



Little League Prepares for Season with Record Participation
PAGE 4

New Year, New Roadside Safety Protections
PAGE 10



Dixon Independent Voice

The Official Newspaper of Record for the City of Dixon

VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 6

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

FEBRUARY 6, 2026

SEE INSIDE

BEE CONTEST WINNER RECEIVES PRIZE CUP



PAGE 4

DFS TO HOST INDOOR RUMMAGE SALE



PAGE 2

FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS
By Amy Shane



PAGE 8

Kindness Week Highlights Leadership



Several staff members were credited in the success of Kindness Week, including Dean of Students Benjamin Ruiz (left), Librarian Monica Fisher (center) and School Counselor Allison Hietbrink (right).

Story and photos by Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Montessori Charter School marked Kindness Week from Jan. 26 to 31 with student-led activities emphasizing safety, respect and responsibility, according to Executive Director Ben Ernest.

The weeklong observance, held at the school's campus at 355 N. Almond St., is part of the national Great Kindness Challenge, which Dixon Montessori has participated in for nine years. According to Ernest, the core premise remained the same this year, but students were given greater responsibility in planning and carrying out activities.

"We have the same premise this year, but let



Dixon Montessori Charter School marked Kindness Week from Jan. 26 to 31 with student-led activities emphasizing safety, respect and responsibility. Throughout the week, students nominated classmates for kindness awards, recognizing peers for sharing, being helpful and showing consideration toward others.

the kids take it over," said Ernest. "It's been really fun. We've been a kindness-certified school for eight or nine years."

Throughout the week, students nominated

classmates for kindness awards, recognizing peers for sharing, being helpful and showing consideration toward others. Students

wrote down what they were feeling and what

they were grateful for, and they exchanged tickets tied to nominations as a way to acknowledge positive behavior.

Students also extended recognition beyond their peers, nominating crossing guards for keeping them safe and teachers for gestures such as offering hugs. In classrooms, students made cards to honor individuals who had shown kindness, and several classes incorporated creative projects into the observance. One class composed a kindness-themed song that was played during morning announcements, and students used activity books focused on social-emotional skills.

"Inside the classes, we
Continued on page 3

CCA Opens Applications for Aviation and STEM Scholarship Program

California Capital Airshow News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Capital Airshow (CCA) is proud to announce that applications for its annual Aviation and STEM Scholarship Program opened Jan. 13, continuing the organization's long-standing commitment to inspiring and empowering the next generation of innovators, aviators and community leaders.

Each year, the Airshow awards scholarships to outstanding students pursuing education to support careers in aviation, aeronautics, aerospace and related fields. The 2026 program will provide financial support to help students achieve their dreams while fueling the future workforce of these critical industries.

Applications will remain open until May 1, and are available at californiacapitalairshow.com/scholarships. Applicants must reside in Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, Solano, Yolo or Yuba counties to be considered.

Since its inception, the California Capital Airshow has awarded more than \$600,000 in scholarships to over 280 students from across the Sacramento region. Each scholarship represents a student whose passion and perseverance are shaping the future of aviation and STEM.

"The California Capital Airshow is so much more than a weekend of thrilling performances," said Darcy Brewer, Executive Director of the California Capital Airshow. "Our scholarship program is at the heart of what we do year-round, building pathways for students to explore careers that strengthen our region and our nation's future."

Scholarship winners will be announced in early June, with recipients honored as part of the Airshow's 2026 show taking place Oct. 10-11, at Mather Airport.

For more information about the program, eligibility requirements, and how to apply, visit californiacapitalairshow.com/scholarships.

Established in 2004, the California Capital Airshow is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring the past, inspiring the future, and showcasing the strength and innovation of aviation. In addition to hosting one of the nation's largest airshows, featuring military and civilian performers like the United States Air Force Thunderbirds, CCA invests year-round in youth programs, scholarships, and community partnerships that inspire the next generation of leaders. ★

Dixon Library Plans Expansion

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Library is preparing for a major renovation and expansion aimed at addressing space limitations, preserving its historic Carnegie building and expanding services for a growing and increasingly diverse community.

The project is being planned as library use continues to rise, according to Supervising Librarian Rhea Gardner. She said the facility serves a wide range of patrons throughout the day, from students and seniors to job seekers and families.

"We're renovating because we're running out of space," said Gardner. "Dixon is growing, and the library is getting busier. We have a huge after-school crowd, seniors come in during the morning and we have adults coming in to do job applications."

The library hosts story times, crafts and other programs, and regularly



Dixon Library is preparing for a major renovation and expansion aimed at addressing space limitations, preserving its historic Carnegie building and expanding services for a growing and increasingly diverse community. Operational hours may be affected by the expansion. Photo by Kendall Brown

welcomes families, longtime residents and visitors passing through town to view local archives. Gardner said the renovation is intended to ensure the library can continue serving as a

central resource. The existing building, located on East B Street between North First and North Second streets, is a Carnegie library originally built between 1911 and 1912. According to the

Dixon Historical Society, it was funded through a \$10,000 grant from industrialist Andrew Carnegie after members of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club petitioned for a public
Continued on page 3



Scan our QR Code for a direct link to our online edition!

PRSRTD STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CARMICHAEL, CA
PERMIT NO. 350
OR CURRENT
POSTAL CUSTOMER

DFS to Host Indoor Rummage Sale



Dixon Family Services (DFS) will host a two-day indoor rummage sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 6 and 7 at the back of its building, located at 155 North Second St. The sale will take place rain or shine and is open to the public. Photo by Kendall Brown

Dixon Family Services News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Family Services (DFS) will host a two-day indoor rummage sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 6 and 7 at the back of its building, located at 155 North Second St. The sale will take place rain or shine and is open to the public.

Shoppers are encouraged to enter from the rear of the building, where ample parking is available in the lot north of the Dixon Family Services facility. The event is cash only, and attendees are asked to bring their own bags.

Dixon Family Services organizers promise a wide variety of items, noting there will be "something for everyone." All proceeds from the rummage sale will directly support Dixon Family Services programs that benefit individuals and families in the community.

Those who find prices beyond their budget are encouraged to return on Saturday,

when all remaining items will be offered at half price. Organizers emphasize that every purchase supports a good cause.

Dixon Family Services does not respond to comments or messages on social media regarding the event. Community members with questions may contact Dixon Family Services by phone at 707-678-0442 or by email at info@dixonfamilyservices.org during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Messages may be left outside business hours, and staff will return calls as soon as possible.

In addition to the rummage sale, Dixon Family Services announced an upcoming fundraiser and encouraged the public to save the date.

Comedy Night will take place Aug. 8 at The Olde Vet's Hall, 231 North First St. Community members interested in sponsorships, ticket purchases, table reservations or additional information may contact Cookie at cookie@dixonfamilyservices.org. ★

Connections Academy at Gateway Opens Enrollment

Tuition free online charter school provides flexible, high quality learning for K-12 students

Connections Academy at Gateway News Release

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (MPG) - Connections Academy at Gateway, a tuition-free online charter school within Community Collaborative Charter School and part of Gateway Community Charters, is now enrolling grades K-12 for the 2026-27 academic year. The program is open to students living in Amador, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Sutter and Yolo counties.

Connections Academy at Gateway uses the nationally recognized Connections Academy program to deliver a high quality, standards based education fully online. In partnership with Community Collaborative Charter School, the school combines California credentialed teachers, a rigorous curriculum and purpose built technology tools to create a personalized learning experience focused on academic success and student growth.

Designed for students who benefit from individualized support, Connections Academy at Gateway provides a high-quality educational experience that keeps students motivated and engaged with a strong circle of support and a deep sense of belonging while meeting California state standards. The school's team of supportive and experienced educators, specially trained in online instruction, establishing meaningful connections with students helping them achieve their full potential and reach their goals.

Beyond core academics and daily engagement, students have access to engaging electives as well as virtual clubs, field trips, events and activities throughout the school year, helping foster a sense of connection and belonging. The flexible structure also gives students the opportunity to pursue interests outside of school, such as athletics, arts, community service or other passions.

Middle and high school students benefit from Connections Academy's College and Career Readiness offerings, which help students explore potential career paths and build durable skills such as leadership, critical thinking and teamwork. Through career exploration and early networking opportunities, students gain confidence and direction as they prepare for the future.

"With open enrollment now underway for the next school year, we're excited to invite families into a flexible, supportive learning environment that meets students where they are," said Kaela Vermeulen, principal at Connections Academy at Gateway. "Our online model allows teachers to build strong

relationships with students and provide personalized guidance, while giving learners the freedom to pursue their interests and stay engaged academically. Our goal is to help students grow with confidence and feel prepared for what's next."

Connections Academy at Gateway will serve approximately 300 students in grades K-12 during the 2026-27 school year. As a public-school program, there are no fees or tuition to attend Connections Academy at Gateway, and all students are required to meet the same academic standards and take the same assessments as traditional public-school students.

Enrollment for the 2026-27 school year is now open for grades K-12. Families interested in learning more about the flexible virtual learning model are encouraged to attend an online information session to learn more, ask questions and discover if Connections Academy at Gateway is the right fit for their student. For more information, visit www.ConnectionsAcademy.com/California-Gateway-Online-School or call 1-833-591-0251.

About Connections Academy at Gateway

Connections Academy at Gateway is a tuition-free, online public charter school program for K-12 students residing in the Northern California region in Amador, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Sutter and Yolo counties. In partnership with Community Collaborative Charter School, the school uses a proven core model of virtual learning, the nationally recognized Connections Academy program, which is accredited by Cognia, formerly AdvancED. True to our name, we believe meaningful connections drive better academic outcomes, so we build a strong circle of support that unites students, families, and educators. We create a high-quality educational experience that helps keep students engaged in a safe learning environment. Beyond academics, our teachers focus on building fundamental life skills, partnering with families to help students learn how they learn best. Here, students gain the skills needed to thrive in the real world by becoming resourceful and resilient. For more information, call 1-833-591-0251 or visit www.ConnectionsAcademy.com/California-Gateway-Online-School.

For more information, contact the Gateway Community Center offices at 1-916-286-1900 or visit www.gcccharters.org. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Dixon High School Boys Varsity Soccer has a home game 4 p.m. Feb. 9. Hosted at Dixon High School, 555 College Way, the Rams will take on the Sutter High School Huskies. Photo courtesy of Dixon High Athletics

By MPG Staff

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 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.

