



**Andrew Tomelloso  
Named Firefighter  
of the Year**

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Biochemistry  
Class Strikes  
Gold**

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# Dixon Independent Voice

The Official Newspaper of Record for the City of Dixon

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

MARCH 20, 2026

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INSIDE**

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**FOR THE LOVE  
OF BOOKS**

By Amy Shane



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## Celebrating Community Leaders



Anderson Elementary PTO was crowned as the 3rd Annual Nonprofit of the Year. The honor was presented by Cookie Powell of Dixon Family Services, the 2nd Annual Nonprofit of the Year. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon Chamber of Commerce held its annual "Celebrate Dixon" event on the evening of March 14 at the Dixon May Fairgrounds, where community members gathered to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations that contribute to the city's vibrancy and growth. The event, which took place from 5 to 9 p.m. in Madden Hall, included dinner, a raffle and multiple auctions, culminating in the presentation of prestigious community awards.

Ben Ernest, the executive director of Montessori Charter School, served as the master of ceremonies. Chamber Manager Sara Echarte led the Pledge of



Dixon Mayor Steve Bird and members of the City Council were in attendance alongside well-known names including John Garamendi, Lori D. Wilson, and the 2024 Citizen of the Year herself, Angela Meisenheimer (right). Meisenheimer was joined by Kathy Ernest (left) of Ramtown Karate. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Allegiance, and Devon Camara-Soucy, Chamber Vice-Chair of the Board, delivered the opening

remarks. "Being nominated means somebody in the community noticed your impact, your dedication and your hard work," said Camara-Soucy.

The event celebrated various individuals and groups through a series of awards, including the 63rd Annual Citizen of the Year, 30th Annual Business of the Year, 3rd Annual Nonprofit of the Year, as well as the Ambassador of the Year, Veteran of the Year, and Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year. In addition to these, the event also introduced two new awards: the Dixon Educator of the Year and the Dixon Coach of the Year.

Dixon's Mayor, Steve Bird, and members of the City Council were among the dignitaries in attendance, with representatives

*Continued on page 3*

## Garamendi, Reed, Larson Push for Increased Service Opportunities

Office of  
John Garamendi  
News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - During AmeriCorps week, Congressman John Garamendi (CA-08), U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) reintroduced the America's Call to Improve Opportunities Now (ACTION) for National Service Act.

This legislation would enhance access to national and community service opportunities, lower student debt, create a more engaged citizenry and address national priorities in education, infrastructure, health care, disaster relief and poverty.

The ACTION for National Service Act would achieve the following goals:

- Gives all those who wish to serve the opportunity to do so by establishing a ten-year goal of providing the necessary federal funding to support at least one million service positions nationwide.

- Significantly reduces the burden of student loan debt by ensuring that individuals who serve two full terms of service are rewarded with an education benefit equivalent to four years of the average in-state tuition at a public, four-year college.

- Increases access to national service opportunities by raising living stipend amounts, allowing members to earn a meaningful wage during their service.

- Makes the education benefit and living stipend free from federal taxation.

- Renames the existing Corporation for National and Community Service as the AmeriCorps Administration and elevates it to a Cabinet-level federal agency, including the appointment of a Director of AmeriCorps with the same rank as Cabinet Secretaries. The Director would be required to establish an interagency working group to evaluate both education award eligibility for participants in programs outside of AmeriCorps and the feasibility of granting Federal hiring preference to volunteers.

- Creates a 21st Century American Service Outreach Program to notify eligible individuals about opportunities to serve.

- Maintains the authority and programmatic responsibilities of state and local

*Continued on page 4*

## Women's Club Praises Civic Legacy



Members of Dixon Women's Club have continued to serve the community for over a century. Left to right: Pam Marks, Martha Dukes, Pat Inderbitzen, Ruth "Binky" Eason, Teri Osterman Brown, Diane Schroeder, Cindy Heeny, Jewel Fink, Ashley Alvarez, Angela Remides. Not pictured: Carol Marshall and Cheryl Hughes. Photo courtesy of Dixon Women's Improvement Club

By Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - As communities around the world observe International Women's Day in March, members of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club (DWIC) say the annual recognition reflects the long tradition of women contributing to civic life in the city.

Founded more than a century ago, the organization traces its origins to the late 1800s, when a group of local women sought to improve conditions in the agricultural town.

"The women in 1895 were the wives of landowners and farmers,

as they perceived that the town was kind of a hotbed of prostitution and gambling, same as a lot of frontier towns," said Jewel Fink, the club's incoming president. "They took it upon themselves to right the wrongs and beautify the city."

According to club leaders, the group began as a Shakespeare club before formally becoming the DWIC in 1905.

"The desire of the women back then was that we needed a library, and they wanted to do things to improve Dixon to make it better for everyone," said Diane Schroeder, the club's scholarship chair.

One of the club's earliest accomplishments was helping establish a library in Dixon. The building opened in 1904 and served the community for decades.

"Dixon's library wasn't the first in Solano County, the Vallejo Carnegie was," said current president Teri Osterman Brown. "But it was built in 1904, and it was demolished in 1969, so it's no longer functioning."

The club also helped create and maintain Women's Improvement Club Park.

"The resolution to dedicate the park was in 1932 to give it to the City

*Continued on page 2*



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## Women's Club Praises Civic Legacy



The club currently has nearly 60 members and a 12-person board. Teri Osterman Brown, who has served as president for several years, is preparing to share leadership with Jewel Fink as co-president in May. Photo courtesy of Dixon Women's Improvement Club

Continued from page 1

of Dixon," said Brown. "DWIC is the steward of the park. You can't build anything in that park without consulting the club."

In the early years, fundraising often relied on community events organized by members.

"To get funds for the park, the women would cook food at home and bring all this food in and would serve lunches at the library," said Brown.

Members also supported national causes, including women's suffrage.

"We supported passage of the 19th Amendment," said Brown.

For Fink, the legacy of that movement is closely tied to the meaning of International Women's Day.

"When my mother turned 21, she couldn't vote," said Fink. "I know there are countries where women are legally restricted from driving a car, let alone voting. To me, it means freedom."

Brown said the day also reflects the influence women have had in their families and communities.

"It reminds me of my mother," said Brown. "She may not have had a career, but she helped raise a lot of kids in town and gave us the opportunity to do whatever we wanted to do in our lives."

Schroeder said the day is an opportunity to recognize women's contributions.

"For me, International Women's Day is recognizing the accomplishments and contributions that women can make," she said. "I grew up in a household where I was told I could do anything or be whatever I wanted to be."

Today, the club continues its work

through scholarships and community grants.

"Our very first scholarship was in 1969, we gave \$200," said Schroeder. "Then you fast forward to 2025, where we gave seven scholarships, five of them \$1,000 each and two \$500."

Last year, 47 students applied for scholarships.

The club also distributes community grants to support local schools, organizations and projects. The program began in 2017.

"As of 2017, we've given out \$24,000-plus," said Brown.

Scholarships are funded through the club's annual fundraising dinner, scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. May 1 at Pedro's Cocina, 1425 Market Lane. Ticket sales support scholarships, while raffle baskets and a silent auction help fund grants.

The club currently has nearly 60 members and a 12-person board. Brown, who has served as president for several years, is preparing to share leadership with Fink as co-president in May.

Despite its long history, members say the organization continues to look ahead.

"We need a new generation in the DWIC," said Fink.

Schroeder said younger residents interested in community involvement are encouraged to participate.

"Join the club," she said.

For more information, visit [pageturnpro.com/Dixon-Womens-Improvement-Club/112721-Dixon-Community-Resource-Guide](https://pageturnpro.com/Dixon-Womens-Improvement-Club/112721-Dixon-Community-Resource-Guide) to access the organization's community resource guide. ★

## \$37 Million to Expand Behavioral Health Crisis and Recovery Services

Solano County News Release

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Governor's Office announced March 13 that Solano County has been awarded \$37,004,579 through Round 2 of the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP), a statewide initiative funded by California's Proposition 1 behavioral health bond. The funding will support the development of a new Solano Behavioral Health Recovery Campus in Fairfield, significantly expanding access to mental health and substance use crisis services in the county.

