its earliest performances

and today is still most often performed at Christmas time. The idea for the opera was proposed to Humperdinck by his sister, Adelheid Wette, who approached him about writing music for songs that she had written for her children for Christmas based on the Grimm Brothers' fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel."

The Nutcracker is the well-beloved 1892 two-act ballet, with a score by Tchaikovsky. It has enjoyed enormous popularity since the late 1960s and is now performed by countless ballet companies, primarily during the Christmas season.

Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 3 PM at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre (1010 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville). Tickets can be purchased through VPAT by phone, (707) 469-4013 or via the website: www.vpat.net.

Ticket Pricing: Adults \$35; Senior (62) \$30; Military/Veteran \$15 (with ID); Student (with High School or College ID) and Youth under 18 \$15. These prices are inclusive of a \$2 VPAT theatre preservation. ★



# Riley Reviews

## MARILYN MONROE THE REIGNING 'BLONDE,' HOLIDAY SPIRIT ON TV

### A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

#### "BLONDE" ON NETFLIX AND DVD

Sixty years have passed since Marilyn Monroe was discovered dead in her Brentwood home from an apparent barbiturate overdose. However, conspiracy theories abound to this day on the nature of her passing.

Interest in one of the most iconic Hollywood stars remains unabated. A special-edition collector's DVD set, "Blonde: The Marilyn Stories" is set for release on December 6th.

This new, comprehensive compilation helps to answer some of the many questions that continue to linger about the extraordinary life of one of the world's most-famed sex symbols, depicting various aspects of a complicated life cut tragically short.

Included in the DVD are two docudrama films featuring outstanding portrayals of Marilyn, "Blonde" (2001), a two-part, fictionalized biopic; and "Marilyn and Me" (1991), a dramatic feature.

Part of the package includes the first-ever exploitive biography "Goodbye, Norma Jean" (1976), originally deemed a questionable release due to its salacious nature.

Bonus material in the DVD includes two documentaries, "Marilyn" (1986), a short film with Mike Wallace, and "The Legend of Marilyn Monroe" (1967), narrated by John Huston and featuring Lauren Bacall, along with footage of Marilyn's first-ever television appearance.

Born Norma Jeane Mortensen on June 1, 1926, the star known as Marilyn Monroe lived a brief but remarkable life of 36 years. Much has been written by many who never knew Norma Jeane, who fought hard for the fame and success that led to her being crushed beneath the weight of it all.

Marilyn was a true artist, but her on-screen appearances are in stark contrast to the love issues, exploitation, abuse of power and drug addiction she faced in her private life.

Following 30 movies, three marriages, a first-edition "Playboy" cover shot and singing to an American president, Marilyn is unfortunately remembered more for her iconic images and controversial alliances than for her extraordinary acting and singing talents.

While waiting for the DVD release of "Blonde: The Marilyn Stories," Netflix offers "Blonde" starring Ana de Armas in the titular role of a film based on the best-selling novel by Joyce Carol Oates.

Watching the Netflix film which blurs the lines of fact and fiction to explore the widening split between her public and private selves may prove to be a real slog. Rotten Tomatoes does no favors with its low ratings.

A graphic abortion scene is a bit much to stomach, and so is the rape by a

Hollywood mogul. Even a sexual encounter with President Kennedy borders on the pornographic.

The saving grace to "Blonde" is Ana de Armas's extraordinary transformation into the naïve troubled actress navigating the treacherous world of the film industry and assorted degradations.

Putting aside failed marriages to baseball star Joe DiMaggio and author Arthur Miller as well as liaisons with political figures, the best way to remember Marilyn would be to enjoy films like "The Seven Year Itch," "Some Like it Hot" and "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes."

#### HOLIDAY SPIRIT ON THE HALLMARK CHANNEL

Forget about Thanksgiving, the Christmas holiday spirit gets started on Hallmark Movies & Mysteries before anyone even has had a chance to fully digest the traditional turkey dinner.

Hallmark has a cottage industry of Christmas films in the pipeline. Taylor Cole and Benjamin Ayres star in "Long Lost Christmas," an original movie that is part of the network's annual "Miracles of Christmas" programming event.

This Christmas, Cole's Hayley plans to surprise her mother Patricia (Jaqueline Ann Stewart) with the perfect holiday present – the extended family she knows her mom years for.

Having discovered the existence of her mother's long-lost brother, Hayley travels to a small town outside of Denver to chase a lead on a man named Gordon (Grant Vlahovic) who might be her uncle.

