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# Dixon Independent Voice

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## Bud's Pub & Grill Celebrates Anniversary



Bud's Pub & Grill, a longtime downtown Dixon fixture located at 100 S. First St., marked its 30th anniversary Jan. 17. Owned by Bud and Cherie Fanning, the restaurant opened in 1996 on Bud Fanning's birthday. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Bud's Pub & Grill, a longtime downtown Dixon fixture located at 100 S. First St., marked its 30th anniversary Jan. 17, reflecting three decades of operation rooted in local history, community ties and consistent patronage.

The restaurant and bar, designated as Historical Site 12, opened in 1996 and is owned by Cherie and Bud Fanning. The interior features an old-world, mostly wood finish, with mounted animals lining the walls, including deer, boars and fish.

"This weekend will be 30 years since we've opened Bud's," said Cherie Fanning. "Never thought



According to Cherie Fanning, regular customers play a key role in their success, many of which return for their servers and food. Servers Richard Kitchen (left) and Madison Lieber (right) are two of these servers. Photo by Nicolas Brown

we'd be here at 30 years, but here we are."

Cherie Fanning said her family's connection to Dixon spans generations.

"Eight generations," she said. "My great-great-grandfather

rolled in with the buildings when it was Silveyville."

According to Bud Fanning, Bud's Pub & Grill opened on his birthday in 1996. Initially, the business was not intended to operate as a full restaurant.

"I was more interested in a bar," said Bud Fanning. "But we served two dishes at certain times, and when it became too difficult to do both, we stayed a restaurant."

Cherie Fanning said the layout of the building has evolved over time.

"The corner cafe, which I grew up eating at, is now where the bar is," she said. "Originally, Bud's was just a dining room."

Bud's Pub & Grill offers breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, opening at 7 a.m. The restaurant holds both food and liquor licenses, which Bud Fanning said was a deliberate choice.

"I knew what I liked and wanted, so that's what I chose," said Bud Fanning.

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## Lawsuit Seeks Habitat Protections for California's Southern Sierra Nevada Fisher

Center for Biological Diversity News Release

FRESNO, CA (MPG) - The Center for Biological Diversity sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Jan. 15 for failing to finalize critical habitat protections for the Southern Sierra Nevada fisher.

"The Fish and Wildlife Service's delay in protecting the forested lands that Southern Sierra Nevada fishers call home threatens the very survival of these adorable mammals," said Andrea Zaccardi, carnivore conservation legal director at the Center. "By protecting the places where fishers live we can help them recover while also safeguarding California's cherished wild landscapes."

The fishers of the southern Sierra Nevada are medium-sized furry carnivores who are in the same family as weasels, mink, martens and otters. They depend on features found in old-growth forests such as tree cavities and downed wood.

Only found in North America, fishers were once well distributed throughout their historical range. But habitat destruction and climate change have contributed to their range-wide decline. Continued threats related to wildfires and wildfire suppression, increased temperatures resulting from climate change, disease and predation, exposure to rodenticides, collisions with vehicles and potential effects associated with small population size put the fishers at further risk of decline.

Following years of efforts by the Center and other conservation groups, the Service listed the southern Sierra Nevada population of the fisher as endangered in May 2020. The agency first proposed 554,454 acres of critical habitat in California's Tulare, Kern, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Tuolumne counties in 2021, and added more than 40,000 acres in late 2022. Despite those proposals, the agency never finalized critical habitat designation and protections for the Southern Sierra Nevada fisher.

The designation of critical habitat is an important step in the fisher's recovery. A Center study found

Continued on page 3

## Yard Sale Raises Funds for DFS

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Family Services raised more than \$300 during a two-day yard sale fundraiser held Jan. 16 and 17 at the Dixon home of Executive Director Cookie Powell.

The sale took place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday and featured a wide range of items, including yard décor, tools, plants, vintage collectibles, furniture, books, records, toys, DVDs, clothing, shoes and houseware. All remaining items were sold at half price on Saturday.

Powell said weather conditions affected turnout and sales.

"We made a few dollars over \$300. I usually make more, but this was unusually cold and foggy weather and not what I would call yard sale season," said Powell.

Powell decided to host the fundraiser after receiving help from her son. The sale included plants she

had grown herself, along with décor and household items she no longer needed. Proceeds from the sale were donated to Dixon Family Services, a nonprofit organization that provides social services and resources to residents of Dixon.

"I feel good about getting rid of unwanted stuff while also making some

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Dixon Family Services raised more than \$300 during a two-day yard sale fundraiser held Jan. 16 and 17 at the Dixon home of Executive Director Cookie Powell (left). In February, Dixon Family Services will also begin planning for its annual Comedy Night fundraiser on Aug. 8. Photo courtesy of Dixon Family Services



The yard sale is one of several fundraising activities planned by Dixon Family Services in 2026. Powell said the organization will host an indoor rummage sale Feb. 6 and 7 at the back of the Dixon Family Services building, located at 155 N. Second St. Photo by Nicolas Brown



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# Celebrate Financial Wellness Month with CalKIDS



As a cradle-to-career program, CalKIDS helps families connect today's small step to tomorrow's opportunity. Photo courtesy of CalKIDS

## CalKIDS Scholarships News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Financial Wellness Month is a time for families across California to set goals, build healthier money habits and plan for the year ahead. It's also the perfect moment for parents and guardians to take one simple step that can make a long-term difference for a child's future: claim a CalKIDS Scholarship Account that may already be waiting in their name.

CalKIDS is a statewide program that provides automatic scholarship accounts to help California newborns, young children, and eligible public school students pay for college or career training. For many families, the scholarship is already available and just needs to be claimed by visiting CalKIDS.org. Unlike many scholarships, CalKIDS does not require essays, a minimum GPA, or recommendation letters, making it an easy first step for families planning ahead.

Statewide, more than 60 percent of public school students in grades 2 to 12 are eligible to claim a CalKIDS Scholarship worth up to \$1,500. Eligible college-aged students may also have a CalKIDS Scholarship Account and can use funds once they are enrolled in an accredited college or eligible career training program.

Additionally, children born in California on or after July 1, 2022, also have a scholarship account worth up to \$175. This includes an additional \$50 for parents and guardians who link the child's CalKIDS Scholarship Account to a ScholarShare 529 Account, California's official education savings plan, where they can continue saving on their own. Linking to ScholarShare 529 Account is one way CalKIDS encourages long-term planning and helps families build savings habits over time.

"California is investing in our children because education and career training are the strongest pathways to opportunity," said State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA, Chair of the ScholarShare Investment Board. "CalKIDS is a \$2 billion public investment that puts scholarship funds within reach for millions of Californians. During Financial Wellness Month, I encourage parents, guardians, and students to visit CalKIDS.org, to see if they have a scholarship account ready to be claimed."

The program has created more than five million individual CalKIDS



Statewide, more than 60 percent of public school students in grades 2 to 12 are eligible to claim a CalKIDS Scholarship worth up to \$1,500. Photo courtesy of CalKIDS

Scholarship Accounts, making it the largest child development account program in the nation. For families, claiming a scholarship is a practical step that can make planning for college or career training feel more real and achievable.

Claiming a scholarship is quick, easy, and can be done entirely online: Go to CalKIDS.org and click "Confirm Eligibility". For newborns and young children born on or after July 1, 2022, enter the child's Local Registration Number (LRN), a 13-digit number found on the child's birth certificate.

For students in grades 2 to 12, enter the Statewide Student Identifier (SSID), a 10-digit number found on the student's school portal, transcript, report card, or by contacting their school directly. College-aged students who no longer have access to their school portal can contact their former high school to request their Statewide Student Identifier.

CalKIDS scholarship funds can help cover qualified education expenses for college or career training, including tuition and fees, required books and supplies, and computer equipment. Scholarship funds can be used once a student is at least 17 and enrolled in an accredited college, university, or career training program.

Mallory R., a student from Evergreen Valley College shared, "CalKIDS provides low income students, such as myself, with additional financial support for higher education. CalKIDS has been a fundamental resource for my academic career through the provision of additional financial support thus allowing me to completely focus on my academic journey without financial

insecurity."

For many students and families, discovering they have scholarship funds through CalKIDS can be more than financial support. It can make planning feel real and achievable, and it can encourage earlier steps toward education and career goals.

"The CalKIDS program has been a catalyst for building a culture around financial wellness," according to Dora Beyer, Vice President of Community Development at Excite Credit Union. "We have dozens of schools and non-profits collaborating on outreach and education around how CalKIDS supports college readiness. Students and families appreciate the simplicity of the program and are eager to learn about additional ways to prepare financially for education."

Financial wellness is built through consistent habits and forward-looking choices, and Financial Wellness Month is a reminder that planning ahead does not have to be complicated. Through CalKIDS, California is helping families build assets and expand access to education and career training. For older students, the program provides real financial support to meet immediate education needs. For families with young children, CalKIDS plants the seeds of lifelong financial literacy and savings-minded habits.

As a cradle-to-career program, CalKIDS helps families connect today's small step to tomorrow's opportunity. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to visit CalKIDS.org to check eligibility and claim a scholarship account as part of their financial planning for higher education. ★

# Dixon News Briefs



Drop-in Indoor Pickleball is hosted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday from Jan. 4 to March 15. Held at John Knight Middle School, 455 E. A St., the activity, available for all ages, costs \$5 per person, paid at the door. Children under 14 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By MPG Staff

## 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](http://itsallaboutthescrapbook.com) or call 707-676-5252.

## 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](http://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 [solanolibary.com](http://solanolibary.com) or email [rdjertsen@solanocounty.gov](mailto:rdjertsen@solanocounty.gov).

