

**HAPPY  
St. Patrick's  
DAY**

*Learn About  
Spiders at the  
Bohart Museum  
of Entomology*  
PAGE 2



# Dixon Independent Voice

The Official Newspaper of Record for the City of Dixon

VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 11

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

MARCH 13, 2026

**SEE  
INSIDE**

**DIXON HIGH IN  
SPRING MUSICAL**



PAGE 3

**SACRAMENTO  
STATE IS JOINING  
THE MID-AMERICAN  
CONFERENCE**



PAGE 9

**LUPITA CASILLAS  
JOINS FIRST  
NORTHERN BANK**



PAGE 5

## Little League Opens Season



The 2026 season for Dixon Little League began March 6 and 7, with the first games played March 6, and an opening-day ceremony the morning of March 7 that brought players, families, and volunteers together at the community's ballfields. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The 2026 season for Dixon Little League began March 6 and 7 with the first games played March 6 and an opening day ceremony the morning of March 7 that brought players, families and volunteers together at the community's ballfields.

League President Ricky Rodarte said the new season marks a milestone for the youth baseball program, which is fielding the largest number of teams and players in its history.

"We have a record-



League President Ricky Rodarte said the new season marks a milestone for the youth baseball program, which is fielding the largest number of teams and players in its history. According to league officials, 41 teams with just under 500 players are participating this season, roughly 100 more than the previous year. Photo by Nicolas Brown

setting number of teams and players this year – the most kids we've ever had participate in Dixon Little

League," said Rodarte. "It's also the first time we've had multiple teams in our older divisions, including Juniors (14U) and 50/70 (13U). Seeing that growth, especially with our older players continuing to stay involved in the program, is something we're really excited about."

According to league officials, 41 teams with just under 500 players are participating this season, roughly 100 more than the previous year.

The first games of the season were played on the

Continued on page 10

## Council Approves Development Agreement for Dixon Wellness

By Shaunna Boyd

DIXON, CA (MPG) - At the Dixon City Council meeting on March 3, Mayor Steven Bird conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Fire Chief Randy Shafer.

Chief Shafer said he does not take the responsibility lightly, as this is not just a career, "it's a calling." He promised to lead with "integrity, accountability and dedication. ... Thank you for the trust you've placed in me."

During public comment, Yvonne McClusky said that when her grandson, Private First-Class Tanner Rubio, was killed last December at the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base, Chief Shafer insisted on driving her to meet the airplane bringing home Rubio's remains. She delivered an emotional statement of support for Shafer, calling him "a man of compassion, integrity and most of all caring for someone who meant so much to us."

The council then considered an updated development agreement with Dixon Wellness, a retail cannabis dispensary that has been operating in the city since 2017.

Recent updates to the city's cannabis pilot program made development agreements optional but can allow a business to negotiate a more favorable public benefit fee.

Under the prior agreement, Dixon Wellness paid a public benefit fee of 5 percent of gross receipts or \$30,000 per month, whichever was greater. This high rate has been a challenge for cannabis businesses to meet, since the price of cannabis has decreased significantly since recreation use was first legalized.

The new development agreement for Dixon Wellness would require a public benefit fee of 7 percent of gross receipts or \$15,000 per month, whichever is greater. The agreement is for a four-year term, renewable up to six years. Other changes include an allowance to conduct local deliveries, pending approval of an updated security plan.

Community Development Director Raffi Boloyan said Dixon Wellness has been operating in good standing for many years: "We have not had any issues or concerns with their operation ... It's a successful business that's doing good for the city."

Dixon Wellness CEO

Continued on page 6

## FFA Hosts Third Annual Car Show



The event was held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 28 and, according to organizers, included about 60 vehicles, representing a variety of styles and eras. Photo courtesy of Dixon FFA



Students from Dixon FFA hosted the third annual car show and tri-tip fundraiser Feb. 28 at Dixon High School, 555 College Way, drawing dozens of vehicles and community members to campus during an event organized largely by students. Photo courtesy of Dixon FFA

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Students from Dixon FFA hosted the third annual car show and tri-tip fundraiser Feb. 28 at Dixon High School, 555 College Way, drawing dozens of vehicles and community members to campus during an event organized largely by students.

The event was held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and, according to organizers, included about 60 vehicles, representing a variety of styles and eras.

Maria Torres, an agriculture teacher

and adviser for the school's FFA chapter, said the idea for the event originated with a student three years ago.

"The car show was a student-inspired and motivated event," said Torres. "This is truly because of Cole Jacobson. He was a senior three years ago now, my first year at Dixon. He was a chapter officer and secretary."

Jacobson approached teachers with the concept after researching how a car show could be hosted on campus.

"When he introduced the idea, I jumped in," said Torres. "He needed

an advisor to take on the event, and we had our first-ever event that February."

The show has since become part of the chapter's annual activities during National FFA Week, serving as a closing event for the weeklong celebration of agricultural education and student leadership.

Torres said organizing the car show gives students opportunities to develop leadership and planning skills.

Continued on page 10



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

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

[www.IndependentVoice.com](http://www.IndependentVoice.com)

# Women's Improvement Club Hosts 'Food as Medicine' Presentation



## Dixon Women's Improvement Club News Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon Women's Improvement Club will host a presentation at 1 p.m. March 18, featuring Christine Katzenmeyer, registered dietitian. The event will take place in the Fellowship Hall of the Dixon Methodist Church, 209 Jefferson St.

Katzenmeyer works with Innovative Health Solutions, where she develops medically tailored meal plans designed

to support individuals managing chronic or complex health conditions. Her work emphasizes a "food as medicine" approach, helping patients use nutrition to improve long-term health outcomes.

Her presentation will explore key factors that influence longevity, including genetics, lifestyle choices, access to quality healthcare, social connections and environmental conditions. Community members are invited to attend what promises to be an informative and engaging discussion. ★

Dixon Women's Improvement Club will host a presentation at 1 p.m. March 18, featuring Christine Katzenmeyer, Registered Dietitian. The event will take place in the Fellowship Hall of the Dixon Methodist Church, 209 Jefferson St. Photo courtesy of Dixon Women's Improvement Club

# Learn About Spiders at the Bohart Museum of Entomology

## UC Davis Press Release

**DAVIS, CA (MPG)** -- The Bohart Museum of Entomology will host an open house, themed "Eight-Legged Encounters," from 1 to 4 p.m. March 15.

Chairing the event, which is free and family friendly, are doctoral candidate Emma "Em" Jochim of the Jason Bond lab and UC Davis alumnus Felix Duley, a Bohart Museum intern.

The open house will take place both in Room 1124 of the Academic Surge Building, 455 Crocker Lane, and in the hallway.

"We will have live arachnids -- scorpions, tarantulas, a vinegaroon and a whip spider -- and will do live feedings," said Jochim. "The scorpion will be a desert hairy scorpion. We'll have Peaches, a Chilean rose-hair tarantula, and we'll have some native Aphonopelma species. We will also have preserved specimens and will be answering questions people have about arachnids."

At the live petting zoo, to be set up in the hallway, visitors can hold Madagascar hissing cockroaches and stick insects, also known as walking sticks. Peaches, the rose-haired tarantula, is a fixture at the zoo, but is not available to be held by the public. The species is native to the grasslands of Chile, Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay.

Also in the Academic Surge Building hallway, visitors will learn about the different types of silk that spiders can make. Microscopes will be set up to see the specimens.

The family craft activity will involve "model magic clay so people can create their own arachnids to take home!" said Jochim.

Jochim is the lead author of internationally acclaimed research published last October in the journal "Evolution and Ecology" about a newly discovered species of trapdoor spider that inhabits coastal sand dunes stretching from Monterey to California Baja, Mexico. Jochim and colleagues analyzed genomic DNA from two trapdoor spiders thought to be the same species, Aptostichus simu, and discovered they are not.

Bond, director of the Bohart Museum and the Evert and Marion Schlinger Endowed Chair in Insect Systematics and executive associate dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, named the new species Aptostichus ramirezae after arachnologist Martina Giselle Ramirez, dean of the College of Science at California State

University, Stanislaus.

The research article, titled "Speciation Pattern and Process in the California Coastal Dune Endemic Trapdoor Spider Aptostichus simus (Mygalomorphae: Euctenizidae) and Description of a New Cryptic Species," is the work of Bond, Jochim, research scientist James Starrett and Hanna Briggs, a 2025 UC Davis entomology graduate.

Trapdoor spiders are so named because they construct their burrows with a corklike or wafer trap door made of soil, vegetation and silk. With the recent discovery, there are now four known species of trapdoor spiders in California that live in coastal dune habitats.

"My passion for studying spiders comes from how diverse and widespread they are," said Jochim. "They are found on every continent except Antarctica and occupy almost every terrestrial niche! I think mygalomorphs are especially cool because of their larger sizes and long-life spans -- the oldest known trapdoor spider was 40 years old!"

Arachnophobia is a common phobia, but there are five good reasons to like spiders, says Bond, who serves as the president of the American Arachnological Association.

Spiders consume 400-800 million tons of prey, mostly insects, each year. Humans consume somewhere around 400 million tons of meat and fish each year.

Spider silk is one of the strongest naturally occurring materials. Spider silk is stronger than steel, stronger and stretchier than Kevlar; a pencil thick strand of spider silk could be used to stop a Boeing 747 in flight.