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 or email dixondolphinsinfo@gmail.com.

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 or email dixonrecreation@cityofdixonca.gov.

Author Talk

Dixon Library is hosting an author talk with Mychal Threats from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 6. Held at the library, 230 N. First St., the event involves the discussion of Mychal Threat's new children's book "I'm

So Happy You're Here: A Celebration of Library Joy." Advanced registration is encouraged due to limited seating.

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

Dixon Chamber Connections Networking

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a networking event from noon to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 19. This free in-person event, held at The Farmstead at Dixon, 350 Gateway Drive, allows local professionals to connect. Offering a diverse range of potential connections, attendees are encouraged to bring business cards.

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

Dixon High Sports

Dixon High School Boys Varsity Soccer has a home game 4 p.m. Feb. 9. Hosted at Dixon High School, 555 College Way, the Rams will take on the Sutter High School Huskies.

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

Dixon Moose Lodge Bunco

Dixon Moose Lodge is hosting a Bunco Night at 1 p.m. March 7. Hosted at the lodge, 180 W. B St., the event offers pizza, salad and 50/50 raffles for a \$20 donation per person. Seating is limited, with only 48 players eligible for the event.

For more information or to register, visit Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook page or call 707-718-4602.

Read to a Dog

Dixon Library is hosting Read to a Dog from 3 to 4 p.m. Feb. 9. Hosted at the library, 230 N. First St., the activity provides children ages five to 12 with the opportunity to read aloud to certified therapy dogs. The program offers a relaxed, non-judgmental environment aimed at improving reading fluency and building positive reading experiences. This will be the first event the library hosts after its winter program break.

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

Breakfast with the Bunny

Kiwanis Club of Dixon is hosting a family breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m. March 28 in honor of Easter. The event, held at American Legion hall, 1305 N. First St., will include a pancake and sausage breakfast for \$5 and an all-you-can-eat breakfast for \$10. Funds will support children in the community.

For more information, visit Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook page or call 707-635-3303. ★

We are your neighbors

nextdoor



Stop by for a visit

nextdoor.com/page/dixon-independent-voice

FOLLOW US
for Local News and much more!

Dixon Independent Voice

Facebook: @DIVMPG8

Dixon Library Plans Expansion



The library hosts story times, crafts and other programs, and regularly welcomes families, longtime residents and visitors passing through town to view local archives. According to supervising librarian Rhea Gardner, the renovation is intended to ensure the library can continue serving as a central resource. Photo courtesy of Dixon Library

its role as a community hub over the next decade or more. In addition to books, the library is exploring nontraditional collections such as tools, baking equipment and park passes. According to Gardner, serving Dixon's Spanish-speaking community and participating in local outreach events remain priorities.

"We've partnered with the city of Dixon and the schools as well," said Gardner. "I just see our role as helping as many people in the community as possible."

While construction timelines and logistics are still being determined, Gardner said the library does not expect to fully suspend services.

"We may have to relocate, but I don't see us closing down entirely due to the service we provide," said Gardner. "Whatever happens, we will make every effort to support the Dixon community."

The library will host a community input meeting Feb. 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. to gather feedback on what residents would like to see included in the renovation.

"This library is for you," said Gardner. "We are here for you. The library is the heart of the city, and the support provided goes both ways. We support the community and the community supports us."

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

Continued from page 1
library. The building was dedicated in February 1913 and made Dixon the first town in Solano County to have its own public library.

Today, only 37 of the 142 Carnegie libraries built in California remain in existence. The Dixon Carnegie Library was added to the National Register of Historic Places on Feb. 4, 2011, an effort supported by the Dixon Carnegie Library Preservation Society. In January 2020, the library became part of the Solano County Library system.

Gardner said preserving the historic structure is a key priority of the project.

"We definitely want to keep the Carnegie library

as it is to ensure it lasts another hundred years," said Gardner. "We're hoping to restore it, maybe repaint it. It's a source of pride in Dixon."

She added that renovations may also allow the library to bring currently unused areas, such as the basement, up to code so the space can be used.

The expansion would also address functional needs. Gardner said the library currently lacks meeting rooms and quiet study areas.

"It would be nice to have quiet spaces for teens to do homework or adults to take Zoom meetings," said Gardner.

Looking ahead, Gardner said the renovation could help the library expand

Kindness Week Highlights Student Leadership



Students also extended recognition beyond their peers, nominating crossing guards for keeping them safe and teachers for gestures such as offering hugs. The morning of Jan. 30, students made postcards and thank-you letters for people they were grateful for.

Continued from page 1

do a social-emotional element that helps the kids increase their social abilities," said Ernest. "They practice grace and kindness and just learn how to be. This week was about honoring people and doing it as publicly as possible, basically shout-outs."

According to Ernest, the school defines kindness through everyday actions connected to safety, respect and responsibility. Lessons included practical examples, such as wearing helmets while biking or helping someone who has fallen.

"We look at ways for kids to be safe and kind, respectful and kind, and responsible and kind," said Ernest.

Teachers and staff modeled kindness throughout the week by participating in activities, accepting nominations and reinforcing expectations during the school day. Ernest said the approach aligns with the Montessori philosophy, which emphasizes independence, community and learning social skills alongside academics.

"It's a skill, just like math or English," said Ernest. "It is so important in every area of your life."

Families and the broader Dixon community were also encouraged to participate. The school continues to host a

wellness center stocked with donated items that families can access anonymously. The school's Parent Project workshops, led by the Dean of Students Benjamin Ruiz and school counselor Allison Hietbrink, guide topics such as communication and discipline, and have helped parents connect and support one another.

The week concluded with a campus beautification day Jan. 31, when volunteers brought tools and work clothes to help maintain school grounds.

Ernest credited several staff members for their work on Kindness Week, including librarian Monica Fisher, who created the kindness challenge books, Dean of Students Ruiz and school counselor Hietbrink. Ruiz said the school also welcomes community businesses interested in donating prizes for student recognitions.

Kindness Week comes during a year of broader milestones for the school. Dixon Montessori opened its first library this school year and, in 2025, earned a green or higher rating in every category on the California School Dashboard, making it one of four schools in Solano County to achieve that distinction.

For more information, visit dixonmontessori.org or call 707-678-8953. ★

Women's Improvement Club Hosts Presentation on Keep Dixon Green



Dixon Women's Improvement Club will host a presentation at 1 p.m. Feb. 18, featuring Caitlin Hellar, who will speak about the work of Keep Dixon Green. Photo courtesy of Keep Dixon Green

Dixon Women's Improvement Club News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Women's Improvement Club will host a presentation at 1 p.m. Feb. 18, featuring Caitlin Hellar, who will speak about the work of Keep Dixon Green. The meeting will take place in the social hall of Dixon Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St.

Keep Dixon Green is a grassroots

organization committed to preserving Dixon's open space and its unique agricultural heritage. The group works to empower local voices, encourage informed community advocacy and raise awareness about the impacts of unsustainable growth on farmland, the environment and overall quality of life.

Community members are invited to attend and learn more about the organization's mission and ongoing efforts to protect Dixon's rural character. ★

Fisk's Cyclery

"Your family bike shop since 1976"

FULL SERVICE BIKE SHOP

Professional Affordable Repairs

FAST SERVICE!

Tuesday - Friday 9:30 - 6:00 PM • Saturday 9:30 - 3:00 PM

539 N. Adams St., Dixon • 707.678.4330

fiskscyclery.com

GROCERYOUTLET
Bargain Market

SAVE 54% IN THIS WEEK'S AD

XTREME VALUE™ MVP 80 YEARS

SAVE 79%

\$2.99 +CRV Pepsi Beverages, 12 pk Assorted varieties. Limit 5. Excludes taxes, sugar free, deposit fees, CBE and other mandatory charges. Selection varies by store. While supplies last. Not available in Quincy, CA or Sacramento, CA locations.

SAVE 43%

\$5.99 Free Graze 93% Lean Grass Fed Ground Beef, 1 lb

FROZEN FAVORITES UNDER \$5

SAVE 64%

\$4.99 Foster Farms Party Wings, 2.5 lb

SAVE 47%

\$4.99 José Oñe Taquitos, 16.5-22.5 oz Assorted varieties.

EXCLUSIVELY OURS!

SAVE 47%

\$4.99 SimplyGO Wood Fired Pizza, 16.5-17.5 oz Assorted varieties.

SAVE 64%

\$1.99 Pretzella Soft Pretzel Burger Buns, 12.8 oz or Sausage Buns, 10.4 oz

SAVE 50%

2 for \$9 Aidells Sausage, 12 oz or Nathan's Famous Beef Franks, 12 oz Assorted varieties.

SAVE 60%

\$1.99 Juanita's Stone Ground Corn Tortilla Chips, Sea Salt, 15 oz

EXCLUSIVELY OURS!

SAVE 60%

\$1.99 SimplyGO Salsa, 16 oz Assorted varieties.

PRICES VALID 02-04-26 - 02-10-26 IN STORE ONLY. ITEMS MAY VARY BY STORE. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. ©2026 FISK'S CYCLERY

Little League Prepares for Season with Record Participation

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Little League is preparing to open its 2026 baseball season March 6 and 7 with record participation, expanded upper-division offerings and a full slate of pre-season activities across its four fields.

League President Ricky Rodarte said the organization enters opening weekend with nearly 500 registered players, the highest total in league history.

"We are extremely excited heading into opening weekend," said Rodarte. "Our board has worked tirelessly throughout the offseason to set Dixon Little League up for a successful 2026 season."

The increase in participation has allowed the league to expand at the older age levels. For the first time, Dixon Little League will field two Juniors teams at the 14U level and two 50/70 teams for 13U players. Rodarte said retaining older players has been a challenge in the past, as some moved on to travel baseball.

"Being able to roster two full teams in both divisions shows that players want to stay and play for Dixon Little League," said Rodarte.

Preseason practices began in February and will continue throughout the month. With 40 teams across all divisions, practice schedules were carefully managed to ensure access for each team. According to Rodarte, teams were limited to two practice slots per week, each lasting one to two hours, across the league's four fields. Once the regular season begins in March, practice time will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Player assessments were held in January for participants ages 7 and older. According to Rodarte, assessments are designed to promote competitive balance while placing players in appropriate divisions.

