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Dixon

Independent Voice

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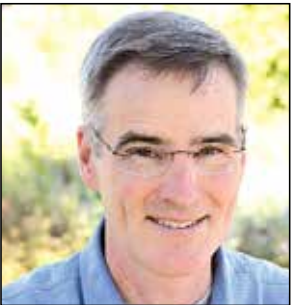
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AUGUST 14, 2026

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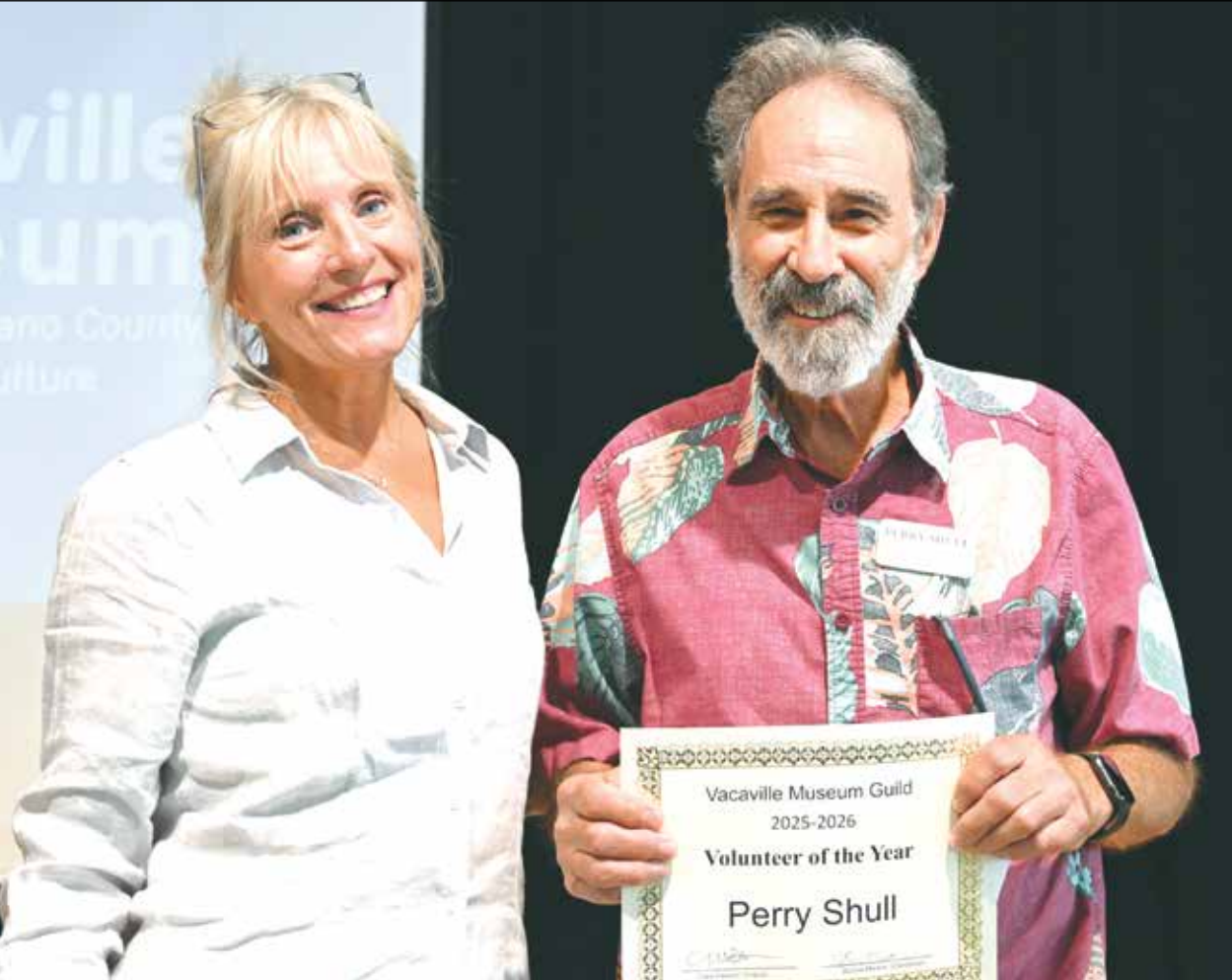
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Perry Shull Named Volunteer of Year



Wanda Cook, president of the Vacaville Museum's Board of Trustees, congratulates Perry Shull, the Vacaville Museum Guild's Volunteer of the Year.

**Story and photo
by Kathy Keatley Garvey**

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - Perry Shull, known as “always ready to lend a helping hand,” is the newly selected 2026 Vacaville Museum Guild’s Volunteer of the Year. “Perry is always the first person to raise his hand...even if he is not quite sure what he's doing yet!” said Vacaville Museum executive director Clara Dawson. “His flexibility and willingness to try something new makes Volunteer of the Year award well deserved.” Shull, a member of the Vacaville Museum and Guild since 2023, said Pam King (last year’s Volunteer of the Year) convinced him to join. “Unlike some of my fellow

members, who have valuable / critical skills, I tend to fill in where there’s a need. I’m a pinch hitter,” Shull said humbly. “The members of the museum are what make it all worthwhile. The public’s response to the museum just adds on to that. I’m pretty much a ‘If I can do it, or learn how, I’ll be doing it.’” Shull was honored at the guild’s recent brunch in the Saturday Club. Wanda Cook, president of the museum's board of trustees, presented him with the award. “Perry is the epitome of volunteerism,” said outgoing guild president Pat Zetah. “He is always ready to lend a helping hand. No task is out of his comfort level. He is a joy to work with at any event.” Bonnie Moreno who co-chairs the

Volunteer-of-the-Year Committee with Sue Elliott, commented: “Perry is the best. He’s always so willing to help with anything. He is greatly appreciated.” Shull, father of three and grandfather of three, is retired from AT&T where he served as a “splicer, putting all those little wires together and then later fixing them. But over the years, I did any and all of the jobs.” “I greatly enjoy working with all the museum staff and all the Guild members,” Shull said, “and in presenting the museum’s goal of informing / engaging the public.” The Vacaville Museum collects and preserves artifacts related directly to the history of Solano County and promotes “an awareness
Continued on page 3

Council Approves Contract for West A Street Corridor Study

By Shaunna Boyd

DIXON, CA (MPG) - At the Aug. 4 meeting, the Dixon City Council considered a \$272,800 contract with DKS Associates to conduct a traffic corridor study of West A Street from the I-80 Interchange to Pitt School Road. The owner of the Wienerschnitzel restaurant on West A Street spoke during public comment about how a roadway median installed as part of the Homestead development has impacted his business: the median blocks left turns into his driveway, causing customers and delivery drivers to travel farther down the road and make a U-turn, in order to come back and enter his driveway from the other direction. Since he opened in 2019, he said he’s done good business, and he expected business to increase more over time with other planned developments bringing in more residents. Instead, he’s experienced a 50% decrease in business due to this issue. He asked the council to remove the median: “Please do something.” Staff said this issue has been under discussion at the city for a while. Homestead’s traffic study only looked at residential impacts and did not consider the nearby business area. That’s why staff are requesting the consultant contract for a study of the full A Street corridor.

