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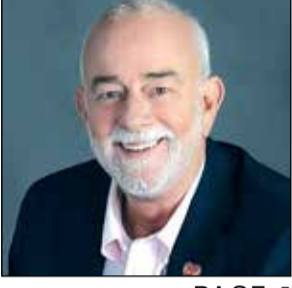
# Dixon Independent Voice

The Official Newspaper of Record for the City of Dixon

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## LOTUS System Installed

*Ruhstaller Farm Gets Energy-Efficiency Cooling System*



Installation and live testing were completed within two days without interrupting farm operations. Ainley said the work was non-structural and required adjustments on site, including accommodating thicker-than-expected insulated walls and resolving Wi-Fi connectivity issues. Photo courtesy of ATMOS Research and Development

By Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - At Ruhstaller Farm, 6686 Sievers Road, a new energy-efficiency system, developed by ATMOS Research & Development, has been installed to help reduce electrical consumption in the farm's cold storage operations.

The system, known as LOTUS, short for Linear Opening Thermal Uptake System, was designed to address rising energy costs and improve efficiency in agricultural environments. Myles Ainley, founder and CEO of ATMOS Research & Development, said his military background influenced his focus on



Ruhstaller Farm, 6686 Sievers Road, recently installed a new energy efficiency system called LOTUS (Linear Opening Thermal Uptake System) that was developed by ATMOS Research and Development. ATMOS CEO Myles Ainley (right) said his military background inspired his dedication to agriculture. Photo courtesy of ATMOS Research and Development

supporting agriculture. rising electrical costs as "Americans are seeing a significant barrier to

business, and to me, agriculture is our country's backbone," said Ainley. "My time in the military made it clear that food security is national security. They say, 'An army can't march on an empty stomach,' and neither can a nation."

Ainley said the idea for LOTUS emerged during a tour of Ruhstaller Farm, when farm leadership discussed a longstanding challenge in maintaining cold storage temperatures while limiting reliance on large air conditioning units. "During a tour of Ruhstaller Farm, there was mention of wanting to pull in the cool air during

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## Delta Counties Urge Stewardship Council to Reject DWR Delta Tunnel

*Delta Counties Coalition News Release*

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Pat Hume, member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, recently issued the following statement on behalf of the Delta Counties of Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano and Yolo regarding the Delta Stewardship Council's hearing on appeals of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR)

consistency certification for the Delta Conveyance Project (Delta Tunnel):

We strongly urge the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) to closely and impartially examine the evidence presented during the Delta Tunnel consistency appeals hearing and reject any determination that relies on incomplete, unsupported or false conclusions, or interpretations of the Council's regulations that would undermine the Delta Reform Act's coequal goals.

There is substantial evidence that the Delta Tunnel, according to the Department of Water Resources' administrative record, is not supported by the Delta Reform Act or Delta Plan policies, and there are significant failures to address impacts to Delta communities, agriculture, recreation and cultural resources. Critically, the Delta Tunnel disregards local land uses and does not reduce reliance on the Delta through improved regional self-reliance, as required by the Legislature and the Council's Delta Plan.

Appellants demonstrated that key mitigation measures remain undefined and that critical findings are not supported by the best available science — requirements that are central to both the Delta Plan and the Delta Reform Act. Without clear, enforceable mitigation and reliable data, the Council cannot reasonably conclude that a project of this magnitude would protect the Delta's cultural heritage, agricultural economy, and recreational resources — all central components of the Delta Reform Act.

The Delta Counties urge Council members to carefully consider the testimony, appeals and supporting evidence presented in this proceeding to make a thorough and independent determination. When exercising its discretion

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## Moose Lodge to Hold Bunco Fundraiser

By Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon Moose Lodge #1120 will host a Bunco fundraiser at 1 p.m. March 7 at 180 W. B St., inviting the community to gather for games, food and raffles.

For a \$20 donation, attendees will receive pizza and salad provided by the lodge and the opportunity to participate in raffle drawings and prize games throughout the afternoon. Organizers initially planned for 12 tables, or 48 players, but registrations have exceeded that number.

Traci Oates, the incoming chaplain for the lodge, said she organized the event as part of ongoing fundraising efforts to support lodge improvements and community programs.

"We're trying to fix up the Moose Lodge, do some repairs, so I decided to do the fundraiser," said Oates. "I was a little nervous doing a function without a



Dixon Moose Lodge #1120 will host a Bunco fundraiser at 1 p.m. March 7 at 180 W. B St., inviting the community to gather for games, food and raffles. Photo by Nicolas Brown

team of people, but I took this on myself with a couple people at the lodge."

Oates, a lifetime member of the Moose Lodge in Vacaville, has been volunteering in Dixon since December 2025. She said

she also helps with Bunco events at the Vacaville Elks Lodge, where the game has drawn strong participation.

"I just wanted to keep it to 12 tables, 48 people, and I'm not from California, so I don't know many people,

but we exceeded that number, so I'm excited," she said. "I'm just meeting people out here, and they're telling me they're second generation and third generation from

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# Moose Lodge to Hold Bunco Fundraiser

*Continued from page 1*

Dixon, and I'm like, 'I'm from Texas.'"

In addition to Bunco play, organizers will include prize drawings such as clover stickers placed under select chairs and a candy jar guessing game. The event will pause for a meal break before winners are announced.

The lodge operates under Moose International, founded in 1888 by Dr. Henry Wilson, who established the first lodge in Louisville, Kentucky. Originally created to provide men with opportunities for social connection and mutual support, the organization has expanded its mission to include community service and charitable programs.

Among those efforts are Mooseheart Child City & School, a 1,000-acre campus west of Chicago that serves children and teens in need, and Moosehaven, a 70-acre retirement community for senior members near Jacksonville, Florida.

Locally, the Dixon lodge hosts about five fundraisers each year, including a trap shoot and spaghetti feed, and recently held a scholarship fundraiser for Dixon High School. The lodge also serves breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m. each Sunday.

According to Oates, proceeds from events support children, seniors and local families in need.

"We're a nonprofit," she said. "We support children and the elderly. We support local families in need. We do scholarship funds to the schools."

She also thanked new administrator Joe Wynn and Debbie Robinson for their leadership in recent months.

"Joe stepped up and got the lodge running," said Oates. "Debbie manages the inside, and she's done excellent."

For more information, visit [mooseintl.org/location/1120-dixon/](http://mooseintl.org/location/1120-dixon/) or call 707-678-9407. ★

# Dixon News Briefs



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

By MPG Staff

## Drop-in Indoor Pickleball

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

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

## Dixon High Sports

Dixon High School Boys Junior Varsity Baseball has a home game 4:15 p.m. March 13. Hosted at Dixon High School, 555 College Way, the Rams will take on the Rio Linda High School Knights.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit [dixonramsathletics.com](http://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.

## 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.

## Celebrate Dixon

Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting the annual Celebrate Dixon from 5 to 9 p.m. March 14. Held in Madden Hall at the Dixon May Fairgrounds, 655 S. First St., the event will see the crowing of the 63rd Citizen of the Year, 30th Business of the Year, 3rd Nonprofit of the Year, as well as Educator of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Police Officer of the Year and new additions, Dixon Educator of the Year and Dixon Coach of the Year. Tickets cost \$75 per person and include dinner and raffles.

For more information, visit [dixonchamber.org](http://dixonchamber.org) or call 707-678-2650.

## Free Smoke Alarm Event

The Senior/Multi-use Center is hosting

a free smoke alarm and fire prevention education event with American Red Cross from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 25. Held at the Multi-use Center, 201 S. Fifth St., Dixon residents who sign up will receive free 10-year smoke alarm installation, alarm checks and a personalized fire escape plan on the day of the event.

For more information, visit the City of Dixon, CA Facebook page or call 707-678-7022.

## Neighborhood Christian School Open House

Neighborhood Christian School is hosting an open house event from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 11. Held at the school, 955 E. A St., the event will involve classroom tours, teacher introductions and a firsthand account of what makes the school a special place to learn. Open enrollment for new students begins March 9 for preschool to 8th grade.

For more information, visit the Neighborhood Christian School Facebook page or call 707-678-9336.

## Lunch Bunch at Dawson's

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a lunch bunch networking event from noon to 1:30 p.m. March 17. Held at Dawson's Bar & Grill, 105 N. First St., the free event offers guests a no-host lunch and networking opportunities. Lunch Bunch meets every third Tuesday of each month.

For more information, visit [dixonchamber.org](http://dixonchamber.org) or call 707-678-2650.

## Cornhole Tournament

Dixon Schools Athletics Boosters is hosting the Third Annual Cornhole Tournament at 2 p.m. April 11. Held at Solano Brewing Co., 5500 Weber Rd., Vacaville, the event costs \$100 per team to register. Registration is available on the Scoreholio app. Corporate and Head Tournament sponsorship options are available as well. All skill levels are welcome.

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

## Dixon Chamber Connections Networking

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a networking event from noon to 1:30 p.m. March 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](http://dixonchamber.org) or call 707-678-2650. ★

# California Duck Days Returns



**Kids will have the opportunity to paint Decoy Ducks, catch and learn about the variety of insects that live in our ponds and much more. Photo by David Kalb**

## Yolo Basin Foundation News Release

**YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Yolo Basin Foundation is hosting California Duck Days, Northern California's wetlands and wildlife festival, on Saturday, April 25. This family-friendly event will take place at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters and will include live animals, wetland themed arts and crafts, environmental education activities, hourly tours of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and more. Through interactive exhibits or natural arts and crafts, there will never be a dull moment at the festival for those curious about the natural world.