Delighted by the town's holiday spirit, Hayley becomes equally charmed meeting Gordon's daughter and property manager Jake (Benjamin Ayres). As she tries to discover whether Gordon is actually her uncle, Hayley begins to fall in love with the idea of an extended family.

But Hayley starts to have second thoughts when she learns the circumstances surrounding the siblings' separation and decides to abandon her mission. For his part, Gordon is happy to finally have a lead on finding Patricia.

Bruce Campbell ("Ash vs Evil Dead"), who fought zombies in the movies, seems like an improbable choice in a starring role in the Hallmark Channel original movie "My Southern Family Christmas."

Under the guise of a journalist writing a story about a tight-knit community that makes Christmas special, Jaicy Elliot's Campbell has a chance to get to know her biological father Everett (Bruce Campbell) for the first time, without him knowing who she really is.

As she spends time with him and his family, Campbell realizes that families are messy, wonderful things. In the end, she must decide if she's going to keep her identity a secret or reveal the truth to her father – a decision that will change their family Christmas forever. ★

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**ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME  
 CASE #FCS058803  
 Isaac Samuel Webb filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Isaac Samuel Webb to Isaac Samuel Sharp.  
 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 30, 2022, 8:30 a.m. Department 12, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533  
 Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer  
 Dated: October 7, 2022  
 Publish: Nov 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2022  
 WEBB 11-25-22

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
 CASE #FCS058802  
 Bethany Marie Lamb filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Bethany Marie Lamb to Bethany Marie Sharp.  
 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. December 21, 2022, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room 2, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533  
 Judge of the Superior Court: Stephen Gizzi  
 Dated: October 3, 2022  
 Publish: Nov 11, 18, 28, Dec 2, 2022  
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## 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:** Adoption of 2022 California Building Standards Code – Notice is hereby given that the Dixon City Council will consider an Ordinance amending the Dixon Municipal Code (DMC), Title 16 (Building and Construction) to: 1) Adopt by reference and amend the 2022 California Building Standards Code, including the Building, Fire, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Building Standards Administrative, Energy, Historical Building, Existing Building, Referenced Standards, Residential, and Green Building Codes; 2) Adopt by reference certain appendix chapters of these Codes; 3) Adopt by reference and amend the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code and the 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code and 4) make findings to adopt local amendments to these codes due to local climatical, geological or topographical conditions.

In addition, the City Council will consider changes to the DMC, including: 1) repeal of Chapter 16.13 (Housing Code) and 2) addition of a new DMC Chapter 16.19, adopting AB1236 and AB970 (Permit Streamlining for Electric Vehicle Charging Systems)

The State of California adopts a set of new construction codes every three years, referred to as the California Building Standards Codes (Title 24). The purpose of this public hearing is to adopt the 2022 California Building Standards Code, which automatically becomes effective January 1, 2023, along with the 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code and the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code with certain administrative and technical amendments, based on Dixon's local conditions, in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Section 17958.7. The proposed local amendments mainly relate to local climatic, geographic, and topographic conditions inherent to the City of Dixon. The update also includes repeal of obsolete sections of the DMC, Title 16, and adding prior State required standards related to the permitting of electric vehicle charging stations (AB 970 and AB 1236) that had not been included in DMC, Title 16.

This adoption of the Building and Fire Codes and Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to 14 CCR Section 15061(b)(3), since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the adoption of this Ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment. 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15061(b)(3), 'general rule' provision).

**HEARING DATE & LOCATION:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 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 Larry Paisley, Chief Building Official at (707) 678-7000 x1113 or [lpaisley@cityofdixon.us](mailto:lpaisley@cityofdixon.us) or John Malone, Assistant Fire Chief at (707) 678-7060 or [jmalone@cityofdixon.us](mailto:jmalone@cityofdixon.us). Copies of the primary code and the secondary codes being considered for adoption, are on file with the City Clerk, and are open to public inspection. You can also come to City Hall, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also view the staff report 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN:** All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing, in person or remotely, to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed item. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to making any decision on the matter. This hearing will waive full reading of the Ordinance and accept public testimony.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to [CityCouncil@cityofdixon.us](mailto: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) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

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- \*Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
- Emphatic no
- Phyllo, alt. sp.
- Chicken of the sea?
- a.k.a. papaya
- Biblical firstborn
- Aquarium show star
- Type of squash
- \*Like George Bailey's life
- Struggle for air
- Aggregate
- Gangster's gun
- \*Mount Crumpit's misanthrope
- They refuse to believe
- \*Howard, directed a movie about #23 Across
- High regard
- Like dental exam
- Bullying, e.g.
- Popular deciduous tree
- Kaa of "The Jungle Book"
- Cleopatra's necklace
- \*Like characters in Will Ferrell's famous Christmas movie
- Use a Singer
- Continuing forever
- Wonder Woman's ability to fly, e.g.
- Galley propeller
- Type of consonant
- Corner chess piece
- \*Nicolas Cage's character gets a glimpse of a different life (2 words)
- Like famous Moulin
- Computer image
- French money
- Alleviated
- Target of a joke
- Iditarod ride
- \*"Nick Claus" brother, a repossession agent
- Famous frat house
- Black and green brews