## 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](http://gracefellow.com) or call 707-678-5700.

## Art Uncorked

Soroptimist International of Dixon is hosting an art and wine event from 4 to 7

p.m. Feb. 21. Held at American Legion Hall, 1305 N. First St., the event offers art inspired by local artisans and wine, mocktails and appetizers for \$45 per person. All proceeds benefit women and children in the community.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [si-dixon.org/events](http://si-dixon.org/events) or call 707-410-9846.

## Drop-in Indoor Pickleball

Drop-in Indoor Pickleball is hosted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday from Jan. 4 to March 15. Held at John Knight Middle School, 455 E. A St., the activity, available for all ages, costs \$5 per person, paid at the door. Children under 14 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, visit the Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook page or contact [dixonrecreation@cityofdixonca.gov](mailto:dixonrecreation@cityofdixonca.gov).

## 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. Early Bird registration ends Feb. 28 and costs \$315.

For more information, visit [dixondolphins.swimtopia.com](http://dixondolphins.swimtopia.com) or email [dixondolphinsinfo@gmail.com](mailto:dixondolphinsinfo@gmail.com).

## Dixon Kiwanis Monthly Meeting

Kiwanis Club of Dixon is hosting its monthly meeting from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26. Held at Joystick Gaming Lounge, 420 Gateway Dr., Suite C., the meeting will see club members work together to raise fund and discuss service projects for the betterment of children in Dixon and around the globe. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information, visit [joystickdixon.com](http://joystickdixon.com) or call 707-635-3303.

## Babysitter's Training Course

Dixon Parks and Recreation Department is offering a babysitter training course from 2 to 5 p.m. Feb. 17 and 18. Held at the Senior Multi-use Center, 201 S. Fifth St., the class educates teens from 11 to 16 years old on basic child care and babysitting skills, allowing them to get their American Red Cross Certification for \$105 per person. Registration is due by Feb. 11.

For more information, visit [cityofdixonca.parksrec.tylerapp.com](http://cityofdixonca.parksrec.tylerapp.com) or email [dixonrecreation@cityofdixonca.gov](mailto:dixonrecreation@cityofdixonca.gov). ★

# Bud's Pub & Grill Celebrates 30th Anniversary

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Menu offerings include a wide range of items, with the French dip sandwich among the most popular selections, according to Cherie Fanning. Bud Fanning said customers often ask for recommendations.

"People ask me all the time, 'what's good?'," said Bud Fanning. "I tell them everything or it wouldn't be on the menu"

Cherie Fanning said regular customers play a significant role in shaping the atmosphere.

"We have a regular group that loves the bartenders and servers; it's kind of like Cheers," said Cherie Fanning.

She said several groups meet at Bud's on a regular basis.

"We have a group of middle-aged ladies that come in every single week and play cards," said Cherie Fanning. "The Lions Club meets here twice a month for dinner. A lot of groups meet here to eat."

The Fannings said community

involvement has long been central to their business philosophy.

"My family has been a huge part of the community," said Cherie Fanning.

According to her, two of her grandfathers served as mayors of Dixon and as president of the May Fair board. Bud Fanning's family previously owned a local cleaners, she added.

Bud's Pub & Grill hosts events including birthday parties, baby showers, retirement parties and fundraisers, and offers daily happy hour specials such as Taco Tuesday, Wings Wednesday and Thursday hot dogs. A weekend brunch menu is available Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The 30th anniversary celebration was held Jan. 17 and included dinner specials, seasonal cocktails, raffles, prizes and custom Bud's glassware.

Cherie and Bud Fanning also own the Olde Vet's Hall at 231 N. First St., which is available for event reservations. For more information, visit [budsdixon.com](http://budsdixon.com) or call 707-678-4745. ★

# Yard Sale Raises Funds for DFS



Powell hosted the yard sale at her own home and sold items such as plants she had grown herself, along with décor and household items she no longer needed. Proceeds from the sale were donated to Dixon Family Services. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Continued from page 1  
money to donate to DFS, our favorite charity," said Powell.

The yard sale is one of several fundraising activities planned by Dixon Family Services in 2026.

"We are having a rummage sale on Feb. 6 and 7," said Powell. "It will be indoors at the back of the DFS building so we won't have to deal with the cold wet weather. People can come inside where it is warm and shop for treasures."

Powell emphasized that the organization is not seeking additional item donations for the rummage sale.

"I want to be clear that we are not asking the public for donations of items to sell, we have enough already," said Powell. "What we do want is to spread the word, and for people to come and shop or just stop by and say hi."

She added that financial donations are always welcome.

"People are also always welcome to donate with cash, checks or credit cards. We rely on the generosity of good people who want to help with our operating

expenses," said Powell.

In February, Dixon Family Services will also begin planning for its annual Comedy Night fundraiser, scheduled for Aug. 8 at Olde Vet's Hall, 231 N. First St. The organization is seeking sponsorships and raffle prize donations; tickets are currently available through the Givebutter platform. Physical tickets are expected to be available by the end of February at Dixon Family Services.

The organization continues to provide community services, including family case management, child abuse prevention services and resources on issues such as heatwave safety and homelessness. All services are available by appointment.

Dixon Family Services has supported the Dixon community since 1984 and plans to continue its work in 2026. The organization is currently seeking a part-time bilingual case manager and is exploring the addition of an online budgeting class for individuals and families struggling financially.

For more information, visit [dixonfs.org](http://dixonfs.org) or call 707-678-0442. ★

# Lawsuit Seeks Habitat Protections for Southern Sierra Nevada Fisher



The fishers of the southern Sierra Nevada are medium-sized furry carnivores. Photo courtesy of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Continued from page 1

that plants and animals with federally protected critical habitat are more than twice as likely to move toward recovery than species without it.

Last year the Service denied federal protections to a separate population of

fishers found in northern California and southern Oregon, despite significant range loss due to logging, historic trapping, rodenticide poisoning and climate change.

The lawsuit on Jan. 15 was filed in federal court in the District of Columbia. ★

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# Dixon Girls Softball Prepares for Growing Season



Dixon Girls Softball (DGS) is preparing for its upcoming season with increased participation, a new board of directors and the addition of its first travel team, signaling continued growth for the local youth sports organization. The season is scheduled to begin March 14. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon Girls Softball is preparing for its upcoming season with increased participation, a new board of directors and the addition of its first travel team, signaling continued growth for the local youth sports organization.

The season is scheduled to begin March 14, with approximately 135 players currently registered across multiple age divisions. Registration remains open, and participation has increased from about 113 players last year, according to Sarah Torres, board president.

According to Torres, this is her second year involved with the organization and her first year serving as president. She joined the league last season as snack bar coordinator after several years volunteering with Dixon Little League.

"I did snack bar with Dixon Little League for five years," said Torres. "My daughter got older and she decided she wanted to play softball, so I transitioned over. I do it for my kids."

Torres said softball provides more than athletic development for players.

"For the girls, it's a good opportunity to learn, develop, make

new friends and just be active," said Torres. "Everyone has a cell-phone and a tablet, but they need to be out and have face-to-face peer relations."

This season, Dixon Girls Softball will field teams in four divisions: 6-and-under with 46 players, 8-and-under with 27 players, 10-and-under with 24 players, and 12-and-under with 38 players. The 12-and-under group includes the league's first travel team, the 12U Storm Travel team.

Torres said the organization remains smaller than Dixon Little League but continues to see steady progress.

"We're still pretty small compared to Dixon Little League, but we're up and coming," said Torres. "We're seeing a lot of progress. It's going to be a good year."

One of the league's priorities this season is improving field conditions. Torres said Dixon Girls Softball is working with the city to make upgrades, while also fundraising to support those efforts.

"The softball fields are open to the public, but we're trying our best to fundraise to do our best for these girls," said Torres. "We're always

looking for sponsors and donations."

Donations and sponsorship inquiries can be made through the league's website or by emailing [dixongirlssoftball1@gmail.com](mailto:dixongirlssoftball1@gmail.com).

Player development remains a focus, particularly for younger athletes and those new to the sport. Torres said the league emphasizes clinics and coaching support to build skills and confidence.

"We have really good coaches, we put on clinics," said Torres. "We have a clinic Feb. 28. We do clinics to help them improve and build their confidence for the upcoming season."

Volunteers play a key role in league operations, and Dixon Girls Softball continues to seek additional help. The league currently needs a snack bar coordinator and an umpire-in-charge, though Torres said volunteers in any capacity are welcome.

Several events are scheduled throughout the season. Opening day is set for March 14, followed by a bingo fundraiser March 22, which Torres said will be supported by the players. The season will conclude with a closing ceremony May 16.

Looking ahead to 2026, Torres said the organization's goals remain focused on player experience and safety.

"Our goals are just to make sure the girls have a good time and to improve our fields to be safer for our players," said Torres.

Torres encouraged families and community members to attend games and support players throughout the season.

"Just coming out and watching the girls, cheering them on, it's a massive impact on their self-esteem," said Torres.

For girls considering joining in the future, Torres offered simple advice.

"Come out of your comfort zone," said Torres. "If you're not sure, try it. You may love it, and you'll make a lot of new friends. Softball is like a second family."

