



**Hilarity  
Abounds  
Onstage!**  
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# Dixon Independent Voice

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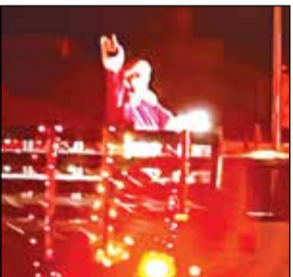
**SEE  
INSIDE**

**FONG FAMILY  
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**BUMBLE BEE  
OF THE YEAR  
CONTEST BEGINS**



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## California Forever Meets Dixon



News stations from around the state were tuned into the forum presented in downtown Dixon about Forever California, a proposed city to be built near Rio Vista. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Steve Jobs dreamed everyone should have a computer in their home. Elon Musk had a dream of everyone having electric cars. Howard Schultz had a dream that everyone would drink delicious coffee in cool little shops. Jan (pronounced John) Sramek has a dream for an urban development where a park, a store, and a school are within walking distance of every home, and he wants to build it near Rio Vista.

Dreams are what Americans are made of, and this country gives opportunities to make dreams come true. These transformative leaders have all heavily influenced



Wanda Wallis came from out of town as a candidate for public office to ask questions of Forever California founder and staff about impacts to Solano County. Photo By Debra Dingman

their peers and younger generations to include a commitment to strengthening communities through human connection and innovation. None of them had all the answers when they first

dreamed, but Sramek, CEO of Flannery Associates, wanted Solano County residents to hear his dreams and see what their ideas were because he lives here.

**Jan Sramek Introduces Himself and the Concept**

"I grew up in a small town where my dad was a mechanic and my mom was a teacher," he said about growing up in Prague, Czechia. "We were a typical blue-collar family and I got where I am because of scholarships." Sramek stood casually in front of a big screen at Dixon's Olde Vet's Hall and told Dixonites about the company's proposal to establish a new city in eastern Solano. The idea is backed by California

Continued on page 3

## Dixon Family Services Invite Tax Deductions

By Cookie Powell, DFS Director

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - As a reminder, the end of 2023 is coming soon, but it is not too late to make your tax-deductible, year-end contribution that will increase our chances of providing the same level of services, or even greater, in 2024. There are so many families with young children struggling to meet their most basic needs of food, housing, and utilities right now in our community.

We want to continue to help them with our Basic Needs Program, our DFS Food Pantry, our Information and Referrals, and other programs at our non-profit human services organization. Can we count on you again, now, to help? Our services have never been more vital in our community. We ask for your support on behalf of the people we serve.

PLEASE join our efforts to soften some of the impacts of poverty.

Thank you for your generous heart and desire to make a difference in your community through Dixon Family Services. We are so grateful for our partnership, making it possible for us to be here for those who need us, when they need us.

For your tax purposes, our Tax I. D. number is 68-0041829

And remember, if someone you know needs our help, please suggest they call us at 707-678-0442. Another way to reach us is info@dixonfamilyservices.org. With your support, we will keep doing all we can to help stabilize households, motivated by our overarching goal to ensure that all children are safe, healthy and thriving in their homes.

It is now easy to make credit card donations to DFS by going to www.dixonfamilyservices.org, clicking on 'DONATE' on any page. We also welcome your checks in the mail to Dixon Family Services, 155 North 2nd Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Contributions made to DFS by December 31, 2023 can be deducted in this tax year. ★

**WE  
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## City Trims Trees After Acts of God

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The accident of a giant tree branch falling on Hillary Burley's new truck might have been an act of God, but it did call attention for the City of Dixon to trim the trees around the downtown core.

Sadly, it was the second time. The first time she was parked in front of Kula's when a small branch fell and that time, it even hit a woman's bicycle that was tethered to the decorative rail there, she explained, but this time it was a huge branch that wound up damaging two trucks.

"There were two trucks covered by one large branch, that's how large it was," she said. "I rarely park on the streets to allow incoming clients space and normally park behind the bank but that day there was no parking there. It was September 18 and we had very nice weather and it was about 5 p.m. when my coworker looked out



This huge tree branch caused nearly \$14,000 worth of damage to Hillary Burley's new truck. It dropped in perfect weather. Insurance classified it as an 'Act of God.' The City of Dixon is responsible for many of the trees in the downtown core. Photo by Hillary Burley

and saw people from First Northern Bank walking around my truck. Someone asked me if that was my truck."

Burley, who was born and raised in Dixon and

who is a stylist for Cynde's Salon, knew the trees were owned by the City and first called them but it was after 5 p.m. After some time and several calls, one man came out and cut all the

branches to free the trucks. "We're a small town and we have no resources," she said. "I was trying not to cry. This was my dream truck. I just purchased it. I

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# Life's too SHORT



## Can Rude Drivers Be a Sign of Growth?

By Debra Dingman

For the second time in a week, there is a 40-ish woman with long, dark hair in a shiny, black vehicle that has driven erratically behind me, tailgating, and weaving from side to side to get around me on A Street. We all know A Street is NOT a wide street between Pitt School and Pedrick Road. All the way down or up, the speed limit is 30 mph and the area is filled with residential and commercial. This is not to mention the schools lined along the way (the Catholic school, John Knight Middle School and Neighborhood Christian School.)

At first, I thought this person must be on drugs as she was 2-inches from my bumper. I looked at my speedometer and I was going 37 mph. I couldn't get out of her way fast enough and she honked like crazy as I was turning into the business driveway – so I honked "hello" back.

When I got in the office, and my anger started to wane, I realized this had NEVER happened to me in Dixon before. Never.

But in the last year, I've noticed people are really rushing on our roads. This is one of the reasons I've renewed my appreciation for working downtown where I can get to the bank and post office and Chamber and restaurants serving a variety of foods without getting in my car.

This morning there was another slow-moving train and within a couple of minutes of traffic finally getting to trudge ahead, the Amtrak commuter train sped by in the opposite direction. I was five cars back from the Almond Street stop sign on A Street when a woman in a white SUV behind me drove around the stopped cars into the left lane that was for oncoming traffic and swung around the corner onto Almond without even a pause at the stop sign.

There was a child in the car, and I thought she might be late to get to Dixon Montessori Charter School. I'm telling you Dixon could totally fund its police force if they'd just plant a cruiser or two near the schools and this Porter/Adams/A Street intersection on a school day morning when the trains come through. Actually, it's pretty messy at school times in general but particularly crazy when there are trains. So, I emailed him.

"Generally we are always concerned with school safety and traffic impacts. We have worked with the district to the School Resource Officer position staffed and funded and created a traffic motor officer specifically to focus on traffic safety," reported Dixon PD Chief Robert Thompson.

"We've also implemented a tracking program where traffic related complaints are logged and assigned to traffic and patrol officers for enforcement. Those logs provide information on the outcomes (i.e., tickets issued, warnings issued, etc.) so we can gauge the impacts we're making or not making," he added.

"We coordinate with Engineering to conduct passive traffic surveys to identify locations where speed or signal violations are posing risk to the community and analyze traffic accident information to identify candidates for selective enforcement programs," he said. "We also conduct post-operation surveys to see if our enforcement resulted in reductions in speed or signal violations."

Christina Garcia, Dixon Police Services Analyst, reported there was little change in moving violations from 2021 and 2022. There were 690 in 2021 and 696 in 2022. So before I consider my theory completely misguided, we'll have to see how many are reported for 2023. I'm crazy enough to look forward to year end reports by the City. ★

# Dixon News Briefs



Dixon's Action Team event "Dixon Grillin' & Chillin' Car & Truck Show 2023" presented a check to Dixon Leon SCU-23 for \$2000 for working a Beer Booth from 10am - 10pm as a special thank you to Dixon Leon SCU-23. Photo by Janette Barango

MPG Staff

### Sand Bags

Just in case it's getting a little too wet near your home, the City of Dixon Fire Department has made sand bags available at the Dixon Fire Station, 205 Ford Way during regular business hours which is Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Sand is also available at the northwest corner of A Street and Jackson in the parking area across from the Dixon Post Office. To report flooding, call (707) 678-7030.