**DOWN**

- Not many (2 words)
- Japanese soup
- Architectural drawing
- Sudan, in French
- Rides the wave
- Ear bone, a.k.a. anvil
- Jezebel's idol
- \*Griswold family's pastime
- Epic poem
- Waterproof canvas
- Part of B.Y.O.
- Synagogue scrolls
- Like a Druid
- Master of ceremonies
- Engagement symbol
- Prepare carrots, sometimes
- R2-D2, e.g.
- Accustom
- Bruce Willis' ex
- Use the blunt pencil tip
- Autumn laborer
- Lots and lots
- Regale with a tale, e.g.
- \*Human from North Pole comes to NYC
- \*Bill Murray movie, inspired by Charles Dickens
- Water-covered sandbank
- Cornucopia
- Orthopedic device
- In the buff
- Driest, as in humor
- Vacuum, pl.
- Be theatrical
- Katy Perry's 2013 hit
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- Pi times square of radius
- Show of agreement, pl.
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# Heeney's History

## Christmas Wrapping

Commentary by Ed Heeney

As I walked into the local variety store the other day, I was struck by the array of many-colored wrapping paper and ribbons. I was jolted into the realization that Christmas time is just around the corner. And I was reminded of Christmases of bygone years when I was just a young farm boy anxiously awaiting that time of year when we gathered our small supply of gift wrappings and became as resourceful as possible making our tree as festive as possible.

We did not have much festive paper nor fancy ribbons, but we did quite well with what we had. For presents destined for immediate family, we had saved brown paper sacks from the grocer, flattened them out and ironed them if needed. You might be surprised how well this works. And, if we ran out of ribbon, strips of colorful cloth worked quite well.

We did have some 'store bought' wrapping paper, mostly white and red tissue paper. This was saved for the "out of town" relatives and any school gifts.

We always saved some cellophane paper for wrapping Mom's special home-made candy. She was known for her "fluffy" white divinity and turned her kitchen into a candy factory several days before Christmas.

My Dad didn't do much wrapping, instead he just gave an extra coat of paint to his homemade gifts. They looked pretty spiffy on Christmas morn. A family chuckle is that one Christmas eve resulted in painting a bit late and Christmas morn needed a sign: Wet Paint.

We looked forward to receiving presents from our "rich" cousins for they had the shiniest, most colorful gift wrap of all. We took great care at making sure we did not tear the wrapping but saved it then ironed and folded it for use next year. We also marked it to make sure we did not send the same wrapping to the same person again.

One of the strangest "wraps" I ever used was for my daughter. She had wanted a live rabbit as a pet. So, a couple days before Christmas, I bought a white rabbit. Now here is where a strange wrapping came into being. I found a plastic milk carton holder, some alfalfa hay, and a brown grocery bag and wrapped it and put it beneath the tree. As we were opening packages Christmas morning, my daughter let out a yell that can still be heard today (and this is 50 years later!).

*Ed Heeney is a long-time Dixonite who has been very active in the community over his lifetime. He enjoys sharing his missives with Dixon Independent Voice readers.* ★



### Decarceration: A Substantive and Political Disaster

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul delivered one of the most memorable lines of the midterm debates when she said she didn't know why her Republican opponent, Lee Zeldin, cared so much about locking up criminals.

Hochul's highhandedness encapsulated an attitude toward crime and punishment that has been shaped by the decarceration movement.

Progressives have accepted a wholesale critique of the criminal justice system that is deeply flawed, not to say a complete fantasy. Its premises are false, and its effects are destructive. At the same time, it has made -- for the second national election in a row -- Democrats vulnerable to a Republican fusillade on crime.

If the 2022 midterms can drive a stake through the decarceration movement, which gained intellectual ground during the Obama years and seemed set to sweep all before it in the immediate aftermath of the death of George Floyd, they will have done a favor to the country -- and, incidentally, the Democratic Party.

A key erroneous contention of this critique is that the U.S. spent decades arbitrarily locking up millions of people to make itself a deeply unjust carceral state. In reality, as criminologist Barry Latzer points out in his book "The Myth

of Overpunishment," the U.S. experienced a massive crime wave beginning half a century ago that naturally resulted in more imprisonments. From 1960-1990, violent crime arrests increased more than 400% and prison commitments more than 270%.