Councilmember Thom Bogue acknowledged that it’s important to look at the entire area. But he said the portion that is negatively impacting businesses needs to be a top priority. Councilmember Kevin Johnson agreed. He supported the full study but said there needs to be quicker solution to the immediate problem: “The median needs to be removed.” Assistant City Manager Kate Zawadzki said the city is trying to avoid duplicate costs that could be incurred if they move forward with projects prior to the full corridor traffic study. But she said staff will look into options for expediting the process. City Engineer/Director of Utilities Christopher Fong said there is concern about potential liability for the city if they remove an element of an approved design without a study reviewing potential impacts of that removal. The city attorney agreed
Continued on page 3

Dixon Resident Named to Local United Way Board

**United Way
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Josh Fleenor of Dixon has been named to the board of directors for United Way California Capital Region. Fleenor is president of Pest Pros Pest Solutions, a family-owned pest control company founded and headquartered in Sacramento and serving communities across Northern California. Over the past several years, Fleenor has led the company through rapid growth, earning recognition on the Inc. 5000 list multiple years, along with local honors across several platforms, including Sacramento Bee’s “Sac Favorites,” where the company has earned back-to-back gold awards for Best Pest Control and gold



Josh Fleenor of Dixon has been named to the board of directors for United Way California Capital Region. Photo courtesy of United Way

for Best Customer Service. Deeply committed to giving back to the

Season of Giving Toy Drive, helping deliver meaningful impact for families in need during the holidays. He also is involved with All About Hope and the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women campaign. He was recognized as Team Member of the Year by Pest Pros for his commitment to causes that make a real difference in people’s lives. Fleenor is one of five community leaders across the region joining United Way’s board of directors this month. “Strong communities depend on leaders who are willing to use their experience, influence and passion for service to create opportunities for others,” said Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO, United
Continued on page 9

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80¢/EA

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No Limit



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Prices valid 08/14/26-08/16/26 in store only. Items may vary by store, time, and availability. While supplies last. *Compared to traditional grocery stores and based on non-member pricing, excluding any mandatory charges, fees, and taxes, if applicable.

Dixon News Briefs

Downtown Dixon Business Association will present its fourth annual Art and Wine Stroll Aug. 22. The event is expected to feature local wineries, food trucks, live music, art displays and shopping throughout downtown. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By MPG Staff

Dixon Teen Center Hiring

Dixon Teen Center is looking to hire a Teen Center Coordinator. The requirements of the position include excellent people skills, especially with teens, coordination experience, and availability every Friday and Saturday from 4 to 8 p.m.

For more information or to apply, visit Dixon Teen Center on Facebook or call either 707-695-2724 or 707-344-3544.

Toastmasters Open House

Dixon Toastmasters are hosting a series of meetings open to the public from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. every second and fourth Tuesday. Held in-person at Mountain Mike's Pizza, 1700 N. First St., the meeting will have a simultaneous virtual option, allowing attendees to participate over Zoom.

For more information or to receive the Zoom link, visit Dixon 6870 Toastmasters Club on Facebook, call 916-801-6234 or email toastmaster.lou@gmail.com

Chamber Networking Lunch

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a networking event from noon to 1:30 p.m. Aug. 20. This free in-person event, held at 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. Lunch is provided.

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

Art and Wine Stroll

Downtown Dixon Business Association will present its fourth annual Art and Wine Stroll Aug. 22. The event is expected to feature local wineries, food trucks, live music, art displays and shopping throughout downtown. Organizers said proceeds will help fund future community events, including the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Festival on Dec. 5.

For more information, visit downtowndixonca.com or email dixon-downtownba@yahoo.com.

Under the Valley Moon

Solano Midnight Sun Breast Cancer Foundation will conclude the month's fundraising activities with Under the Valley Moon at 5 p.m. Aug. 29 at Bella

Vista Farms, 7108 State Highway 113. The event will feature a Napa-style lobster boil, hosted bar, live entertainment, auctions and raffles.

For more information, visit Solano Midnight Sun Breast Cancer Foundation or call 707-469-9909.

Bunco Night

Joystick Gaming Lounge will host its monthly Bunco Night from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 27. Held at the lounge, 420 Gateway Dr., Suite C, the event includes prizes, with food and beverages available for purchase. The event costs \$20 per attendee. Proceeds from beer and wine sales will benefit Kiwanis Club of Dixon.

For more information, visit joystick-dixon.com or call 707-676-5697.

Fall Water Aerobics

The city of Dixon is hosting a low-impact water aerobics class from Aug. 9 to Oct. 4. Held at Pat Granucci Aquatic Center, 450 E. Mayes St., the class is catered for attendees 14 years and older and daily admission costs \$6 for the general public and \$4.50 for seniors 55 and older. The class is available from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Sundays and from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Fridays.

For more information, visit cityofdixonca.gov/departments/recreation or call 707-343-8162.

Dixon High School Football

The Dixon High School Rams Football Team has an away game Aug. 28. Hosted at San Juan High School, 7551 Greenback Lane, Citrus Heights, the team will play its first game of the season. The Rams will take on the San Juan High Spartans.

For more information, visit Dixon Rams Athletics on Facebook or call 707-693-6330.

Monarch Butterfly Logistics

Dixon Library is hosting a class in partnership with the University of California Master Gardeners from 10 to 11 a.m. Aug. 15. Held at the library, 230 N. First St., the presentation, led by Rich Marovich, will focus on propagating milkweed host plants and nectar plants while explaining how shared greenhouse spaces can help distribute plants to gardeners and community members interested in supporting monarch butterfly habitats.