"Players rotate through fundamental skills stations including fly balls, ground balls, throwing, running and hitting," said Rodarte. "Coaches score each player using standardized evaluation sheets."

Following assessments, all



One of the most notable changes for the 2026 season is the introduction of a league-wide end-of-season tournament. Teams in the AA, AAA, Majors, 50/70 and Juniors divisions will compete in a single-elimination tournament seeded by regular-season results. Photo by Nicolas Brown



Dixon Little League is preparing to open its 2026 baseball season March 6 and 7 with record participation, expanded upper-division offerings and a full slate of pre-season activities across its four fields. Photo by Nicolas Brown

players enter a draft pool. Drafts begin with the oldest divisions and proceed to the youngest.

One of the most notable changes for the 2026 season is the introduction of a league-wide end-of-season tournament. Teams in the AA, AAA, Majors, 50/70 and Juniors divisions will compete in a single-elimination tournament seeded by regular-season results.

Previous seasons determined champions by first-half and second-half standings.

"This change gives every team an opportunity to compete for a championship, regardless of how their season started," said Rodarte.

While no formal player clinics are currently scheduled, many coaches attended a recent coaching clinic hosted by the JA Taylor



The league's largest fundraiser, Family Day, is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 14. The event will include games, raffle drawings, local vendors and activities, with proceeds benefiting league programs and field maintenance. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Foundation at The Farm in Dixon. Rodarte said the league is exploring a potential partnership with the foundation to offer player clinics later in the season.

All coaches and volunteers are required to complete background checks and live scans, along with mandatory trainings in abuse awareness, concussion protocols

and CPR/AED certification.

"These requirements ensure that our volunteers are properly prepared and that player safety remains our top priority," said Rodarte.

Community sponsorships continue to play a key role in supporting league operations. According to Rodarte, sponsorship funds help offset rising costs and allow Dixon Little League to keep registration fees among the lowest in the area.

The league's largest fundraiser, Family Day, is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 14. The event will include games, raffle drawings, local vendors and activities, with proceeds benefiting league programs and field maintenance.

According to Rodarte, field preparation has become a year-round effort in recent years, resulting in improved conditions and increased tournament hosting opportunities.

"We've invested a substantial amount of funding and volunteer hours to ensure our fields are in top

condition for opening weekend," said Rodarte.

Looking ahead, Dixon Little League teams will participate in interleague play, with division champions advancing to district competition at season's end.

For more information, visit dixonlittleleague.org or email support@dixonlittleleague.org. ★

Bee Contest Winner Receives Prize Cup



Lesley Hamamoto (right) receives her prize for winning the 2026 Robbin Thorp Memorial First-Bumble-Bee-of-the-Year Contest. With her are UC Davis Distinguished Professor Emerita Lynn Kimsey (center), who directed the Bohart Museum for 34 years, and Tabatha Yang, the Bohart Museum's education and outreach coordinator. Photo by Kathy Keatley Garvey

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

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Bumble bee enthusiast Lesley Hamamoto of Sacramento, who won the 2026 Robbin Thorp Memorial First-Bumble-Bee-of-the-Year Contest, received her prize – a Bohart Museum of Entomology coffee cup designed with the bumble bee that Thorp studied – on a recent visit to the Bohart Museum.

Presenting the award were UC Davis Distinguished Professor Emerita Lynn Kimsey, who directed the Bohart Museum for 34 years, and Tabatha Yang, the Bohart Museum's education and outreach coordinator.

Hamamoto won the prize by being the first to photograph and submit the first bumble bee of the year in the contest. She photographed a black-tailed bumble bee, *Bombus melanopygus*, nectaring on manzanita at 9:59 a.m. 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.

Hamamoto, a biologist/botanist with the Department of Water Resources, State

of California since 2008, is a UC Davis alumna, and a former seven-year UC Davis employee.

A bumble bee enthusiast and a native plant enthusiast, she's a volunteer with the California Bumble Bee Atlas and serves as the president of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

The coffee cup is illustrated with the endangered Franklin's bumble bee, *Bombus franklini*, that Thorp studied. He monitored the population in its California-Oregon border range for two decades, last seeing it in 2006. It is now feared extinct.

Hamamoto, as a freshman at UC Davis in 1998, completed a course, in ENT 10, "Natural History of Insects," taught by Thorp. She also took a class from Kimsey.

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. ★

Bancorp Appoints Jean-Luc Servat to Board of Directors

Appointment enhances Board expertise in strategic growth, acquisitions, and shareholder value creation

First Northern Bank News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - First Northern Community Bancorp (OTCQX: FNRN), the holding company of First Northern Bank announced the appointment of Jean-Luc Servat to its Board of Directors, effective Feb. 1. Servat's addition strengthens the Board's depth of experience in corporate strategy, balance sheet growth, capital markets and disciplined growth execution.

Servat is the Founder of Panoramic Capital Advisors Inc., which he established in 2013 to provide strategic and acquisition advisory services to financial institutions. During his tenure with the firm, he advised more than ten organizations across the Western and Midwestern United States and has executed 23 transactions with more than \$2.6 billion in announced value, primarily focused on buy-side acquisitions within the banking industry. Servat has since stepped down from Panoramic Capital Advisors Inc. allowing him to focus on Board service, governance and strategic oversight.

"Jean-Luc brings a rare combination of transaction expertise, strategic perspective, and deep banking industry knowledge," said Jeremiah Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of First Northern Bank. "As we continue to pursue growth through a balanced approach of organic expansion and strategic opportunities, his experience will be invaluable in evaluating opportunities and enhancing long-term shareholder value."

Sean Quinn, Chairman of the Board of First Northern Bank, added, "Jean-Luc's extensive experience in acquisitions, capital markets, and corporate governance strengthens the Board's ability to provide effective oversight and strategic guidance. His perspective will be particularly valuable as we focus on disciplined growth, capital allocation and long-term value creation for our shareholders."

A senior investment banker with 45 years of experience in the United States and Asia, Servat has held industry group and regional leadership positions with Merrill Lynch and Royal Bank of Canada. Over his career, he has advised corporate clients on more than

120 transactions and participated in raising over \$70 billion in capital across U.S. and international markets. His expertise spans corporate strategy, acquisitions, and capital formation, with a strong focus on financial institutions.

Servat also brings significant corporate governance experience, having served as a Director of Del Monte Corporation, where he worked closely with management and fellow directors on strategic execution, capital allocation and shareholder considerations. He regularly advises Boards navigating regulatory requirements, strategic growth initiatives, and complex market cycles.

"I am pleased to join the Board of First Northern Community Bancorp at a time when the Company is well positioned for continued growth," said Servat. "The Bank's disciplined approach to strategy, capital deployment, organic growth and strategic acquisitions aligns well with my experience, and I look forward to contributing to its long-term success for shareholders."

First Northern Bank is an independent community bank that specializes in relationship banking. The Bank, headquartered in Solano County since 1910, serves Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer, Colusa, and Glenn counties, as well as the west slope of El Dorado County. Experts are available in all small business, commercial, real estate, and agribusiness lending, as well as mortgage loans. The Bank is an SBA Preferred Lender. Real estate mortgage and small-business loan officers are available by appointment at any of the Bank's 14 branches, including Dixon, Davis, West Sacramento, Fairfield, Vacaville, Winters, Woodland, Sacramento, Roseville, Auburn, Rancho Cordova, Colusa, Willows and Orland. Non-FDIC insured Investment and Brokerage Services are also available at every branch location. First Northern Bank is rated as a Veribanc "Green-3 Star Blue Ribbon" Bank and a "5-Star Superior" Bank by Bauer Financial for the earnings period ended September 30, 2025 (www.veribanc.com) and (www.bauerfinancial.com). For additional information, please visit thatsmybank.com or call 707-6787742. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. ★

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Legal Advertising
916-483-0946

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

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.)
Publish: 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.)
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
FRANCO 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000040
The following persons are doing business as: Daydreamer Rentals, 1664 Homewood Court, Fairfield, CA 94534. Mercedes R Moreau, 1664 Homewood Court, Fairfield, CA 94534. Date filed in Solano County: January 8, 2026. 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 January 7, 2031. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
DAYDREAMER 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001677
The following persons are doing business as: Midnon Camacho Services, 1625 Park Lane Unit 16, Fairfield, CA 94533. Midnon Camacho, 1625 Park Lane Unit 16, Fairfield, CA 94533. Date filed in Solano County: November 20, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: October 25, 2025
This Business is conducted

by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration November 19, 2030. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026
MIDNON 2-20-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000110
The following persons are doing business as: Mario's Handyman, 1342 McKinley Street, Fairfield, CA 94533. Mario Bracamontes Lopez, 1342 McKinley Street, Fairfield, CA 94533. Date filed in Solano County: January 21, 2026. 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 January 20, 2031. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
MARIOS 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000117
The following persons are doing business as: Abjea Bookkeeping, 701 West D Street South, Dixon, CA 95620. Casanova Consulting LLC, 701 West D Street South, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: January 22, 2026. 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 January 21, 2031. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
ABEJA 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000117
The following persons are doing

business as: Abjea Bookkeeping, 701 West D Street South, Dixon, CA 95620. Casanova Consulting LLC, 701 West D Street South, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: January 22, 2026. 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 January 21, 2031. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
ABEJA 2-27-26

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
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

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

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-00106
Wendy Sue Ludwig filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Wendy Sue Ludwig to Wendy Sue Ligans. 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 20, 2026
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026
LUDWIG 2-20-26

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-00106
Wendy Sue Ludwig filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Wendy Sue Ludwig to Wendy Sue Ligans. 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 20, 2026
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026
LUDWIG 2-20-26

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU25-11498
Angel Eunice Ramos Apiado filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Angel Eunice Ramos Apiado to Angel Eunice Selene 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. April 27, 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 21, 2026
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026
APIADO 2-20-26

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-00225
Cynthia Holsted Maraschino filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Cynthia Holsted Maraschino to Cynthia Lei Holsted. 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 11, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room 301, Hall of Justice, 600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Stephen Gizzi
Dated: January 20, 2026
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026
MARASCHINO 2-20-26

