



**Dixon's
Community
Unwraps
December Fun**
PAGE 5

**Cornerstone Church
Launches First
Winter Coat Drive**
PAGE 2



Dixon Independent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

DECEMBER 12, 2025

**SEE
INSIDE**

**CHRISTMAS
PARADE IS
DECEMBER 13**



PAGE 2

**OFFICER-INVOLVED
SHOOTING UPDATE**



PAGE 2

**AGGIES SWEEP
RIDER OF THE
MONTH AWARDS**



PAGE 9



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A Magical Victorian Christmas



Downtown Dixon closed to traffic at noon Dec. 6 as the city and the Downtown Dixon Business Association hosted "A Magical Victorian Christmas." The annual tree lighting occurred at 7 p.m. in Women's Improvement Park.

Story by Kendall Brown and photos by Nicolas Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Downtown Dixon closed to traffic Dec. 6 as the city and the Downtown Dixon Business Association hosted "A Magical Victorian Christmas," a six-hour holiday festival that drew families to the central business district for

performances, activities and the annual tree lighting.

The event ran from 3 to 9 p.m. Dec. 6 and included a stationary parade of Christmas floats and tractors, live music, train rides, vendors and an appearance by Santa Claus. The Christmas tree lighting took place at 7 p.m. in Women's Improvement Club Park at 220 N. Jefferson St.,

where bleachers and a large stage were set up for the program.

Portions of First Street/Highway 113 were closed between East C Street and East Mayes, along with segments of nearby streets. Closures began at noon.

"We want them to know this decision was made to ensure the safety

Continued on page 3

Dixon Codes Updated to Align with State Requirements

By Shaunna Boyd

DIXON, CA (MPG) - During public comments at the Dec. 2 Dixon City Council meeting, two Cotati residents shared concerns about how Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations are granted for the public during council meetings in Dixon.

During council comments, Councilmember Jim Ernest said he heard from a well-known Dixon resident who does not support the recently approved change to City Hall hours, which will soon be closed every other Friday. But Ernest said he defends the new plan because it supports the staff who provide essential services to the public.

The council then considered an ordinance to adopt the 2025 California Building Standards Code, which is required every three years to ensure local code aligns with state law.

Chief Building Official Larry Paisley presented the updates, which he said included "possibly up to thousands" of small changes to various residential and non-residential building code requirements.

There were also updates to the Dixon Emergency Hazard and Placard System, which is the system used to evaluate earthquake damage. A new chapter was added on Wildland-Urban Interface Code, and the fire code was streamlined to remove duplicative language. The layout of the book was also updated to improve readability.

Vice Mayor Thom Bogue asked for clarification about an assertion that recent state legislation has restricted local jurisdictions from adding their own specific residential code requirements:

"So we are strictly limited to what the state says we can do now," Bogue said.

Paisley confirmed this is correct for the next six years due to AB 130, which was implemented to support the rebuilding effort in Southern California as it recovers from recent wildfire damage.

Bogue asked, "We have to just adopt the base code as it is and are not allowed to create anything more restrictive?"

Staff clarified that any local code amendments adopted in the past are still in effect, and no local amendments are being considered at this time.

The council voted unanimously to approve the updates.

The next meeting of the Dixon City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 16.

All Aboard the Santa Train



Western Railway Museum's annual Santa Trains are running from Friday to Sunday, Dec. 5 to 12. Trains will be running every 45 minutes from noon to 6 p.m. (8 total trips each day; last departure is 5:15 p.m.) Photo courtesy of Western Railway Museum

Western Railway Museum News Release

SUISUN CITY, CA (MPG) - Western Railway Museum's annual Santa Trains are running Friday to Sunday, Dec. 5 to 12. Trains will be running every 45 minutes from noon to 6 p.m. (8 total trips each day; last departure

is 5:15 p.m.)

After a magical train ride, visitors will step into a spectacular panorama of illuminated rail cars and holiday scenery. Santa will be on hand to meet with all the children. Children are invited to write a personal letter to Santa and make a handcrafted ornament. Visitors can enjoy seasonal

coffee, homemade cocoa and delicious treats. Santa Trains can sell out quickly, so those interested should purchase tickets today at wrm.org.

Western Railway Museum is located at 5848 State Highway 12, Suisun City.

For more information, visit wrm.org or call 707-374-2978. ★

Dixon News Briefs

Cornerstone Church Launches First Winter Coat Drive



Dixon's Annual Christmas Parade is scheduled for Dec. 13. Lineup begins at 4:30 p.m., with the parade starting at 5:30 p.m. Organizers report that the event will include food and toys, and coat donations will be collected for Dixon Family Services. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By MPG Staff



Cornerstone Baptist Church of Dixon is hosting its first Winter Coat Drive and giveaway this month as part of an effort to provide warm clothing to residents ahead of colder weather. Senior Pastor Mike Bates (right) and his wife Stephanie Bates are happy to support the community.

Story by Kendall Brown and photos by Nicolas Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Cornerstone Baptist Church of Dixon is hosting its first Winter Coat Drive and giveaway this month as part of an effort to provide warm clothing to residents ahead of colder weather. The giveaway is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 13 at the church, 185 W. Cherry St.

Donations were accepted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 6 and 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 7. Organizers are seeking new or clean/gently-used coats in adult and children's sizes. Those unable to make the drop-off times may call 707-678-5234 to arrange a delivery.

Pastor Mike Bates said the idea for the drive emerged after the church's long-standing partnership with Toys for Tots ended.

"This is our first year trying this out," said Bates. "We used to work with Toys for Tots, but when that went away, there was a hole. We decided that the community needed support, especially around this time of year. We wanted to offer something tangible."

Bates, who became senior pastor in 2022, said the church coordinated with Dixon Family Services (DFS) before launching the project.

"When I spoke with Cookie Powell (Executive Director of DFS), she said there's really a need for coats, so we took it as a sign we need to do this," said Bates. "We're just grateful to be a part of it."

More than 100 coats have been collected so far, including boxes of new jackets. Ten volunteers are sorting and laundering donations throughout the week to prepare for distribution.

"One of the things I really love about Dixon is the community of it," said Bates. "When there's a need, a lot of people respond. They just come out and offer whatever they can."

According to Bates, the church is aiming to meet demand rather than reach a specific number of donations.

"We don't know what the needs will be, as this is our first year," said Bates. "We'll just see what the Lord has in store."

The coats will be available to anyone

who needs one. According to Bates, thus far they have seen a strong mix of adult and children's jackets but fewer adult men's coats.

"Our rule is, if we wouldn't wear it ourselves, we wouldn't give to anyone else," said Bates.

For Bates and church volunteers, the event aligns closely with Cornerstone's mission.

"Our goal is to be the love of Jesus to anyone we come in contact with," said Bates. "By providing physical needs, we're showing how God loves and provides for us."

Stephanie Bates, Pastor Bates' wife and a former police officer, said the effort reflects a broader increase in need.

"Because the need for food has increased, we've seen the need all around increase," she said. "We just realized that people can hear you better when their needs are met."

She added that donors have come from across the community.

"It was so beautiful to watch because people from the community who only heard of us from Facebook or social media decided to be a part of it," she said.

According to Stephanie Bates, nothing collected will go unused. The church distributes clothing twice monthly and will continue giving away remaining items in January. Children's coats are in particularly high demand because they are quickly outgrown. All donated jackets and clothing are washed before distribution.