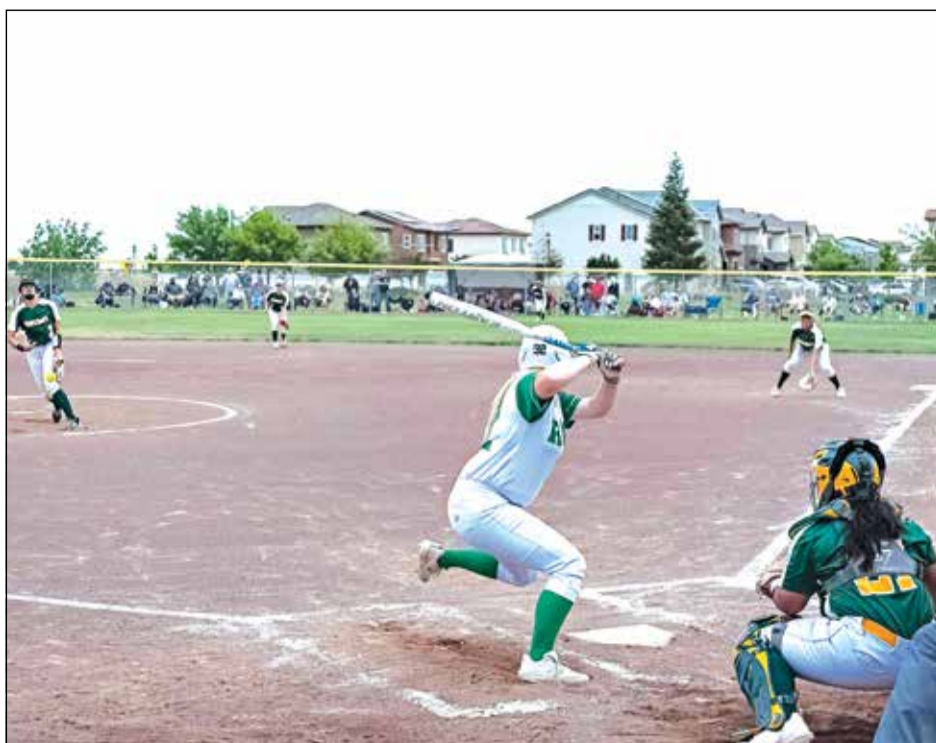
Some spiders are incredibly fast -- able to run up to 70 body lengths per second (10 times faster than Usain Bolt).

Although nearly all 47,000-plus spider species have venom used to kill their insect prey, very few actually have venom that is harmful to humans.

Some spiders are really good parents -- wolf spider moms carry their young on their backs until they are ready to strike out on their own; female trapdoor spiders keep their broods safe inside their burrows often longer than one year, and some female jumping spiders even nurse their spiderlings with a protein-rich substance comparable to milk.

For more information on the open house, contact [bmuseum@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bmuseum@ucdavis.edu). ★

# Dixon News Briefs



Dixon Girls Softball is hosting a bingo night at 1 p.m. March 22. Held at Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St., the event includes 10 games and raffle prizes as well as pizza, salad, soda and bottled waters for \$20 per person. Doors open at 1 p.m. with games beginning at 2 p.m. 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Dixon Girls Softball Bingo Night

Dixon Girls Softball is hosting a bingo night at 1 p.m. March 22. Held at Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St., the event includes 10 games and raffle prizes as well as pizza, salad, soda and bottled waters for \$20 per person. Doors open at 1 p.m. with games beginning at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit the Dixon Girls Softball Facebook page or email [info@dixongirlssoftball.com](mailto:info@dixongirlssoftball.com)

### Ribbon Cutting

Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Realtor Kevin Johnson and JohnsonGroupCA from 5 to 6 p.m. March 18. Held at 409 W. C St., the event will introduce the community to another business in Dixon's historic downtown.

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

### Read to a Dog

Dixon Library is hosting Read to a Dog from 3 to 4 p.m. March 16. Hosted at the library, 230 N. First St., the activity provides children ages five to 12 with the opportunity to read aloud to certified therapy dogs. The program offers a relaxed, non-judgmental environment aimed at improving reading fluency and building positive reading experiences.

For more information, visit [solanolibrary.com](http://solanolibrary.com) or call 1-866-572-7587. ★

**SOLANO COUNTY Home & Garden Show**

MARCH 21 & 22, 2026  
SAT & SUN  
10AM-4PM  
DIXON FAIRGROUNDS

NEW FOR 2026!  
**Show & Shine CAR SHOW**

Bring the Kids!  
Family fun awaits!

PRESENT THIS COUPON TO RECEIVE  
**\$3 OFF**  
ONE (1) GENERAL ADMISSION TICKET  
MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER COUPONS OR DISCOUNTS.

**AHMED HASSAN**  
The Original Host of HGTV's "Yard Crashers" Will Host Demos/Workshops and Q&A Saturday & Sunday

SPONSORED BY  
Greiner, LOWE'S, ACORN RENTS, AHMAD HASSAN Landscape Services

**SOLANOHOME SHOW.COM**  
DIXON FAIRGROUNDS • 655 S 1ST ST • DIXON

**Fisk's Cyclery**  
"Your family bike shop since 1976"

**FULL SERVICE BIKE SHOP**

**Professional Affordable Repairs**  
**FAST SERVICE!**

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

**539 N. Adams St., Dixon • 707.678.4330**  
[fiskscyclery.com](http://fiskscyclery.com)

# Dixon Community Theater and Dixon High in Spring Musical

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Community Theater is preparing for a series of spring productions and events following the conclusion of its first show of the year, as the nonprofit organization continues its mission to expand access to performing arts in the community.

The theater staged its winter production, "The House of Frankenstein," in late February under the direction of David Cripe. The production closed March 1 and marked the organization's first performance of 2026.

With that show complete, the theater is turning its focus to several upcoming events, beginning with a one-night benefit concert later in March.

The Villains Benefit Concert is scheduled for 6 p.m. March 29 and will feature performers from across the region performing songs made famous by stage antagonists. Proceeds from the event will support the theater's upcoming musical productions during the 2026 season.

According to the organization, the concert will highlight vocal performances from Angi Wolf, Jenn Clossick, Adrianna Butcher, John Evans, Rodney Chaney, Sierra Sheehan, Amaralyn Ewey, Taylor Quist, Gina Lloyd, Barrett Shepherd, Amanda Bistolfo and Stevie Carr.

Tickets for the concert are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and children 12 and under.

Later in the spring, the theater will stage its next major production, Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," with performances scheduled from April 24 through May 3 at the Dixon Performing Arts Center, 555 College Way.

Showtimes include 7 p.m. April 24; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. April 25; 2 p.m. April 26; 7 p.m. May 1; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. May 2; and 2 p.m. May 3.

The musical will be presented through a special arrangement



Dixon Community Theater is preparing for a series of spring productions and events following the conclusion of its first show of the year, as the nonprofit organization continues its mission to expand access to performing arts in the community. Photo courtesy of Dixon Community Theater

with Concord Theatricals on behalf of the Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization.

The production will be directed by Lydia Smith, who has nearly a decade of experience performing, producing and directing in community theater productions in Sacramento, Los Angeles and Rome, Italy. Smith's previous directing work includes a university production of Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap." She has also produced several operas, including "The Merry Wives of Windsor," "The Barber of Seville," "Rigoletto" and "Die Fledermaus."

The upcoming production will also involve a partnership with Dixon High School and the Dixon Unified School District, allowing students to participate both on stage and behind the scenes.

Through the collaboration, student performers will appear



Later in the spring, the theater will stage its next major production, Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," with performances scheduled from April 24 through May 3 at the Dixon Performing Arts Center, 555 College Way. The organization is also hosting a Cinderella coloring contest starting March 15. Photo by Nicolas Brown

alongside experienced actors in the musical. Students interested in production work will also have the opportunity to apply for apprenticeships with members of the show's production team.

As part of the theater's community engagement efforts, Dixon Community Theater will also host a Cinderella-themed coloring contest for children. The contest will open March

15 and close April 10. Coloring pages will be available through community partners and online downloads. Participants may submit completed entries in person where they received the pages or electronically by emailing info@dixoncommunitytheater.org.

Contest entries will be judged anonymously by the cast of "Cinderella" and members of the theater organization. Five winners will be selected from each age group, and the winners will be announced by April 15.

Prize winners will receive two tickets to a performance of "Cinderella" at the Dixon Performing Arts Center and invitations to a preshow party with the cast before the matinee performances April 25 or May 2. Winners will also receive a gift bag and concession coupon.

For more information, visit dixoncommunitytheater.org or call 707-903-8387. ★

## CANB Program Manager Shares Mission to Help Homeless Veterans

Soroptimist International of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Soroptimist International of Dixon had the honor of hosting Keetra Welling, program manager of Change and New Beginnings (CANB), who spoke to the club about the organization. Alongside the various services offered by CANB, the club appreciated Keetra's enthusiasm and her positive, can-do attitude towards her work.

According to the Change and New Beginnings website, canbsolano.org, "Too many people in crisis are unable to access emergency shelter when they need it most."

In 2009, they received two VA grants: one for buying housing and another for managing it in collaboration with them. Since 2010, the Dixon VETS Housing program has helped over 125 veterans. In 2013, they changed their name to Community Action North Bay (CANB) to better represent their expanded services and areas served. They provide emergency shelter, veteran housing, permanent supportive housing and rental assistance. CANB focuses on specific groups including veterans, seniors and the disabled, who are among the most at risk, but they also help anyone in need. This is the only organization of its kind in Solano County.

Specifically, they offer permanent housing



Soroptimist International of Dixon had the honor of hosting Keetra Welling (left), program manager of Change and New Beginnings (CANB), who spoke to the club about the organization. Among other club members, Welling was joined by Soroptimist President Barbara Rigdon (right). Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Dixon

for male Veterans who were previously homeless at the Dixon Habitat for Humanity House. Residents have their own private rooms and share common spaces with fellow occupants. They are self-sufficient and receive supportive services as needed.

This transitional housing initiative allows two years for veterans to move into permanent housing and supports 12 male Veterans facing homelessness. To qualify, a veteran must have completed at least one day of active-duty service.

Healthy Living Your Way Men's Program at the Dixon House

The program offers housing and supportive services to six men. Participants benefit from case management, assistance with benefits, supplemental food and transportation for appointments. To qualify for this

program, clients must be chronically homeless and disabled. All referrals should be directed through Resource Connect Solano.

Healthy Living Your Way Women's Program in Fairfield.

This program offers housing and supportive services for six women at the Fairfield residence. Participants benefit from case management, access to assistance with benefits, supplemental food and transportation to their appointments. To qualify for this program, clients must be chronically homeless and disabled. All referrals must be made through Resource Connect Solano.