### City Council Next

The next City Meeting in the New Year will be City Council on Tuesday, January 2 at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 600 East A Street. See CityofDixon.us website for more information.

### City Offices Closed

The City of Dixon offices will be closed on Monday, January 1, for the New Year holiday.

### Senior Club Dues

If you're a returning member of the Dixon Senior Club, please update your address and phone with the Dixon Senior Club so they can update their membership Directory for the new year. Dues can be paid at the Senio/Multi-Use Center during regular business hours, Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. or can be mailed to the following address: Dixo Senior Club, 201 South First Street, Dixon, CA 95620. The Senior Club is also recruiting new Board members. If you're interested, please contact Membership Chairperson, Barbara Long at (209) 304-2564 for more information.

### May Fair Guidebook

The Dixon May Fair Exhibit Guidebook is officially out and is available at the Fair office. The May Fair will be May 9 – 12 in 2024 and though it may seem early, it is giving you plenty of time to get involved

and enter one of the many categories and win money and/or a ribbon or both! The office is at 655 South First Street.

### Scout Tree Pick Up

If you have a real Christmas tree this year, the Dixon Scouts Troop 152 are letting folks know that they will be recycling Christmas trees again on Saturday, December 30 and Saturday, January 6. The fee is \$20. To request a pick up, go to www.Troop152Dixon.com or call (707) 676-6152.

### Library Closed for Week

The Dixon Public Library will be closed beginning at 12 noon on December 22 and all the next week for Winter Programing and for the holidays through New Year's Day.

### Karaoke at Pedro's

Here's something new that you can do with those evenings: Have fun with Karaoke at Pedro's Cocina in Dixon. That will be on Fridays from 7 p.m. to midnight and Sundays from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. More information is available at www.pedros.cocinadixon.com. They are located at 1425 Market Lane.

### Hobo Beef Stew

The annual Hobo Beef Stew dinner and raffle at the Veterans Memorial Hall at 1305 North First Street in Dixon will be on Saturday, January 20, 2024. There will be fun, friendship, and lots of raffle prizes. The bar opens at 4:30 and dinner starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Call Patti at (707) 592-0991 or inquire on Friday nights at the Veterans Hall.

### Schools Winter Break

Students continue to be out of school! The Dixon Unified School District will be closed for Winter Break through Monday morning, January 8. That goes for Neighborhood Christian School students and Valley of the Sacred Heart Academy. ★

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## Farm Bureau President Urges Support to Sustain Farming

California Farm Bureau News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The leader of California's largest agricultural organization on December 4, 2023, called on lawmakers to work to sustain agriculture well into the future by securing water supplies and rejecting policies that merely ask farmers and ranchers to be resilient in the face of unaddressed challenges.

Speaking before the 105th Annual Meeting of the California Farm Bureau in Reno, Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson outlined "extraordinary events that have put all of California farmers and ranchers at risk."

He noted the impacts of a three-year drought that resulted in the fallowing of more than 1.2 million acres of productive farmland. That was followed in 2023 by atmospheric river storms and destructive floods that caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damages to California farmland and crops.

Johansson took issue with California's failure to complete long-planned water infrastructure projects that could have stored water for dry years and enhanced flood control in wet ones.

"While our members struggled, we faced administrations in Washington, D.C. and Sacramento who found it easy to blame it all on climate change," said Johansson. He took political leaders to task for simply declaring that "agriculture

would have to do less to meet climate goals."

Johansson said farmers and ranchers need supportive policies rooted in science, not politics. He said Farm Bureau remains committed to "defending the use of science on our farms, our waterways... and saving the next generation of farmers and ranchers."

"I truly believe it must be Farm Bureau and our membership who leads the fight."

But Johansson cited some notable victories for California agriculture in 2023. That included advocacy that led Gov. Gavin Newsom to sign an executive order that rolled back unnecessary permitting requirements and bureaucratic red tape to allow farmers to divert floodwaters to recharge depleted groundwater aquifers.

"For 13 years, California Farm Bureau and some of our partners have been pushing the (California) State Water Resources Control Board to allow our farmers to use their land to recharge aquifers," Johansson said. "This year, our efforts finally produced results."

Johansson applauded actions by the governor that fast-tracked Sites Reservoir, a planned off-stream water storage project north of Sacramento long advocated by the Farm Bureau.

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 29,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.3 million Farm Bureau members. ★

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# Fong Family Tells of Pardi Market History, Part 3



A Pardi Market photo from the past. Photo courtesy of Dixon Historical Society

By Kim Schroeder-Evans

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Dixon Historical Society was honored to have John Fong's oldest son, Carl Fong, speak about his memories of when his father, John Fong, had owned Pardi Market, here in Dixon. This is the third part and end of the series on the family.

The Pardi Market sold in 1990, they believe, and the store later closed. Carl's mom, Amy Fong, and Jerry Louie's wife owned the land and sold it back to the City of Dixon. Carl was unaware that the family still owned the land until the family received a weed abatement letter from the City.

The strong work ethic of John was passed on to all his children. Carl Fong is the chief technology officer for the Information Technology Division at the Orange County

Department of Education, has a doctorate in business, and serves on various technology committees. Helen worked for HP and retired and started her own consulting company: HM3 Group. Carmon works in Perris for the Essendant Company. Carleton graduated from UC Davis with a B.A. in food science, and later became a chemist in the Army Corp of Engineers. Arlene works for the State of California as an information technology specialist II. Darlene, after graduating college, became a CPA. She moved around to different companies and ended up retiring from Google in May 2022.

One guest attending the presentation asked, "What do you think of the idea of the Pardi Plaza?" Carl likes the plaza because it pays homage to what was there. He remembers Kim and Ned's, Dixon Florist, First Northern Bank, Dixon Tribune newspaper

and the police department in the alley behind it. Carl said that the plaza is very important to keep the history of that area alive. The city will continue to change, and people will forget. The Dixon Historical Society, along with the City of Dixon, have included a picture of the Pardi Market as one of the fifty historical photos that will be a part of the permanent display at the Pardi Plaza in 2024.

John Fong was such a beloved member of Dixon that in 1972 he was named Citizen of the Year, and his family was invited to ride in the parade. Carl, Carleton, and Darlene remember their mom sewing and buying six new outfits for each of the Fong children for this special day. The Fong Family was taught to work hard and work long hours, and John Fong did just that. He believed that everyone was the same, and he treated them all with respect. He felt that George Pardi had given him the opportunity to do what he wanted and run the store as part of the Independent Grocer Association. There was so much trust. John Fong sadly passed away on December 18, 1997.

The Dixon Historical Society plans to post a video recording of the Fong Family Presentation to their website and YouTube channel in the not so distant future. See more at: [www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org). ★

# California Forever Meets Dixon



Large posterboards were created to show Sramek's vision of a new city he hopes to see built in Solano County. Photo by Debra Dingman

*Continued from page 1*  
investors hoping to "prove that California can still build bold and innovative projects that help solve some of our largest challenges."

It started when he and his girlfriend, now his wife, went fishing in Rio Vista back in 2016. Like a lot of people his age, he wished there were more work opportunities for people in which they did not have to commute out of the area and spend hours and hours sitting in a car. They could enjoy their lives more if they could live in a walkable community — places that he had first-hand experience with during his personal and business travels. He started looking into the challenges the County was facing.

"There are a few good-paying local jobs and long, costly commutes caused by 30 years of not building enough," he said. His company polled 800 Solano residents where 81-percent said they "did not see a future for their children." Those children would not be able to grow up and live here due to costs and lack of jobs.