For more information, visit [dixongirlssoftball.com](http://dixongirlssoftball.com) or email [info@dixongirlssoftball.com](mailto:info@dixongirlssoftball.com). ★



This season, Dixon Girls Softball will field teams in four divisions: 6-and-under with 46 players, 8-and-under with 27 players, 10-and-under with 24 players, and 12-and-under with 38 players. Around 135 girls are participating, an increase from last season's 113. Photo by Nicolas Brown



Player development remains a focus, particularly for younger athletes and those new to the sport. Torres said the league emphasizes clinics and coaching support to build skills and confidence. Photo by Nicolas Brown

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# Girl Scouts of Northern California Kicks off Cookie Season

## Welcomed Exploremores to Cookie Lineup, Bay Area's Adobe a National Sponsor

**Girl Scouts of Northern California News Release**

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA (MPG)** - Girl Scouts of Northern California kicked off their 2026 Girl Scout Cookie season on Jan. 12. Girl Scouts throughout all 19 counties from Gilroy to the Oregon Border will embark on the highly anticipated cookie season, exploring more possibilities through the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world.

From Jan. 12, consumers can support their local girl entrepreneurs by ordering from the iconic cookie lineup online at [ilovecookies.org](http://ilovecookies.org). Local shoppers can also locate cookie booths starting Feb. 4 for in-person cookie sales. The 2026 Girl Scouts of Northern California cookie season runs through March 15, and all cookie flavors are \$7 a box (shipping fees additional).

"Exploremores", a rocky road ice cream-inspired sandwich cookie, will join the legendary lineup for the 2026 cookie season. Filled with delicious flavors of chocolate, marshmallow and toasted almond-flavored crème, Exploremores reflect the spirit of exploration at the heart of every Girl Scout.

The new flavor will be the 9th cookie flavor to join Northern California customer favorites such as Thin Mints, Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties, and Trefoils. Exploremores will be available for purchase online and in-person during booth sales. Visit [www.ilovecookies.org](http://www.ilovecookies.org) for more information.

"What better way to kick off the new year than with a new cookie for the 2026 cookie season," said Mary-Jane Strom, CEO of Girl Scouts of Northern California. "Behind every cookie sale is a Girl Scout learning essential life skills far beyond just selling cookies. Buying or donating cookies is a delicious and easy way to help cultivate future leaders, innovators, and change-makers. It is a win-win for all."

The Girl Scout Cookie Program provides invaluable entrepreneurial



As this year's national sponsor of the cookie program, Bay Area-based Adobe will encourage girls to express their individuality and think creatively as they pursue their goals this cookie season. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts of Northern California

skills for Girl Scouts across the country and funds a variety of experiences. Each cookie season, Girl Scouts develop important life skills like goal-setting, decision-making, money management, people skills and business ethics through the Cookie Program.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the cookie program are used locally and provide critical funds for girls' access to affordable programming, the outdoors, camp and program centers, STEM, financial aid and volunteer support services. Girl Scouts and their troops depend on these funds to support their community service efforts.

This year, over 14,000 Girl Scouts in Northern California will participate in the cookie entrepreneurship program with the goal of selling over 3 million packages of cookies.

As this year's national sponsor of the cookie program, Bay Area-based Adobe will encourage girls



"Exploremores", a rocky road ice cream-inspired sandwich cookie, will join the legendary lineup for the 2026 cookie season. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts of Northern California

to express their individuality and think creatively as they pursue their goals this cookie season. Through a national educational video featured on the Digital Cookie platform, Adobe will equip Girl Scouts with essential skills in online communication and responsible digital design. By

sharing these creative tools, Adobe is supporting Girl Scouts to become confident digital creators and entrepreneurs.

Girl Scouts of Northern California serves over 46,000 youth and adult

volunteers across 19 counties from Gilroy to the Oregon border. Girl Scouts bring their dreams to life and work together to build a better world. Through programs from coast to coast, Girl Scouts of all backgrounds and abilities can be unapologetically themselves as they discover their strengths and rise to meet new challenges — whether they want to climb to the top of a tree or the top of their class, lace up their boots for a hike, advocate for climate justice, or make their first best friends.

Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and create change on the issues that matter most to them. To learn more about Girl Scouts of Northern California, visit [www.gsnorcal.org](http://www.gsnorcal.org).

# PG&E Donates \$1 Million to Local Food Banks to Feed Families

**Pacific Gas and Electric Company News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is contributing \$1 million to help local food banks replenish stocks after the holidays and help feed the growing number of individuals and families struggling to put food on the table.

The PG&E funding will provide the equivalent of approximately 3 million meals for individuals and families. It will support 38 food banks representing 47 counties in PG&E's Northern and Central California service area.

Nine of these food banks are located in the greater Sacramento area and are collectively receiving \$168,000 in funding. In Amador County, the Interfaith Council of Amador will receive \$5,000. El Dorado County's Food Bank of El Dorado County is allocated \$12,830, while the Food Bank of Nevada County will receive \$5,000. Placer Food Bank in Placer County is set to receive \$17,300. In Sacramento County, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services will receive \$40,000. San Joaquin County includes two recipients: the Emergency Food Bank of Stockton and Second Harvest Food Bank of the Greater Valley, each receiving \$26,660. In Yolo County, Yolo Food Bank is awarded \$19,170.

It is the third contribution to food banks since September from PG&E or the PG&E Corporation Foundation (the PG&E Foundation). Funding for these charitable contributions comes from PG&E shareholders, not PG&E customers.

Officials with the California Association of Food Banks said that food banks are facing record-breaking demand, the highest since the pandemic.

"California food banks experienced an unexpected surge with the [federal government] shutdown this fall. So, we reached out for help on their behalf and PG&E responded," said Stacia Levenfeld, Chief Executive Officer of California Association of Food Banks. "Their \$1 million gift to food banks

throughout Northern and Central California will have a meaningful impact on the lives of millions of people this holiday season and help food banks continue their critical work in our communities."

Joe Wilson, vice president, PG&E's North Valley & Sierra Region added, "We are grateful to help local food banks fulfill their mission during this time of increasing demand, especially as more families and seniors are struggling through the holiday season. Our longstanding partnership with the California Association of Food Banks supports the safety net that is our local food banks."

**2025 Support for Food Banks**  
In September, the PG&E Foundation awarded \$1.12 million to support local food banks, tribal food banks and senior meal programs. In November, the PG&E Foundation donated \$250,000 to the California Association of Food Banks' Emergency Response Fund.

According to the California Association of Food Banks, while California produces nearly half of the nation's fruits and vegetables, more than one in five residents do not know where their next meal will come from. Communities of color face even higher levels of food insecurity.

Grant amounts that will be awarded to local organizations account for county poverty and unemployment levels, using the California Department of Social Services' formula, to promote equity among counties with higher need.

**About The PG&E Corporation Foundation**

The PG&E Corporation Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, separate from PG&E and sponsored by PG&E Corporation.

**About PG&E**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is a combined natural gas and electric utility serving more than 16 million people across 70,000 square miles in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit [pge.com](http://pge.com) and [pge.com/news](http://pge.com/news). ★

Legal Advertising 916-483-0946

**LEGAL ADVERTISING** 2508 Garfield Ave. • Ste. A Carmichael, CA 95608

*Dixon's Independent Voice Adjudicated For and By the County of Solano, Adjudication No. FCS030046—November 24, 2008*

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-00063

Annemarie Galletti filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Wyatt James Castillo to Wyatt James Galletti.

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 30, 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: Tim P. Kam  
Dated: January 7, 2026  
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026  
GALLETTI 2-13-26

**MPG**

Call to place your legal advertising  
**916-773-1111**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL**

The Dixon City Council will hold a hybrid **PUBLIC HEARING** to consider the following project:

**PROJECT:** **Zoning Code Text Amendments** – This project represents City-initiated amendments to the City of Dixon's Zoning Ordinance in order to implement certain housing-related provisions and maintain consistency between the Dixon Municipal Code and California state law. These amendments will incorporate new provisions for affordable housing development on certain previously-identified sites and align a number of City chapters related to Affordable Housing Density Bonuses and Accessory Dwelling Unit development with recent changes to California state law (File No: PA25-21, PDRZ25-022B).

*The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and no environmental review will be completed. This project qualifies for a Statutory Exemption from the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines under 14 CRR Section 15268(a) [Ministerial Projects].*

**HEARING DATE & LOCATION:** **Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm.** This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754) after which they will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

**MORE INFORMATION:** Contact **Austin Forde** at (707) 678-7000 ext. 1126 or [aforde@cityofdixonca.gov](mailto:aforde@cityofdixonca.gov). You may also come to City Hall at 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and closed on alternating Fridays. You can also view the staff report after 12:00 p.m. on the Friday before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN:** All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing either in person or remotely in order to express their opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed project. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to making any decision on the project. The City Council hearing will serve as the final decision for the project.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to [CityCouncil@cityofdixon.us](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofdixon.us) or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, City Council, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620, and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the City Council and will become part of the official record but will not be read aloud at the meeting.

You may remotely attend the public hearing at the time and location listed above and provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments during public comment period at the meeting, you may: 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand" 2) via teleconference press \*9

*At the above time and place, all letters received will be noted and all interested parties will be heard. If you challenge in court the matter described above, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the above referenced public hearing (Government Code Section 65009 (b)(2)).*

*Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.*

Dixon Independent Voice 1-23-2026

Legal Advertising  
916-483-0946

# LEGAL ADVERTISING

Dixon's Independent Voice Adjudicated For and By the County of Solano, Adjudication No. FCS030046 – November 24, 2008

2508 Garfield Ave. • Ste. A  
Carmichael, CA 95608

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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.)