Visit the Change and New Beginnings (CANB) website at canbsolano.org to learn more about donating, volunteering or attending their upcoming fundraiser STAND UP FOR VETERANS, March 27 ★

**GROCERY OUTLET** bargain market

**XTREME VALUE™** IN FULL Bloom

**SAVE UP TO 52% IN THIS WEEK'S AD!**

**EXCLUSIVELY OURS!**

**SAVE UP TO 80%** Nulaid Grade AA or SimplyGO Grade A Cage Free Large Eggs, 12 ct. Brands may vary by store. Limit 5. **99¢**

**SAVE UP TO 50%** Sanderson Farms Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast Fillets, Family Pack. Not available in Truckee, CA. **\$1.99 /LB**

**SAVE UP TO 43%** Cleveland Kitchen Classic Sauerkraut, 16 oz. **\$3.99**

**SAVE UP TO 67%** Red Potatoes, 5 lb bag. **\$1.99**

**SAVE UP TO 70%** Green Cabbage. **50¢ /LB**

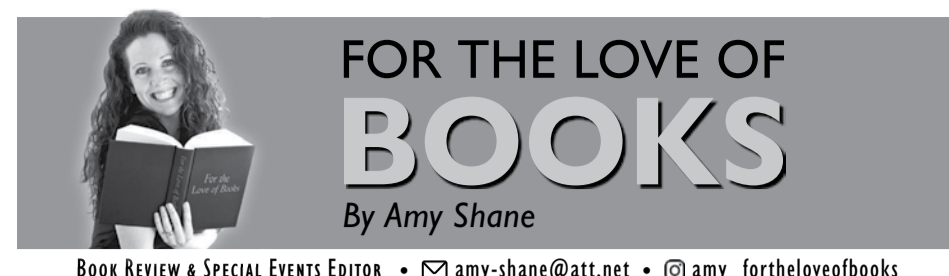
**Extra \$3 OFF PER PACKAGE at register!**

**SimplyGO Spicy Brown Mustard, 12 oz. \$1.49**

**Guinness Extra Stout, 6 pk, 11.2 oz bottles. Excludes taxes (incl. sugar tax), deposit fees, CRV, and mandatory charges. **\$7.99 +CRV IN CA****

**Colorado Premium or Blarney Stone Point Cut Corned Beef Brisket. Brands vary by store. No limit. \$4.99 /LB**

PRICES VALID 03-10-26 - 03-17-26 IN STORE ONLY. ITEMS MAY VARY BY STORE, TIME, AND AVAILABILITY. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. \*COMPARE TO TRADITIONAL GROCERY STORES AND BASED ON HIGHER PRICES. EXCLUDING ANY PROMOTIONS, CHARITIES, FEES, AND TAXES. © 2026 GPO



# Beth Is Dead

by Katie Bernet

A reimagining of the loved and cherished classic, *Little Women*.

Beth March has been found dead in the woods, and her sisters can't imagine a life without her. All their lives have turned upside down since their father penned his best-selling book, *Little Women*, detailing the lives of his four daughters for all the world to read. What he said was just a work of fiction, the world took as truth, but the one thing they couldn't accept was his killing off his own daughter at the end of the book.

But what the March sisters never expected was for Beth to truly be killed. Now, Jo, Meg, and Amy will stop at nothing to try to find Beth's killer. What they never expected was to turn on one another. The more they looked for the killer, the more obvious each of their motives became. As an aspiring author, Jo will do anything to captivate her next readers, and her large social media following proves it. Amy dreams of being an artist, but that means studying in Europe, which is expensive, and the only money that she could possibly use has been set aside for Beth by her aunt. And we can't forget Meg, whose sweet and innocent disposition would never lead her to hurt anyone, let alone her sister, but what if her boyfriend could? Each



◆ Publisher: Sarah Barley, Simon and Schuster Books For Young Readers  
◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult  
◆ Release Date: January 15, 2026

of them has a secret they are hiding, a secret they would never tell even each other. The only thing they do know is that only someone close to Beth could kill her, and no matter what, they will discover who.

A contemporary murder mystery set in the world of the famous literary classic, *Little Women*. This emotionally charged, who-done-it will enthrall readers with a cat-and-mouse chase where everyone could be a suspect. A truly unique spin

on this classic will have fans of the book eager to see how it all comes together and if one of the beloved sisters could have actually killed Beth.

This book is not only told in multiple perspectives of each sister, but also "then" and "now". Taking readers deeper into the storyline as well as delivering motives. This story opens up to complex emotions, character arcs, and real emotions that are powerful and even relatable. Katie Bernet also finds a beautiful way to blend current themes in this digital age, such as social media, public scrutiny, and fame, making readers consider how time has truly changed since *Little Women* was originally released, and how some themes always remain the same. A fun mystery read that will leave readers shocked in the end. ★



# Riley Reviews

“CRIME 101” A HEIST CAPER THAT THRILLS BEYOND THE USUAL TROPES

A Film and TV Review  
by Tim Riley

“CRIME 101” Rated R

The title “Crime 101” sounds like a criminology course at a community college, to be followed by “Investigations 101,” “Forensics 101,” and so forth. But college courses don't add up as the basis for a film, at least not this one.

The “101” in the film's title is a reference to a major freeway that runs through Los Angeles, and for some reason not fully explained, it turns out to be the most advantageous nexus to a criminal playground for master jewel thief Mike Davis (Chris Hemsworth).

Depending on traffic conditions, which can be horrible in the City of Angels, getting on or off the 101 Freeway can be challenging, but apparently in this world of criminal mischief this stretch of asphalt allows for tidy escapes from authorities.

No need to ponder much about the logistics of highway robbery, “Crime 101” is all about targeting the wealthy for jewel heists orchestrated by a gentleman thief. Mike eschews violence and is courteous enough to return cell phones to victims momentarily detained during a robbery.

Mike's modus operandi is one of careful planning and precision with consistent execution. His demeanor is neither angry nor aggressive. Thwarting the best efforts of the police, he does not leave behind palpable evidence.

Meanwhile, ruffled veteran LAPD detective Lou Lubesnick (Mark Ruffalo) has developed a theory about the 101 Freeway robber that detects a pattern. That matters to him because his partner is cynical and his superiors are more interested in hasty case closures than the grind of police work.

The highway thief has in mind that this will be his last job, which happens all too often in crime thrillers. This reminds me of Robert De Niro in “The Score” telling his dubious girlfriend Angela Bassett that he wants to settle down and forego more thefts.

An elderly crime boss (Nick Nolte), going by the street moniker Money, has other ideas about Mike's future, which are not all welcoming. While Nolte remains active for his age, it was interesting to see him in this role, with his raspy voice more pronounced than ever, and still, he pulls it off nicely.

Not exactly loyal, Money doesn't have a problem with creating obstacles for Mike by employing dirt-bike riding, bleached-blond psycho Ormon (Barry Keoghan) as a cutthroat free-agent competitor to clinch a heist the underworld boss orchestrated.

What makes Mike more compelling is that he functions with a personal code

to which he adheres as best as possible under trying circumstances. With other shady types in the mix, Ormon is not alone in forsaking the notion of honor among thieves.

One twist in the story is how one night Mike's car is rear-ended by Maya (Monica Barbaro) and a tentative romance follows, which is complicated by Mike's reticence to reveal anything about his past. This interlude adds little other to delve a bit more into Mike's character.

On the other hand, while there is no romantic link, Mike crosses paths with Sharon Coombs (Halle Berry), an insurance broker investigating the jewelry heist as her company is on the hook for \$3 million absent a recovery.

At her age of maturity, Sharon finds her loyalty to the company does not result in a deserved promotion to partner. The male-dominated Board of Directors is only interested in Sharon's ability or not to land an obnoxious billionaire client.

The corporate culture does not favor middle-aged women, even though Sharon is still gorgeous. But along comes a younger, hotter broker who upstages Sharon to close the deal with a wealthy client. Sharon's gaze starts to look elsewhere for a career choice.

Caution is how Mike approaches any job, and he's not going to court disaster by taking on a jewelry store robbery in Santa Barbara he deems too dicey. That doesn't stop Money from giving the task to the unhinged Ormon, who proceeds to create chaos with a violent rampage.

As is customary in a heist caper, there's always one big robbery leading to inevitable twists and turns. Fitting for how there is more focus on personality than action, this thriller adroitly avoids for the most part the usual action tropes of a crime story.

“Crime 101” holds our interest for more than just the compelling escapades of the crooks. Above all, it's tuned to a character study of motivations behind the disparate players and how they come to intersect in ways not easily predictable.

The audience becomes invested in the cat-and-mouse games played by the honest cop grappling with uncaring bosses and separation from his wife; the cool, confident insurance broker at odds with sexist colleagues; and the master criminal uncomfortable with the violence in his world.

Given that “Crime 101” has been distributed by Amazon MGM Studios, it would be reasonable to expect that someday it will end up on Amazon's Prime Video, which means seeing the film in a theater is not the only option, even if it is the better one. ★



# Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

## Self-control



The usual meaning of self-control is being able to limit or resist indulgences. This can apply to overeating, excessive drinking, or anything else that might be considered a vice. Appropriate self-control also determines your level of success. Having self-control requires discipline, desire, and awareness.

You need the discipline to act with intention rather than impulsively. You can only achieve your goals when your life has specific direction. Those who live impetuously lack focus or persistence. They change direction on a whim. Suppose you want to dig a foundation. A prudent way to construct it would be to first mark its size and location. Then you would consistently dig in the defined area until you reached the desired dimensions.

However, someone who lacked the requisite discipline would dig a shovel full of dirt in one area and then move to another location and dig a little more. They would keep digging in different places. In this scenario, the foundation would never be completed, regardless of how much time was devoted.

As the basis for persistence, desire keeps you going. It enables you to solve problems and get through adversity. Desire provides energy when you are exhausted. If you set out to dig your foundation but don't really care if it is ever completed, the chances are you will never finish. Even when you are digging in the correct location, you will get tired or discouraged.

What happens in the event you encounter a boulder while digging? Without adequate desire, you will give up and move onto some other project. But if you really want to complete your foundation, you will grab a sledgehammer and go to work on the boulder until it cracks.

Awareness allows you to understand what it is you want. Without this awareness, you won't know what to build. Each person has their own unique likes and dislikes. In order for you to pick a meaningful goal, you

must first understand yourself.

Self-control helps you avoid distractions that will derail you from achieving your goals. Reaching your destination takes effort and hard work. It is very tempting to want to engage in those activities that are fun or take less effort. This is not to imply that you shouldn't enjoy yourself. The point is to make sure you don't allow your behavior to sabotage your success.

Bob has a great job he really enjoys. His friends like to party on weeknights. Bob works hard and enjoys unwinding by accompanying them. He usually goes out with them once or twice a week. Bob has a lot of fun but doesn't get much sleep on those nights. Although he is never late to work, his productivity suffers.

Bob is jeopardizing his future with his current employer. Without the self-control to avoid staying out too late during the week, Bob runs the risk of missing out on promotions or even losing his job. All it takes is a lack of self-control in just one area to undermine your future.