In 2017, the land was studied, and while we see rolling hills and windmills, it had the lowest ecological values in Solano County. That was an opportunity to build from the ground up. The who's who of investors began to buy into the project and some 50,000 acres, or about 78 square miles, were purchased under the corporate name Flannery Associates.

The team has expanded to include top people in engineering, geology, water, solar power, and other infrastructure.

"We want this to be the most sustainable city on the planet," said Bronson Johnson, an engineer who previously worked on San Francisco projects including Lennar/Wilson Meany's development at Treasure Island.

### Outsiders Rob Dixonite of Question Time

Pamela Wu, director of news and media relations at UC Davis, wanted to make the most informative meeting for participants at last week's Town Hall Meeting covering "Forever California," but only a few Dixonites actually got the chance to hear details. People from other cities including Vacaville, Benicia, and Vallejo came prepared for a public protest. Dixonites seem to

come for more information.

Several people seemed to be angry, and one man in particular from Vacaville gave a lengthy dissertation, verbally attacking Sramek's heritage and telling him to go back where he came from. He did not ask a question, and the rest of the participants in the hall demanded he stop talking.

"You wanted one person, and here is one," said a Dixonite who stood and said he was willing to listen. "We can't afford to live here. Millennials and Generation Z — my age group — want to be here where we grew up."

Downtown Dixon Business Association President Jill Orr said she came to get more information.

"I have seven grandchildren and I'm open minded. I'm here to learn," she said.

Sramek and his staff were peppered with questions about jobs, projected prices on homes, low-income housing, how the company plans to make their money, and the dreaded topic of Highway 113.

"For a housing development, they put up 100 to 200 homes, they sell them, and then they leave. They don't care. If the coffee shop they promised doesn't appear, if the weeds start to grow, they aren't there. They are gone. We're going to be around. We won't make money if it doesn't keep growing," Sramek explained.

Dixonite Susan Rotchay, a wheelchair user, asked about transportation and told of her son trying to save up money so he can buy a house in Dixon. She asked about some kind of advisory committee.

"The very first thing they did was to form a 21-member advisory committee to look at needs including accessibility issues," Sramek said, and asked one of the engineers to elaborate on what they will do better in this new community.

Cyrus Morales worked out at Travis Air Force Base and asked about the capacity of water.

"We're building a new wastewater treatment plant and also a water treatment plant," responded Sramek. "We will use the most modern equipment available for recycling water. We will be back in January with several plans and more answers." ★

# City Trims Trees After Acts of God

*Continued from page 1*

had not even had it a year." She took her truck into Superior Auto Body in Dixon for repair, and they estimated it to be \$14,865.

When she contacted the City, she was told to come in or go online to start the paperwork to start a claim against the city which she did within the week. A named City staff person took in the claim.

"She said it was not a problem, that it was a City tree, and that the City would pay for it," told Burley. That's why it was a "shock" for her to get a letter from the City October 19 saying it has "no merit."

"They denied my claim. It was one piece of paper with no reason why. I called and they said they couldn't tell me, and told me to call their insurance company. I called multiple upon multiple times. Never have I gotten a response back. The voicemail says she'll be gone in July for a vacation, and it still says that," Burley lamented.

So, after a \$250 deductible, Burley's own insurance paid the bill. It was considered an "Act of God," and therefore was correct for Burley to file a comprehensive claim. Her insurance will not go up because it was not her fault.

"I feel like the City is getting away with not taking care of aphid-infested trees," she said. "I had an arborist come out and look at the tree and he said it was a 'diseased' tree. Students are going up and down these streets before and after school. What if it hit a kid?"

She also was upset that some people excused the City, saying, 'Well, this is a small town.'

"That makes me angry," she said. "My family has been here since the 30s; my grandfather helped build Monticello Dam and donated tractors to the May Fair; he donated land for Neighborhood Church [now Grace Fellowship]; and helped build Neighborhood Christian School. Don't tell me how small this town is because my family IS this town. My people don't leave. We're still here." She emphasized the need for the City to be more proactive and maintain the trees regularly.

"I feel like Dixon waits for the worst possible thing to happen instead of just doing maintenance," she said. "I wanted more people to know so they don't experience this from the City." In the future, call your insurance first and let them deal with the City. Or, do not park under downtown trees. ★

# Thompson Releases Statement on Passing of Legendary Winemaker Mike Grgich

Office of Congressman Mike Thompson

**WASHINGTON, DC (MPG)** - On December 13, 2023, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04) released the following statement on the passing of legendary winemaker Mike Grgich.

"Saddened to learn of the passing of Mike Grgich. Mike was a trailblazing winemaker and developed many of the techniques that have helped make Napa Valley wine the best in the world. Mike and I go back decades — my mother was his first bookkeeper at his winery, Grgich Hills.

"As the winemaker for Chateau Montelena, Mike led Napa Valley to fame as his 1973 Chardonnay won the 1976 Judgement of Paris. That victory put Napa Valley on the map as a world-class

winemaking region. Mike's legacy will be remembered for generations to come and his efforts have helped pave the way for future innovations in winemaking. He made immeasurable contributions to the winemaking community and to our Valley, and he will be sorely missed.

"Jan and I send our thoughts and prayers to the Grgich family during this sad time."

*Congressman Mike Thompson is proud to represent California's 4th Congressional District, which includes all or part of Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo Counties. He is a senior member of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Rep. Thompson is Chairman of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. He is also Co-Chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Wine Caucus and a member of the fiscally-responsible Blue Dog Coalition.* ★

# Fire Department Rolls Through Downtown



Santa Claus waves from the back of a City truck sandwiched between blaring firetrucks on the annual Santa Run through town. The annual event is provided by the Dixon Professional Firefighters Association for community goodwill and is a favorite with children in many of the neighborhoods. It's believed the Grinch tried to sneak into the truck behind Santa! Photo by Debra Dingman



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# Sacramento River Cats Join GOAL Sustainability Movement

## Sacramento River Cats News Release

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento River Cats and Sutter Health Park have joined a collective of major venues in sports and live entertainment across the globe as a member of the industry-wide GOAL sustainability platform to champion social impact, climate action, and responsible change.

GOAL, which was founded in October 2022 by Oak View Group (OVG), the Atlanta Hawks & State Farm Arena, Fenway Sports Group, and green building expert Jason F. McLennan, is a community of sustainability-minded sports and entertainment operators which provides venues at different points in their sustainability journeys with tactical roadmaps, easy-to-use tracking tools, a library of resources and case studies, and access to like-minded, leading operators, vendors, and solution-providers, all committed to operating more sustainably, more urgently.

Sutter Health Park joins a growing list of venues, representing legendary teams and iconic places of mass assembly committed to leading, learning, collaborating and, in all cases, making a positive impact on their communities and for the planet. GOAL supports each venue's sustainability journey through data collection and analysis in addition to providing sustainability strategy, communications support and corporate partner engagement.

The Sacramento River Cats and Sutter Health Park have been an active participant in implementing sustainable best practices which included the installation of stadium solar panels, the use of internal LED lights, and intentional recycling efforts across the organization which include a food waste diversion system. Additionally, in partnership with area businesses, the River Cats created the Sustainability Circle in 2015 to work collaboratively to cultivate sustainable practices and reduce their carbon footprint.

"We look forward to continuing our renewable journey by joining the GOAL sustainability platform," said Chip Maxson, President/COO of the Sacramento River Cats. "This partnership will allow us to enhance our industry-leading efforts and further our commitment to keeping our region beautiful and healthy for generations to come."

The venues within GOAL represent different sports, different geographies, and

different building types of varying sizes and ages, ensuring that the input and feedback is worthy of the diversity of the live entertainment and hospitality industry. Some venues are already leading the way when it comes to climate action, and others are just beginning their respective journeys. But in all cases, these venues are action-oriented, climate-minded and understand the urgency required to address a changing planet.