Another myth is that prisons are full of small-time or nonviolent offenders. According to Latzer, more than half of inmates in state prisons have committed violent crimes such as murder, rape or assault. Another 16% have committed significant property crimes, including felony theft and burglary.

How about drug crimes? They account for 14% of imprisonments, and less than 4% are for possession (and those offenders may well be guilty of other crimes).

It's not true that an overly punitive U.S. is always throwing away the key. In his book "Criminal (In)Justice," Rafael Mangual of the Manhattan Institute points out that state prisoners serve a median sentence of roughly 15 months and violent offenders less than two and a half years.

It's not as though, by the way, we are catching every criminal and nailing him to the wall. About half of murderers are arrested and imprisoned, Latzer writes, while only about 6% of other violent offenders are brought to justice.

A tiny percentage of the population, something like 5%, is responsible for about 50% of crime. According to Latzer, 400,000 state prisoners released in 2005 had been arrested 4.3 million times prior to their incarceration and 83% of them got rearrested within nine

years of being released. As the headlines from around the country about monsters with long rap sheets committing terrible crimes emphasize, we should be seeking to put such dangerous people out of commission. And we aren't doing it with requisite seriousness.

Even prior to the tumult of 2020, over the prior decade we had combined decarceration (with the prison population declining by 17%) and de-policing (with 25% fewer arrests).

Robust policing is, of course, an indispensable part of maintaining order. Mangual writes that the simple proposition that "more policing means less crime" is "one of the most consistent and robust findings in the criminological literature."

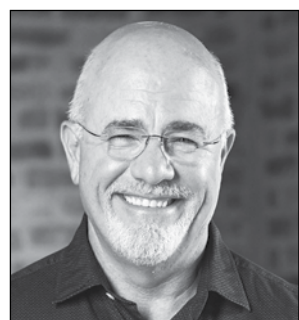
Maybe Democrats will begin to acknowledge this and sue for a formal divorce from the decarceration movement.

Democrats wouldn't have to try to deny their true views, minimize the spike in certain categories of crime, or -- like Hochul -- express bemused contempt for a tough-on-crime position if they simply acknowledged that we need more cops arresting more criminals, and these offenders should be put behind bars more reliably and for longer sentences.

If the party didn't get this after the 2020 election, maybe there is, to paraphrase the folk expression, education in the second kick of the mule.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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### Dave Ramsey Says

every house that's up for sale. Now, are the buyers and the market as active and frenzied as they were several months ago? No. But you have to remember, the last couple of years have been crazy-strange times for the housing market.

I've been in the real estate business since 1978, and I've never seen anything like it. Usually, it takes about 90 days to sell a house. You'll get some offers, and none of them will be at full price, but everyone will have time to think about things. That's normal, and it's probably a lot closer to how things will work themselves out for you now in Greenville.

But in any economy, my advice to you would be don't buy another house until yours has sold. If you end up with two house payments and your old house is sitting empty while you're having to pay for the

mortgage, taxes, utilities and all the upkeep to make sure it's ready to show, you're going to become what's known as a motivated seller. I don't want you to just give it away, but you'll need to be very careful to make sure the timing on this deal makes sense.

Personally, I wouldn't buy another house until the first one sells.

— Dave

*Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.* ★

### Don't Buy Until the First One Sells

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are looking to move from Washington, D.C., to Greenville, South Carolina, in a couple of months, and then sell our current home in February or March after she gets things wrapped up with her job. We are a little worried, though, because of all the things we're hearing about the housing market crashing. Could you speak to this, please?

— Nick

Dear Nick,

Your emotions and things you hear can creep up on you. I get that. But the fact is, there are still four buyers out there for



#### Virus Spread by Thrips Ravages Lettuce in Salinas Valley

A virus spread by insects is causing widespread damage to lettuce crops in the Salinas Valley. The impatiens necrotic spot virus, or INSV, is spread by thrips, tiny insects that reproduce rapidly and feast on vegetable crops. Salinas Valley produces more than one-half of America's lettuce, and farmers in the region are predicting big financial losses from INSV this year. They say they expect the crop loss to be worse than in 2020, when the bug-spread virus cost growers an estimated \$100 million in lost revenue.