In terms of self-development, self-control means taking responsibility for your situation. You are in control of your life. There are people who don't believe this to be true. But it doesn't matter. The principle still applies. You can choose not to exercise self-control and live by happenstance. It's your choice.

It's never too late to begin exercising self-control. Even if you have some bad habits or have made some bad decisions, you can begin to get back on track today. Past behavior doesn't have to dictate your future. The sooner you make positive adjustments; the sooner you will begin to enjoy the results.

**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 ★



## Precision is Key to Reducing Antibiotic Use on Dairies

When cows develop mastitis—inflammation of a cow's udder—dairies often respond with immediate antibiotic treatment. That approach has long protected animal health and milk production. But research suggests treating every case the same way may not always be necessary. Christian Bernal-Córdoba, a veterinarian and graduate researcher at the University of California, Davis, said the discussion around antibiotics should focus less on curing and more on improving precision. “Antibiotics themselves are not the problem,” he said. “The problem is how we use them.” Rather than emphasizing reduction alone, Bernal-Córdoba said producers should focus on optimizing antibiotic use by applying treatment when it provides clear benefit. At the same time, reducing unnecessary treatments lowers drug costs on the farm, decreases discarded milk during withdrawal periods and reduces time spent managing dairy hospital pens.

## How joining FFA has Impacted its Members

Current and former members of FFA, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, from across California shared how the student-led organization has affected their lives in a special Ag Alert® series. “My biggest misconception about agriculture before joining FFA was that only farmers can be involved and have a career in this industry,” said Ella Rolland, an FFA member at East Nicholas High School in Sutter County. “Since joining

FFA, I've been exposed to many career paths that allow us to serve others and support the industry that feeds and protects the world every day.” Destiny Reyes, a Stanislaus County college student and recent FFA member, said she has the organization to thank for some of her closest friends. Brendan Black, a Tulare County agriculture teacher, said he chose his career path “purely off of my FFA experience.” And Timmy Klittich, a Ventura County nursery operator and former FFA member, said his participation in the organization “was where I started to learn real leadership skills.”

## FFA President Shares What Leadership Has Taught Her

Lily Vaughan, the 2025-26 California FFA state president, reflected on what it means to lead the youth organization in an Ag Alert® commentary. “I joined FFA my freshman year for a practical reason. While I didn't grow up immersed in agriculture, my family began raising and showing market hogs for the county fair when I was in middle school. I wanted to continue showing market hogs, which meant enrolling in an agriculture biology class and officially joining the Las Plumas FFA chapter,” Vaughan said. “Serving as California FFA state president has taught me that leadership is deeply personal. It is not about having the fanciest resume or the most impressive title. On the hardest days, leadership means asking for help and admitting when I cannot give my best. It means leaning on my team, my adviser and the people who reminded me that I was never meant to do this alone.” ★

# Lupita Casillas Joins First Northern Bank as Vice President and Client Relationship Manager



Lupita Casillas has joined the bank as Vice President and Client Relationship Manager. Casillas brings more than 23 years of experience in sales, banking, finance and business development. Photo courtesy of First Northern Bank

## First Northern Bank News Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - First Northern Bank (OTCQX: FNRN) is pleased to announce Lupita Casillas has joined the bank as Vice President and Client Relationship Manager, serving on the Client Relationship Development Team.

Casillas brings more than 23 years of experience in sales, banking, finance and business development. In her new role, she will focus on strengthening client relationships and supporting business growth throughout Yolo and Solano counties.

"We're excited to welcome Lupita to our team," said Amy Morin, SVP/Client Relationship Manager Team Leader at First Northern Bank. "Her depth of experience and fresh perspective will help us to continue to grow in ways that benefit our clients and the communities we serve."

Casillas is actively involved in community outreach, including partnering with Junior Achievement to provide financial literacy for students from elementary through high school. In her free time, she enjoys painting, reading, floral arranging and exploring new places with her family.

## About First Northern Bank

First Northern Bank is an independent community bank that specializes in relationship banking. The Bank, headquartered in Solano County since 1910, serves Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer, Colusa and Glenn counties, as well as the west slope of El Dorado County. Experts are available in small business, commercial, real estate and agribusiness lending, as well as mortgage loans. The Bank is an SBA Preferred Lender. Real estate mortgage and small-business loan officers are available by appointment at any of the Bank's 14 branches, including Dixon,

Davis, West Sacramento, Fairfield, Vacaville, Winters, Woodland, Sacramento, Roseville, Auburn, Rancho Cordova, Colusa, Willows and Orland. Non-FDIC insured Investment and Brokerage Services are also available at every branch location. First Northern Bank is rated as a Veribanc "Green-3 Star Blue Ribbon" Bank and a "5-Star Superior" Bank by Bauer Financial for the earnings period ended December 31, 2025 (www.veribanc.com) and (www.bauerfinancial.com). For additional information, please visit thatsmybank.com or call 707-678-7742. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. ★

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

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

## CALL A PROFESSIONAL

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLEANING</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>S &amp; Y Cleaning Services</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weekly • Bi-Weekly • Monthly • One Time<br/>Weekends • Move-Ins • Move-Outs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lots of References on Request<br/>Gift Certificates Available</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(707) 689-6532</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">FREE ESTIMATES</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROPANE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>We live where you live</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">We understand your propane service needs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WE ARE<br/><b>Pro-Gas</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALLIED PROPANE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(707) 678-8500</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1700 N. First Street   Dixon<br/>RobL@alliedprogas.com</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FLOORING</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please call for a free in-home estimate!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOUSE OF FLOORS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">QUALITY WITH FRIENDLY SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hardwood-Laminate-Luxury Vinyl-Carpet-Tile-&amp; More</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1690 N. Lincoln Street • Dixon, CA 95620</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(707) 676-5385</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">houseoffloors@att.net • www.houseoffloors.org</p> |
|---|--|---|

**Be a part of something important**

**Local Writers Wanted**

We are looking for local Freelance Writers to provide great coverage.

**MPG** Call us today at 916-773-1111

**PREGNANCY**

**Pregnant? Worried? We Can Help!**

All services are free & completely Confidential.  
Info on Pregnancy, Adoption & Abstinence  
Post-Abortion, Miscarriage & Stillbirth Counseling

**707-449-8991**

Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center  
138 S. Orchard St. Vacaville

**FOLLOW US**

**for Local News and much more!**

**Dixon Independent Voice**

Facebook: @DIVMPG8

**Be a part of something important**

**Local Writers Wanted**

We are looking for local Freelance Writers to provide great coverage.

**MPG** Call us today at 916-773-1111

**MPG**

**Advertise in your Local Community Newspaper**



Call  
**916-773-1111**

# LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

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

**INDEPENDENTVOICE.COM**

**ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY**

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

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



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

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

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

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

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.

# Council Approves Development Agreement for Dixon Wellness

Continued from page 1

Haley Andrew thanked staff for working on this agreement. Allowing delivery will hopefully bring in more revenue, and the change in the public benefit fee requirement will help keep her in business.

Councilmember Jim Ernest said there are other cannabis delivery services coming into Dixon, which are not authorized to do business within the city. So, he said the city needs to ensure Dixon Wellness can move forward with deliveries: "We need to help local businesses succeed."

Councilmember Kevin Johnson agreed and said he will do whatever he can to personally help get the delivery service confirmed. He added that there was a long delay in finalizing this agreement, which left Dixon Wellness struggling to pay the higher public benefit fee. Johnson suggested the new fee be retroactive to July 2025: "It's about doing the right thing. ... It's taken too long."

Johnson made a motion to approve the new agreement, with a retroactive reduction to the public benefit fee. It was approved 3-1, with Mayor Steven Bird dissenting and Councilmember Thom Bogue absent.

Mayor Bird clarified that he supported the new agreement, but not the retroactive fee reduction. He said to Dixon Wellness, "You guys are wonderful business partners, I appreciate you, but it's on principle" for that one item.

The council also heard an update on the mid-year Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget projections and considered budget adjustments.

Finance Director Kate Zawadzki said the city's revenues this year are

declining while expenses are increasing. When this budget was adopted, "we had a structurally balanced budget," said Zawadzki. At that time, the deficit matched the one-time expenses, and all the regular operating expenses were covered by operating revenues.

Measure J sales tax revenue came in \$2 million higher than anticipated, which has helped to offset other reduced revenues. "Without that, what you would see here is a deficit of \$4 million," said Zawadzki.

The general fund is still expected to end the fiscal year with a 44.37 percent reserve balance, which Zawadzki said is a healthy reserve, so staff were not recommending major cuts at this time.

"We've seen over the past couple years," said Zawadzki. "Because of growth in our community, these numbers can swing pretty wildly." She said the prior fiscal year was expected to end with a deficit but ended with a surplus.

In projected general fund revenues, property taxes rose but not as much as expected. General sales tax is coming in at almost \$900,000 less than expected and community development permits and fees are \$500,000 less. On balance, the general fund is coming in \$1.4 million less than originally projected.

Zawadzki requested approval of the current budget adjustments, and said she'll continue monitoring revenues and expenses. She'll be back with the third quarter report in April and will have more specific recommendations after the final numbers for the fiscal year are reviewed in September.

The council voted 4-0 to approve the budget adjustments.

The next meeting of the Dixon City Council is scheduled for March 17. ★

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

### Wednesday, March 4, 2026

- 0753** - Report of a hit and run collision in the 1100 block of Pitt School Road resulted in the arrest of Philip Silva (55) of Fairfield for driving under the influence of narcotics. He was taken to county jail.
- 0818** - School resource report taken in the 300 block of North Almond Street.
- 0934** - Missing person report taken in the 1300 block of Commercial Way.
- 1236** - Report of battery reported in the 2100 block of Mourning Dove Drive.
- 1328** - Fraud report taken in the 1500 block of Eisenhower Street.
- 1539** - Noninjury traffic accident reported in the 1300 block of Stratford Avenue.
- 1701** - Report of an erratic person in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue resulted in the arrest of Oscar Orozco of Dixon for being under the influence of drugs. He was taken to county jail.

