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Anderson to Compete at Karate Trials



Anderson's upcoming appearance in Denver will mark another milestone, as she is set to become the youngest athlete ever to compete for a spot on the U.S. Senior Team. Photo courtesy of Anna Anderson

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Local karateka Anna Anderson will travel to Colorado in late January as she prepares to compete in the 2026 USA Karate National Team Trials, a key step in her pursuit of a spot on the U.S. Senior National Team.

Anderson, 18, of Ramtown Karate, is scheduled to arrive in Colorado Jan. 29, and stay through Feb. 2. The national team trials will be held in Denver from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, bringing together top competitors from across the country.

With the trip approaching, Anderson said her focus has

narrowed to preparation, both physically and mentally.

"I've just been really focusing on training and getting in the mental space I need to be," said Anderson. "I'm a Christian, so it revolves around me praying a lot and trying to take a different perspective on things and have a positive mindset. Sometimes I get down on myself when training, so I just need to flip my mindset more and have fun. I'm here to do my best and do what I love."

Anderson said training in Colorado will differ from her current routine, largely due to the change in environment, but she plans to rely on

familiar habits.

"It's a whole different area and environment," she said. "I'm excited to train in a new place. I've never been to Colorado. I have a routine I do before every competition, and I always feel more confident and ready after."

During her stay, Anderson hopes to visit the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. The facility features an Olympic-size swimming pool, an indoor shooting range, and strength and conditioning training areas used by elite athletes.

"I really want to see the Olympic training center," said Anderson.

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Appellate Court Rejects Delta Tunnel Financing

Delta Counties Coalition News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) welcomes the opinion by the Third District Court of Appeal, which upheld the lower court's ruling that the State of California lacks legal authority to issue billions of dollars in bonds to finance the proposed Delta tunnel project without explicit legislative approval.

This decision affirms what Delta communities, counties, and local agencies have raised for years: that a project of this scale, cost and consequence cannot be advanced through administrative maneuvering or broad interpretations of decades-old statutes.

The court made clear that the Department of Water Resources exceeded its authority by attempting to classify the Delta tunnel as a "modification" of the State Water Project, rather than what it plainly is - a massive new conveyance facility with far-reaching impacts.

For the counties and residents who live and work in the Delta, this ruling is an important step toward transparency, accountability, and lawful decision-making. The proposed tunnel would fundamentally alter Delta land use, threaten local water supply reliability, place additional pressure on fragile ecosystems, and expose ratepayers and communities to escalating financial risk - all without clear authorization from the Legislature or any water supply benefits for affected regions.

The court's opinion underscores a basic principle: if the State wishes to pursue a project with an estimated - and questionable - price tag of \$20 billion and decades-long consequences, it must do so openly, with full legislative scrutiny and public accountability. Delta communities should not be asked to bear the environmental, economic, and social costs of a project that has yet to demonstrate clear benefits or a lawful funding path.

While proponents have suggested the ruling does not end the project, it undeniably raises serious questions about its viability. Just last year, the Governor unsuccessfully attempted to tack legislation onto the State Budget that would have bypassed many hurdles for the tunnel, and his representatives at that time confidently told the Legislature that they would prevail on this matter in court.

Continued on page 3

Drama Club Premieres Musical

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon High School Drama Club will premiere its musical production "The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals" at the Dixon Performing Arts Center, 555 College Way, marking the group's first show of 2026.

Performances are scheduled for Jan. 16, 17 and 18. Friday and Saturday's shows will begin at 6:30 p.m., while Sunday's performance will start at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and \$7 for seniors and military members. The box office will open 30 minutes before showtime.

Written by Matt and Nick Lang, "The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals" is a pre-existing musical licensed by the Dixon High School Drama Club for performance. Drama adviser Tami Callen said the selection process focused on choosing a school-appropriate musical



Dixon High School Drama Club will premiere its musical production "The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals" at the Dixon Performing Arts Center, 555 College Way, marking the group's first show of 2026. Photo courtesy of Tami Callen/Dixon High Drama Club

that matched student interest.

"We pick a musical that's school-friendly, then we get the licensing rights," said Callen. "It's a pre-existing musical. The cast really wanted to do more of a musical, not just

a play; more singing."

The Dixon High School Drama Club has existed for many years but was restarted following the COVID-19 pandemic. This school year marks Callen's first year advising the group.

"For quite some time, it's been around," said Callen. "It restarted after COVID, and this is my first year advising it."

Callen also serves as Dixon High School's head coach for flag football.

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Dixon News Briefs

Council Approves Updated Fireworks Regulations

By Shaunna Boyd

DIXON, CA (MPG) - At the Jan. 6 meeting of the Dixon City Council, Solano County Civil Grand Jury representatives spoke during public comment about their recruitment process. The Civil Grand Jury acts as a watchdog of local governments and agencies, as well as investigating citizen complaints. The application period is now open for the 2026-27 year, which begins on July 1. Positions are available to residents of Solano County over the age of 18 with strong reading, writing and analytical skills.

The council considered an amendment to the city ordinance regulating fireworks within the city. To address the safety issues caused by illegal aerial fireworks, particularly around the 4th of July holiday, the recommended update includes a social host liability, through which fines and penalties can be imposed upon the owner or occupant of a property where illegal fireworks were used. The updated ordinance also approves use of drones for enforcement, as well as corrections of minor typographical errors and clarification regarding the packaging of legal fireworks.

The updated ordinance would take effect 30 after approval, and Councilmember Kevin Johnson said he was glad the social host liability will be in "full force" for this year's July 4th holiday.

The ordinance was approved 4-0, with Vice Mayor Thom Bogue abstaining.

The council also considered a resolution approving administrative regulations, procedures and fees to govern the 2026 lottery selection process for "safe and sane" fireworks sales permits.

Acting Fire Chief Randy Shafer said the process will remain largely consistent with prior years, with a few modifications. Changes include moving the application period from the month of January to February, and a non-refundable \$25 application fee will be charged to cover staff time for application review.

Six total permits are allowed within the city, and they are granted by lottery within various categories including service clubs, faith-based organizations and veterans organizations. Two permits will be granted from the youth/sports/education category, and one within a "last chance" category in which all applicants will be entered if not already selected.

If selected in the application lottery, the fireworks sales permit fee will be \$150, to cover the costs of fire safety inspections for each booth.

The council voted 4-0 to approve the firework sales resolution, with Vice Mayor Bogue abstaining.

Finally, the council selected a member to serve as vice mayor for 2026. Mayor Steven Bird nominated Councilmember Jim Ernest, and his appointment was approved 4-0, with Bogue abstaining.

The next meeting of the Dixon City Council is scheduled for Jan. 20. ★



Grace Fellowship Church of Dixon's Grace Kids Club began registration Jan. 7. Held at the church, 535 W. H St., kids from kindergarten to 5th grade are invited to explore and learn about the bible among friends and peers. Photo by Kendall Brown

By MPG Staff

Annual Hobo Beef Stew Dinner

American Legion Post 208 is hosting its annual Hobo Beef Stew dinner and raffle at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 16. Held at Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St., the event offers a no-host bar at 4:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 per person.

For more information, visit the Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook page or call 530-304-5385.

Lawn Fawn Card Class

It's All About the Scrapbook is hosting a card-making class from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 31. Held at the shop, 1670 N. Lincoln St., the class will involve creating 6 cards, 2 of which will be interactive, and a bonus card using a Lawn Fawn stamp that participants can keep. The class, led by Julie Kelly, costs \$65 per person.

For more information or to register, visit itsallaboutthescrapbook.com or call 707-676-5252.

Lunch Bunch at Sourdough and Co.

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a lunch bunch networking event from noon to 1:30 p.m. Jan. 20. Held at Sourdough and Co., 1450 Ary Lane #A, the free event offers guests a no-host lunch and networking opportunities. Lunch Bunch meets every third Tuesday of each month.

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

Dixon Dolphins Swim Registration Now Open

The Dixon Dolphins Swim Team opened registration for returning swimmers Jan. 1. Open for ages 4 to 18, the season begins in early April and ends in late July. New swimmers can register Jan. 15, but must pass a swim assessment and be able to swim unassisted across the pool. Notably, payment plans are also available for registration costs.

For more information, visit dixondolphins.swimtopia.com or email dixondolphinsinfo@gmail.com.

Street Fighter Tournament

Joystick Gaming Lounge is hosting a Street Fighter tournament from 6 to 10 p.m. Jan. 16. Held at the arcade, 420 Gateway Dr., Suite C., the event costs \$15 per person to participate and occurs every third Friday of the month. Registration is available online.

For more information or to register, visit joystickdixon.com or call 707-676-5697.

Dixon High Sports

Dixon High School Boys Varsity Soccer has a home game 4 p.m. Jan. 26. Hosted at Dixon High School, 555 College Way, the Rams will take on the Natomas High School Nighthawks.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit dixonramsathletics.com or call 707-693-6330.