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

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Dixon Police Department Opens Temporary Public Lobby During Renovations

Dixon Police Department News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Police Department is pleased to announce the opening of its temporary public lobby at 1855 N. First St., Suite C, as construction begins on the renovation and expansion of the Dixon Police Department.

Effective immediately, members of the public may visit the temporary lobby for police services previously provided at the department's headquarters. The temporary facility will serve as the department's public-facing location throughout the construction project.

The temporary lobby will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding city holidays.

The renovation of the police facility is a significant investment in the future of public safety in Dixon. The project includes modernization of the existing building and the addition of a second floor, allowing



the department to better serve a growing community while providing improved workspaces for police personnel.

“We appreciate the community's patience during this transition,” said Chief Robert Thompson. “While our location has temporarily changed, our commitment to providing exceptional police service has not. This project represents an investment in the future of public safety, and we look forward to welcoming the community back to an expanded and modernized police facility when construction is complete.”

Police operations will continue uninterrupted throughout construction. Emergency services will remain available by calling 911, and non-emergency assistance can be obtained by calling 707-678-7070.

The Dixon Police Department anticipates operating from the temporary facility for approximately one year while construction is completed. ★

Council Approves Contract for West A Street Corridor Study

Continued from page 1

there could be liability issues, and if someone were hurt or killed at that location it could result in a lawsuit costing the city millions of dollars.

Bogue said Homestead’s study was “flawed,” and the city caused this problem by approving that design.

Councilmember Don Hendershot said he wants to see options for that location brought back at the next meeting.

The council voted 4-0 to approve the consultant contract for the corridor study, with Vice Mayor Jim Ernest absent.

The council also considered the fiscal year 2026-27 Pavement Preservation Project, which is funded by SB 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act, which addresses basic road maintenance, rehabilitation and safety needs on state highways and local streets. These funds are collected through increases in gas and diesel taxes as well as vehicle registration fees, and funds are dispersed through Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Accounts (RMRA).

Junior Engineer Jordan Santos said roadways are graded on a scale from 0 (failed) to 100 (brand new). Staying above an average of 50 is vital, otherwise roads begin to degrade at a faster rate, and then maintenance and rehabilitation costs increase dramatically.

The last review of Dixon’s roadway conditions was conducted in 2022. At that time, the pavement network had an overall score of 61, with 48% rated very good,

26% good, 13% poor and 13% very poor.

There are specific guidelines for how the RMAA money can be used, with the cheapest solutions typically prescribed, such as slurry seal coatings, which extend pavement lifespan by five to seven years. The city receives around \$400,000 annually in RMAA funding, but Santos explained there is currently no funding mechanism for in-depth treatments for roadways needing more significant and costly repairs.

The proposed 2026-27 Pavement Preservation Project includes slurry seal treatment on the following roadways: Bristol Court, Gill Court, Grove Court, Hall Park Drive, Hannah Court, Holly Court, Kib Court, Joy Court, Keel Court, Little Lane, North Adams Street, Parkway Boulevard, Pembroke Way, Russell Lane, Yeoman Court, Oxford Court and Porter St.

Councilmember Johnson said, “We’re not doing enough for our streets,” but they don’t know how behind they are because they’re operating on information from 2022.

Councilmember Bogue clarified that currently all funding for street repairs is coming from the SB 1 RMAA funding, but he said residents pay property taxes and the city should be investing some of those funds into road maintenance as well.

The council voted 4-0 to approve the Pavement Preservation Plan for the 2026-27 RMAA funding.

The next meeting of the Dixon City Council is scheduled for Aug. 18. ★

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

DIXON POLICE LOG



Friday, July 31, 2026
1022 Hours Theft from a business in the 600 block of North First Street.
1413 Hours Fraud report in the 600 block of North Almond Street.
1528 Hours Non injury vehicle accident in the 900 block of Walton Court.
0039 hours Officers contacted Daniel Lamons (38 year old male of Dixon) in Northwest Park. Lamons was arrested for public intoxication and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Saturday, August 1, 2026
1648 Hours Domestic violence incident in the 1100 block of Mulberry Lane.
2018-459.5 PC, shoplifting and 182 PC, Conspiracy report taken in the 2000 block of N. 1st Street.
2225-978.5 PC, Bench Warrant arrest, in the 2500 block of N. 1st Street. Suspect Sinsaye Jones (21-year-old, male, out of Antioch) was arrested. He was transported to Solano County Jail and booked without incident.
2347-415 PC, disturbing the peace and 422.6 PC Hate crime report, taken in the 1100 block of Jacobs Drive.
2353 Non-injury collision report, taken in the 400 block of E. Mayes Street.

Sunday, August 2, 2026
1413 A confidential report was taken in the 1800 block of Gold St.
1800 Theft report was taken in the 1900 block of North First Street.

Monday, August 3, 2026
0719 A vehicle was towed for expired registration.
0911 A vehicle was towed for expired registration.
1302 An informational report was taken in the 2200 block of Mourning Dove Dr.
1628 A traffic collision report was taken on Pitt School Rd at W80.
0111 Traffic stop in the area of Pitt School Road and Hillview Drive resulted in the medical transport of the driver.

Perry Shull Named Volunteer of Year

Continued from page 1

and understanding of county history and culture by offering interpretive exhibits and associated programs. Its stated mission is “to explore history, connect community and cultivate a future inspired by arts and culture.”

Incorporated in 1981, the museum opened its inaugural exhibition in May 1984.

For more information about the museum and the guild, access <https://vacavillemuseum.org/>. ★

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Hours expected are 5 hours daily from Monday through Friday. Covering events on some Saturdays would mean adjusting the weekday work schedule.

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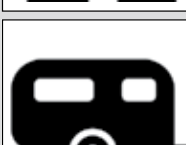
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UC Davis Football Ranked No. 6 In STATS Perform Top 25 Preseason Poll

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - With just a few weeks to go until the opening kick-off at Portland State, UC Davis football has been slotted at No. 6 in the STATS Perform Top 25 Preseason Poll. This is the highest preseason ranking the Aggies since coming off a 2018 Big Sky Championship season during the 2019 preseason ranking.