### Tuesday, March 3

- 0737** - Vehicle vs. pedestrian accident reported at Dixon High School.
  - 0809** - Battery reported in the area of West H Street and North Lincoln Street, later resulted in the arrest of Ricardo Ruiz (35) of Suisun City for felony battery and felon in possession of pepper spray. He was taken to county jail.
  - 0902** - Information report taken in the 400 block of East H Street.
  - 1900** - Female placed on a mental health hold.
  - 1940** - Information report.
  - 2208** - Male served with restraining order.
- ### Monday, March 2
- 1103** - Welfare check in the 800 block of Newgate Way resulted in the arrest of Vanessa Sandoval (30) of Dixon for violation of a domestic violence restraining order. She was taken to county jail.
  - 1201** - Fraud report taken in the 300 block of Horsetail Court.
  - 1442** - Noninjury traffic accident reported around Evans Road and West A Street.
  - 1535** - Traffic stop in the 7800 block of Schroeder Road resulted in the 30-day impound of a red 2014 Chevy Silverado.
  - 1553** - Theft report taken in the 1000 block of Sunset Drive.
  - 1600** - Noninjury traffic accident reported in the 100 block of North First Street.
  - 1840** - Trespassing report at a residence in the 200 block of West Mayes Street.
  - 1930** - Solo vehicle accident with no injuries in the area of South First Street and Parkway Boulevard.

### Sunday, March 1

- 1208** - Pedestrian stop in the 500 block of North Almond Street resulted in the arrest of Gerardo Solano (32) of Dixon for a misdemeanor traffic warrant. He was cited and given a new court date.
- 1459** - Pedestrian stop in the 1400 block of Market Lane resulted in the arrest of Felix Gill (33) a transient for a misdemeanor narcotics warrant. He was taken to county jail.
- 1640** - Welfare check in the 800 block of Newgate Way resulted in the arrest of Vanessa Sandoval (30) of Dixon for violation of a domestic violence restraining order. She was taken to county jail.
- 1930** - Robbery investigation at Northwest Park, bicycle was recovered by owner.
- 0410** - Information report in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.

Legal Advertising  
916-483-0946

## LEGAL ADVERTISING

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

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

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 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

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000292  
The following persons are doing business as: Millennium Child

Development Center, 1520 N Lincoln Street, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Salutary Sportsclubs, Inc, 1520 N Lincoln Street, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Date filed in Solano County: February 19, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: August 30, 2006  
This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. 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 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2026  
MILLENNIUM 4-3-26

### 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 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  
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 ob-

jecting 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

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-01407

Antonio Gerard Silvera filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Antonio Gerard Silvera to Antonio Gerard Epperson. 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 15, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room 301, Hall of Justice, 600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533.  
Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer  
Dated: February 20, 2026  
Publish: March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2026  
SILVERA 4-3-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-01289

Caleb Antonio Silvera filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Caleb Antonio Silvera to Caleb Antonio Epperson. 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 16, 2026, 8:30 a.m. Department 8, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533  
Judge of the Superior Court: Wendy Getty

Dated: March 2, 2026  
Publish: March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2026  
EPPERSON 4-3-26

### TRUSTEE SALE

APN: 0115-141-050 TS No.: 25-10766CA TSG Order No.: 250624724 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED JUNE 13, 2013. 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. Affinia Default Services, LLC, as the duly appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded June 19, 2013 as Document No.: 201300061466 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Solano County, California, executed by: Nathaniel L. Lofton, a single person, as Trustor, will be sold AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER for cash (payable in full at time of sale 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). All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said deed of trust in the property situated in said county and state, and as more fully described in the above referenced deed of trust. As more fully described in the attached legal description. See Exhibit A. Sale Date: April 6, 2026 Sale Time: 9:30 AM Sale Location: At the Santa Clara Street entrance to the City Hall at 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA 94590 2 File No.:25-10766CA The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 705 W Creekside Circle, Dixon, CA 95620. 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 in an "AS IS" condition, 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 said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$94,699.97 (Estimated) as of . Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this prop-

erty 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, (916) 939-0772 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website, www.nationwideposting.com, for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, T.S.# 25-10766CA. 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 (916) 939-0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 25-10766CA 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. 3 File No.:25-10766CA If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. For Pre Sale Information Log On To: www.nationwideposting.com or Call: (916) 939-0772. For Post Sale Results please visit www.affinidefault.com or Call (866) 932-0360 Dated: February 26, 2026 By: Carlos Quezada Foreclosure Associate Affinia Default Services, LLC 301 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 1720 Long Beach, CA 90802 (833) 290-7452 4 File No.:25-10766CA LEGAL DESCRIPTION EXHIBIT A LOT 122, AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED: "CREEKSIDE", FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, ON JUNE 2, 1978, IN BOOK 35 OF MAPS, PAGE 1. EXCEPTING THEREFROM ALL OIL, GAS, CASINGHEAD GAS, ASPHALTUM AND OTHER HYDROCARBONS AND ALL CHEMICAL GAS, NOW OR HEREAFTER FOUND, SITUATED OR LOCATED IN ALL OR ANY PART OR PORTION OF THE LANDS DESCRIBED, LYING MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED FEET (500') BELOW THE SURFACE THEREOF, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO SLANT DRILL FOR AND REMOVE ALL OR ANY OF SAID OIL, GAS, CASINGHEAD GAS, ASPHALTUM AND OTHER HYDROCARBONS AND CHEMICAL GAS LYING BELOW A DEPTH OF MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED FEET (500') BELOW THE SURFACE THEREOF, AND THE RIGHT TO GRANT LEASES FOR ALL OR ANY OF SAID PURPOSES; BUT WITHOUT ANY RIGHT WHATSOEVER TO ENTER UPON THE SURFACE OF SAID LAND OR UPON ANY PART OF SAID LANDS WITHIN FIVE HUNDRED FEET (500') VERTICAL DISTANCE BELOW THE SURFACE THEREOF, AS EXCEPTED IN THE GRANT DEED EXECUTED BY DONALD MILLER, ET UX, RECORDED JANUARY 30, 1978 IN BOOK 1978, PAGE 6734, SERIES NO. 4145, SOLANO COUNTY OFFICIAL RECORDS. NPP0485499 To: DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 03/13/2026, 03/20/2026, 03/27/2026  
DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 3-27-26



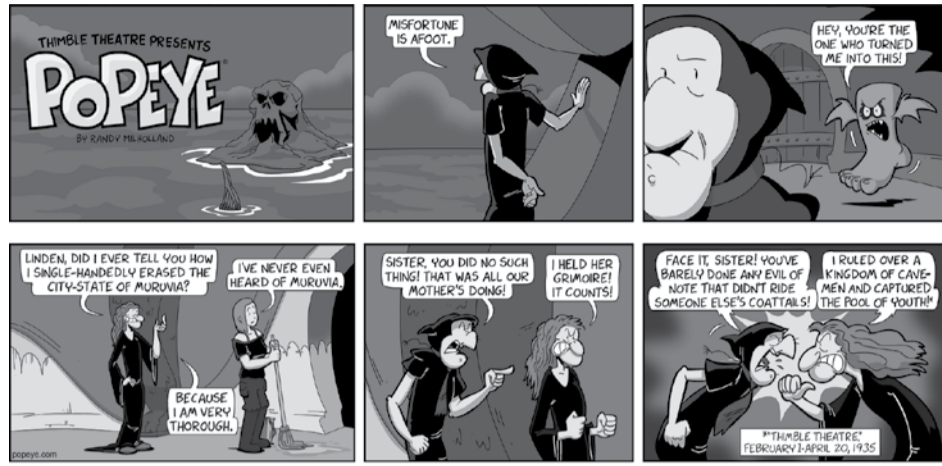
Call to place your legal advertising  
916-773-1111

# COMICS & PUZZLES

## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves



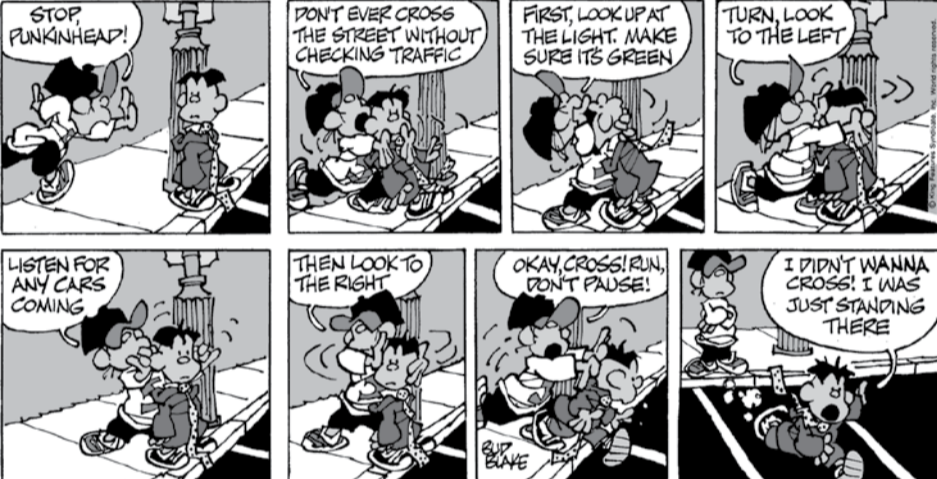
by Dave T. Phipps

## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

## TIGER



by Bud Blake

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hat is larger; 2. Bottom of lamp is not showing; 3. Ear is different; 4. Book cover is different; 5. Glasses are missing; 6. Ribbon is moved.