Dixon Moose Lodge Crab Feed

Dixon Moose Lodge will host a crab feed starting 5 p.m. Jan. 31. Held at the lodge, 1980 W. B St., the event includes a cocktail hour at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. and a raffle at 7:30 p.m. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and crab for \$65 per person.

For more information, visit the Dixon Moose Lodge new page Facebook page or call 530-219-1653.

Teen Vision Board Making

Dixon Library will host a teen vision board making class from 1 to 3 p.m. Jan. 24. Held at the library, 230 N. First St., the event supports teens in making a 2026 vision board by using magazine clippings. Supplies are provided and registration is recommended but not required.

For more information, visit solanolibrary.com or email rdgjertsen@solanocounty.gov.

Winter Wonderland Cupcake Class

Every Baking Moment is hosting a winter-themed baking class from 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 19. Held at the shop, 143 N. First St., the class is a fun casual experience where participants can decorate and take home 12 cupcakes for \$50 per person. All supplies are provided and the class is for those ten and older.

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

Grace Kids Club

Grace Fellowship Church of Dixon's Grace Kids Club began registration Jan. 7. Held at the church, 535 W. H St., kids from kindergarten to 5th grade are invited to explore and learn about the bible among friends and peers. The club meets every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. during the school year. Registration is free and lasts until April 15.

For more information, visit gracefellow.com or call 707-678-5700. ★

Women's Improvement Club Hosts Financial Wellness Presentation

Dixon Women's Improvement Club News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Women's Improvement Club will host a special presentation at 1 p.m. Jan. 21, featuring local financial advisor Brenda Walker, CFP®, AAMS®, CRPS™. The event will take place in the meeting hall of the Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St.

Walker, an advisor with Edward Jones Financial Services in Dixon, will speak on financial wellness for women, offering practical guidance on navigating retirement planning, investments and long-term financial security. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

Brenda Walker has spent years helping individuals and families manage financial uncertainty by developing clear,



Dixon Women's Improvement Club will host a special presentation at 1 p.m. Jan. 21, featuring local financial advisor Brenda Walker, CFP®, AAMS®, CRPS™. Photo courtesy of Dixon Women's Improvement Club

actionable strategies tailored to their goals. She holds a bachelor's degree in finance and maintains the CFP®, AAMS® and CRPS™ professional designations.

A longtime Dixon resident, Walker lives in the community with her family and three Yorkies. She

enjoys spending weekends with family and friends and is actively involved in Soroptimist International of Dixon and other local organizations. She is passionate about empowering clients and contributing to the well-being of the community. ★

Anderson to Compete at Karate Team Trials

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"Ever since it's been possible for me to try out for the senior team, I've wanted to go. I feel like once I'm there, it'll be real, like I could be a member of Team USA."

The 2026 National Team Trials serve as a pathway for athletes seeking to represent the United States in international competition. According to USA Karate, the event is designed to introduce talented practitioners on the world stage to compete for the country.

Anderson enters the trials following a standout performance last summer. In July 2025, she won gold in the Women's Under 21 Elite Point Kumite Division at the U.S. Karate National Championships and U.S. Junior Team Trials in Fort Worth, Texas. Competing in the 18-to-20 age group, she represented Northern California and earned a position on the U.S. Junior Team with her first-place finish. The event also served as the official selection process for both the U.S. Junior and Senior National Teams.

Her upcoming appearance in Denver will mark another

milestone, as Anderson is set to become the youngest athlete ever to compete for a spot on the U.S. Senior Team.

Looking ahead to 2026, Anderson said her goals extend beyond a single event.

"One of my goals is to make the senior team," said Anderson. "Another goal is to make the under-21 team again and compete at the senior and junior PKF (Panamerican Karate Federation) and medal there." Outside of karate, Anderson is enrolled in an emergency medical technician program and plans to complete prerequisite classes for the fire academy.

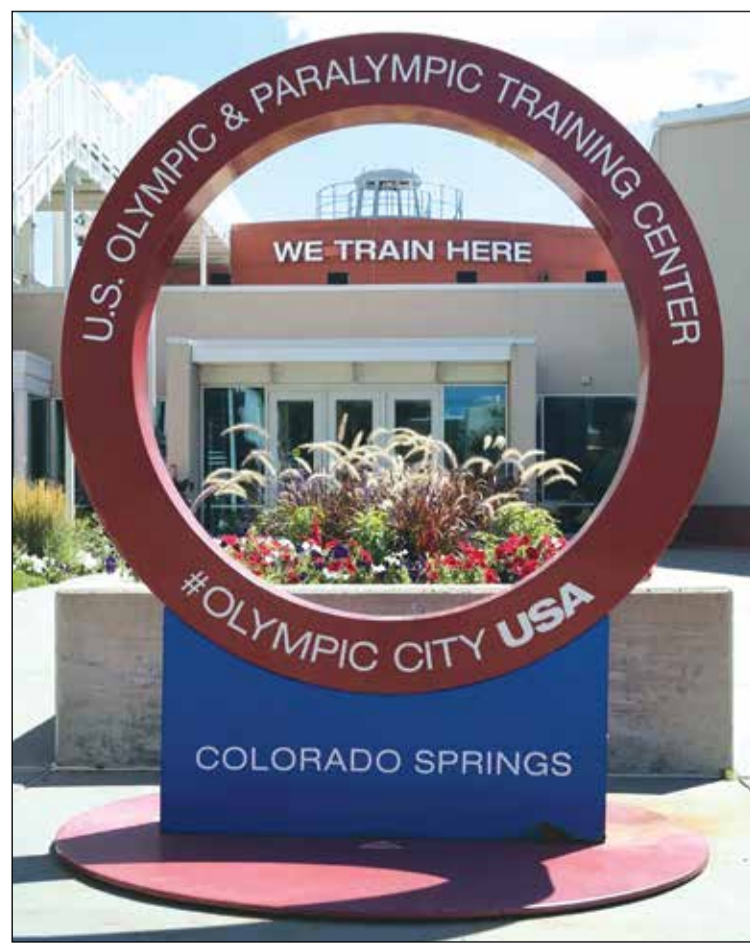
As she prepares for the trip, Anderson credits her support system.

"My coaches Jim and Kathy Ernest and Kiera Lake, all my friends at Ramtown, my parents, and all my friends and family," said Anderson. "They've been really supportive through this crazy process."

For more information about Anderson's journey, visit the Ramtown Karate Facebook page or call 707-678-4899. ★



Local karateka Anna Anderson will travel to Colorado in late January as she prepares to compete in the 2026 USA Karate National Team Trials, a key step in her pursuit of a spot on the U.S. Senior National Team. Photo courtesy of Anna Anderson



During her stay, Anderson hopes to visit the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. The facility features equipment used by elite athletes. Photo courtesy of Chris Hull/United States Olympic & Paralympic Training Center

Local Partnership Funds High School Scholarships

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Soroptimist International of Dixon partnered with Pizza Guys for a community fundraiser held Jan. 12, with a portion of sales donated to support local programs.

The fundraiser took place at Pizza Guys, 1455 Ary Lane, where customers were encouraged to mention Soroptimist International of Dixon when placing their orders. Proceeds from qualifying sales will be directed to the organization to fund high school scholarships.

Barbara Rigdon, president of Soroptimist International of Dixon, said the partnership developed as the club sought simple, accessible fundraising opportunities.

"It was fairly simple," said Rigdon. "We plan fundraisers and events annually, but we knew a couple wouldn't come to fruition, so we had to think of something to do that would be easy."

According to Rigdon, two Soroptimist members, Linda Green and Linda Glantz, learned about Pizza Guys' involvement in community support and reached out to the restaurant's manager and owner, Ashley Rafterty.

"They contacted the manager and she was so excited to help out," said Rigdon. "It's the first time we've ever done this, so maybe this is something we can do more often."

According to Rigdon, all funds raised through the Pizza Guys fundraiser will be used specifically for high school scholarships, a key focus of the



Soroptimist International of Dixon partnered with Pizza Guys for a community fundraiser held Jan. 12, with a portion of sales donated to support local programs. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Dixon

organization's mission to support young women through education.

Rigdon emphasized the importance of partnerships with local businesses, noting that nonprofits often compete for limited community resources.

"Soroptimist realizes that the businesses in Dixon can be over-asked to give, so Soroptimist tries to minimize that ask," she said. "We try to ask businesses once for donations a year."

According to Rigdon, fundraisers like the Pizza Guys event provide a way to raise money while also increasing awareness.

"Having a fundraiser like this is so important because it lets people know about Soroptimist and what we do for the community," said Rigdon. "It also builds the image

of the business to show how community-minded they are. All anyone has to do is order a pizza and mention Soroptimist of Dixon."

Looking ahead, Rigdon said the organization is open to future collaborations, though no additional business partnerships have been confirmed. She noted the group's third annual Art Uncorked fundraiser is scheduled for Feb. 21, during which Soroptimist will receive a percentage of sales from the event.

Soroptimist International of Dixon meets every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. at Dixon United Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St. Community members interested in learning more or joining the organization are invited to attend.