TRUSTEE SALE
T.S. No. 25-76397 APN: 0113-071-040 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/27/2016. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: RAMON PEREZ AND DEBRA PEREZ, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS Duly Appointed Trustee: ZBS LAW, LLP Deed of Trust recorded 10/28/2016, as Instrument No. 201600096337, THE SUBJECT DEED OF TRUST WAS MODIFIED BY LOAN MODIFICATION AGREEMENT RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT 201900056447 AND RECORDED ON 08/21/2019 AND MODIFIED BY LOAN MODIFICATION AGREEMENT RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT 202300013157 AND RECORDED ON 03/31/2023 AND MODIFIED BY LOAN MODIFICATION AGREEMENT RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT 202400039986 AND RECORDED ON 09/11/2024., of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Solano County, California, Date of Sale: 3/4/2026 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: Vallejo City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA 94590 Estimated amount of un-

paid balance and other charges: \$299,072.74. Notice: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt owed. Street Address or other common designation of real property: 422 WEST F STREET DIXON, CALIFORNIA 95620 Described as follows: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED ON SAID DEED OF TRUST. A.P.N.#.: 0113-071-040 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (855) 976-3916 or visit this internet website www.auction.com, using the 25-76397. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855) 976-3916, or visit this internet website tracker.auction.com/sb1079, using the 25-76397 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Dated: 1/29/2026 ZBS LAW, LLP, as Trustee 30 Corporate Park, Suite 450 Irvine, CA 92606 For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: (714) 848-7920 For Sale Information: (855) 976-3916 www.auction.com Michael Busby, Trustee Sale Officer This office is enforcing a security interest of your creditor. To the extent that your obligation has been discharged by a bankruptcy court or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy, this notice is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a demand for payment or any attempt to collect such obligation. EPP 46696
Pub Dates 02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2026
DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 2-20-26

TRUSTEE SALE
T.S. No. 25-76397 APN: 0113-071-040 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/27/2016. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: RAMON PEREZ AND DEBRA PEREZ, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS Duly Appointed Trustee: ZBS LAW, LLP Deed of Trust recorded 10/28/2016, as Instrument No. 201600096337, THE SUBJECT DEED OF TRUST WAS MODIFIED BY LOAN MODIFICATION AGREEMENT RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT 201900056447 AND RECORDED ON 08/21/2019 AND MODIFIED BY LOAN MODIFICATION AGREEMENT RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT 202300013157 AND RECORDED ON 03/31/2023 AND MODIFIED BY LOAN MODIFICATION AGREEMENT RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT 202400039986 AND RECORDED ON 09/11/2024., of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Solano County, California, Date of Sale: 3/4/2026 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: Vallejo City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA 94590 Estimated amount of un-

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DIXON ADDING CHAPTER 2.14 TO THE DIXON MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH THE DIXON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the City of Dixon ("City") City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on February 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620 to discuss the formation of the Dixon Industrial Development Authority.

The ordinance was introduced on first reading by the City Council at its regular meeting on February 3, 2026. Adoption of the ordinance is scheduled to occur following the second reading at the City Council meeting on February 17, 2026. The proposed ordinance will establish the Dixon Industrial Development Authority to be used as a party to the Dixon Finance Authority to issue lease revenue bonds for city facility construction projects.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES: are invited to attend the Tuesday, February 17, 2026 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the approval of the ordinance. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking action or making any recommendation on the ordinance. This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting via video conference and teleconference. 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 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 forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Interested individuals will be given an opportunity to speak in favor or opposition to the above proposed action. Written comments are also accepted prior to the meeting by mail at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be provided to interested individuals upon request. If a challenge to the above proposed action is made in court, persons may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City before the meeting.

Copies of the proposed ordinance will be available, upon request. If you have any questions, please call the City at (707) 678-7000.

Dixon Independent Voice 2-6-2026

CITY OF DIXON NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the City of Dixon that sealed bids will be received, from pre-qualified bidders, online via Blueprint Express on **March 5, 2026**, until 3:00 p.m., at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read by the City Clerk. All bids will be considered for award by the City of Dixon City Council at their regular meeting on Tuesday, **April 7, 2026**, for the following project:

DIXON POLICE DEPARTMENT, SECOND STORY EXPANSION PROJECT #420-103

LOCATION OF WORK: 201 W A St, Dixon, CA 95620, Solano County.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The work includes:

1. Minor site demolition and improvements,
2. Some building demolition on the first floor,
3. Required Structural Improvements to add a Second Story which is approximately 3,000 square feet,
4. HVAC removal and replacement for the whole building,
5. Electrical Improvements to the whole building,
6. New interior for much of the first floor,
7. Exterior building improvements,
8. New interior for the second floor.

The engineer's estimate for this project is \$4,800,000

All bidders must be on the Final Qualified Bidders List in order for their bid to be considered responsive.

All work is to be done in accordance with said Plans and Specifications. A copy of the Plans and Specifications, including the Contract Documents, may be obtained by logging on www.blueprintexpress.com/dixon or by calling BPXpress Reprographics at (707) 745-3593. Paper Bid sets may be obtained from BPXpress at the bidders cost. All bidders must register and download the bid set from BPXpress Reprographics to receive addenda notifications.

All bidders must submit their bids online through the BPXpress bid portal to be considered responsive.

If you desire a copy of the plan holders list, call BPXpress Reprographics at (707) 745-3593 or check online at www.blueprintexpress.com/dixon.

All Work shall be completed no later than two hundred and sixty working days (260) (approximately 1 calendar year) after the date set in the Notice to Proceed. The City shall assess liquidated damages as provided for in the Contract Documents for delays in the completion of the Project.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any irregularity or informality in the bids, to make any award in what, alone, deems to be in the best interest of the City, and to reject the bid of any bidder who has been delinquent or unfaithful in any former contract with the City of Dixon. All bidders must be on the Final Qualified Bidders List in order for their bid to be considered responsive.

Each bid must be submitted using the City of Dixon forms provided in the Bid materials. Bids may be withdrawn at any time prior to bid opening.

Dixon Independent Voice 1-30, 2-6, 2026

LEGAL ADS FOR SOLANO COUNTY?

We Can Do That!

MPG 916-773-1111

All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing Group



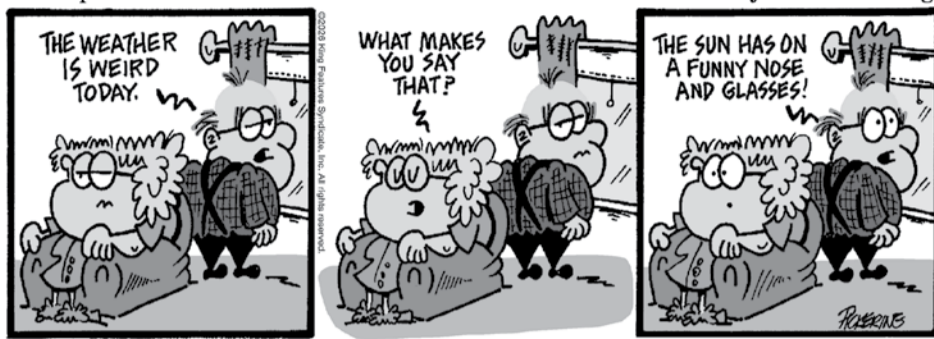
Call to place your legal advertising
916-773-1111



COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



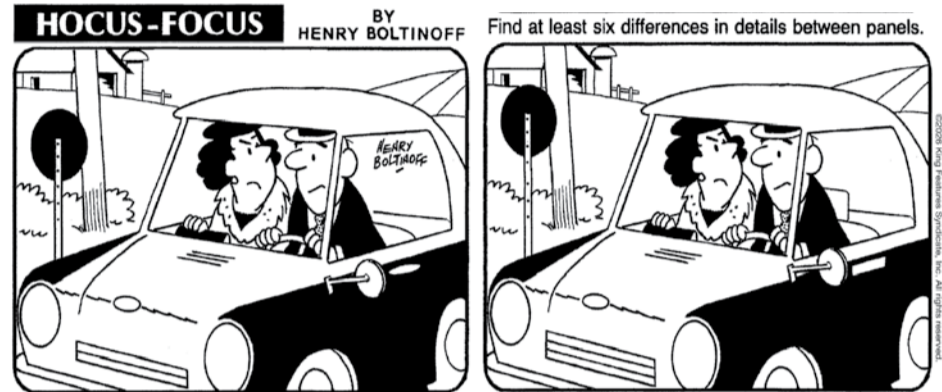
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



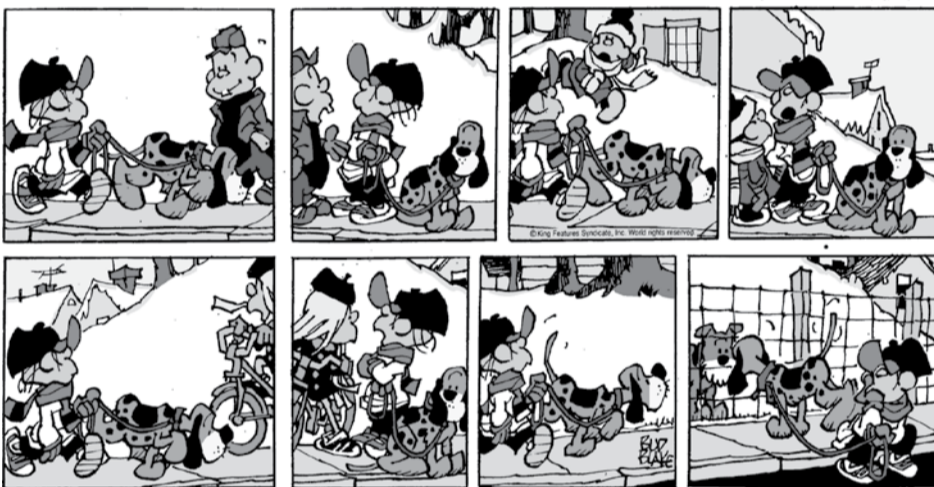
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