California Duck Days is Yolo Basin

Foundation's biggest event of the year, and we have many volunteer positions still available. While the event itself runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., most shifts are two to three hours long throughout the day.

Volunteer opportunities include helping kids paint Decoy Ducks, helping children catch and learn about the variety of insects that live in our ponds, assisting at event registration and more. To volunteer, contact [volunteer@yolobasin.org](mailto:volunteer@yolobasin.org) or visit <https://yolobasin.org/volunteer/>.

The festival will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters at 45211 County Road 32B (Chiles Road), Davis, CA. Admission is \$25 per vehicle. Dogs are not permitted at the festival. ★

# Historical Society to Present Dixon Mayors Program

## Dixon Historical Society News Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon Historical Society invites the community to its presentation of the history of the Dixon Mayors. The program will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. March 15 at the Dixon History Museum, 125 West A St.

What is the definition of a mayor? The elected head of a city, town or other municipality. A mayor leads a city, oversees daily operations, manages the budget, enforces local laws and acts as the community's representative for executive roles to ceremonial ones. They work with the city to set policy, appoint officials and manage public services like police, fire and sanitation. Just to name a few of the duties.

On March 30, 1878, the state of California Senate and Assembly passed Senate Bill 580, authorizing the official Dixon government. June 4, 1878,

ordinance No. 1 was passed with W.S. Hinman as the first President of the Board of Trustees. August 19, 1930, the title was changed to "Mayor" by Resolution #5.

This will be the Dixon Historical Society's first program for 2026, with more to follow. All presentations are free to the public.

The historical society would like to hear from any person, group or organization that wants to present their history as it relates to Dixon and the surrounding areas.

For more information about the Dixon Historical Society and Museum, visit [dixonhistoricalsociety.org](http://dixonhistoricalsociety.org) or stop by the museum at 125 W. A St.

Admission is free. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, contact 707-693-3044 or [dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com). For school or special museum visits, openings can be privately arranged. ★

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# LOTUS System Installed Sophia Ferri is Soroptimist Young Woman of the Month



The LOTUS was designed to address rising energy costs and improve efficiency in agricultural environments. Rather than relying on large mechanical doors or traditional refrigeration-based ventilation systems, ATM0S approached the problem by focusing on controlled airflow. Photo courtesy of ATM0S Research and Development

Continued from page 1

the night to maintain the temperature inside a cold storage room,” said Ainley. “I suggested we design a system to reduce the electrical consumption used by the larger air conditioning units at his farm.”

Rather than relying on large mechanical doors or traditional refrigeration-based ventilation systems, ATM0S approached the problem by focusing on controlled airflow. Previous attempts to improve ventilation involved heavy wooden barn-style openings powered by large motors. Ainley said that the approach conflicted with the goal of conserving energy.

The LOTUS system instead uses a small programmable hatch fitted with mesh filters to limit pest intrusion. Low-power fans activate when the hatch opens, drawing in cooler air and exhausting warmer air. The heat exhaust fan is positioned

at the top of the storage room, while the cold air intake fan sits near the bottom, creating a circular air exchange based on temperature differentials.

“What ultimately makes this system different is that it is programmable and can be securely monitored and controlled from anywhere in the world,” said Ainley.

The partnership began after Ainley met farm leadership during a guided facility tour connected to the Green Innovation Network at UC Davis, a student-led organization he helped establish. During discussions about energy use, cold storage refrigeration was identified as one of the farm’s highest costs.

Ainley said the farm’s leadership allowed ATM0S to approach the challenge without predefined constraints.

“He gave me permission to start completely fresh, with no limit on how to solve the problem,” said Ainley. “This kind of freedom allowed us to start

from the core of the problem and create a design that did not just solve the problem but did not add more problems.”

The system records microclimate data every minute through on-site sensors. Ainley said that precision is critical because temperature can vary significantly even within short distances. By relying on hyper-local data rather than distant weather stations, LOTUS determines the optimal time to capture cooler air. Redundancies allow the system to rely on online weather data if a sensor becomes unavailable.

Installation and live testing were completed within two days without interrupting farm operations. Ainley said the work was non-structural and required adjustments on site, including accommodating thicker-than-expected insulated walls and resolving Wi-Fi connectivity issues. A 24-hour validation test was conducted before final completion.

According to Ainley, the project was delivered at 51 percent below the originally quoted price after reassessing the scope and focusing on precision airflow rather than large-scale structural changes.

Looking ahead, Ainley said the system is adaptable to other agricultural applications, including greenhouses and animal pens, and can be monitored through an online dashboard that allows users to adjust temperature thresholds remotely.

ATM0S Research & Development, founded in 2021, is continuing work across projects ranging from artificial intelligence to drone and crop production technologies.

For more information, visit atm0srd.com. ★



Selected by the Visual and Performing Arts Department, Department Chair Nick Stidham (left) presented Sophia Ferri (right) as the Young Woman of the Month for February. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Dixon

## Soroptimist International of Dixon News Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Selected by the Visual and Performing Arts Department, Department Chair Nick Stidham presented Sophia Ferri as the Young Woman of the Month for February. As a multi-media and yearbook teacher, Stidham teaches the students in his class essential skills to create Dixon High School’s nationally recognized yearbook with skills based around journalism, design, photography and business.

As a student-run production, he works as an advisor. Students such as Ferri then take over to lead the class. Ferri assisted in leading the class the past two years – last year as a section Editor and this year as Chief Co-Editor. Such roles are fun and creative, but also very challenging. Ever since Ferri’s Sophomore year, Stidham instinctively knew that Ferri would be honored as the Young Woman of the Month as the natural leader that she is. Stidham describes Ferri as very detail-oriented, collaborates well with others, and has a knack for teaching.

Ferri is the daughter of Joe Ferri and Nicole Hillestad and has one older

sibling, Seth. Ferri moved to Dixon in 2017.

In addition to enjoying hobbies such as photography and reading, she also enjoys spending time with her friends. Ferri has also served as the Key Club Social Media Manager and the Rams Vault Herd Secretary. She also co-founded a club on campus called Purrfect 9 Rescue Club, which was derived from volunteer work with SOCKS (Save our Cats and Kittens), a very small local rescue in Dixon. She started the club to promote volunteer opportunities to help support this local organization. In addition to volunteering with SOCKS, the club holds fundraisers to raise funds for SOCKS as well.

Ferri developed a passion for history and politics through coursework she took with Ms. Janette Sundstedt at Dixon High School. As a result of this, Ferri has committed to CSU Fullerton and plans to pursue a major in Political Science with an eventual goal to become a lawyer.

Soroptimist International of Dixon members wish Ferri the best in her future pursuits. There is no doubt she will continue to grow as a leader and person. ★

# Dixon Library Plans Teen Programs, Women’s History Month Activities



Dixon Public Library, 230 N. First St., has announced a lineup of events for March and the coming months, including programs for teens, adults and families. Photo courtesy of Dixon Library



Teens aged 10 to 18 are invited to a St. Patrick’s Day Cookie Decorating event from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. March 17. Attendees can decorate free St. Patrick’s Day cookies with a variety of toppings. The program is geared toward tweens and teens. Photo courtesy of Dixon Library



From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. March 25, the library will host a Teen Meet and Greet with Brett Barley, superintendent of the Dixon Unified School District. Registration is recommended but not required. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon Public Library, 230 N. First St., has announced a lineup of events for March and the coming months, including programs for teens, adults and families.

Beginning March 4 and continuing on the first Wednesday of each month through Dec. 2, the library will host Teen Financial Literacy with Patelco Credit Union from 4 to 5 p.m. The program is designed to help teens build money management skills.

In honor of National Reading Month, the library will hold an Audiobook Walking Day from 3 to 4 p.m. March 13. Participants

are invited to get 45 minutes of cardio activity during a scenic walk while listening to a favorite audiobook. Comfortable walking attire and walking shoes are recommended. Registration is recommended, as space is limited to 50 participants.

Teens aged 10 to 18 are invited to a St. Patrick’s Day Cookie Decorating event from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. March 17. Attendees can decorate free St. Patrick’s Day cookies with a variety of toppings. The program is geared toward tweens and teens.

From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. March 25, the library will host a Teen Meet and Greet with Brett Barley, superintendent of the

Dixon Unified School District. Registration is recommended but not required.

The library will also mark Women’s History Month with two adult-focused programs. Women’s History Month Collages will take place from 2 to 3 p.m. March 7. Participants will create empowering collages in honor of the month. All materials will be supplied while supplies last.

Women’s History Month Paint Night is set from 6 to 7 p.m. March 10. The guided painting session will feature the creation of a butterfly woman artwork. Creativity and individuality are encouraged, and participants are advised to wear comfortable

clothing that they do not mind getting messy. The session will be facilitated by Painting Librarian Rhea Gardener. Registration is required, and materials will be provided.

The Morning Book Club at the Dixon Library will feature “Atmosphere” by Taylor Jenkins Reid. The monthly adult book club meets on the second Thursday of each month from 11 a.m. to noon in the library’s front room, unless otherwise specified. Coffee and tea will be provided. Participants are encouraged to pick up a copy of the next month’s selection at the front desk.