Coming off of a 9-4 record with a 6-2 conference mark in 2025, the Aggies are riding momentum after appearing in back-to-back FCS Quarterfinals. UC Davis rattled off ranked wins against No. 14 NAU and No. 9 Rhode Island while hosting the FCS Quarterfinals for the first time in program history.

UC Davis is one of four Big Sky programs in this season's top 25, being joined by NAU at No. 25, Montana at No. 2, and defending national



The Aggies open the season on the road with the Big Sky opener against Portland State on Aug. 29. The home opener will be versus Stetson on Sept. 19. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

champion Montana State at No. 1.

The 2026 Aggies are set to be loaded across the field, featuring All-Conference and All-American players in all phases of the game.

Leading the way on offense is Walter Payton Preseason Watch List senior Samuel Gbatu, Jr.

The 2025 Big Sky leader in receptions, receiving yards, and receiving touchdowns is back for

his fifth season in the blue and gold, looking to leave his mark as the next great receiver for the Aggies.

Defensively, the Conners brothers of Rex and Porter have returned to the field after seeing their senior seasons cut short due to injury. Both men have been named STATS Perform and FCS Football Preseason All-Americans and Rex has been named to the Buck Buchanan Preseason Award Watch List for the third straight season after setting the program record for career tackles last season.

Other notable starters include center Zaire Collier, running back Jordan Fisher, defensive linemen Trent Carrade and Rayne Mayo Jr., and sophomore defensive back Drew Cofield.

The Aggies open the season on the road with the Big Sky opener against Portland State on Aug. 29. The home opener will be versus Stetson on Sept. 19. ★

McDougall Completes Coaching Staff with Centeno Hire

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State interim head men's soccer coach Matt McDougall rounded out his coaching staff for the 2026 season on July 24, elevating Hector "Keko" Grajeda to a full-time assistant coaching position and adding Northern California native Danny Centeno as an assistant with the Hornets.

"We are excited to welcome Danny into our Hornet men's soccer family," McDougall said. "Danny is a young coach that is eager to help student-athletes succeed both on and off the field. He brings a wealth of knowledge from the professional game, and we look forward to him mentoring our student-athletes."

Grajeda is entering his second year with the program training the Hornets' goalkeepers after joining the sidelines prior to the 2025 campaign. The Sacramento State alum returned to his alma mater after spending the previous four seasons as a coach at the club level and a four-year professional playing career.

Centeno enters his first year as a coach after spending the last four years playing with Atlanta United 2 and Birmingham Legion FC in the USL Championship. He was selected with the 19th overall pick in the first round of the 2022 MLS SuperDraft by Atlanta, training with the first team before making his professional debut on March 12,



Northern California native Danny Centeno has been named men's soccer assistant coach with the Hornets. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State

2022, with a start against Louisville City FC.

"I am excited for this new journey and opportunity," Centeno said. "I look forward to helping our student-athletes as much as I can, along with working with this great staff and program. I want to thank my former coaches and teammates, especially

Mikey Varas, for helping me along in my soccer journey."

In his first year, he started 16 of his 30 appearances with Atlanta United 2, recording three assists, then made 18 starts in 26 appearances in 2023 with club, collecting his first professional goal in a 5-0 win over Miami and adding two more assists.

A graduate of Weston Ranch HS in Stockton, Calif., Centeno trained and competed within the Sacramento Republic Academy system for four years from 2015-19 before spending a year with the FC Dallas Academy. He returned to the Sacramento Republic Academy side in 2021 before signing with Pacific.

In his freshman season, Centeno appeared in 16 matches for the Tigers, finishing with six goals and five assists to lead the team in points and tie for the team lead in goals. He was a named a Freshman All-American first-teamer by College Soccer News, was selected to both the All-West Coast Conference first team and all-freshman team, and was chosen as the WCC's Freshman of the Year, helping Pacific finish second in the conference standings

Following that year, he signed a Generation Adidas contract and entered the MLS SuperDraft, where he was taken by Atlanta.

Centeno also has experience competing with the United States Youth National Team and is the founder and head coach of Centeno Elite, a private soccer training business specializing in individual and small group development. ★

Marshall and Menard Win City Mixed Team Championship

Sacramento Golf Council News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The 85th Sacramento City Mixed Team Championship was contested at Bing Maloney Golf Course on Sunday, Aug. 2.

Winners of the Mixed Team Championship are Ramona Marshall and Lawrence Menard with a gross of 91, playing with a handicap of 27.5 for a net 63.5 Marshall won the CityAmateur Handicap division in June.

Thirty-four teams competed in the Mixed Team Tournament that was open to all amateur golfers with an established GHIN (Golf Handicap Index).

Teams played 18 holes using the Chapman format. Both partners hit from their own tee. Each plays a second shot with the other's



Winners of the Mixed Team Championship are Ramona Marshall and Lawrence Menard. Courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council

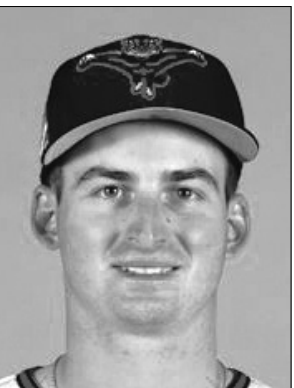
ball. After the second shots, a choice is made regarding the ball to be used to continue, and the hole is completed by using alternating shots until

Turner Hill Named Minor League Baseball Pacific Coast League Player of the Month

Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Aug. 5, Minor League Baseball announced the Player and Pitcher of the Month Award winners for July.

Outfielder Turner Hill earned the honor for the Triple-A Pacific Coast League. Hill batted .422/.490/.611 and led the league in average (.422), hits (38) and triples (three). He was second in total bases (55) and on-base percentage (.490), was fourth in OPS (1.101) and fifth in runs (19). He walked more times (10) than he struck out (eight) and led

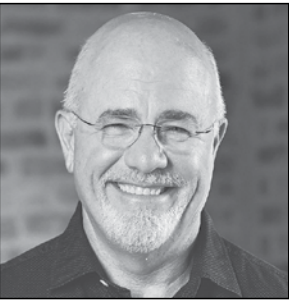


Outfielder Turner Hill earned the Player of the Month honor for the Triple-A Pacific Coast League. Photo courtesy of Minor League Baseball

Minor League Baseball in hits. He recorded 14 multi-hit games and ended the month on a 17-game hitting streak. Hill, 27, was signed by San Francisco as

a free agent out of Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio, on May 12, 2023.