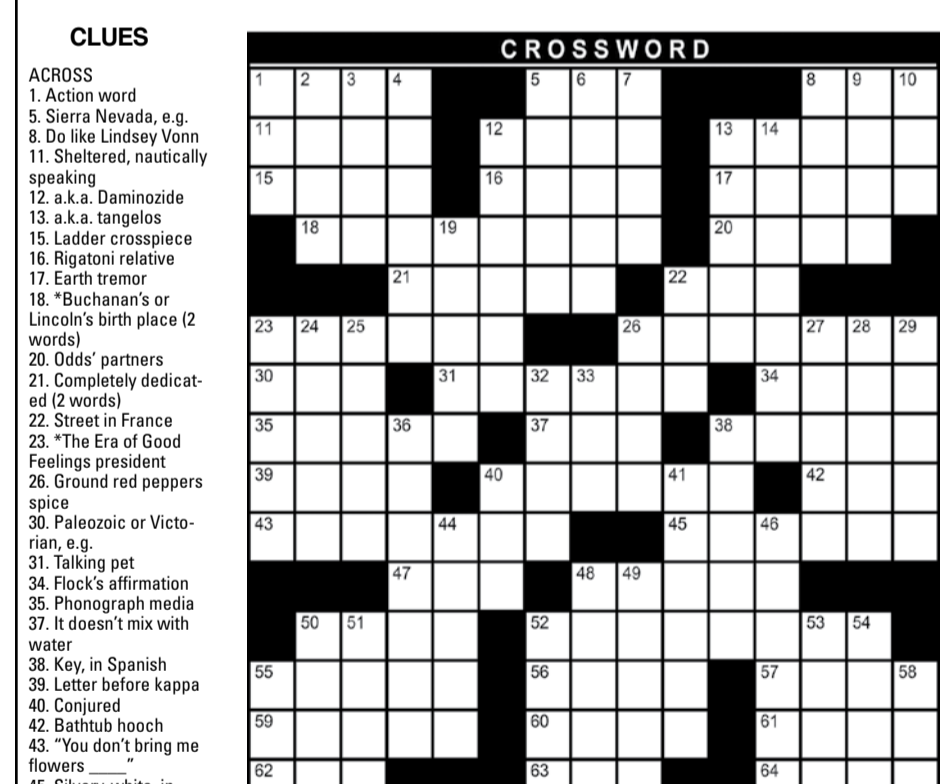


TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • U.S. PRESIDENTS



Classified Advertising

Sell Your Stuff!
Reach 1000's of Readers Every Week!

MPG

916.773.1111

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

SWITCH & GET \$25

Off First Month of New Service! USE PROMO CODE: GZ590

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

SUDOKU

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SAFE STEP WALK-INTUB 1-855-576-5653

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

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

MPG

Garamendi Secures Total \$13 Million for Community Project Funding



John Garamendi
Congressman
John Garamendi
News Release

This funding is in addition to Garamendi previously securing investments for \$6.5 million in the House Fiscal Year 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act (H.R. 6938) to ensure continued federal investment in critical infrastructure and public safety initiatives throughout Solano and Contra Costa Counties.

“This legislation will provide much-needed federal investments in our community’s infrastructure, including a \$2 million investment to support construction of a library and multi-use community resource center, as well as over \$1 million to upgrade BART stations in our district,” said Congressman Garamendi. “I was proud to fight for these projects alongside local leaders and community stakeholders who made the difference in our shared work to invest in Solano and Contra Costa Counties. I look forward to the Senate passing this bill and the President signing these critical investments into law in the coming weeks so we can begin the

work to ensure California’s 8th Congressional District is a safer place to travel and live.”

In total, Congressman Garamendi secured over \$13 million in funding for critical investments throughout Solano and Contra Costa Counties in this year’s appropriations package.

Projects receiving funding include the following.

\$2,000,000 for the Bay Point Library and Multi-Use Community Resource Center to support construction of a new library and community center as part of a mixed-use, high-density, transit-oriented development within the Pittsburg/Bay Point BART Station area.

\$1,000,000 for the Heart of Fairfield Downtown Project to improve public safety for bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles in downtown Fairfield.

\$850,000 for the Markley Lane Extension Project to extend a key arterial roadway connecting the cities of Fairfield and Vacaville and to provide critical access to Travis Air Force Base and four nearby public schools.

\$850,000 for the North Bailey

Road Active Transportation Corridor Project to improve walkable access for children attending nearby Bel Air Elementary School and to Tri Delta Transit bus stops, which currently experience the highest rate of bicycle and pedestrian collisions in Contra Costa County.

\$850,000 for the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Project to improve multimodal safety and access to the BART station, supporting a nearby transit-oriented development with 743 mixed-income housing units.

\$500,000 for the Station LED Lighting Program at the El Cerrito Plaza, Richmond, and Pittsburg/Bay Point BART stations to improve public safety and reduce electricity use by approximately 50 percent.

\$250,000 for the Richmond Bay Trail Gap Closure Project to complete an 18-mile stretch of the San Francisco Bay Trail between Oakland and Hercules, providing access to three modes of public transportation — rail, ferry, and bus — along a heavily

trafficked transportation corridor.

\$250,000 for the Pacifica Avenue Safe Routes to School Project to improve pedestrian safety, implement complete streets for schoolchildren, and construct a continuous Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant pedestrian path along Pacifica Avenue serving three nearby public schools.

On Jan. 13, Congressman Garamendi secured an additional \$6,596,000 in new investments for California’s Eighth Congressional District in the House Fiscal Year 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act (H.R. 6938) in funding for critical investments. In total, this year, Congressman Garamendi has secured \$13 million for Solano and Contra Costa Counties.

This year’s appropriations package passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Jan. 22, by a strong bipartisan vote of 341-88. The legislation is expected to be considered by the U.S. Senate in the coming days before being sent to the President for final signature. ★

Local Classifieds Advertise in your local community newspaper Call 916-773-1111

<p>Classified Advertising</p> <p>Sell Your Stuff!</p> <p>Reach 1000's of Readers Every Week!</p> <p>916-773-1111</p>	<p>Need Help?</p> <p>Hire A Pro!</p> <p>Buy and Shop Local!</p>	<p>For Sale</p> <p>V-8 (Cadillac Engine) in 1995 Oldsmobile Aurora. 64,000 original miles. Must take whole car. Transmission is no good. \$500 or best offer. Call 530-742-9144 and leave message. (TFN)</p> <p>LEGAL ADS FOR SOLANO COUNTY?</p> <p>916-773-1111</p>	<p>Are You a Pro?</p> <p>Get the word out!</p> <p>Advertise in the Classifieds Call 916-773-1111</p> <p>GOT LOCAL NEWS?</p> <p>Call (916) 773-1111</p>	<p>Health/Wellness</p> <p>XOSIALX – Get Social. Be EXCEPTIONAL XILERATE is redefining energy for everyone. It provides an authentic, jitter-free boost that appeals to both regular energy drink users, and those who may have avoided them due to artificial ingredients or harsh effects. FREE TO JOIN. www.canderson.xosialx.com (TFN)</p> <p>MPG</p>	<p>Landscaping/Maintenance</p> <p>RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, HANDYMAN, MANY FIELDS: Irrigation (manual or automatic) installation or repair; cement, mow strips, masonry (walls & columns), retaining walls; fence installation (wood, vinyl, chain-link, iron); plumbing; mowing, edging, clean-up, hauling; pruning (all kinds of fruit or shade trees); tree removal, rock, bark or sod. Call Andy 530-701-8098. (TFN)</p>	<p>We Support Our Military</p>
---	---	---	--	--	--	---------------------------------------

CALL A PROFESSIONAL

<p style="text-align: center;">CLEANING</p> <p>S & Y Cleaning Services</p> <p>Weekly • Bi-Weekly • Monthly • One Time Weekends • Move-Ins • Move-Outs</p> <p>Lots of References on Request Gift Certificates Available</p> <p>(707) 689-6532</p> <p>FREE ESTIMATES</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PROPANE</p> <p>We live where you live</p> <p>We understand your propane service needs.</p> <p>WE ARE Pro-Gas</p> <p>ALLIED PROPANE</p> <p>(707) 678-8500</p> <p>1700 N. First Street Dixon RobL@alliedprogas.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FLOORING</p> <p>Please call for a free in-home estimate!</p> <p>HOUSE OF FLOORS</p> <p>QUALITY WITH FRIENDLY SERVICE</p> <p>Hardwood-Laminate-Luxury Vinyl-Carpet-Tile & More</p> <p>1690 N. Lincoln Street • Dixon, CA 95620</p> <p>(707) 676-5385</p> <p>houseoffloors@att.net • www.houseoffloors.org</p>
PREGNANCY		
<p>Be a part of something important</p> <p>Local Writers Wanted</p> <p>We are looking for local Freelance Writers to provide great coverage.</p> <p>MPG Call us today at 916-773-1111</p>	<p>Pregnant? Worried? We Can Help!</p> <p>All services are free & completely Confidential.</p> <p>Info on Pregnancy, Adoption & Abstinence Post-Abortion, Miscarriage & Stillbirth Counseling</p> <p>707-449-8991</p> <p>Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center 138 S. Orchard St. Vacaville</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FOLLOW US</p> <p>for Local News and much more!</p> <p>Dixon Independent Voice</p> <p>Facebook: @DIVMPG8</p>

www.IndependentVoice.com

LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

RECORDS

Find out what's happening in your local area at...

INDEPENDENTVOICE.COM

ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

Dixon Independent Voice is a member of Messenger Publishing Group

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

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

Dixon Independent Voice

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

It is the intent of the *Dixon Independent Voice* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

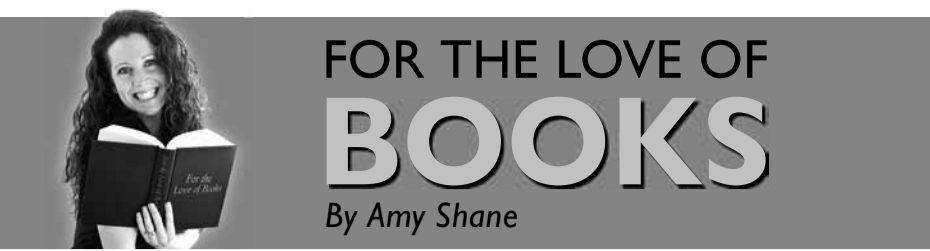
The *Dixon Independent Voice* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of the *Dixon Independent Voice* are copyrighted. Ownership of all advertising created and/or composed by the *Dixon Independent Voice* is with the publishing company and written permission to reproduce the same must be obtained from the publisher.