A Puzzle Exchange is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

March 14 as an all-day event. The drop-in community program allows participants to take home gently used puzzles. Puzzles for all ages will be accepted and available while supplies last. Puzzles must have no missing pieces, stains, smells or damage and will only be accepted on the day of the event. The exchange operates on the honor system.

The library will continue to host Read to a Dog on Mondays from 3 to 4 p.m. and Kids Homework Help from 4 to 5 p.m., courtesy of Dixon High School’s Key Club.

For more information or to register for events, visit solanolibrary.com or call 1-866-572-7587. ★

# Delta Counties Urge Stewardship Council to Reject DWR Delta Tunnel



**Delta Counties Coalition**  
Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County  
"Working together on water and Delta issues"

*Continued from page 1*

and interpreting its policies, the Council should be mindful of its central role in protecting the Delta and water supply reliability for water users within and outside of the Delta.

The Delta Reform Act requires that water supply reliability be pursued in balance with ecosystem restoration and protecting the Delta's unique cultural, environmental and economic values. A finding of consistency must be supported by substantial evidence that these protections are real,

enforceable and grounded in sound science.

Until those standards are clearly met, allowing the Delta Tunnel to move forward risks both the Council's mission and the long-term sustainability of our communities, which state law intended to be protected by the Delta Reform Act.

The Delta Conveyance Project Delta Plan Consistency Certification Appeals including Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano and Yolo counties can be found at: [deltacouncil.ca.gov/covered-actions/delta-conveyance-project](http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/covered-actions/delta-conveyance-project). ★

# Dixon to Hold Public Service Career Expo

By MPG Staff

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Interesting in working for your local government? The City of Dixon will hold a Public Service & Local Government Career Expo from 1 to 5 p.m. March 10 at the Ulatis Community Center in Vacaville.

The event will offer opportunities for jobseekers, students and professionals seeking a career change to network, attend workshops and gain insights to kickstart your career with an emphasis

on public service and local government.

The event is held in collaboration with the Vacaville Unified School District, City of Vacaville, City of Fairfield, City of Elk Grove, City of Woodland, City of Vallejo, Yolo County and Solano County.

The event will also offer resume reviews. Interview coaching sign-ups are coming soon, according to the City of Dixon Facebook page.

Ulatis Community Center is located at 1000 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville. ★

# California State Fair Announces New Chief Wine Judge



**Tim McDonald, California State Fair chief wine judge.**  
Photo courtesy of California State Fair

## California State Fair News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California State Fair appointed Tim McDonald of Napa as the new Chief Judge of the California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition. The competition opens to California winemakers on Feb. 1, with entries due by April 24.

McDonald brings more than 40 years of distinguished experience in the wine and spirits industry, with expertise spanning public relations, trade relations, marketing and sales, event management and beverage education. A highly respected judge, he has participated in more than 200 competitions throughout North America. He currently serves as the Director of Wine Judging for both the California Craft Spirits and Central Coast Wine Competitions, Chairman of Pacific Rim International Wine Competition and former Head Judge at the San Francisco International and Las Vegas Global Awards. He is the founder

of Wine & Spirits Spoken Here, a Napa-based company dedicated to sharing the unique stories behind wines and spirits.

McDonald's career also includes senior leadership roles with several prominent beverage companies, including E. & J. Gallo Winery, where he served as Marketing Director of Fine Wine Communications; Jim Beam (Peak Wines) as Vice President of Marketing and Communications; Trinchero Family Estates as Director of Trade Relations; and Heublein Spirits & Wines as Director of Trade and Public Relations. He also held sales positions with Seagram Distillers and Heublein.

"We are honored to have a leader of Tim's caliber guiding the California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition," said Tom Martinez, CEO of the California Exposition and State Fair. "For generations, this competition has celebrated the excellence of California's wine industry, and his expertise will ensure that tradition continues."

As Chief Judge, McDonald will oversee the annual review of competition procedures, recommend enhancements, select the final panel of judges and preside over the three-day judging process taking place May 6 to 8.

The upcoming California State Fair runs from July 17 through Aug. 2. Details about

exhibits, concerts and tickets will be updated regularly on the website at [castatefair.com](http://castatefair.com).

## About the California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition

Dating back to 1854, during the Gold Rush Era, the California State Fair Wine Competition is the oldest wine competition in the country and ranks among the most respected in the nation. It is widely recognized for its integrity, commitment to excellence, fairness and professionalism. Only wines made with fruit grown and produced in the eleven growing regions across the state may be judged in the competition in order to recognize the best wines produced in the state.

## About the California State Fair

Cal Expo is home of the California State Fair, an international award-winning fair, receiving top honors at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions out of more than 1,100 fairs worldwide. For the past two years, the Fair was ranked the best State Fair in the nation. Established in 1854, the California State Fair is dedicated as a place to celebrate the best the state has to offer in agriculture, technology and the diversity of its people, traditions and trends that shape the Golden State's future. ★

# Sound the Alarm!

By MPG Staff

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Did you know that working smoke alarms can cut the risk of death in home fires in half? The City of Dixon and the American Red Cross are holding a free smoke alarm and fire prevention education course from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 25 at the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center.

Dixon residents who attend the event can sign up to receive free 10-year smoke alarm installation, alarm checks and a

personalized fire escape plan on the day of the Sound the Alarm event.

Residents who don't need alarms installed or checked can still sign up to receive fire safety tips and help creating a home fire escape plan.

Residents can sign up by calling 707-678-7022 or visiting the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 S. 5th St., Dixon.

For more information, contact [dixon-recreation@cityofdixonca.gov](mailto:dixon-recreation@cityofdixonca.gov) or call 707-678-7022. ★

# National Grange Marks Passage of the MCED Act

## A Major Milestone in Closing Rural Cancer Health Disparities



By expanding coverage for multi-cancer early detection technologies, this law helps bring lifesaving innovation closer to home. Photo courtesy of National Grange

## National Grange News Release

**CALIFORNIA (MPG)** - The National Grange recently issued the following statement celebrating the passage of the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (H.R. 842/S. 339) – landmark legislation that expands access to innovative cancer screening technologies for Medicare beneficiaries.

"This is exactly the kind of policy that has the power to change outcomes for rural America," said Christine Hamp, President of the National Grange. "For far too many rural patients, cancer is detected later – not because it is more aggressive, but because access to screening is more limited. Distance, workforce shortages, and cost all create barriers that delay diagnosis and narrow treatment options.

The passage of the MCED Act is an important step toward changing that reality.

By expanding coverage for multi-cancer early detection technologies, this law helps bring lifesaving innovation closer to home. It strengthens the chance that rural patients will have cancer detected earlier – when treatment is more effective, and survival rates are higher. Geography should never determine whether someone has access to early detection, and this legislation moves us closer to that goal."

"Cancer has touched nearly every rural family in some way. We see firsthand the emotional, physical, and economic toll it takes on communities where health-care access is already fragile. That is why

the National Grange has long advocated for policies to close screening gaps and improve early diagnosis, said Burton Eller, the National Grange's legislative director. "Multicancer early detection tests represent a promising advancement – using a simple blood test to screen for multiple cancers at once. Expanding Medicare coverage for these tools opens the door to earlier intervention and better outcomes, particularly in areas where traditional screening access may be limited."

We are proud to see this bipartisan effort become law and grateful to the policymakers, advocates and partners who worked to make it possible. Progress in rural health happens when innovation, access, and public policy align – and today's action reflects that alignment.

The National Grange will continue to advocate for solutions that ensure rural Americans have access to the care, technologies, and resources they need to live longer, healthier lives.

The passage of the MCED Act marks meaningful progress in addressing longstanding disparities in cancer detection. For many rural communities, routine screenings remain difficult to access. Expanding coverage for emerging early detection tools provides an additional pathway to diagnosis and treatment at earlier, more treatable stages."

Learn more about the National Grange's work to address cancer health disparities in rural communities at [www.nationalgrange.org/2025/08/06/the-disproportionate-impact-of-cancer-on-rural-communities/](http://www.nationalgrange.org/2025/08/06/the-disproportionate-impact-of-cancer-on-rural-communities/). ★

Persons listed in this log from the Dixon Police Department are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Only activities deemed significant by the Police Dept. are included.

## DIXON POLICE LOG

### Monday, February 23, 2026

**0934** - Lost property report taken in the 700 block of Devonshire Court.

**1800** - Brandishing of a firearm report in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue. Marlon James (31) of Dixon was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

**2350** - Domestic violence report in the 800 block of Newgate Way.

### Sunday, February 22

No reports taken.

### Saturday, February 21

**1348** - A suspicious circumstance report was taken in the 2800 block of West A Street.

**1442** - A confidential report was taken in the 1500 block of Valley Glen Drive.

**1534** - A domestic violence report was taken in the 1300 block of West H Street.

**1752** - Warrant arrest in the 1300 block of West H Street. Suspect Sergio Garcia was contacted and had a no-cite warrant out of Solano County. He was arrested without incident and transported to Solano County Jail for booking.

**2040** - 273.5 PC, Corporal injury to a cohabitant, report taken in the 200 block of South Jackson Street.

### Friday, February 20

**1331** - A traffic collision report was taken in the 400 block of North Adams Street.

**1804** - 653 (m) PC, Annoying Phone Calls report, taken in the 1400 block of Reed Drive.

**2245** - 459 PC, Auto Burglary report, taken in the 900 block of Dartmouth Circle.

### Thursday, February 19

**1049** - A warrant arrest report was taken at the intersection of North First Street at East C Street. Officers contacted (S) Juan Delgado of Dixon. Delgado was arrested and taken to the Solano County Jail.