As of Tuesday, Aug. 4, Turner holds a 20-game hitting streak. It marks the longest hitting streak of his career and fourth-longest hitting streak in the Pacific Coast League this season. It is also the third-longest single-season hitting streak in franchise history, behind Daric Barton, who had a 24-game streak in 2007, and Nick Buss, who had a 22-game streak in 2014. Hill's season-long .343 batting average ranks second in all of Triple-A among qualified batters, behind only Las Vegas Aviator Joey Meneses. ★



Dave Ramsey Says *Healing Problems... Together*

Dear Dave,

I’ve spent most of my marriage not being involved in our family finances. To be honest, I’ve not been a very good husband. After being introduced to your show and your books by a friend, I realized how irresponsible I’ve been. When I talked to my wife about it and apologized, I heard for the first time that we have about \$100,000 in debt, plus \$55,000 in debt on a new car and motorcycle I did know about. Of course, we also have a mortgage on our home. She apologized for making a mess of things, but I know it wasn’t all her fault. She hadn’t been sneaking around spending and taking out debt, she just made mistakes and was afraid to tell me. Together, we make about \$150,000 a year. Do you have any advice for us?

– Calab

Dear Caleb,

Brother, I am so proud of you. You made some mistakes, sure. But now you’ve

made the decision to man up. And that’s a huge step in the right direction for you *and* your marriage.

To me, what you described is a lot different than her lying and hiding stuff. The truth is you weren’t plugged in. Maybe she wasn’t doing a great job, but then, she didn’t have anyone to talk to about it, did she? Things got worse, and she probably felt ashamed about how ugly it got and didn’t want to tell anyone.

Now you’re at the point where you’ve got to look at all this, and figure out how to fix it with a \$150,000 income. It’s going to mean beans and rice, rice and beans. It’s going to mean a scorched-earth lifestyle and living on a budget, which also means you’re not going out to eat, and you’re not going on vacations.

I’d sell the car and the motorcycle. Get into a couple of very basic, inexpensive cars, and spend about two years being crazy intense to pay off everything but your home. You can clean this up, but you’re basically going to have no

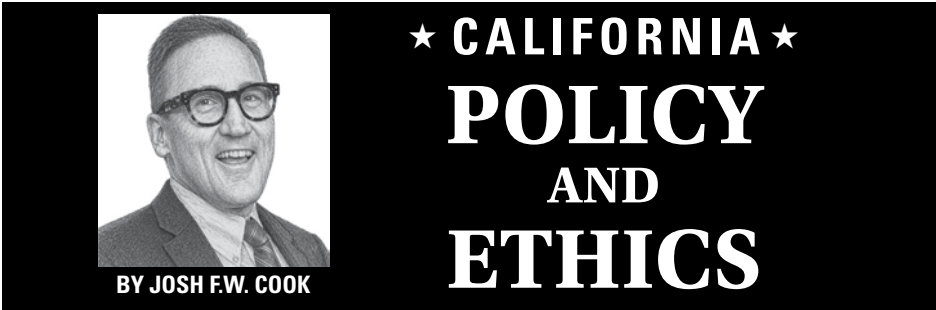
life during that time.

The two of you also have some relationship work to do. It sounds like you’ve already gotten a good start on that, with you owning your part and her owning hers. The thing is not to point fingers. From this point forward you need to always sit down together, and make all your decisions—financial and otherwise—*together*. I want you to hug on each other a lot, too.

If you’re both willing, you can heal the math problem, the debt problem and the marriage problem all at the same time. God bless you both!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a nine-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★



You’ll Keep Paying for Wildfires on Your Electric Bill Until California Fixes Its Forests

By Josh Cook

If you live in California, you’ve probably seen the ads: “Home insurance rates skyrocket.” “The FAIR Plan is broken.” They urge you to call your legislator and demand a fix. What they don’t mention is who paid for them — Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric shareholders, through a campaign called Wildfire Victims First.

Despite the name, not one wildfire survivors group supports it.

Meanwhile, the Governor’s staff has been quietly negotiating a wildfire package with lawmakers’ staff. No bill text has been released. The Legislature returned from recess on August 3 and adjourns at the end of the month — the exact window for a “gut-and-amend,” where lawmakers strip an existing bill, drop in new language, and fast-track it to get something done.

Eaton Fire survivors and Consumer Watchdog say the package would cap payments for pain and suffering, block insurers from recovering costs from utilities, and limit attorneys’ fees, making it harder for survivors to find lawyers. Insurance companies agree — and when insurers and fire victims end up on the same side, that’s worth noticing.

Here’s the part almost nobody in this fight is discussing: none of it addresses why the fires get so big, and the answer is not just “climate change”. That is a cop out for years of systematic mismanagement.

Roughly 46% of California is federally owned — national forests, BLM land, parks, refuges. Much of the state’s highest-risk landscape sits on those federal acres. A century of aggressive fire suppression and reduced logging let fuel pile up. Many California forests are far denser today than they were historically, which turns ordinary ignitions into fast-moving infernos. Scientists point to fire exclusion, drought, insect die-off, and a warming climate working together — with excess vegetation driving how these fires behave. Remember, even as our forests burn down, we are importing timber from foreign countries. Bad policy in action.

Fuel loads are measured in tons per acre and vary by forest type. But in overstocked Sierra Nevada forests, they run well above historic levels; they remain a “tinder box”. That’s why mechanical thinning and prescribed burns are so widely recommended. On another note, properly managed forests also get more water in the streams; more on that in a future column.

The problem is pace and political will power. Fuels accumulate faster than crews can treat them; the idea that logging is a bad thing just won’t go away. Tree lovers are loving the forests to death. The Native people actively managed the forests much better than the Federal Government does. Congressional research finds millions of acres still at high hazard, with treatment backlogs growing because new growth outruns current work.

So CA lawmakers continue to argue over who writes the check. Until forests get thinned and maintained, the answer stays the same: you do, every month, on your power bill.



Riley Reviews “ONE NIGHT ONLY” FOR ROMANCE; LIFETIME SUMMER DRAMATIC MOVIES

A Film and TV Review
by Tim Riley

“ONE NIGHT ONLY” Rated R

More than a dozen years ago, an anthology franchise was launched with “The Purge,” a dystopian action film set in the future when a titular annual event allowed all crime to be legal for a 12-hour period.