#### California Dairies Harness 'Cow Power' for Fuels Production

The Golden State has become a leader in harnessing "cow power" to produce renewable fuels and other clean energy. Currently, more than 100 methane digesters are operating in California, and more than 100 others are in various stages of development. Although dairy digesters have been around for decades, their numbers have exploded in recent years, thanks to state funding aimed at helping dairy farmers reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Under Senate Bill 1383, the sector must produce 40% less methane than in 2013.

#### Ongoing Drought Challenges Efforts to Protect Groundwater Supplies

California's 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires local agencies to balance aquifer supplies in different state basins by 2040 and 2042. But some farmers say severe drought and ongoing economic challenges are making that more difficult. Farmers are facing severe cutbacks in surface water supplies and rising costs of agricultural production. As California is in the process of reviewing plans to protect groundwater supplies, some farmers fear the solution is to remove more farmland from production.

#### Federal Officials Warn of Potential Colorado River Water Restrictions

Federal officials are warning they may curtail flows into the Colorado River from Hoover Dam in Nevada and Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona if California and six other states can't agree on a water-sharing plan to help the depleted reservoirs. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said officials are "committed to taking prompt and decisive action necessary to protect the Colorado River system." Winter vegetable farmers in Imperial Valley, who rely exclusively on Colorado River water, have already significantly reduced water use. ★



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NATIONAL NEWS *courtesy of THE EPOCH TIMES*

# Conservative New Yorkers Mull Moves to Other States After Zeldin Defeat

JULIETTE FAIRLEY

When Kings College student Jaidyn Fisher moved to New York from Texas before COVID emerged, she knew the political climate would be liberal, but had hoped that Republican gubernatorial nominee Rep. Lee Zeldin would be elected and usher in a more conservative agenda.

"I didn't expect things to be this bad," Fisher, 22, said. "Doing trivial things feels like you're out fighting for your life almost and with taxes, everything is so unaffordable."

As previously reported in The Epoch Times, Zeldin lost to incumbent Gov. Kathy Hochul in the Nov. 8 elections. Hochul won her first full term in office with 54.2 percent of the vote to Zeldin's 45.8 percent.

"A good Republican showing means that the country, as well as the state, is prepared for Republican leadership and although in New York, it was a long shot, New Yorkers can rise up and say 'enough is enough' in terms of crime and corruption," said 26-year-old Sebastian Balasov, a financial analyst.

Fisher and Balasov were among the crowd of 300 conservatives who milled about at a Metropolitan Republican Club election watch party on East 83rd Street in Manhattan on the evening of Nov. 8, after dining on slices of pizza.

They talked about moving to Florida, Texas, New Jersey, and Tennessee in the aftermath of Zeldin's loss and how education, the medical system, the crime rate, and energy prices may be further affected by the Democrat's victory.

"A lot of hardworking people are thinking of moving out of the city," Balasov told The Epoch Times. "I may leave the city. I am thinking about Nashville. There's a great music scene. It's safer too, and warmer."

"Hochul is going to owe the green energy and progressive wing of her party so she's going to continue a ban on fracking," 12th District GOP candidate Mike Zumbuskas told The Epoch Times at the watch party.

"Zeldin was going to open up fracking again, which would have lowered energy prices for everybody," said Zumbuskas,



New York Republican gubernatorial nominee Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.) appears at "Get Out the Vote Rally" in Thornwood, Westchester N.Y., on Oct. 31, 2022.

We're teaching kids to make sure their pronouns are attached to their email signature. It's just bizarre.

Brian Merritt, resident, New York

who lost to Democrat incumbent Rep. Jerrold Nadler.

For Joshua Mason, Hochul's victory is causing him to consider relocating to Florida or Texas because he witnessed a shooting on his Nassau County block.

"It's strange because crime really doesn't come out that far into Long Island," he said. "Usually, it happens only here in New York City and with four

more years of Hochul, New York may be beyond redemption at that point."

Brian Merritt, 48, had hoped for checks and balances related to his concerns about the education system.

"My 11-year-old was introduced to email for the first time, and she was told to put her pronouns at the bottom," he said. "We're teaching kids to make sure their pronouns are attached to their email signature. It's just bizarre."

With Hochul's election, the software salesman said he doesn't foresee the New York City school system being returned to state authority in Albany.

"We've let the teachers union just run rampant over what's going on to teach our kids," Merritt told The Epoch Times. "What happened to reading, writing, and arithmetic?"

As an unvaccinated New Yorker, Bonnie Zijic, 67, has concerns about her medical freedom and plans to relocate to New Jersey.

"It's life and death for me," she said.

# Biden Administration Defends Racially Discriminatory Adoption Law at Supreme Court

MATTHEW VADUM

A federal law aimed at preventing non-Indian families from adopting Native American children is discriminatory and unconstitutional and should be struck down, parents told the Supreme Court on Nov. 9.