**1204** - A vandalism and shoplifting report was taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.

**1542** - A theft report was taken in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive.

**1424** - A theft by false pretenses report was taken in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.



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# Governor Newsom Launches Most Ambitious Water Plan in California History

California Department of Water Resources News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Governor Gavin Newsom announced on Feb. 25 the formal launch of the California Water Plan 2028, marking the start of a multi-year effort to modernize statewide water planning in response to climate-driven extremes and long-term water reliability challenges.

“Climate change is reshaping life in California through historic droughts and record storms that threaten the farms that feed the nation, communities that depend on reliable water, and the environment we all share. The 2028 Water Plan is a commitment to every Californian that we will capture, store and conserve the water our state, the 4th largest economy in the world, needs to thrive, no matter what climate change throws at us,” said Governor Gavin Newsom.

California is committed to protecting the water that families, farmers and communities depend on for generations to come.

“California’s hydrology is changing,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “We’re living that now. Extreme wet swings to intensely dry within the same season. The work of crafting the next California Water Plan will help us plan smarter to deal with the way climate change is testing our water systems.”

## Planning for California’s Water Future

The launch initiates the first phase of work under Senate Bill 72 (SB 72), which mandates modernization of the California Water Plan by improving data and setting measurable water supply targets. It also creates a more coordinated, transparent planning framework that aligns state, regional and local actions, which includes close collaboration with the California Water



A drone view of the Bethany Reservoir, impounded by five dams in Alameda County, serves as a forebay for the South Bay Pumping Plant and afterbay for Banks Pumping Plant. Photo taken March 28, 2024. Photo courtesy of California Department of Water Resources

Commission.

“I authored Senate Bill 72 to modernize the California Water Plan so it meets the challenges we face today,” said Senator Anna Caballero. “California’s water system is under real strain from longer droughts, stronger storms and growing demand across our communities and agricultural regions. For the first time, we are setting a clear statewide target of 9 million acre-feet of additional water supply and establishing measurable benchmarks that hold us accountable. California must plan with discipline and act with urgency to secure a reliable water future for every part of our state. I applaud Governor Newsom for signing this landmark bill into law and reaffirming his commitment to securing California’s water future.”

At the center of SB 72 is an interim statewide planning target of 9 million acre-feet by 2040, which is the amount of water supply California could lose as climate change reduces

snowpack and intensifies drought. Roughly equal to two Shasta Reservoirs, or enough for 18 million homes, the target is a shared benchmark that includes supply, conservation, recharge and storage strategies to close projected water supply gaps and strengthen long-term water reliability.

## A Plan Shaped by Californians

To fulfill the SB 72 mandate, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is convening an Advisory Committee that will immediately get to work in shaping the workplan for both the 2028 and 2033 Water Plan updates and providing input about approaches to effectively engage regional communities.

The advisory committee will reflect the diversity of California’s water system, including representation from urban and agricultural water suppliers, tribal, labor, environmental justice and environmental interests, local government, business and other

interested parties.

The committee will hold its inaugural meeting in April, and the public is encouraged to attend.

The California Water Commission will play a formal advisory role in the California Water Plan. The commission will receive regular briefings in a public setting and provide input as DWR refines the advisory committee structure, engagement approach and major milestones leading up to release of the 2028 plan.

“We applaud the launch of the California Water Plan 2028 and the collaborative framework envisioned under SB 72,” said Fern Steiner, Chair of the California Water Commission. “The Commission looks forward to continuing its work with the Department of Water Resources and interested parties across the state to support a plan that reflects diverse regional needs and advances sustainable water solutions for all Californians.”

DWR Deputy Director for Statewide Water Resources Planning and Enterprise Project Management Joel Metzger, added, “The new California Water Plan is where vision meets accountability. We’ll set measurable targets, improve our data and align planning efforts in ways that deliver real results on the ground. I’m inspired by the partnerships forming around this work and the shared commitment to long-term water resilience. Relationships, trust building and compelling storytelling will be essential to moving this work forward successfully.”

Work on the California Water Plan 2028 will focus on three main workstreams including the following.

Data for water use and supply balances: collecting statewide, watershed-scale datasets, leveraging new data and advanced technologies and bringing in statewide planning models.

Targets for long-term water supply: creating credible, localized targets; expanding coverage of hydrologic regions and aligning with Governor Newsom’s 2022 Water Supply Strategy and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Actions for adaptation and implementation: creating place-specific strategies, including nature-based solutions, to close supply-demand gaps; creating cost-benefit analyses; and tracking progress and integration across state, federal and local planning.

To support transparency and public access, DWR has launched a new project website at CaliforniaWaterPlan.com, to serve as the central hub for information on all future water plan updates, advisory committee participation, meeting materials, timelines and opportunities for engagement. ★

# New Report Exposes ‘Indefensible Waste’ in Prison Budget

*CURB Calls for at least 5 More Closures to Reduce State Deficit*

Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB) News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB) recently responded to the newly released Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) report on the 2026-27 Corrections Budget. While the Legislative Analyst’s Office formally recommends the closure of one additional prison, CURB is urging the Newsom administration to go significantly further, demanding a commitment to closing at least five additional prisons before the Governor leaves office.

“California is currently sitting on nearly 14,000 empty beds – enough capacity to announce five or six full prison closures this budget cycle,” said Amber-Rose Howard, executive director of Californians United for a Responsible Budget.

“The LAO report confirms the underlying reality we have been highlighting: keeping thousands of empty beds on the books is an indefensible waste of resources. We strongly agree with the LAO’s specific recommendation to close a prison this year. However, a one-prison-at-a-time approach does not reflect the scale

of the state’s ongoing fiscal and incarceration crisis.”

The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) report highlights several critical findings – that verify the urgent need for further prison closures:

CTF in Soledad as a Prime Closure Candidate: The LAO identifies the



Correctional Training Facility (CTF) in Soledad as a strong candidate for closure,

citing \$379 million in needed repairs for its kitchen and fire alarm systems alone. The report formally recommends the Legislature reject new infrastructure spending at this facility.

Verified Fiscal Savings: The LAO confirms that closing an average-sized prison would save the state approximately \$150 million annually in operational costs and avoid the need for expensive infrastructure projects at the closed site.

Sustained Population Decline: The LAO confirms the prison population is projected to continue declining through June 2030. The report notes the state could close an additional prison and still retain a 2,500-bed buffer to manage unexpected population increases.

System-Wide Maintenance Liability:

The LAO reports that the California

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has identified

\$2.5 billion in deferred maintenance projects across the system over the next ten years, not including the billions potentially needed for air cooling systems.

Lack of Transparency: The LAO criticized the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for a lack of transparency regarding current yard deactivations at Solano and Avenal State Prisons, noting the administration has declined to provide information about these operational changes to the Legislature.

Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB) also emphasizes the humanitarian and fiscal cost of continuing to use prisons as “high-priced nursing homes.” With over 19,000 people aged 55 and older currently behind bars, the state spends over \$237,000 per year to incarcerate elders aged 80 and older with little risk of recidivism if released.

Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB) is a statewide coalition of over 100 organizations working to reduce the number of people in prisons and jails, shrink the corrections budget, and redirect public dollars toward housing, healthcare, education and community-based safety strategies. ★

# CHP Seeks Answers Following Fentanyl Findings

California Highway Patrol News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is conducting a thorough review of the findings in the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner’s report issued Feb. 23 regarding the death of Officer Miguel Cano. The Medical Examiner ruled that the 34-year-old officer’s death was caused by fentanyl. It is unknown how the fentanyl entered his system. The death has been ruled an accident.

While the CHP was not provided with the Medical Examiner’s report prior to it being



The drugs seized during the incident were sent to a laboratory for evaluation and tested positive for illicit drugs. Photo courtesy of Freepik

made public to the media, the CHP continues to investigate the circumstances surrounding this incident. More information will be shared

as it becomes available.

“We owe it to the family, our personnel and the public to get this right. We are

committed to a complete and objective examination of the facts. Out of respect for those most affected, we will not engage in speculation or premature conclusions,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee

On July 2, 2025, Officer Cano and his partner arrested a suspect in possession of a large quantity of suspected illicit substances. The drugs seized during the incident were sent to a laboratory for evaluation and tested positive for illicit drugs. Crime analysis later confirmed the presence of fentanyl in the drugs submitted for screening.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★

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### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000184**  
The following persons are doing business as: Napo's Taqueria, 483 North Adams, Dixon, CA 95620.

Olga Lydia Roa Velazquez, 483 North Adams, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: February 2, 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 February 1, 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: Feb 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2026  
NAPOS 3-6-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000293**  
The following persons are doing business as: Balvary, 3936 Danbury Way, Fairfield, CA 94533 Jaspreet Kaur, 3936 Danbury Way, Fairfield, CA 94533.

Date filed in Solano County: February 19, 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 February 18, 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: March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026  
BALVARY 3-27-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000359**  
The following persons are doing business as: OP Auto, 497 Edison Court Suite C, Fairfield, CA 94534 OP Auto Group LLC, 497 Edison Court Suite C, Fairfield, CA 94534.

Date filed in Solano County: February 26, 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 February 25, 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: March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026  
OP 3-27-26

### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-00734**

Alex Villalobos-Tijero filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Alex Villalobos-Tijero to Alex Tijero.