Publication: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026  
HAT 2-6-26  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001808  
The following persons are doing business as: Franco Trucking, 1480 Reed Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Heriberto Franco, 1480 Reed Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Date filed in Solano County: December 19, 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 December 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.)

Publication: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026  
DAYDREAMER 2-13-26  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU25-10909  
Ignacio Efrain Villasenör Torres filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Ignacio Efrain Villasenör Torres to Ignacio Efrain Villasenör. 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  
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU25-11496  
Earl Gene Ramos Apiado filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Earl Gene Ramos Apiado to Earl Nazareno Ramos. 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. February 25, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room 301, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Hall of Justice, 600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533  
Judge of the Superior Court: Stephen Gizzi  
Dated: January 8, 2026  
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026  
APIADO 2-13-26

Publication: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026  
DAYDREAMER 2-13-26  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU25-10909  
Ignacio Efrain Villasenör Torres filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Ignacio Efrain Villasenör Torres to Ignacio Efrain Villasenör. 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 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

Publication: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026  
DAYDREAMER 2-13-26  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU25-10909  
Ignacio Efrain Villasenör Torres filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Ignacio Efrain Villasenör Torres to Ignacio Efrain Villasenör. 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 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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**SUBJECT: Dixon City Council Meeting Capital Facilities Fees (Development Impact Fees) Increase**

To whom it may concern:  
Government Code section 66000 et seq. (Mitigation Fee Act, also known as AB 1600) and Chapter 4.07 of the Dixon Municipal Code, Capital Facility Fees ("CFF") have been adopted to fund the necessary infrastructure and public facilities to mitigate the impact of new development. Dixon's Municipal Code outlines a process to adjust the CFFs annually to reflect changes in construction costs to ensure that adequate funds are available at the time a project is built. The adjustment is based on the process outlined in chapter 4.07.150, Annual Review. The annual update of the CFFs was most recently completed on March 4, 2025 (Resolution No. 25-022), which included an update of the various Development Impact Fees.

City staff recommend updating the CFFs based on the -0.5% Construction Cost Index decrease for the San Francisco Bay Area. This fee decrease will result in the City collecting fees that more closely reflect current construction costs. Staff also recommend updating the In-Lieu Fee based on the 3.3% Consumer Price Index increase between September 1, 2024, and September 1, 2025. This increase will allow the City to collect fees that more closely reflect the reasonable cost of mitigation measures in the area, as well as the City's associated administrative costs.

Copies of the agenda and staff report for the meeting will be available for review on Friday, January 30, 2026, or sooner, at City Hall as well as on the City of Dixon website. The meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2026  
Time: 7:00 P.M.  
Location: City Council Chambers  
600 East A Street  
Dixon, CA 95620

We welcome and appreciate your participation. If you should have any questions or comments, please contact us at (707) 678-7030 or by email at [engineering@cityofdixonca.gov](mailto:engineering@cityofdixonca.gov).

Sincerely,  
Engineering Department

Dixon Independent Voice 1-23-2026

## City of Dixon UNCLAIMED FUNDS NOTICE 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, the Finance Director of the City of Dixon, County of Solano, State of California, declares that the following monetary sums have been held by the Finance Director and have remained unclaimed in the funds hereafter indicated for a period of over three (3) years and will become the property of the City of Dixon on the 13th day of March, 2026, a date not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than sixty (60) days after first publication of this Notice.

Any party of interest may, prior to the date designated herein above, file a claim with the Finance Director which includes the claimant's name, address, amount of claim, the grounds on which the claim is founded and the date, name, amount, and heading shown in this notice. The Finance Director may accept or reject the claim. If rejected, the party submitting the claim may, within 30 days of receiving notice of rejection, file and serve on the Finance Director a verified complaint seeking to recover all, or a designated part, of the unclaimed funds. This information and the stale dated check claim form are also available on the website of the City of Dixon at [cityofdixonca.gov](http://cityofdixonca.gov).

Contact Accounting Manager, Holly Alves at 707-678-7000 ext. 1108 for further information.

PAYEE	CHECK NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	AMOUNT	FUND
Solar Energy Designs	71948	09/27/2019	\$18.20	General
Vigor Construction	71958	09/27/2019	\$54.60	General
Deanna Elliot	73202	04/10/2020	\$64.00	General
Cole Ts Dixon Ca Lp	73661	05/26/2020	\$3,418.47	General
Cesar R. Deleon	73694	05/26/2020	\$466.39	General
Juliet J. Helmstreit	73825	05/26/2020	\$365.39	General
Stephen B. Lopez	73905	05/26/2020	\$365.39	General
Suzanne Lyons	73918	05/26/2020	\$3,163.62	General
Pg&E	75861	03/12/2021	\$700.00	Utilities
Les Wong	77135	09/24/2021	\$38.60	Utilities
Joycecuevas	77317	10/29/2021	\$171.23	Utilities
W Scott Cameron	77356	11/05/2021	\$21.71	Utilities
Demering Dezarn	77526	11/24/2021	\$31.07	Successor Agency
Bonnie Abell	78314	03/31/2022	\$62.99	Utilities
Glenn Adams	78318	03/31/2022	\$62.50	Utilities
Asset View	78328	03/31/2022	\$105.45	Utilities
Nicholas & Danielle Ayers	78331	03/31/2022	\$57.70	Utilities
Sheila & Scott Babot	78332	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Alejandro Barela	78337	03/31/2022	\$18.76	Utilities
Daniel & Alicia Barker	78338	03/31/2022	\$50.00	Utilities
Jennifer Blake	78348	03/31/2022	\$26.46	Utilities
Matt & Erin Borszcz	78353	03/31/2022	\$22.02	Utilities
Richard Bowes	78356	03/31/2022	\$37.19	Utilities
Bret & Rhiannon Brady	78357	03/31/2022	\$27.93	Utilities
Laura Caron	78375	03/31/2022	\$54.50	Utilities
Ben Casteneda	78377	03/31/2022	\$121.34	Utilities
Linda Catena	78378	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Cemo Commercial	78380	03/31/2022	\$89.95	Utilities
Vickie Chaloux	78385	03/31/2022	\$48.50	Utilities
Cole Chastain	78388	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Cindy Chaffee	78389	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Roger Contreras	78397	03/31/2022	\$31.57	Utilities
Susan Cooper	78400	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Chad Copeman	78401	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Csb System	78408	03/31/2022	\$36.01	Utilities
Roberta Cucuk	78409	03/31/2022	\$57.90	Utilities
Cueva's Restaurant	78410	03/31/2022	\$175.00	Utilities
David Culpepper	78411	03/31/2022	\$66.41	Utilities
Marsha & Jerry Dallas	78415	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Andrew & Jennifer Davis	78417	03/31/2022	\$137.12	Utilities
Trucie & Michael Dewit	78427	03/31/2022	\$100.85	Utilities
Alejandro Dominguez	78429	03/31/2022	\$46.74	Utilities
Zenaida Duarte	78433	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Maribel Duran	78439	03/31/2022	\$100.00	Utilities
Jorge Farfan	78447	03/31/2022	\$26.10	Utilities
Fas-Ahm Utility Llc	78448	03/31/2022	\$25.33	Utilities
Rick Fernandez	78451	03/31/2022	\$58.90	Utilities
Fidelity Title	78453	03/31/2022	\$22.49	Utilities
Floors To Go	78456	03/31/2022	\$15.75	Utilities
James & Kristie Fordyce	78459	03/31/2022	\$83.04	Utilities
George & Debra Foulk	78460	03/31/2022	\$33.47	Utilities
Rachel & Curtis Frazier	78461	03/31/2022	\$39.84	Utilities
Troy Fry	78464	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Flavio Garcia	78469	03/31/2022	\$26.99	Utilities
Sheri Goldsbrough	78476	03/31/2022	\$38.62	Utilities
Maria Gomez	78477	03/31/2022	\$28.40	Utilities
John Grah	78482	03/31/2022	\$115.44	Utilities
Joseph Graham	78483	03/31/2022	\$35.26	Utilities
Lawrence Green	78487	03/31/2022	\$56.30	Utilities
Brian Groscup	78490	03/31/2022	\$142.71	Utilities
Juana & Rigoberto Guerra	78491	03/31/2022	\$75.09	Utilities
David Guerrero	78492	03/31/2022	\$30.70	Utilities
Krista & Paul Harrell	78502	03/31/2022	\$72.68	Utilities
Doug Hicke	78510	03/31/2022	\$19.00	Utilities
Laura & Scott Hill	78513	03/31/2022	\$50.88	Utilities
Hillier Company	78514	03/31/2022	\$19.22	Utilities
Trina Hirsig	78516	03/31/2022	\$17.29	Utilities
Jeffrey Hoffman	78517	03/31/2022	\$79.87	Utilities
Melissa Holdener	78519	03/31/2022	\$59.25	Utilities
Mark Holdener	78521	03/31/2022	\$42.94	Utilities
Christopher Holdener	78522	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Jennifer & Chad Hudson	78529	03/31/2022	\$34.87	Utilities
Dennis & Debbie Hundoble	78530	03/31/2022	\$224.31	Utilities
Jamie Jamison	78538	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities

PAYEE	CHECK NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	AMOUNT	FUND
Daniel & Kenya Jensen	78539	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Mary Johannessen	78543	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Jennifer Johnson	78545	03/31/2022	\$78.20	Utilities
Mark Kastlahn	78551	03/31/2022	\$27.03	Utilities
Kaufman & Broad	78552	03/31/2022	\$399.74	Utilities
Dan Kaufman	78553	03/31/2022	\$21.61	Utilities
Cecilia Keelan-Uhlik	78554	03/31/2022	\$21.80	Utilities
Patricia Keithley	78555	03/31/2022	\$27.65	Utilities
Joann & Jeff Kirby	78561	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Kobra Associates	78563	03/31/2022	\$797.38	Utilities
Robert & Julie Kulinski	78566	03/31/2022	\$35.90	Utilities
Marijane Lagom	78568	03/31/2022	\$88.24	Utilities
Matt Lankford	78569	03/31/2022	\$46.83	Utilities
Jaime Leon	78576	03/31/2022	\$128.88	Utilities
Tracy Linyard	78578	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Litton Loans Servicing	78580	03/31/2022	\$172.77	Utilities
Garry & Deborah Lowe	78584	03/31/2022	\$50.00	Utilities
Geronimo Lupercio	78586	03/31/2022	\$75.24	Utilities
Thomas & Korie Martinez	78594	03/31/2022	\$19.38	Utilities
Kirby & Elaine Matsumoto	78595	03/31/2022	\$60.18	Utilities
Timothy & Rachel McCoy	78597	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Melissa Mccarty	78599	03/31/2022	\$26.10	Utilities
Sarah Mckendry	78600	03/31/2022	\$69.45	Utilities
Mckinley Holding	78601	03/31/2022	\$43.26	Utilities
Marlo & Ronald Melton	78605	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Kathleen Merk	78607	03/31/2022	\$144.85	Utilities
Attila Mesko	78608	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Geraldine Middaugh	78611	03/31/2022	\$20.56	Utilities
Patricia Miller	78614	03/31/2022	\$142.26	Utilities
William & V A Molloy	78616	03/31/2022	\$19.00	Utilities
Clint & Monica Motta	78619	03/31/2022	\$57.55	Utilities
Timothy Mueller	78620	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Marilyn Needham	78622	03/31/2022	\$115.10	Utilities
Christina Nelson	78626	03/31/2022	\$96.87	Utilities
Jesse & Kimberly Ney	78629	03/31/2022	\$17.34	Utilities
Jim Olsen	78635	03/31/2022	\$21.41	Utilities
Kent Osborne	78638	03/31/2022	\$168.06	Utilities
Jared Ostertag	78639	03/31/2022	\$48.74	Utilities
Risto Pelivanov	78647	03/31/2022	\$26.68	Utilities
Samuel & Blanca Pelayo	78648	03/31/2022	\$80.15	Utilities
Joseph & Marianne Peralta	78650	03/31/2022	\$65.99	Utilities
Denise Pochini	78656	03/31/2022	\$80.33	Utilities
Marcyrose Pomares	78660	03/31/2022	\$25.44	Utilities
Eric & Kathy Ponce	78661	03/31/2022	\$30.70	Utilities
Pulte Homes Corp	78665	03/31/2022	\$1,001.04	Utilities
David & Christina Ramirez	78669	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Charlie Ricketts	78677	03/31/2022	\$21.71	Utilities
Francis Riddell	78679	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Phyllis Rinehart	78680	03/31/2022	\$71.58	Utilities
Adriana Rodriguez-Griffin	78689	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Alicia Rubalcava	78696	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Stephanie Sanchez	78705	03/31/2022	\$18.88	Utilities
Louise Scholten	78707	03/31/2022	\$51.97	Utilities
Burton Schantz	78708	03/31/2022	\$33.06	Utilities
Barbara Schanmier	78711	03/31/2022	\$74.59	Utilities
William Scholle	78712	03/31/2022	\$39.28	Utilities
James & Gloria Sheridan	78717	03/31/2022	\$112.74	Utilities
Silverado Bank	78719	03/31/2022	\$102.00	Utilities
Kris Smith	78725	03/31/2022	\$35.09	Utilities
Tracy Snow	78727	03/31/2022	\$25.00	Utilities
Solano Affordable Housing	78730	03/31/2022	\$78.10	Utilities
Michelle Sommer	78732	03/31/2022	\$61.26	Utilities
Robert & Christine Sperry	78734	03/31/2022	\$50.00	Utilities
David Steinert	78737	03/31/2022	\$94.23	Utilities
Veronica Stowe	78739	03/31/2022	\$28.47	Utilities
Monica Stotts	78740	03/31/2022	\$35.66	Utilities
Sarah Teranishi	78747	03/31/2022	\$193.68	Utilities
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# COMICS & PUZZLES

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**Amber Waves** by Dave T. Phipps

**SPINACHOVIA...**

**Out on a Limb** by Gary Kopervas

**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

**TIGER** by Bud Blake

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**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • SUPER BOWL**

**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Pakistani attire
- Research location
- Partridge's fruit tree
- Grid follower
- \* \_\_\_ Upshaw, multiple Super Bowl winner
- Canada's national tree
- Like Homer Simpson's head
- Allege
- Agenda entries
- \*Adding a rushing player
- Aphrodite's lover
- Not host
- Tire meas.
- Composure under strain
- More distant
- Thompson of "Some Kind of Wonderful"
- Ubiquitous deciduous tree
- Genealogical plant
- Poetic feet
- Dream time, acr.
- The Romanovs, e.g.
- Song for solo voice
- Dishevel, as in hair
- Clever humor
- \*SoFi \_\_\_, Super Bowl LXI venue
- \*Last year's Super Bowl winners
- Web robot
- Tesla Roadster with Starman location
- a.k.a. podagra
- \*The only NFL team with perfect season
- Plant-based laxative
- Symphony member
- "No \_\_\_ for you!"
- No gains without them
- Retired, abbr.
- Field worker
- Bohemian
- Not Miss or Ms
- Poker amount

**DOWN**

- Bro to bro
- Speedy steed
- Chuck Berry's "\_\_\_ Over Beethoven"
- Rainbow color
- \*Santa Clara's \_\_\_, Super Bowl LX venue
- Beside, archaic
- Titanic's frozen enemy
- \*Team with most Super Bowl appearances
- Fencing weapon
- Charitable contributions
- Hi-\_\_\_
- Garden shelter
- Unhealthy atmosphere
- Little hills
- P in m.p.g.
- Mark Twain to Samuel Clemens
- Lively
- Vampire of Greek mythology
- \*One of two teams to win while hosting Super Bowl
- Long fishing line
- Like haunted house
- What the defense does?
- High school dressy affair
- Romanian money
- \*Super Bowl LX halftime show headliner (2 words)
- Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young: "\_\_\_ Your Children"
- Egyptian boy king, for short
- Long jump
- 1 to Greeks, pl.
- Rob Marshall's 2005 movie "Memoirs of a \_\_\_"
- On the wagon
- Land parcels
- \*Shoulder pads and cleats
- "Put a lid \_\_\_!"
- College dwelling
- High part of day
- Edible fat
- Facial site
- \*Charlie Puth and Brandi Carlile, \_\_\_ game stars

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7	3	1	4	9	8	5	6	2
8	6	9	2	5	1	7	4	3
1	2	6	7	3	5	8	9	4
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9	4	8	1	6	2	3	5	7

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**WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS**

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# Board Approves Labor Agreement Supporting Officers

## Solano County News Release

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - At their Jan. 13 meeting, the Solano County Board of Supervisors approved a new labor agreement with the Solano County Sheriff's Custody Association, representing Correctional Officers in Bargaining Unit 13. The successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be effective from Jan. 13, 2026, through Oct. 28, 2028.

"Correctional officers are the backbone of safe and smoothly run detention facilities," said Ian M. Goldberg, Solano County administrator. "This agreement supports them, strengthens our partnership, and helps ensure both

our workforce and our community remain safe for the long term."

The three-year agreement provides Correctional Officers in Unit 13 with predictable wage growth and continued access to affordable benefits. Employees will receive base wage increases of three percent in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/26, two percent in FY2026/27, and one percent in FY2027/28, along with a parity provision to help ensure pay remains competitive with increases to other bargaining units. The agreement increases the County's health insurance contribution.

In addition to wages and benefits, the agreement also enhances compensation for the demanding nature of correctional work

and modernizes workplace policies. Standby pay, Jail Training Officer differential pay, and the uniform and safety equipment allowance are increased, while leave provisions, bilingual pay, tuition reimbursement, and reclassification language are updated to support employees. The agreement includes continued collaboration on workplace issues, a third-year wage reopener provision, and a cash payment in two fiscal years.

The total overall value of the three-year agreement for Bargaining Unit 13 is approximately \$6,175,688, reflecting the county's investment in wages, benefits and enhanced workplace provisions through

October 2028. During negotiations, the county received 17 proposals from the Unit 13 bargaining team, and county and union representatives met 14 times to reach a mutually acceptable agreement.

Negotiations began in September 2025 and were conducted in good faith with a shared focus on maintaining public safety, supporting correctional staff, and ensuring fiscal responsibility for Solano County. To date, Units 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, and unrepresented employees have ratified agreements with the County.

Bargaining Unit 13 represents Correctional Officers who work within Solano County's jail

and custody operations. These officers play a critical role in maintaining safety and security in County detention facilities, supporting rehabilitation and compliance, and ensuring the continuity of essential public safety services for residents and staff.