Properties within GOAL include: Acrisure Arena (Greater Palm Springs, CA), Budweiser Gardens (London, ON), CFG Bank Arena (Baltimore, MD), Chip Ganassi Racing (Pittsburgh, PA), Citi Field (New York, NY), Climate Pledge Arena (Seattle, WA), Co-op Live (Manchester, UK), Fenway Sports Group (Boston, MA), Footprint Center (Phoenix, AZ), Frost Bank Center (San Antonio, TX), Gainbridge Fieldhouse (Indianapolis, IN), Los Angeles Dodgers (Los Angeles, CA), Levi's® Stadium (Santa Clara, CA), MGM Music Hall (Boston, MA), Miami Heat (Miami, FL), Moda Center (Portland, OR), Moody Center at University of Texas Austin (Austin, TX), Mullett Arena at Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ), PPG Paints Arena (Pittsburgh, PA), Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse (Cleveland, OH), Sacramento River Cats (Sacramento, CA), Spectrum Center (Charlotte, NC), State Farm Arena (Atlanta, GA), Subaru Park (Chester, PA), Target Center (Minneapolis, MN), UBS Arena (Belmont Park, NY), Wrigley Field (Chicago, IL), Xcel Energy Center (St. Paul, MN)

"Our collection of GOAL venues represents forward-thinking venues across the sports, live entertainment and convention industry," said Chris Granger, OVG360 President. "I applaud Sutter Health Park for their leadership, for their spirit of collaboration, and for their understanding of the urgency demanded by climate change. I look forward to working with Chip Maxson and his team, learning from them, and sharing the very best ideas and best practices with our industry as we race against the clock, together."

OVG's Sustainability Director Kristen Fulmer added, "We designed GOAL to make sure that the data points and thresholds for leadership meet venues anywhere along their sustainability journey, engaging – and without shaming – venues that are just getting started, while also enhancing efforts in venues that already make an impact in a variety of different topics, from waste diversion, to water conservation, to improved indoor air quality." ★



# Sac Diocese to Seek Bankruptcy Protection, Facing over 250 Sexual-Abuse Cases

By Matthew Malone, MPG Staff Writer

## SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento will seek Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection next year, Bishop Jaime Soto announced on Dec. 9, as it faces hundreds of lawsuits alleging child sexual abuse by clergy. The diocese oversees Catholic parishes in much of Northern California, including Sacramento County.

In a letter published online and distributed to parishioners at local churches, Soto said he expects to file for bankruptcy protection in March 2024.

"It is now clear to me that the only respectful, transparent, and fair way to address the substantial number of claims by those who have been abused by clergy and other members of the Church is to seek a court-supervised reorganization. This process will also allow me to sustain the sanctifying, teaching, and charitable work of the Catholic community in Northern California," the letter read.

Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection generally allows an organization to continue operating while negotiating with creditors to restructure its debts. The letter noted as much and said parishes and schools in the diocese "would continue their operations uninterrupted."

Soto said more than 250 lawsuits alleging abuse have been filed against the diocese. Without reorganization, "it is likely that not all the abuse victim-survivors would receive a fair consideration of their claim," he said, with available funds being "depleted" in the first



The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, the seat of the Diocese of Sacramento, is seen in 2011. Bishop Jaime Soto has announced his intention to seek Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on behalf of the diocese, in response to hundreds of lawsuits claiming clergy sexual abuse. Photo courtesy of Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament - Sacramento, California by TravelingOtter used under CC BY-SA 2.0.

cases brought forward.

"Bankruptcy is a costly and lengthy process, but it also provides supervision and transparency for all the parties involved so that a fair resolution is offered to the victim-survivors of abuse," Soto continued. He expressed hope that the diocese would "emerge from this necessary, penitential exercise with greater resolve to be a humble sanctuary of holiness and healing for all the sons and daughters of God in Northern California."

## Law Group Decries Plan

A law firm that represents people alleging clerical abuse, including cases in the Sacramento diocese, criticized the decision.

"On behalf of the many survivors who were gravely hurt, we react with deep disappointment in the choice made by the Bishop of Sacramento to seek bankruptcy protection from accountability," Jeff Anderson and Associates said in a press release. "We know from all the work

we have done with survivors across the country that bishops and dioceses have continuously utilized Chapter 11 to shamefully protect themselves."

The release said other dioceses have used bankruptcy filings to delay court cases and prevent "full disclosure."

"The Diocese might change, but their motivations for filing bankruptcy remain the same – the desire to protect their reputation and their assets, no matter the moral expense," attorney Jeff Anderson said in a statement.

The Sacramento diocese is the fourth in California to seek bankruptcy protection after a wave of sexual-abuse claims under state Assembly Bill 218. The legislation took effect in 2020 and extended the statute of limitations on childhood sexual abuse, allowing much more time for accusers to come forward after reaching adulthood.

The other dioceses filing for Chapter 11 protection are Santa Rosa, San Francisco and Oakland. ★

# Giants and KNBR FanFest Tour to Make Stop in Sacramento

## Sacramento River Cats News Release

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA (MPG)** - On Thursday, Dec. 14, the San Francisco Giants introduced the Giants & KNBR FanFest Tour 2024 – an evolution of their traditional pre-season fan event. Known as a single-day San Francisco-based event, Giants & KNBR FanFest has transformed into a four-stop Northern California series, which kicks off in Sacramento at Sutter Health Park on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Giants & KNBR FanFest Tour will expand beyond San Francisco, providing opportunities for fans to interact with their beloved team prior to Spring Training in Scottsdale. This year's iteration will feature four events with current Giants players, coaches, alumni, VIP guests and Lou Seal. The final stop will feature a Spring Training-inspired Open House at Oracle Park with Giants alumni.

As a proud affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, the Sacramento River Cats and their home of Sutter Health Park will host the first stop of the tour on Jan. 20. At the event, fans will have the chance to receive autographs, participate in Q&A sessions, purchase merchandise, and much more. Scheduled to appear at the event is Rocklin, CA, native and Giants ace Logan Webb, along with other current teammates and coaches.

"We are thrilled to host the first stop of the Giants & KNBR FanFest Tour," said Sarah Hebel, Sacramento River Cats director of marketing. "Player and fan interaction is an integral part of the Sutter Health Park fan experience, so River Cats fans will no doubt look forward to this extended opportunity to connect with local product Logan Webb among other Giants favorites."

Outside of Sacramento, the tour will also make stops in San Jose (Jan. 24) and Napa (Feb. 3) before concluding at Oracle Park (March 9). Giants tickets for the 2024 baseball season will be available for purchase at each tour stop, along with other special offers for those in attendance.

"We are continuously listening to our fans to ensure we are delivering what they want," said Rachel Heit, chief marketing officer of the San Francisco Giants. "With the reimagining of Giants & KNBR FanFest in 2024, we're giving Giants fans even more opportunities and flexibility to connect with their team, while improving and expanding upon a beloved pre-season event."

To learn more about the giants & KNBR FanFest Tour 2024, visit rivercats.com and click on the FanFest icon.

Fans can also visit mlb.com/giants/fans/fanfest. For more, follow along with @SFGiants on Instagram, X, TikTok, YouTube, and Facebook. ★

# Board Approves Regulations for Converting Wastewater to High Quality Drinking Water

## State Water Resources Control Board News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Further advancing the Administration's all-of-the-above Water Supply Strategy to make California more resilient to hotter, drier conditions, the State Water Resources Control Board approved regulations on Dec. 19, 2023, that will allow water systems to develop treatment protocols to convert wastewater into high quality drinking water.