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 pe-

tion 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 20, 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: February 11, 2026  
Publish: Feb 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2026  
TIJERO 3-20-26

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-00735**

Yvette Villalobos filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Yvette Villalobos to Yvette Tijero.

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 20, 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: February 11, 2026  
Publish: Feb 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2026  
VILLALOBOS 3-20-26

### TRUSTEE SALE

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-25-1026332-CL**

Order No.: 250587064-CA-VOI **YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 4/8/2022. 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, or cash equivalent if deemed acceptable to the trustee, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by 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 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. 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. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): **THOMAS E. CHAPMAN AND BRITTANY L. CHAPMAN, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS COMMUNITY PROPERTY WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP.** Recorded: 4/13/2022 as Instrument No. 202200026507 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of **SOLANO** County, California; Date of Sale: 4/1/2026 at 09:00 AM Place of Sale: **At the Santa Clara St. Entrance of the Vallejo City Hall, located at 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA 94590** Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$615,018.47** The purported property address is: **255 SCHOONER RIDGE CT, DIXON, CA 95620** Assessor's Parcel No. : **0108-252-150** All bidders, at the date, time, and place of the scheduled sale, will be required to show satisfactory support to the auctioneer of their ability to pay the amount they intend to bid, unless arrangements have been made with the trustee prior to the scheduled 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 **800-280-2832** for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-25-1026332-CL**. 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 website. 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 **619-645-7711**, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-25-1026332-CL** 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. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT:** Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE POST-SALE OVER BIDDERS:** For post-sale information in accordance with Section 2924m(e) of the California Civil Code, use file number CA-25-1026332-CL and call (866) 645-7711 or login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>. The above statutorily mandated notices to Tenant, Prospective Owner-Occupant, and Prospective Post-Sale Over Bidders are brief summaries of what may be required under Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. Compliance with all relevant provisions will be required. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. 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. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: **QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 FOR NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Post-Sale Information (CCC 2924m(e)): (866) 645-7711 Reinstatement or Payoff Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION TS No.: CA-25-1026332-CL** IDSPub #023126 2/20/2026 2/27/2026 3/6/2026  
DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 3-6-26

T.S. NO.: 251028906 Notice of Unified Trustee's Sale

Loan Number: 8390282101 APN: 0109-180-040 You Are In Default Under A Deed Of Trust Dated 7/31/2018 And Promissory Note And Loan Agreement Dated 7/31/2018. 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 Proceedings Against You, You Should Contact A Lawyer. On 3/19/2026, 9:30 AM, Total Lender Solutions, Inc., as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded on 8/29/2018, as Document No. 201800058519, Book, Page, of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of Solano, California, executed by Suneel Sharma, a married man, as his sole and separate property, as Trustor, Farm Credit West, FLCA, as Beneficiary. Will Sell At Public Auction To The Highest Bidder For Cash (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by Cash, a Cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At: Santa Clara Street entrance to City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California, describing the land therein:

The Southeast One Quarter Of Section 29, In Township 7 North, Range I East, MDB & M Excepting Therefrom That Portion Which Lies Within County Roads, Nos 318 And 560 Also Excepting Therefrom All That Portion Of Land Described In The Deed To State Of California Recorded July 6, 1944, Book 319, Page 530, Series No 5891, And All That Portion Described In The Deed To The State Of California, Recorded April 21, 1960, Book 1024, Page 445, Series No 7826 Also Excepting Therefrom Those Portion Of Land Described In The Grant Deeds To Solano Irrigation District, Both Which Recorded September 19, 1960, Book 1044, Page 279, Series No 18213 And Recorded September 19, 1960, Book 1044, Page 281, Series No 18214 A.P.N.: 0109-180-040 The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 5787 Midway Road Dixon Area, CA The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warrant, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by eum said Deed of trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Ifod trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trust created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$3,232,692.06 estimated. Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase the figure prior to sale. Beneficiary

hereby elects to conduct a unified foreclosure sale pursuant to the provisions of California Commercial Code section 9604, et seq., and to include in the non judicial foreclosure of the real property interest described in the Promissory Note and Loan Agreement dated 7/31/2018, between the original Trustor and the original beneficiary, as it may have been amended from time to time, and pursuant to any other instruments between the trustor and beneficiary referencing a security interest in personal property. Beneficiary reserves its right to evoke its election as to some or all of said personal property and/or fixtures, or to add additional personal property and/or fixtures to the election herein expressed, as Beneficiary's sole election, from time to time and at any time until the consummation of the Trustee's Sale to be conducted pursuant to the Deed of Trust and this Notice of Trustee's Sale. See the Deed of Trust, if applicable. The personal property which was given as security for trustor's obligation is described See Attached Exhibit "A" Solano County. No warranty is made that any or all of the personal property still exists or is available for the successful bidder and no warranty is made as to the condition of any of the personal property, which shall be sold "as is" "where is". The beneficiary under the Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned, a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a Written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the County here the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation 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 (877) 440-4460 or visit this Internet Web site [www.mkconsultantsinc.com](http://www.mkconsultantsinc.com), using the file number assigned to this case 251028906. 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. Please be advised that the trustee may require entity or trust bidders at this trustee's sale to provide information, documentation and/or certification of the vesting instructions and the data required to be reported pursuant to FinCEN regulations effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, Lor 2026. The required information must be provided to the trustee before a trustee's deed upon sale will be issued for covered transfers. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers> and [https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D\\_5](https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D_5) 2/10/2026 Total Lender Solutions, Inc. Rachel Seropian, Trustee Sale Officer Exhibit "A" (1) (A)

all wells, irrigation and drainage pumps, motors, pipes, windmills, frost protection equipment, center pivot irrigators, sprinklers, drip line and emitters, filters, water measurement meters and control structures and other watering and irrigation equipment; and (B) all other water equipment now or hereafter affixed to or installed in any manner on the real property ("Property") in Solano County, CA, as further described in Exhibit A to the deed of trust dated July 31, 2018, and between Debtor as trustor and Secured Party as beneficiary thereunder, to be recorded in the County, and which may be supplemented or amended from time to time, or used in connection with the operation of the Property (collectively "Water Equipment"); and (2) all now existing or after acquired rights, whether owned legally, of record, equitably or beneficially, to the diversion, storage, distribution and use of water, whether surface water, subterranean stream flow or groundwater, including but not limited to all riparian, appropriative, overlying, prescriptive rights, or otherwise, and whether or not appurtenant, now or hereafter relating or available to the Property or used in connection therewith including but not limited to all licenses, permits, decreed rights and any other water right of every kind or nature and that is appurtenant to, allocable to or used in connection with the Property (collectively "Water Rights"); and (3) all now existing or after acquired contractual entitlements or otherwise to the diversion, storage, distribution and use of water, whether surface water, subterranean stream flow or groundwater, including but not limited to all contractual entitlements arising under or derived from any contract with the United States of America, State of California, any political subdivision of the State of California or other state or any local public entity or private entity or otherwise applicable to the Property by virtue of being within the boundaries of any of the foregoing public or private entities or allocations for water not yet delivered and that is appurtenant to, allocable to or used in connection with the Property (collectively "Water Entitlements"); and (4) all now existing or after acquired shares, credits, interests or other rights in any water bank or other water storage facility or project, whether surface water, subterranean stream flow or groundwater and that is appurtenant to, allocable to or used in connection with the Property (collectively "Banking Rights"); and (5) all now existing or after acquired shares, and rights under such shares, of any private water company, mutual water company, ditch company or other non-governmental entity pursuant to which the Debtor or the Property may receive water (collectively "Private Water Entities") and any other certificated and uncertificated securities, securities entitlements, securities accounts and commodities accounts; together with all voting rights and other rights and privileges that now or hereafter may exist with respect to such stock or with respect to participation, membership, or other involvement in any such Private Water Entities and that is appurtenant to, allocable to or used in connection with the Property (collectively "Water Stock Rights"); and (6) all now existing or after acquired easements, permits, licenses, leases, contracts, grants, reservations and any other rights and entitlements, however created, to drill, install and maintain wells, pumps and pipeline systems, or to use, appropriate, pump, extract, receive, transport, store or transfer water for use on or the benefit of the Property and that are appurtenant to, allocable to or used in connection with the Property (collectively "Use Rights"); and (7) all now existing or after acquired rights, claims, causes of action, judgments, awards, and other judicial, arbitration or administrative relief in any way relating to the Water Equipment, Water Rights, Water Entitlements, Banking Rights, Water Stock Rights or Use Rights and appurtenant to, allocable to or used in connection with the Property; and (8) all proceeds in any way relating to the Water Equipment, Water Rights, Water Entitlements, Banking Rights, Water Stock Rights or Use Right