## GRIN & BEAR IT



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | B | R |   |   | C | A | W |   |   | A | L | G | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| D | E | L | I |   |   | N | A | G | A |   |   | O | V | E | R | T |   |   |   |   |
| S | T | A | Y |   |   | I | R | O | N |   |   | P | E | K | O | E |   |   |   |   |
|   | S | T | A | R | L | O | R | D |   |   |   | I | N | S | T |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | D | O | G | M | A |   | A | U | G |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| J | O | S | H | U | A |   |   |   |   |   | T | I | M | E | L | A | G |   |   |   |
| O | U | T |   |   |   | G | I | B | B | E | R |   | R | A | G | A |   |   |   |   |
| K | N | I | S | H |   |   | I | R | E |   |   | U | S | U | R | P |   |   |   |   |
| E | C | R | U |   |   |   | A | N | O | N | Y | M |   | G | E | E |   |   |   |   |
| R | E | S | P | O | N | D |   |   |   |   |   | E | I | T | H | E | R |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | E | F | T |   |   |   | V | I | S | A | S |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | B | A | R | F |   |   | R | E | D | S | K | U | L | L |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | K | A | R | M | A |   | E | R | I | E |   | R | I | A | L |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | I | D | E | A | L |   | E | G | O | S |   | I | R | I | S |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | M | E | A | N |   |   | L | E | T |   |   | S | A | N | D |

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • SUPERHEROES

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Abbreviation, abbr.
  - Corvine bird's sound
  - Aquarium dweller
  - Sandwich shop
  - Half human, half cobra in Hinduism
  - Blatant
  - Don't go
  - \*Tony Stark, a.k.a. \_\_\_ Man
  - High-quality black tea
  - \*"Leader of Guardians of the Galaxy"
  - Research facil.
  - Words to live by
  - Leo month
  - \_\_\_ Tree National Park
  - Period between linked activities (2 words)
  - Not safe in baseball
  - Drunk's speech?
  - Sitar music
  - Doughy snack of Jewish origin
  - Rage
  - Seize a throne
  - Common hosiery shade
  - Nom de guerre
  - "Wow!"
  - What emergency workers do
  - Choice word
  - Young nevt
  - Passport stamps
  - Vomit
  - \*"Doctor Doom's frequent ally (2 words)
  - Deserved consequence
  - One of Great Lakes
  - Iranian money
  - Like Vitruvian Man, e.g.
  - Prima donnas' problems
  - Author Murdoch
  - Like Regina George
  - \_\_\_ My People Go"
  - \*"Sandman can transform his body into this"
- DOWN**
- Pop-ups, e.g.
  - Risky business, pl.
  - Cry plaintively
  - Capital of Saudi Arabia
  - Billiards bounce
  - Ancient Greek marketplace
  - Diagon Alley purchase
  - \*"Captain America's team"
  - Albanian monetary units
  - Small cave
  - What Pac-Man did to strawberry
  - Largest Asian antelope
  - Poppy seed derivative
  - Just outside a fairway
  - Inflation matter
  - \*Batman's arch-nemesis
  - 1/16th of a pound
  - Not shakes, as in bartender
  - \*\_\_\_ Titans, cyborgs' team
  - L in LOL
  - Acquiesce
  - Rubbernecker
  - Tough spot
  - \*Leonardo to Michelangelo

| CROSSWORD |    |    |   |  |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|---|--|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1         | 2  | 3  | 4 |  | 5  | 6 | 7  |    | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |    |
| 12        |    |    |   |  | 13 |   |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |    |
| 15        |    |    |   |  | 16 |   |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |    |
|           | 18 |    |   |  | 19 |   |    |    | 20 |    |    |    |    |
|           |    |    |   |  | 21 |   |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |
| 23        | 24 | 25 |   |  |    |   | 26 |    |    | 27 | 28 | 29 |    |
| 30        |    |    |   |  | 31 |   | 32 | 33 |    | 34 |    |    |    |
| 35        |    |    |   |  | 36 |   |    |    | 37 |    | 38 |    |    |
| 39        |    |    |   |  |    |   | 40 |    |    | 41 |    | 42 |    |
| 43        |    |    |   |  |    |   | 44 |    |    | 45 |    | 46 |    |
|           |    |    |   |  |    |   | 47 |    |    | 48 | 49 |    |    |
|           | 50 | 51 |   |  |    |   | 52 |    |    |    | 53 | 54 |    |
| 55        |    |    |   |  |    |   | 56 |    |    |    | 57 |    | 58 |
| 59        |    |    |   |  |    |   | 60 |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |
| 62        |    |    |   |  |    |   | 63 |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |

SWITCH & GET \$25

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

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

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

## Classified Advertising

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



916.773.1111

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

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

MPG

SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



## A Win Over Chicago

Well Kings fans, with a 15-50 record and a paltry 17 games to go, is there reason to celebrate the Kings?

If your name is Russell Westbrook there is! Helping the Kings to a 126-110 win over the Chicago Bulls Sunday night at Golden One Arena, Westbrook put on a show with his record setting 208th triple double of his NBA career.

It will likely not be the last, perhaps not even the last this season, so yes, there is reason to celebrate.

For the faithful that turned out to see a spirited Kings team take the court, you were treated to a combination of young and old, as youngsters like Maxime Renauld put up 26 big points to go with 11 boards, and Daeqwon Plowden got his first start of the season adding 16 points of his own.

Once again, Sunday night's win proved when inspired this team can not only put up points but play together. Although the Kings allowed far too many layups throughout the game, overall, they played a complete game and never allowed the Bulls to think they had a chance at winning.

It was the kind of win Kings fans have been hungry for, and it bodes well for the future.

Of course, much depends on how this team finishes and how the ping pong balls bounce. Without question, the Sacramento Kings will secure a very high round draft choice. My hope is that Scott Perry has his sights set on A.J. Dybantsa from the Utah Cougars. At age 19 and already at 6'9", A.J. could very well still be growing, and the Kings are in sore need of players that can play the four and five position.

Dybantsa recently made headlines when he scored 20 or more points for the 24th time this season. Without question he can score, and the Kings need to look no further than A. J. if this talented young man is still available when their first-round selection occurs.

You will hear much debate on this issue, as many pundits and fans have been extolling the virtues of Darryn Peterson from the University of Kansas. At 6'6"

Darryn is unquestionably a great college player and ranked No. 1, but he represents another guard on a team that is in desperate need of front court depth.

The other candidate is 6'9" Carmeron Boozer of Duke University, and it's hard to find fault in that selection. Cameron is the son of former NBA great Carlos Boozer, and at 6'9" and 250 pounds and only a freshman in college, this young man portends to be a carbon copy of his old man.

So, for this writer's draft picks in order, it would be A.J. Dybantsa, Cameron Boozer and then probably draft and trade Darryn Peterson.

The real question is will the Kings have the opportunity of drafting in the No. 1, 2, or 3 position?

Anyone's guess, but with just 17 games to go the interest is heating up, and how these three plays in the upcoming NCAA tournament will likely tell the story of how they will be drafted.

For me, the good news is that the Kings discovered Precious Achiuwa and Dylan Cardwell, and these two big men need to be coveted, not traded. Both big bodies are what Domantas Sabonis has been waiting for and with the likely addition of a high and capable draft choice just around the corner, fans are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

I would be remiss if not to mention the stellar play of one Malik Monk who led the team over the Bulls with 30 points off the bench. This stevedore of the hardwood deserves a chorus of at-a-boys for the professional way he has handled his business this season. A constant topic of trade all season long, Malik has been the bastion of how a pro goes about his business, and I for one hope to Malik in a Kings uniform next season.

Once again, we need to hear talk of third man of the year and look for Monk to be the first player off the bench each game.

Keep the faith Kings fans, because this team is about to undergo a facelift, and with it a team that gives Kings fans playoff tickets every year.

All the best!

★

## Democratic Angst and Gerrymandering Threaten California's Political Reforms



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Turmoil within the California Democratic Party over this year's election for governor and fallout from the party's naked grab of congressional seats could have long-term effects, undoing two important political reforms — the top-two primary system and redistricting by an independent commission.

The turmoil is over having nine Democratic candidates for governor, creating the possibility that two Republicans could finish one-two in the June 2 primary, thus resulting in a GOP governor being elected in November.

A recent Public Policy Institute of California poll of voters found that Republicans Steve Hilton (14%) and Chad Bianco (12%) are 1st and 3rd in support, with Katie Porter (13%) the leading Democrat, followed by Eric Swalwell (11%) and Tom Steyer (10%). The other six Democrats are all 5% or less.

Filing for the primary ballot closes this week, and Rusty Hicks, the Democratic state chairman, is publicly pleading for lower tier Democrats to drop out and thus reduce chances of a 1-2 GOP finish.

This week, in a public letter, Hicks said a 1-2 GOP primary outcome may be implausible, but "it is not impossible, and I know we are collectively committed to taking the steps required to avoid that possibility."

So far, none of the bottom six has volunteered to quit. The angst is likely to fuel efforts to do away with the top-two system and return to closed party primaries, thereby eliminating any possibility of a future backdoor Republican win.

Neither party liked the top-two system when it was proposed during a stalemate on the state budget in 2009. Republican Sen. Abel Maldonado, backed by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, said he'd vote for the budget only if Democrats placed the top-two system on the ballot, arguing that it would reduce polarization.

Democrats caved and Proposition 14, creating the system, was approved by voters in 2010. Given their dislike of the top-two system in the first place and what happened this year, it's highly likely Democratic leaders will seek to eliminate it.

Leaders of both parties also disliked it when Charles Munger Jr., a wealthy Stanford University scientist, proposed the state shift the redrawing of legislative and congressional districts away from the Legislature to an independent commission. Munger, backed by Schwarzenegger, contended it would end self-serving gerrymanders.

A Munger-financed ballot measure in 2008, Proposition 11, created the commission for legislative districts, and in 2010 Proposition 20 extended the commission to congressional districts. The commission drew new maps after the 2010 and 2020 censuses.

Last year, however, to counter a Texas effort to shift five congressional seats from Democrats to Republicans, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed and voters passed Proposition 50. It

gerrymanders California's 52 congressional districts to gain at least five Democratic seats this year.

Newsom said the gerrymander was needed to blunt President Donald Trump's efforts to skew the 2026 congressional election. Newsom promised that the radically revised districts would last for only three election cycles, and the commission system would return after the 2030 census.

But will it?

Let's assume that the gerrymander gives Democrats five more California seats, creating a 48-4 partisan split. California is destined to lose at least four and perhaps five seats in total after the 2030 census, due to population stagnation. Nationally, blue states such as California and New York will lose congressional seats to faster-growing red states such as Florida and Texas.

Restoring the commission system could reduce Democratic ranks by as many as 10 seats, since the state's more conservative interior counties are outpacing the liberal coastal region in population growth.

For all of these reasons, California Democratic leaders will be under tremendous pressure from the national party — and the Democrats who won seats in 2026 — to minimize losses. They can only do that by eliminating the commission and returning redistricting power to a Democratic-controlled Legislature.

*Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★*

## Social Security Matters

### Is There Income Tax on Social Security Benefits?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** The Trump Administration is saying that now there will be no taxes on Social Security benefits. Since we're getting ready to start our 2025 income tax return, can you explain how this all works? **Signed: Confused Taxpayer**

**Dear Confused Taxpayer:** You are obviously referring to the so-called "one big, beautiful bill" and how that bill affects income tax on your Social Security benefits. And this is because of the publicity surrounding the so-called "one big, beautiful bill" (OBBB) enacted last year, which claims to "eliminate income tax on Social Security benefits." Well, that bill did, yet technically didn't, fully eliminate income tax on benefits." Allow me to explain.

The OBBB does eliminate income tax on most SS benefits, but it does so in a somewhat unique way — by providing an additional \$6,000 (per person) deduction to your federal taxable income as reported to the IRS. Thus, you will pay less total income tax when you file your taxes with the IRS because of that additional deduction to your taxable income. The extra deduction is available to those over age 65 and is meant to offset the income tax

which will still be levied by the IRS on the SS benefits you received in 2025.

Essentially, the rules governing income tax on Social Security benefits have not changed. The IRS will still levy income tax on your SS benefits if your combined income from all sources (known as your "provisional income") is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly, or more than \$25,000 if you file as an individual. If your provisional income is below the threshold for your IRS filing status, you will pay no income tax on your received 2025 SS benefits. But if your provisional income exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status, then somewhere between 50% and 85% of your received SS benefits will be taxed (how much SS income to be taxed depends on your combined income in 2025).

By now, you should have received form 1099-SSA which advised of your 2025 Social Security income, including any income tax you had withheld from your SS benefits. This income should be reported when submitting your 2025 income tax return. If your "provisional income" is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly (or over \$25,000 as an individual filer), then your 2025 SS benefits will still be taxed by the IRS. But when completing your 2025 Income Tax Return, you will also be able to claim an additional \$6,000 per person (\$12,000 if you file jointly), which will likely offset any income tax you must pay due to the SS benefits you received in 2025. If you use a tax preparer (or tax preparation software), they will guide

you through this calculation. Note, too, that the \$6,000 per person deduction amount will be less if your combined taxable income is more than \$150,000 as a married couple (or more than \$75,000 as a single filer).

Be aware, though, that the OBBB is temporary tax accommodation which expires after tax year 2028. And that's because the process used to pass the bill in Congress (a "budget reconciliation" process) didn't actually change SS law; rather it provided a way around it to offset income tax paid on SS benefits.

So, to recap, the IRS can still levy income tax on your received Social Security benefits but, because of the OBBB, you will likely also (depending on your provisional income level) receive an extra deduction which offsets any taxes calculated on your Social Security benefits.

Finally, be aware that if your first husband also predeceases you, you will then become eligible for a surviving ex-spouse benefit from him, even if he has remarried.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial opinion. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-divisor) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★*



## The Disgraceful Ravings of Candace Owens

and interest anew with something even more perverse. And what is more demented than portraying the wife of the victim of a shocking assassination as a black widow?

Whereas most of have seen in Erika Kirk a Christian woman bearing up under an intolerable burden and stunningly forgiving the alleged murderer of her husband, Owens purports to see Clytemnestra, the mythical Greek figure who betrayed her husband Agamemnon upon his return from the Trojan War.

The title of her series is "Bride of Charlie." Get it? Like the "Bride of Frankenstein." As a so-called investigator, Candace Owens is like Perry Mason if the fictional attorney had been a schizophrenic high on crack. Her method is to pile will-o'-the-wisp conceptions onto the top of another, often buttressed by flagrant factual mistakes, and insist that if she's debunked, it just shows how she must be on the right track.

Her mantra is that "we don't know-know, but we know" -- in other words, her malicious, irrational intuitions are superior to actual knowledge backed by facts. She now says that "Erika Kirk should be dragged into a police precinct for questioning," and anyone who disagrees is "a full-blown fraud."

According to Owens, "the amount of evidence that is now piling up, I would say, against Erika Kirk, is almost akin to an NBC Dateline episode."

Usually, conspiracy theories spring up around as-

sassinations that are hard to fathom or have some ambiguity about them. It is clear that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing JFK, but it's understandable that there have been questions about the event. It is the depraved achievement of Candace Owens to make a bonkers true crime drama, with all sorts of mysteries and twists, out of an open-and-shut murder case.

Kirk's accused killer, Tyler Robinson, had a motive, left a trail of damning evidence and confessed to multiple people. To dismiss all this and call for Erika Kirk to be frogmarched into a police station is so mad it makes Owens' conviction that both the moon landing and dinosaurs are fake look well-grounded by comparison.

It is a symptom of our time that such malevolent buffoonery is rewarded with a huge audience. It is impossible to discredit Owens because she is not in the credibility business to begin with. In the attention economy, denunciations are just as useful as praise, especially if a media figure is posing as a brave truth-teller -- so brave that, in this case, she's willing to drag through the mud a mother of two who saw her beloved husband murdered less than six months ago.

It's not just that decency is not necessary in the Candace Owens business model, it would be an obstacle.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2026 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★*

# Hornet Football to Join Mid-American Conference

## Sacramento State Athletics News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Mid-American Conference recently announced the addition of Sacramento State as a football-only member beginning July 1.

"Today's exciting announcement is about strengthening our competitive profile and creating value for the membership," said MAC commissioner Jon Steinbrecher. "We were presented with an opportunity to add an institution with demonstrated success in football, a record of investment and commitment to the continued growth of the institution and community. Sacramento State is ready and poised for this next step. I welcome the Hornets to the Mid-American Conference and expect they will become a competitive and contributing member to the long history and legacy of one of the oldest Division I conferences."

The Sacramento State football program has won seven conference titles, including three consecutive Big Sky championships from 2019-2022, and was just one of just 12 FCS programs to win at least seven games in five of the last six seasons. During that time, the Hornets made four NCAA FCS Playoff appearances and held a top 25 ranking for 50 weeks.

"This partnership will immediately strengthen the Mid-American



Sacramento State is joining the Mid-American Conference as a football-only member beginning July 1. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State

Conference's competitiveness, and it will provide flexibility for the future," said Geoffrey S. Mearns, council of presidents chair and president of Ball State University. "In this period of dynamic transformation, we believe we must be proactive and innovative. This relationship demonstrates the enduring viability of our conference, and it provides our member institutions with additional confidence."

"I am pleased to welcome Sacramento State to the Mid-American Conference," said Scott Wetherbee, chair of the MAC council of directors of athletics and vice president/director

of athletics at Eastern Michigan University. "I want to commend Commissioner Steinbrecher for his forward-thinking leadership and creative approach in identifying opportunities that enhance value for our membership. The addition of Sacramento State as a football-only member strengthens our conference and positions us well for continued collective success."

Sacramento State is the only public university in the capital of California that has the world's fourth-largest economy. Founded in 1947, Sac State has grown into one of the region's leading centers

of research, innovation and community engagement with an enrollment of nearly 31,000. It is an accessible and inclusive place of learning, located on a picturesque campus along the American River.

"This is a historic moment for Sacramento State — a bold leap into the future," said Dr. Luke Wood, president of Sacramento State. "Our move to the FBS represents more than a change in classification; it is a declaration of who we are and where we're going. We are elevating our university, our student-athletes, and the entire Greater Sacramento

region onto the national stage — committed to competing, leading and winning at the highest level."

"This is bigger than football. It's about opportunity, visibility and momentum. It's about attracting the next generation of students, fueling enrollment and innovation, and building partnerships that will transform Sacramento State for decades to come. Together, we are proving that belief, vision, and hard work can redefine what's possible."

"We extend our sincere gratitude to the MAC Commissioner and the MAC university presidents for their leadership, trust, and confidence in our program. The future is bright, the mission is clear and the climb continues."

"This is a special day for Sacramento State. I am ecstatic for our football student-athletes, coaches, and staff who work so hard to represent our university," said Sacramento State Director of Athletics Mark Orr. "Our student athletes will now have the opportunity to showcase their talent on the highest level of college football in front of national audiences. I am grateful to Commissioner Steinbrecher, the University Presidents, and all the dedicated staff that played a pivotal role in making this possible. The support for our football program continues to expand, and we are so proud to bring FBS football to Sacramento." ★

# Republic FC Signs MLS All-Star Mark-Anthony Kaye

## Sacramento Republic FC News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento Republic FC announced that the club has signed Canadian international and MLS All-Star midfielder Mark-Anthony Kaye. He will be added to the team's roster pending league and federation approval. Per club policy, the terms of the contract were not disclosed.

"When a player with Mark-Anthony's experience and quality decides that this is where he wants to be, it validates everything we're building," said Republic FC Head Coach Neill Collins. "He's a proven winner, a leader in the locker room and a competitor who sets the tone every time he steps on the pitch. He elevates those around him and is going to make our entire squad strong as we begin our pursuit of Championship silverware."

Collins continued, "Our ownership has made it clear that the expectation here is to compete for trophies every season. Their willingness to invest in top talent reflects that ambition, and this signing is another example of that commitment in action."

"It's clear that this club has its sights set on reaching a new level and I'm excited to be a part of that," said Kaye. "I want to use my experience and my talent to help the team win, but at the end of the year we want to be able to count the number



Sacramento Republic FC announced that the club has signed Canadian international and MLS All-Star midfielder Mark-Anthony Kaye. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

of trophies we've put in the cabinet. The USL is a competitive league, and I'm here to win."

Kaye joins the Indomitable Club after a lone season with San Jose Earthquakes. He was acquired by the Bay Area club ahead of the 2025 campaign in a trade with New England Revolution including two other players for \$500,000 in general allocation money. Last year, he featured in 30 of 37 matches for San Jose — and started

one-third of the matches where he was part of the team sheet.

The 31-year-old standout has established himself as one of the most-consistent two-way midfielders in American soccer. After spending the early years of his career in USL, winning the league championship with Louisville City in 2016, Kaye was named to Los Angeles FC's inaugural 2018 roster. As a member of the Black & Gold, Kaye emerged as a starter

and in 2019 was a central figure in a historic campaign that saw LAFC capture the Supporters' Shield with a then-league record 72 points. In 31 league appearances, he scored four goals and added eight assists to earn a selection to the MLS All-Star Team. Kaye continued to be a regular contributor in 2020 as LAFC advanced to the Concacaf Champions League Final. Across four seasons in Los Angeles, he made 89 appearances with nine goals and 17 assists across all competitions, including three consecutive playoff appearances.