The Biden administration supported the federal law at the court sitting, while a lawyer representing Texas argued the federal law filled with racial-preference standards is an example of overreach that interferes with state adoption policy.

At a three-hour hearing, the justices considered the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), which was enacted by Congress in 1978 to prevent non-Indian families from adopting Native American children. The statute was a reaction to concerns that Indian children were being removed from their traditional homes and Indian culture and placed in homes that had no connection to their culture. The Bureau of Indian Affairs used to pay states to carry out the adoptions.

The ICWA generally requires that Native children living outside of tribal lands be placed with members of their extended family or tribe; failing that, they are to be placed with outside tribes. If none are available, non-Indian families become eligible to adopt.

The case is *Haaland v. Brackeen*, court file 21-376, which was consolidated with three other related cases. Petitioner Deb Haaland is the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Chad and Jennifer Brackeen, a white evangelical Christian couple in Texas, tried to adopt a Native American child. An appellate court upheld the ICWA, finding that Indian families are entitled to enjoy preference in the adoption process.

The Brackeens argue that the ICWA denies them their constitutional right to equal protection.

Although adoption is generally governed by state law and based on the best interests of the child, the federal statute created a separate child-custody system for Indian children, directing state courts to give

preference to the placement of a child with "(1) a member of the child's extended family, (2) other members of the Indian child's tribe, or (3) other Indian families" of any tribe, instead of with non-Indian adoptive parents, the Brackeens stated in a brief.

The ICWA isn't working, the Brackeens' attorney, Matthew D. McGill, told the justices.

Although in 2020, there were over 11,000 Native American children in state foster care, "there are fewer than 2,000 Native American foster homes," McGill said.

"That means each year hundreds, if not thousands, of Indian children are placed in non-Indian foster homes, and sometimes there they bond with those families. Yet, when those families try to adopt those children, ICWA rears its head for a second time, allowing tribes to play the proverbial ICWA trump card at the eleventh hour," the lawyer said.

The statute is being used against the Brackeens for a second time as they try to adopt a child identified as Y.R.J., who

is now 4 1/2 years old, as they are being "asked to show good cause to overcome the placement preferences" of the law, instead of demonstrating what is in the best interests of the child, he said.

Because of the ICWA, "not even Y.R.J.'s deep attachment to the Brackeens after being part of their family for four years is sufficient. For both that child and her family, this flouts the promise of equal justice under the law."

Justice Neil Gorsuch seemed to defend the law, chastising McGill for making "policy" arguments instead of legal arguments.

"I'm struggling to understand your argument," the justice said. "For the first half of it, I heard policy complaints. It took a while for me to even hear the words 'equal protection' or 'Article I.'"

"The policy arguments might be better addressed across the street," Gorsuch said, a reference to the nearby U.S. Capitol complex that houses Congress.

Gorsuch suggested that the law may impose a "political classification," rather than "an

invidious racial classification" that might be unconstitutional.

"Tribes ... are mentioned in the Constitution," which describes them as "separate sovereigns."

Chief Justice John Roberts told Deputy U.S. Solicitor General Edwin Kneedler that the federal government was "arguing for special treatment with respect to Indians."

Justice Sonia Sotomayor defended ICWA.

"If you're a member of a tribe and the government wants to protect you in a certain way ... the government should be unfettered from that," she told Kneedler.

The law's treatment of Indian children is "the quintessential part of ICWA that I find hard to overturn."

Justice Brett Kavanaugh told Kneedler the law seems to treat non-Indian families unfairly.

"I just want you to speak to the concern on the other side, which is ... you come in as an adoptive couple, you want to adopt a child, the state court otherwise would say the best interests of the child would be to go with you, and then you're told no, you're the wrong race."

Kneedler suggested there was no racial discrimination at play. The preference for Indian adopters is a determination related to "tribal political citizenship," he said.

# US Homeowners Lost \$1.3 Trillion in Home Equity in 3rd Quarter

LIAM COSGROVE

U.S. homeowners lost \$1.3 trillion, or 7.6 percent, in home equity in the third quarter, the largest quarterly decline on record, according to the mortgage software and analytics company Black Knight.

Following the unprecedented real estate boom of the past two years, signs of a slowing housing market are beginning to emerge.

Homeowner equity contracted after peaking in the second quarter, Black Knight President Ben Graboske said.

"In the span of just three months, U.S. mortgage holders saw a total of \$1.3 trillion in newly acquired equity evaporate," he said in a statement.