The board's unanimous vote gives California the most advanced standards in the nation for treating wastewater to such an extent that the finished product meets or exceeds current drinking water standards. Known as direct potable reuse, the process will enable water systems throughout the state to generate a climate-resilient water source while reducing the amount of wastewater discharged to rivers and the ocean. In fact, recycling water allows water systems to add millions of gallons of additional drinking water to their supplies over time while avoiding costlier and more energy intensive water supplies.

"This is an exciting development in the state's ongoing efforts to find innovative solutions to the challenges of extreme weather driven by climate change," said E. Joaquin Esquivel, chair of the State Water Board. "On top of helping us build drought-resilient water supplies, direct potable reuse offers energy savings and environmental benefits. And most importantly, these regulations ensure that the water produced is not only safe, but purer than many drinking water sources we now rely on."

The final version of the regulations came

together over many years and after an expert panel of 12 scientists and engineers evaluated work by the board's Division of Drinking Water and determined the standards are protective of public health. Proposed regulations were released to the public in July; board staff gathered public comment and made adjustments based on that input. These revisions include added flexibility for alternative treatment techniques and clarifications about the collaboration among partner agencies on reuse projects.

Direct potable reuse relies entirely on immediate, multi-barrier treatment that can recycle wastewater to drinking water standards in a matter of hours. This contrasts with the method currently being deployed in major projects launched throughout the state, called indirect potable reuse, which further improves treated wastewater over time through groundwater recharge or dilution with surface water. While no formal direct potable reuse projects could be initiated in California until the regulations were adopted, water agencies in Santa Clara, San Diego and the city of Los Angeles have launched pilot projects in recent years.

The newly adopted regulations comply with California's Safe Drinking Water Act, which ensures that the water delivered by public water systems in California shall at all times be pure, wholesome, and safe to drink.

Once the new regulations are finalized through the Office of Administrative Law in 2024, water systems can submit plans for direct potable use projects to the board for approval.

More information about direct potable reuse can be found on the board's website. ★

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# Riley Reviews

“ANYONE BUT YOU” FORMULAIC ROM-COM;  
“NATALIA GRACE” ON ID TV

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

**“ANYONE BUT YOU” RATED R**  
Hardly a novel idea emanates from the romantic comedy tropes that turn “Anyone But You” into an artificial reimagining of Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing” where wit and banter have much to do with romantic deception, intrigue and trickery.

Nor is anyone going to think about one of the all-time greats of this genre in 1934’s “It Happened One Night,” a screwball romantic comedy in which Claudette Colbert’s married socialite falls for Clark Gable’s recently fired newspaper reporter.

The mismatched lovers in “Anyone But You” are Glen Powell’s Ben, a finance guy, and Sydney Sweeney’s Bea, a law school student who’s ambivalent at best about a career path of a lawyer.

On a superficial level, Powell (“Top Gun: Maverick”) and Sweeney (TV’s “Euphoria”) are the type of photogenic beautiful people with a screen presence that practically screams for attention.

They first meet in a most serendipitous way at an upscale coffee shop thanks to the snippy attitude of a barista who won’t let frantic Bea use the bathroom without first having made a purchase.

Standing in a long line is Ben, who comes to the rescue by pretending to be Bea’s husband. This is followed by an amusing malfunction in the restroom, leading to a return to Ben’s place for grilled cheese sandwiches and a night spent together.

While the pair fall asleep on the couch fully clothed, the next morning Bea slips away without so much as a goodbye. Ben’s best friend Pete (GaTa) shows up and the jilted Ben makes disparaging remarks about his date that Bea happens to overhear after she decides to return moments later.

What should have been the start of a relationship turns sour with misunderstanding by both parties. Six months later, the two meet again at a bar under awkward circumstances, not knowing they would soon be linked to an upcoming wedding.

Pete’s sister Claudia (Alexandra Shipp) is marrying Bea’s sister Halle (Hadley Robinson). The wedding is going to take place at the exotically beautiful locale of a beachfront estate in Sydney, Australia.

The fun begins when Ben and Bea are stuck on the same long plane ride to Australia. They can’t resist sniping at each other, the result being that their banter takes a rancorous tone with no sign of abating.

The Shakespearean twist takes hold at the gathering of friends and family in Australia. Everyone comes to the conclusion that they are former lovers who can’t abide each other. A scheme begins to get

them back together so that the wedding won’t be marred by their acrimony.

Bea’s parents Leo (Dermot Mulroney) and Innie (Rachel Griffiths) add some fuel to the fire by inviting Bea’s ex-boyfriend Jonathan (Darren Barnet) to the wedding, hoping to rekindle the relationship.

However, Ben and Bea decide to play along as a couple so that her parents will stop meddling, and then Ben’s former flame Margaret (Charlee Fraser) happens to be part of the wedding party. Margaret’s presence just adds another complication on the jealousy side.

There are some humorous moments to enjoy. A better one might be how the younger guests on a hike pay attention to a cute koala bear in a tree while ignoring Ben stripping naked as he yanks off all his clothes when a tarantula ends up in his shorts.

The failing of “Anyone But You,” regardless of its gorgeous setting, is that Ben and Bea arguably lack the convincing chemistry to seal the deal for true romance. With the glistening beauty of Sydney and its beaches on display, the winner here is the local tourism board.

**“THE CURIOUS CASE OF NATALIA GRACE: NATALIA SPEAKS” ON ID TV**

Earlier this year, ID TV’s documentary “The Curious Case of Natalia Grace” was a stranger-than-fiction series that explored the question of whether Natalia Grace Barnett was an exploited Ukrainian adopted child with dwarfism or a dangerous adult masquerading as an adolescent.

This real-life story mirrored the horror film “Orphan” in which a couple trying to rebuild their marriage after the loss of their baby decide to adopt a child who turns out to be a psychopath with dwarfism and mysterious past.

Beginning on January 1st, “The Curious Case of Natalia Grace: Natalia Grace” retraces her adoption saga and the Barnett family’s allegations about her real age when she was adopted.

The series will showcase an emotional sit-down between Natalia and adoptive father Michael Barnett as they come to terms with the accusations that have been thrown around in both directions.

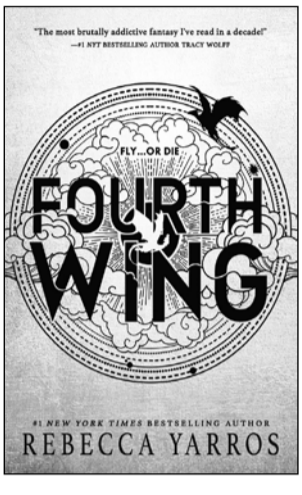
“Natalia Speaks” may offer insight into what really went on behind closed doors in the Barnetts’ home and how much truth there actually is to their claim Natalia was not a six-year-old Ukrainian orphan with a rare genetic disorder, but rather a homicidal adult intent on harming them.

Previously unseen evidence and footage, as well as new theories and testimony from an array of voices, including the FBI agents who investigated the case, will shed light on the case. ★

# The Top Adult Fantasy Book of 2023

*Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros;*  
*Red Tower Books*

This year, the adult fantasy series on everyone’s radar was the NYT Bestselling book, *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros. Rebecca Yarros combines the winning elements of high fantasy, life-or-death battles, and fire-breathing dragons with the beloved romance tropes of enemies to lovers, giving new meaning to a spark of romance. Readers lined up around bookstores nationwide, flocked into Walmart, Target, and any reseller of books, hoping to get their hands on one of the coveted first editions with sprayed edges.



leader of *Fourth Wing*. But you can’t deny what the heart wants. While death is around every corner, Violet pushes ahead, using her strong mind and individual skills to set her apart. Yet, the pull towards Xaden is not far away.

However, taking a step to the forefront, there is more than competition, romance, and sexual tension; there is a war at the precipice. The kingdom’s defenses are failing; and the only explanation is that someone is hiding a terrible secret.