For more information, visit Soroptimist International of Dixon, email sidixon@soroptimist.net, or visit Soroptimist CA on Facebook or soroptimist.net.

Drama Club Premieres Musical

Continued from page 1

She said this production includes about 15 students, encompassing cast members, backstage crew and technical roles such as sound and lighting.

"From sound and lights, to backstage, to the performers, it's about 15 total," said Callen.

Rehearsals began early in the school year, with the musical selected around September.

"We started up when school started, and we picked the musical around the beginning of September," said Callen.

The show's storyline centers on an ordinary man who dislikes musicals, set against a backdrop of unexpected musical chaos.

"Paul, who hates musicals, is in this town being invaded by aliens that force everyone to sing and dance in musical numbers," said Callen. "Turning it into a musical apocalypse that he and his friends must stop."

The cast includes students ranging from freshmen to seniors. According to Callen, many participants have dedicated years to the program while balancing schoolwork and other commitments.

"It's not a dedicated class," said Callen. "They're offering hours of their free time for something they love."

The production includes light profanity, a detail Callen said was important to communicate in advance.

"There's light profanity throughout the play," said Callen. "We say that so parents can be aware going into the show. It's very light profanity, but we still thought it best to disclaim it."

Callen credited community support for helping bring the production together, including assistance from Dixon Community Theater.

"Shout out to Kelly Pidgeon James and Gary Erwin, and just all of Dixon Community Theater here in town," said Callen. "All the support, when it comes from sound, direction and specialized vocalists, they've provided a lot of talent and skill for our production."

Looking ahead, Callen encourages students interested in drama to consider participating in future productions.

"I would tell them they should absolutely follow where their passion leads," said Callen. "A lot won't come out due to shyness, but they should try out."

As opening night approaches, Callen said she is proud of the students' dedication.

"I'm just super proud of the hard work and dedication that these students have put in," said Callen. "A lot of these kids are seniors, and they've been here since they were freshmen. I hope good things will come for their future in the arts."

For more information, visit the Dixon High School Facebook page or call 707-693-6330.

MEMORIAL

MARY VIRGINIA WANN • 01/24/1942 – 12/30/2025

Mary Virginia Wann, formerly of Dixon, Cal., passed away on December 30, 2025 in Prescott Valley, Ariz., where she had been living since Dec. 2023 at The Landings of Prescott Valley, a memory care facility. She was 83 years old.

Mary was born in January, 1942 in Oklahoma, but her family moved to Dixon in September, 1946. The Wann family owned the property at the corner of Dixon Ave. West and Meridian Rd. for 78 years. Mary lived in that house nearly all her life.

Mary graduated from Dixon High School with the class of 1960. She went on to work her entire career at UC Davis in the Student



craft. She was kind to animals - she always had pet dogs and would feed the feral cats on the property. She was an avid reader and enjoyed shopping with her sister and friends. She and her brother, Dewey, would road trip to Oklahoma regularly for family reunions and had the chance to see many other sites across the U.S. - Dollywood was a favorite! Mary was also a breast cancer survivor.

Housing department. She was recognized in 2016 for 50 years of affiliation with the university, though she had retired a few years earlier.

Mary was a loving aunt to her siblings' daughters and sons. She loved to sew and

She is survived by her nieces, nephews, great-nephews, many cousins, and other extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents, Marshall and Opal, and her siblings, Marvin, Dewey, and Bettie.

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Appellate Court Rejects Delta Tunnel Financing

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This calls into question this project's other significant problems. At a minimum, this court decision requires the State to pause and reconsider whether continued pursuit of the tunnel is prudent, lawful, or aligned with California's broader goals for sustainable water management, climate resilience and

regional equity.

The Delta Counties Coalition remains committed to collaborative, science-based water solutions that

protect the Delta, support local communities, and provide reliable water supplies statewide - without sacrificing the rule of law or the voices of those most directly affected.

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Doug LaMalfa, a Steadfast Advocate for California's North State, Dies at 65

By Maya C. Miller,
CalMatters.org

Rep. Doug LaMalfa, a fourth generation rice farmer and Republican who represented much of California's rural north in Congress, has died in office, setting off a scramble to replace him ahead of the November midterm election. He was 65.

His unexpected death Tuesday further shrinks the party's already razor-thin majority in Congress, which now stands at 218 following Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene's resignation. The GOP can now only afford to lose two members on any party-line vote.

LaMalfa's passing also sets up a potentially confusing scenario for his constituents in the 1st Congressional District, one of the five that were significantly redrawn under the voter-approved Proposition 50 last year.

Under California law, Gov. Gavin Newsom must call a special election within 14 days to fill the remainder of LaMalfa's term. That election will take place using the existing congressional district map, a seat that stretches from much of the Oregon-California border through rural Shasta and Sutter counties and strongly favors Republicans.

In November, though, voters will cast ballots under the new Democratic-leaning district lines adopted by voters. That means the likely Republican victor of the special election would only serve a few months before being forced to run in a heavily Democratic-favored seat.

"Somebody's going to work really hard to be in Congress for five months before they're highly likely to lose in November," said Matt Rexroad, a Republican strategist and redistricting expert.

LaMalfa died during emergency surgery at a Chico hospital, according to the Butte County Sheriff's Office, which said his family called 911 after the congressman experienced a "medical emergency" in his home.

While President Donald Trump and House Republicans could consistently count on



U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa addresses attendees during a town hall meeting at the Chico Elks Lodge on Aug. 11, 2025. LaMalfa, who represented California's rural North State, has died at 65. Photo by Salvador Ochoa for CalMatters

LaMalfa's support for conservative priorities such as last year's mega domestic policy bill, he never adopted the firebrand or antagonist persona that many of his colleagues preferred.

Instead, LaMalfa developed a reputation as a pragmatic and affable member who prioritized water access and forestry management, key interests for his largely forested, fire-prone and agricultural-heavy district. It's those issues that led him to staunchly oppose Proposition 50, Gov. Gavin Newsom's redistricting plan that proposed to lump much of the rural north with parts of the far more urban and liberal San Francisco Bay Area.

LaMalfa was known for his steadfast commitment to issues that affected his district. One tradition of his was to stake out the president after the State of the Union speech. In those precious few minutes, as the leader of the free world descended the dais and moved to exit the chamber, LaMalfa would make his legislative requests. As the Washington Post reported, after President Joe Biden's

final address, LaMalfa asked the president to force the U.S. Forest Service to speed up permits for cutting timber, telling the president, "We gotta cut some trees."

LaMalfa strongly opposed Prop. 50, framing the gerrymander as a significant loss of representation for rural Californians. At a press conference last fall, he stressed how much he loved representing the farmers, ranchers and other agricultural workers in his district, rattling off names of small towns such as Fort Goodwin and Cedarville, where he said he's knocked on countless doors and held various town halls over the years.

"I know where all those places are," LaMalfa told the handful of reporters gathered in the Butte County Farm Bureau lodge. "Do you think that's going to happen when people from Cedarville, Modoc County, are lumped in with people from Sausalito and Marin County?"

LaMalfa was already expecting the toughest race of his career in November following voters' approval of Prop. 50

and its new Democratic-leaning districts. Although the voter registration advantage was stacked against him, LaMalfa previously told CalMatters that he intended to "give it his all" no matter who its voters were.

Several Democrats had already declared challenges, including state Sen. Mike McGuire — who represents Santa Rosa, a new part of the district — and Chico State Professor Audrey Denney, who previously challenged LaMalfa in 2018 and 2020.

It's possible that LaMalfa's successor won't be known for several months, depending on when Newsom schedules the special election and whether any candidate receives 50% of the vote. If not, voters will have to cast ballots in an additional runoff election.

House Republicans would benefit from filling the vacancy as quickly as possible, given their razor-thin margin.

The closest comparison is when former Republican Rep. Devin Nunes resigned in 2022 to lead a new Trump-backed media outlet. Newsom called a special election for early

April, with a run-off election that coincided with that year's regularly scheduled statewide primary. Republican Connie Conway ultimately won the seat and served for six months before bowing out and foregoing reelection after the district was redrawn.

It's not yet clear whether Newsom will schedule the special election for LaMalfa's seat to coincide with the statewide general election primary on June 2. A special primary election would need to be set nine weeks prior, with the top two candidates proceeding to the run-off unless one candidate amasses more than 50% of the vote.

Newsom spokesperson Izzy Gardon said he has not yet chosen a date.

"I would assume the governor will try to delay as long as he can," said Rob Stutzman, a California Republican political consultant.

California Republicans face their greatest chance of victory if they can clear the field and avoid a run-off election by uniting behind a single candidate who can attract more than 50% of the vote.

The top two names circulating as likely successors are Assembly member James Gallagher, the former Republican leader who is term limited and can't run for re-election, and former Sen. Brian Dahle, who termed out last year. Neither immediately responded to texts and calls asking whether they will consider running.

"I'm in shock. My mentor, a man who was like a big brother to me, is suddenly gone," Gallagher said in a statement Tuesday. "Doug LaMalfa was a one of a kind, humble and dedicated public servant. I'm lost and can't imagine life, public service or politics without Doug."