“One Night Only” runs with an unlikely similar theme when premarital sex is legal for only one night of the year. Congress passed a law that outlawed unmarried couples from having sex except for an annual summer evening.

The setting in New York City may be perfect with its large cosmopolitan vibe populated by a lot of singles looking for a hookup on the night in question.

The owner of a pizza shop, Callum Turner’s (who looks like a younger version of Channing Tatum) Owen has a steady, longtime girlfriend who suddenly thinks this is the night to cut loose with someone else. And to think he was about to propose to her.

Monica Barbaro’s Allie is not in a relationship, but she’s choosy about connecting with someone new. Her career is focused on singing in TV commercials even though she’d never think of performing live in public.

Both are adrift for the evening. Allie went to a bar with a friend who quickly paired up with a random patron, leaving her to fend off advances before giving a chance to a handsome guy who turns out to be problematic. It gets even worse when she ends up briefly with a musician.

For every encounter, Allie turns out to be dissatisfied, and during events of the evening, she often bumps into Owen and the sparks are not immediate. The question hangs in the air of whether they will or will not end up together.

To bill “One Night Only” as a romantic sex comedy might be a stretch. There are plenty of humorous moments throughout, perhaps nothing funnier than Owen desperately going to every bodega in a futile last-ditch search for a condom.

For all the sex talk and subdued nudity, the carnal activity is hardly graphic and not provocative or audacious. If you wonder how “The Mandate” against sex is enforceable, “One Night Only” does not really have an answer and you may not care.

You may spend some time pondering how there could have been a political climate leading to a nationwide ban on premarital sex. Better still, just roll with the outrageous concept because romantic comedies are just not prevalent these days.

LIFETIME MOVIES BASED ON REAL EVENTS”

The Lifetime Channel has an affinity for summer movies inspired by real events and true stories, and if truly fictional, crime and/or psychological terror

comes into play. The title “He Couldn’t Let Go” alone suggests something sinister.

In “Girl in the Coffin” inspired by real events, after the death of her beloved mother, Jasmine (Tahirah Sharif) is struggling to move forward when she finds comfort in Bill (Robert James-Collier), the compassionate funeral director who handled her mother’s service.

But beneath Bill’s kindness lies a dangerous fixation as he believes they are destined to be together. When Jasmine suddenly disappears, she awakens trapped inside a coffin below Bill’s funeral home, where she discovers the horrifying depths of his obsession.

As the outside world searches for answers for this missing person, Jasmine must find the strength to survive and outsmart an unhinged man determined to make her a permanent part of his life. Inspired by real events, “Girl in the Coffin” hits the broad themes of stalking and survival.

Clowns can be creepy without being murderers. Inspired by real stories, “Killer Clown” finds Elizabeth (Sara Paxton) haunted decades after witnessing her mother’s brutal murder at the hands of the titular character.

When she begins investigating the long-unsolved cold case, Elizabeth becomes the target of a terrifying copycat stalker, forcing her to confront painful memories she has spent a lifetime trying to escape.

As she searches for answers alongside her father Reed (David Cubitt) and husband Dan (Hamza Haq), Elizabeth uncovers a tangled web of family betrayal and long-buried secrets.

Closing in on the truth, Elizabeth must separate fact from manipulation and fight to survive before history repeats itself. As for killer clowns, probably nothing is scarier than notorious serial killer John Wayne Gacy, who performed as a clown at children’s parties.

In “She Stole My Son’s Heart,” after her last heart transplant fails, Maria (Taylor Hickson) is in desperate need of a new heart. Fearing the muscle that pumps blood through your body will crash at any moment, Maria turns down her boyfriend’s proposal and heads out for a walk.

Mysteriously disappearing on the walk and a subsequent search intensifying, homicide detective Vicky (Marisol Nichols) and her rookie partner, Chloe (Megan Peta Hill, are assigned to the missing persons case.

With Maria’s time running out, it becomes a race to uncover the truth behind Maria’s disappearance before her failing heart gives out. With the title “She Stole My Son’s Heart,” one may wonder whether the jilted boyfriend figures into the story. ★

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Ask DR. UNIVERSE

Are self-driving cars safe?

- Aditya, 10, New York State

Dear Aditya,

When I was a kitten, car rides scared me. It took a while to trust my human pals’ driving.

I asked my friend Wei Peng if that’s how humans feel about self-driving cars. He’s a researcher at Washington State University. He studies public opinion on driverless vehicles.

He told me that self-driving technology is getting better.

“The safety performance of self-driving cars is improving,” Peng said. “It has even been deployed on public roads. In San Francisco, people can use a driverless car much like a regular taxi. And according to some studies, certain driverless cars have fewer crashes than cars driven by people in similar places.”

Human drivers scan the road with their eyes. They make decisions based on what they see and what they predict will happen.

But humans get distracted. They adjust the radio. They pay attention to other people in the car. Some people even text while driving. That’s super dangerous.

Self-driving cars don’t get distracted like that. But they can still miss things or make mistakes.

Instead of eyes, self-driving cars rely on sensors. Cameras read signs, spot traffic lights and watch lane markings. Radars send out radio waves to track the locations and speeds of moving objects—like other cars. LiDAR sensors emit lasers to measure precise distances between objects and fill in fine details. All that information makes a 360-degree map. The map changes as the car drives.



This is a prototype self-driving car. It cruised around Mountain View, California in 2017. The black, gumball-shaped device on top contains some of the car’s sensors. There are sensors all over the car, too. Grendelkhan CC BY-SA 4.0, arrow by Dr. Universe

Self-driving cars use a built-in computer with AI to process the mapped data. That’s how the car plans a route. It’s how it makes predictions and driving decisions. It sends out electrical signals to control the steering wheel, pedals and other car parts.

Driving decisions are high stakes. People put their kids and cats in cars. They want them to be safe. The driver—human or automated—must make careful predictions using context clues. For a human, context comes from interacting with the world their whole life. An AI system must be trained to understand all that context without the life experience.

Like, if an AI system spots a van on the side of the road, it needs to piece together what’s happening. Is it a delivery driver unloading a package? Or is it a mom unbuckling a toddler who might run into the road? The system needs to notice possible danger and prepare for what could happen next.