Subscriptions should be mailed to:
Dixon Independent Voice
100 N. Adams, Dixon, CA 95620

Subscription rate is \$52 per year within Dixon and Solano County. \$72 per year (Mail only).

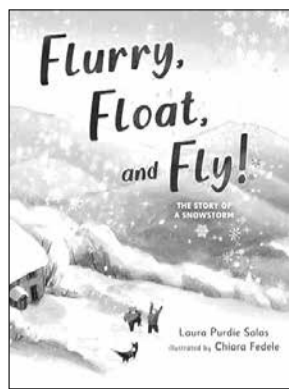
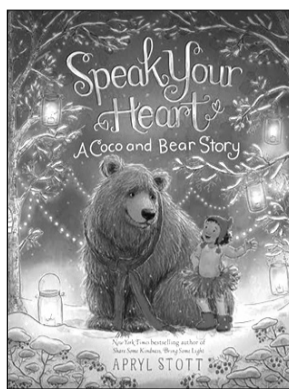
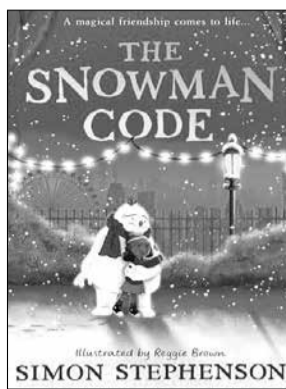
Main Office Address: 2508 Garfield Ave., Suite A, Carmichael, CA 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. The *Dixon Independent Voice* is published weekly on Friday.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.



BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • @ amy_fortheloveofbooks

Perfect Reads for a Chilly Winter Day



The Snowman Code

by Simon Stephenson, illustrated by Reggie Brown; by Simon & Schuster

“A snowman always helps a child in need.”

At ten years old, Blessing has three main problems, besides the snow on the ground. The first problem: school. She hasn't been in months because of the Driplet twins, so of course, she pretended that she moved.

The Second Problem: her mom is sad. Like, too sad in the winter, and has a hard time getting out of bed.

And the Third: winter is lasting forever, seriously. The longest winter on record, and this means her mother has been sad for way too long. And with no end in sight, Blessing isn't sure what to do.

Just as she starts to feel that all is lost, she meets a new friend, Albert, who happens to be a snowman. And Albert happens to have a problem of his own. Luckily, Albert lives by the snowman code and will always help a child in need. Now, together, both Blessing and Albert will need to figure out how to overcome the bully problem with the Driplet twins and also help Albert find his true love, Clementine. But the question is: Will they be able to help each other in time before the snow melts?

The Snowman Code is a wonderful story full of heart and touches on themes of friendship, understanding, patience, and, most of all, hope.

Speak Your Heart: A Coco Bear Story

by Apryl Stott; Beach Lane

Coco and Bear are so excited to finally build a snow castle together. As they began to build with their friends, Bear had lots of ideas, but Coco wasn't listening. The more they build, the more Bear realizes that he is not being heard. Finally, Bear loses his temper, but Coco is so intent on finishing her snow fort that she tells Bear to build his own. Angrily, they both turn to their own projects, but after listening to both of their friends, both Bear and Coco realize they were both in the wrong, and that if they speak to each other with their hearts, maybe they can once again work together.

A beautiful story of friendship and learning how to work together as a team. Speak Your Heart highlights the beauty of snow, but also the beauty of friendship and community.

Flurry, Float, and Fly:
The Story of A Snowstorm

by Laura Purdie Sala,

illustrated by Chiara Fedele; Bloomsbury

Looking up at the dark blue sky, the wind mixes and dances, coming together cold and damp to make a speck of something grand. Six small sides, all precise, freezing, fusing into a work of art. Beautiful white crystal snowflakes that all drift, float, and blow as they flurry, float, and fly all to come together to blanket the world in Snow.

A beautiful story book that also explains the science behind snow. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Your Legacy



“It is not what you gather but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have.”

You may have heard the expression, “He who dies with the most toys wins.” There is nothing wrong with working hard and enjoying the fruits of your labor. Who doesn't want to lead a comfortable life?

The opening quote doesn't imply that you should suffer. Rather it speaks to a deeper understanding of life. The legacy we leave behind is determined by the lives we touch. It is not what we do for ourselves that matters, it's what we do for others.

One's legacy doesn't have to involve the formation of a charity, a large donation to a hospital, or any other major financial act. You don't have to work in a third world country to combat hunger, or live a austere life and give most of what you have to others. Although all of these actions may be considered admirable, it is often a lifetime of inconspicuous activity that has a lasting effect.

You affect people in more ways than you may realize. The power of small gestures of kindness shouldn't be underestimated. Actions start a chain reaction. The manner in which you interact with someone will influence how they feel and subsequently the way they behave towards others.

There are countless numbers of unassuming people who genuinely care about others and do whatever they can, whenever they can, to brighten their lives. There is no kind gesture that is too small or insignificant to make a difference.

You don't have to have a lot to give a lot. What you do defines who you are. Your actions are based on character rather than a desire for recognition. Although you don't look for any rewards, the rewards are many.

There is the satisfaction of knowing you made a difference. As a bonus, what you send out invariably comes back to you. By your unselfish actions,

you will attract positive elements into your life.

There are opportunities each day to give of yourself. It starts with always having a friendly smile for friends and strangers alike. The generous use of “hello,” “please,” and “thank” you is always appreciated. The objective is to radiate a positive energy.

Look to anticipate someone's needs. Holding open doors, letting other drivers into traffic, helping carry packages at the grocery store, and regular common courtesies are all behaviors that help others.

Conversely, there is never any justification to take advantage of anyone. Regardless of how you are treated, you must resist reacting in kind. If you allow others to drag you down by their behavior, you sacrifice your own identity. You then flop whichever way the conduct of others pushes you.

Your legacy is tied to your having the conviction to be your own person. To do this requires self-confidence, character, and a genuine desire to be of service. You don't need to impress anyone. Although you are comfortable with who you are, there is a continual desire to improve.

What kind of life will you have? What will you scatter? Why not live your life so that you dispense many good things? Everyone benefits. You will feel good. Others will feel good. It takes very little effort. There are no negative side effects.

You never know how far the effect you have will ripple. If you are not happy with what you have been scattering, today is a perfect time to reassess your priorities and start developing a legacy you can be proud of.

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



Riley Reviews

“PUPPY BOWL XXII” CANINE GRIDIRON FUN; “HIS & HERS” CRIME DRAMA

A Film and TV Review
by Tim Riley

“PUPPY BOWL XXII” on WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY PLATFORM

The Super Bowl features a clash between the New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks, and one wishes there could be another halftime show as great as when Prince performed in 2007.

An alternative to the gridiron contest, at least as pre-game entertainment, would be “Puppy Bowl XXII” simulcast on Sunday, February 8, 2026, across the platform of the Warner Bros. Discovery universe that includes Animal Planet, HBO Max, Discovery, and more.

This year's three-hour sports spectacular includes a record-breaking 150 rescue dogs from 72 shelters across the United States, Puerto Rico and the British Virgin Islands and will feature heartwarming adoption stories and show-stopping matchups.

Referee Dan Schachner returns for his fifteenth year to oversee the action, ensuring fair play as these furry athletes compete for championship glory and their forever homes.

The show starts with Schachner rounding up players at the Marriott Bonvoy Puppy Bowl Hotel as they get ready for the big game. The starting lineup then sprints through a tunnel to take the field.

Reigning champions Team Fluff will send players including Benito (Siberian Husky-Chihuahua from Puerto Rico) and Showgirl (Chow Chow-Rottweiler) to defend their title.

Meanwhile, Lobster Roll (Bulldog-Border Collie), Brulee (Boston Terrier-French Bulldog), and Miso (American Cattle Dog-Beagle) will compete to bring the coveted Walmart “Lombarky” trophy to Team Ruff.

As the game unfolds, one standout pup will earn the prestigious Bissell MVP (Most Valuable Puppy) title while another will claim the Subaru of America, Inc. Underdog Award.

Fifteen special needs dogs, including Wynonna, a determined pup with only three legs, and Eleanor, who is both deaf and vision-impaired, will also compete to prove that nothing can hold them back.

For the first time ever, Puppy Bowl will spotlight senior dogs in a special exhibition game, as Team Oldies and Team Goldies go head-to-head in the all-new Pro-Dog Halftime Showdown.

“Puppy Bowl XXII” has a lot going for family fun, and sportscasters Steve Levy and Taylor Rooks provide play-by-play commentary emulating pro football broadcasting.

“HIS & HERS” on NETFLIX

The opening scene of “His & Hers” is that of a bloodied woman spread on the hood of a red sports cars in a rainy wooded area at night. Her arm twitches slightly, an indication she's barely alive but about to expire.



Farms Find Success in Vertical Integration

Trends in the food supply chain and changes in consumer behavior could incentivize farmers to vertically integrate their businesses, according to experts. For decades, farmers selling raw commodities have seen a declining share of the money consumers spend on food. Since 1950, that figure declined from around 40 cents of every food dollar to around 9 cents, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with the value of farm products increasingly captured by processors, retailers and food service. “Everyone essentially puts their hand in the cookie jar,” said Kristin Kiesel, an agricultural and resource economics professor at the University of California, Davis, who added that consolidation in the processing and retail sectors in recent years has further disadvantaged farmers. “The increased concentration further downstream is an incentive for farms to vertically integrate-to capture some of that added value,” Kiesel said.

Spread of Invasive Mussels Threatens Irrigation Systems

Since the non-native golden mussel was first discovered in October 2024 in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the potentially pipe-clogging mollusk has spread as far south as Riverside County. Invasive pest management experts acknowledge eradication is likely impossible. They say the goal now should be to protect noninfested water bodies from mussel introductions. But it won't be easy. “Preventing spread to areas that

A sudden shift takes us to Anna Andrews (Tessa Thompson) in a hooded jacket, acting somewhat suspiciously before entering an unkempt apartment strewn with empty liquor bottles and piles of unopened mail.

The next morning Anna's voiceover intones “There are at least two sides to every story. Yours and mine. Ours and theirs. His and hers. Which means someone is always lying.”

This somewhat facile observation about the human condition is the driving force behind the contrived six-episode unraveling of a murder mystery that takes place in the small Georgia town of Dahlonega (a weird name but an actual place).