"This investment will allow Solano County to significantly expand access to crisis stabilization and recovery services for residents experiencing mental health or substance use challenges," said Emery Cowan, director of Solano County Health and Social Services. "By co-locating these services in one campus, we can improve coordination of care and create smoother 'warm handoffs' between programs so individuals receive the right level of support at the right time."

The Solano County Board of Supervisors approved the County's intent to apply for the funding on Oct. 7, 2025.

The new recovery campus will be located at 2271 South Watney Way in Fairfield on the Beck Campus, adjacent to the County's new mental health residential facility. The project will expand the county's crisis and recovery continuum through construction of a 26-bed Crisis Stabilization Unit (expanding from the current 12 beds), the county's first Peer Respite program with 20 beds and the county's first Sobering Center with 12 service slots.

The campus is designed to centralize behavioral health crisis services in one location, strengthening the county's ability to provide immediate care and longer-term recovery support for individuals with the highest needs. Construction of the campus is anticipated to be completed by December 2028.

In addition to the county project, two other behavioral health initiatives in Solano County also received BHCIP funding:

NorthBay Health received \$14 million to develop a Behavioral Health Urgent Care and Outpatient Center in Fairfield.

Bayside Haven Rehabilitation Center received \$17 million to develop a psychiatric health facility in Vallejo.

Together, these investments will strengthen the behavioral health care system across Solano County and expand local capacity to treat mental health and substance use disorders.

"We appreciate the support of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator's Office, and the General Services team for their partnership in securing this important investment in our community's behavioral health infrastructure," Cowan added.

The BHCIP program is administered by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and funded through Proposition 1, which was approved by California voters in 2024 to expand behavioral health treatment infrastructure statewide.

More information about the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program is available at: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/BHCIP/Pages/BHCIP-Home.aspx>. ★

## Dixon News Briefs



Ted and Jazzy Jorgensen (pictured) are excited to celebrate Drive City Lube and Smog's one-year anniversary from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 21. Held at the shop, 2800 W. A St., Suite B, the free event will include a car show, prizes and Enzo's Craft BBQ available on-site. Photo by Kendall Brown

By MPG Staff

### Dixon High Sports

Dixon High School Girls and Coed Varsity Swim Team will compete at home at 4 p.m. March 19. Hosted at Dixon High School, 555 College Way, the Rams will take on the El Camino High School Wildcats.

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

### 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](https://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)

### Travis Credit Union Mixer

Travis Credit Union, in partnership with Dixon Chamber of Commerce, is hosting a

business mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. March 25. Held at the credit union, 1470 Ary Lane, the free mixer gives professionals in Dixon an opportunity to network.

For more information, visit [dixonchamber.org](https://dixonchamber.org) or call 707-469-1603.

### 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.

### Drive City's First Anniversary

Drive City Lube and Smog is hosting its first anniversary from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 21. Held at the shop, 2800 W. A St., Suite B, the free event will include a car show, prizes and Enzo's Craft BBQ available on-site.

For more information, visit Drive City Lube and Smog on Facebook or call 707-678-7664.

### Dixon Community Theater Coloring Contest

Dixon Community Theater (DCT) is hosting a coloring contest in anticipation of its next major production, "Cinderella." From March 15 to April 10, entrants can pick up coloring sheets at partnered locations or download them directly from the community theater's website. Once the entry is complete, it can be scanned and emailed in or turned in in-person to partnered locations. Four age groups will be represented, with five winners in each group. Winners will receive tickets to "Cinderella," as well as access to an invite-only pre-show party and prizes. Winners will be chosen by the cast and DCT members.

For more information, visit [dixoncommunitytheater.org](https://dixoncommunitytheater.org) or email [info@dixoncommunitytheater.org](mailto:info@dixoncommunitytheater.org).

### Teen Meet and Greet with Brett Barley

Dixon Library will host a special teen meet and greet with Dixon Unified School District Superintendent Brett Barley from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. March 25. Held at the library, 230 N. First St., the event is open to youths aged 10 to 18. Registration is recommended but not required to attend.

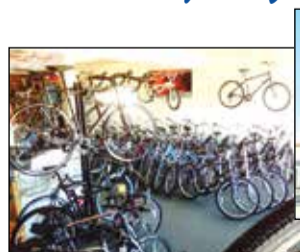
For more information about September events at the library, visit [solanolibrary.com](https://solanolibrary.com) or call 1-866-572-7587. ★

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# Celebrating Community Leaders

# Rodriguez Western Wear Plans Expansion with New Boutique Location

By Kendall Brown



Rodriguez Western Wear, owned and operated by Mayra (Left) and Robert Rodriguez, is located inside the Farmer's Tan, 120 W. B St. In early April, the couple will open a women's apparel department called La Casa de La Vaquera (House of the Cowgirl) at 100 N. Adams St. Photo by Kendall Brown

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - A local family business rooted in Western culture is preparing to expand in downtown Dixon as Rodriguez Western Wear plans to open a new boutique location in early April.

Owned by Mayra and Robert Rodriguez, the store currently operates inside The Farmer's Tan, 120 W. B St. The couple plans to relocate their women's department to a new space at 100 N. Adams St.

Rodriguez Western Wear first opened in Dixon May 1, 2025.

"My parents own a western store in Woodland; they've been in business for 25 years, and I've always wanted my own store," said Robert Rodriguez. "All my goals are lining up right now."

Several members of the Rodriguez family support the business.

"It's not just our kids," said Mayra Rodriguez. "I have cousins helping me, my brothers, my uncle."

In addition to selling Western clothing and accessories, Mayra Rodriguez creates some of the products sold in the store. She has spent about five years working with leather as a hobby that eventually grew into part of the business.

"I do leatherwork and tooling," she said. "I've done cellphone cases, earrings, bracelets, belts and even a center console for a truck."

The couple said their shop reflects the Western lifestyle they grew up with in the region.

"It's a way of life," said Mayra Rodriguez. "I was born and raised here. My grandparents were farm workers. It's the way we dress; it's

our lifestyle. For me, it's who we are."

The new boutique space will allow the business to set its own hours and expand its women's clothing offerings.

"We're inside The Farmer's Tan at the moment, so we go by their hours," said Mayra Rodriguez. "Here, we go by our own hours, it's ours. I've always had a little dream of having my own women's clothing boutique."

The new space, called La Casa de La Vaquera, which translates to "House of the Cowgirl," will focus on women's Western apparel.

Among the store's most popular items are hats and caps.

"What we really sell out of is our caps and trucker hats," said Mayra Rodriguez. "That's a really hot item here."

Since opening last year, the Rodriguezes said the Dixon community has supported the business.

"I've met so many wonderful people," said Mayra Rodriguez. "Everyone is just excited. We just want to bring our Dixon folks the clothes they need."

Robert Rodriguez said he has also worked to

support local events and youth programs.

"I try to sponsor teams or help out where I can," he said. "Just trying to get our name out there."

Opening and establishing a storefront has been one of the biggest challenges for the business, Robert Rodriguez said, noting that he has been funding the venture gradually.

"Trying to establish a location," he said, "it's a slow process workwise, so I'm funding this as we can."

The couple said their goal is to continue growing the business locally while creating a welcoming place for customers.

"I want everyone to feel comfortable and welcome and to fulfill their needs," said Robert Rodriguez. "I want this to be a community store where they can find all their western needs and leave with a good experience."

For Mayra Rodriguez, the store also reflects the culture of the community she grew up in.

"It's our culture, it's our roots, it's our style," she said. "I want them to leave our store being proud of our town." ★



Dixon Chamber of Commerce held its annual "Celebrate Dixon" event on the evening of March 14. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Continued from page 1

from California State Senator Mike Thompson, Congressman John Garamendi and Assemblymember Lori Wilson present to show support for the event. Past Citizen of the Year recipients were also honored with commemorative badges, acknowledging their continued contributions to the community.

The evening featured a catered dinner by Bud's, with drinks served by Dixon's Rotary. A range of fundraising activities included a silent auction, a hat raffle and a dessert auction, with items such as a Ramtown Karate interactive workshop, dinner at the local fire station and horse trail rides provided by Almond Tree Mortgage. Local businesses like Dixon Community Theater, Sourdough and Co., Yard Love Dixon and Best Western donated forty-three raffle prizes.