Community members who miss the designated drop-off times may contact the church directly.

"If someone's not here for intake, I'll meet them here," said Stephanie Bates.

Both Mike and Stephanie Bates thanked local businesses and organizations for supporting the effort. The Dixon Chamber of Commerce has assisted with outreach, while several businesses, including Mountain Mike's Pizza, Ramtown Karate, Pizza Guys, Grocery Outlet and Solano Bakery, have contributed to the church's separate food drive.

For more information, visit cornerstoneindixon.com/events or email office@cornerstoneindixon.com. ★

tunnel next to the Chamber of Commerce, 220 N. Jefferson St., the event gives Dixonites the opportunity to meet with family, friends and neighbors for a joyful night of Christmas carols.

For more information, visit the Grace Fellowship of Dixon Facebook page or call 707-678-5700.

Annual Christmas Car Parade

Dixon's Annual Christmas Parade is scheduled for Dec. 13. Lineup begins at 4:30 p.m., with the parade starting at 5:30 p.m. Organizers report that the event will include food and toys, and coat donations will be collected for Dixon Family Services. The parade route will begin at East Parkway where participating vehicles line up. The parade will end in Downtown Dixon.

For more information, visit the Dixon's Annual Christmas Car Parade Facebook page or call 707-628-9771.

Dixon Chamber Connections Networking

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a networking event from noon to 1:30 p.m. Jan. 1. This free in-person event, held at The Farmstead at Dixon, 350 Gateway Drive, allows local professionals to connect. Offering a diverse range of potential connections, attendees are encouraged to bring business cards.

For more information, visit dixonchamber.org or call 707-678-2650.

Pony Rides and Santa

Serenity Saddles is hosting a unique Christmas event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 20. Held at the barn, 7778 Nunes Road, the event offers pony rides for \$10, as well as crafts, cookies, hot cocoa and pictures with Santa for free. Attendees are encouraged to park near the event sign and to drive at 5 mph on the property.

For more information, visit serenitysaddles.com or call 203-392-4102.

Read to a Dog

Dixon Library is hosting Read to a Dog from 3 to 4 p.m. Dec. 15. Hosted at the library, 230 N. First St., the activity provides children ages five to 12 with the opportunity to read aloud to certified therapy dogs. The program offers a relaxed, non-judgmental environment aimed at improving reading fluency and building positive reading experiences.

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

Santa in Silveyville

Silveyville Christmas Tree Farm will be visited by Santa and Mrs. Claus from 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 13. Hosted at the farm, 6248 Silveyville Rd., families have the opportunity to get a photo with the jolly couple while perusing the tree farm's other activities and amenities.

For more information, visit silveyville-treefarm.com or call 707-678-1823. ★

Festival of Trees

Kiwanis Club of Dixon is hosting the festival of trees from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 13. Held in Dixon High School's small gymnasium, 555 College Way, the event offers a festive atmosphere and the chance for Dixon, Solano and Yolo citizens and business owners to sponsor or decorate a tree to be displayed on the day of the event. Proceeds from the event go to Dixon High School's Rams Vault, as well as both the high school and middle school band programs. Tree decoration will be held from 1:30 to 8 p.m. Dec. 12. The organization is also looking for donations of baked finger foods for the event.

For more information, visit the Kiwanis Club of Dixon, CA Facebook page or call 707-635-3303.

Winter Coat Drive

Cornerstone Baptist Church of Dixon is hosting a winter coat giveaway from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 13. Hosted at the church, 185 W. Cherry St., organizers will be hosting a drive to gather donated coats from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 6 and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 7. Organizers are seeking both adult and kid coats, new or clean/gently used. If drop-off times don't work, donors are encouraged to call 707-678-5234.

For more information, visit cornerstoneindixon.com/events or contact office@cornerstoneindixon.com.

Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser

Dixon Rams Youth Cheer is hosting a spaghetti feed fundraiser from 4 to 8 p.m. Dec. 12. Held at American Legion Hall, 1305 N. First St., proceeds from the event will support the Mighty Mite and Pee wee squads' trip to Nationals. Tickets cost \$20 per person or \$70 for a family four-pack and include spaghetti, salad and garlic bread. The event will also feature raffle prizes and a cake walk. Tickets may be purchased in cash or through Venmo at @DixonYFC.

For more information, visit dixonyfc.com or email cheer@dixonyfc.com.

Second Annual Giving Tree

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is holding its second annual Giving Tree through Dec. 15. Hosted at the chamber, 220 N. Jefferson St., donations can be made in person Monday through Thursday from 8 to 11 a.m., or by Venmo. Beneficiaries include the Dixon High Rams Vault, Maine Prairie High Vault and the Anderson Nest. Ornament donations range from \$5 to \$100. A nonperishable food barrel provided by Cornerstone Church will also be available.

For more information, visit the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Facebook page or call 707-678-2650.

Carols in the Tunnel

Grace Fellowship Church of Dixon will host Carols in the Tunnel at 7 p.m. Dec. 19. Held in the B Street train underpass

Officer-Involved Shooting Update

Dixon Police Department News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Police Department is providing an update regarding an officer-involved shooting that occurred on Dec. 7 in the 6800 block of Sievers Road. Earlier, officers responded to a report of a vehicle stopped in the roadway on North First Street with no lights on. Officers contacted the driver, who then drove away. The vehicle entered eastbound Interstate 80 and exited at Pedrick Road, where it came to a stop. During the subsequent encounter, an officer-involved shooting occurred.

The individual was transported to a hospital for treatment. No Dixon police officers were injured.

As required under the countywide critical incident protocol, the Solano County District Attorney's Major Crimes Task

Force is leading the criminal investigation into the shooting. The Dixon Police Department is cooperating fully with their work.

This remains an active and ongoing investigation. No further details are being released at this time. Additional information will be provided as appropriate and in coordination with the Major Crimes Task Force.

Questions regarding the investigative process should be directed to the Solano County District Attorney's Office. For general information about the Dixon Police Department, please contact news@cityofdixonca.gov. ★



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A Magical Victorian Christmas

Continued from page 1 of festival goers,” said Jill Orr, owner of Dawson’s and president of the Downtown Dixon Business Association. “It was hard to keep people from spilling into the highway last year, so the decision was made to shut the highway down for the festival.”

Live performances began at 3 p.m. at Pardi Plaza, where spectators gathered in brisk 48-degree weather. Groups included the Orpheus West Chamber Choir, Dixon Youth Cheerleaders, Dixon Community Youth Theater, Hālau ‘o Ku’ulei/Poerava ‘O Te Ari’i Cultural & Tahitian Dance Academy and Dixon Dance Studio. President of Solano-Yolo Rugby Club, Kelley Evans also performed “Jingle Bells” for an audience of onlookers to prepare them for the highly anticipated tree lighting. Mayor Steve Bird was also in attendance and offered words of community, camaraderie and Christmas spirit.

Festival attractions spread throughout downtown, including pony rides, a petting zoo and a horse-riding carousel provided by California Horse and Pony. The Dixon Public Library hosted a Christmas story time and stayed open until 8 p.m., while the Solano Library Outreach team distributed materials outside. Friends of the Dixon Library provided free books, and the Dixon Fire Department served kettle corn and apple cider.