But that’s not the only big hurdle self-driving cars face.

Peng told me that the tech will need to overcome how humans feel about riding in a car that drives itself. It’s scary to see a steering wheel move on its own. It’s hard to relax when your taxi approaches a busy intersection—with nobody in the driver’s seat.

“It’s human nature to want to control the stuff we use,” Peng said. “This is particularly true when our safety is at stake.”

Getting comfy with self-driving cars might just take some time.

Some subway systems have been automated for a long time—starting in the 1960s. At first, people were scared. They worried about safety. They feared that human drivers would lose their jobs. That’s why some early automated trains kept human workers onboard for a while. Now, some subways are fully automated—and have been since the 1980s.

I guess trust is what drives the whole thing.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

DO YOU KNOW WHERE HAPPINESS IS MADE?

NO... WHERE?

AT THE SATISFACTORY.

by Jeff Pickering

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MURKIN

I LOVE COMING TO THIS BEACH!

I HAVE SO MANY MEMORIES OF COMING HERE WHEN WE WERE KIDS.

ALL I REMEMBER IS YOU PLEDGING ME INTO JELLYFISH.

YES, BUT I DID IT MORE THAN ONCE, SO IT COUNTS AS "MEMORIES."

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW! I'M GONNA HANG OUT WITH MY COUSIN OLIVE! THANKS FOR JOINING ME!

WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO, SUTRA?

MY FOLLOWERS. I WAS LIVESTREAMING.

SOUNDS LIKE YOUNG PEOPLE NONSENSE.

A LOTTA PEOPLE IN OUR FAMILY ARE DOING IT.

OLIVE HAS A FASHION VLOG. COUSIN SWEET STREAMS GAMING.

...WHICH ACTUALLY ISN'T THAT GREAT, NOW THAT I SAY IT OUT LOUD.

Amber Waves

OK, CLASS, NEXT WEEK WE ARE GOING TO DO SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT FOR FUN.

I WANT EACH OF YOU TO INVITE ONE OF YOUR PARENTS TO CLASS.

I WANT YOU TO INTRODUCE THEM AND TELL US ALL WHAT EXCITING JOB THEY HAVE.

GOOD NEWS, DAD. I GUESS YOU'RE STILL YOUNG ENOUGH TO JOIN THE NASA PROGRAM!

by Dave T. Phipps

BUT IT'S A FUN HOBBY, AND YOU COULD USE A HOBBY.

YENNA, BESIDES YELLING AT PEOPLE.

I DUNNO. I'M NOT REALLY ALL THAT INTERESTING.

NONSENSE OLIVE! YOU'RE SUPER-INTERESTING! YOU GO ON ADVENTURES, FIGHTING MONSTERS AND A SEA HISS!

A LOTTA PEOPLE WOULD LOVE TO KNOW ABOUT YOU.

THANK YOU, SUTRA. THAT'S REALLY KIND.

THE HUMAN TRAIN WRECK GENRE IS SUPER-POPULAR. RIGHT NOW, YOU COULD OWN IT!

SO IS TRUE COME. I CAN MAKE US BOTH STARS.

Out on a Limb

ISN'T IT IRONIC, DON'T YOU THINK?

SLOSH, GULP... SLOSH, SLOSH, SLOSH, GULP!

A COW EATS A BOX OF MILK DUDS

by Gary Kopervas

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

1. Towel is longer. 2. Tie is larger. 3. Kung on stool is missing. 4. Far is different. 5. Kope is missing. 6. Man is moved.

TIGER

YOU WERE OUT, HUGO!

I WAS SAFE.

HE WAS OUT!

HE WAS SAFE!

FOOTBALL? IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER?

IT'S BASEBALL.

by BUD BLAKE

GRIN & BEAR IT

WELL ... I SUPPOSE AT THIS POINT THERE'S NO DEBATING IF WE LIKE IT OR MAYBE HAGGLING OVER PRICE?

"Checkers? No, this is my grandson's Xbox."

by Dave T. Phipps

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Eye affliction

5. Mowgli to Raksha in "The Jungle Book"

8. Cured pork product, pl.

12. *Every lap you run in gym class completes one

13. Ripped

14. Throw up

15. Mythological ship

16. Agitate

17. Like worthless promise

18. **Go to the ____'s office"

20. Hatchling's home

21. Wasted on the young?

22. "Amazing!"

23. * ____ Core, academic standards

26. **Rock N'Roll High School" band

30. Be obliged

31. Orange ____ tea, pl.

34. Of low density

35. Earthenware pots

37. Farm layer

38. Bagpipes sound, in Scotland

39. Vessel's "spine"

40. "Mary, Mary quite contrary" place

42. Radio knob, abbr.

43. Blended family member

45. Trotters

47. Owned

48. San Diego base-baller

50. Castle defense

52. *a.k.a. lunch room

56. " ____ little cubby all stuffed with fluff"

57. Knight's breastplate

58. Bit of smoke

59. Willow twig

60. Pub arrow

61. Popular street-lining trees

62. Post-deductions amount

63. Opposite of WSW

64. Somebody ____

DOWN

1. Dueler's blow

2. Unit of pressure

3. Jellystone Park denizen

4. Amerigo to America

5. *Plagiarize, technically speaking

6. Heap of "David Copperfield"

7. *School signaling device

8. *Unwelcome load

9. Current unit, pl.

10. Catcher's catcher

11. Chester White's home

13. Three in one

14. Animal toxin

19. Poultry houses

22. "It ____ a dark and stormy night..."

23. Too many in the kitchen?

24. Baby owl

25. Free-for-all

26. Tear

27. Lacking field

28. Baseball fielding mistake

29. "She ____ sea shells..."

32. * ____ Academy, online study aid

33. " ____ the land of the

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

free..."

36. *Reading building blocks

38. Stall call

40. *Character in Greek Mythology reading assignment

41. Firstborn

44. Nymph chaser

46. Diminutive

48. Like nature worshipping, e.g.

49. Flamb

50. Dante's Beatrice, e.g.

51. Passing mention

52. Relinquish

53. Small brook

54. Doctrines

55. Part of church

56. *Unit in measurement and weight math lessons

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Rate the Referees

By V.G. Harris

With the upcoming season looming less than three months away, my thoughts turn to the state of the league as it relates to NBA officiating.