"We mourn the loss of Congressman LaMalfa whose unwavering dedication and tireless service made a lasting difference for North State residents," Dahle wrote on social media.

None of LaMalfa's Democratic challengers immediately said whether they would run in a special election. ★

Newsom Forecasts a Rosier California Budget

By Yue Stella Yu,
CalMatters.org

Gov. Gavin Newsom's office on Friday forecast a "modest shortfall" of \$2.9 billion for the upcoming fiscal year, down sharply from previous estimates in a nearly \$349 billion budget proposal that relies heavily on continued windfalls from tech and AI stocks.

The governor's 2026-27 budget proposal projects \$9 billion more in revenue than anticipated, banking on the AI-driven economy to last. It's significantly rosier than the grim outlook by the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office, which in November projected an \$18 billion deficit.

"A downturn in the market is one of the top risks," said state Department of Finance Director Joe Stephenshaw.

Newsom's spending proposal is nearly \$30 billion more than this year's budget. It includes \$248.3 billion in the general fund, the primary account for state operations, up by \$18 billion

The spike in spending is partly driven by the need to implement federal cuts to the Medi-Cal program and constitutional requirements to deposit portions of higher-than-expected revenue into education and state reserves.

The budget calls for the University of California to get \$350 million more in 2026-27 and the California State University system to get \$365 million more, largely to fulfill Newsom's 2022 promise to increase the universities' spending by 5% annually for five years.

Newsom's budget doesn't include any cuts to K-12 schools, and preserves some of his initiatives related to school meals, community schools, after-school and summer programs and transitional kindergarten. Per-pupil spending would jump slightly to \$27,400. It also includes a \$509 million increase in special education funding, and a 2.41% cost-of-living increase.

Newsom's proposal is the opening salvo



Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks during the State of the State address in the Assembly chamber at the state Capitol in Sacramento on Jan. 8, 2026. Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

in months of budget negotiations that begin in earnest in June.

The projected deficit could balloon to \$22 billion in fiscal year 2027-28, a problem the governor will address in an updated fiscal forecast in May, Stephenshaw said.

Other state departments will see less funding under Newsom's spending plan, though Stephenshaw emphasized that there were no major cuts in the proposal. Newsom wants to spend \$1.3 billion less on housing and homelessness next year, slashing the department's budget by more

than half. Stephenshaw said some one-time dollars for housing and homelessness have run out and the state is not proposing to renew them.

Newsom's sunnier forecast could delay calls for long-term financial fixes such as new taxes.

Nodding to "long-term structural challenge," Newsom wants to deposit \$3 billion into the state's rainy day fund Budget Stabilization Account, as well as \$8.6 billion into two other reserve accounts. He's also proposed spending \$11.8 billion over the next four years,

including \$3 billion this upcoming year, to pay down the state's pension liabilities.

"There are encouraging signs in the California economy," Newsom said in a written statement accompanying the budget. "Yet history teaches us that prosperity, if taken for granted, can vanish as quickly as it arrives. California's responsibility is to act with steady hands and anticipate future instability."

Newsom did not attend Friday's budget presentation, after he painted a rosy picture of California's fiscal future during his State of the State address Thursday. Flashing top-line numbers, the Democratic governor touted billions of dollars more in revenue, proposed new investments in education and pledged more toward the state's reserves and pension debt.

He avoided revealing the budget deficit and did not say whether closing the gap would require painful spending cuts to core services like childcare, food assistance and Medi-Cal, the state's health care coverage for low-income residents, especially as federal funding diminishes.

Newsom teased multiple new proposals, such as fully funding the state's universal transitional kindergarten program and providing universal before and after-school programs at elementary schools.

The TK program will cost \$1.9 billion annually, according to his budget proposal.

Newsom also proposed spending \$1 billion to add high-needs community schools and redirecting \$1 billion in Proposition 1 mental health funds annually for housing and homelessness.

County government officials were dismayed the budget doesn't include more robust funding to backfill federal cuts in Republicans' mega domestic policy bill passed last year.

"If the state doesn't step up, communities across California will crumble," said Graham Knaus, CEO of the California State Association of Counties, in a statement Friday. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001790
The following persons are doing business as: Fuel For Function, 7158 Browns Valley Road, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Fuel For Function LLC, 7158 Browns Valley, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Date filed in Solano County: December 16, 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 December 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: Dec 26, Jan 2, 9, 16, 2026
FUEL 1-16-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001794
The following persons are doing business as: Arjan Transport, 965 Walton Court, Dixon, CA 95620.
Gurdeep Singh, 965 Walton Court, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: December 16, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: October 31, 2005
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 December 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: Dec 26, Jan 2, 9, 16, 2026
ARJAN 1-16-26

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. March 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m. Department 7, Room 2, 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: December 3, 2025
Publish: January 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026
TORRES 1-23-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU25-11717
Desiree Kojak filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Silas Thomas Kojak to Silas Thomas Basquez. 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. March 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m. Department 7, Room 2, 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: December 22, 2025
Publish: January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026
KOJAK 1-30-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001837
The following persons are doing business as: Hat Bar BLCG, 608 First Street, Benicia, CA 94510.
Baxter Landry, LLC, 30 N Gould Street, Suite R, Sheridan, WI 82801.
Date filed in Solano County: December 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 December 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: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
HAT 2-6-26



SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Dixon City Council adopted Ordinance No. 26-001, amending Chapter 9.02 (Reserved) of the Dixon Municipal Code to regulate fireworks.

The ordinance prohibits the possession and use of fireworks that are not designated safe and sane by the State Fire Marshal. The ordinance imposes liability on social hosts who permit the possession or use of prohibited fireworks in areas under their control. In addition, the ordinance authorizes enforcement of the proposed chapter using aerial drones and imposes administrative penalties for violations. Under the ordinance, the sale and use of safe and sane fireworks is permitted within the City. The ordinance establishes procedures for the permitting of safe and sane fireworks vendors and sets forth regulations governing the use of permitted fireworks.

This Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 16th day of December 2025, and adopted at a regular meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 6th day of January 2026, by the following roll call vote:

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

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

Dixon Independent Voice 1-16-2026

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Garamendi Secures Over \$6.5 Million in Community Project Funding

Dixon Police Department News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - On Jan. 9, the City of Dixon recognized National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, a community-driven observance established in 2015 to provide the public an opportunity to express appreciation for the service of law enforcement professionals.

City of Dixon is grateful for the professionalism, dedication and commitment demonstrated every day by the members of Dixon Police Department. Through emergencies, routine calls for service, community events and important behind-the-scenes work, our police officers and professional staff

play a vital role in protecting public safety and supporting the quality of life in Dixon.

City of Dixon also recognizes that effective policing is built on partnership. The work of Dixon Police Department is strengthened by the trust, cooperation and engagement of our residents, businesses and community partners. That shared commitment helps make Dixon a safer and more connected community.

On behalf of the City Council and City staff, thank you to the men and women of Dixon Police Department for your service, and thank you to our community for your continued support and collaboration. ★



Congressman John Garamendi News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On Jan. 13, Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA-08), a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, announced the inclusion of \$6,596,000 in new investments that he secured for California's Eighth Congressional District in the House Fiscal Year 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act (H.R. 6938).

This funding ensures continued federal investments in important infrastructure and public safety initiatives throughout Solano and Contra Costa Counties.

"This legislation will provide much-needed federal investments to the region for local flood control, public safety, and sanitation projects, including over \$1 million for Mare Island's sewer rehabilitation project. I was proud to fight for these projects alongside local leaders and community stakeholders in our shared work to invest in Solano and Contra Costa Counties," said Congressman Garamendi. "I look forward to the Senate passing and the president signing these critical investments into law in the coming weeks, so we can get to work for everyone who calls California's 8th home."

In total, Congressman Garamendi secured \$6,596,000 in funding for critical investments throughout Solano and Contra Costa Counties in this year's appropriations package.

\$1,092,000 will go to the Mare Island Sewer Rehabilitation Project to rehabilitate the outdated sewer system on Mare Island and significantly reduce the risk of raw sewage reaching the San Francisco Bay,

fulfilling the federal and state missions to restore the Bay.

\$1,350,000 will go to the North Richmond Living Levee, Phase 1 to ensure reliable wastewater service for more than 180,000 individuals, provide flooding protection to wastewater infrastructure, and protect access to a vital transportation corridor in western Contra Costa County, which is projected to face irregular flooding and inundation in the coming years.

\$1,031,000 will go to Solano Radio Infrastructure and Interoperability Improvements to enable dozens of local, State, and Federal agency partners to communicate seamlessly and render mutual aid.

\$1,031,000 will go to the Vallejo Resiliency and Elevated Public Safety Project (Mobile Unit) to increase capacity for the Vallejo Police Department to provide mobilized emergency response and interoperable communications to ensure the safety of Vallejo residents in a crisis or public event.