Numerous businesses and organizations hosted activities and booths, including Dixon Girls Softball, Ramtown Karate, Dixon Rams Vault, Dixon Police Department and Grace Fellowship Church, which hosted their annual photo booth.

Vendor Nicky Monk, a Dixon native and longtime real estate broker, said her booth saw steady traffic.

“I think this has been a nice change,” said Monk. “This is something bigger than Dixon has done in the past, and I think it turned out really cute. We did a little vendor booth with hot cocoa, hot tea, little toys, and they’re already gone.”

Sara Echarte, Chamber of Commerce manager, said the weekend timing supported local families.

“As a community member who has a spouse that works out of town, I’m very happy to have it on a Saturday where he didn’t have to rush home,” said Echarte. “The floats look wonderful as well, and they are a great way to promote businesses and spread Christmas cheer.”

Lauren Rice-Springs, a travel advisor representing Dream Builders Travel with a booth, said she appreciated the turnout.

“I think it’s a great community event,” said Rice-Springs. “I really appreciate that Dixon puts



A live fire roared in front of Dixon Public Library as friends, families, and neighbors relaxed and enjoyed the evening festivities.



President of Solano-Yolo Rugby Club, Kelley Evans (pictured), performed “Jingle Bells” for an audience of onlookers to prepare them for the highly anticipated tree lighting.



Portions of First Street/Highway 113 were closed between East C Street and East Mayes, along with segments of nearby streets. This was done to protect attendees and offer enough space for the festival’s newest addition: a stationary Christmas parade.

thought and effort into events for everybody.”

Mayra Rodriguez, owner of Rodriguez Western Wear, said the festival supported small businesses.

“I love it. I was born and raised here,” said Rodriguez. “Being able to have a business in my hometown is exciting, especially a western store.”

Grace Fellowship pastor Paul Sheldon said the church’s photo booth has become a recurring attraction.

Said Sheldon, “It’s just something we like giving back to the community

and we have a lot of families that have made this a tradition.”

Volunteers from groups including Dixon Lions Club, Boy Scout Troop 152 and Dixon Sanitary assisted with decorations and operations.

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



Multiple local organizations hosted booths and activities, including Dixon Fire Department, which distributed free kettle corn and hot apple cider to festivalgoers.



Mayor Steve Bird was in attendance and offered words of community, camaraderie, and Christmas spirit to attendees.




The event ran from 3 to 9 p.m. Dec. 6 and included a stationary parade of Christmas floats and tractors, live music, train rides, vendors and an appearance by Santa Claus.



Live performances began at 3 p.m. at Pardi Plaza, where spectators gathered in brisk 48-degree weather. Groups included the Orpheus West Chamber Choir, Dixon Youth Cheerleaders, Dixon Community Youth Theater, Hālau ‘o Ku’ulei/Poerava ‘O Te Ari’i Cultural & Tahitian Dance Academy and Dixon Dance Studio.



Festival attractions spread throughout downtown, including pony rides, a petting zoo and a horse-riding carousel provided by California Horse and Pony.



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Riley Reviews

“JINGLE BELL HEIST” AND HALLMARK MOVIES ARE THEMED TO CHRISTMAS

A Film and TV Review
by Tim Riley

“JINGLE BELL HEIST” ON NETFLIX

London has its share of fancy, upscale department stores that are famous for luxury goods, cultural iconic status, and architectural grandeur. Harrods comes to mind as a prime example, as well as Fortnum & Mason and Selfridges, among others.

For the Christmas backdrop of “Jingle Bell Heist,” the fictional Sterling’s department store is modeled after these opulent shopping palaces, and it serves as the setting for a contrived crime caper of a robbery during the holiday season.

Olivia Holt’s Sophia is an American expatriate living in London, where her British mother is hospitalized with cancer and needing an expensive treatment available only through costly private medical care.

A clerk at the fancy Sterling’s store, Sophia has a knack for picking pockets as well as locks, having learned sleight-of-hand from her grandfather, a magician and locksmith. She also works after hours at a local pub.

While Sophia is a petty thief, she’s more like Robin Hood in that her victims are unsympathetic characters deserving bad karma and she’s giving the stolen cash to the less fortunate.

An ex-con arrested for stealing from Sterling’s, Nick (Connor Swindells), who had been involved with installing the security system at the department store, now works at a phone repair shop where he still has access to the store’s security cameras.

While Nick enjoys watching security footage, he catches Sophia purloining some cash and valuables in Sterling’s storage. With this knowledge, he makes a move to enlist Sophia into a major heist of jewels kept in the store’s impenetrable vault.

At first, Sophia doesn’t want to be involved in an elaborate grand theft, but then there’s the case of her mother’s dire plight, and besides, store owner Maxwell Sterling (Peter Serafinowicz) is a wealthy jerk and odious boss.

It appears that Nick was framed in the Sterling theft and ended up serving a five-year prison term, which is why his wife divorced him and now threatens to move away with their daughter because he’s behind on child support.

Thus, Nick and Sophia have reasons to carry out the heist and split the money, and getting revenge on Maxwell Sterling is only a part of the equation. Sophia can take care of her mom, and Nick can prove that he can be a reliable father.

Given that this pair of heist plotters are amateurish, not everything goes according to plan until another connected surprise party provides invaluable assistance to

make the robbery possible.

The inevitable romantic angle, sealed with a kiss, that comes into play seems to be unnecessary, but then this is a holiday movie where it seems almost obligatory, given the heist happens on Christmas Eve.

“Jingle Bell Heist” strains credulity as a serious crime caper, because the planning that goes into it is basically ludicrous. And yet, the writers came up with every contrivance to have you rooting for Sophia and Nick, and that might be enough to make it work.

HALLMARK CHANNEL HOLIDAY MOVIES

During the holiday season, Hallmark Channel reliably turns its schedule into a 24/7 festive feast of mostly movies and some episodic series into a celebration of the happiest time of the year.

When “Christmas Above the Clouds” finds workaholic CEO Ella Neezer (Erin Krakow) trying to skip Christmas by flying to Australia, she’s in for the flight of her life. Haunted by her past, present and future, Ella is forced to confront the choices that led to her success yet left her flying solo.

With the help of three quirky spirits and a surprise reunion with her ex (Tyler Hynes), Ella might just rediscover the magic of Christmas and the love that she thought she’d lost.

“Three Wisest Men” reunites Paul Campbell, Tyler Hynes, Andrew Walker, and Margaret Colin as the Brenner family for another Christmas story, this time their lives more chaotic than ever.

As Luke (Walker) is expecting twins, Taylor (Hynes) is debating a monumental job opportunity out-of-state, and Stephan (Campbell) attempts to plan for his upcoming nuptials.

Everyone’s stress heightens when they learn their mom (Colin) has put their childhood home up for sale, marking their final Christmas in the Brenner house.

With unexpected in-laws visiting, wild animals lurking in freshly cut Christmas trees and a hesitant mall Santa, the boys will have their work cut out for them as the holiday begins to loom.

As they navigate adulthood at a level they have yet to reach, they must learn to once again lean on one another to rise to the needs of their growing family, conquer the newest challenges in their lives, and have the best Christmas ever.

In “The Snow Must Go On” Broadway actor Isaiah Heyward (Corey Cott), last on stage ten years ago, is visiting family in upstate New York when he learns the local high school may have to cancel their Christmas musical because they need a director.