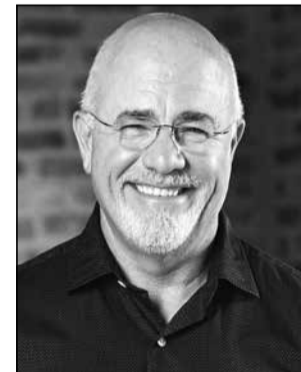
In a story that balances life, death, love, deceit, war, and dragons, there are only two ways out of the Basgiath War College, graduate, or die, and everyone is willing to go to any extreme not to be the latter.

A story that rips out hearts and puts them back again, *The Fourth Wing* is here to stay. With the second book in the series, *Iron Flame*, which released on Nov 7 quickly selling out, and Amazon purchasing the rights for a television show, only proves that fans can’t get enough. Which makes this holiday season the perfect time to join to quest of the dragon rider. ★

However, it’s not just the dragons Violet must fear; with her delicate frame and brittle body, she is an easy target for the other riders, determined to make the cut. Many would kill for her spot, and the dragons would simply kill Violet for her weakness. However, Violet isn’t as weak as others may believe; she is strong-minded, quick, cunning, and even a bit dangerous, using how others see her disability to her advantage.

While this story is full of death, adventure, and dragons, there is also Xaden Riorson, whom Violet knows she must avoid at all cost. The devastatingly handsome, Xaden is strong, stoic, stern, and the

A little more about the book: Violet Sorrengail thought she knew her destined path. To become a scribe, like her father, living her life safely amongst stacks of books. But when the commanding general, who also happens to be her mother, sends her on another path, Violet quickly realizes that her life hangs in the balance. Sent to join the Riders Quadrant at Basgiath War College Violet will now have to battle her way into being one of Navarre’s elite, fighting to the death to survive in order to become an elite dragon rider.



## Dave Ramsey Says

happened to me, there were three pieces to the puzzle that helped me break the cycle. One was fear. Specifically, I was scared to death that I wouldn’t be able to take care of my family, and that I’d retire broke. Now, don’t misunderstand me. No one should live their lives in fear. But a healthy, reasonable level of fear can provide needed motivation.

Another was disgust. I realized what I was doing was stupid. I was tired of living that way, and I made a conscious, purposeful decision that things were going to be different.

The third piece, and maybe the most important because it’s connected to our spiritual walk, was contentment. We live in a society that’s constantly having the idea that we’ll be happier, or more successful, or more admired, if we’ll only buy this or that product. We’re constantly marketed to, and when we have this stuff in our faces day after day, we can become unsatisfied with just about every aspect of our lives. Don’t let it drag you down. It’s all just an illusion.

One of the things I did to combat this, was to start living on a strict, written, monthly budget. Also, I

stopped going places where I was tempted to spend money. You shouldn’t give a drunk a drink, right? So, don’t put yourself in a bad situation when it comes to your behavior with money. If you go wandering through the mall without a specific plan, you’ll lose every single time.

When you go to the store make a list of only the things you need. On top of that, take only enough cash with you to buy what you need. If you can walk in and back out without buying a bunch of stuff that wasn’t on your list, it’s a win. Every time you do this, it’s another win and another step away from your old habits and in the right direction.

You can do this, Melissa. God bless you.

– Dave  
*Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions* ★

**For Starters, Have A Plan**

Dear Dave,

My mom and dad always told me to live within my means. As an adult, I’ve made some mistakes with money, including falling right back into debt after paying off everything. I’m tired of this rollercoaster, and I want to get control of my finances for good. Can you give me some advice on where to start?

– Melissa

Dear Melissa,

It’s frustrating, isn’t it? But making mistakes with money means just one thing. It means you’re human. We’ve all done it. Think about this, though. We’re approaching a traditional time of the year for changes. On top of that, you’re smart enough to have realized what you’ve done in the past hasn’t worked.

Believe it or not, I was once in the exact same spot you are now. When it

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The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



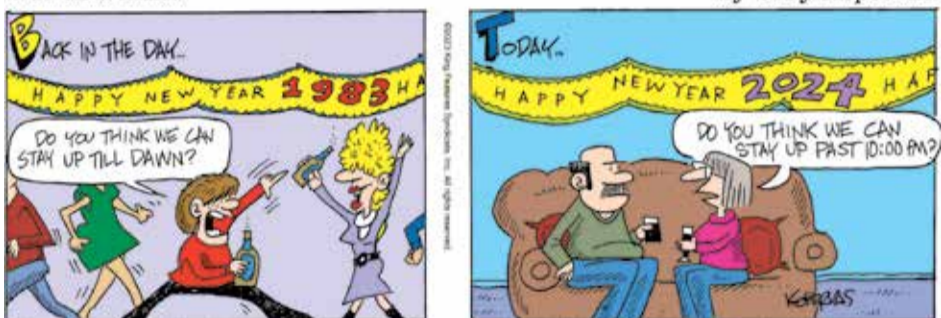
Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb



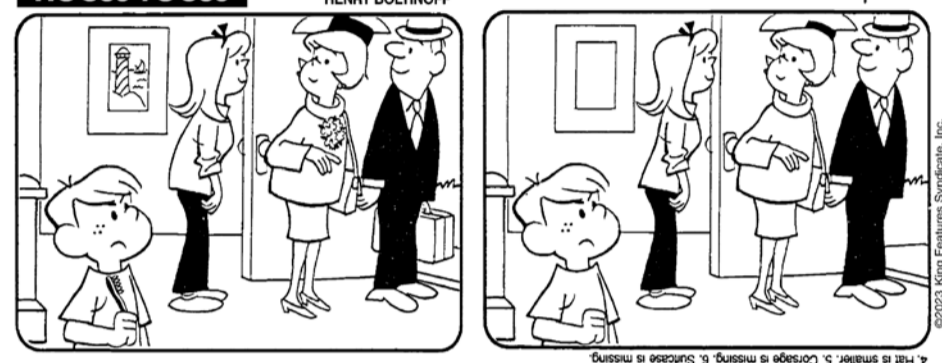
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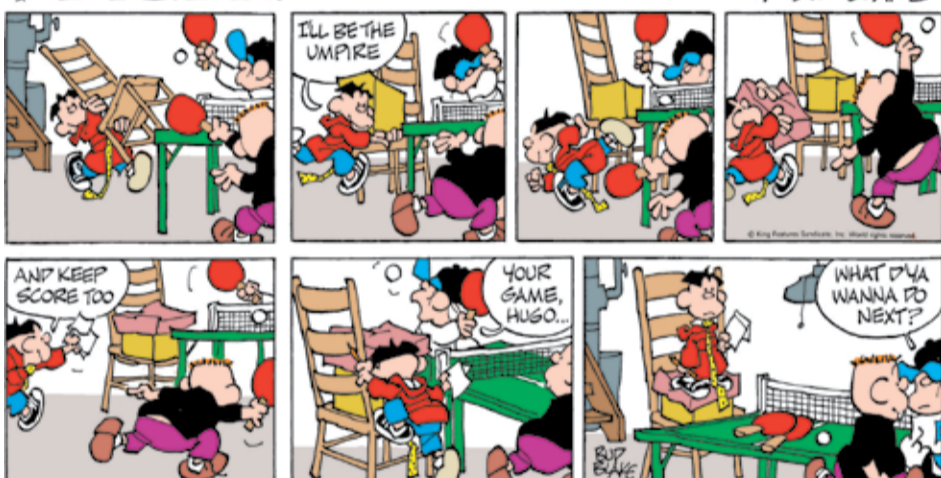
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

GRIN and BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



With the new year looming, one thing is for certain, the Sacramento Kings are headed for another winning season.

I enjoy the banter I hear from fans around me as to whether this team can surpass the 48 wins of last season, and it seems to be somewhat split.