\$1,000,000 will go to the Delta Diablo Forcemain Replacement to ensure uninterrupted wastewater conveyance services while reducing the potential for a sanitary sewer overflow with associated potential impacts to public health and the environment.

Finally, \$1,092,000 will go to the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District for concrete repairs, rehabilitation, and structural seismic improvements to prolong the life of critical air flow distribution systems.

This year's appropriations package passed the U.S. House of Representatives on January 8, 2026, with a strong bipartisan vote of 397-28. The legislation is expected to be considered by the U.S. Senate in the coming days before heading to the President for final signature. ★

All Aboard for Wildflowers



Western Railway Museum, 5848 State Highway 12, Suisun City, is hosting Train Track Wildflower seeding workshops and train rides from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 17. Photo courtesy of Western Railway Museum

Western Railway Museum News Release

SUISUN CITY, CA (MPG) - It's time to spread wildflower seeds along the Solano County train tracks to ignite another spectacular spring wildflower season! The public can take part in this effort by attending a Wildflower Seed Ball Workshop Jan. 17, then riding the train to spread the wildflower seeds along the tracks.

The Western Railway Museum is hosting two Wildflower Seed Ball Workshop

sessions from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. Jan. 17. Following each workshop is the train ride to spread the seeds. Also featured during the day is the Fairfield-Suisun City Visual Arts Association with floral-inspired art displays and Sustainable Solano with an educational presentation.

For tickets and information about the workshop and wildflower seed spreading, visit the Western Railway Museum website, wrm.org.

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



Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: Publisher@mpg8.com.

Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher." If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.



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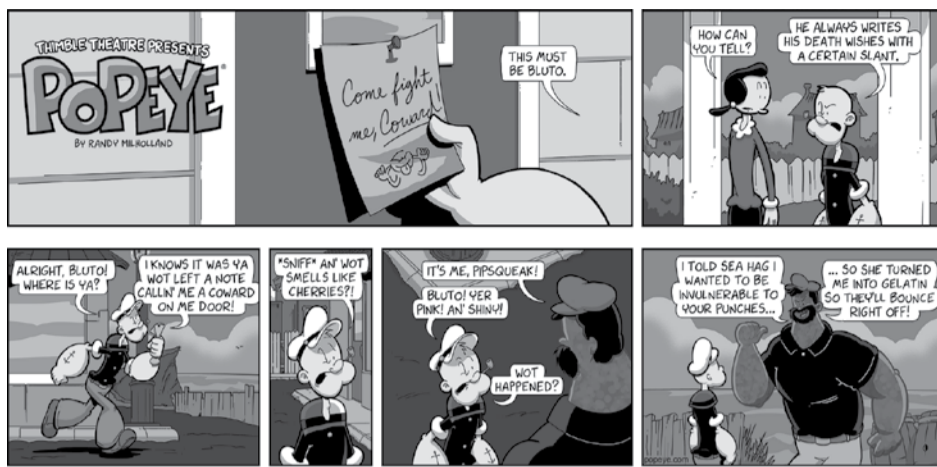
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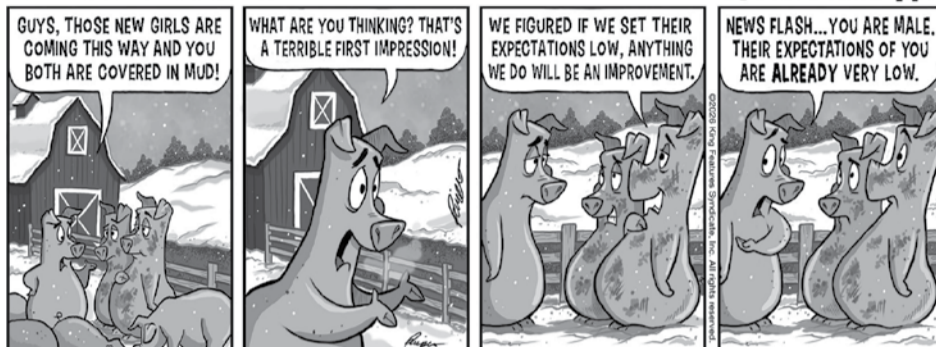
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



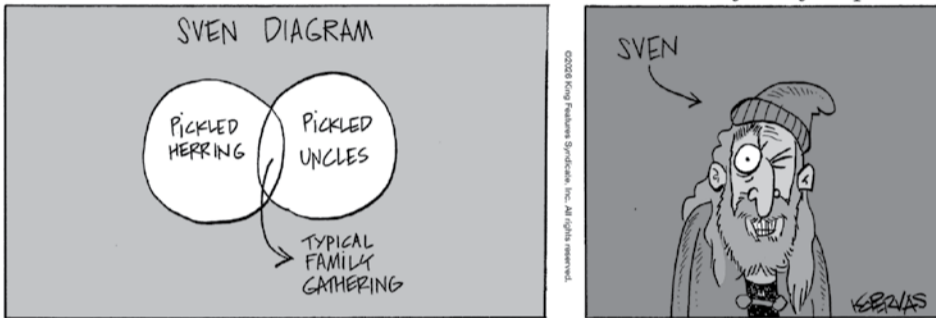
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

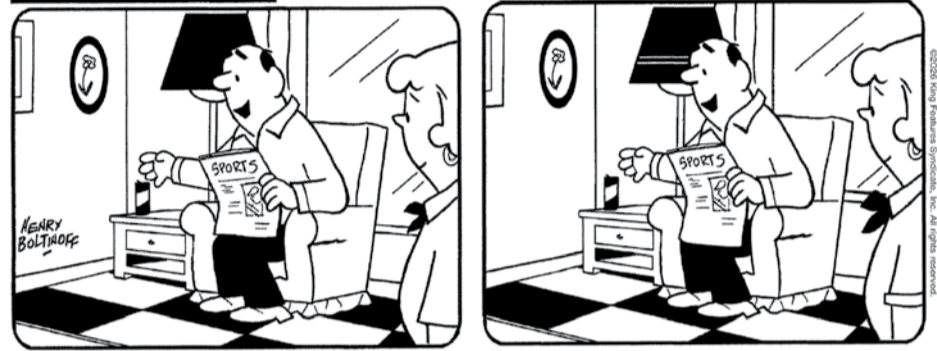
by Gary Kopervas



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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is longer; 2. Window sill is higher; 3. Bow is larger; 4. Paper is longer; 5. Lampshade is different; 6. Sleeve is different.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



GRIN THE BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • WINTER OLYMPICS

CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Pinch to save
 - Brownie
 - Lady, in Madrid
 - Proprietor
 - Romanian money
 - Iraqi money
 - Coffee shop order
 - *Before 1998 only they played Olympic hockey
 - "Spring to mind" or "Spring into action," e.g.
 - *Most decorated country in Winter Olympics
 - *___ of Hamill Camel fame
 - *How Olympic Athletes from Russia were designated in 2018, acr.
 - Assistant
 - *___ of war
 - Sushi wrapped in nori
 - Oblong cream puff
 - Singles
 - Manure, e.g.
 - Soil for cultivation
 - Bon Jovi hit "Have a ___ day"
 - "Encore!"
 - Don't go
 - Bumpkin
 - Poet Pound's first name
 - Rodeo Drive tree
 - Sense of alienation and isolation
 - Similar
 - Toast option
 - *Misha, 1980 Russian Olympics Mascot was one
 - Samuel Butler: "Spare the ___ and spoil the child"
 - *___ Shiffrin, most decorated U.S. alpine skier
 - *Overall Olympic curling medal leader
 - Bikini ___ in the Marshall Islands
 - Zodiac sign
 - Pasture
 - Boundary lines
 - Government Printing Office
 - Rocky ridge
 - Singer Tori
 - Farm layer
 - *1964 and 1976 mountainous Olympic location
- DOWN**
- Honda CR-X del ___
 - *Michelle ___, most decorated U.S. figure skater
 - Enthusiastic about
 - Part of MGM
 - From the 1930s, e.g.
 - Abounding with certain trees
 - Bruce ___ of karate fame
 - Fundus, pl.
 - Aeneas' lover
 - "Don't bet ___!"
 - Lye formula
 - A in "M*A*S*H"
 - Do like Tarantino
 - Pleasant smell
 - Schiller's "___ to Joy"
 - Real ___ of Seville
 - *Margot Robbie's "olympic" role (2017)

CROSSWORD												
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California State Fair to Move to Fall Beginning in 2027

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California State Fair will shift from its traditional summer schedule to a fall timeframe beginning in 2027, fair officials announced.

The change is intended to address increasingly extreme summer temperatures in the Sacramento region and improve conditions for fairgoers, staff and vendors. The 2027 fair is scheduled to run from Sept. 17 through Oct. 3.

Officials said the 2026 California State Fair, set for July 17 through Aug. 2, will

be the final fair held during the summer months.

According to fair leadership, the decision follows several years of evaluation and planning, including consideration of public safety, attendance patterns and operational impacts related to prolonged heat. Many other state fairs across the country already operate during fall months.