Isaiah decides to save the show, and in the process stumbles on a romance with guidance counselor Lilly-Anne (Heather Hemmens) for a nice Christmas surprise. ★

Holiday Gift Giving Titles from Harper Collins

Perfect for Gift Giving

For Fans of the Studio Ghibli movie **Howl’s Moving Castle** comes the special edition hardback story edition written by Diana Wynne Jones. This stunning gift edition features a brilliant new cover, printed endpapers, and sprayed edges, and is perfect for any fan of the beloved series.

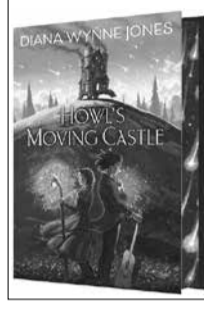
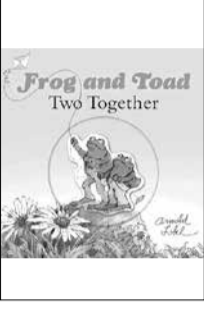
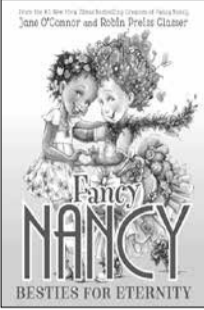
For the young adult reader on your list is the brilliant new debut series **Thorn and Season** by Kiera Azar. For fans of The Selection and Shadow and Bone, this new series is described as a sharp and sexy, romance trilogy!

The young picture book reader on your list will love **Fancy Nancy’s Book Besties for Eternity**, celebrating friendship with fun and flair.

Recapture the classic story of **Frog and Toad** in the charming board book perfect for the youngest generations. Celebrate the over 50-year-old friendship in **Frog and Toad Two Together**, which is the ideal introduction to the beloved duo.

Get ready for the Holidays with these hand-selected titles.

Revisit the classic story **Miracle on 34th Street**, set for readers ages 8-12. This classic story captures the magic of Santa and has been enchanting readers and viewers of the movie since 1947.



What is Christmas without a perfectly decorated Christmas tree? Digger and the other trucks get together to decorate for Christmas, but when there aren’t any decorations left for the tree, they have to reach out for help. Together, they craft the most beautiful tree and something even more critical. Celebrate the true gift of the season in **The Digger and the Christmas Tree** by Joseph Kuefler.

Elf on the Shelf tries to help answer one of the most commonly asked questions – How Old is Santa? Little readers can follow Elf on his quest to discover the answer. Will Elf be able to answer the question, or will

readers be left with only a magical trail? Add to your Elf on the Shelf Library or start a new collection with **Elf on the Shelf’s How Old is Santa** by Chandra A. Bell.

Time to take a magical adventure in **Seven Ways Through the Woods** by Jenn Reese and Devin Elle Kurtz. Be brave and step into the dark forest; you never know what magic exists deep inside. From Griffins, sprites, moss giants, serpents, and more. An enchanting and magical tale that is filled with magical wonders that will have little ones dreaming up adventures of their own. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001636
The following persons are doing business as: Dar Construction, 226 Essex Way, Benicia, CA 94510.
Radostin Ilyev and Dimitar Skulev, 226 Essex Way, Benicia, CA 94510.
Date filed in Solano County: November 12, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: November 9, 2010
This Business is conducted by: A General Partnership. 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 November 11, 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: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
DAR 12-12-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001662
The following persons are doing business as: Momentum Wayfinder Consulting, 368 Piercy Drive, Benicia, CA 94510.
Jennifer Anne Bonner, 368 Piercy Drive, Benicia, CA 94510.
Date filed in Solano County November 18, 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 November 17, 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: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025
MOMENTUM 12-19-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001673
The following persons are doing business as: IC Hot Dog, 1350 Travis Boulevard, Fairfield, CA 94533
April Phyo, 1930 Grande Circle Unit 68, Fairfield, CA 94533
Date filed in Solano County November 19, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: November 12, 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 November 12, 2030. The filing of this statement does not itself

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 November 18, 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: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025
HOT 12-19-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001641
The following persons are doing business as: MS Pam’s Playhouse, 2551 Turri Court, Fairfield, CA 94533
Pamela J Melders, 2551 Turri Court, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Date filed in Solano County: November 13, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: March 8, 2026
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 November 12, 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: Dec 12, 19, 26, Jan 2, 2026
PAMS 12-26

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU25-09592
James Matthew Gonzales-Harris. filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: James Matthew Gonzales-Harris to James Matthew Harris 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 24, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room 3, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer
Dated: November 7, 2025
Publish: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
HARRIS 12-12-25

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Dixon City Council adopted Ordinance No. 25-007, adopting by reference the 2025 California Building Standards Code with Local Amendments, Adding Chapter 16.20 (Wildland-Urban Interface Code) and Amending Chapter 16.13 (Dixon Emergency Hazard and Placard System), and Applicable Sections of Title 16 (Building and Construction), of the Dixon Municipal Code.

The State of California adopts a set of new construction codes every three years, referred to as the California Building Standards Codes (Title 24). This ordinance adopts the 2025 California Building Standards Code, which automatically become effective January 1, 2026. This ordinance also adopts local amendments to the 2025 California Building Standards Code as authorized by Sections 17958.5 and 18941.5 of the Health and Safety Code. The local amendments implement changes to the 2025 Fire code addressing hazardous materials, permit fee refunds, fire access roads, address identification, fire vehicle access during construction, and firework.

This Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 18th day of November 2025, and adopted at a regular meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 2nd day of December 2025, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Ernest, Hendershot, Johnson, Bogue, Bird
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

A copy of the full text of the adopted ordinance is available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or at www.cityofdixonca.gov.
Kristin M. Janisch
Elected City Clerk

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, fived-ages@sbcglobal.net or president, James Fuller at 916-952-0167, jameskfuller@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 [\[troop152dixon.com\]\(http://troop152dixon.com\) for more information. Check us out on the web @ \[troop152dixon.com\]\(http://troop152dixon.com\)."](mailto:scoutmaster@</p>
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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-clubhouse.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://scotsindixon.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

Dixon's Community Unwraps December Fun



At Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, 5810 Midway Rd., the annual Wreath Project will return Dec. 13. Volunteers will begin placing boughs at 7:30 a.m., with a Wreaths Across America ceremony scheduled for 9 a.m. Photo courtesy of the Wreath Project

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A full slate of holiday events is scheduled across Dixon this December, featuring community visits from Santa, charitable drives, volunteer opportunities and local business gatherings.

The Dixon Fire Department will lead its annual Santa Run beginning Dec. 16, bringing Santa Claus through several neighborhoods over four nights. Firefighters will escort Santa through the Conejo Park area from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Dec. 16, traveling between Stratford Avenue and North Lincoln Street. The route continues from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 17 in the Veterans Park area, from Parkway Boulevard to Dixon Avenue.

The Santa Run moves to the Northwest Park area from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Dec. 18, covering Dixon Avenue to West H Street. The final stop is planned for 6 p.m. Dec. 19 at Pardi Market Plaza, where a photo opportunity with Santa will begin. Kettle corn and hot apple cider will be available. Residents can track nightly progress using the Santa Tracker QR code provided by the fire department.

At Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, 5810 Midway Rd., the annual Wreath Project will return Dec. 13. Volunteers will begin placing boughs at 7:30 a.m., with a Wreaths Across America ceremony scheduled for 9 a.m. The cemetery places holiday boughs on all gravesites each December, a tradition that began in 2006. Organizers aim to supply 38,000 boughs this year, funded through donations collected year-round. Participation is open to volunteers of all ages, and carpooling is encouraged due to limited parking.

Wreaths Across America will also conduct its annual remembrance event at the cemetery at 9 a.m. Dec. 13, with wreath placement to follow. Seating

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 Tuesdays of each month at RoundTable Pizza, 5085 Business Center Drive, Fairfield. For more info, call 707-429-3239.



Dixon Scout Troop 152 announced the return of its Christmas Tree Recycling Fundraiser, with collections set for Jan. 3 and Jan. 10. The suggested donation is \$20 per tree. Photo courtesy of Boy Scouts of America Troop 152

for the ceremony is limited; attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs. Participants may sign up to volunteer or sponsor wreaths by visiting the organization's site. Questions may be directed to the volunteer location coordinator at 916-367-8461.

Santa will make another local appearance at the Bank of Stockton, 2200 N. First St., from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 19. The branch will host a public holiday gathering featuring treats, hot chocolate and photos with Santa.

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce will hold its final Lunch Bunch of the year from noon to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 15 at Pedro's Cocina, 1425 Market Lane. The luncheon offers networking opportunities for local professionals. The standing monthly event typically occurs on the third Tuesday, but December's meeting was moved to the third Monday. Additional information is available at dixonchamber.org or by calling 707-678-2650.

Dixon Scout Troop 152 announced the return of its

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

Christmas Tree Recycling Fundraiser, with collections set for Jan. 3 and Jan. 10. The suggested donation is \$20 per tree. Proceeds support troop activities, including campouts, training and service projects. Residents may register and submit payments at troop152dixon.com.

Following its Dec. 6 "Magical Victorian Christmas Festival," the Downtown Dixon Business Association released dates for its 2026 community events. Scheduled activities include Railroad Days from June 20 to 21, the Art and Wine Stroll Aug. 22, a weekly farmers market from Sept. 3 to Oct. 22, Brewski Fest Oct. 24, Halloween Trick or Treat Oct. 31, the Merchants Holiday Open House Nov. 21 and the Annual Tree Lighting Festival on Dec. 5. More information is available at downtowndixonca.com/events or by calling 707-678-8400.

The city's lineup of seasonal activities offers residents multiple ways to participate, give back and celebrate together throughout December. ★

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 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 help-line information and other meetings, go to www.napa-solanona.org. ★

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



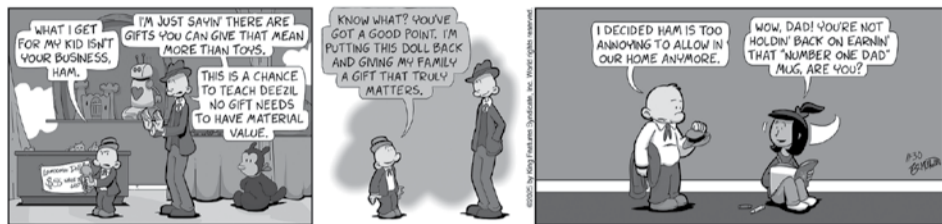
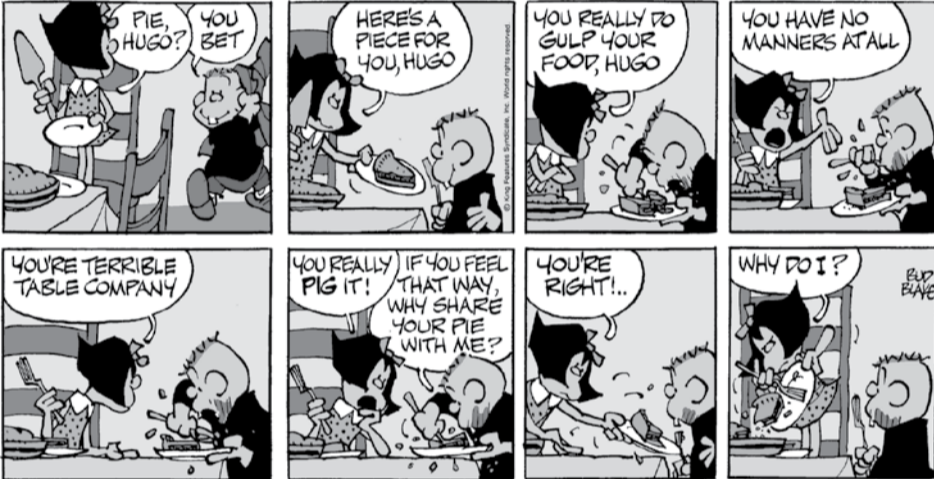
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



TIGER

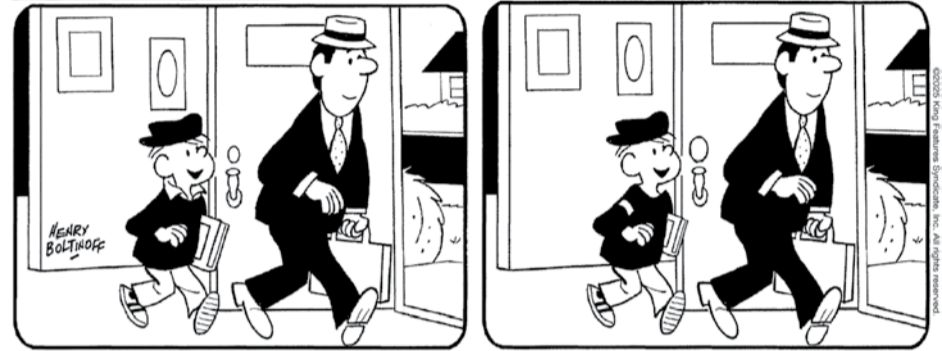
by BUD BLAKE



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

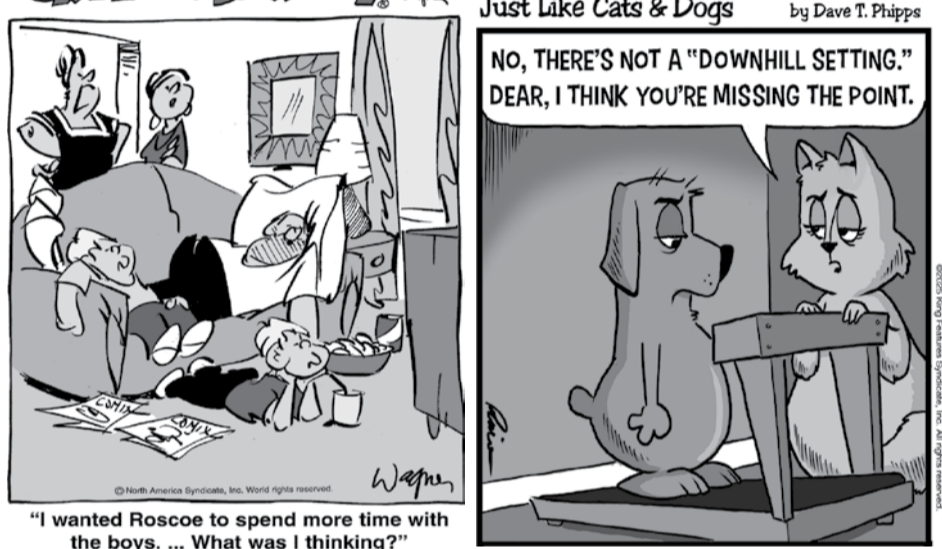
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Picture frame is higher; 2. Door knob is larger; 3. Hand is moved; 4. Collar is missing; 5. Stripe is added to sleeve; 6. Book is smaller.