"I'm excited to see it all come together," said Angela Meisenheimer, last year's Citizen of the Year. "It's nice to see all these amazing people being recognized. But I have to relinquish my crown now!"

The evening's most anticipated moment was the announcement of the award winners, each of whom was recognized for their outstanding contributions to the community. The 63rd Annual Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Don and Wendi Hendershot, while Jill and Ray Orr, owners of Dawson's Bar & Grill, were honored with the 30th Annual Business of the Year Award. The 3rd Annual Nonprofit of the Year Award was presented to Anderson Elementary PTO. Sara Echarte was named Ambassador of

the Year, and Martin De Venuta was recognized as Veteran of the Year. Steve Krebs, an Advanced Placement teacher at Dixon High School, received the Educator of the Year (DUSD) Award. Captain Andrew Tomelloso of the Dixon Fire Department, a three-time winner of the Firefighter of the Year Award, was honored for his outstanding service. Officer Jake Curry received the Police Officer of the Year Award, and Devon Pitto of Tremont Elementary was named Dixon Educator of the Year. Lastly, Didi Cordova was named Dixon Coach of the Year.

Cordova reflected on the significance of the award.

Said Cordova, "Congrats to all the nominees. At the end of the day, we all won. As long as you're uplifting the younger generation, you're doing good."

Sara Echarte, a standout herself, reflected on the success of the event.

"It feels good, it feels exciting, a little overwhelming, but very exciting. We sold out, so that's huge," she said.

Table sponsors for the evening included Western Health, Budget Blinds, Harvest at Dixon, Bank of Stockton, Cal-Water Services, First Northern Bank and Castillo's Legal Life Support. The evening's door prize was sponsored by First Northern Bank.

As the night concluded, the community of Dixon celebrated its rich tradition of civic engagement and the people who make a difference every day.

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

## SOLANO COUNTY

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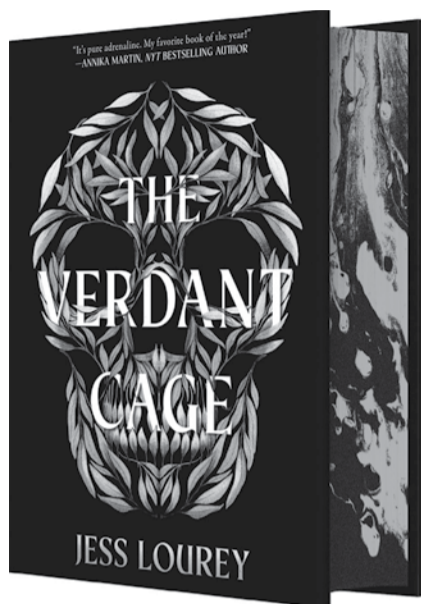
# The Verdant Cage

by Jess Lourey

Rose Allgood has lived her life carefully surrounded by what they call the "wall." A towering stone wall surrounding Noah's Valley protecting them from what lies just beyond its boundary. No one ever leaves the boundary of the wall, and no one has ever questioned why. Noah's Valley has always been one of peace, where no one fights and everyone gets along. Everyone's life is carefully planned out. Their careers are predetermined or inherited, and marriages are assigned. All for the good of the city and for peace.

After Grace's mother is murdered, the serenity of their paradise is shattered. Even worse, Rose's twin brother is accused of the crime, threatening to tear her family apart. Rose is convinced of his innocence, but in Noah's Valley, decisions are final. With everyone turning against her brother, Rose must find the real killer to clear his name and uncover the truth behind her mother's death.

Determined to prove her brother's innocence and find her mother's killer, Rose reluctantly teams up with her nemesis's son, Gryphon. Together, they follow a trail of hidden messages and forbidden knowledge, unraveling secrets



◆ Publisher: Entangled Teen, Mayhem Books  
◆ Intended Audience: Mature Young Adult  
◆ Release Date: April 07, 2026

that challenge everything Rose believed about her home. The deeper they dig the more Rose and Gryphon realize there is more to the wall than they were told, and her mother's death was definitely not an accident.

A gripping dystopian thriller, *The Verdant Cage* is the perfect read for those two have been waiting to be pulled into a story like they once were with *The Hunger Games* and *The Grace* year. This story explores what happens when a society controls

its people to hide a dark past—and the power unleashed when someone dares to break the rules. *The Verdant Cage* starts off with high intensity and keeps readers turning pages to keep up. Fast-paced and expertly plotted, the story, characters, and message will make instant fans of its readers.

Jess Lourey celebrates young adult readers with a powerful, engaging story aimed directly for her intended audience. *The Verdant Cage* is unique, strong, and well-written. With its complexity and mature characters, this book can also be enjoyed by an adult reading audience.

Perfect for fans of dystopian reads like *The Hunger Games* and *The Maze Runner*, and should definitely be added to your next reading adventure. ★

## Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

### Winning by Quitting

A foundation principle of these columns is to never, ever give up. However, there are instances where quitting is a route to success. Whenever you quit a bad habit by replacing it with a good one, you enable yourself to make more rapid progress towards your goals. Here are some ways you can win by quitting.

**Quit complaining.** This is a great place to start. When you complain, you focus on problems rather than solutions. Complaining accomplishes nothing positive. No one likes to spend time with an incessant complainer.

Instead of complaining about what's wrong with your life, spend your energy looking for solutions to your problems. Since there is a solution for every problem, the sooner you begin searching for it, the sooner you will find it.

**Quit making excuses.** Excuses are used to justify why you're not accomplishing what you really want to. Excuses alleviate any guilt you may have about not seeking or reaching your goals. It's easier to make an excuse than to risk failure.

One good reason to succeed will replace dozens of excuses for failure. Achieving what you want is infinitely more rewarding than living with the supposed safety of excuses. Determining how you can accomplish something displaces the usual roster of excuses.

**Quit procrastinating.** Stop putting off important issues requiring your attention. Procrastination reduces productivity which leads to increased frustration. Time goes by much too fast to waste it. Keep your focus on those tasks that bring you closer to your goals.

**Quit acting like a victim.** When you have a victim's mentality, you blame other people or circumstances for your situation. This erroneously absolves you of responsibility for your situation. If you believe others are the reason you are where you are, then you wait for someone else to fix your problems.

If you are not happy with your situation, it's up to you to change it. Events

may occur that are beyond your control. Your response however, is up to you. Look in the mirror if you want to see who is in the driver's seat of your life.

**Quit being negative.** A negative attitude attracts negative circumstances and people. If you are negative, you will find problems in every situation. It's difficult to be happy when you have a negative mindset.

Positive people find solutions for every problem. They don't consider failure as an option. You can start to change your attitude by changing the vocabulary you use when you talk to yourself. Replace terms such as: I can't, it won't work, I don't know how, or I'll fail, with: I can, I will, I'll find a way, and I'll succeed.

**Quit being passive.** When you are passive, you wait for things to change or get better. For whatever reason, you don't take an active role in your life. By being passive, you accept your lot in life as inevitable and out of your hands.

Take a proactive role in your life. You are in charge. The direction you choose is up to you. Take whatever action is needed in order to make things happen. You can change your path as often as necessary to reach your destination.

**Quit worrying.** Although worrying may seem like an involuntary emotion, it is pointless. Nothing was ever accomplished by worrying. All worrying does is drain you. Let go of those things you have no control over. Take action for those situations you do have control over.

You win by quitting bad or pointless habits and replacing them with positive behavior. The sooner you do it, the sooner you will benefit. Don't wait, start today.

**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 ★

# Garamendi, Reed, Larson Push for Increased Service Opportunities

Continued from page 1

boards to direct federal resources to meet community needs and be responsive to local priorities.

Establishes a National Service Foundation to encourage private sector

and philanthropic investment in expanding national service opportunities.