Homeowner equity peaked at \$17.6 trillion in May, as home values increased by 45 percent since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the report, equity among mortgaged homes is now about \$1.5 trillion (minus 8.4 percent) lower than it was in May, with the average borrower's equity having slumped by \$30,000.

Despite this, "equity positions remain strong," the report notes, citing that the average mortgage holder has \$92,000 more in equity compared to before the pandemic.

However, the proportion of mortgage holders who are "underwater"—that is, owe

more than the current value of their home—is increasing.

"From a risk perspective, we've already seen the number of underwater borrowers more than double alongside the equity pullback," Graboske said while noting that the overall percentage of underwater owners remains historically low.

The vast majority of these underwater mortgage holders purchased their homes in 2022 or late 2021, which coincided with prices "at or near pandemic-era peak prices," according to Graboske.

The report also found that "San Francisco became the first market to see prices fall year over year in Septem-

ber." San Francisco's annual growth rate came in at minus 1.3 percent, with the next lowest growth rate in San Jose, California, at 0.2 percent.

While Florida's home price growth rates are steadily falling, the state continues to dominate the rankings, with four of its cities ranking in the top five in terms of yearly home price appreciation. Miami's price appreciation was the highest in the country at 22.7 percent year-over-year.

Black Knight also tracked the impact of Hurricane Ian on the housing market. The report notes that 335,000 properties were in the direct path of the hurricane, suggesting that the owners "face a higher risk of property damage and mortgage delinquency."

In aggregate, this grouping of mortgage holders accounts for an unpaid balance of roughly \$71 billion.

By tracking mortgage payments through the first half of October, Black Knight discovered a slightly higher delinquency rate from property owners located in Ian's path. The data firm estimates that 20,000 to 25,000 borrowers will be affected.

The report also states that real estate prices remain elevated compared to 2019 levels.

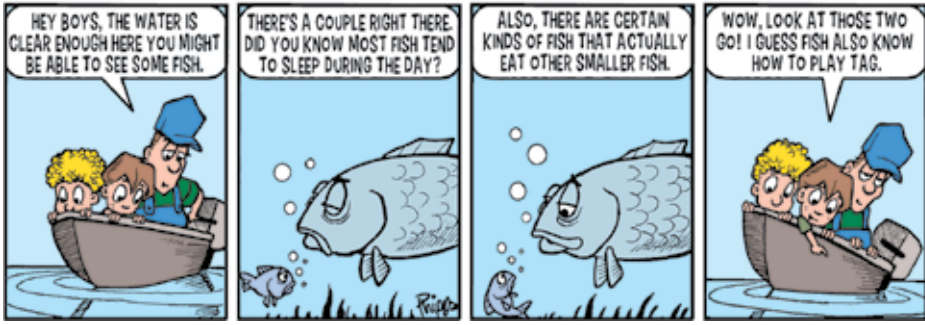
"Despite price corrections, home values in the nation's 50 largest markets remain elevated by anywhere from 19 percent to 66 percent since the start of the pandemic," it reads.

However, this isn't likely to be the end of pain for homeowners, according to Graboske. As he sees it, continued tightening by the Federal Reserve "increases the potential for even further headwinds in equity lending, as well as heightened default risk."



# WEEKLY COMICS

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by Dave T. Phipps

## The Spats

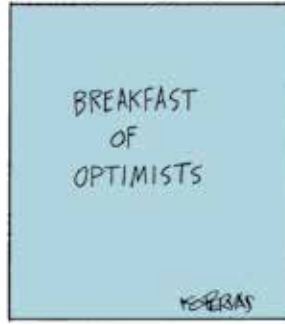


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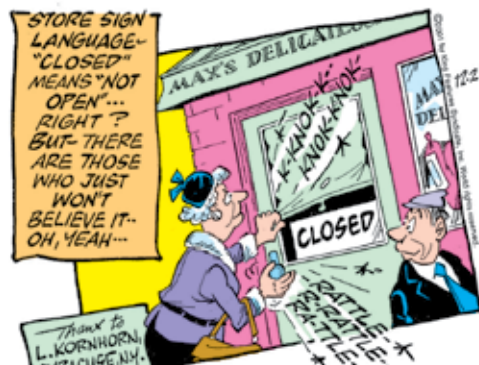
## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



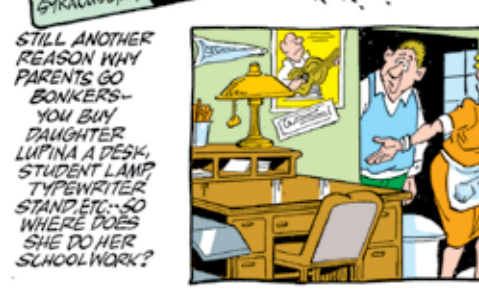
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# Dixon Pulls Off Playoff Upset, Makes Program History

*Rams advance to section semifinals for first time since 1974*

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

GALT, CA (MPG) - The Dixon varsity football team made school history on Friday night with a win at Liberty Ranch, earning the Rams a spot in the final four of the 2022 Division V CIF-Sac Joaquin Section Football Playoffs.