Many are still searching for answers, regarding the ever changing rotation from off the bench, and in particular how Davion Michell has found himself on the far end of that bench.

Chris Duarte and Keon Ellis are eating up valuable minutes while Mitchell sits.

From a fan favorite to nearly nonexistent is difficult to understand, and getting in 2 minutes at garbage time seems a little unfair.

The Kings have spent 2 years bringing Mitchell along and building his confidence, and sitting for multiple games without ever getting off the bench runs the risk of eroding the very confidence they've worked so hard to create.

More complexing than coach Brown's rotation, however, is the inconsistency of the team.

While the Kings 17-11 record finds them squarely in 4th place in the western conference, the blowout losses are a conundrum to say the least. Losses by 45 points on our home floor to the Celtics, and multiple double digit losses to the Clippers, have left many scratching their heads.

This same team has defeated the defending NBA champion Nuggets, along with Suns, Jazz, and Thunder by convincing scores.

So, how do we prevent the blowout losses? If you're like me, I look no further than who is coming off the bench.

Without question Malik Monk will get his well deserved minutes, but Trey Lyles is good enough to be a starter, and is having to fight less talented teammates for minutes off the bench.

To some degree, this argument goes on with ever NBA team, but I'm convinced that expanded minutes for both Trey Lyles and Davion Mitchell would

benefit this team greatly, and along with Malik Monk, I believe these three players should be the first off the bench every game.

Part of the mystery is the inconsistency as to who is coming off the bench game after game. From Colby Jones, to recent acquisition Juan Toscano-Anderson, I never know what to expect.

Sasha Vezenkov has shown moments that make everyone smile, but coming from the Euro league to the NBA is transition that takes time, and here I give coach Brown some credit. For the most part Sasha is seeing playing time every game, and although his 3 point shooting has been erratic at times, his defense and quick hands have been improving noticeably.

As we come closer to the trade deadline, I am hearing pundits bantering the name of Keegan Murray around. I for one think this would be a mistake. Keegan had a slow start this season but has recently found his stroke, and actually set an NBA record by hitting 11 three's in a row!

Keegan has the makings of an all-star, so I for one would like to give him that opportunity in a Kings uniform.

I see our current team as it's comprised today, as going beyond the first round of the playoffs, and after that it's anyone's guess.

Let's hope for some semblance of normality with the bench rotation, and enjoy this very entertaining team!

Our bookends of Domantas Sabonis and De'Aaron Fox, deserve to be all-stars for a second straight season, and both bring their best efforts to the hardwood every night.

Every team needs leaders that will set the example, and after suffering through a decade with the likes of dour Demarcus Cousins, Domantas Sabonis is welcome change in the post.

I wish all of you die hard Kings fans a happy and prosperous new year, and let's collectively root this team into the playoffs! ★

# Sen. Dodd Announces New Laws Taking Effect in 2024

Office of Sen. Bill Dodd  
News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Fourteen new laws written by Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, will take effect in 2024 including those to increase accountability and oversight of sexual harassment cases on California State University campuses and another banning "junk fees" in an array of transactions including concert ticket purchases.

"These are all commonsense measures that will improve life for all Californians," Sen. Dodd said. "They are a response to some of the most pressing issues in our state – whether it is college campus safety or consumer protection. I look forward to positive results as they go into effect in the year ahead."

The 14 new laws received overwhelming Assembly and Senate support before they were signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom. They bring the total number of laws passed by Sen. Dodd in his nine years in the Legislature to 113 – making him the most prolific lawmaker over that period.

Among the new laws taking effect Jan. 1 are:

**Senate Bill 3 Water Shutoff Protection:** Extends protections from Senator Dodd's 2018 Water Shutoff

Protection Act to those served by small water systems

**SB 329 Council Pay Caps:** Increases pay caps for city council members to increase diversity and representation on city councils

**SB 353 Recycling:** Adds large juice containers to state recycling program; Improves processing payments and supports expansion of recycling opportunities

**SB 387 Broadband on State Property:** Allows state properties to be utilized to help incentivize broadband deployment

**SB 478 Hidden Fees:** Starting July 1, outlaws hidden fees set by companies to deceive consumers with incomplete advertised prices

**SB 667 Nurse Midwives:** Clarifies scope of practice for nurse midwives, ensuring patient access and care for pregnant women

**SB 668 State Parks:** Allows nonprofit operating and co-management agreements at state parks to continue

**SB 808 CSU Harassment:** Increases tracking, transparency and reporting of cases and settlement

**SCR 17 Artificial Intelligence:** Endorses the blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights, while it underscores the power of AI and risks as the first AI-drafted state resolution to pass a legislature ★

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### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001877  
The following persons are doing business as: Acorn Financial Solutions, 2625 Ascot Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534. Sievers Enterprises, Inc., 2625 Ascot Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534. Date filed in Solano County: December 4, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement

must be filed before the expiration date on December 3, 2028. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)  
Publish: Dec 15, 22, 29, 2023 Jan 5, 2024  
ACORN 15-23



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION

The Dixon Planning Commission will hold a hybrid **PUBLIC HEARING** to consider the following project:

**PROJECT:** **1350 Stratford Avenue (Burger King)** - Request for a Design Review (DR23-09) approval for a comprehensive exterior and interior remodel of the existing Burger King restaurant, including the site. The new restaurant would maintain its existing footprint, parking, and continue to utilize the drive-thru. Design Review is required for any new construction and physical improvements (DMC Section 18.11.120). As part of this Design Review, proposed signage is also being considered and will include wall signage, directional signage, and an 8-foot tall monument sign at the front of the property previous Design Review approval for this project were previously granted in 2014 and 2017, but expired since they were not built and no permits were issued.; APN: 0115-180-020; Zoning District: Highway Commercial – Planned Development (CH-PD); John Benedict, owner and applicant; File No: PA23-27, DR23-09

*The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and no environmental review will be completed. This project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption from the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines under 14 CRR Section 15302 and 15332, [Classes 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, and 32, In-fill Development]. If the Planning Commission determines that this project is in an environmentally-sensitive area, further study may be required.*

**HEARING DATE & LOCATION:** **Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm.** 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 **Scott Greeley, Associate Planner** at (707) 678-7000 ext. 1115 or [sgreeley@cityofdixon.us](mailto:sgreeley@cityofdixon.us). 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 to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the Planning Commission prior to making any decision on the application.

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 [PlanningCommission@cityofdixon.us](mailto:PlanningCommission@cityofdixon.us) or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, Planning Commission, 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 Planning Commission 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)).*

*Appeals of decisions by the Planning Commission to the City Council shall be made in person at Dixon City Hall by completing the appeal application and submitting the required fee, within 10 calendar days of a decision (Dixon Municipal Code Sections 17.01.050 or 18.40).*

*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) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.*

Dixon Independent Voice 12-29-2023



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



## DIXON POLICE LOG

### Monday, December 18

**2240 Hours** - Vandalism to a vehicle in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.

**0340 Hours** - CWS report in the 1300 block of West H Street.

**0440 Hours** - Burglary to a business in the 1000 block of North Adams.

**0500 Hours** - Burglary to a business in the 1100 block of Pitt School Road.

### Sunday, Dec. 17

No reports

### Saturday, December 16

**0332** - D.U.I and a domestic violence arrest report were taken in DPD parking lot. Officers contacted (S) Salvador Martinez of Dixon. Salvador was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.

**1037** - Late report of a theft in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue.

**1335** - Theft reported in the 1900 block of North 1st Street.

### Friday, December 15, 2023

**2311** - Vandalism report was taken in the 400 block of West Chestnut.

**0807** - Suspicious person in the 2200 block of South 5th Street. Oscar Orozco (22), of Dixon, was arrested for Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He was cited and released from the PD.