All union and county proposals, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), and benefit summaries are publicly available at SolanoCounty.gov under the "Labor Negotiations" section. This resource provides a clear and accessible record of all proposals, including those that have been accepted or rejected, ensuring transparency for all parties involved. ★

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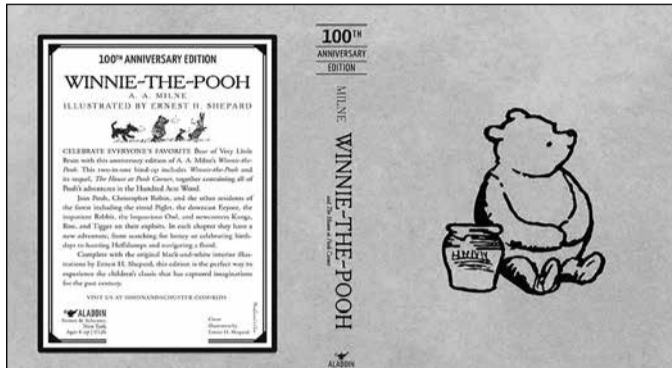
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## Winnie-The-Pooh 100th Anniversary Edition

by A.A. Milne,  
illustrated by Ernest H. Shepard



- ◆ Publisher: Aladdin
- ◆ Intended Audience: Children & Everyone

Celebrate Winnie the Pooh's 100th birthday with the 100th Anniversary special edition. This yellow fuzzy-covered book, with an embossed Winnie the Pooh on the cover, is just like hugging the bear himself. Known as "Everyone's favorite bear, Bear of very little brain, Silly old Bear, and Pooh," this classic stuffed bear has charmed generations. The English writer A.A. Milne originally wrote the stories out of love for his young son Christopher Robin and his cherished stuffed animals. Among his son's favorite toys were a little bear, a tiger, a donkey, and a piglet, which all inspired the stories, and ultimately all came together in the 100 Acre Woods.

The classic and newly adapted Pooh Bear and all his friends can be found on everything from, layettes, sweatshirt and shirts to backpacks, pencils, and even snacks. This well-known book series has been turned into Disney classics and endless children's shows. But do you know where the adventure originally started?

Join Christopher Robin and his beloved friends, Pooh Bear, Piglet, Eeyore, Tigger, Rabbit, Owl, Kanga, and Roo. Each chapter takes readers on a well-known classic adventure: the search for honey, running

from bees, celebrating birthdays, hunting for Eeyore's tail, or even hunting for Heffalumps and Woozles. Each character brings their own personality and lesson. With Pooh Bear's lighthearted, honey-driven mind, to the timid and frightful little piglet. Eeyore, gloomy and sad, carries his own little rain cloud, while Rabbit always has so much to do and loves his organization. The wise old Owl is always around for some sage advice, and Kanga brings in the gentle mothering vibe. And of course, we can't forget the fun and bouncy Tigger- since he's the only one.

These stories have a wonderful, familiar tone for those who grew up with the classic bear, while they set a new, wonderful tradition of reading for the next generation. This double-bound book set includes Winnie-the-Pooh and The House at Pooh Corner, with the original black-and-white interior illustrations by Ernest H. Shepard. This book is the perfect way to introduce the beloved stories to a new generation, while also being a beautiful collector's piece to add to any library.

Beautiful, sentimental, and nostalgic, this book is the perfect gift for anyone on your list, or for the expecting mom. ★



## Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Dealing with  
Difficult People

One of life's frustrations is having to deal with difficult people. Everyone has to interact with them. There is no escaping these troublesome individuals. You can encounter them in virtually any situation.

You call your credit card company and customer service is rude. Your boss keeps changing priorities and then reprimands you for not getting things done. Someone you supervise always has an excuse for being late. You have trouble getting an insurance claim resolved. You call a government office and it's impossible to find a person who can help you. A relative or friend always drops by without calling and doesn't get your hints that it's often inconvenient.

When dealing with difficult people, your words and actions affect the outcome. You play a role, so you need to be proactive. Don't start out assuming there will be a problem. Expect that all will work out. Positive expectation is a powerful force. Focus on what you want to accomplish. Don't get sidetracked into irrelevant arguments. You can't control difficult people but you can control your reaction to them. No one can take advantage of you without your permission.

Regardless of how difficult the other person is, don't lose your cool. Once you do, it's virtually impossible to achieve your objective. Although it can be challenging, be kind and considerate. Treat everyone with respect. Remain calm and rational. Don't get defensive or lose your temper. You don't want to burn bridges or say things you will regret.

Address the actions of the difficult person or the issues. Don't insult or get personal. Don't make it an issue of pride, dignity, or image. An attitude of "I don't have to take that" is not productive.

Know yourself and what sets you off. Visualize not reacting to those things you are sensitive to. Many difficult people thrive on pushing your buttons in order to set you off. When they fail to get the reaction they want, they move on. Just because someone acts, you aren't obligated to react.

Break the pattern. Do what the other

person doesn't expect. Don't get dragged into a shouting match. When someone yells, lower your voice. Speak slowly. Whenever you react in kind, the situation escalates.

Don't just complain, suggest alternatives. Lead with questions rather than by making statements. For example ask, "If you were in my position how would you feel? What would you do?" Give people a choice. "I can either do this or that." Or, "You can either do this or that. What do you prefer?"

Don't internalize what a difficult person does. Feelings of bitterness, anger, and resentment are toxic to you. Some difficult people even take pleasure when you react in this way. When these feelings start to take hold, let them go. There's no benefit to allowing difficult people to control your emotions.

You can't change difficult people. Recognize people for who they are and work to change your reaction to them. Trying to change someone else is an exercise in futility which causes you stress.

Difficult people can try to make you feel bad about their problems. They will use their problems as an excuse for their behavior. Don't make their problems yours. Everyone has issues that must be dealt with. Problems do not justify inappropriate behavior.

Whenever possible, avoid difficult people altogether. Politely excuse yourself by mentioning that you have other commitments or tasks to attend to. Avoid being drawn into arguments or contentious conversations.

Dealing with difficult people is frustrating. Learn to alter your reaction. Keep your objective in sight. Practice the strategies listed above. You will greatly improve your effectiveness while reducing your stress.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit [www.BryanGolden.com](http://www.BryanGolden.com) or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at [bryan@columnist.com](mailto:bryan@columnist.com) or write him c/o this paper. ©20177 Bryan Golden ★



## Riley Reviews

TALKING DOGS AND FEMALE  
GLADIATORS UP FOR DISCUSSION ON PBS

A Film and TV Review  
by Tim Riley

### NOVA SPECIAL "CAN DOGS TALK?" AND "QUEENS OF COMBAT" ON PBS

Dog owners may wish to tune into the one-hour documentary "Can Dogs Talk?" as part of the award-winning PBS science series NOVA, which premieres on February 4, 2025.

The film explores the viral phenomenon of "button dogs," who appear to use recorded sound buttons to communicate, and follows scientists as they try to answer the question of whether "talking dogs" are communicating their thoughts and desires with us.

To find out, a team of scientists led by Dr. Federico Rossano from University of California San Diego and Dr. Amalia Bastos from Johns Hopkins University are conducting the largest animal communication study in history, analyzing millions of "button" presses from thousands of dogs they've recruited.

The film captures some astonishing moments that challenge our assumptions about animal intelligence, from dogs that seemingly engage in conversations to those who learn new words with incredible speed, showing just how far their linguistic abilities might stretch.

Scientific understanding of canines' linguistic capabilities is still in its early stages, but the massive amount of data from this study could help expand researchers' understanding of animal cognition and the nature of the mutual understanding between our species.

"Can Dogs Talk?" ponders whether our domestication of dogs and their evolution as our closest companions have uniquely positioned them to learn our language. Perhaps the close bond between humans and dogs could become even closer.

According to executive producer Kirstie McLure, "For centuries, we've wondered what our dogs are really thinking. With unprecedented access to the world's largest animal communication study, this film explores whether science is finally giving us a way to cross the communication barrier."

Every pet owner wishes they could talk to their dog. I know that's how I feel. Our large dog expresses a lot just with her eyes, along with the occasional poke with her paw.

It would be nice to have a conversation with a dog based upon a mutual understanding across the species divide. "Can Dogs Talk?" may provide insights into cognition and language.

The PBS popular series "Secret of the Dead" begins the new year exploring evidence for two ancient mysteries. "Queens of Combat" explores whether female gladiators fought in Ancient Roman arenas.

What if women were hidden among the ranks of Ancient Rome's fearsome gladiators? A group of experts searches for

evidence to prove women once fought in the arena just like men.

Combining history, archeology, and forensic investigation, they journey across Europe in a quest for answers. If a female gladiator's existence can be proven definitively, what can we learn about their lives?

Going back to the times of tyrannical Roman emperors like Nero and Tiberius 2,000 years ago proves to be a difficult task for this mission. The experts agreed that it is harder to trace the lives of people from two millennia ago.

What they establish is that Ancient Rome's gladiators were glorified warriors, men of terrifying armor, bulging muscles, and the Roman ideal of masculinity. People came to the amphitheaters to see bloodthirsty gladiatorial fights.

"Queens of Combat" recognizes men dominated as fighters, but the program asks what if women were hidden in their ranks, postulating that scholars believe there may also be proof of female gladiators hidden in ancient texts.

Women were not frail and meek, and they were not locked away from combat. However, gladiators primarily came from the ranks of the enslaved and convicts. Occasionally, members of the upper class chose to fight in the arena for glory.

Roman historians were exclusively men, and any surviving contemporary texts were written by men who fixated on masculinity and reporting male exploits, and women were rarely included in the story.

London's Westminster Abbey hides an obscure text about women in the gladiatorial arena. Kathleen Coleman, expert on Ancient Roman poetry, discovered a poem of the first century with "a couplet of two lines which appear to be about women performing in spectacle."