Dixon (10-2) has not advanced this far in the postseason in nearly 50 years, dating back to 1974 according to coach Wes Besseghini. The No. 6 seed Rams scored 15 unanswered points in the fourth quarter to upset the No. 3 ranked Hawks (10-1), 28-21.

Liberty Ranch scored a touchdown in the first quarter, the only points of the opening 12 minutes. The Hawks doubled their lead in the second period, as senior full-back Gavin O'Brien barreled into the end zone on the ground.

Dixon's first score of the night was set up by a long kickoff return by junior wide receiver Alijah Montgomery that almost reached pay dirt. Senior quarterback Jett Harris dashed into the end zone for six points with under a minute to play in the first half. Liberty Ranch led 14-7 at halftime.

O'Brien, who also plays middle linebacker, set up the Hawks' next scoring drive with an interception in Dixon territory. Liberty Ranch junior quarterback Kymani Fenika then scored a rushing touchdown.

The Rams quickly responded, set up by two long passes by Harris to fellow seniors, running back Braden Baumbach and wide receiver Brent Green, respectively. Harris finished off the drive with a touchdown pass to Green. The Hawks led 21-14 after three quarters.

Dixon nearly tied the game with a defensive score midway through the fourth period. Senior cornerback Luis Torres recovered a fumble and returned it 85-yards for the touchdown. However, senior Luis Amador missed the ensuing point after try, leaving the score



Dixon junior wide receiver Jordan Sengmany sprints past Foothill senior cornerback Jaylen Joyce during a 24-6 Dixon win in the first round of the 2022 Division V CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Football Playoffs on November 4 in Dixon. The Rams won at Liberty Ranch 28-21 on Friday, November 11 in the D5 quarterfinals. Photo by Nicolas Brown

21-20 Hawks.

That play was truly a game changer and a huge momentum shift for the Rams who went from potentially trailing by two scores again, to cutting their deficit to one point with five minutes to play.

Green quickly ended Liberty Ranch's next drive, intercepting Fenika. The interception was Green's 10th of the season, which leads California.

Dixon took the lead for good when Harris found junior wideout Jordan Sengmany for the go-ahead score. Baumbach successfully punched in the two-point conversion attempt on the ground.

With under a minute to play, the Hawks fumbled in Rams territory, and it was recovered by Dixon senior middle linebacker Matthew

Whitaker, subsequently ending the game. The Rams pulled off the upset and defeated previously unbeaten Liberty Ranch, 28-21.

Harris completed 12-of-29 pass attempts for 212 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. He also rushed six times for 39 yards and a score.

Sengmany was the game's leading receiver in total yardage, catching two passes for 75 yards and a touchdown. Green caught the most passes, with five receptions for 60 yards and a score.

Baumbach had a quiet night for his standards rushing, with five carries for 16 yards. However, he made an impact on defense for Dixon. The senior, who also plays linebacker, recorded a game-high 17 tackles with seven of them solo and

one for a loss of yards.

Whitaker and senior defensive tackle Seyyid Smith also tallied tackles in the double digits. Whitaker had 12 total, three of them being on his own. Smith racked up 11 tackles, four that were solo and one and a half for lost yardage.

The Rams will travel to Sonora on Friday night to take on the No. 2 seed Wildcats (9-2) in the semifinals of the D5 bracket.

### All-League Selections

Dixon may not have repeated as Golden Empire League champions this season, but the team is well represented among the ALL-GEI First Team selections.

Harris was named as the Co-Offensive Player of the Year. In two seasons as starting

quarterback, the senior has passed for 4,840 yards and 49 touchdowns.

Six senior Rams were selected to the First Team: Baumbach (running back), Green (free safety), Smith (defensive lineman), Torres (athlete), Whitaker (linebacker) and offensive tackle Elijah Hairston.

Torres racked up the stats as a wideout with 1,123 receiving yards and 11 touchdowns. In addition to being a defensive back, he also served as the team's kicker, and added a successful 41-yard field goal to his resume.

Three Rams seniors were given an honorable mention: Defensive lineman Cole Hensley and offensive guards Thai Barfield and Logan Boling. ★

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