Fair organizers said the schedule change is a long-term shift and part of broader efforts to adapt the event to changing climate conditions while preserving its traditions. ★



Fairgoers ride a carnival attraction during the California State Fair this past summer in Sacramento. Fair officials announced the event will move to fall dates beginning in 2027. Photo by Shamaya Sutton

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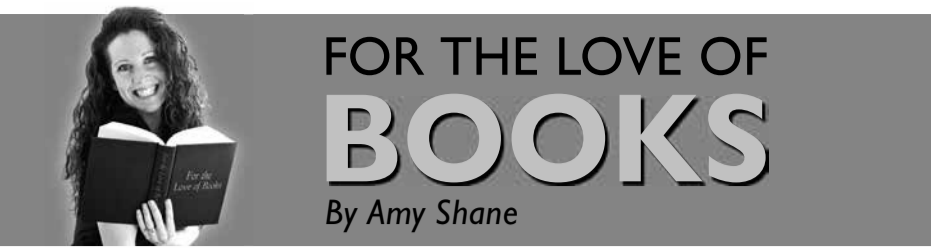
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Dragon Cursed by Elise Kova



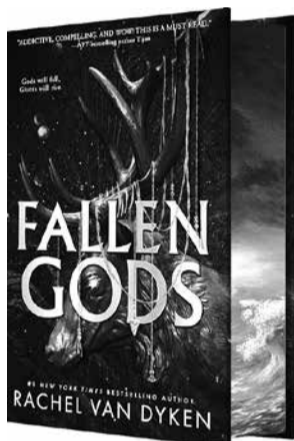
- ◆ Publisher: Mayhem Books (Entangled Publishing)
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult/New Adult
- ◆ Release Date: January 6, 2026

and is slowly turning into the thing she fears? Now, she

must face the Tribunal trials to prove her loyalty to humanity. But a part of her must stay hidden. There is one person, though, who might know her secret. The one that follows, she protects her, but also annoys her in every way. Either way, the truth is out there, and death might be the only mercy.

Promising to be an intense paranormal romance that is full of all the fantasy readers are looking for to start their new year. For fans of fourth wing and readers looking for a pulse pounding, intense read, that is set for the mature young adult reading audience or new adult reader. ★

Fallen Gods by Rachel Van Dyken

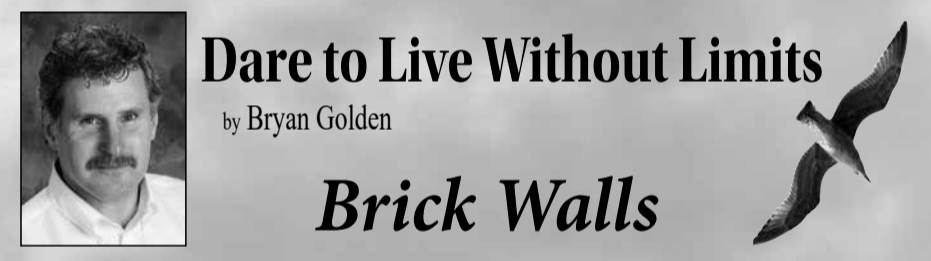


- ◆ Publisher: Red Tower Books
- ◆ Intended Audience: New Adult
- ◆ Release Date: December 2, 2025

enemy's heir.

Now, forced to complete a mission she never wanted to start, and a man she was never supposed to fall for, Rey must uncover the truth between the war and the giants. If only everything didn't stand between her and the fate of the world.

A Norse mythology-inspired fantasy romance perfect for fans who are looking for a steamy, dramatic read that blends forbidden love with a mythological world. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits by Bryan Golden

Brick Walls

You have objectives you want to accomplish. Some of them are easily achieved. Others are more challenging. Then there are times when you feel as if you are up against a brick wall when trying to achieve some goals. When this happens, it seems as if it's impossible to make any progress.

What should you do when you are facing a brick wall? Some people will give up, resigning themselves to accepting their goals as unattainable. They may also justify their quitting by thinking it must not be meant to be. Failure only occurs when one quits. Therefore quitting is not a suitable strategy.

Brick walls test your resolve. The only people who get past them are those who want to reach their objective badly enough. The reason there are fewer successful people than unsuccessful ones is because of the deterrent effect of brick walls.

In order to get past a brick wall, you must be more than motivated. You need a burning desire. You have to be willing to devote whatever time and effort is necessary. Moving beyond a brick wall in your path is not an easy task. However, there are limitless rewards on the other side.

As you progress through life, you will encounter multiple brick walls. With each one you break through you become stronger. You gain confidence as you go. Some walls are thicker than others. But none can stop you when you decide your progress will not be halted.

Here are the traits you need to get through a brick wall: determination, persistence, perseverance, drive, endurance, desire, flexibility, and consistency. These are the same characteristics all successful people share.

Determination gives you a laser like focus. It enables you to concentrate all your efforts in one direction. This gives you incredible power which leads to awesome accomplishments. Persistence is what carved the Grand Canyon from solid rock with nothing more than rainwater. Imagine what persistence will do for you.

Perseverance keeps you going when others stop and turn back. How long it takes to break through your wall doesn't matter. The time goes by anyway. You never want to look back on today and wish you had kept going.

Drive keeps you in gear and moving forward. Just revving your engine may make lots of noise but it gets you nowhere. Endurance gives you the ability to keep going when you are exhausted. It's when you feel you have nothing left that you must keep at it.

Desire is the fuel that keeps your engine of accomplishment running. You know you have a burning desire when you want something so bad you can taste it. Desire allows you to keep your laser focused.

Flexibility enables you to be resourceful and creative when formulating strategies to break through your walls. Not everything you attempt will work as expected. Flexibility empowers you to adjust your approach as necessary to produce the results you want.

Consistency is the opposite of being a flash in the pan. You don't just put in some effort for a predetermined, limited period of time. Consistency keeps you hammering at your wall day in and day out.

Not only can you break through your brick walls, you only encounter them when you are on the right track. Anything worthwhile takes effort. The loftier your goals, the bigger the walls you will encounter.

The next time you encounter a wall, focus not on the wall but on the path that lies beyond. To become discouraged and turn back is a shame. The only direction is forward. Let nothing stand in your way.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. ©2026 Bryan Golden ★



Riley Reviews

"FOX" IN WINTER LAUNCHES AN ACTION, COMEDY AND DRAMA LINE-UP

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"FOX WINTER 2026 SCHEDULE"

On the FOX television network, January marks the launch of new series, beginning with "Best Medicine," based on the British medical comedy-drama series "Doc Martin" that ran for ten seasons.

In the British series, a successful surgeon leaves his London practice to become a primary care physician in a sleepy fishing village, where he spent time during his youth.

The good doctor is not the right fit for the townsfolk due to his abrasive attitude and lack of bedside manner that alienates most people. Moreover, his luxury car and flashy wardrobe also rub the locals the wrong way.

The new FOX series features Josh Charles as Dr. Martin Best, a brilliant surgeon who abruptly leaves his illustrious career in Boston to become a general practitioner in a quaint East Coast fishing village where he spent summers as a child.

Martin's blunt and borderline rude bedside manner rubs the quirky, needy locals the wrong way, and he quickly alienates the town, even though he's the only medical help they've got.

Although Martin can expertly address any medical ailment or mystery in this idiosyncratic town, he's just desperate to be left alone. Instead, he keeps getting dragged into the middle of their personal chaos.

What the locals don't know is that Martin's terse demeanor masks a debilitating new phobia and childhood drama that prevents him from experiencing true intimacy with anyone.

But tenacity is the creed of everyone in the small village, and the people who live there may be exactly what the doctor ordered. "Best Medicine" also stars Abigail Spencer and Annie Potts.

The 2003 Belgian action thriller film "De Zaak Alzheimer," based on the novel of the same title, followed an assassin who agreed to one last contract hit despite a recent diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

The assignment required the killer to kill two people, with the second victim a twelve-year-old girl who had been pimped by her father. The assassin's creed did not involve killing children, thereby crossing his employer who puts out a contract on his hitman.

The FOX series "Memory of a Killer" stars Patrick Dempsey as Angelo Doyle, a hitman leading a dangerous double life while hiding an even deadlier personal secret. Angelo's daughter Maria (Odeya Rush) only knows her father as a photocopier salesman.

Starring opposite Dempsey in the role of Dutch, Michael Imperioli is Angelo's oldest friend and an accomplished Italian chef

whose restaurant in the Bronx is a front for his criminal enterprise, which includes hiring Angelo as a hitman.

With a family history of dementia, Angelo has been able to juggle keeping his professional and personal lives separate. But now beginning to lose his memory, Angelo poses a potential threat to the criminal enterprise.

Exceptionally resourceful and talented, Angelo is about to be tested like never before, and now every minute counts. This is made more difficult when he discovers his wife's recent death may not have been an accident.

When someone comes after his pregnant daughter, it's clear the walls between his lives have been breached. Angelo must stop whoever's coming for his family by looking into his past hits for clues, and the list is very long.

Angelo must hunt down his mortal enemy while continuing to carry out hits without giving away his diagnosis and still make it home in time to cook dinner for his daughter.