The reintroduction of the ACTION for National Service Act comes as service organizations across the nation celebrate AmeriCorps Week. ★

# California Farm Bureau Celebrates Passage of Farm Bill

California Farm Bureau News Release

**CALIFORNIA (MPG)** - California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass commented today on the House Agriculture Committee's bipartisan passage of H.R. 7567, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026. She said:

"California Farm Bureau applauds the House Agriculture Committee's bipartisan passage of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026. We greatly appreciate Chairman G.T. Thompson's ongoing dedication to advancing the farm bill process and including key provisions that will modernize farm policy, increase certainty and enhance the competitiveness of California farms and ranches. We especially thank California Reps. Jim Costa and Adam Gray for their support of the bill and their ongoing support for California

farmers and ranchers.

"Farmers and ranchers have been without certainty of a new farm bill since it first expired in 2023, and have been grappling with low commodity prices, rising supply costs, inflation and uncertain international trade dynamics. While there is still more work to be done, passage of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act would provide California producers with assurance of a full five-year farm bill, thus strengthening America's rural communities. We urge House leaders to move swiftly and bring H.R. 7567 to a vote on the floor."

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches as part of a nationwide network representing more than 5 million Farm Bureau members. Learn more at [www.cfbf.com](http://www.cfbf.com) or follow @cafarmbureau on Instagram, LinkedIn, X or Facebook. ★



### Farmworkers Lament Loss of Hours and Pay

California's 2016 agricultural overtime law was meant to raise wages for farmworkers. While some have benefited from the law, a growing body of research suggests it has ended up reducing overall earnings for farmworkers as employers shortened the workweek to keep their costs down. By 2022, when the law was partially phased in, farm employees in California were working three to five hours less per week than a decade prior. On average, their weekly income had declined by \$80 to \$120, according to research by Alexandra Hill, a University of California, Berkeley, professor who researches agricultural economics and farmworker well-being. Since the law was implemented, Colusa County farmworker Araceli Aceves Cortés said she had lost a third of her work hours. "Suddenly, I couldn't cover the electricity bill," she said. "I couldn't pay rent."

### Canneries Reduce Tomato Acreage to Lowest in 50 Years

After a short-lived increase during the pandemic, California's processing tomato acreage is set to decline for a third consecutive year. The state's tomato processors planned to contract for 9.8 million tons from 185,000 acres this year, down about 11% from the 11 million tons processors asked for last year, according to a January report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If processors' intentions remain unchanged,

those figures would make the tonnage contracted from growers this year the lowest since 2005, and it would mark the first time in more than half a century that farmers in California plant fewer than 200,000 acres of processing tomatoes. Falling demand comes as a blow to farmers. In recent years, processing tomatoes were one of the few row crops that were generally profitable for growers. "It hurts us like I think it probably hurts every other tomato grower," Yolo County farmer Bruce Rominger said.

### Delaying Harvest has Helped Blackbird Populations

Tricolored blackbirds once thrived in California's wetlands. But as the state developed, those ecosystems began to disappear, causing the species' population to decline and seek new breeding grounds. The birds now often gather during the spring to breed in Central Valley grain fields. Because the tricolored blackbird is listed as threatened under California's Endangered Species Act, farmers are not allowed to disturb the birds. That creates a dilemma for farmers who grow silage, a staple forage on dairies, as they are unable to harvest their crops on time. Since 2015, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program has compensated farmers for yield losses sustained in the course of protecting at-risk colonies. The program has succeeded in helping the species recover. From 2014 to 2025, the statewide tricolored blackbird population increased from a low of about 145,000 to about 229,000. ★

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# Dixon Fire Department Names Andrew Tomelloso Firefighter of the Year

## Dixon Fire Department News Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon Fire Department is proud to announce that Fire Captain Andrew Tomelloso has been selected as the 2025 Firefighter of the Year, recognizing his exceptional dedication, leadership and service to the community and department.

Throughout the year, Captain Tomelloso has consistently gone above and beyond in his role by mentoring new Firefighter/Paramedics, filling staff vacancies across multiple ranks and supporting department operations with professionalism and reliability. He has also provided CPR instruction to department personnel, City staff and community members, extending his impact beyond emergency response.

his service with the Dixon Fire Department in 2008 as a Reserve Firefighter. Through his dedication and strong work ethic, he was hired as a full-time Firefighter and later promoted to Engineer before earning his current rank of Captain. Captain Tomelloso is a licensed paramedic, a member of the county hazmat team and continues to be an invaluable asset to the department, bringing both technical expertise and steady leadership to every aspect of his role.

In addition to his operational responsibilities, Captain Tomelloso manages the department's public education efforts, including coordinating Fire Prevention Week and the annual Station 81 Open House. His steady leadership, positive attitude and calm demeanor make him a respected member of the organization.

"Captain Tomelloso's dedication to both our firefighters and

the community makes a lasting impact every day," said Fire Chief Randy Shafer. "He leads with professionalism, supports his fellow firefighters, and consistently goes above and beyond to strengthen our department."

### About the Dixon Fire Department

Established in 1871, the Dixon Fire Department provides fire protection for the City of Dixon and the Dixon Fire Protection District. The Department serves a combined population of nearly 25,000, covering an area of 320 square miles. Seven square miles of service area are within the city limits, and 313 square miles are in the Dixon Fire Protection District through a protection contract. The Department provides fire protection, paramedic-level emergency medical response, fire prevention services, public fire safety education, fire investigations and emergency management. ★



Dixon Fire Department is proud to announce that Fire Captain Andrew Tomelloso (pictured) has been selected as the 2025 Firefighter of the Year, recognizing his exceptional dedication, leadership and service to the community and department. Photo courtesy of Dixon Fire Department

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**Dixon Independent Voice**  
Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

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


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### 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 STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000292**  
The following persons are doing business as: Millennium Child Development Center, 1520 N Lincoln Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Salutory 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 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026  
MILLENNIUM 4-3-26

tion 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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026000397**  
The following persons are doing business as: Parish Termite and Pest Management, 2575 Duncan Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Structured Pest Control and Home Services Inc., 2575 Duncan Street, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Date filed in Solano County: March 5, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: March 2, 2026  
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 March 4, 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 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2026  
PARISH 4-10-26

### 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 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

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 Silveira filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Antonio Gerard Silveira 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  
SILVEIRA 4-3-26

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

Caleb Antonio Silveira filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Caleb Antonio Silveira 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

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF PAULA RENEE DUNN CASE NO. PR26-00126**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Paula Renee Dunn.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Antoine Killian, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting Antoine Killian be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many

actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: April 8, 2026, 9:30 a.m. in Dept 22; Old Solano Courthouse, 580 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: James Du Charme, Du Charme & Cohen, 610 Tisdale Avenue, - Mare Island, Vallejo, CA 94592; 707-556-3099  
Publish: March 20, 27, April 3, 2026  
DUNN 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 property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call, (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.affiniadefault.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



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## CITY OF DIXON NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the City of Dixon will receive Pre-qualification Questionnaires for:

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR SERVICES FOR: FIRE STATION 82 PROJECT # 410-106

**LOCATION OF WORK:** 653 Pitt School Road, Dixon, CA 95620, Solano County.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** The City of Dixon seeks to pre-qualify General Contractors for the construction of Fire Station 82 (Project) and hereby invites sealed pre-qualification submittals from licensed Contractors (Contractors).

Notice is hereby given that the City of Dixon has determined that general contractor bidders on this Project must be pre-qualified prior to submitting a bid on this Project. The pre-qualification evaluation is solely for the purpose of determining which general building contractors (Contractors) are deemed qualified to successfully construct the Project.

Only Contractors in possession of a valid Class A or B Contractor's license are allowed to bid on the Project.

It is **mandatory** that all Contractors who intend to submit a bid fully complete the pre-qualification questionnaire, provide all requested materials, and be approved by the City of Dixon to be on the final list of qualified bidders.

**FILING OF SUBMITTALS DUE:** on or before 3:00 PM, Thursday, APRIL 2, 2026

There will not be a pre-submittal meeting.

Questions regarding any part of the Pre-qualification Questionnaire must be submitted in writing via e-mail to Andrew MacDonald, P.E., Consultant Engineer, at amacdonald@cityofdixonca.gov.