He continued his career with stints at Colorado Rapids, Toronto FC and New England Revolution, where he continued to serve as a leader and consistent contributor. Across his entire MLS career, Kaye has made 201 appearances in league and postseason play with 16 goals and 26 assists, as well as a stellar 85% passing accuracy.

On the international stage, Kaye earned his position in a rising Canadian side. Since his debut in 2017, Canada has climbed the FIFA rankings from 93 up to 26th in the world. During that time, Mark logged 40 senior caps — including 5 goal contributions during qualification to help Canada reach its second ever World Cup berth. In addition to World Cup play, he has represented Canada in the Concacaf Gold Cup, Concacaf Nations League and various international friendlies. ★

# Athletics Acquire A.J. Causey from Royals for Mitch Spence

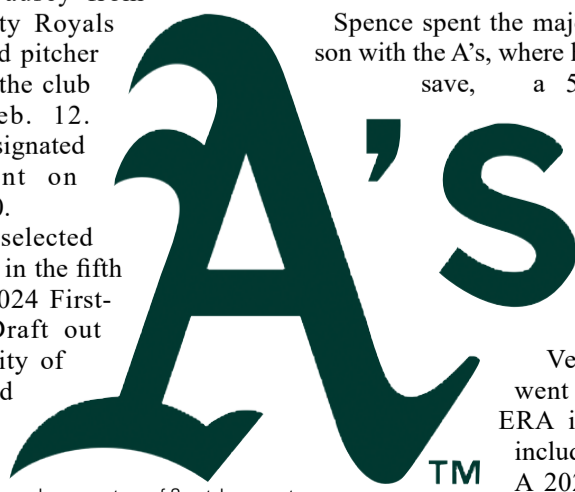
## Athletics News Release

**LAS VEGAS, NV (MPG)** - The Athletics have acquired minor league right-handed pitcher A.J. Causey from the Kansas City Royals for right-handed pitcher Mitch Spence, the club announced Feb. 12. Spence was designated for assignment on Tuesday Feb. 10.

Causey was selected by Kansas City in the fifth round of the 2024 First-Year Player Draft out of the University of Tennessee and made his professional debut in 2025. He combined for an 11-5 record, nine saves and a 1.72 ERA in 48 relief appearances with High-A Quad Cities and Double-A Northwest Arkansas. The 23-year-old

right-hander held the opposition to a .176 batting average and did not allow a home run in 40.1 innings. Causey struck out 44 and walked 11 and will join the A's camp as a non-roster invitee.

Spence spent the majority of last season with the A's, where he was 3-6 with a save, a 5.10 ERA and a .816 opponents OPS in 32 games, including eight starts. He also had a two-month stay at Las Vegas, where he went 0-1 with a 6.21 ERA in eight games, including seven starts. A 2023 Rule-5 Draft selection, Spence made his Major League debut with the A's in 2024 and went 11-16 with a 4.77 ERA in 67 games, 32 starts, in two seasons. ★



Logo courtesy of SportsLogos.net

# Samiya Jenkins Selected to Big 8 All-Conference Team

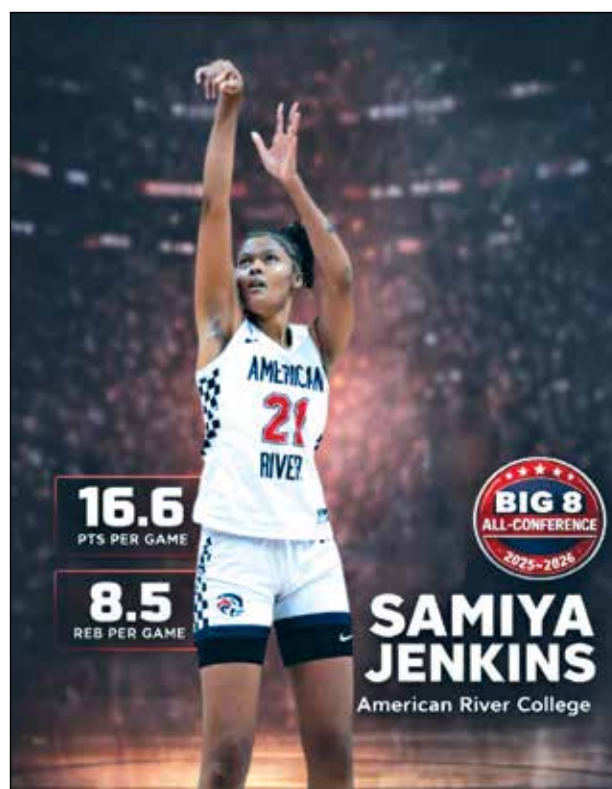


Photo courtesy of American River College Athletics

## American River College News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - American River College forward Samiya Jenkins has been named to the 2025-26 Big 8 All-Conference Team, recognizing her stand-out performance and leadership. A key contributor for the Beavers, Jenkins, an Inderkum High School alumna, was highlighted for her defensive presence and consistent offensive impact. ★

# Little League Opens Season

# FFA Hosts Third Annual Car Show

*Continued from page 1*  
 evening of March 6. The official Opening Day ceremony followed at 9 a.m. March 7, marking what Rodarte described as a traditional start to spring for many local families.



The league is also introducing a new postseason structure. Instead of having the top two teams in each division play a single championship game at the end of the season, every team will participate in a postseason tournament to determine division champions. Photo by Nicolas Brown

“Opening Weekend is really the kickoff to spring in Dixon,” he said. “It’s when families come together, kids get to put on their uniforms for the first time, and the community gathers around the ballfields again. For many families, it’s a tradition, and it’s always great to see the excitement from the players, parents and volunteers as the season gets underway.”

Rodarte said the increase in participation required additional volunteers, particularly coaches for teams in the younger divisions. The community responded through outreach efforts on social media and league communications.

“With our record number of teams and players this year, especially in the younger divisions, we initially had a lot of coaching spots to fill,” said Rodarte. “Through community outreach on social media and league communications, we were able to get enough parents and community members to step up and volunteer to fill every coaching position. It really shows how supportive this community is of youth sports.”

The league is also introducing a new postseason structure. Instead of having the top two teams in each division play a single championship game at the end of the season, every team will participate in a postseason tournament to determine division

champions.

Rodarte said the change will allow more players to experience postseason competition.

Off the field, the league has implemented measures aimed at maintaining a positive environment for players and volunteers. All volunteers, including coaches and board members, must complete background checks and Live Scan fingerprinting. Parents and volunteers are also required to sign a Parent Code of Conduct that the league enforces throughout the season.

“Our focus is not only on developing baseball skills but also teaching teamwork, sportsmanship and accountability,” said Rodarte. “We want players to learn how to compete while also respecting teammates, coaches, umpires and opponents.”

Another event on the league’s schedule this season is Family Day, planned for April 18. Rodarte said the event will return after a successful turnout last year and is expected to be larger in 2026.

According to Rodarte, the continued growth of the league reflects both

the expanding population of Dixon and the community’s support of youth sports.

“Dixon, while actively growing, still has that small-town feel,” he said. “Dixon Little League reflects that spirit with families supporting each other, volunteers stepping up and the community rallying around the kids and the league.”

Looking ahead, league leadership hopes to maintain participation numbers while continuing to provide a competitive and positive experience for players across all divisions. Rodarte said the league has seen steady increases in participation over the past several years, including more players continuing into the older age groups.

“Our goal is to continue providing and promoting a positive and competitive atmosphere,” he said. “Over the last few years, we have seen increasing numbers each season, as well as maintaining participation as players get older.”

For more information, visit [dixonlittleleague.org](http://dixonlittleleague.org) or email [support@dixonlittleleague.org](mailto:support@dixonlittleleague.org). ★



A tri-tip fundraiser has been part of the event since its beginning. Meals are sold in advance to reduce food waste, and a tri-tip sandwich option for spectators was added in the second year. A parent volunteer, Frank Pitto (pictured), has helped prepare the tri-tip meals each year. Photo courtesy of Dixon FFA

*Continued from page 1*

“This is a student-run national organization, and it trickles all the way down to the chapter level,” she said. “This event displays and develops their leadership skills and their ability to problem solve, a lot of critical thinking, networking, reaching out for participation and sponsorships. There’s so much involved in any car show.”

The first car show drew more than 70 vehicles, a turnout Torres said helped highlight the chapter’s presence in the community.

“It showcased our program in a way it hadn’t been seen in a while,” said Torres. “It’s a great way to remind people Dixon is still here.”

A tri-tip fundraiser has been part of the event since its beginning. Meals are sold in advance to reduce food waste, and a tri-tip sandwich option for spectators was added in the second year.

Torres said the sandwiches sold out during this year’s event.

A parent volunteer, Frank Pitto, has helped prepare the tri-tip meals each year.

“He has volunteered his time, his effort and knowledge in the tri-tip making each year,” said Torres. “He’s amazing, his tri-tip is delicious, and it keeps people coming back.”

Funds raised during the event support chapter activities and student opportunities throughout the year. Torres said proceeds are used for items such as student scholarships and supplies for chapter meetings.

“The first year, we did not have a fundraising goal because we didn’t know if it would be successful,” said Torres. “The second and third year, we met our goal, which is just to raise enough to go into our chapter account.”

The chapter also receives support from a booster group made up of alumni, parents and community members who help support students in the program.

Torres said the car show serves to connect with residents and supporters.

“We had different individuals and businesses that sponsored the event,” she said. “Dixon really does pull through and come together for our kids, which makes it so easy to put on an event like this.”

According to Torres, community support has been noticeable since she joined the school’s agriculture program.

“I’m not a Dixon native, but to see the support, it makes my job easier knowing I’m backed by such a strong community,” she said.

Torres also credited school administrators, including principal Angela Brown and assistant principal Fletchers Riches, for supporting the event and approving its continued operation on campus.

With the third annual show completed, organizers said the event remains an opportunity for students to gain leadership experience while connecting the agriculture program with the wider community.

For more information, visit Dixon FFA on Instagram [@dixonffa](https://www.instagram.com/dixonffa). ★

# LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

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

[INDEPENDENTVOICE.COM](http://INDEPENDENTVOICE.COM)

ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

Single Again

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

## Are You Single Again?

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

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

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

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

Visit [SingleAgain.com](http://SingleAgain.com) today, get back out there and have some fun!

SingleAgain.com

## Do You Need Your Legal Ads Published?

We can help.

Call us now to place your legal advertising!

**916-773-1111**

All legal ads published by Messenger Publishing Group.