Richard Harmon's Joe is a budding hitman working for Angelo and Dutch. Stuck with more routine work of gathering intel, Joe also faces a precarious position as the witness to Angelo's mental decline.

The perils for Dempsey's hitman in decline results in high-stakes drama for "Memory of a Killer." As the wall between Angelo's two worlds crumbles, the series should live up to being an interesting thriller.

Joe Rogan, who has his own very popular podcast, was the original host for NBC's "Fear Factor," a game show that challenged contestants to face their most primal fears by competing in various bold stunts.

FOX is reviving "Fear Factor" in a new format to be hosted by Johnny Knoxville, best known as a fearless stunt performer who was the co-creator and star of the MTV reality stunt show "Jackass" that resulted in several subsequent movies.

The iconic reality competition show is coming back bigger, bolder and more daring as "Fear Factor: House of Fear." Dropped into an unforgiving, remote location, a group of strangers will live together under one roof, and face mind-blowing stunts.

Being isolated in a harsh environment challenges the contestants to play a devious social game where trust is scarce and strategy turns fear into a strategic tool. Only one person will conquer all their fears and walk away with the massive grand prize.

As host, Knoxville will not subject himself to the severe injuries and health issues endured during his reckless stunts in the "Jackass" franchise. No more concussions, herniated discs, torn tendons, and broken bones and fractures. ★



Congress Passes Bill Allowing Whole Milk in Schools

Whole milk may soon return to public school cafeterias thanks to a bipartisan bill that has passed both chambers of Congress and now requires only the president's signature to become law. Since 2012, schools have been restricted to offering fat-free or 1% fat milk. Should the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act be signed into law, schools would have the option to serve 2% fat and whole milk. California could see the largest impact from the change, as the Golden State produces more milk than any other state, and it also has the most school-aged children. Daniel Munch, economist at the American Farm Bureau Federation, said procurement of whole milk by public schools would likely boost prices for dairy farmers by increasing demand for butterfat, a natural component in milk that determines much of the dairy product's value. "We are really excited to get this across the finish line," Munch said in a recent podcast episode. "This is something Farm Bureau has been pushing for since these changes were made to school lunch programs."

California to Conduct Wolf Collaring Efforts
The California Department of Fish and Wildlife plans to begin new efforts to collar and track gray wolves in the state. CDFW's capture teams will target uncollared packs or groups of wolves in Modoc, Shasta and Plumas counties, the department announced last week. CDFW captures wolves by helicopter before placing collars on the animals and returning them to the nearest suitable habitat. The collars enable the state to track the wolves for up to three years. "CDFW

will share animal location information with cattle and sheep producers with the goal of reducing negative interactions," the department said in a statement, adding that the GPS tracking collars do not transmit real-time data but provide locations daily to CDFW scientists. In October, CDFW euthanized four wolves in the Beyem Seyo pack in the Sierra Valley after months of failed attempts to address "an unprecedented level" of livestock kills by wolves in the region.

Winter Riceland Flooding Provides Crucial Bird Habitat

New research by the U.S. Geological Survey found that Central Valley rice farmers who flooded their fields after harvest provided winter habitat for more than 50 different species of waterbirds from 2021 through 2023. The research, which evaluated fields enrolled in the California Winter Rice Habitat Incentive Program, also identified ways the program could maximize its habitat benefits for birds. USGS biologists found that water depth consistently determined which bird species were attracted to which rice fields, with shallow depths seeing a greater abundance of shorebirds, wading birds and geese, and deeper water seeing more dabbling ducks. The researchers also found that fields saw the highest density of birds about eight days after the onset of postharvest flooding. "Prioritizing rice fields that could be flooded early in the enrollment period, when fewer alternative flooded habitats are available in the Central Valley, could increase bird use of rice fields enrolled in the California Winter Rice Habitat Incentive Program," the researchers said. ★



Stingy Defense Helps Women's Basketball

Sacramento State News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Senior Benthe Versteeg and junior Keanna Salave'a each finished with double-doubles on the day and the Sacramento State defense limited visiting Weber State to just 13 second-half points on Jan. 3 as the Hornets won their first Big Sky Conference game of the year, 60-39, at Hornet Pavilion.

The victory snapped a three-game skid for the Hornets, who moved to 7-8 overall and 1-1 in league play. The 39 points allowed are tied for the fewest surrendered this year and the fewest given up to a Division I opponent since defeating San Jose State, 66-39, on Dec. 15 of last season.

Led by 15 points from Sydney White, the Wildcats fell to 6-9 overall and 0-2 in league play, limited to just 29 percent shooting overall for the game and just 20 percent (6-for-30) in the second half.

Versteeg and Salave'a each posted their second double-doubles of the year, while Salave'a accomplished the feat for

the second time in the team's last three games. The last time the Hornets finished with a pair of double-doubles was against Eastern Washington in last year's Big Sky Tournament when Versteeg and Jaydia Martin accomplished the feat.

Versteeg finished with a season-high 18 points to go with 10 rebounds for her 12th career double-double, adding five assists and a career-high six steals. The 18 points surpassed her previous high of 14 against Nevada, while the six steals were just one shy of the school single-game top five.

Salave'a finished with 13 points and 13 rebounds — both Sacramento State career highs — while the 13 rebounds were the most by a Hornet this year. Six of her 13

boards came on the offensive end while adding a pair of assists, two steals, and a block. Saturday marked her fourth double-digit performance in her last five games.

Junior guard Natalie Picton also finished in double figures, adding 12 points to go with three rebounds and a pair of steals.

Sacramento State which never trailed in the game, threw the first punch out of the gates, opening the contest with a 13-2 run, including the last nine straight while holding Weber State scoreless for four minutes.

The Wildcats answered by scoring seven of the final nine points of the first quarter, but still found themselves down eight after one.

After trading baskets to start the second

and trailing by as many as 10 points twice, Weber State got as close as four points with just under three to play in the quarter before Jaety Mandaquit drained a three-pointer and Salave'a scored inside to give the Hornets some breathing room and an eight-point advantage at the break.

The Hornets then owned the second half, doubling up the Wildcats in the final 20 minutes while holding Weber State to just three field goals in the third and fourth quarters.

Sacramento State scored the first seven points of the third period to rebuild the lead back to 15, then led by as many as 16 in the early part of the fourth before pulling away. The Hornets finished the game on a 12-3 run en route to the victory.

Aside from a 38-31 advantage on the glass, Sacramento State turned the Wildcats over 24 times, turning those into 25 points to the good, while outscoring Weber State in the paint, 34-18.

The Hornets have only one game next week, hosting travel partner Portland State at 1 p.m. Jan. 10 to close out a three-game homestand. ★



Jace Rodriguez Named to FCS ADA Academic All Star Team

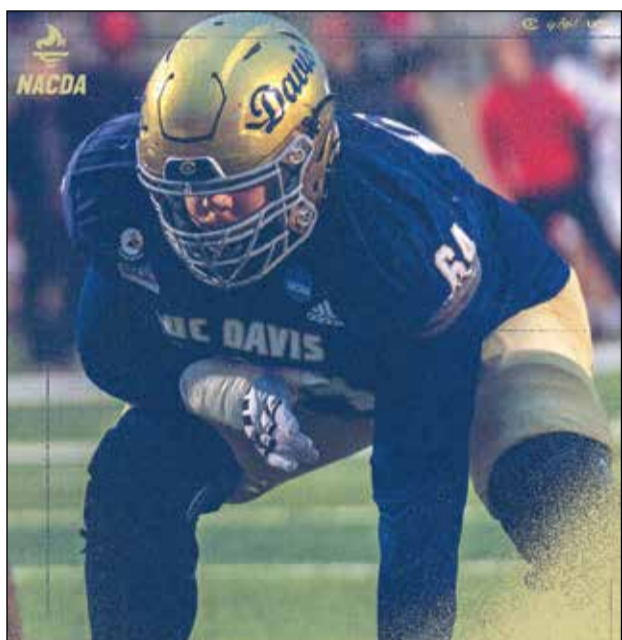
UC Davis Athletics News Release

CLEVELAND (MPG) - The Football Championship Subdivision Athletics Directors Association (FCS ADA) has named 57 student-athletes to the 28th Annual Academic All-Star Team, listing UC Davis football senior offensive lineman Jace Rodriguez as part of the collection of academic all stars.

Rodriguez was a key member of the Aggie offensive line during the 2025 season, making 12 starts while appearing in all 13 games for the Ags. He was an important interior piece of an Aggie front that opened holes for the 27th-best rushing attack in the nation and the 17th-best passing offense.

The Patriot League led the way with 10 student-athletes placed on the 2025 All-Star Team, along with the Coastal Athletic Association with nine student-athletes, the Big Sky Conference with eight student-athletes and the Missouri Valley Football Conference with seven recipients.