**All written requests for Pre-qualification Questionnaire clarifications must be received no later than 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.**

**A copy of the Request, Questionnaire, and all required materials may be obtained by logging on www.blueprintexpress.com/dixon or by calling BPXpress Reprographics at (707) 745-3593.**

**All contractors must submit their pre-qualification questionnaire and provide all requested materials online through the BPXpress bid portal to be considered responsive.**

It is the sole responsibility of the Contractor to ensure that the Pre-qualification Questionnaire is received prior to the specified date and time.

Each Pre-qualification Questionnaire and requested materials must be submitted using the forms provided by the City of Dixon.

Submittals may be withdrawn at any time prior to 3:00 p.m. on April 2, 2026

A City of Dixon business license is required prior to the award of the project.

### CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE AND CERTIFICATION OF WORKERS:

All Contractors shall be licensed under the provisions of the Business and Professions Code to do the type of work contemplated in the Project. In accordance with Public Contract Code section 3300, the City has determined that a Class A or B State contractor's license is required for this project.

**In addition, the Contractor shall ensure that all workers, including those employed by subcontractors, are properly trained and certified for the work they perform throughout the term of the project.**

### LABOR CODE REQUIREMENTS:

Pursuant to Section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code, the successful bidder and all subcontractors shall pay not less than the per diem wage rate as determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations. The prevailing rate and scale of wages of this contract is the determination made by the Director of Industrial Relations as applicable to Solano County. A copy of the Determination is on file at the office of the City Clerk.

The Contractor shall, in the performance of the work and improvements, conform to the Labor Code of the State of California and other laws of the State of California applicable hereto.

**Pursuant to Section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code, the daily penalty for failure to comply with prevailing wage should be an amount not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200). Additionally, the minimum penalty on each calendar day, for each worker paid less than the prevailing wage rate, may not be less than forty dollars (\$40), and eighty dollars (\$80) if the contractor or subcontractor has been assessed a penalty within the previous three years for failing to meet its prevailing wage obligations on a separate contract. A willful prevailing wage violation shall be assessed a penalty of between thirty dollars (\$30) and one hundred twenty dollars (\$120).**

**The work covered by this agreement is a "public work" as that term is defined in California Labor Code, Division 2, Part 7, and Chapter 1. Bidders are advised that if they intend to use a craft or classification not shown on the general wage determination, they shall be required to pay the wage rate of that craft or classification most clearly related to it, as shown in the determinations.**

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT:

The City of Dixon is committed to the principle of equal employment opportunity and values diversity among all our team members. The City does not discriminate in employment decisions on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, veteran status, disability, age, marital status, medical condition, or any other legally protected status. We welcome and encourage you to assign your qualified minority, female, veteran, and disabled clients to meet our staffing needs.

# COMICS & PUZZLES

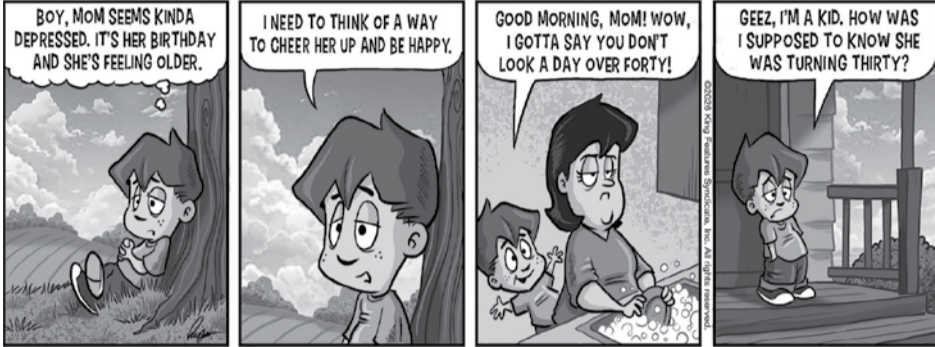
The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



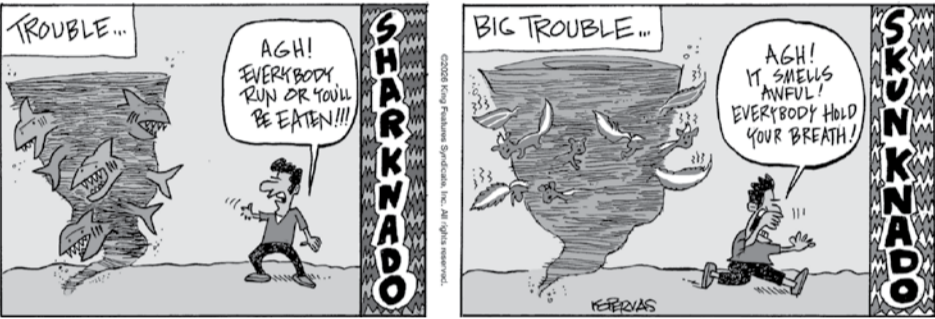
Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



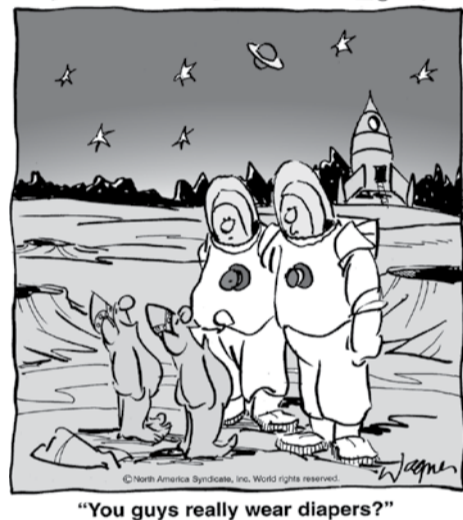
Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Briefcase is different. 3. Vest is missing. 4. Elbow patch is added. 5. Newspaper is larger. 6. Bush is moved.

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

GRIN THE BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

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### CLUES

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- ACROSS  
 1. Canvas primer  
 6. Chlorofluorocarbon, acr.  
 9. Heroin, slang  
 13. Poetic although  
 14. Indochinese language  
 15. Part of a whole  
 16. Like certain suspects  
 17. Rainbow, e.g.  
 18. Not mainstream, as in art  
 19. \*Coast \_\_\_\_, world's tallest tree  
 21. \*Vanilla-producing plant  
 23. Classic film production company, acr.  
 24. \_\_\_\_ in the neck  
 25. \_\_\_\_ the season!  
 28. Ready and eager  
 30. \*Reader's \_\_\_\_ magazine  
 35. "Do \_\_\_\_ others..."  
 37. Rubber bulb on an old bike  
 39. "Lord of the Flies" shell  
 40. Bear's den  
 41. \*Colorful daisy-like bloom  
 43. \*The corpse flower emits a foul one  
 44. Spouse's parent  
 46. EU money  
 47. Unadulterated  
 48. Fish food unit  
 50. Karl of politics  
 52. Between NE and E  
 53. Fat Man or Little Boy  
 55. Major time period  
 57. \*Fastest-growing plant  
 60. \*Coffea \_\_\_\_, a.k.a. coffee plant  
 64. Dam  
 65. Slovenly abode  
 67. More painful  
 68. Change the Constitution  
 69. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway  
 70. Black tie one  
 71. Shakespeare, a.k.a. \_\_\_\_ of Avon  
 72. Kum Ba follower  
 73. What defense does, after presenting
- DOWN  
 1. India's wild ox  
 2. Something \_\_\_\_  
 3. Poker variety  
 4. Medieval oboe  
 5. Study of bird eggs  
 6. Armor-\_\_\_\_  
 7. Distant  
 8. Cold-weather drink  
 9. Hyperbolic sine  
 10. Ghana money  
 11. Battery fluid, e.g.  
 12. "Wow!"  
 15. Alfresco meal  
 20. Nebraska's largest city  
 22. Antonym of keep  
 24. Throw out of kilter  
 25. \*It once was more valuable than gold  
 26. Absurd  
 27. Static picture  
 29. \*U. S. national flower  
 31. Gwyneth Paltrow's brand  
 32. Empower  
 33. Open disrespect  
 34. \*Leaves of \_\_\_\_, let them be

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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



## Play to Win!

The Sacramento Kings surprised fans with startling wins, no less back-to-back over the Los Angeles Clippers and Sunday night over the Utah Jazz.