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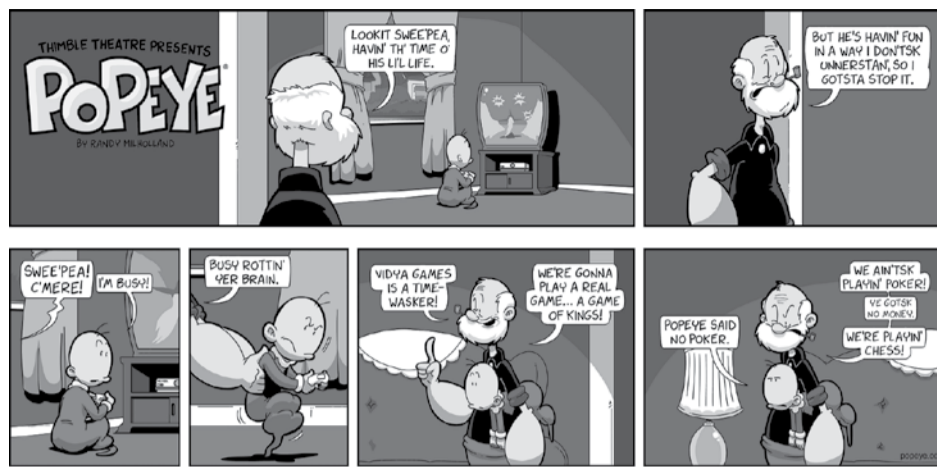
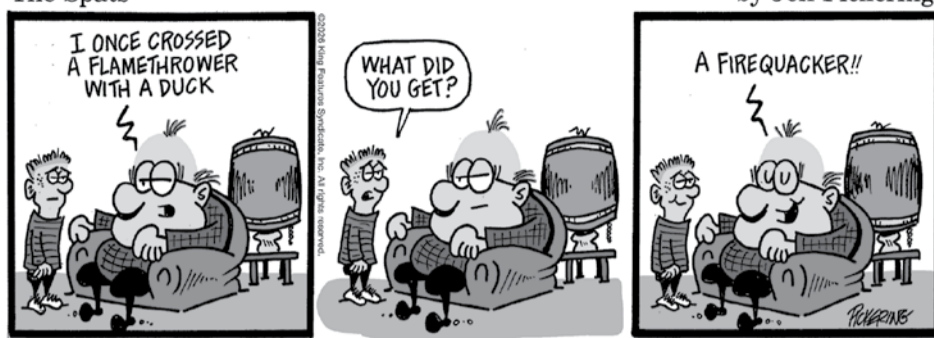
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# COMICS & PUZZLES

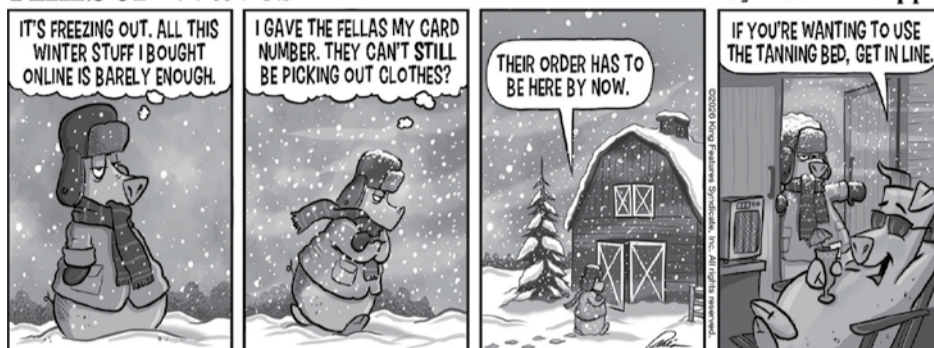
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## HOCUS-FOCUS

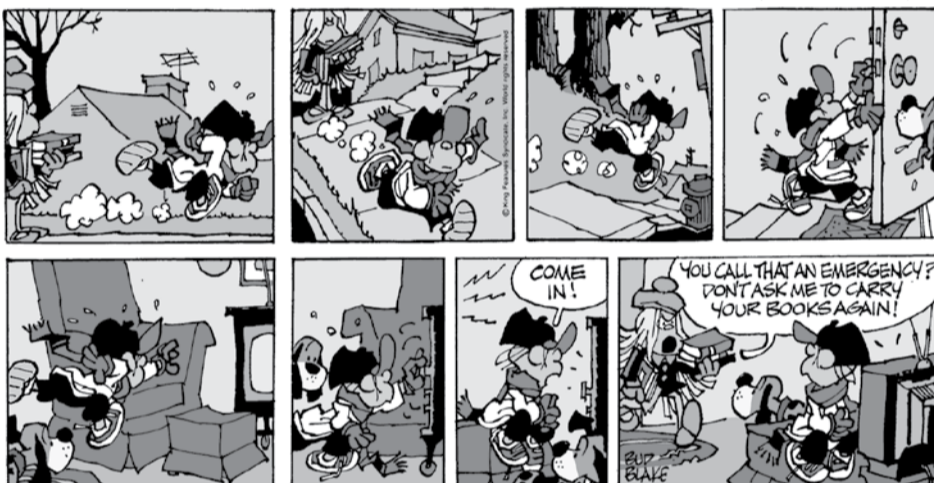
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## GRIN and BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



G	R	A	S	P		F	A	D		P	A	R	T	
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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Comprehend
- It has no staying power?
- Auditioner's hope
- Prevention measure?
- Ill temper
- Poetic although
- Brooke or John Jacob, of New York
- Downhill equipment
- Beau
- "What Was I Made For?" singer
- "Fast Car" singer
- Part of URL
- Peephole glance
- Morning drops
- 1920s art style
- Reduce, as in standing
- Big Bang's original matter
- Lad's counterpart
- Connection
- Milton Bradley's game
- Tea from certain region of India
- Some bent pipes
- Rose oil
- Zeus' wife
- Remove from a manuscript
- What bird did, homewise
- Hyperbolic sine
- "\_\_\_ and the City"
- Prejudice
- "Wow!"
- "Song Sung Blue" singer
- "I Just Called to Say I Love You" singer
- Barrel racing meet
- \_\_\_ Maria
- Shockingly graphic
- Not upright
- Bathtub libation
- Food contaminant
- W on a light bulb
- Consume
- Ayes

**DOWN**

- Former Portuguese colony in India
- Deceptive maneuver
- Naysayer's favorite prefix
- Upbraid
- 1/3rd of a hockey game
- Phish homophone
- One of Indiana's quests
- Prepare for winter takeoff
- Alka-Seltzer sound
- Nucleus plus electrons
- Actress Perlman
- Tattered's partner
- Rouse
- Inscribed pillar
- He had
- Own
- "Hurricane" singer
- Like March Madness' eight
- Hair extensions
- "Folsom Prison Blues" singer
- "Walk on the Wild Side" singer
- Wheel shafts
- Tutu fabric
- English county
- Source of protein
- Delhi wrap
- Popular lassi fruit
- Restart computer
- Clamor
- "The Boys of Summer" singer
- "Bad news travels fast", e.g.
- Draw a conclusion
- Pull out a pistol
- Letter before kappa
- Type of mine passage
- Cheesy sandwich
- Hit the road
- Cupid's counterpart
- Rub the wrong way
- Road, in Rome
- Bad-mouth, haugily

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# Garamendi Joins Thompson, Costa in Hosting Roundtable for AG Community

**Congressman John Garamendi News Release**

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Congressman John Garamendi (CA-08) joined Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04), Rep. Jim Costa (CA-21) recently to host an agriculture roundtable with local farmers, ranchers, processors and ag leaders to discuss the ag community's needs and how Congress can help deliver for them.

"I thank everyone who participated in this important discussion about the pressures on the agriculture industry due to Trump's

harmful policies, unnecessary tariffs and cuts to food assistance. California is America's garden basket, and I'm proud to stand with Rep. Thompson and Rep. Costa to champion commonsense policies that give California farmers a solid foundation for success," said Rep. Garamendi.

"Agriculture is not just an industry in California — our ag community is the backbone of our economy and the heart of our communities," said Rep. Thompson. "Right now, our ag community needs support. Tariffs are hammering farmers,

ranchers and processors. Not to mention the regulatory burdens, water issues and infrastructure needs that urgently need to be addressed. Thank you to Rep. Costa, Rep. Garamendi, and every ag community member who showed up to discuss with us their needs and how Congress can help. It's past time Congress pass a Farm Bill 2.0 that feeds our communities and meets the tremendous needs of our agriculture community."

"Great to join Rep. Mike Thompson, Rep. John Garamendi, and leaders of our agricultural community for this

critical conversation. Farmers, ranchers and dairymen and women are paying the price for this administration's irresponsible agricultural trade policies and Congress must intervene to make things right and ensure our agricultural community can thrive. Thanks to everyone who joined us to make your voices heard," said Rep. Costa.

The representatives were joined by over 50 guests, including members of the California Farm Bureau, Sacramento Farm Bureau, Napa Farm Bureau, Yolo Farm Bureau, Solano Farm Bureau, Colusa Farm Bureau and

Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau and ag researchers from UC Davis, almond farmers, grape growers, peach growers, cattle ranchers, ag finance professionals and others in the ag community.

California lost 400 farms in 2025 as growers, ranchers, producers and processors faced rising operational costs and a shortage of workers largely caused by the president's policies on immigration and his international trade war. These challenges come at a time when the ag community is already facing challenges accessing water and navigating regulations. ★

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# Riley Reviews

“HOW TO MAKE A KILLING” AIMS TO BE BLACK COMEDY MYSTERY

**A Film and TV Review**  
by Tim Riley

## A Stage Set For Villains

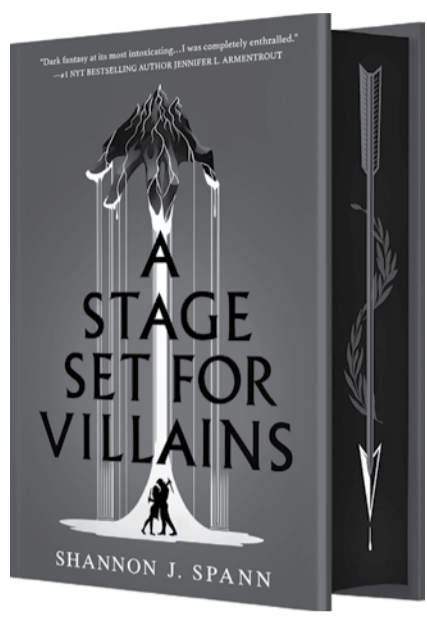
by Shannon J. Spann

The Playhouse is known for its performers. Performers that are like Gods themselves, charming their audience to worship them through their immortal godlike qualities and their ability to bend reality to their will.