On leave from her position as a news anchor in Atlanta due to the death of her child, Anna learns the next day that this murder took place in her hometown where her aging mother Alice (Crystal Fox) still lives.

Annoyed that a vacuous blonde, Lexy Jones (Rebecca Rittenhouse), has taken over the anchor desk, Anna returns to the station to insist that she needs to return to Dahlonega to report on the crime scene.

Strangely, she stipulates that cameraman Richard Jones (Pablo Schreiber), Lexy's husband, must accompany her on the assignment. Does she have an ulterior motive you may wonder?

At the small town an hour away from Atlanta, Jack Harper (Jon Bernthal) and Priya Patel (Sunita Mani) are the Sheriff's detectives who arrive at the crime scene, needing to fend off a slew of reporters, including ambitious Anna hoping to score a big scoop.

Anna wants to know if Jack is familiar with the dead woman, who happens to be Rachel Hopkins (Jamie Tisdale), stabbed so brutally that all signs point to a crime of passion rather than being victimized randomly.

Suspiciously, Jack acts like someone hiding a secret, going so far as to evade the coroner's request for a DNA sample that is expected of every first responder dealing with the crime scene.

Anna is also hiding something, which has to do with promiscuous Rachel, Jack's alcoholic sister Zoe (Marin Ireland), and Helen Wang (Poppy Liu), the headmaster of the elite school they all attended.

The prime suspect is Rachel's cuckold husband, Clyde Duffie (Chris Bauer). The spouse is always suspected in these situations, but that seems like a red herring.

In any event, Anna and Jack, though married but living separately, are the “two sides” to a his and hers story, but there never is enough suspicion that either one is the true suspect.

“His & Hers” has enough plot twists and turns, some of that involving a “mean girls” club at the school the adult women attended long ago, to entertain, at least until the final episode that takes a wildly improbable leap. ★

receive delta water via the California Aqueduct is a large challenge,” said Tanya Veldhuizen, program lead for the State Water Project Aquatic Nuisance Species Program. “Currently available technology to prevent the transfer of mussels is very limited and applicable to only very small volumes of water.” Already, the golden mussel has disrupted maintenance activities at the Port of Stockton and a handful of water providers, and its impact is only expected to grow.

Del Monte Cannery Closure Devastates California Fruit Growers

California farmers who grow fruit for canned products suffered a major setback this month as Del Monte Foods announced plans to close its only remaining cannery in the state. The cannery's closure will reportedly affect roughly 600 employees and 1,200 seasonal workers in Modesto. The closure ends Del Monte's more than 100-year history as a processor of California-grown fruits and vegetables, potentially leaving scores of farmers without a buyer for their produce. “It's difficult,” said Ranjit Davit, who grows cling peaches in Sutter County and chairs the California Canning Peach Association's board of directors. “Growers are very upset about the situation.” In recent years, Del Monte contracted about 35% of California's cling peaches. Farmers who planted fruit orchards under long-term contracts with Del Monte said they were weighing their options and bracing for steep losses. ★

River Cats Announce Coaching Staff

Entire 2025 staff to return; Brundage embarks on 10th season as manager

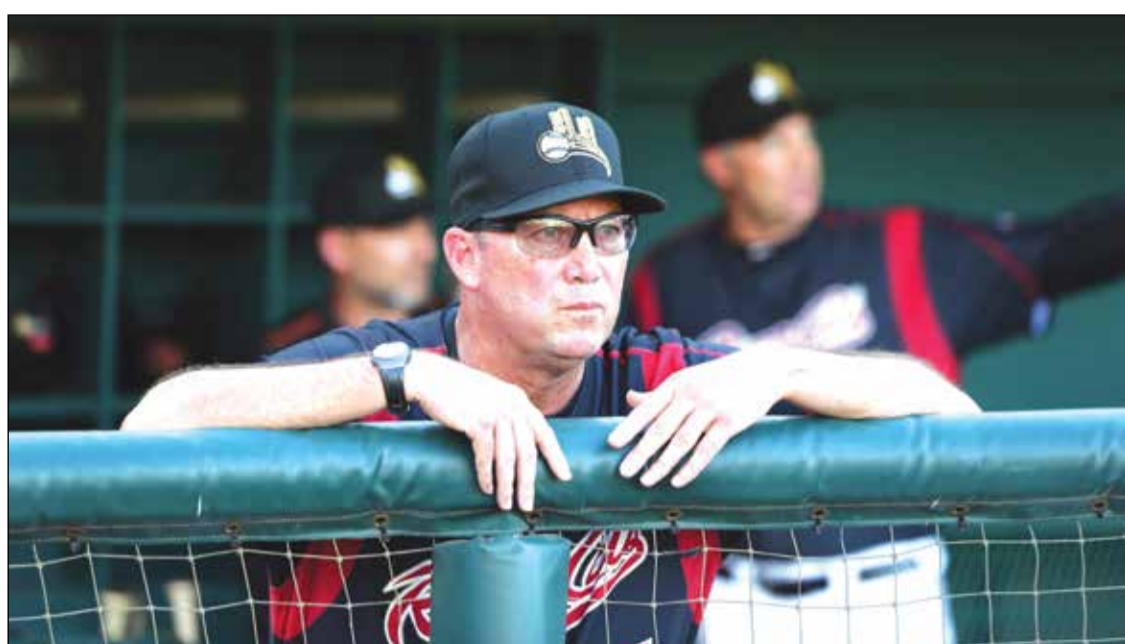
Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA - The Sacramento River Cats have announced their 2026 coaching staff, returning the entire group from 2025.

Manager Dave Brundage, Fundamentals Coach Jolbert Cabrera, Pitching Coach Alain Quijano, Hitting Coach P.J. Pilittere and Assistant Hitting Coach Robert Riggins will once again serve as the Sacramento field staff, joined by fellow returners Brian Reinker (trainer), Chris Walsh (trainer), Chris Harms (strength and conditioning coach) and Nick Solitario (player development associate).

Dave Brundage returns for his 10th year as manager of the River Cats, a position he's held since 2017. In his eight seasons (no season in 2020), Brundage has amassed a 537-608 (.469) record, including a magical 2019 season in which Sacramento won 73 games and were crowned both Pacific Coast League and Triple-A Champions. In 2025, Brundage guided the River Cats to an overall record of 77-73. Currently, he has totaled the second most managerial wins in Sacramento franchise history, trailing only the 578 of Tony DeFrancesco (2003-07, 2009-10).

For his career, Brundage has a managerial record of 1,908-1,923 (.498), with a total of three league championships. 19 consecutive seasons of his 27-year managerial career have come at the Triple-A level. Prior to Sacramento, Brundage guided the Lehigh Valley IronPigs (Philadelphia Phillies, 2014-16) over four seasons, and



Pictured is Sacramento River Cats Manager Dave Brundage who is entering his 10th season as manager. Photo courtesy of Minor League Baseball

spent his first six Triple-A campaigns with the Richmond/Gwinnett Braves (Atlanta Braves, 2007-2012).

Jolbert Cabrera embarks on his 10th season in the Giants' organization, his seventh as fundamentals coach of the River Cats after assuming the role in Sacramento's 2019 championship season. Twice Cabrera has helped the team set franchise records, tying the mark for fewest errors committed in 2021 (103) before rewriting it in 2024 (98), and coaching the River Cats to post their best fielding percentage in franchise history in 2024 (.982).

Alain Quijano returns to Sacramento for his third season, his sixth total in the San Francisco organization after spending his first three as pitching coach with the Eugene Emeralds. While in

Eugene, Quijano's pitching staffs totaled no fewer than 1,286 strikeouts in each of his three seasons, and he helped mentor the Emeralds to an eye-popping 3.42 ERA and .220 opposing batting average during the 2022 campaign in which Eugene was 81-48.

Robert Riggins returns for his third season with the River Cats, his fifth in the San Francisco organization after also serving as the hitting coach/strategist for the Dominican Summer League (DSL) Giants Black from 2022-23. Having spent over a decade as a coach, Riggins has also served at the high school level in New Mexico including stops as a head coach at Los Lunas High School (2010-12),

Pojoaque Valley High School (2013-14, 2019), and Lovington High School (2016-18).

P.J. Pilittere returns for his

second season with the River Cats and as a member of the Giants organization. Prior to joining the Giants, Pilittere served as the assistant hitting coach for the Colorado Rockies from 2022-24. Prior to that, Pilittere was the hitting coach for the New York Yankees from 2018-21, making the playoffs in all four seasons while twice coaching in the American League Championship Series (ALCS).

In the training room, Brian Reinker returns for his fifth season in the San Francisco organization, all with Sacramento, after coming aboard for the 2022 campaign. Prior to joining the Giants, Reinker spent nearly two decades with the Los Angeles Angels organization from 2003-2021 and was named the Pacific Coast League (PCL) Athletic Trainer of the Year in 2015 with the Salt Lake Bees.

Back for his third season is Chris Walsh, who will enter his fifth year in the San Francisco organization. Prior to joining the River Cats in 2024, he spent two seasons with the Richmond Flying Squirrels (Double-A). Walsh has also worked five seasons in the St. Louis Cardinals organization (2017-2021) as a certified athletic trainer.

Chris Harms returns for his second season as strength and conditioning coach for the River Cats and his seventh season in the San Francisco organization. Harms' time with San Francisco began in 2020 with the Dominican Summer League (DSL) Giants (Rookie) and continued with the Arizona League (AZL) Giants (Rookie) in 2021, San Jose (2022) and Eugene (2023-24).

Nick Solitario returns for his second season as player development associate and his fourth season with the Giants organization. Prior to joining the River Cats in 2025, Solitario served as the baseball video and technology associate with the Eugene Emeralds (High-A) in 2023 and then reprised his role in 2024 with the Richmond Flying Squirrels (Double-A).

The 2026 season begins with a preseason exhibition matchup on Sunday, March 22 when the River Cats host the San Francisco Giants at Sutter Health Park. A full season schedule is available online at www.rivercats.com with season memberships, suite and hospitality rentals, and groups tickets on sale now. Fans can purchase tickets by calling a Sutter Health Park ticket representative at (916) 371-HITS (4487), or by visiting www.rivercats.com/tickets. ★

Hornets' Picton Big Sky Pick

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - For the first time in her collegiate career, Sacramento State junior guard Natalie Picton was named the Big Sky Conference Player of the Week following her performances against Idaho and Eastern Washington last week.