Not many saw this coming, and with a road win and home win on back-to-back nights, fans were treated to two wins that saw both veterans and the youth of the team come together and prove that there is reason for optimism.

DeMar DeRozan continues to defy age as he led the Kings in scoring, putting up 27 points against the Clippers and following it up with an eye popping 41 points against the Utah Jazz. DeRozan added 11 assists to go with his 41 points, and veteran teammate Russell Westbrook once again treated fans to another triple double.

Without question the veterans came to play but the Kings youngsters are making a definite contribution. Nique Clifford continues to develop as a rookie as does Maxime Raynaud, and surprisingly newcomer Killian Hayes added 16 points and eight assists in the win over the Utah Jazz. Hayes is making people wonder if there may be room on next year's team for him, and what the Kings garner in the upcoming draft will go a long way in determining his future.

Sadly, not all Kings fans are celebrating. Many, including several radio personalities, are actually criticizing the Kings for winning! At this point in the season everyone wants to talk about tanking, and it's a sad state of affairs if basketball fans can't depend on players giving it their best effort regardless of the standings.

Yes, everyone is acutely aware that the worst record has a better chance at getting the first pick in the draft, but that in no way means that players should be giving less than their best effort.

Fans buy tickets to see their champions hit the hardwood with full effort, and I'm proud that the Kings aren't buying into this nonsense of laying down on the job.

The draft will be what the draft will be, but let the gladiators of the hardwood compete, and compete with the goal of winning. If not, what's the point.

Season ticket holders will be in scarce

supply if teams take the low road, and it's my hope that the Sacramento Kings will hold their heads high and play with 100 percent effort every night.

With the best players on the team sidelined with injuries, the youngsters are getting every opportunity to show what they can do, and it gives coaches and fans alike a real opportunity to see what these first- and second-year players have to offer.

One conundrum continues to be Devin Carter who has not been given the same minutes and opportunity as Nique Clifford to show what he can do. Now is the time to give Carter all the minutes he wants so this staff can fully evaluate what Devin has to offer. With just over a dozen games to go, don't leave anything to wonder. Let the youngsters have the ball and minutes to go with it.

There is a great deal of talent on this team already, and with the development of Precious Achiuwa and Dylan Cardwell, the Kings are one noteworthy draft pick from forming a truly formidable front line.

A.J. Dybantsa from the BYU Cougars would look nice in a Kings uniform next season, and it remains a possibility that it might just happen.

So, I will continue to root for wins despite the noise in the background and know that the draft will work itself out.

Whether you're a Russell Westbrook, DeMar DeRozan fan or you've found one of our many youngsters to root for, this team is not nearly as far from a playoff team as many would think.

Build around Domantas Sabonis and they will come! The King of the double-double will be back at full strength next season and we need the fans to be back with him.

Basketball pundits can't stop talking about how deep the upcoming draft is going to be, and I can't help thinking the Kings are due for a game-changing pick that will have fans on their feet for years to come.

Let's keep lighting that beam, and with it smiles on the faces of Kings fans too!

All the best! ★

## As Gas Prices Soar, California's New Carbon Emission Rules Prompt a War of Words



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

This week — as the conflict between the U.S. and Iran raged and gasoline prices soared due to disruption in the global oil trade — a political war erupted in California over proposed air pollution rules that could increase fuel prices even more.

The California Air Resources Board's new crackdown on greenhouse gas emissions, "risks driving production, and the associated emissions, out of state, ultimately undermining both California's economic base and global climate objectives," the California Manufacturers & Technology Association says.

Association President Lance Hastings added in a statement, "If these proposed regulations move forward, Californians should brace for higher costs across the board with no end in sight. There is still time to fix this. CARB and the Legislature must act before it's too late."

The proposed regulation "will cripple the survivability of the state's remaining refineries, which will result in California losing the entire industry to this misguided program," Andy Walz, a high-level Chevron executive, said in a statement. Two California refineries have announced plans to shut down and Chevron, which operates two of the remaining plants, has repeatedly implied

that California's regulatory climate might force it to flee the state as well.

However as business pressured the Air Resources Board to ease the limits, a coalition of environmental groups, including the Environmental Defense Fund, complained that the proposed rules don't go far enough.

"Last year, in the face of federal backtracking, California reinforced its leadership on fighting climate change by extending its cap-and-invest program while prioritizing reducing high electricity bills and saving households money," their letter read. "However, CARB's 2026 proposed C&I program amendments fall short of the near-term ambition needed for California to be on a consistent and affordable path to achieve its 2045 carbon neutrality goals."

Meanwhile, 15 Democratic legislators released a letter expressing concern that the new rules would raise fuel and energy costs that are already among the nation's highest.

"This crisis is not a fallacy nor a thinly veiled threat. It is a reality borne by consumers today, who are historically and empirically least able to afford it," the legislators said, adding, "California's climate leadership cannot come at the cost of destabilizing our energy markets and burdening those least able to bear it."

Interestingly — or ironically — all 15 signatories voted less than a year ago for the legislation that empowered the air board to draft the revisions, which were released in January and are due to be finalized in May.

The legislation behind this flurry of warnings and laments is Assembly Bill 1207, which emerged from

backroom negotiations last September. It quickly passed and Gov. Gavin Newsom signed it.

The measure renames the cap-and-trade program cap-and-invest and extends it 15 years from 2030, the current expiration date, coinciding with the state's declared intention to make California carbon neutral by 2045. It authorizes the Air Resources Board to adjust the emission limits accordingly.

Until now, the state's business community had fundamentally supported the auctioning of emission allowances as a market approach preferable to the direct regulation of emissions, which many environmental groups favored.

Capitol politicians also liked auctions because they generate large amounts of money — an estimated \$31 billion since 2013 — that are supposed to finance carbon emission reductions. One major recipient has been the state's much-troubled bullet train project. However, when the state incurs one of its periodic budget crises, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund has also been tapped for expenses that have little, if any, connection to greenhouse gases.

The cost of living is now a top-drawer political concern, and with gasoline prices topping \$5 a gallon in many regions, anything that pushes consumer prices even higher is bound to become a political football.

*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

### When Will I Get Full Credit for Delaying my SS Retirement?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** The time is nearing that I want to move from my current Social Security survivor benefit to my own SS retirement benefit at 70 years of age. I have been looking more deeply into the application of Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs), and I have read that DRCs accumulated in the year that I turn 70 (September 2026) will not be effective when I actually turn 70. Rather, those DRCs won't be paid until the following year. Can you verify that this is correct? I presume that if the DRC's are not applied at age 70, that they will be applied sometime after the first of the year and any increase will be paid retroactively.

**Signed: Retiring Soon**  
**Dear Retiring Soon:** The Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) you speak of have accumulated at the rate of 8% per year

(.667% per month) since you reached your SS full retirement age (FRA), which means that at age 70 your monthly SS benefit will be about 129% of the amount you were entitled to at your FRA of 66 years plus 4 months.

However, your understanding of how DRCs will work for you at age 70 is not correct. If you claim for your Social Security retirement benefits to begin in September 2026 (the month you turn 70) you will receive all DRCs, you have accumulated up to that point in time. In other words, you will get your full age 70 benefit amount immediately, including all DRCs earned until then, effective with your first SS retirement payment (which you will get in October 2026). What you have likely read about is that DRCs work a bit differently for those who claim SS after their full retirement age, but before their 70th birthday month.

For those who claim mid-year but before age 70, only DRCs earned through the end of the preceding year are initially applied, and DRCs earned during the current year are not paid until the following January. This results in a loss of some SS benefit between the

time benefits start and the following January, because only the amount earned as of the end of the previous year are first paid, and the full number of DRCs earned during the current year are applied in January. But, as is the case for you, when benefits are claimed to start in the month you reach 70 years of age, all DRCs earned up to the month of your 70th birthday are immediately applied.

Congratulations on selecting a strategy which will maximize your monthly Social Security benefit.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. 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-dvisor) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★*



## Kristi Noem Rides Off into the Sunset

man, the border czar who supplanted her in Minneapolis, was on TV and sought to outpace him.