Professor Edith Hall visited an Italian museum to view a decree from the Roman Senate in a hidden proclamation about laws that did not allow men and women to offer themselves out by contract to become a gladiator. Women were warned not to fight in the arena like men.

There's a lot more to this special that raises even more questions than answers about women in gladiatorial combat. "Queens of Combat" premieres on January 28, 2006.

"The Quest for Camelot," which was not available for review, premieres on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. The premise for this special is whether the stories about King Arthur can be proven true.

Was the legendary court of Camelot a real place? Professor Mark Horton journeyed across Britain to prove real events and places inspired the chivalric myths.

The professor scours medieval texts and archaeological sites for new understanding of Arthurian legends and what Britain was like after the Romans left in the fifth century. Here at home, we think of Camelot as the romanticized image of John F. Kennedy's presidency. ★



### Pear Farmers Seek to Limit Argentine Fruit in US Market

California pear growers are seeking relief from Argentine imports that they say have displaced their fruit in U.S. markets and driven down prices for growers in the state. During the past decade, the volume of Argentine pears sold in the U.S. more than doubled, last year rising to 1.3 million boxes and for the first time surpassing the amount of California-grown Bartlett pears sold to the fresh market. "It's one of the biggest headwinds that the California pear industry has faced," Ryan Elliot, a sixth-generation pear grower from Sacramento County, said of surging imports from Argentina. "If we don't be figure something out soon, we won't be around." Pressure from imports has already contributed to a decline in California's pear production, with acreage falling from 10,610 in 2000 to 4,500 in 2024.

### Farm Bureau Photo Award Celebrates California Agriculture

A silhouette of a cattle rancher practicing with a lasso at sunset, captured by the rancher's sister Joelle Naphan of Butte County, was awarded first place in the 44th annual California Farm Bureau Photo Contest. "Agriculture is an art that has been refined by multiple generations, just as this particular loop my brother was throwing has been refined by hours

of practice," Naphan said. The photo contest seeks to celebrate the family traditions that make California's farms and ranches unique, and to bring attention to the unseen work that fuels the state's agriculture. "It's a reminder that there are real hands and hard work behind the grapes that eventually end up in your glass of wine," said Michelle Foster of San Luis Obispo County, whose photo of winegrape harvest in front of rolling hills was awarded second place.

### Advocates Seek \$30 Million to Compensate Ranchers for Wolf Attacks

The California Farm Bureau and other advocacy organizations representing ranchers and rural residents joined in a letter to ask for \$30 million in the 2026-27 state budget to fund the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Wolf Program. The program was created to ensure livestock production is not jeopardized by California's recovering gray wolf population. California Farm Bureau and others have been successful in pushing to fund the Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program at \$5.3 million since 2021. There are currently 10 recognized wolf packs in the state and additional areas of wolf activity. Last year, ranchers saw a significant increase in livestock depredations by the apex predators, which are protected under state and federal endangered species acts. ★

# Republic FC Acquires Forward Mayele Malango from Monterey Bay FC

## Sacramento Republic FC News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento Republic FC announced Jan. 8 that the Club has acquired forward Mayele Malango (MY-el Muh-LAWN-go) from Monterey Bay FC via transfer. Malango has also signed a new contract with Republic FC. Per club policy, the terms of the transfer and contract will not be disclosed. Malango will be available pending league and federation approval and is expected to wear No. 7 for Republic FC.

“Mayele is a dynamic attacker with a diverse and impressive journey through multiple levels of U.S. soccer,” said Republic FC Head Coach Neill Collins. “His pace, strength and finishing ability give us more options in the final third, and we’re excited to integrate him into our system.”

Malango, 28, featured



Malango will be available pending league and federation approval and is expected to wear No. 7 for Republic FC. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

prominently for Monterey Bay FC during the 2025 USL Championship season, making 29 appearances across league and USL Cup play with five goals and two assists. His contributions included scoring the club’s first goal of the

season and earning a USL Championship Team of the Week honor early in the campaign for a standout performance against Oakland Roots SC.

“I would like to thank God for this opportunity, and also thanks to all the coaching staff and front

office members for believing in me, and for making this transfer to happen. I’m super excited to join the team and can’t wait to contribute to the team’s success on and off the field,” said Malango. “I can’t wait to meet all the fans and play in front of you all. I will give everything I have for the team. Let’s make memories together as we fight for another championship.”

Prior to joining Monterey Bay FC, Malango built a varied and productive professional career in the United States. He began his pro journey with New England Revolution II in 2020, where he appeared in 14 matches. In 2021, he signed with New

Amsterdam FC of the National Independent Soccer Association, scoring an impressive nine goals in 14 appearances to earn an All-League First Team selection. In 2022, he continued his development with Albion San Diego in NISA, finding the net three times in 20 matches, helping the team reach the NISA Championship Final. From 2023 to 2024, Malango starred for Chattanooga Red Wolves SC in USL League One, where he recorded 12 goals and five assists in 68 total appearances.

A native of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malango and his family spent 10 years in Malawi as

refugees before coming to the U.S. and settling in Massachusetts. He made a name for himself on the local soccer scene before moving on to the collegiate level. He began at Salem State University, where he scored 17 goals in 19 appearances and earned both MASCAC Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year honors on the way to a conference title. He then transferred to UMass Lowell, competing at the Division I level before turning professional.

Mayele earned his first call up to the Malawi National Team for World Cup Qualifiers in September 2025 and recorded an assist in his debut. He later joined The Flames for two international friendlies in November, scoring his first goal against Lesotho on Nov. 18.

Republic FC’s 2026 season officially kicks off on March 7 when the club hosts FC Tulsa at Heart Health Park. Season ticket memberships are on sale now, offering 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](http://SacRepublicFC.com/Memberships). ★

## Open Call for River Cats National Anthem Auditions

Demos for Potential Performers Must  
be Submitted Prior to Jan. 30

### Sacramento River Cats News Release

#### WEST SACRAMENTO, CA

**(MPG)** - If you have ever dreamed of getting a baseball game underway by singing the National Anthem, now is your chance as the Sacramento River Cats have announced their National Anthem auditions for the 2026 baseball season will take place at Sutter Health Park on the evening of Feb. 17.

Auditions are open to all soloists and instrumentalists, and those interested in performing prior to a River Cats game must submit an audition demo by Friday, Jan. 30. Demos received past this date will not be considered.

All demos submitted must be an A capella version or original performance of the Star-Spangled Banner, sung in full with clear, consistent and correct lyrics. The full performance must not exceed 90 seconds.

To submit a demo, email a mp3 or

YouTube link to [marketing@rivercats.com](mailto:marketing@rivercats.com). The subject line should read “2026 National Anthem Demo” and include a name, phone number and email address

in the body of the email. Submissions that do not meet this requirement will be automatically rejected.

The River Cats will invite the top demos submitted to Sutter Health Park for a live audition on Feb. 17.

Due to the volume of applicants, performers will only be contacted if they are selected to audition in person. Selected performers will be contacted the week of Feb. 9 with further instructions.

Sutter Health Park is the West Sacramento home of the three-time Triple-A Champion Sacramento River Cats, proud affiliate of the three-time World Series Champion San Francisco Giants. Memberships, mini-plans, and suites and hospitality spaces for the 2026 season may be purchased now by calling the River Cats Ticket Office at (916) 371-HITS (4487), emailing [tickets@rivercats.com](mailto:tickets@rivercats.com), or visiting [www.rivercats.com](http://www.rivercats.com). For information on other events at Sutter Health Park, visit [www.sutterhealthpark.com](http://www.sutterhealthpark.com). ★



## Softball Sets Schedule



The Aggies will host 28 games in Davis, while hitting the road for their other 25 games. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

### UC Davis Athletics News Release

**DAVIS, CA (MPG)** - UC Davis softball has set in place its 2026 schedule, with the season opener set for Feb. 5 at home against Sacramento State and the Big West Conference opener against Hawai’I scheduled at La Rue Field over the weekend of March 6-7.

The Aggies will host 28 games in Davis, while hitting the road for their other 25 games. UC Davis will take part in four tournaments, performing hosting duties for two, while playing in five games at neutral sites along the with host schools at two other tournaments.

2026 begins with the NorCal Kickoff where UC Davis will open against Sacramento State on Feb. 5 before playing San Diego, Colorado State and Saint Mary’s in the yearly tournament that runs from Feb. 5-8.

UC Davis then plays its first of seven midweek games, traveling to Pacific on Feb. 11. The Aggies will also make midweek trips to Santa Clara (Feb. 17), Sacramento State (Mar. 24) and Saint Mary’s (Apr. 14). Pacific will make the return trip on Mar. 3, joining Utah Valley (Mar. 9) and Stanford (Apr. 7) in making midweek trips to La Rue Field.

UNLV hosts the next tournament the Aggies visit, and running from Feb. 13-15 the Aggies will face Seattle, Quinnipiac and hosting UNLV. UC Davis will twice see Seattle and UNLV during the Las Vegas, Nev., tournament. Over Feb. 20-21 the Aggies will also head to St. George, Utah where they will face Weber State and Utah Tech in back-to-back days for a total of four games over the 48 hours spent in the high desert.

As the calendar rolls into March, the Ags host their final tournament of the season when over the stretch of Feb. 27-Mar. 1 UC Davis will see Nevada (twice), Santa Clara, Sacred

Heart and San Jose State.