Picton becomes the first Hornet to earn the league's top weekly honor since teammate Benthe Versteeg shared the conference's final regular season award last year.

In helping her team to a split against the second-place Vandals and the Eagles, Picton averaged 18.0 ppg and shot 41 percent from the field for Sacramento State, including draining six of her 13 makes from beyond the arc while also averaging 3.5 rebounds, 2.0 assists, and 2.5 steals per game.

The Welland, Ontario, native opened last week with an 18-point night against Idaho, hitting four of her seven shots from distance in 39 minutes, grabbing four boards, dishing out three assists and swiping a pair of steals. Ten of her 18 points came in the first half as she



The Welland, Ontario, native opened last week with an 18-point night against Idaho, hitting four of her seven shots from distance in 39 minutes, grabbing four boards, dishing out three assists and swiping a pair of steals. Photo courtesy Sacramento State Athletics

helped the Hornets hold Idaho to nearly 20 points under their season average and just 28 percent shooting for the night.

Two days later, Picton poured in 18 more points in a win over Eastern Washington, shooting 55 percent (6-for-11) from the field - including a clutch three-pointer with 2:41 remaining that turned a one-point lead into a four-point advantage for Sacramento State. She then hit 4-of-4 from the line in the final 16 seconds to help ice the win and hold off a further Eagle comeback.

With her pair of 18-point performances, Picton enters this week's contests having reached double figures

in five of her last six contests (15.0 ppg) and 14 of 20 games overall. Her two steals against Idaho, and three more against Eastern Washington University (EWU), gave her multiple steals in a game for the 16th and 17th times in 20 contests overall.

Picton enters the week ranked second on the team in scoring (12.8 ppg) overall and is averaging 13.7 ppg in seven Big Sky games thus far. She ranks among the top 10 in the league in three-pointers made (40) and three's per game (2.0), while standing fourth in steals (53) and steals per game (2.65 spg) as well as second in the league in minutes per contest (34.9 mpg). ★

Riva Lays Claim to Big Sky Honors



The award is the fourth of Riva's career and her first since last claiming the honor on April 23 of last season. Photo courtesy Sacramento State Athletics

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State junior Irene Riva was named the Big Sky Conference women's tennis player of the week on Jan. 28 following a strong showing during the Hornets' spring opens in Honolulu.

The award is the fourth of Riva's career and her first since last claiming the honor on April 23

of last season. Her four weekly wins rank her tied for seventh on the school's career chart for player of the week honors.

Splitting time between No. 1 and No. 2 singles, as well as playing at the top spot in the Hornets' doubles lineup, Riva finished the week with a 4-2 overall record, finishing 2-0 at the No. 2 spot in singles and winning two of her three doubles contests alongside

freshman teammate Cami Maldonado Gutierrez.

She opened the week with a straight-set win against Hawai'i Pacific at No. 2, then went three sets to defeat Hawai'i's Makeilah Nepomuceno two days later. In doubles, she posted a win over Hawai'i Pacific's top duo then closed out the weekend with a doubles-point clinching victory at the No. 1 position against the Rainbow Wahine. ★

Kings Announce Kingpin Classic Presented by Raley's

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Republic FC recently announced that the club has signed midfielder José "Pep" Casas. He will be added to the team's roster pending league and federation approval. Per club policy, the terms of the contract were not disclosed.

"Pep fits the mold for the types of talented, up-and-coming players who do well in USL Championship," said Republic FC Head Coach Neill Collins. "We look forward to welcoming him to the Indomitable Club and are excited to be a part of this next step in his career."

Casas added, "I'm really

excited to join Sacramento Republic. It's a club with a great culture and passionate fans, and I can't wait to get started and give everything I have for the team."

A native of Barcelona, Spain, Casas got his start in FC Barcelona's famed youth academy, La Masia. He later made the move to English club Ipswich Town before closing out his youth career in Spain with CE Europa. The 25-year-old came to the United States to begin his collegiate career at Indiana Tech before transferring to University of North

Carolina Wilmington. With the Seahawks, he appeared in every



game possible and

recorded two goals and two assists and earned selection to the 2023 Coastal Athletic Association Second Team.

In 2024, Casas was selected 61st overall in the Major League Soccer (MLS) SuperDraft by Inter Miami CF. He made two Major League Soccer appearances for the club before joining Inter Miami CF II. With the Major League Soccer (MLS) NEXT Pro side, he made 25 appearances and added two assists, while maintaining an impressive 86 percent passing accuracy. Last year, he joined Nashville SC's reserve

side Huntsville City FC and played over 2,000 minutes to help the team reach the postseason for the first time. He closed out the season with a stellar 91 percent pass success rate.

Sacramento Republic FC will open the 2026 season at home on March 7 when the Indomitable Club hosts Western Conference Champion FC Tulsa. Kickoff for the 13th season is set for 7 p.m. at Heart Health Park. Fans secure their seat for the entire 2026 season by becoming a member today and lock in the lowest prices of the year. Group tickets are on sale now and single match tickets will be available beginning Feb. 5 at SacRepublicFC.com. ★

New Year, New Roadside Safety Protections

California's Expanded "Slow Down, Move Over" Law Now Covers All Stopped Drivers and Passengers Roadside

California Office of Traffic Safety News Release

CALIFORNIA (MPG) - California's expanded "Slow Down, Move Over" law officially took effect Jan. 1, adding lifesaving protections for all stranded drivers and passengers on the roadside. The strengthened requirement compels drivers to move over, or slow down if unsafe to do so, for any stopped vehicle using hazard lights or emergency indicators, including everyday drivers experiencing mechanical trouble or emergencies.

The change, authorized under Assembly Bill 390, legislation sponsored by AAA, comes during a nationwide spike in roadside deaths that safety leaders are calling a crisis.

"Whether you're a stranded driver or a first responder, standing just feet from high speed traffic has become increasingly deadly," said Auto Club Corporate Communications Manager Doug Shupe. "This law equips California drivers with a clear, enforceable rule that can prevent more needless deaths."

With AB 390 now in effect, California joins 28 other states, and the District of Columbia, with expanded Slow Down, Move Over protections to include all stopped vehicles.

Violations in California can result in fines up to \$1,000 and points on a driver's record for unsafe behavior near stopped vehicles.

"Too many Californians are losing their lives simply because passing drivers fail to slow down or move over," said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. "This expanded law makes clear that every person on the roadside, whether a driver or a passenger,



The change, authorized under Assembly Bill 390, legislation sponsored by AAA, comes during a nationwide spike in roadside deaths that safety leaders are calling a crisis. Photo courtesy of California Office of Traffic Safety

deserves the same margin of safety. Obeying 'Slow Down, Move Over' is not just a courtesy; it is a legal responsibility that saves lives."

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, using data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System, reveals roadside fatalities are rising sharply. In California, the number of people killed roadside increased nearly 77% from 2014 to 2023. This alarming trend in people killed roadside is driven by higher speeds, distracted driving and limited shoulder space on modern freeways, data shows.

Additional recent national findings highlight the severity of

the problem. According to the Emergency Responder Safety Institute, 46 emergency responders were killed last year in the U.S. after being struck while assisting at roadside scenes — police officers, firefighters, EMTs and tow truck operators. Tow operators face some of the deadliest conditions on America's roadways. Hundreds of stranded drivers are killed every year while waiting for help or attempting simple fixes like changing a tire.

"Everyone traveling on California's roads and highways deserves to arrive safely at their destination," said Caltrans Director Dina El-Tawansy. "The provisions added to the Move

Over law will help keep more people safe and continue protecting the highway workers and first responders risking their lives to serve others. When we make conscious decisions to benefit the safety of our fellow travelers and dedicated public servants, it creates a safer, more enjoyable travel experience for all."

Daniel Lazaro, a tow truck operator for Preferred Towing, lost his friend at the roadside in October last year. Fifty-seven-year-old Carlos Trejo was struck and killed while helping a stranded Auto Club member on 1-110.

"Carlos was a caring person who would always bring up his family in a joyful and proud

way, especially his grandchildren," said Lazaro. "As he would clock out every day to go home, he would always tell everyone clocking in to be careful and to be safe out there."

Many drivers don't understand the law and it's costing lives. An Oct. 2025 national study from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found the following: 36% of drivers captured on roadside video did not slow down or change lanes — violating the law entirely; drivers were least likely to protect tow operators, with only 58% complying near stopped tow trucks; and two thirds of drivers said they were familiar with "Slow Down, Move Over" laws, yet many could not accurately explain what was required.

The research also found that while some drivers do change lanes, many fail to reduce speed, leaving dangerously little margin if something goes wrong.

As of Jan. 1, drivers must take these simple actions when approaching a stopped vehicle. Change lanes away from the stopped vehicle, if safe to do so. If changing lanes is not possible, slow down to a safe, reasonable speed. The message is clear: See hazards or a stopped vehicle? Slow down. Move over. Save a life.

"As you head out on your next trip, keep in mind that the driver with a flat tire or other roadside car trouble could very well be you," OTS Director Stephanie Dougherty said. "Please move over a lane or slow down for highway workers, first responders, tow truck drivers and other stopped vehicles on the side of the road or shoulder. Make safety the destination we all share by looking out for every vehicle and person on the roadside." ★


Do You Need  Your Legal Ads Published?

We can help.

Call us now to place your legal advertising!

916-773-1111

All legal ads published by Messenger Publishing Group.



Single Again

Make the rest of your life the best of your life!

Are You Single Again?

SingleAgain.com is a website dedicated to helping people put their lives back together again after divorce, separation or the loss of their spouse.

Finding yourself single after years of being in a relationship can add a different kind of unknown stress to your daily life.

We provide articles and information from many sources to help you put all the pieces together so you can live a healthy and loving new life. When you first visit the website, be sure to make us one of your favorites. We publish many articles to help you along your new journey.



- Dating & Relationships
- Counseling & Advice
- Money & Finances
- Health
- Fashion & Beauty
- Consumer News
- Food & Recipes
- Travel
- Lifestyle
- Parenting

Visit SingleAgain.com today, get back out there and have some fun!

Single Again

SingleAgain.com

LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

Find out what's happening in your local area at...

INDEPENDENTVOICE.COM

ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY