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Lambtown Celebrates Competition Winners



In the Sheep Show, Bernadette Marsh (left) won the Supreme Meat Breed category with her Dorper Ewe. Photo courtesy of Lambtown Festival

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The 39th annual Lambtown Festival wrapped up Oct. 5 at the Dixon May Fairgrounds with several competition winners. Festival organizers thanked all participants and congratulated winners in the many contests that highlighted the event's celebration of wool, sheep and fiber craftsmanship.

This year's wool show drew just under 200 entries featuring breeds including Merino, Wensleydale, Shetland, California Red, Cormo, Romney, Rambouillet and Shropshire.

Amy Mendenhall earned the Grand Champion title



Cecilia Parson (left) won the Supreme Wool Breed category of the sheep show with her Shetland Ram. Photo courtesy of Lambtown Festival

with entry number 353. In Division 1 (Breeds Classes), the champion ribbon went to Terry

378) with a Romney fleece. In Division 2 (Handspinner's Classes), Amy Mendenhall (number 353) took champion honors again with a naturally colored Romney, while Emma Hill (number 393) received the reserve title for a Merino fleece.

Nearly 200 sheep competed in this year's sheep show, which featured Romney, Merino, Rambouillet, Corriedale, Dorper, Cheviot, Shetland, California Red, Columbia, Jacob, Wensleydale, Bluefaced Leicester and Valais Blacknose breeds.

Bernadette Marsh earned the Supreme Meat Breed award with a Dorper ewe

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Callison Announces Her Candidacy



As your next Assemblywoman, Callison will focus on progress that brings beneficial changes from the rolling hills, family farms, and bustling ports of Solano County to the vibrant communities across California. Photo courtesy of Callison for Assembly 2026

Callison for Assembly 2026 News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Jenny Leilani Callison, a native Californian, dedicated public servant, and US Army veteran, announced her candidacy for California State Assembly District 11, which consists of constituents within the counties of Contra Costa, Sacramento, and Solano.

Callison's candidacy announcement highlights her deep roots in the district, diverse background, and her extensive experience as a public servant, youth sports coach, and 14T PATRIOT missile launching station operator/maintainer. Her campaign focuses on key issues encompassing positive economic development, education & parental rights, and community safety. With her advanced degrees in Public Policy and English, as well as 14 years of legislative experience, including her role as Chief Consultant for the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, Jenny Leilani Callison aims to tackle bureaucratic barriers and deliver solutions.

Callison's heritage spans from Native Hawaiian and Native American to British and Irish descent. Callison's strong community connections and humble upbringing fuel her commitment to her district. Running as an independent, Callison emphasizes working across party lines to prioritize residents' needs, supporting families in California.

"California State Assembly District 11 is my birthplace and my home. I was born in Fairfield and attended school in Dixon. My first job was at KFC. After my service in the U.S. Army, I graduated from Solano Community College and from Sacramento State. I love that my family, friends, and faith are rooted here. As a mother of two children, I understand the importance of a thriving community. I will fight for policies that support the opportunities sought after for years by everyday Californians."

As your next
Continued on page 3

Haunted History Tour Brings Dark Past to Life

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The streets of downtown Dixon were filled with flickering candlelight and ghostly tales Oct. 24 and 25 as the Dixon Community Theater and the Dixon Historical Society partnered to host the inaugural Haunted History Tour.

Each night featured two sold-out tours at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., drawing 30 participants per session. Guests carried plastic candles and programs marking eight stops through Dixon's historic downtown while guides shared eerie stories from the city's past. Tours, normally led by Dixon Community Theater President Cheryl Sommers were, for the final night of the event, led by Vice President Kelly Pidgeon James and collaborator Joshua Benson.

Talks for a haunted history series began between the two organizations in 2024 but scheduling



According to Kelly Pidgeon James, who led the tour alongside Joshua Benson, the community response has exceeded expectations and they hope to repeat the event next year in a new venue. Photo by Kendall Brown

conflicts delayed the project until 2025.

"We were trying to do it last year but the workload on both our ends made it impossible," said Dixon Community Theater representative Pidgeon James,

who led Friday's tour. "So Kim (Schroeder-Evans), Cheryl (Sommers) and I decided this year we would for sure make it happen."

The tour began at the Dixon Historical Society, where James opened

with a presentation on California's violent colonial past, focusing on the 1810 massacre of the Wintun people by Spanish forces near present-day Solano County.

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Dixon Honors Veterans with Community Events and Traditions

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Each year on Nov. 11, the nation pauses to recognize the service and sacrifice of its veterans. The date holds historical importance, tracing back to the end of World War I. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, fighting in "The Great War" ceased on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, when an armistice between Allied forces and Germany took effect. The first Armistice Day was proclaimed in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson, and in 1954, the observance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all American veterans.

Locally, several events and traditions mark the holiday. The community begins its observances Nov. 7, leading up to Veterans Day Nov. 11.

American Legion Post 208 will host a Veterans Dinner at 6 p.m. Nov. 7, at American Legion Veterans Hall, 1305 N. First St. The event features a barbecue dinner with tri-tip, chicken and sides for \$25 per guest. The bar opens at 4 p.m., with dinner served at 6 p.m. Proceeds support local veterans programs. For more information, visit the post's Facebook page or call 707-678-6308.

Also on Nov. 7, Dixon High School will hold its annual Veterans Day Rally at 11:14 a.m. in the school gym, 555 College Way. The rally will include games,



Dixon High School will hold its annual Veterans Day Rally at 11:14 a.m. in the school gym, 555 College Way. The rally will include games, music and presentations from active-duty members of the U.S. armed forces. Photo by Nicolas Brown

music and presentations from active-duty members of the U.S. armed forces.

On Veterans Day itself, Mountain Mike's Pizza, 1700 N. First St., will host an all-day Dine & Donate event benefiting Dixon High School. A portion of all sales from dine-in, takeout and call-in orders will be donated to support student programs. Patrons are encouraged to mention Dixon High School when ordering.

Community members will also honor veterans at Silveyville Cemetery, 800 S. First St., with the annual Veterans Day Flag Placement. Boy Scout Troop 152, Cub Scouts Pack 253 and local families will gather from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 8 to place flags on the graves of veterans. Volunteers will return at 4 p.m. Nov. 12 to retrieve the flags.

For those seeking quiet reflection, the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, 5810 Midway Road, will be open for visitation from

sunrise to sunset throughout the holiday. Though no formal ceremony is planned, visitors can explore the Veterans Legacy Memorial, a digital platform allowing tributes, photos and biographical information to be shared online.

Preparations are also underway for the cemetery's annual Wreath Project in December. Volunteers will be needed to unload trucks Dec. 12, and to place holiday boughs beginning at 7:30 a.m. Dec. 13. The project, organized by RememberAVet.net, aims to cover all 38,000 graves with wreaths. Donations can be made at gofundme.com or mailed to RememberAVet.net, P.O. Box 773, Winters.

Veterans Day remains a time for Dixon residents to come together in appreciation of the men and women who have served the nation through community service, remembrance and tradition. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Solano-Yolo Rugby Club is hosting two training camps Nov. 22 and Dec. 6. Held in Hall Park, 450 Hall Park Dr., the free camps will teach 3rd- to 12th-grade boys and girls the basics of rugby. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By MPG Staff

G3 Team vs. Team Submission Grappling Tournament

Gladiators of the Third Millennium, in partnership with Dixon High School Rams' Vault, is hosting a Team versus Team grappling competition from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 15. Held at Dixon Performing Arts Center, 555 College Way, the event offers a series of high-level Brazilian jiu-jitsu and grappling martial arts competitions among competitors from around the world. Tickets are \$30 per person.

For more information, visit @g3millennium on Instagram or call Team Alpha at 707-353-0442.

Ryukyukan Returns

The 24th annual Ryukyukan International Karate and Kobudo tournament, organized by Ramtown Karate, returns at 8 a.m. Nov. 8. Held in the Dixon High School Gymnasium, 555 College Way, the event is significant in the martial arts community, celebrating the traditions of Okinawan and Japanese Karate. The tournament begins at 9:30 a.m., and the knockdown weigh-in begins at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, visit ramtownkarate.com/tournament/ or call 707-678-4899.

Dixon Library Book Club

Dixon Library is hosting its monthly morning book club meeting from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 13. The morning book club is a monthly, adult-oriented group that will be reading "The Housemaid" by Freida McFadden. Coffee and tea will be provided for attendees, and the meeting itself will be in the library's front room, 230 N. First St.

For more information, visit solanolibrary.com or call 1-866-572-7587.

Autumn Breeze Car Show

Farmstead at Dixon is hosting a car show from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 8. Held at Farmstead, 350 Gateway Dr., the free event will include car exhibits, refreshments and local vendors. All ages are welcome. Car and vendor entrants should email rsvp@farmsteadatdixon.com or call 707-676-5060.

For more information, visit farmsteadatdixon.com or email Info@farmsteadatdixon.com.

Veterans Dinner

American Legion Post 208 is hosting a Veterans Dinner at 6 p.m. Nov. 7. The dinner, held at The American Legion Veterans Hall, 1305 N. First St., offers a BBQ dinner for \$25 per guest. Entrees include tri-tip and chicken with sides. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., but the bar opens at 4 p.m..

For more information, visit American Legion Post 208's Facebook page or call 707-678-6308.

"Mommy or Daddy and Me" Cookie Class

Every Baking Moment is hosting a "Mommy or Daddy and Me" Thanksgiving

Cookie Class at 10 a.m. Nov. 22. Held at the shop, 143 N. First St., the 90-minute session costs \$40 and includes all necessary supplies. Instructor Renee will lead the class, and space is limited.

To register, call or text 707-693-0112. For more information, visit everybakingmoment.com.

Joystick's One-Year Anniversary

Joystick Gaming Lounge will celebrate its one-year anniversary from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Nov. 15. Hosted on location, 420 Gateway Drive, Suite C, the event will include a 1 p.m. ribbon cutting, performances by Dixon Dance Studio at 2:30 p.m. and Ramtown Karate at 4 p.m., along with food trucks, arcade specials, retail discounts and prize giveaways.

For more information, visit joystick-dixon.com or call 707-676-5697.

Rugby Camps

Solano-Yolo Rugby Club is hosting two training camps Nov. 22 and Dec. 6. Held in Hall Park, 450 Hall Park Dr., the free camps will teach 3rd- to 12th-grade boys and girls the basics of rugby. No experience is necessary, but only kids and adolescents from Solano and Yolo counties are eligible. Organizers implore attendees to bring cleats and water. Camps are scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 22 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 6.

For more information, visit solanoyolrugbyclub@gmail.com.

Dixon Girls Softball Registration

Dixon Girls Softball has opened registration for the Spring 2026 season. Early registration ended Oct. 31, but regular registration began Nov. 1 and lasts until Dec. 31. Regular registration costs \$225. Dixon Girls Softball is also looking for dedicated and enthusiastic coaches to join their 12U Travel and 10U Select teams for the upcoming season.

For more information or to register, visit dixongirlssoftball.com or email infor@dixongirlssoftball.com. Coaching applications are available on the Dixon Girls Softball Facebook page.

A Magical Victorian Christmas

The City of Dixon, in partnership with the Downtown Dixon Business Association (DDBA), is hosting yuletide festivities in the downtown area from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 6. The event will include a stationary parade of Christmas floats and tractors, a special appearance from Santa, live music, train rides, vendors and the tree lighting at 7 p.m. in Women's Improvement Park, 220 N. Jefferson St. Notably, First Street/CA 113 will be closed between East C Street to East Mayes throughout the event.

For more information, visit downtown-dixonca.com or call 707-678-8400. ★

Downtown Halloween Hunt and Trunk-or-Treat for Families

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Downtown Dixon was filled with costumed families, decorated storefronts and community spirit Oct. 31 during the city's annual Halloween Hunt and Trunk or Treat events.

The Halloween Hunt took place from 1 to 4 p.m. in the downtown district, where local businesses opened their doors to trick-or-treaters. Many stores offered candy, games and special Halloween deals. Members of the Downtown Dixon Business Association (DDBA) and volunteers transformed the area with cobwebs, pumpkins and festive window displays to create a spooky, family-friendly atmosphere. Crossing guards were stationed at every intersection to ensure participants' safety.

Businesses large and small joined in the celebration. Nino Tomelloso, owner of Nino's Cut and Shave, said he has participated for 12 years.

"I love it," said Tomelloso. "I love seeing the kids dress up, handing out candy and seeing our clients."

At The Venue, co-owner Beri Gonzalez said she and her team enjoyed seeing the excitement.

"We're happy to participate in the day's events and see the kids," said Gonzalez. "We have great decorations inside for people to stop by and take pictures."

Nearby, Dawson's bartender Amber Jennings said Halloween is always a favorite time of year.

"We love it," said Jennings. "It's one of our favorite holidays, and it's right down here so we can see all the kids' cool costumes."

Community organizations also took part in the festivities. The Dixon Library hosted its first-ever haunted maze from noon to 2 p.m. Library representative Ricky Gjertsen said it was designed with help from volunteers.

"The maze is something we came up with in the early part of summer," said Gjertsen. "It's been a phenomenal experience, and a lot of kids who've been through it said it's fantastic."

According to Gjertsen, the library also distributed candy, pencils, temporary tattoos, stickers and flyers for upcoming November events.

"It helps connect us to the local community," said Gjertsen. "People who don't come to the library see us out here with our event swag, and it makes us accessible."

The Dixon Historical Society also participated. The museum joined in with a trivia card giveaway where participants could answer questions at the museum for a chance to win more than \$100 worth of merchandise in December.

First responders joined in the fun as well, handing out candy and interacting with the community they serve. According to Lt. Jenna Cameron of the Dixon Police Department,



Members of the Downtown Dixon Business Association (DDBA) and volunteers transformed the area with cobwebs, pumpkins and festive window displays to create a spooky, family-friendly atmosphere. Photo by Nicolas Brown

officers enjoy being visible and approachable during community events.

"We've been doing this for years," said Cameron. "So the community knows that we're here. You can come up and talk to officers, and the little kids love to see us."

Vice President Ricky Rodarte of the Dixon Firefighters Charitable Fund says his group has participated for about eight years.

"Being a firefighter is not just about running calls," said Rodarte. "It's about being part of the community. Not just on-the-clock, but off-duty guys are out here to give something back."

Several students volunteered to pass out candy at the event for community service hours and outreach purposes.

"We have to do five community hours each month for our Gov. and Econ class," said Dixon High School student Giselle Leon.

Leon was joined by Yvette Gutierrez, a member of the high school's Future Farmers of America (FFA) program.

"On the FFA side, we're trying to do more outreach in the community, especially with younger kids," said Gutierrez.

Just a few blocks away, the Dixon Chamber of Commerce hosted its Trunk or Treat from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Chamber parking lot, 220 N. Jefferson St. The event featured decorated car trunks, free candy, glow sticks, pumpkin decorating and music.

Chamber manager Sara Echarte said the event saw strong participation.

"I'm very excited," said Echarte. "We've had 16 Chamber members participate this year, which is more than last year. It should be very successful."

Dixon residents Lisa Vinnard and Cynthia Salter said they come every year.

As dusk settled over downtown, Dixon's Halloween celebrations once again showcased the city's strong sense of community, where neighbors, businesses and families came together to share in the spirit of the season. ★

Farm Programs 101 and Emerging Commodities Offered

MPG Staff

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Dixon and Solano Resource Conservation Districts will host Farm Programs 101 and Emerging Commodities from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 13 at the American Legion Hall, 1305 N. First St., Dixon.

The event will provide information about free and low-cost programs available to local farmers, ranchers and landowners.

Attendees will also hear presentations on emerging agricultural commodities, including Dorper sheep and agave.

Light refreshments, including donuts, fruit, coffee and water, will be provided. Presentations will be offered in both English and Spanish.

Participants can register online at www.dixonrcd.org/farm-programs-101.

For more information, contact Martha McKeen at 707-678-1655, extension 103, or email martha-mckeen@dixonrcd.org. ★

Ava Brady is Soroptimist's Young Woman of the Month

Lambtown Celebrates Competition Winners



The Ag Science Department at Dixon High School selected Ava Brady (center) as the October Young Woman of the Month. Brady is joined, from left, Dixon High School teachers Maria Torres and Georgia Fedler, and Soroptimist International of Dixon President Barbara Rigdon. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Dixon

Soroptimist International of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Ag Science Department at Dixon High School selected Ava Brady as the October Young Woman of the Month.

Georgia Fedler and Maria Torres, both teachers in the Ag Science Department, presented Brady at the Oct. 16 Soroptimist meeting.

Fedler has had the opportunity to get to know Brady well as Fedler has coached her in public speaking and in ag leadership. Fedler noted how Brady "directs and delegates," "commands a room with grace and kindness" and "she is going to excel in everything she does."

Brady is the daughter of Aaron Brady and Jeannette Rotz. Brady is the youngest of three siblings and has lived in Dixon since she was 4 months old.

Brady's contributions to Team Dixon are what she is most proud of. She has been involved with Team Dixon for five years and "made some amazing connections," including

one with her current buddy, Michael, and his family. Michael has inspired Brady to never give up, even when every voice around her is saying to give up. Michael also gives her the strength to approach new experiences willingly, with an open and joyful heart.

Brady has always had an inclination or passion toward animals. She has been very involved in Future Farmers of America's (FFA) agricultural aspects, such as raising animals, and also fine-tuning her public speaking skills.

Other hobbies of Brady include hunting, camping and hiking, reading, drawing, traveling and dancing. She is also involved in school sports.

Brady's future plan is to become a large animal veterinarian serving rural communities. She hopes to attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Soroptimist International of Dixon members wish Brady the best in her future pursuits. We hope that she continues to dedicate her life to service with grace and kindness. There is no doubt that Brady will excel in everything she does. ★



The Make it With Wool Fashion Competition had five winners. (L-R): Christine Knobel won the Wearable Accessories category, Debbi Nakahara won the Adult category, Hailee Luiz won the Junior category, Marissa Sanchez won the Senior category and Avery Niles won the Pre-Teen category. Photo courtesy of Lambtown Festival

Continued from page 1

and Cecilia Parson received the Supreme Wool Breed award with a Shetland ram.

The Sheep to Shawl Competition returned in full swing with six teams competing in the Fairgrounds Division. The Coven team captured the Grand Champion title and placed first in both the Fairgrounds and Virtual divisions. Hangtown Fiber Miners took second place in the Fairgrounds Division.

A record 80 entries were submitted in the Skeins and Textiles Competition. Sarah Grobman (Textiles number 28) was named Grand Champion. People's Choice Awards went to Andrea McCann (Skeins number 18) for skeins and Lucelle Hoefnagels (textiles number 18) for textiles.

In the Skeins category, winners included Bridgette Million (Skeins number 10) in 100% Wool, Andrea McCann (Skeins number 19) in Wool Blend and McCann again sweeping the Other Protein Fibers class.

In Textiles, Grobman led the Crochet-Commercial Yarn division, while



Nearly 200 sheep competed in this year's sheep show, representing a multitude of breeds. Photo courtesy of Lambtown Festival

Heather Rose won Crochet-Handspun. Holly Higgins topped Knit-Commercial Yarn (Tops), and Nina Groleger won Knit-Commercial Yarn (Accessories). Hoefnagels placed first in Knit-Handspun Yarn, Chris Lombardi led Woven-Commercial Yarn, and the Silverado Spinners team won Woven-Handspun Yarn (Group Made). Sara Powell took first and third in Felted Items.

The second annual Make It with Wool contest saw nearly 40% more

entries this year. Winners included Christine Knobel in Wearable Accessories, Debbi Nakahara in Adult, Hailee Luiz in Junior, Marissa Sanchez in Senior and Avery Niles in Pre-Teen categories.

The 40th annual Lambtown Festival will be held from Oct. 3 to Oct. 4, 2026, giving interested parties time to prepare for the competitions. Workshops will begin Oct. 1.

For more information about the festival, visit lambtown.org or email info@lambtown.org. ★

Shooting on South First Street

Dixon Police Department News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - On Oct. 31 at approximately 11:55 p.m., the Dixon Police Department received a call of a shooting in the 100 block of South First Street. Officers arrived on scene at 11:57 p.m. and located a 36-year-old male with a gunshot wound. Officers administered first aid to the victim

until the Dixon Fire Department arrived on scene. The victim was transported to a local hospital and is in stable condition.

The suspect was wearing a mask and black clothing. This is an active and ongoing investigation. Anyone who witnessed the incident or who may have information is urged to contact the Dixon Police Department at 707-678-7080 or investigations@dixonpoliceca.gov. ★

Haunted History Tour Brings Dark Past to Life

Continued from page 1

"After three days, the tribe had been entirely massacred," James told attendees, recounting the survival of 11-year-old Sina, later known as Chief Francisco Solano.

From there, guests stopped at Frosty's to learn about the rise and fall of Silveyville, the town that preceded Dixon, before continuing to Nino's for the tale of the 1897 Belew family poisonings.

Other stops included the former Dixon Fire Department site, where a 19th-century murder occurred, and First Northern Bank, once home to Dixon's oldest building, where employees reportedly encounter a ghost named Bill.

At each stop, participants used electromagnetic field meters (EMF) readers to detect possible paranormal activity. Spikes were reportedly recorded near the Carnegie Library basement and the railroad crossing known locally as "the Hoodoo Crossing," the site of a 1925 train crash that killed nine men.

Stories also included accounts from the

Olde Vets Hall, once home to a mortuary; the McCune Mansion, said to have flickering lights and moving curtains; and Pardi Plaza, where tunnels once connected the former Palace Hotel to nearby businesses and brothels.

According to James, the community response exceeded expectations.

"We've sold out completely of all the tours," said James. "It's been very popular, which is really nice and reaffirming."

Pidgeon James said that both organizations plan to continue the event next year.

"With the popularity of this one, we have to add to it," said James. "Maybe do something in the cemetery or another location in town."

Organizers said they hope the Haunted History Tour will become an annual tradition highlighting Dixon's complex and sometimes chilling past.

For more information, visit dixoncommunitytheater.org or dixonhistoricalsociety.org. ★

Callison Announces Her Candidacy

Continued from page 1

Assemblywoman, Callison will focus on progress that brings beneficial changes from the rolling hills, family farms, and bustling ports of Solano County to the vibrant communities across California. With her extensive and diverse background, she brings a fresh voice to the State Capitol, determined to achieve real results and practical solutions requested by

constituents.

Join Jenny Leilani Callison in reclaiming California's promise. Volunteer, donate, or simply spread the word—because together, we build a brighter future.

For more on Callison's platform and upcoming events, visit callison2026.com and follow her on Facebook and other social media platforms at Jenny Leilani Callison for State Assembly. ★

"KEEP DIXON GREEN" FALL FUNDRAISER DINNER

Join us for a fun evening of dinner, music, raffle prizes, silent auction & good Company

Friday, Nov. 7th, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
 Pedro's Cocina - 1425 Market Lane, Dixon, CA
 Tickets at: keepdixongreen.com

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am writing out of concern for a structural conflict of interest that exists when a city contracts with a law firm for legal advice. As a former city attorney for Redwood City, Pleasanton, San Mateo, and Brentwood, I am familiar with duties and obligations of an attorney providing legal advice to a city. I believe that there is inherent conflict of interest when a law firm advises a city and then represents the city in subsequent litigation resulting from the advice. The law firm should not benefit from representing the city in litigation for not resolving the matter before litigation is filed or benefitting from bad advice. If the contract city attorney provides incorrect or questionable legal advice, there may be little incentive to settle the matter before litigation. This turns legal guidance into more billable hours.

Conflict of interest laws are only the minimum standards to which public servants are required to comply. The highest standard of ethical conduct should be the only acceptable duty of a city attorney. If a contract city attorney submits an invoice for services, it is likely only the city attorney reviews it. Does an outside professional review it? Was the original contract for legal services submitted for review by another attorney? Does the city council seek a second opinion after litigation is filed?

Public ethical standards are set of core values that are not defined or enforced by

laws. They are expectations imposed by the citizens of their public servants and go above the requirements of the law and act in the manner that is in the best interests of the city. There should be wall between the legal advice and any subsequent litigation at a minimum.

For example, in the City of Patterson where I reside, a contract city attorney from the firm White Brenner LLP serves as legal counsel and represents Patterson in every litigation filed against the city in the last ten years. Recently White Brenner's September 2025 invoice was submitted to Patterson City Council in an amount more than \$285,000 or about \$10,000 per day. It should be noted that its annual billing for a city of approximately 25,000 people was over \$1 million.

There is an easy solution. A city who is spending over \$1 million annually should hire as a city employee a lawyer who is dedicated exclusively to advising the City and protects the city's interests.

There would be no question of conflict of interest.

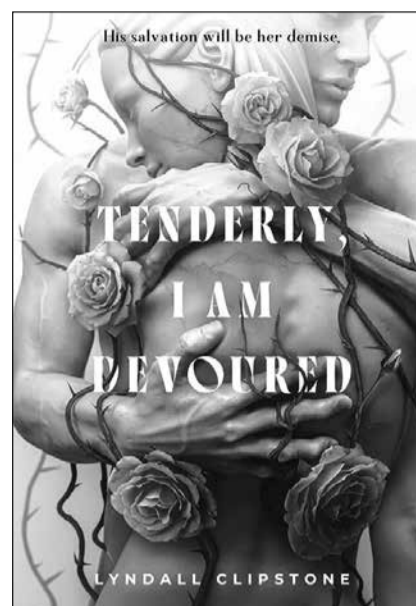
The city with a contract city attorney such as your city deserved a better system to provide legal advice and a public servant that works for them and not for increased billable hours.

Dennis Beougher, Patterson



Tenderly I Am Devoured by Lyndall Clipstone

Lacrimosa (Lark) Arriscane thought her life was over after being expelled from her prestigious boarding school. First, there was the incident that got her expelled, and now her family is on the edge of financial ruin. To make things even worse, her brothers owe money to the town's wealthiest family, and they have come to collect. As soon as she learns that their method of collecting is in the form of her childhood friend, Alastair, everything



◆ Publisher: Henry Holts
◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult

changes. The only way she can see fit to save them all is to promise herself with a marriage of convince to Therion, a sea god worshipped by her coastal town.

But binding herself to a sea god to save her family is not the quick save she expected it to be, and when her ceremony fails, everything quickly begins to fade., including her. Now, Lark has to put her trust in her former love, Alastair, and his sister, Camille. Their journey is not just about saving lives, but about rediscovering their own. As they take desperate measures to try and release their hold, their reconnection starts to take on a different, more profound meaning.

Now Lark, Alastair and Camille's only hope is to dig deep within their town's folklore to try and find answers, but there is something that lies even deeper: Lark's budding feelings for both Alastair and Camille. When their only

hope to save themselves and their little coastal town is to perform a ritual, they immediately take action, hoping that it will close the rift between Lark and Therion, but little do they know they are about to unlock something that can't be undone.

Dangling just on the edge of the unknown, Tenderly I am Devoured is the moody gothic romance, perfect for a cold fall afternoon. Dancing between timelines, this story takes read-

ers between Lark's time at school and that of the present, which opens up to even more depth to Lark's character and her actions. Lyndall Clipstone strikes a beautiful balance between folklore, storytelling, and originality, creating a whole new world that also nestles into our world. For fans of A Study in Drowning and House of Salt and Sorrows, this gothic tale told by the sea is a beautiful echo of coastal towns and what one would sacrifice to save their family. While rekindling old friendships and discovering new flames, Clipstone once again finds a lovely harmony of love, desire, and longing.

Lyndall Clipstone's beautiful writing highlights the pages, while her readers will once again be wrapped within her beautiful prose. Soft but unyielding, this story highlights the power of love in all of its angles, as well as family, friendship, and finding where one belongs. ★

Riley Reviews

“JOHN CANDY: I LIKE ME” THE BITTERSWEET STORY OF A BELOVED MAN



A Film and TV Review
by Tim Riley

“JOHN CANDY: I LIKE ME”
Rated PG-13

More than thirty years after his passing, beloved comedian and actor John Candy finally gets his due in the respectful documentary “John Candy: I Like Me” that covers his life in his own words and those of family, friends, and colleagues.

Fans of the Canadian thespian, who got his start in Toronto's “The Second City” and the “SCTV” television series, will get a better idea of his on-screen persona reflecting much of his own everyman warmth and self-effacing charm in this Amazon Prime Video biopic.

How did this film arrive at the subtitle “I Like Me,” you ask? Steve Martin, his co-star in “Trains, Planes & Automobiles,” in his role of Dale Neal unloaded a truckload of insults as he grew weary of Candy's Del Griffith, a shower-curtain-ring salesman's endless blather.

The scene is played here, where Dale says to Del, “I mean, didn't you notice on the plane when you started talking, eventually I started reading the vomit bag? Didn't that give you some sort of clue, like, hey, maybe this guy's not enjoying it?”

The look on Del's face exposed real hurt, as he then retorted, “I like me. My wife likes me. My customers like me, 'cause I'm the real deal. I'm the real article. What you see is what you get.”

What Candy's character says to Steve Martin's really sums up what a parade of show business colleagues, family and friends reveal about the comedian. What everyone saw with Candy was the sweet nature of an agreeable, warmhearted person devoid of artifice and guile.

In the opening scene, Bill Murray, another co-star in “Stripes,” says, “I wish I had some bad things to say about him,” and then relays to director Colin Hanks his wish that this project would turn to “some people who've got some dirt on him.”

Either the director and the production team couldn't locate malcontents, or they just couldn't locate malcontents or aggrieved parties to satisfy Murray's whim. Judging by the good things said of Candy by so many, the latter was the obvious result.

Befitting a documentary focused on the life of one man, the films include plenty of home videos, pictures straight out of family albums, and a plethora of film clips that lead to fond memories.

An apparent page out of a yearbook has

Candy labeled as “The Pink Panther,” and it would be nice to know the meaning of this reference. Did it have anything to do with the Peter Sellers film, and was that British actor an influence on his comedy?

Anecdotes throughout the film divulge some interesting tidbits. Apparently according to a friend, during the Vietnam War, Candy wanted to enlist in the U.S. Army and visited Buffalo to see if he was eligible, only to be rejected due a knee injury suffered playing football in school.

The late Roger Ebert, at the time of a 1981 release of a film starring Bill Murray joined by Candy, mentioned that at least one summer film would be “irreverent, gross-out, anarchistic, slapstick comedy, and this summer it is ‘Stripes.’”

Clips from that zany military comedy show Candy's self-effacing humor as he tells other recruits that he has “a slight weight problem,” and that a doctor told him that he “swallows a lot of aggression with a lot of pizzas.”

As a student at Harvard while president of “National Lampoon,” Conan O'Brien, desiring to have comedy heroes visit the university, convinced Candy to participate in a big montage of his film clips, where he “filled the room with his aura. He was expansive and joyful.”

That Candy was willing to nurture talent was revealed by O'Brien admitting to the comedian that he was interested in trying comedy, and Candy replied, “You don't try it. You either do it or you don't do it. You don't try it, kid.” The idea of going all in or not at all is good advice in many fields.

Tragedy in his own family affected Candy deeply, as it is revealed that his father died of a heart attack on the day of his fifth birthday, leaving him in a state of confusion and possibly a sense of dread. Candy died of a heart attack at the age of 43 while filming in Mexico.

From Steve Martin, it was interesting to learn that director and writer John Hughes (“Home Alone”) wrote characters specifically for Candy, referencing “Uncle Buck.”

This review of “John Candy: I Like Me” only scratches the surface of the remarkable life of a man and legend, as there is much divulged by fellow actors like Martin Short, Catherine O'Hara, Tom Hanks, Dan Aykroyd, and Eugene Levy, among others.

We cannot leave out the memories shared by his widow Rose Candy, nor those of his children, Christopher and Jennifer, who share more intimate details of growing up with a loving father who was often absent due to his work. Fans of John Candy will be edified. ★

Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+ is Here



Dixon Family Services is partnering again with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments to get the word out about the draft plan for Plan Bay Area 2025, what it is and the several opportunities for public input and participation. Photo courtesy of Dixon Family Services

Dixon Family Services News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Family Services is partnering again with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments to get the word out about the Plan Bay Area 2025 draft plan, what it is and the several opportunities for public input and participation.

After more than two years of public discussion, technical analysis and refinement, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments have released Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+ for review and comment. The plan contains 35 strategies representing public policies and investments that can be implemented in the Bay Area by 2050 to help the region build more homes, reduce commute times and create vibrant downtowns and natural areas for everyone to enjoy. The plan's strategies also aim to keep people safe from natural hazards, support a strong economy and provide stable housing for those who need it most.

Unique to this plan cycle is the parallel Transit 2050+ planning effort, which re-envision the future of Bay Area public transit, in partnership with transit operators in the region.

The Draft Plan, along with the Draft Implementation Plan and various supplemental reports, are all available for review and comment.

Read Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+ and the supplemental reports at planbayarea.org/draft-plan and submit your comments by 5 p.m. Dec. 18.

The public is invited to participate in a series of upcoming webinars and public hearings to provide input on the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+.

The first webinar focusing on the South Bay was set for Oct. 30 after press time.

A second webinar, focusing on the East Bay, will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5. The Zoom link is <https://bit.ly/eastbay-webinar> with Webinar ID 869 8283 4999 and passcode 682098. Participants can also call 888-788-0099 (U.S. toll-free).

The first public hearing will be held jointly with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Planning Committee and the Association of Bay Area Governments Administrative Committee at 9:40 a.m. Friday Nov. 14 at the Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale St., San Francisco. The meeting will also be accessible via Zoom. Note that the meeting start time might vary.

A second public hearing will take place at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3 at the Olive Hyde Art Center and Gallery, 123 Washington Blvd., Fremont. Participants can also attend online via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/drafthearing2> using Webinar ID 875 7625 3306 and passcode 178983. To join by phone, call 888-788-0099 (U.S. toll-free).

The third public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4 at the Best Western Plus Novato Oaks Inn, 215 Alameda del Prado, Novato. The hearing will also be available via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/drafthearing3> with Webinar ID 898 0347 9624. Participants can also join by phone at 888-788-0099 (U.S. toll-free).

The public can submit written comments through the online comment form at planbayarea.org/draftplan, by emailing info@planbayarea.org with the subject line “Draft Plan” or by mailing comments to Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Attn: Public Engagement, 375 Beale St., Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Comments can also be shared by leaving a voicemail at the Plan Bay Area public information line at 415-778-2292. ★

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MEMORIAL

ESTELA B. MAYORAL • 10/03/1934 – 10/22/2025

Estela B. Mayoral was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, daughter and sister. She passed away peacefully at her home in Dixon, California, on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, surrounded by love.

Born on October 3, 1934, in San Miguel, Mexico, to Juan and Loreto Bermudez, Estela lived a life filled with compassion, faith, and family. In her early years, she met the love of her life, James Mayoral, with whom she exchanged heartfelt letters across the miles for many years. Their love story culminated in marriage on August 10, 1958, in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico. Shortly thereafter, Estela moved to the United States, where she and Jim built a beautiful life together in Dixon.

Estela and Jim were blessed with two children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandson.



For more than 28 years, Estela dedicated herself to education, working as a bilingual aide for the Dixon Unified School District. She was deeply loved by her students and colleagues alike for her warmth, patience and kindness.

After retiring, Estela cherished traveling with her husband and spending time with her family.

She found joy in the simple pleasures of life - sharing stories, cooking traditional meals and laughing with those she loved most.

Estela is survived by her children, Rosemary (Gustavo) Martin del Campo and James (Gloria) Mayoral; her grandchildren, Gustavo Martin del Campo Jr., Gabriel Martin del Campo, Madeline Mayoral and James (Nyny) Mayoral; her great-grandson Joshua; her brother Enrique; sisters Alicia, Graciela and Tuly. She also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews who will forever remember her love and generosity.

A viewing will be held on November 11 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at Milton Carpenter Funeral Home with the funeral mass to be celebrated on November 12 at 10:00 a.m. Interment to follow at the Silveyville Cemetery.

Montessori Charter School Continues Award-Winning Tradition



Dixon Montessori Charter School, 355 N. Almond St., has announced that it continues to outperform state averages in both reading and math, underscoring its ongoing commitment to academic excellence and whole-child education. Photo by Debra Dingman

Dixon Montessori Charter School News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Montessori Charter School has announced that it continues to outperform state averages in both reading and math, underscoring its ongoing commitment to academic excellence and whole-child education.

According to recent performance data, Dixon Montessori Charter students scored 14% higher in math and 11% higher in reading than the California state averages.

“We are extremely proud of our students, teachers and families for their hard work and dedication,” said Ben Ernest, Executive Director of Dixon Montessori Charter School. “These results demonstrate the strength of our community and our commitment to individualized, Montessori-based learning that helps every child thrive.”

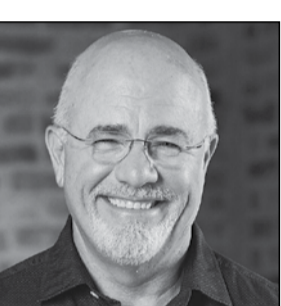
The school, located at 355 North Almond St. in Dixon, serves 468 students in grades K-8 with a student-teacher ratio of 24:1. The staff includes 20 full-time teachers, three intervention teachers, one ELD teacher and a full-time school counselor.

Dixon Montessori Charter combines Montessori and project-based Learning (PBL) methods with standards-based instruction, giving students a hands-on, inquiry-driven education while meeting rigorous state benchmarks. The school emphasizes academic excellence, emotional growth and social responsibility through its Montessori framework and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program.

“Our goal is to nurture the curiosity and confidence of every student,” added Ernest. “When we see students excelling above state averages, it’s a clear reflection of the power of this approach and the dedication of our teachers.”

Dixon Montessori Charter School is a tuition-free public charter school authorized by Dixon Unified School District. It continues to be recognized as one of the region’s most innovative K-8 schools, blending traditional Montessori philosophy with a data-driven approach to ensure student success.

For more information about enrollment or upcoming events, visit www.dixonmontessori.org or call (707) 678-8953. ★



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says Nothing Can Make You Happier... Or Scare You More

Dear Dave,

My wife and I recently learned she’s pregnant. She’s about to begin her second trimester, and we’re both really excited. There is a bit of concern, though. During a detailed ultrasound, the doctor found an issue that might mean our baby could need minor surgery soon after delivery. Financially, we’re in Baby Step 2 of your plan. With the extra bills after the baby’s born, should we save money in a sinking fund for the added expenses while we continue paying off debt?

– Jared

Dear Jared,

Congratulations on the new baby! I know you’re both probably on an emotional rollercoaster right now, what with the pregnancy and the possibility

of surgery for your little one. Make sure you pray and hug on each other a lot in the days ahead, okay? Doctors can do all kinds of incredible things, but including God in any equation is a good idea.

Now, should you start a sinking fund for the delivery and any extra expenses while you’re trying to pay off debt? No. When a baby’s on the way, I always recommend folks press pause—not stop—on the Baby Steps and start piling up as much cash as possible. Then, when mom and the baby come home, we pay the bills, push play on the Baby Steps and get back to work on the debt snowball.

Concentrate on building the biggest pile of cash you can over the next several months. And don’t worry about how big that pile of cash gets. There’s no such thing as too big in this case, because after you pay everything insurance doesn’t

cover, you’ll put anything that’s left over right back into paying off debt.

You’re learning something early on about being a parent, Jared. There’s nothing in the world that can make you happier—or scare you more—than a baby. I’m praying for you and your family. And I hope that little one is born happy, and healthy and perfect.

God bless you all.

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling 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. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001450
The following persons are doing business as: Brighton Company, 56 Brighton Drive, Vallejo, CA 94591.

Jennifer Bulosan, 56 Brighton Drive, Vallejo, CA 94591.
Date filed in Solano County: September 25, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. 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 October 17, 2025. 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: Oct 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 2025
BRIGHTON 11-7-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001516
The following persons are doing business as: Mak Dental, 480 Redwood Street, Suite 13, Vallejo, CA 94590.
Dental Office of Mounir N. Guirguis DDS, Inc., 4424 Winterberry Court, Concord, CA 94521.
Date filed in Solano County: October 14, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 1, 2016
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 October 16, 2030. 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: Oct 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, 2025
NORCAL 11-21-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001550
The following persons are doing business as: Tally Ho Bookkeeping Services, 360 Ostergard Aly, Dixon, CA 95620. Derolyn Rene Ostergard, 360 Ostergard Aly, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: October 21, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. 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 October 20, 2030. 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: Oct 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, 2025
TALLY 11-21-25

doing business as: Little Spool House, 810 June Court, Dixon, CA 95620. Brooke Cancas, 810 June Court, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: October 16, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2025
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. 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 October 16, 2030. 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: Oct 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, 2025
NORCAL 11-21-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001531
The following persons are doing business as: Neighborhood Christian School, 955 E A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Norcal Christian Schools Inc, 955 E A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: October 17, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 1979
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 October 16, 2030. 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: Oct 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, 2025
NORCAL 11-21-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001464
The following persons are doing business as: Legacy Creative Productions, 225 Fair Oaks Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688. Legacy Creative Productions LLC, 225 Fair Oaks Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688. Date filed in Solano County: September 29, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. 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 September 28, 2030. 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: November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025
LEGACY 11-28-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001464
The following persons are doing business as: Legacy Creative Productions, 225 Fair Oaks Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688. Legacy Creative Productions LLC, 225 Fair Oaks Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688. Date filed in Solano County: September 29, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
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LEGACY 11-28-25

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Publish: November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025
LEGACY 11-28-25

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU25-09118
Lourdes Maria De Herrera filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Lourdes Maria De Herrera

must be filed before the expiration October 15, 2030. 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: Oct 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, 2025
LITTLE 11-21-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001464
The following persons are doing business as: Legacy Creative Productions, 225 Fair Oaks Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688. Legacy Creative Productions LLC, 225 Fair Oaks Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688. Date filed in Solano County: September 29, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. 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 September 28, 2030. 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: November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025
LEGACY 11-28-25

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU25-09118
Lourdes Maria De Herrera filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Lourdes Maria De Herrera

aka Lourdes Maria De Soto to Lourdes Maria Herrera
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 11, 2025, 8:30 a.m. Department 8, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Wendy Getty
Dated: October 15, 2025
Publish: November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025
HERRERA 11-28-25

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF RUSTY HOWARD NAGLE CASE NO. PR25-00292
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Rusty Howard Nagle.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Julie Ann Wanderstadt, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting Julie Ann Wanderstadt be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted

unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: December 17, 2025, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 5; Room; 301 Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 600 Union Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: Julie Ann Wanderstadt, 725 West F Street, Dixon, CA 95620; 916-585-2872
Publish: November 7, 14, 21, 2025
NAGLE 11-21-25

unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: December 17, 2025, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 5; Room; 301 Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 600 Union Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.

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Publish: November 7, 14, 21, 2025
NAGLE 11-21-25



COMICS & PUZZLES

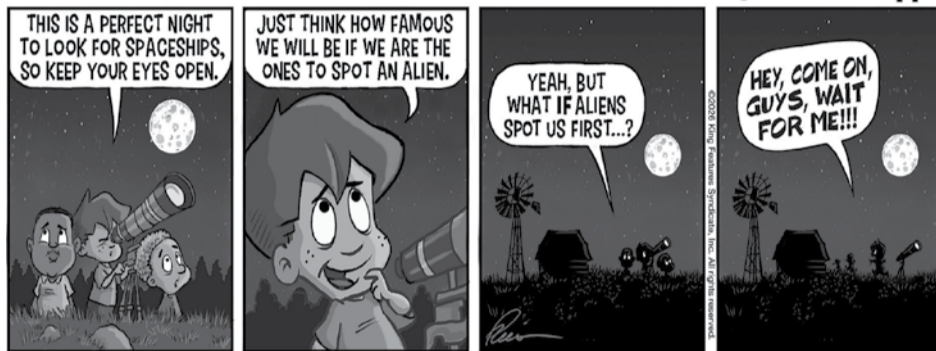
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

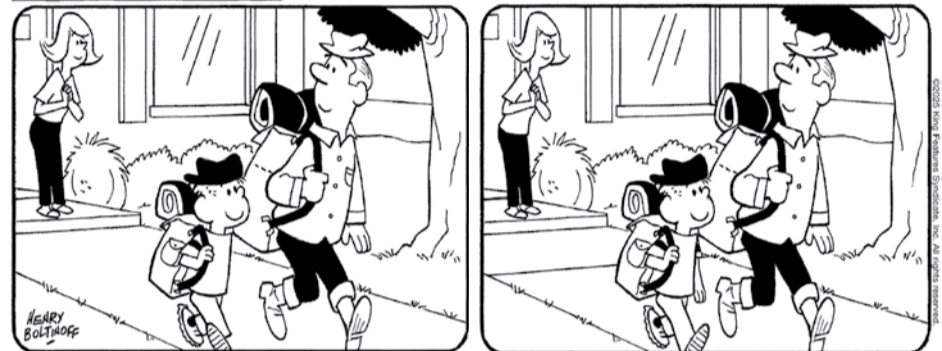
by Gary Kopervas



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

by Dave T. Phipps



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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Imromptu (2 words)
6. Chop
9. Little bit, in Cancun
13. Luffa, alt. sp.
14. The day before
15. Rn, a health hazard
16. Surveyor's maps
17. Black gunk
18. Run off, as in couple
19. *Mount ____, Earth's southernmost active volcano
21. *Antarctica - world's largest
23. A Bobsey twin
24. Not to be broken?
25. Eyeball shape
28. Minimal distortion
30. *Polar bear, a ____ mammal
35. Goldfish or koi
37. Memorial Day solo
39. Red-dot pointer, e.g.
40. Purse to match a gown
41. *Amundsen-____ South Pole Station
43. Hipbones
44. Letter H, phonetically speaking
46. Biblical twin
47. Frog delicacy
48. Intellectual
50. Novice or beginner
52. Café alternative
53. You, in bygone era
55. Ciao, in the U.S.
57. * ____ Nast, imagined Santa at North Pole
60. *The largest lake near South Pole
63. Hotel room option
64. *Barents or Laptev
66. Blackfin and bluefin
68. Remove location from digital map
69. Paul Simon's former partner
70. Swelling
71. Monster's loch
72. An affirmative
73. Button on electrical outlet

DOWN

1. Mountain peak
2. Pineapple producer
3. Gray-haired
4. As a rule
5. The Clash: "Rock the ____"
6. Answer to "Shall we?"
7. Female gametes
8. Lost, in Marseille
9. Opposite of sun-kissed
10. Deodorant's target
11. Native Egyptian, in Roman times
12. "How many sunsets in a year on either pole?"
15. Close again, as in envelope
20. Yards and miles, e.g.
22. "Slippery" tree
24. Quick and clever reply
25. *North Pole "base"
26. Fraction, e.g.
27. Beastly person
29. Front of the head
31. Not top-shelf
32. Part of archipelago
33. Sound like Secretariat
34. Clear the whiteboard
36. Ancient Briton
38. Dog command
42. Supercharger
45. Glen Powell's 2023 role, pl. (2 words)
49. Cuban dance step
51. Half-shell delicacy
54. English homeword
56. Chopin's composition
57. Ad jingle, e.g.
58. Shakira's don't lie
59. Milo's adventurous canine friend
60. Giant kettles
61. Change for a five
62. Glacier's deposit
63. *Midnight ____, opposite of polar night
65. Old-fashioned "before"
67. Aptitude test, acr.

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Community Calendar

Ongoing Activities:

Alcoholics

Anonymous – If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop drinking, we can help. Call Alcoholics Anonymous at 800-970-9040 for either local meeting information or to speak to someone.

American Legion Dinners – Every Friday night at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St. Prices range from \$12 to \$17 depending on menu. Live music every Friday. Live band first and third Fridays.

Bingo – Is played every Monday and Wednesday at the Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 S. 5th St., beginning at 12 p.m. Call 707-678-7022 for more information.

Friendship Services of Solano County – Do you spend a lot of time alone? Would you like a telephone companion? Call Friendship Service at 707-644-9062 x242 or 707-644-8909 and ask Cyndi about becoming a client. It's free. A program of Catholic Social Services. A provider of the Napa-Solano Area Agency on Aging. Email: friendship@csssolano.org.

Meals on Wheels – Homebound seniors can receive meals delivered to their homes by calling 707-425-0638. Lunch also served at the Dixon Senior Center, 201 South 5th St. at 11:30 a.m. M-F. Reservations required – call 707-425-0638 one day in advance.

Regular Meetings:

Al-Anon – Family and friends of alcoholics can get support through Al-Anon, which meets Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St.

American Legion – Dixon Post 208 meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St.. For information, call 707-678-6308. Also visit us online at www.dixonveterans.org/Legion.

American Legion

Auxiliary – Dixon Post 208 meets at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St.. For information, contact Pat Holland (President) at 707-678-3685 or Leah Marlin (Vice President) at 530-304-5385. Visit us online at www.dixonveterans.org/Legion.

Anderson PTO – Meets monthly at 7 p.m. at Anderson Elementary School, 415 East C St. Email andersonroadrunnerspto@gmail.com for dates.

Bids For Kids – Is a volunteer organization created to promote and foster youth participation in agriculture. Anyone interested in this endeavor is welcome and encouraged to attend our monthly meeting. Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month. For more information, please contact secretary, Lisa Dage at 707-246-5623, fivedages@sbcglobal.net or president, James Fuller at 916-952-0167, jamesfuller@yahoo.com.

Boy Scout Troop 152 – Meets Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Social Hall at United Methodist Church, 209 North Jefferson. Scouts is for boys 11 to 18 years old. Contact Matt at 707-685-1750 or email scoutmaster@troop-152dixon.com for more information. Check us out on the web @ troop-152dixon.com.

Chief Solano Kennel Club, Inc. meetings – at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday at the Elmira Fire Station. Call Linda at phone below to RSVP. Open to everyone. No July meeting. For info call 446-7492 or visit www.chiefsolanokennelclub.org.

Chief Solano Kennel Club, Inc. classes – Puppy Socialization 6:20 to 6:50 p.m. (4 to 12 mos), Beginning Obedience 7 to 7:40 p.m. (4 mos & older) indoor training classes on Wednesdays at the Elmira Fire Station, as well as Conformation

classes at 7:50 to 8:30 p.m. for those who show dogs or are interested in showing their dogs. Classes are open to everyone and their canine companions. Classes are not appropriate for aggression issues. Discounts for Seniors 55 and over, Juniors under 16, and those who have adopted a dog from the Humane Society, a breed rescue group, or your local shelter. Bring adoption certificate when you register. Visit www.chiefsolanokennelclub.org.

CITY OF DIXON: The following meetings are held in the Council Chamber at 600 East A St. The agendas are available before meetings at www.ci.dixon.ca.us. For further information, call 707-678-7000 and ask for the City Clerk's office, Planning Dept., Parks & Recreation Dept., or Transportation Dept.

City Council – Meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission – Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission – Meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Transportation Advisory Commission – Meets the third Wednesday of every EVEN month at 7 p.m.

Dixon Adult Literacy Program – Solano County Library Adult Literacy Services is seeking volunteers to help an adult with their reading, writing, or English-speaking skills at the Dixon Public Library. No experience necessary, flexible hours. All training and materials are provided. Contact: Literacy@solanocounty.com or 707-784-1526.

Dixon Boat Club – Meets first Thursday of the month. For more information, call Butch at 707-678-3622.

Dixon Downtown Business Association – Dedicated to enhancing

the business environment and promoting the revitalization of downtown Dixon as the cultural center of the community. Merchant meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at various locations. Log onto www.downtowndixonca.com, email DDROAC@yahoo.com, or call 707-678-8400 for more information.

Dixon Game & Conservation Club – Meetings on second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Game Club Building on East Mayes. For more information, contact John Kett at 916-284-4683.

Dixon Historical Society – Meets quarterly on the third Sunday of Feb., Apr., Aug., and Oct. from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dixon United Methodist Church Social Hall located at 209 N. Jefferson St. in Dixon. Meetings include a historical representation and announcements of upcoming events. Anyone interested in the history of Dixon, and its surrounding areas, is welcome! You do not need to be a member to attend, and all presentations are free to the community. The Dixon History Museum is open for visits, Thursdays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For further information, please contact us at www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org. Email dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or call 707-693-3044.

Dixon Kiwanis Club – an International civic organization serving the community through enhancing children's lives meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. Call Kristin Janisch at 918-840-0785 for more information.

Dixon Lions Club – Since 1954, the Dixon Lions Club is a group of local people who identify needs within our Dixon community and work together to fulfill those needs. Internationally our 45,867 clubs & more than 1,347,322 members make us the world's largest service club organization. We meet first/third Wednesdays at Bud's Pub & Grill from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Website: <http://e-club-house.org/sites/dixonca>. Facebook page: Dixon Lions Club.

Dixon Rotary Club – Meets on most Wednesdays at noon at The Creative Space, 160 West A. St., Dixon. Rotary is the world's first and oldest service club organization with over 1.4 million members working locally and internationally to improve health and sanitation, combat hunger, provide education, and promote peace. For more information and meeting confirmation, contact Rotary President Marlene Vega at 707-678-9368.

Dixon Scottish Cultural Association – Open to anyone who is interested in celebrating Scottish culture. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 1305 N. First St. For details, visit <https://scot-sindixon.us/>.

Dixon Senior Club

– Meets the second Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Dixon Senior Multi-Use Center, 201 S. Fifth St. For more info, call 678-7022.

Dixon Toastmasters/Public Speaking Club – Need to speak in front of people? Want to improve your communication skills? Want to have fun learning? Check us out! We meet Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Living Hope Church. For more info, call or text Lynda Mendez at 530-665-0948 or Rose Cooke at 707-297-0918.

Dixon Women's Improvement Club – From September through May of each year, the Dixon Women's Improvement Club dedicated to the betterment of Dixon, meets on the third Wednesday of the month for stimulating presentations, activities, and friendships. Meetings are held at the Dixon United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Dixon Youth Soccer Board Meetings – The board will meet the third Tuesday of each month, except for December, at the Sutter West Medical Center Conference Room, at 7 p.m.

Domestic Violence Support Group – Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. at SafeQuest Solano, 1234 Empire St., Fairfield. Info 707-422-7345.

Dry Dock – This Alcoholics Anonymous group meets Mondays, 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m. at Dixon United Methodist Church, corner of B and N. Jefferson St.

Fairfield/Suisun Bass Reapers – Meets first Tuesday of each month at RoundTable Pizza, 5085 Business Center Drive, Fairfield. For more info, call 707-429-3239.

Friends of the Dixon Public Library – Meets at the library on the second Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. For more information, call 707-624-0144.

Gretchen Higgins Parent Teacher Organization – We meet the second Monday of each month in the library at our school. Email ohpto1525@gmail.com for more information.

Independent Order of Oddfellows Montezuma Lodge #172 – Meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 111 West A. St., Dixon above Bud's. For more info, call Jason 530-400-0281 or Ed 916-837-6865.

Lambtown Committee – Meets third Monday each month at 6 p.m. at Veteran's Hall. Email John Knight at johnknightpto@gmail.com

Living With Cancer – Support Group for people who have or have had cancer meets the first, third, and fifth Tuesday of every month, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Dining conference room at Woodland Memorial Hospital, 1325 Cottonwood St., Woodland. Free.

Narcotics Anonymous – Open meetings are held every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Dixon United Methodist, 209 N. Jefferson St. (Corner

of West B and N. Jefferson). For helpline information and other meetings, go to www.napasolanona.org.

Northern Solano Democratic Club (NSDC) – Meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at IBEW, 30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville (behind Home Depot). For more information, contact Jeanie White 615-260-7896 or email pres.nsdc@gmail.com. Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/northernsolanodem/.

NSDC Democrats in Action – Monthly lunch meeting is every fourth Thursday at noon at Fuso Italian Restaurant at 535 Main St., Vacaville. Meet to discuss actions that can be taken towards local, state, and national political issues. See above for contacts.

Promises AA Group – Meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St.

Sexual Assault Support Group – Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. at SafeQuest Solano, 1234 Empire St., Fairfield. Info 707-422-7345.

Solano County Mental Health Education – Monthly presentations on various topics will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 2101 Courage Dr., Fairfield. Call Rachel Ford at 707-784-8362 for more information and monthly topic.

Sons of the American Legion – Meet every second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Dixon American Legion Post 208 Hall. For information, call Wayne Holland at 707-301-0941.

Soroptimist International of Dixon – Meets Thursdays at noon at the Dixon United Methodist Church (20 N. Jefferson). Call President Barbara Rigdon at 408-306-7390. Mail: P.O. Box 472, Dixon, CA 95620.

36th District Agricultural Assn. – Board of Directors meet the second Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. in the board room located at 655 S. First St. (Dixon May Fair)

Tremont Teachers and Parents Association – Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Tremont School. For more information contact 678-9533.

Toastmasters – Meets every other Monday from 7 to 8 p.m. Contact Lynda Mendez at 530-665-0948 or email her at mendezlynda55@yahoo.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) – Dixon Post 8151 meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Olde Vets Hall, 231 N. First St. For information, contact Cecil Dennings (Commander) at 209-395-8019. Also visit us online at m.facebook.com/DixonVFW.

Young Ladies Institute of Dixon – Meets the third Thursday of the month at St. Peter's Parish Hall, 105 S. 2nd St. All Catholic women are invited to attend. For more information, call Virginia Fletcher at 678-5145. ★

Food & Farm NEWS

Most California Pumpkins are Grown in one County

Californians searching supermarkets for the perfect pumpkin this week are likely to select a squash grown by Bryan Van Groningen, co-owner and vice president of crops and soils at Van Groningen & Sons in Manteca, or by another farmer in San Joaquin County, which produces most of the pumpkins sold in the state. "We get the warm temperatures in the daytime and cooler nights," Van Groningen said. "The plants thrive in those conditions." The fourth-generation farmer grows 55 different pumpkin varieties and sells as many as 10 million pumpkins a year. Varieties include the Knucklehead and Warty Minion, both covered with unsightly bumps; the Fairytale, flat and round with deep ribs; and the Big Mac, weighing in at up to 120 pounds. "I'd say we have every color except for maybe purple," Van Groningen said.

Sweeter Brussels Sprouts are Winning Over New Fans

While decades-old baggage may deter some diners from delighting in Brussels sprouts, newer varieties of the cruciferous vegetable have won over consumers and found a home in California restaurants. About 30 years ago, a Dutch scientist first identified the chemicals, called glucosinolates, that made Brussels sprouts bitter, and breeders began

working to produce sweeter varieties. Those are the varieties commonly grown today. Alex Rodoni, whose family grows Brussels sprouts on California's Central Coast, said demand peaked around 2021 and has remained strong, especially during the holiday season. That's also when freshly harvested Brussels sprouts tend to taste best. "They taste the sweetest when it's coldest when they're harvested," Rodoni said.

Healthy Avocado Trees Prove Resilient to Wildfires

Lessons learned from destructive wildfires in Ventura County have given avocado growers a fighting chance to save their orchards when the next big blaze hits. Ben Faber, University of California Cooperative Extension citrus and avocado adviser for Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, learned from the effects of the 2017 Thomas Fire and last year's Mountain Fire that well-irrigated avocado trees can recover from a fast-moving blaze within four months. Faber cautioned growers not to give up on their trees, as fire damage in avocado trees can initially look bad but turn out to be superficial. "You have to wait to let the tree tell you what's going to happen," he said. Nov. 6 marks the one-year anniversary of the Mountain Fire, which damaged 389 acres of avocados, according to the Ventura County agricultural commissioner's office. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Well Kings fans, the hometown boys are in the midst of a tough road trip and in the early going have a 2-4 record. That's the bad news. The good news is that with the exception of one game, the Sactown ballers have been in every game, and if it weren't for horrendous free throw shooting that record could just as easily be 4-2.

There are other teams that could say the same thing you say, but the positive that comes from this is that when you know your weakness you can work on it and it can be fixed.

Going into last week's game against the Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee Bucks with only one win for the 2025/2026 campaign, the Sacramento Kings stepped into View Fiserv Forum and handed the mighty Bucks a humbling 135-133 defeat much to the chagrin of the hometown fans. The Kings broke a 10-year famine in Milwaukee capturing a win that few thought was possible.

After an up and down start this season for big man Domantas Sabonis, the Sactown stalwart played Giannis to a standstill putting up 24 points, 13 rebounds, and 6 assists. Although Antetokounmpo matched the effort by Sabonis with a 26-11-8 night, the Sacramento Kings did an admiral job of holding down the former MVP.

We have talked about the talent the Kings have in their starting lineup, but the conundrum has been putting it all together. In Milwaukee the big four of DeRozan, Sabonis, LaVine, and Schroder did just exactly that. LaVine led the group with 31 points, DeRozan with 29, While Sabonis and Schoder both chipped in 24 points apiece.

There will never be a moment in time when it's ok to play pedestrian defense, but there are nights when you will be called to simply outscore your opponent, and Saturday night was just such a night in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Our Sacramento Kings beat a playoff team on their home court, much like they did last season to the Celtics in the Boston garden.

What is most telling though about this win, is how the starting lineup played together all night, and the balance with

regards to scoring.

Not to be lost was the contribution off the bench by Russell Westbrook who added 12 points and 10 big boards to the win. Russell continues to win the hearts of Kings fans as he gives 100% effort every night and his energy is contagious.

One of the keys was the play of Dennis Schroder, who on this night lived up to his billing. Schroder played well defensively but also shot the ball in rhythm, scoring 24 points while adding 5 rebounds and 7 assists. The type of night Kings fans have been hoping for, and it shows the Sacramento faithful what is truly possible.

The tandem of Schroder at the point and Sabonis in the paint are secret sauce that when they play as they did on Saturday night will lead to victory after victory.

LaVine and DeRozan can be counted on to get their points as their pedigree speaks for itself, but when Schroder and Sabonis hold down the fort the Kings are a very tough opponent.

The good news is that this does not have to be an anomaly, and it should not be! Capable? Absolutely they are capable, and if the Kings can continue to get this type of ubiquitous scoring, it will not only take pressure off the bench, but it will also lead a pathway straight to the playoffs. Not the playin, but the playoffs!

Yes, the Kings still must play good defense, but balanced scoring as we witnessed against the Bucks makes up for defensive mistakes, and the Kings have proven in the past that they are more than capable of putting up points.

Schroder remains a key, but let's not forget that this season is not his first rodeo, and a veteran at the helm that is not distracted by all-star caliber competition is just the floor general the Kings need.

Young rookie Nique Clifford needs to find a way to contribute on the scoreboard, and right around the corner will be the return of Keegan Murray. Let's hope Keegan's return will mark a contributing factor and not a necessity.

Be of good heart Kings fans because the light is starting to shine.

All the best!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

Ask DR. UNIVERSE

Dr. Universe: How Do Cats Climb?

- Jake, 7, Wisconsin

Dear Jake,

Sometimes, when I'm working on a tricky question, I scale the tree outside my office. It helps me focus.

I asked my friend Steve Lampa how cats like me do that. He teaches small animal anatomy in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University.

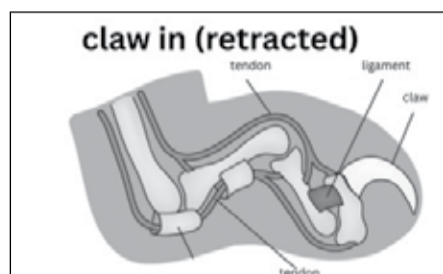
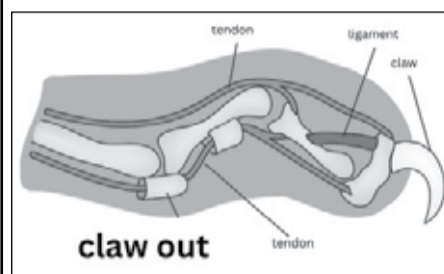
He told me it's all about a beefy backside and razor-sharp claws.

tissues—tendons and ligaments—to push them out.

That claw is perfect for sinking into prey—or into a tree as they shimmy up.

Coming down is a lot harder.

"They can't use their claws going down," Lampa said. "A lot of times, you see them basically running down so they don't roll. But they have this ability to right their body, which is a very odd thing."



A ligament holds the claw back. When a cat wants to use its claws, it flexes muscles that stretch the ligament. It's like using your muscles to stretch a rubber band. Image: Al.maier CC 3.0, labels by Dr. Universe

"First cats jump and propel themselves with their rump and hind limbs," Lampa said. "Then they anchor with their claws—which are like grappling hooks. Domestic cats actually have sharper claws than their wild counterparts."

The jumping part of the climb involves powerful muscles, especially the largest rump muscle called the gluteus medius.

It also relies on strong legs and joints. A cat's hip joint is a ball-and-socket joint—just like yours. It moves in different directions. Its knee joint, also called the stifle, is a hinge joint—also like yours. It moves back and forth.

But you don't have sharp, retractable claws on the ends of your fingers.

Neither do dogs. Their claws poke out all the time. That's why they tippy-tap on the floor when they walk. That scratching and tapping dulls their claws. That's ok because wild dogs hunt together. Their big weapon is teamwork.

Cats hunt alone. Keeping their claws tucked inside the paw makes them quieter and stealthier. Plus, it protects those claws and keeps them super sharp. When a cat wants to extend its claws, it uses connective

A cat climbing down uses its flexible spine and long tail for balance.

And then there's that righting reflex. It's why people say a cat always lands on its feet.

A falling cat uses its senses and brain to figure out where it is in space. Then it twists its body. The top half rotates one way, and the bottom half goes the other way—while the cat pulls in its front paws. That makes its head and chest turn faster than its hind end. At just the right time, it stretches out those front paws and tucks the back ones to quickly turn its rump. That's how a cat sticks the landing.

Physicists call that "reducing the moment of inertia" and "conserving angular momentum."

Sharp, retractable claws, strong muscles and joints, and flexibility are all adaptations. They help cats climb to survey for food or danger.

I guess being feline has its ups and downs.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

Erie Canal Contrasts Glacial Pace of Public Works



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

This week, one of the nation's earliest and most important public works projects, the 363-mile Erie Canal linking the Hudson River with Lake Erie, marked its 200th anniversary.

There was only negligible media and political notice. That's regrettable, because the canal opening in 1825 utterly transformed the nation's economy and ignited its expansion from a few sparsely populated former colonies on the Atlantic Coast some 3,000 miles westward to the Pacific Ocean.

Rugged mountains had stymied westward expansion from the coastal plain into the Ohio River valley and the Great Lakes region. But New York Gov. DeWitt Clinton saw an opportunity for New York City to become the nation's commercial capital, outfoxing rival Philadelphia.

The New York Legislature authorized construction with bonds in 1817 and just eight years later, having been dug mostly by hand, the Erie Canal opened. Tolls repaid all of its construction debt in the first year.

Eventually, of course, the canal's commercial importance was superseded by railroads and later highways. But it continues to operate for recreational and excursion boats and remains a symbol of how timely public works can have major

economic impacts.

A quarter-century after the Erie Canal opened, California was admitted as a state. During its first decades it was somewhat isolated, with an economy based on resources — gold, timber, farm produce, cattle, fish and, eventually, oil.

However, as California entered the 20th century, massive public works projects surfaced to encourage economic expansion and transformation, notably in Southern California. Los Angeles and Long Beach created deep-water ports from what had been coastal mudflats. Los Angeles secretly tapped the Owens River 250 miles away on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, and built an aqueduct to carry its water to the city, making its meteoric population growth possible.

The Great Depression spawned other historic public works projects that were not only beneficial unto themselves but created much-needed jobs.

The federal government built the Central Valley Project, a network of dams, including Shasta Dam, and canals to provide water to farms in the 450-mile-long valley.

The state built a long-planned bridge over San Francisco Bay while simultaneously, a consortium of counties constructed the iconic Golden Gate Bridge. Both were finished in just a few years.

World War II was a massive public works project in California, as billions of dollars were poured into military bases, aircraft factories, shipyards and other tools of warfare, transforming the state into an industrial powerhouse. The postwar era

brought the construction of freeways to handle traffic from the state's population explosion.

Mid-century also saw arguably the state's last truly transformative public works project, the California Water Plan. It dams the Feather River near Oroville with an aqueduct to carry its water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to Southern California.

The last decades of the 20th Century and the first decades of the 21st have been a period of stasis in public works.

Projects such as the tunnel to carry water under the Delta and the Sites Reservoir to divert and store high flows on the Sacramento River have kicked around for decades. Sites appears to finally be on track, but the tunnel struggles to overcome opposition from local landowners and environmentalists.

And then there's the bullet train to link the northern and southern halves of the state, first proposed a half-century ago and approved by voters in 2008 — but limping along, neither fully alive nor dead, with some construction underway but no firm financial footing.

Looking back, it's amazing that the 363-mile Erie Canal could have been dug by hand in just eight years, or that the two San Francisco bridges were erected in just a few years. The contrast with 21st Century foot-dragging is palpable.

Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★

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