GRIN & BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • AT A BAR

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Slovenly ones
 - To do this is human?
 - Not flip
 - Mistress or lover, arch.
 - Precedes de Rivoli
 - Lift a hefty load
 - Sheep-like
 - Invoice qty.
 - Republic on Arabian Peninsula
 - *Aromatic additives
 - *Beer with Bloody Mary, e.g.
 - Major Uziel Gal-designed gun
 - Clarified butter
 - Although, for short
 - Distressed cry
 - Bamboozled
 - What a willow did?
 - J in B. J. King
 - Raspberry drupelets
 - Pelvic bones
 - Birch family tree
 - Banned apple spray
 - Impolite dinner sound
 - Left, Latin prefix
 - Dissenting clique
 - a.k.a. chickadee
 - Four seasons
 - Abode for #1 Down
 - Do, re or mi
 - Buddy Holly's "Peggy"
 - *Measuring tool at a bar
 - *Not shaken
 - Dough or cabbage
 - "Gross!"
 - Lacking guile
 - "The Day the World Stilled"
 - Intelligence org.
 - Ruhr's industrial center
 - Job for a body shop
 - Finish
 - Condemn
- DOWN**
- #1 Across, sing.
 - Jeans maker Strauss
 - Leave out
 - Swahili and other languages
 - One of the seven dwarfs
 - Victorian one and Elizabethan one, e.g.
 - *Liquor in Hurricane and Painkiller
 - *Verb related to hangover
 - Fine print add-ons
 - Feeble
 - Above and beyond
 - Mightier than sword
 - Shenzi of "The Lion King"
 - *Spanish dry red wine
 - *For ___ a Jolly Good Fellow"
 - Seductive stare (2 words)
 - *Citrus peel
 - Greeting
 - Laudanum ingredient
 - *Same as rail at a bar
 - South American wood sorrels
 - Trickeries
 - Roleplay
 - *Like martini with olive brine
 - Queen of Hearts' pastry
 - Campbell of "Scream"

CROSSWORD

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



What a difference a day makes. As the Sacramento Kings began another depressing losing streak, this one reaching 3 games, fans are pleasantly surprised by an upset win over the Miami Heat in Miami Florida.

Sharpshooter Zach Lavine showed up for the intrepid scorer he is, posting 42 points that was more than the Heat were able to handle.

Sacramento favorite Davion Mitchell, now running the point for Miami, will have to wait to show off his defensive magic, as Davion was sidelined with a groin pull.

The 127-111 win over the Heat marked the first time this season that Sacramento has won a game by double digits, and it could not have come at a better time.

Talk shows throughout Sacramento, pundits and fans alike have been all but applauding the thought of blowing up the current team and starting from scratch.

I am a proponent of taking your medicine however difficult it is to swallow, and do not cave in to pressure.

Just one year ago, team management acted in haste and sent one of the greatest players Sacramento has ever seen packing. Now DeAaron Fox is getting standing ovations in San Antonio and will likely bring a championship to the state of Texas.

Knee jerk moves don't work. Ask Nico Harrison, formerly of the Dallas Mavericks if that's a good idea as he insanely traded superstar Luka Doncic and paid the price by losing his job.

Steady at the helm is what Sacramento needs and don't misjudge the talent currently on this team.

Davion Mitchell, Jonas Valanciunas, and Isaac Jones have taken up residence elsewhere, and other NBA teams are the better for it. We cannot fail to see the attributes in the players we have, and I was heartened to see that the Kings did something positive with last year's first round draft choice Devin Carter.

Carter, a talented and highly athletic young player has been sitting on the pines getting no playing time, but he was just sent down to Stockton where he will get much needed playing time in the G-league. Playing time is precisely what Carter needs, and I hope the Kings are not shortsighted when teams come calling, hoping to add

Carter to their roster.

When you draft a player #1 it says something, and Devin Carter needs to have every opportunity to show this franchise the value he brings.

The Kings have been able to produce a win without talented big man Domantas Sabonis, and it should give every Kings fan pause.

Are the Kings as bad as their 6-17 record would indicate, or are there plausible reasons for such a tepid and unenthusiastic start?

We have pointed out the horrific free throw shooting in nearly all of Sacramento's losses, and on the flip side, the precision free throw shooting when Sacramento posts a win.

Is this coaching staff capable of getting this group of NBA ballers to sink free throws at a clip of 80% or better? If they can, wins will come.

Of course, the Kings need to improve on the defensive end, and when they hit the court with energy and a passion for getting stops, good things invariably happen.

Way too early to say I know how this season is going to go, and every fan should wonder if just one or possibly two moves could completely turn things around.

The Kings need to get bigger and longer, on that point few people will argue. But don't give away talent like Isaac Jones that already has the physical prowess this team needs.

Judge talent better, and if this staff can't do that, find people that can. Whether it's trades or in the draft, we need better judgement and we can't afford to wait much longer.

The good news is Sabonis won't be out much longer, and even one smart move could move the needle in a positive direction for the Kings.

I take my hat off to a fan base in Sacramento that I find amazing. Nearly unconditional support is hard to find and that is what this team has the privilege of playing in front of every night. Coaches coach better, and players hit the court every night and bring the best you have.

Stay tuned Kings fans, because there really is light at the end of the tunnel!

Merry Christmas!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

Ask DR. UNIVERSE

Dr. Universe: Why do we Have Fingerprints?

- Kaylen, 11, North Carolina

Dear Kaylen,

I use my paws for all kinds of things. That's how I adjust my microscope, set up my microphone for a podcast and write answers to science questions. But most cats don't do those things. Maybe that's why cats don't have fingerprints like yours.

I asked my friend Katherine Corn about that. She's an evolutionary functional morphologist. She studies how animal bodies evolved to do all kinds of jobs. She's the director of Washington State University's museum of vertebrate zoology.

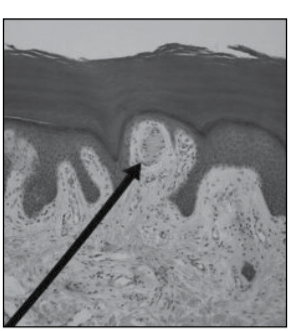
Scientists think there are two big reasons for fingerprints: dexterity and grip.

"We can't really discriminate which one is more important," Corn said. "But people are working on this, which is exciting."

Dexterity is the way you use muscles in your hands to make small, precise movements. That's how you write, type or use a game controller. It's also called fine motor control.

To make those exact movements, you take in data and make little adjustments. That data comes from what you see and hear. It comes from what you feel and how you sense your body in space.

If you're gaming, you adjust your hand movements based on things you see and hear in the game and in the real world. You feel the controller. You can tell how



Here's what a Meissner's corpuscle looks like under your skin. They're sensitive to touch and vibrations. Wbensmith CC BY 3.0 Courtesy photo

your fingers and hands are moving. Your brain uses all that information to tune your movements.

Your sense of touch works because your skin has tiny touch sensors. They're called Meissner's corpuscles. They help you feel different textures. Primates like monkeys and apes have lots of these. Humans are among the apes with the most.

"Humans — *Homo sapiens*—have like a zillion of these mechanoreceptors," Corn said. "And our mechanoreceptors are really big."

Scientists think the ridges of your fingerprints act like little levers. As you touch something, those ridges push on touch sensors. That gives your brain lots of information about what you touched.

It's possible that this dexterity evolved as primates began eating more fruit.

Being able to feel subtle textures would have helped them figure out if fruit was ripe.

Grip is how you hang onto things. To do that well, your fingers need to be moist but not sloppy. If your skin is too dry, it won't flex right. If it's too wet, you'll lose friction and slip off.

The ridges of your fingerprints are like tiny furrows or channels that move moisture. Those ridges spread your sweat around, so your skin is flexible but not too slippery.

Fingerprints also help grip rough surfaces because the ridges lock in with the bumps and grooves on the surface. Some animals do this super well. It's how geckoes cling to smooth surfaces like glass with their mega-ridged feet.

"We can't crawl up a window," Corn said. "But the same principle applies that we create little friction sets on a rough surface."

Animals usually don't evolve traits that do just one thing. Fingerprints helped early humans succeed in a few ways, so those fingerprints stuck around.

That's why human fetuses form fingerprints way before they're born. The unique pattern of ridges happens because of genes, the density of the fluid inside the uterus and how the fetus moves around while the ridges form.

It's a clever adaptation that gives humans a hand up on the competition.

Sincerely,
Dr. Universe

California's New Labor Law Could Have Unintended and Unwanted Consequences



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The California Legislature has a bad habit of writing new law in the moment and paying little or no attention to its potential consequences.

While legislative history contains many examples, the most spectacular occurred three decades ago when legislators and then-Gov. Pete Wilson massively overhauled how electricity is generated, distributed and priced, telling consumers it would make power more affordable and reliable.

The real world impact was just the opposite. Power became less reliable, prices skyrocketed and the state's investor-owned utilities were pushed into insolvency.

Other examples of unintended consequences in California include launching a bullet train project without comprehensive construction or financial plans, sharply increasing public employee pensions without considering costs and doing the same with unemployment insurance benefits.

One could also add the current practice of draining emergency reserves to cover budget deficits that result from overestimating revenues and underestimating spending, leaving the state's finances vulnerable to an inevitable economic downturn.

Then there is Assembly Bill 288, one of many measures the Legislature dominated by Democrats and Gov. Gavin

Newsom have passed in recent years to thwart — or so they hope — President Donald Trump.

AB 288, sponsored by California labor unions and carried by Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, an Inglewood Democrat, expands the authority of California's Public Employment Relations Board — which oversees union-management activities in state and local governments and school districts — to include private sector employment.

The bill aims for the Public Employee Relations Board, or PERB, to step into the role performed for many decades by the National Labor Relations Board because, McKinnor and other advocates maintain, the NLRB is frozen by a dispute over its membership.

Early this year, Trump removed Dwyne Wilcox, the NLRB's chair, leaving the board without a quorum and unable to decide pending cases. Trump's action is being fought in the courts.

"Well, I'll just say that if we have no board, no quorum, no board, no justice to state workers, for state workers," McKinnor told the state Senate Judiciary Committee just before AB 288 passed. "And so, we need to make sure that, you know, that PERB can hear these cases, because if there's no forum for workers to resolve unfair labor practices, then where do they stand?"

"What do we do for them? We can't just leave them out in the cold because the NLRB doesn't have a quorum. We also can have loss of union protections, like bargaining rights, organizing protections and reinstatement after retaliation. And so, we can't have our workers unprotected, because employers will take advantage of that."

Private employer groups opposed the measure,

contending the existence of the NLRB, even though it's stymied, preempts a state from usurping federal authority.

Generally, states can legislate on labor relations only in economic sectors not covered by federal law. That's why, a half-century ago, California could create the public employment board and the Agricultural Labor Relations Board to oversee employment on farms and in food processing plants.

The NLRB and interests that opposed AB 288 are suing in federal court, contending that the legislation is illegal under federal law.

AB 288 represents a potentially disruptive, even dangerous, precedent. Were it to survive the legal challenge, every state would be free to create its own set of laws governing unionization of workers.

Blue states such as California could virtually mandate unionization of private sector employees, as it already has for public employees and farm workers.

Meanwhile, red states could virtually prohibit unions from organizing workers, to make the states more attractive to industry and insulated from NLRB oversight even if Democrats regain the White House.

Balkanizing labor-management relations would create chaos in the national economy. It also could potentially work to the overall disadvantage of union organizing efforts. Do California's unions and their political allies really want to take that chance?

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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Aggies Sweep Rider of the Month Awards in Strong Season

UC Davis News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Following a standout month of November in which the University of California, Davis equestrians earned back-to-back wins over Delaware State and UT Martin, Chloe Fares, Eliza Plum, Anna Donovan and Mya Clader were each recognized with the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Riders of the Month honors.

Fares delivered a breakout month in Fences, earning points in all three meets. She opened with an 82 aboard Cici at Delaware State to secure UC Davis' first point of the event in a 4-1 Aggie victory. The sophomore then rode to an MOP-winning 86 on Salty against UT Martin, the highest score of the event; outscoring her opponent by a whopping 20 points and helping secure the event win for the Aggies. Fares closed the month with another event-high mark, an 83 on Otis against Oklahoma State, securing a crucial second point for the team.

Fares' consistency, ability to produce under pressure and Eastern College Athletic Conference Rider of the Week recognition on Nov. 11 following



Chloe Fares, Eliza Plum, Anna Donovan and Mya Clader were each recognized with the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Riders of the Month honors. Photo courtesy UC Davis

the Delaware doubleheader Aggie victories, solidified her as the conference's top Fences rider for November.

Plum continued her impressive season in Horsemanship with two strong, point-earning rides. She began the month with a 66.5 aboard Cinch at Delaware State, earning UC Davis the first point of the event in a 2-2 tie. The sophomore then posted a 75 aboard Brady against UT Martin,

securing MOP honors and helping lead the Aggies to a 3-0 sweep in the event. Plum closed with a competitive 74 on Penny against Oklahoma State.

Following her Eastern College Athletic Conference Rider of the Week accolade on Nov. 11 from the Delaware doubleheader weekend, Plum's precision and competitive edge made her the conference's stand-out Horsemanship rider for

November.

Donovan anchored the Aggies' Flat squad, earning points in all three meets of the month. The sophomore opened with an 80 on Dude at Delaware State, contributing to a 4-1 event win and beating her opponent by an impressive 18 points. Donovan followed with back-to-back scores of 83, first on Peter against UT Martin, then on Calvigo against Oklahoma State; where Donovan posted the event's

highest score, beating her opponent by 14 points and helping UC Davis secure two more event victories.

Donovan's polished, composed riding throughout the month and her ability to deliver high marks in key matchups distinguished her as the conference's top Flat rider for November.

Clader once again set the tone for the Aggies in Reining, contributing pivotal rides in two of three meets. She earned UC Davis' lone point against Delaware State with a 65 aboard Aspen before posting a MOP-winning 70.5 on Delta versus UT Martin to help the team tie the event. The senior added a 71 on Mr. T against Oklahoma State, tying for the event's highest score in another strong outing.