The Journal related that Lewandowski was desperate to get a federally issued gun and badge and exacted retribution against those who didn't cooperate (he failed to get the gun, but apparently got the badge).

DHS officials denied much of the Journal story, but even if a fraction of it was true, it was still damning.

The two were turfy, sharp-elbowed bureaucratic players, not a new or unusual offense in Washington. But their enemies tended to be people who knew what they were doing, with Tom Homan high on the list.

Noem and Lewandowski raised eyebrows by taking an unusual amount of control over the department's spending.

Self-dealing Noem played a direct role in Noem's defenestration. The department approved a \$220 million contract -- funneled in part through firms run by Noem and Lewandowski allies -- for an ad campaign encouraging illegal immigrants to go home.

The ad starred -- who else? -- Kristi Noem. She was on horseback and in chaps. The implicit message was that if illegal immigrants didn't leave on their own, she'd immediately form a posse and run them over the border. It was a production worthy of a spaghetti western, or -- more to the point, given her political ambitions -- a commercial for a 2028 presidential campaign.

Noem couldn't defend the sketchy spending decisions, or the blatantly self-glorify-

ing ad, or much of anything else, in brutal back-to-back House and Senate congressional hearings that precipitated her doom. She'd already been taken down a notch after the Minneapolis ICE operation went sideways. Not working with copious supplies of credibility to begin with, she tossed away whatever she had by instantly labeling both agitators shot by DHS agents "domestic terrorists."

All of this said, it was Trump who hired Noem despite her manifest deficiencies, including no notable experience in immigration enforcement. She was camera-ready and loyal, so why not? Her designated replacement, Oklahoma senator Markwayne Mullin, also doesn't have a background in immigration policy. One hopes, though, that he won't interfere with the professionals and will continue the Homan-backed approach of focusing on apprehending illegal immigrants who have committed other criminal offenses and received final orders of removal, and ramping up worksite enforcement.

The French World War I-era statesman Georges Clemenceau once said, "War is too important to be left to the generals." By the same token, immigration enforcement is too important to be left to self-serving glory hounds who are focused more on the main chance than the underlying mission.

Trump's first firing was the right one.

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



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# Athletics' Star Tyler Soderstrom Announces Inaugural Charity Poker Tournament

## Athletics News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Tyler Soderstrom, a California native and rising star of the Athletics, is proud to announce his Inaugural Charity Poker Tournament, an exclusive fundraising event benefiting EASE and Keaton's Child Care Alliance. The event will take place on Monday, May 11, from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Kimpton Sawyer Hotel, 500 J St, Sacramento.

As a lifelong Californian who has grown up within the Athletics organization, Soderstrom has embraced both the responsibility and opportunity that come with his role on and off the field. Now entering a new chapter of his career with the A's, Tyler is committed to using his platform to make a lasting impact in the communities that helped shape him.

The inaugural tournament reflects Soderstrom's dedication to giving back to organizations that provide life-changing support to children and families facing adversity. Both beneficiary organizations align closely with Tyler's belief in mentorship, community and showing



Tyler Soderstrom, a California native and rising star of the Athletics, is proud to announce his Inaugural Charity Poker Tournament, an exclusive fundraising event benefiting EASE and Keaton's Child Care Alliance. Photo courtesy of Tyler Soderstrom Charity Poker Tournament

up for others when it matters most.

"Launching this event means a lot to me. Year one is always special, and I'm excited to bring people together for a night that's fun, meaningful, and focused on giving back. Both EASE and Keaton's have changed lives in powerful ways, and being able to support them through this event is something I'm incredibly

proud of," said Soderstrom

The one-of-a-kind evening will bring together the community for a memorable night of poker, cocktails, local bites, prizes and unique interactions with Soderstrom and fellow athletes. Designed to blend entertainment with impact, the event offers guests and sponsors an opportunity to connect through sport while supporting

meaningful causes. For sponsorship opportunities and to purchase tickets, visit <http://Soderstrompoker.com>.

Sponsorship opportunities range from \$500 to \$25,000, offering brands premium visibility and engagement through event signage, gift bag inclusion, on-site recognition, and access to a high-profile audience passionate about sports and

philanthropy. Proceeds from the event will benefit EASE, which supports youth through mentorship, education and life skills development, and Keaton's Child Care Alliance, which provides critical emotional and financial support to families navigating childhood cancer.

"EASE changed my life when I was struggling with food insecurity, low grades, and an uncertain future. When I didn't believe in myself, they believed in me. They guided me, encouraged me, and surrounded me with mentors who felt like family. EASE gave me hope when I felt lost and opportunities I never thought I deserved. I truly don't know where I would be without the EASE team," said EASE Alumni Tyler Jennings.

Maricsa, mother of Abby, 15-year-old Osteosarcoma Survivor added, "In the darkest of times, you became a new member of our family—granting us emotional and financial support when we most needed it. Keaton's is a blessing to our family. The care, family events and kindness gave us strength and hope while fighting our daughter's cancer." ★

# ARC Women's Swim and Dive Capture Team Title at Cuesta Super Invite

## American River College Athletics News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The American River College (ARC) Women's Swim and Dive team delivered an outstanding performance the weekend of March 7, claiming the team championship at the 20-team Cuesta Super Invite. The meet opened with an exciting sprint format, highlighted by the 50 freestyle shootout, where the American River College placed five swimmers in the top 10: Amber Inderkum, Sasha Samoylovich, Anabel Maldonado, Jackie Clouser, and Ella Hanson.

Freshman Ella Hanson had a breakout weekend, posting personal-best times in all of her events while playing a key role in the team's relay success. Her strong swims provided an important boost to the American River College's relay squads throughout the meet.

The distance group also delivered



The American River College (ARC) Women's Swim and Dive team delivered an outstanding performance the weekend of March 7, claiming the team championship at the 20-team Cuesta Super Invite. Photo courtesy of the American River College Athletics

impressive performances, with multiple personal bests across the board.

Claire Contreras led the charge with wlifetime-best times in the 50, 200 and

500 freestyle events.

The American River College's scoring leaders included Sasha Samoylovich and Amber Inderkum, who both finished among the meet's top five high-point scorers, contributing significantly to the team's overall victory. Following the weekend's results, all ARC relay teams are now ranked in the top eight in the state, positioning the program strongly as the season progresses.

The divers also played a crucial role in securing the team win. Sophomore Ashley Johnson earned second place on both boards, while freshman Arie Black added valuable points with a third-place finish.

With standout swims, strong relay performances and key contributions from the diving squad, the American River College showcased depth and talent across the board on its way to a dominant victory at the Cuesta Super Invite. ★

# Picton Named to Big Sky All-Tournament Team



Sacramento State junior guard Natalie Picton was named to the Big Sky Conference All-Tournament Team after helping lead the Hornets to a berth in the semifinals for only the fifth time in school history. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

## Sacramento State Athletics News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento State junior guard Natalie Picton was named to the Big Sky Conference All-Tournament Team after helping lead the Hornets to a berth in the semifinals for only the fifth time in school history.

Picton became only the seventh different Hornet to earn an all-tournament spot, joining Emily Christensen (2012), Alle Moreno (2013), Adella Randle-El (2015), Kahlahjah Dean (2023, MVP), Isnelle Natabou (2023), and two-time honoree Benthe Versteeg (2024-25).

The native of Welland, Ontario, was the only all-tournament team member not to hail from one of the two championship competitors as tournament champion Idaho

placed three and runner-up Montana State had a pair.

After helping the Hornets gain a berth into the quarterfinal round for only the second time in school history, Picton averaged 17.0 ppg and shot 42 percent from the field overall for Sacramento State, guiding the program to a win over Idaho State, 62-53, and a hard-fought loss to top-seeded Idaho, 59-51, in what was a one-point game with eight minutes remaining in regulation.

She finished with a team-high 19 points on 7-of-16 from the field in the win over the Bengals, adding three assists and a steal in 39 minutes. Twenty-four hours later, Picton shared game-high honors with 15 points against the Vandals to post her third-straight double-digit scoring game and her eighth in the last 10.

Wrapping up her first season as a Hornet, Picton finished second on the team in scoring at 13.4 ppg, while averaging 3.7 rpg and leading the team with 67 steals (2.16 spg). She shot 37 percent overall from the field and was second on the team with 66 three-pointers made while finishing in double figures 22 times.

She set a collegiate high with 27 points in a win over Simpson on Dec. 15 and added four more games with 20-or-more points. Picton also posted collegiate highs with nine made field goals (twice against Simpson and Weber State) and six three-pointers made (twice against UC Davis and Montana), while grabbing a career-high eight rebounds against the Grizzlies on Jan. 31.

Defensively, she finished with multiple steals in 21 of 31 games, including 10 games of three or more. Her 67 steals were the most by a Hornet in a single campaign since Maranne Johnson swiped 77 steals in 2017-18. ★

# Montero Joins Republic FC's First Team on USL Academy Contract



Republic FC announced March 11 the addition of academy player Jackson Montero to the club's first team roster. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

## Sacramento Republic FC News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Republic FC announced March 11 the addition of academy player Jackson Montero to the club's first team roster. The defender has signed a USL Academy Contract, pending league and federation approval, and will be eligible to play in first team matches in 2026.

"Jackson continues to put in the work to develop his game, and we're thrilled to offer him this opportunity again this year," said Republic FC Head Coach Neill Collins.

This is the second straight year that Republic FC has extended an Academy Contract to Montero. He first joined the Indomitable Club in 2017 and has featured for every age group during his youth career. In 2022, he as a member of the club's U15 team that reached the semifinal round of the MLS NEXT Cup – the only non-MLS academy to reach the late stages of the annual national tournament. Before joining Republic FC, he featured for local clubs San Juan Soccer Club and Sacramento United.

With Montero's signing, seven players on Sacramento's 2026 roster come from the youth academy. Da'vian Kimbrough, Blake Willey, and Chibi Ukaegbu have risen through the ranks to sign professional contracts with their hometown team, while defenders Rohan Chivukula and Luke Strassburg and goalkeeper Brooks Doolittle signed USL Academy Contracts during the offseason. USL Academy Contracts allow academy players the chance to train and compete with the first team in professional matches while retaining their NCAA eligibility.

Since its inception in 2015, Republic FC's Academy has created a strong, local pipeline of youth players ready for professional-level competition, with over 40 players earning the opportunity to join the first team on USL Academy contracts and over 25 going on to sign professional contracts with Republic FC or other clubs. In 2025, players from Sacramento's youth academy combined for 80 gameday roster selections, 56 appearances, and over 3,000 minutes. ★

# UC Davis Biochemistry Class Strikes Gold

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

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - It's not often that a Nobel laureate visits a UC Davis undergraduate classroom, but this year, a biochemistry class in Kleiber Hall struck "gold" – twice.

Not one, but two Nobel laureates chronicled their scientific careers and answered questions during their virtual visits to UC Davis Distinguished Professor Walter Leal's winter quarter class, "Structure and Function of Biomolecules."

Nobel laureates Charles Rice of Rockefeller University, a UC Davis alumnus and Randy Schekman of UC Berkeley separately visited Leal's classroom within a three-week period. Each received the Nobel Prize in the category Physiology or Medicine: Rice in 2020, and Schekman in 2013. In addition to global recognition, the prize includes a gold medal and cash.

The "golden" opportunities stunned the 220 students, who are primarily in pre-health majors. They described the "once-in-a-lifetime" experiences as both "inspirational and motivational."

"The Nobel laureate visits provided students with opportunities they never imagined when enrolling in an undergraduate class," said Leal, who invited his fellow members of the National Academy of Sciences to speak.

"Every winter quarter since I transferred from the entomology department to the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, I carry on a tradition inspired by the late entomology professors Charles Judson and Bruce Hammock when I was co-teaching with them. I would invite leading scientists in their field to our classrooms for short interviews with our students. We did that before the Zoom era. Now we can have virtual visits."



Nobel laureate Randy Schekman addresses the UC Davis biochemistry class in a virtual visit. Photo by TJ Ushing

Leal, recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Teaching Award from the UC Davis Academic Senate, said of his students: "I seek to unlock their imagination and potential."

Students filled out an anonymous evaluation form following the virtual visits.

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to hear from two Nobel Laureates," wrote one student. "It was truly an honor. I have told many of my family members and friends."

Rice, a virologist who shared the Nobel with colleagues Harvey Alter and Michael Houghton for their contributions to the discovery and characterization of the hepatitis C virus, was born in Sacramento in 1952. After receiving his UC Davis degree, he took a "gap year," traveling internationally before enrolling in the California Institute of Technology.

In his presentation, Rice encouraged UC Davis students to seek research opportunities on campus as part of their undergraduate experience and



Biochemistry student Sreeya Pasumarthy asks a question during the UC Davis virtual visit of Randy Schekman. Photo by TJ Ushing

to "find what you love and do whatever you can to make your dreams into a reality."

"I enjoyed Dr. Charles Rice's visit," a student wrote. "He was very funny and humble and knowing that someone had little direction but became a Nobel laureate makes me more confident in my abilities to make a change."

Many of the students later attended the Chancellor's

Colloquium, at which Chancellor Gary May addressed the topic that "scientific progress is best achieved through publicly funded research initiatives."

Cell biologist Randy Schekman, born in 1948 in St. Paul, MN, but who moved to southern California in the late 1950s, received his doctorate in biochemistry from Stanford University. He shared the Nobel



UC Davis Distinguished Professor Walter Leal leads the discussion. Photo by TJ Ushing

Prize with James Rothman and Thomas Rothman Sudhof for their groundbreaking research on cell membrane vesicle trafficking. They discovered the genetic and molecular machinery that regulates vesicle transport – the "shipping system" of cells.

In his virtual visit, Schekman commented on how science and politics are intertwined, and why government research funding is crucial.

"Dr. Randy Schekman's visit definitely spoke to me deeply as a student interested in science and politics," wrote one student. "The two fields are so deeply intertwined at this point in history that you cannot care about one and not the other."

"Overall," Leal said, "hearing about the Nobel laureates' struggles, failures, and persistence reassured students about their own challenges. These were highly valuable educational experiences, deeply inspirational and motivating, and events they will remember forever." ★

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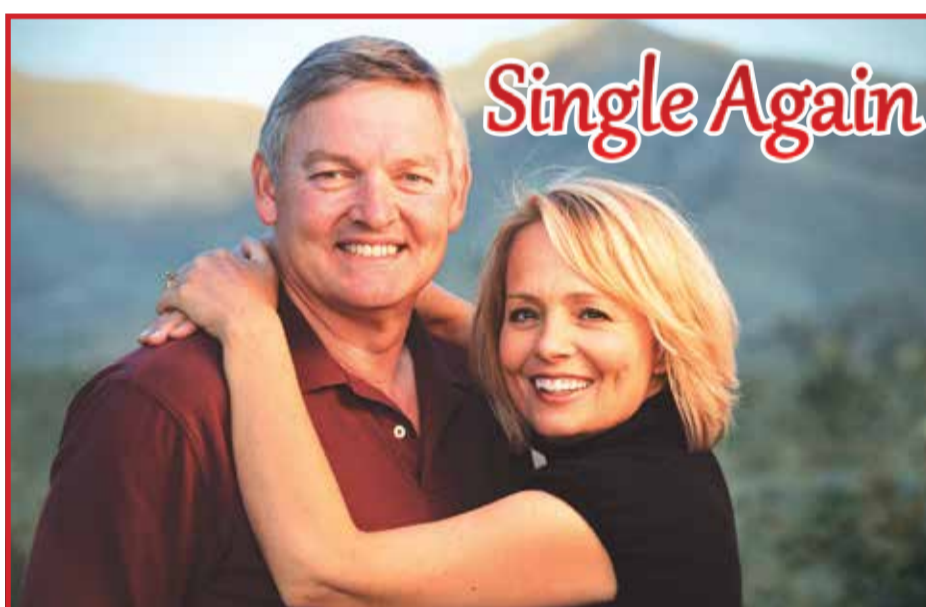
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