Riven Hesper knows this more than anyone else, after her own interaction with a player as a child. Now she is stuck, cursed, and slowly dying. Without hesitation, Riven joins the competition in hopes to trade her life for one of the infamous

and immortal Players. But this simple action, throws herself in the path of the lead player, Jude. He's brilliant, beautiful, and merciless, and cunningly strikes a bargain to save her life. However, Riven is strong, defiant, and has never been one to follow the script, and has a plan of her own.

But when the Playhouse announces the chance to steal a Player's immortality, Riven sees her chance to live. It's the opportunity of a lifetime, especially for Riven, who is slowly losing her life. As time starts to run out, the Playhouse's secrets start to unravel, and Riven starts to learn it's not what she thought. The Playhouse is darker and more villainous than she ever imagined, and now, instead of trying to break the curse, she



◆ Publisher: Entangled, Mayhem Books  
◆ Intended Audience: Mature YA/ New Adult  
◆ Release Date: February 3, 2026

must survive the final act.

Described as “Caraval meets One Dark Window,” A Stage Set for Villains is a deep dark riveting ride straight onto a villainous stage.

A stage set for Villains is a front row ticket to the Playhouse, taking a glimpse behind the curtain, but be warned, these secrets are not meant for mortal eyes, and the players are always watching.

The book's premise sets readers up for an emotionally charged reading experience. Nothing is as it seems, or as promised; it is so much more, and readers are led to feel like they are getting a dangerous peek behind a forbidden curtain.

Shannon J. Spann takes readers on a unique dark fantasy that blends underlying romance elements alongside an alternative magical reality set within a Playhouse. Strong, compelling, sharp-tongued, and quick-witted characters, along with an original storyline, will keep readers engaged throughout the pages. A story that is fun, complex, and leaves readers feeling like they have uncovered a deep dark secret, that is to remain hidden. With its powerful plot twists and smoldering drama, this book is one to read, and Spann, as a debut author, is one to watch. ★



## Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

### Setting Priorities

Do you have priorities? If not, why not? If so, do you know what they are? Priorities are important for several reasons. They give your life direction. They help you make decisions. They enable you to focus on what is important and not be distracted by that which is irrelevant.

Priorities are very personal. They have to be your own, not imposed on you by someone else. You can have a number of priorities, each of differing importance. Some areas of priority may be family, career, planning for retirement, security, independence, friends, or recreation. It doesn't matter what your priorities are so long as they work for you without causing stress and strife.

The major decisions you make should be compatible with your priorities. Let's say your number one priority is your friends. If you subsequently get married and have children without making them your highest priority, you will have a lot of conflict. This doesn't mean your friends can't be important. They can't come before your family without having negative consequences.

When you allow yourself to be pressured into something that isn't in line with your priorities, you have a good chance of being unhappy. Katie is single, in her early 30's, with a career she loves. She doesn't have much interest in getting married or having a family. Her parents, however, have a different outlook. They strongly believe Katie should get married, settle down, and start a family.

Katie can't change her priorities just because her parents want her to. If she does, it will be difficult for her to be happy. Although it's difficult to resist pressure from parents, spouses, relatives, and close friends, capitulating usually leads to regret. Anyone who makes significant choices based on the desires of others, that are in conflict with their own priorities, is bound to be frustrated.

Being aware of your priorities helps

you make decisions you are happy with. Jim lives and works in the same rural town he grew up in. His parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, and uncles, all reside within an hour from him. Jim could make a lot more money and have many more career choices if he moved to a big city.

For Jim, being close to family is his main priority. His job is not that important to him. Jim got a call from a college friend offering him a job that paid more than twice what he was currently making. The only requirement was that he relocate to a city two thousand miles away. Jim turned down the offer because it was incompatible with his priorities.

Your priorities can, and often do, change over time. Carol and Bob's three kids are now grown with families of their own. Each has moved to a different area of the country. For the past 30 years, raising their children were Carol and Bob's main priority. Now their focus has turned to preparing for retirement and spending more time with each other.

If you don't know what your priorities are, take time to discover them. Try to avoid making major decisions, especially irreversible ones, until you really understand what is important to you.

Some people know their priorities from a relatively young age. Others need time to figure things out. Whichever group you are in is OK. If you are in the second group, make the effort to explore different options to help you discover your priorities. Don't just claim you don't know what you want and leave it at that. Being in touch with your priorities will serve you for a lifetime.

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

“HOW TO MAKE A KILLING” Rated R  
The tag line on the poster for “How to Make a Killing” reads “\$28 billion inheritance. 7 relatives standing in the way.” What can this movie be other than a crime story of avarice and despair?

An answer to the question arrives when the film opens with Becket Redfellow (Glen Powell), a death row inmate, waiting for an execution that is only four hours away, and a priest (Sean C. Michael) visits to hear his final confession.

The black comedy aspect of this story is partly that Becket seems rather blasé about his impending doom. Being rather annoyed that the dessert of his last meal is a cheesecake missing the flavor he requested suggests Becket is fatalistic in his last moments.

Flashbacks ensue when it is revealed that Becket's unwed teenage mother was rejected by her wealthy family when she resisted their entreaties to have an abortion. Instead, she's denied staying in the lap of luxury and ends up living in a low-rent area of New Jersey, struggling as a single mom.

Years later she dies, leaving a young Becket an orphan who is also not accepted by his ultra-rich family. Working in the retail business for a clothing store as a young adult, Becket starts thinking about what his life could have been if not abandoned by relatives.

During his childhood, Becket's mother (Nell Williams) grappled with a modest lifestyle but nevertheless surrounded her son with trappings of an upper-class upbringing with archery and piano lessons, all the while filling his head with how he deserves a share of the family's billions.

Studying the family tree, he sees cousins and uncles that are in the way of a legacy that goes all the way to the patriarch of the Redfellow clan, his grandfather Whitelaw (Ed Harris) that he's never met.

Even after he no longer works at the upscale Manhattan men's shop, his ambition takes him to Wall Street, where he learns the ropes in the world of high finance, and that's because his Uncle Warren (Bill Camp), the only decent Redfellow, lends a hand.

Catching on quickly to the ways of the Financial District of Lower Manhattan, Becket might do quite well on his own, but then his old childhood friend Julia (Margaret Qualley) comes back into his life.

Julia is engaged to be married, but she

dangles the idea in front of Becket that he should come calling once he's inherited the Redfellow fortune. Bordering on the psychotic appears to be an operating principle for avaricious Julia. Her smile alone is a dead giveaway of her intentions.

While his kind uncle is not a desirable target, Becket finds it easier to look at his cousins that are hardly sympathetic figures. First on the list is the obnoxious playboy Taylor (Raff Law), an excellent swimmer who supposedly drowns accidentally off his yacht at sea.

The pretentious artist Noah (Zach Woods) thinks his avant-garde work will put him in a class of renowned painters. More odious is slimy megachurch leader Steven (Topher Grace), whose violent temper is a sign of a man lacking grace.

A pair of FBI agents keeps showing up at times with suspicion that Becket is somehow involved, but never with any evidence that could hold up, and Becket manages to keep any emotions in check.

Astute cinephiles, the kind of film buffs who watch Turner Classic Movies, will likely reference the 1949 British black comedy crime film “Kind Hearts and Coronets” as inspiration for this contemporary work by writer and director John Patton Ford.

Dennis Price played the role of Louis Mazzini, the son of a woman disowned by her aristocratic family for marrying beneath her social class. After her death, a vengeful Louis decides to murder the eight people ahead of him in the line of succession.

In a display of versatile capability, noted actor Alec Guinness, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, played eight members of the D'Ascoyne family. Other twists in the crime spree inform this reimagining of this classic film.

The enjoyment of “How to Make a Killing” may depend on how much one appreciates the role Glen Powell plays. It's interesting to note that Powell was previously a fake assassin in “Hit Man,” and here he's fully committed to being a serial killer, for the most part.

Aside from Powell, the next most compelling character is Margaret Qualley's Julia, a femme fatale who's a real snake. On the other hand, the other woman in Becket's life is Ruth (Jessica Henwick), who is kind and shows no interest in the family fortune.

As much as “How to Make a Killing” wants to be dark satire about wealth and privilege, it's also a cautionary tale of what you wish for, and how failing to have a moral compass is no way to live. ★

### Beekeepers Assess This Year's Colony Health

With California's almond pollination season underway, beekeepers from around the country have journeyed to the Central Valley for the six-week-long bloom. While beekeepers have not seen the devastating hive mortality this winter that they did in 2025, they say they're still losing colonies. “Things are looking OK, but we won't really know until the end of bloom,” said Ryan Burris, California State Beekeepers Association president and a Palo Cedro beekeeper and queen breeder. “It sounds like the numbers are better, but some people still lost a lot of bees.” Beekeepers nationwide made headlines in the 2024-25 winter when they reported an average of 62% colony losses. With increasing production costs and depressed honey prices, many beekeepers said the current situation is not sustainable economically. “It's very, very difficult,” Burris said.