Clader's reliability, poise under pressure and Eastern College Athletic Conference Rider of the Week recognition on Nov. 11 following the Delaware road wins helped secure her place as the conference's standout Reining rider for November.

The Aggies closed out the fall season but will be back in the spring to kick off their next season, starting on Jan. 28, on the road competing against Southern Methodist University. ★

Dunivant Steps Down as Republic FC President, General Manager

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Republic FC has announced that President and General Manager Todd Dunivant will step down from his role at the end of the year to pursue a new opportunity outside the club.

Dunivant will continue to support the organization through the transition period, including ongoing recruitment efforts, completion of 2026 roster-building and continued development of key strategic initiatives.

He will join Major League Soccer's New York City FC as the club's third sporting director in January. New York City FC is part of City Football Group, the world's leading private owner and operator of football clubs with 13 football clubs across five continents within the City Football Group family.

Dunivant first joined Republic FC as general manager in 2018, originally hired to serve as the club's head of soccer operations as the club prepared for its transition to Major League Soccer. In 2021, Dunivant succeeded previous President Ben Gumpert to lead the club's business operations as well.

In eight seasons, Dunivant has overseen one of the most competitive eras in club history, including advancing to the 2022 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup Final, the first appearance by a second-division club in the championship match since 2008.

His tenure also included seven postseason berths, a Western Conference Final appearance in 2023, a Jägermeister Cup Final appearance this season and the launch of club and region transformational long-term projects with the focus primarily on the club's new downtown home currently under construction.

"I'm forever grateful to Kevin Nagle, Wilton Rancheria led by Chairman Jesus Tarango and Chris Franklin, and the incredible supporters of Republic FC for their confidence and trust to help create a special club for an Indomitable city," said Dunivant.

"These eight seasons in Sacramento have been truly fulfilling, with relationships that will last a lifetime. I am so proud of what we've built together," Dunivant said. "The future of the club has never been brighter and I'm extremely confident



Republic FC President and General Manager Todd Dunivant will step down from his role at the end of the year. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

in the club's ownership, the hard-working front office staff and the talented players, coaches and technical staff who will deliver all of the rewards that this community and club deserve: a continued pursuit of silverware, an incredible stadium experience and a limitless future that will continue to be the talk of American soccer."

Transition planning is underway. Republic FC's Board of Directors has initiated a search process and is engaging with executive recruitment partners. Soccer operations, under the direction of head coach Neill Collins, will continue to build the club's roster for the 2026 season and beyond.

Training camp, including the club's annual open tryout, is set for mid-January ahead of an expected March opening night. New stadium development partners continue to be added to the team as the project nears vertical construction. Dunivant will remain with the club through the end of the year to support recruitment efforts, guide ongoing stadium development and ensure a smooth leadership transition.

Republic FC's executive leadership team remains one of the most experienced and respected senior staff groups in United Soccer League (USL). Over the past five seasons, Republic FC's executive staff has been honored annually by the United

Soccer League leadership and their colleagues across the league. The team of six executives also has decades of experience in professional sports across the National Basketball Association, National Football League and Major League Baseball, as well as with Sacramento's leading businesses.

Wilton Rancheria Chairman Jesus Tarango, Jr. emphasized the club's firm commitment to its long-term vision.

"Todd's passion and relentless pursuit of success for this club and community have been evident in every project he has been a part of and his efforts will long be connected to Republic FC. Our new downtown home continues to move forward because of Todd's diligent work and our future remains strong," said Tarango. "Leadership changes are a part of growth and Todd has positioned us well. We are deep into structural planning for the organization and our board, partners and executive team are aligned to keep our projects on track and our competitive goals high."

Organizational continuity will be supported by Republic FC's executive leadership team in collaboration with Wilton Rancheria Chief Operating Officer Chris Franklin and managing partner Kevin Nagle. December will include a structured handoff of priority initiatives to ensure stability and momentum heading into the new year.

"Todd has made a tremendous impact on Republic FC," said managing partner Kevin Nagle.

"I brought him to Sacramento because I knew he could help take this club to another level and he did. From building competitive teams to strengthening our organization, he's been a trusted leader. We're grateful for his work and wish him the best, while our focus stays on the future, our stadium, our vision and a strong 2026 season."

Season ticket memberships are now on sale for the 2026 season, offering a range of benefits including discounts on merchandise and access to exclusive fan experiences, as well as priority seats in the new Republic Stadium at The Railyards. As a special incentive to purchase a membership before the end of the year, anyone who signs up as a season ticket member now through Dec. 17 will receive an exclusive, limited-edition holiday sweater. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit SacRepublicFC.com/Memberships. ★

Football Signs 11 on Early Signing Period's First Day

Sacramento State News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento State football team announced the signing of 11 high school seniors on the early signing period's first day on Dec. 3. The group is comprised of six offensive and five defensive players and features nine three-star recruits by 247Sports.

On offense, the team will bring in a pair of running backs and offensive linemen as well as a quarterback and wide receiver. Granite Bay High School senior Isaiah Ene and Marquez Wimberly are the latest additions to the talented Hornet backfield. Ene rushed for nearly 5,000 yards and 65 touchdowns during his career with the Grizzlies. Wimberly, who hails from Nazareth, Pennsylvania, amassed 1,781 yards and 27 touchdowns as a senior and has been an all-state selection.

Up front, Roger Vanderhoef and Daneil Mataele will both remain close to home. Vanderhoef (6-7, 350) recently completed his senior season at Grant High School in Sacramento where he helped the team to a



Eleven high school seniors were signed to the Sacramento State football team Dec. 3 during the early signing period's first day. Seven of the 11 players are from California. Graphic courtesy of Sacramento State

Metro League title and a berth in the Sacramento Section Div. I semifinals. Mataele (6-6, 360), prepped at Patterson High School in Manteca where he played on both sides of the ball.

Quarterback Jackson Presley guided Glacier High School to a Montana AA state title this fall. During his three varsity seasons, Presley threw for close to 8,000 yards and had 80 touchdowns. As a senior,

Presley tossed 35 touchdowns with just two interceptions.

One of his new targets will be wide receiver Dezmyn Hardy from Calabasas High School. Hardy posted 880 receiving yards with 13 touchdowns as a senior and finished the year with 1,006 all-purpose yards.

On defense, the team bolstered its front with the signing of Federico Cobarubio and Devyn Blake. Cobarubio played at Valley

Christian High School in San Jose where he was named first team all-league. Blake is from Edison High School in Huntington Beach and has been a first team all-Alpha League selection. Blake finished his varsity career with 126 total tackles.

Leki Holani and Jiah Walls are slated at linebacker for the Hornets. Holani was credited with 91 tackles as a senior at Santa Margarita High School in Rancho Cucamonga. That total included 14 tackles-for-loss and 4.5 sacks. His team won the Trinity League title in 2025 and advanced to the Southern Section Div. I championship. Walls played at Evans High School in Orlando, Florida. While there, Walls was named first team all-district after recording 139 tackles as a senior.

The secondary will be aided by the addition of Chakai Scott. The safety prepped at West Orange High School in Ocoee, Florida where he recorded 163 tackles during his career, including 75 as a senior. Scott was also incredible on special teams where he blocked 10 kicks (punt, field goals and PATS) in 2025. ★



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