The Aggies open Big West play by hosting Hawai’I over the weekend of Mar. 6-7. The Ags will go on to host CSU Bakersfield (Mar. 21-22), Cal State Fullerton (Mar. 28-29), CSUN (Apr. 11-12) and UC Santa Barbara (Apr. 25-26). On the road in conference, the Aggies will visit UC San Diego (Mar. 13-14), Long Beach State (Apr. 3-4), UC Riverside (Apr. 18-19) and Cal Poly (May 1-2). The Big West Championships are set to get going at Cal State Fullerton from May 6-9.

UC Davis returns All-Big West honorees Ashley Sawai, Alyssa Dethlefsen, Caroline Grimes and Sydney Polli. Last season Sawai finished top 10 in the Big West in innings pitched (eighth), batters struck out (ninth), wins (ninth) and saves (second). The Aggie right-hander also tossed a career-high 15 complete games, placing her fourth in the conference and 38th in the nation.

Dethlefsen also found her name inside the top 10 of a pair of Big West statistical categories. She led the conference in triples (five), and her 19 stolen bases placed her fourth in the league. During the season, Dethlefsen was not caught once and along with Grand Canyon’s Savannah Groshong-Kirk she is one of two student-athletes in the country to have not been caught stealing this season with at least 19 stolen bases.

UC Davis, the No. 2 ranked public university by the Wall Street Journal, is home to 40,000 undergraduate students and 12,000 employees. Ranked #1 in Agriculture and Forestry as well as #1 in Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis is located in a true California college town nestled between world-class destinations such as the San Francisco Bay Area, Napa Valley and Lake Tahoe. Over 650 Aggie student-athletes compete in 25 Division I varsity sports, with 16 sports transitioning to the Mountain West Conference beginning in 2026-27. ★

## Former Hornet Abigail Lopez Makes Pro Debut with Club Puebla

### Sacramento State Athletics News Release

#### SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Former Sacramento State women’s soccer standout Abigail Lopez has joined the professional ranks, signing with Club Puebla in Mexico’s top women’s division and making her debut on Jan. 4 against the Rayados de Monterrey in the LIGA BBVA MX Femenil closing tournament.

Lopez joined the club back in December of 2025, just in time to make her debut in early January. She played all 90 minutes of her club’s 4-0 loss to Monterrey in the opening match for both clubs.

A four-time All-Big Sky Conference honoree during her career with the Hornets, Lopez earned first-team all-league laurels in each of her final two collegiate campaigns and was named to the second team as a freshman and sophomore. She is one of only



Lopez joined the club back in December of 2025, just in time to make her debut in early January. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

four former Sacramento State players to win four All-Big Sky honors in a career, joining Katie McCoy (first-team honors in 2005-07 and a second-team award in 2004), Kara Taylor (first-team honors in 2005, 2007-08 and an honorable mention award in 2006), and Aubrey Goodwill (first-team honors in 2021-22, a second-team award in 2020, and an honorable mention selection in 2019).

Lopez is also one of only 11 Hornets to earn multiple All-Big Sky first-team awards.

Starting all 21 matches for Sacramento State as a senior in 2024, she led the team in scoring with four goals, three assists, and 11 points on the year, helping the Hornets capture the Big Sky Tournament title and a berth in the NCAA Tournament against USC.

She finished her career ranked tied for eighth in all-time points with 37 and tied for seventh in career goals with 15. Her 134 shot attempts are seventh on the school’s all-time list.

Lopez scored at least four goals in three of her four seasons with the Hornets, while her 11 points as a senior were a career high, surpassing the 10 she accounted for as a freshman in 2021. Overall, she appeared in 72 matches for Sacramento State, making the starting lineup in 63 of those — including 38 consecutive starts to close out her career. ★

# Lesley Hamamoto Wins Davis Bumble Bee Contest

By Kathy Keatley Garvey,  
UC Davis Department of Entomology  
and Nematology

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Bumble bee enthusiast Lesley Hamamoto of Sacramento, a UC Davis alumna who remembers well the entomology class she took from UC Davis Distinguished Emeritus Professor Robbin Thorp in 1998, is the winner of the 2026 Robbin Thorp Memorial First-Bumble-Bee-of-the-Year Contest, sponsored by the Bohart Museum of Entomology.

Hamamoto, a biologist/botanist with the Department of Water Resources, State of California since 2008 and a former seven-year UC Davis employee, photographed a black-tailed bumble bee, *Bombus melanopygus*, nectaring on manzanita at 9:59 am. Friday, Jan. 2 in the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden.

The contest rules specify that the first person to photograph or video a bumble bee in the two-county area of Yolo and Solano – and emails the image to the Bohart Museum – wins.

The bumble bee contest, launched in 2021, memorializes Professor Thorp (1933-2019), a tireless advocate of pollinator species protection and conservation and co-author of “Bumble Bees of North America: An Identification Guide” (Princeton University) and “California Bees and Blooms: A Guide for Gardeners and Naturalists” (Heyday). Although he retired from the faculty in 1994 after 30 years of service, he continued his bee research until a week before he died, at age 85. Every January, he looked forward to seeing the first bumble bee of the year.

Hamamoto, who serves as president of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNP) and as a volunteer with the California Bumble Bee Atlas, will receive a coffee cup designed with the critically endangered Franklin's bumble bee. Thorp monitored the population of *Bombus franklini* in its California-Oregon border range for two decades, last seeing it in 2006. It is now feared extinct.

“I was so excited to find several bumble bees on Friday!” Hamamoto said. “I have wanted to participate in the first-bumble-bee-of-the-year contest since it began in 2021.”

Her co-worker Michael Kwong, a senior environmental scientist with the State of California, teamed with fellow Monarch Watch participant Kaylen Teves of Vallejo, to win the 2025 contest. They photographed a yellow-faced bumble bee, *Bombus vosnesenskii*, on Jan. 11 on an oak leaf at the Glen Cove Marina, Vallejo.

“I had been watching for a window of sunny weather, so as soon as I saw that it was going to



UC Davis alumna and bumble bee/native plant enthusiast Lesley Hamamoto of Sacramento won the 2026 Robbin Thorp Memorial First-Bumble-Bee-of-the-Year Contest. This image shows her with another bumble bee from last year. Photo courtesy of Lesley Hamamoto

be sunny for a few hours, I hightailed it out to the Arboretum,” Hamamoto shared. “I knew that early blooming manzanitas would be highly attractive to bumbles, so I was specifically headed to a few that I knew of. I live in Sacramento, so I had to head over the county line to participate in the contest. I have sometimes participated unofficially from my home native garden, but I don't think I have ever found a bumble earlier than the contest winner.”

Hamamoto has participated since 2022 as a volunteer with the California Bumble Bee Atlas, a statewide community science project aimed at tracking and conserving California's native bumble bees. “I was fortunate to be able to take the Bumble Bee Field Course with Leif Richardson and Rich Hatfield in 2023 – the workshop sold out in two minutes and getting in was likened to getting tickets to Taylor Swift's Eras tour!”

Hamamoto has organized an annual “bumblepalooza” weekend for the last two years “for some of my friends that I met in the field course and we meet up and do a bunch of Atlas surveys. The first year was in the Carson Valley area where we had been for the field course, and last year we stayed at the Point Reyes Field Station. We have even talked about holding a future bumblepalooza in northern California to look for *B. franklini*.” (Thorp last sighted the bumble bee in 2006. Its range is a narrow 13,300-square-mile area in Siskiyou and

Trinity counties in California.)

Hamamoto and Kwong also led a bumble bee field trip last year for “find out farms,” a local native plant nursery and eco-education organization. The Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society holds an annual Wildlife Wonders event there “and where I have been one of the volunteers at the Friendly Bee exhibit table.”

Hamamoto received her bachelor's degree in biological sciences, with a plant biology emphasis, from UC Davis in 2001, and went on to receive her master's degree from Sacramento State University. She worked at UC Davis in Plant Biology for seven years before accepting her position with the State of California.

Hamamoto credits UC Davis for setting her “firmly on the path of studying and growing plants.” She remembers “field trips to local botanical hotspots such as Stebbens Cold Canyon and Jepson Prairie Preserve, and several years working at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory being particularly formative experiences.”

During her freshman year at UC Davis, she enrolled in ENT 10, “Natural History of Insects,” taught by Thorp. “We did a honey varietal tasting during that class and I always remember that he told us that yellow starthistle honey was his favorite flavor. I have to agree that it's the one good thing about invasive yellow starthistle! I didn't realize until I started reading and researching more about bumble bees that Dr. Thorp was really THE authority on bumbles in California. I feel very lucky to have had that opportunity to learn from him.”

The Bohart Bumble Bee Committee includes three members who worked with Thorp: UC Davis Distinguished Professor Emerita Lynn Kimsey, who directed the Bohart Museum for 34 years; Tabatha Yang, education and outreach coordinator for the Bohart Museum; and Kathy Keatley Garvey, communications specialist, UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology.

Every January, Thorp encouraged his “posse” – bumble bee enthusiasts and insect photographers Allan Jones, Kathy Keatley Garvey, Gary Zamzow and Kim Chacon – to find and photograph the first bumble bee of the year in Yolo and Solano counties. Chacon, the 2019 winner, was the last to win the informal bee contest when she captured a bee at the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden. At the time, she was a UC Davis doctoral student researching “habitat connectivity issues for bees at a landscape scale.” She is a 2018 alumna of The Bee Course, a nine-day intensive workshop affiliated with the American Museum of Natural History and held annually at the Southwestern Research Station, Portal, Ariz. Thorp, one of the instructors, taught the course from 2002 to 2018. ★

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