### Subpar Snowpack Pushes Back Crop Plans for Farmers

Despite a strong start to California's wet season, snowpack conditions remain below average. A deficient snowpack could mean less water available for summer irrigation, threatening to cut surface water deliveries to farmers. San Joaquin Valley farmer Aaron Barcellos said the uncertainty has impacted his crop planning, forcing him to consider not planting any cotton for the first time in nearly four decades. “I can't afford to take the risk from an economic standpoint that I'm going to put a valuable water resource on a crop that may not end up having enough

water to finish,” Barcellos said. He added, “That could change if pricing gets better or if we get a better allocation than we're expecting right now.” Jay Lund, vice director of the University of California, Davis, Center for Watershed Sciences, said there is still a chance more storms will boost snowpack levels to average before April, when they typically peak.

### Survey Finds Raids Impacted California Farm Production

A new statewide survey has shed light on the impact during the past year of immigration enforcement on farms and farmworkers in California. The California Farmer Immigration Enforcement Survey, which was conducted by researchers at Michigan State University in partnership with the California Farm Bureau, is the first of its kind to assess the impact of the Trump administration's mass deportation agenda on California farms. “We were really interested in understanding whether there have been labor shortages as a result of recent immigration enforcement,” said Zachariah Rutledge, assistant professor and extension specialist at Michigan State University. More than 500 farmers from across 50 counties responded to the survey, which was conducted in late 2025 and early 2026. “There were very few reports of direct immigration enforcement activities on farms,” Rutledge said. “There was more anxiety and fear among the farming community as a result of general immigration enforcement efforts more broadly.” ★

# Fool's Gold?

*California has waged a quiet, persistent campaign against the indispensable ingredients of a successful modern economy*

By Garvin Walsh, California Globe

California has long been known as the Golden State. In 1968 the Legislature made the nickname official, capturing a fitting label for a place associated with promise and prosperity. Yet over the past two decades, political choices have fostered habits that are steadily tarnishing that brand.

California entered the United States in 1848 after the Mexican-American War. The Gold Rush brought explosive population growth, and by 1850 California was admitted as the 31st state. What followed was a remarkable modern era marked by sustained population increases and world-leading economic expansion. Natural resources, agriculture, industry, tourism and technological innovation powered the rise. For generations, Californians shared a broad optimism grounded in individual enterprise and upward mobility.

Those days are gone. For years the state has waged a quiet but persistent campaign against the three indispensable ingredients of any successful modern economy: capital, energy, and individual initiative.

The pattern is clear. Capital is treated with hostility rather than respect. Investors and employers operate within an intensifying regulatory thicket – layered mandates, expanding compliance regimes, and punitive taxation. Starting or expanding a business in California requires navigating a complex maze that deters many would-be builders. When companies relocate, shelve projects, or choose not to launch here at all, our California dreams are stifled. Capital is mobile. It flows toward stability and predictability and away from hostility.

Energy policy reflects the same mindset. Affordable, reliable power is the lifeblood of a sophisticated economy. California is rich in energy resources, yet policy has inhibited their development in favor of ideological signaling. The result is paradoxical: a resource-rich state that

imports much of its energy, burdening residents with the highest costs in the nation. Infrastructure projects stall under litigation

and review. Mandates drive costly investments with marginal returns. Industry, agriculture, transportation, and households absorb the burden. The implicit assumption seems to be that markets and physics will yield to aspiration. They do not. Individual initiative suffers as well. The small contractor delayed by permits. The restaurateur juggling wage mandates, benefit requirements, and inspection rules. The

entrepreneur deciding where to incorporate and hire. The cumulative message is unmistakable: ambition is narrowly constrained by distant regulators. Over time, that message dulls the instinct to build. Families and businesses vote with their feet.

This trajectory is especially short-sighted because California's expansive public sector depends entirely on private enterprise. Government does not generate wealth; it redistributes what the private sector produces. Tax revenue arises from payrolls, profits, property values, and capital gains.

Schools, infrastructure, social services, and environmental programs rest on taxable economic activity. Even nonprofits and advocacy organizations rely on private wealth. Philanthropy presupposes profit. Grants presuppose tax receipts. Redistribution presupposes production.

Eroding the base while enlarging the superstructure defies economic arithmetic.

For much of the past twenty years, one party has held overwhelming control in Sacramento. The Democratic supermajority has shaped the current policy framework and

housing shortages, business outmigration, and budget volatility tied to a narrow band of high earners.

This is not a claim that Republicans would govern without fault. Concentrated power tempts any party. A Republican supermajority would display its own excesses. The structural problem is dominance itself. When competition fades, correction slows. Insulation breeds certainty and corruption, and invites overreach.

California's identity was forged not by bureaucratic choreography but by the confidence that individuals, given room to act, would generate prosperity sufficient to support both private ambition and public goods. That confidence has been replaced by suspicion of the very mechanisms that built the state. The opportunity culture of the Golden State has morphed into a system of constraint.

Extending the metaphor, the old fable of the golden goose endures because it captures a timeless truth. A productive economy yields steady returns when allowed to function. Overburden it, squeeze it, or treat it as an adversary, and output declines. Destroy it, and the stream of benefits ends.

California earned its golden reputation because millions mined, farmed, engineered, manufactured, financed, coded, and invented. They converted natural advantage into sustained growth. If leadership continues to treat capital, energy, and initiative as liabilities rather than assets, the shine will continue to fade.

Rotation in power would not solve every problem. It would, however, restore accountability. And accountability – more than rhetoric – is what keeps a golden state from becoming fool's gold. ★



California has long been known as the Golden State. For generations, Californians shared a broad optimism grounded in individual enterprise and upward mobility. Photo courtesy of Grok/California Globe

therefore owns its outcomes: rising living costs, chronic

## Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk to Retire After 33 Years



Chuck Lomeli announced Feb. 27 that he will retire Dec. 28, after 33 years in public service, including 28 years as Solano County's elected Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk. Photo courtesy of Solano County

### Solano County News Release

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Chuck Lomeli announced Feb. 27 that he will retire Dec. 28, after 33 years in public service, including 28 years as Solano County's elected Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk.

"Serving this community has been the honor of my professional life," said Lomeli. "I remain deeply grateful for the trust the residents of Solano County

have placed in me over the years."

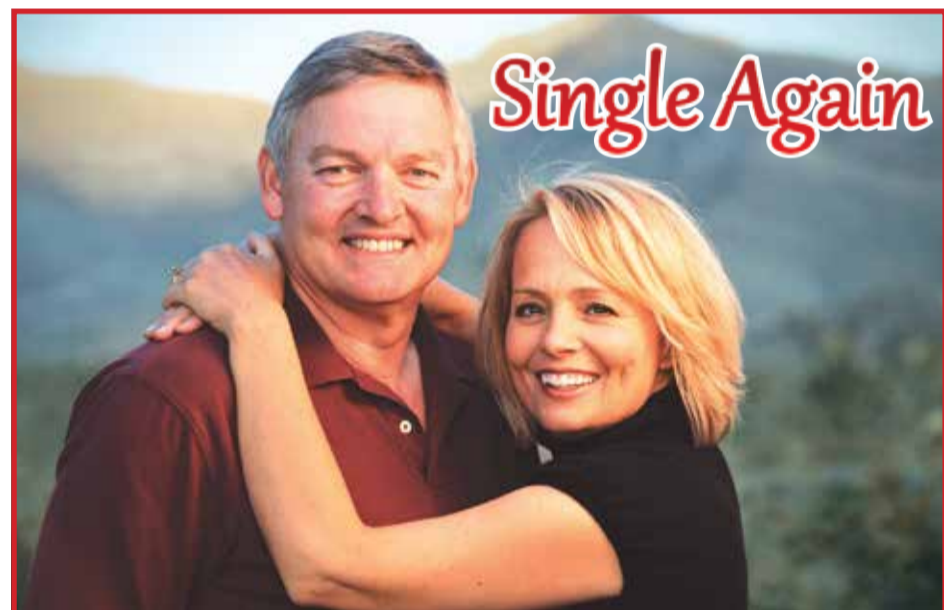
Over the past three decades, the Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk's Office built a culture grounded in integrity, accountability and public service. Lomeli said the department's success reflects the dedication of staff who work diligently, often behind the scenes, to deliver essential services efficiently and professionally to Solano County residents.

Under Lomeli's leadership, the department modernized and strengthened core public services. The office implemented new technologies to improve efficiency and taxpayer access, expanded online payment and service options, enhanced the security of public records and reinforced internal controls to safeguard public funds. The department also navigated economic downturns, adapted to changing state regulations and responded to unprecedented challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, while

maintaining stable operations and protecting the county's financial resources.

As he prepares for retirement, Lomeli expressed confidence in the department's continued strength and leadership. He endorsed Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk Denise Dix in her bid to become the next elected Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk. Dix devoted 26 years to the office, rising through the ranks based on merit and leadership. For the past two years, she has served as Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk, overseeing major operational areas.

Lomeli thanked current and former employees for their dedication and lasting contributions to the community, noting that the office's impact reaches far beyond the walls of the department. He said Solano County has always been more than a workplace to him, it is a community he cares deeply about, and that serving as Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk has been one of the greatest honors of his life. ★



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