**1524** - Welfare check for a subject passed out in the driver's seat of a vehicle. Elizabeth Camara (41), of Vacaville, was arrested for DUI and Possession of a Controlled Substance. She was transported to the Solano County Jail.

### Thursday, December 14

**2054** - D.U.I./Traffic collision arrest report was taken in the 1900 block of North 1st St. Officers contacted (S) Nichole Beckus. Beckus showed objective signs of intoxication and was arrested. Beckus was cited and released to a sober adult.

**2312** - Domestic Violence arrest report was taken in the 700 block of Meadowlark Ln. Officers contacted (S) Dennis Selby of Dixon. Selby was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.

**0932** - Threats report taken in the 300 block of North Almond Street. 1104 Investigations report taken at the PD.

**1112** - Confidential report taken in the 600 block of Evans Road.

### Wednesday, December 13, 2023

**1424** - Fraud report taken in the 400 block of West Chestnut Street.

**1623** - Investigations report taken at the PD.

**1742** - Non injury traffic accident in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue.

### Tuesday, December 12, 2023

**2140 Hours** - Unlawful use of a credit card in the 1000 block of North First Street.

**2230 Hours** - Domestic violence related incident.

**2300 Hours** - Assisted CHP with BOLO of vehicle.

### Monday, December 11, 2023

**1020** - Abandoned vehicle reported in the 600 block of Meadowlark Drive.

**1115** - Restraining order violation reported in the 900 block of East A Street.



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# Fourth Annual Bumble Bee of the Year Contest Begins



Davis resident Ria deGrassi, shown at the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, won the 2023 Bumble Bee of the Year contest. Photo courtesy of UC Davis

By Kathy Keatley Garvey, UC Davis

**DAVIS, CA (MPG)** - Who will spot and photograph the first bumble bee of the year in the two-county area of Yolo and Solano?

The Bohart Museum of Entomology is sponsoring its fourth annual Robbin Thorp Memorial First-Bumble Bee-of-the-Year Contest, which begins at 12:01, Jan. 1, 2024. The first person to photograph a bumble bee in either Yolo or Solano and email it to the sponsor, the Bohart Museum, will receive a

coffee cup designed with the endangered Franklin's bumble bee, the bee that Thorp monitored on the California-Oregon border for decades.

Contest coordinator Lynn Kimsey, director of the Bohart Museum, said the image must be taken in the wild and emailed to [bmuseum@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bmuseum@ucdavis.edu), with the time, date and place.

The contest memorializes Professor Thorp (1933-2019), a global authority on bees and a UC Davis distinguished emeritus professor of entomology, who died June 7, 2019, at age 85. A 30-year member of the UC Davis faculty, he retired in 1994 but continued working until several weeks before his death. Every year he looked forward to seeing the first bumble bee of the year in the area.

The 2023 winner was Ria deGrassi of Davis, who spotted and videoed a black-tailed bumble bee *Bombus melanopygus*, foraging on a ceanothus plant on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 8 in her backyard in Davis. She recorded the video

on her cell phone at 12:32 p.m. to win the third annual contest. See her YouTube video at <http://tinyurl.com/w5n9k6c7/>.

"I was doing clean-up in my backyard after Saturday night's rain and a 50-plus mile-per-hour windstorm," said de Grassi, now an agricultural policy consultant. "The wind had subsided to a breeze by then. As I walked past my Ray Hartman ceanothus—which I purchased from a UC Davis Arboretum plant sale years ago when I did a garden makeover to be pollinator-friendly—I noticed some extra-long ceanothus branches that needed to be pruned, including some with super-early blooming flowers."

"I fumbled to retrieve my cell phone from my pocket to record, just to get in on the fun," said de Grassi. "These bumbles dart around a lot, they don't stay put for photo ops."

De Grassi knew Thorp from her professional work with the California Farm Bureau Federation and from her friendship with bee scientists Timothy Lawrence

and Susan Cobey, formerly of UC Davis.

DeGrassi, a former director of federal policy, livestock, animal health and welfare for the California Farm Bureau Federation, credits the storm, the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden and her working relationships with bee scientists, including Thorp, as having a hand in either her find and/or her interest in plants and pollinators.

The three previous winners (2022 was a tie) each photographed a bumble bee in the 100-acre UC Davis Arboretum. Coincidentally, de Grassi bought her prized ceanothus at an Arboretum plant sale.

Postdoctoral researcher Charlie Casey Nicholson of the Neal Williams lab and the Elina Lastro Niño lab, UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology, won the 2021 contest by photographing a *B. melanopygus* at 3:10 p.m., Jan. 14 in a manzanita patch in the Arboretum.

UC Davis doctoral candidate Maureen Page of the Neal Williams lab

and horticulturist Ellen Zagory, retired director of public horticulture for the Arboretum, tied for first in the 2022 contest by each photographing a bumble bee foraging on manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*) in the Arboretum at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 1.

Page, who now holds a doctorate in entomology, photographed a *B. melanopygus*, while Zagory captured an image of the yellow-faced bumble bee, *Bombus vosnesenskii*.

Thorp, a tireless advocate of pollinator species protection and conservation, co-authored two books in 2014, during his retirement: *Bumble Bees of North America: An Identification Guide* (Princeton University,) and *California Bees and Blooms: A Guide for Gardeners and Naturalists* (Heyday). Every year he looked forward to finding or seeing the first bumble bee in the area.

Thorp co-taught The Bee Course from 2002 to 2019. An intensive nine-day workshop affiliated with the American

Museum of Natural History and held annually at the Southwestern Research Station, Portal, Ariz., it draws participants from around the world, including conservation biologists, pollination ecologists, and other biologists who want to gain greater knowledge of the systematics and biology of bees.

For years, Thorp monitored Franklin's bumble bee, found only in a small range in Southern Oregon and Northern California, and now feared extinct. He last spotted it in 2006.

The bumble bee contest originated in 2012 with the "Bumble posse" of Thorp, Allan Jones, Gary Zamzow, Kim Chacon and Kathy Keatley Garvey, who engaged in a friendly contest to see who could find the first bumble bee of the year in the two-county area. The first bumble bee to emerge in the area is usually the black-tailed bumble bee, *B. melanopygus*, according to Thorp. Another early bumble bee is the yellow-faced bumble bee, *B. vosnesenskii*. ★

# Hilarity Abounds Onstage!

## Woodland Opera House News Release

**WOODLAND, CA (MPG)** - Kevin & Lorie Haarberg and Roger and Judy Kohlmeier present *The Play That Goes Wrong* at the Woodland Opera House, January 19, 2024 through February 4, 2024.

Get ready for a night of mishaps, mischief, and madcap mania! It's the opening night of the Cornley

Drama Society's newest production, "The Murder at Haversham Manor," and things have quickly gone from bad to utterly disastrous! The troupe's ambitious 1920s whodunit has everything you never want in a show: falling props, collapsing scenery, an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything... including their lines. How will this eager ensemble battle against all of

the disastrous odds? Will they make it to the final curtain call?

Presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service under license from Mischief Worldwide Ltd. The Mischief Production of *THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG* was originally produced on the West End Stage by Kenny Wax & Stage Presence and on Broadway by Kevin McCollum, J.J. Abrams, Kenny Wax & Stage Presence.

### Content Advisory:

*The Play That Goes Wrong* is a fun, play-within-a-play whodunit with comedic simulations, innuendo, and includes fighting and gun use. It is suitable for all audiences, including children ages 10 and older.

An international hit that's equal parts Monty Python and Sherlock Holmes – *The Play That Goes Wrong* is full of hilarious perfection.

### Ticket Prices

Reserved seats are \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors 62+, and \$15 for children 17 and under. Balcony tickets are \$18 for adults and \$9 for children. Flex Pass specials and group rates are available.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. at Woodland Opera House, located at 340 Second Street, Woodland, CA 95695. ★

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