Current Football Championship Subdivision Athletics Directors Association (FCS ADA) President, Kurt McGuffin, director of athletics at University of Tennessee Martin, stated, "This year's honorees exemplify what it means to be complete student-athletes, excelling both in the classroom and in competition. It is always rewarding to recognize outstanding individuals who embody the values and standards of our division,



Rodriguez was a key member of the Aggie offensive line during the 2025 season, making 12 starts while appearing in all 13 games for the Ags. Photo courtesy UC Davis Athletics

and this year's selections are no exception. We extend our sincere congratulations to all nominees and especially to those receiving this well-deserved recognition."

To view the complete list of winners, visit: <https://nacda.com/documents/2026/1/3/2025FCS-Finalx3.pdf>

Football players from all Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) institutions are eligible for the award. Each of the nominees were required to have a minimum grade point average of 3.20 (on a 4.00 scale) in undergraduate or graduate study and have been a starter or key player with legitimate athletics credentials. They must have reached their second year of athletics and academic standing at the nominated institution and have completed a minimum of one full academic year at the nominated

institution. They also must have participated in 50 percent of the games played at their designated position.

Now in its 31st year, the Football Championship Subdivision Athletics Directors Association's mission is to enhance Football Championship Subdivision football. For more information on the Football Championship Subdivision Athletics Directors Association (FCS ADA), please visit www.fcsada.com. The Football Championship Subdivision Athletics Directors Association (FCS ADA) is administered by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA), which is in its 61st year. For more information on National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and the 19 professional associations that fall under its umbrella, visit www.nacda.com. ★

Countdown to Kickoff

Republic FC Releases Action-Packed 2026 Schedule

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - USL Championship recently announced the full schedule for the upcoming 2026 season, including the group stage matches for the Prinx Tires USL Cup. For the third straight year, Republic FC will kick off the season at home when it hosts defending Western Conference Champion FC Tulsa on Saturday, March 7.

Twenty-two of Sacramento's 30 regular season matches will come against Western Conference opponents. The Indomitable Club will face off with each team twice with an additional game against FC Tulsa and Phoenix Rising FC. Interconference play will see Republic FC face off with six Eastern Conference teams, including league debutants Brooklyn FC (April 21) and Sporting Club Jacksonville (August 1).

Following the season opener, Republic FC heads out on the road to face Lexington SC on March 14 before returning home for a three game homestand against Monterey Bay FC, El Paso Locomotive FC, and Phoenix Rising FC. Additional marquee matches include a season series with NorCal rival Oakland Roots SC on July 25 and Oct. 24, and a road match against defending league champions

Pittsburgh Riverhounds on August 8, and a Sunday match against San Antonio FC on Sept. 20.

The league's announcement also included the group stage matches for the in-season 2026 Prinx Tires USL Cup. Republic FC will begin its quest to return to the Cup Final with a home tie against League One side Spokane Velocity

FC on April 25 followed by a road match against Oakland Roots SC on May 16. Play continues back at Heart Health Park against Monterey Bay FC on June 6 before closing out the group stage on the road against League One debutant Athletic Club Boise on July 11. USL Cup results will not count towards the regular season.

Additional details, including kickoff times, broadcast information, and theme nights will be announced in the coming weeks.

The only way to guarantee access to all 17 home games – as well as a pre-season friendly – is by becoming a 2026 Indomitable Member today. Season ticket memberships offer a range of benefits including discounts on merchandise and access to exclusive fan experiences, as well as priority seat selection in the new Republic Stadium at The Railyards. For more information, or to purchase a membership today, visit SacRepublicFC.com/Memberships. ★



River Cats, Giants to Meet at Exhibition Game

Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The fifth battle between the Sacramento River Cats and their parent affiliate, the San Francisco Giants, is set to get the River Cats baseball season underway on Sunday, Mar. 22 at 5:07 p.m. Fans can now secure their seats as single-game tickets are now on sale.

"We're thrilled to once again host the San Francisco Giants at Sutter Health Park for what has become a highly anticipated way to start the River Cats season," said Sacramento River Cats President and COO Chip Maxson. "It's a chance for Sacramento fans to welcome rising Giants stars, reconnect with familiar faces who once wore the River Cats jersey, and matchup in a unique atmosphere against our big-league affiliate. Sacramento's love for baseball runs



Tickets are now on sale for the exhibition game between the Sacramento River Cats and the San Francisco Giants taking place on Sunday, Mar. 22. Courtesy photo Sacramento River Cats

deep and this game provides another opportunity to celebrate that passion."

Each of the past two years has seen the River Cats leave the clash of affiliates as the victor, though it came in two very different fashions. While the Giants took an early 2-0 lead in 2025, the River Cats came back to win with four consecutive runs for a 4-3 victory. Meanwhile, the 2024 edition saw Sacramento

cruise to an 8-1 victory.

Tickets for this matchup are now available online only on

Ticketmaster. Fans interested in booking a suite or hospital-ity space, can contact the sales office at (916) 371-HITS (4487) or tickets@rivercats.com. The Sutter Health Park ticket office is closed for the offseason and will reopen In March. Updated ticket office hours can be found at www.milb.com/sacramento/tickets/ticket-office. ★



Sac State Announces Leadership Change



Pictured is Randy Dedini, former women's soccer coach. Courtesy photo Sacramento State

Sacramento State News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State Director of Athletics

Mark Orr announced a change in leadership for the Hornets' women's soccer program, parting ways with head coach Randy Dedini.

"I would like to thank Randy for his many years of distinguished service to Sacramento State athletics and the women's soccer program," Orr said. "We wish him the very best in his future endeavors."

Dedini wrapped up his 19th season as head

coach in 2025 and was also an assistant with the Hornets for three seasons from 2004-06 before taking over the top spot. During his time at the university, he finished with the most victories in program history (130), winning a regular season crown and three league tournament titles during his tenure.

A search for a new head coach will begin immediately. ★



Data Shows 90.2% of California Farms are Family-Owned

Farm Flavor News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A new study on behalf of Farm Flavor has identified the states with the most family-owned farms. Data shows that 90.2 percent of California farms are family-owned.

Now more than ever, people want to know where their food comes from. National conversations often center on "Big Ag" and corporate takeover of the food sector but the latest United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Census of Agriculture shows a more nuanced reality on the ground: most American farms are still run by families.

Nearly 95 percent of U.S. farms are family-owned and a large majority are small operations with modest annual revenue. Throughout the U.S., family farms anchor local economies, preserve working lands and sustain community food systems, and in many states, capture the biggest share of sales.

With this in mind, Farm Flavor researchers analyzed the latest USDA data to understand how many U.S. farms are family-owned, how much they produce and which states rely most on family-run farms.

U.S. Family Farms and Sales by Type

Family farms are the foundation of American agriculture. According to the USDA, a family farm is one in which the majority of the business is owned by the principal operator and individuals related to them. Encompassing everything from small, sole proprietorships to large corporate-structured operations driving industry consolidation, family operations make up 94.7 percent of all U.S. farms and are responsible for 80.7 percent of total agricultural output – a striking reminder that America's food



Nearly 95 percent of U.S. farms are family-owned and a large majority are small operations with modest annual revenue. Photo courtesy Freepik

system remains overwhelmingly family-run.

Together, small and mid-size family farms (those with less than \$1 million in annual gross income) account for 90.8 percent of farms and nearly one-third (30.2 percent) of total agricultural output. These farms are vital to rural economies, providing local employment and sustaining communities across every region of the country.

At the same time, large family farms (those earning \$1 million or more annually) represent a much smaller share of total farms but contribute more than half (50.6 percent) of the nation's agricultural output. These larger family operations reflect the increasing efficiency and scale of modern production agriculture,

especially in commodity crop and livestock sectors.

Farms not owned by the principal operator and his or her family make up only about 5 percent of all farms and contribute 19.1 percent of agricultural output. Altogether, these figures underscore that American agriculture remains overwhelmingly a family-run enterprise, from small diversified farms to large multi-generational operations.

California's agricultural landscape is dominated by family-owned operations, although slightly less so than the national average. In California, 90.2% of all farms are family-owned, compared to 94.7% nationwide. These farms generate 73.6% of the state's farm sales, somewhat lower than the 80.7% share

nationally.

California has 56,976 family-owned farms out of 63,134 total farms, producing \$48.0 billion in sales. Nationally, 1.8 million family-owned farms account for \$484.4 billion in sales out of nearly \$600 billion total.

One notable difference is scale: the average family-owned farm in California generates \$842,650 in sales, more than three times the U.S. average of \$269,079, reflecting the state's larger operations and high-value commodities.

Methodology

The data in this analysis comes from the USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture (the most recent release). To identify the states with the most family-owned farms,

researchers calculated the share of farms in each state that meet the USDA's definition of a family farm, meaning the majority of the business is owned by the principal operator and individuals related to them by blood, marriage or adoption. The analysis also compared agricultural output, measured as the market value of products sold, across different farm types, including small, midsize and large family operations as well as non-family farms. All dollar figures were inflation-adjusted to 2025 values, using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index.

The full Farm Flavor report can be found at farmflavor.com/farm/states-with-most-family-owned-farms. ★

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