Ironically, the NBA decided to release the best and the worst ratings for NBA referees for the first time recently and they broke it down into three categories. Three tiers from excellent being tier one, good or solid representing tier two, and finally needs improvement in tier three.

Although I don't often write about the officiating because it does little good, I have long believed the NCAA has somehow ferreted out a better class of officials than the NBA currently enjoys. I don't believe the NBA officials are so did or lacking in officiating acumen as much as I simply understand that no two officials are ever going to be the same.

Today's officials are employed year-round, and at times I wonder what training classes are you attending, because it often appears the crowd gets the call right more than the officials do.

Obviously, the NBA realized they had a problem, or coaches challenges would not have been implemented in 2019-20. Did it make a difference? Only to the extent that games were won and lost because of a coach's ability to question a call made by a referee.

I heartily applaud the NBA's decision to implement this critical element to ensure a fairer outcome, but I'm all for taking it to the next level. For my money, as long as a coach wins a challenge that coach should continue to have a challenge available to him. Simply being given a number of challenges that runs out and potentially leaves that team wanting during crunch time, makes no sense when the object is simply to get it right.

So, with the release of this critical information what did it reveal?

411 NBA players from all 30 teams participated in the voting or analysis of the current NBA referees, and a total of 20 referees found themselves in the bottom category.

You may or may not find that acceptable, but I do not. That number represents nearly 30% of the referees in the NBA and that number is far too high for me.

The fact the NBA saw fit to finally release

the ratings of their current referees speaks volumes, and it tells me the commissioner's office recognizes a problem.

I've already cited one potential remedy and there are certainly more, so let's not let any grass grow under our feet Adam Sliver, and start making some cogent tweaks to the existing system.

On a sad note, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the passing of basketball legend Don Nelson who at one time was the winningest basketball coach in NBA history. Currently ranked second all-time with 1,335 wins, Don Nelson was a basketball maverick in a good way and was responsible for the first point forward as it relates to running an unconventional offense.

Steph Curry cites Nelson as one of the key factors in him being drafted by the Golden State Warriors, and although Curry played just one season for the legendary coach, Don Nelson made an indelible mark on Curry that he never forgot.

Always an entertaining interview Nelson would undoubtedly have some pointed thoughts on the current state of affairs with NBA refereeing and was an ardent supporter of the value of free throw shooting.

In 150 playoff games as a player, Nelson shot 50% from the field and 82% from the line.

At one time tormented by his inability to shoot free throws at a high percentage, Nelson pioneered the one-handed shot-put version that propelled his career and made him an asset at the line as opposed to a liability.

Rest in peace Don Nelson and thank you for the many years of competitive greatness as you won five NBA championships with the Boston Celtics.

His No. 19 jersey was retired by the Celtics, and although he was never inducted by the hall-of-fame as a player, the Celtics acknowledged his contributions with the retiring of his jersey.

Nelson would reach the Hall of Fame as a coach inductee in 2012, and it was so well deserved.

Would that the Sacramento Kings could have this intrepid inventor back for just a day to give some guidance to a young squad in need.

All the best Kings fans!
All the best!

Pension Boosts for California Police, Firefighters Could Spur Increases for Other Workers



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

It may be just a coincidence, but when California's public employee pension system touted very high earnings on its investments last month, it was a political windfall for unions seeking to increase retirement benefits.

They could argue that the California Public Employees Retirement System's report of a 14.8% gain during the 2025-26 fiscal year indicated that California could afford to boost pensions for police and firefighters with little or no impact on taxpayers.

Conversely, the CalPERS report was a setback for local governments that oppose the pension boost, contending it would open the door to higher pensions for other categories of public workers and would exacerbate budget shortfalls.

Opponents of the pension increase proposed in Assembly Bill 1383 appear to face an uphill battle. The legislation passed the Assembly with an overwhelming bipartisan vote prior to the Legislature's summer recess and could gain Senate approval before adjournment in a few weeks.

The situation is similar to what happened 27 years ago, shortly after Gray Davis was inaugurated as governor. Davis had survived a bruising primary battle in 1998 against two

wealthy, self-financed opponents and a tough duel with Republican Attorney General Dan Lungren, thanks largely to big donations from public employee unions.

Davis repaid his political debt to the unions by sponsoring two benefit increases, one in unemployment benefits, the other in pensions. He and the unions contended the pension boost could be covered without new taxes because CalPERS said as much.

However, investment earnings cratered during the Great Recession a few years later. Local governments struggled to pay the increased contributions that law requires them to make when pension fund investments falter.

Local officials argued that the mandatory increases in contributions to cover the pension system's weak earnings were diverting money that otherwise would support vital and popular services, including police and fire protection.

Eventually that led to a major overhaul of pension benefits and the contributions to finance them in 2012 — changes that AB 1383 would partially undo. Among other things, the reforms didn't affect pensions of current retirees or employees, but reduced them for future hires.

The 2012 reforms would, it was believed, slow the increase in pension costs as workers retired and replacements were hired with lower pension guarantees. However, the impacts of the Davis-era increases continued to affect local budgets.

It was common for California cities to pay 50 cents into the pension fund for every dollar in salary for

Social Security Matters

Is the Medicare Part B Premium a Percentage of our Social Security Amount?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I have a simple question: Is the amount we pay for Medicare Part B premium a percent of our Social Security amount we receive?

Signed: Curious

Dear Curious: Your Medicare Part B premium is not based on a percentage of your monthly Social Security benefit amount. Medicare Part B premiums are set in October of each year by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and are based upon anticipated total costs of the Medicare program in the forthcoming year. Generally speaking, Medicare Part B enrollee premiums are expected to offset about 25% of CMS' anticipated total Medicare Part B costs; the rest is borne by the Federal Government. So, when CMS estimates Medicare program costs for the upcoming year, they also look at the number of anticipated Part B enrollees. They then divide 25% of total anticipated Part B program costs by the number of expected Part B enrollees, resulting in the "standard" Medicare Part B premium for next year. For 2026, the standard Part B premium amount is \$202.90. The standard premium for 2027 will be announced in October 2026

and will likely be different.

It's important to understand also that not everyone pays the "standard" Part B premium. Some lower income seniors may pay less because of the so-called "hold harmless provision," and some higher income folks may pay more than the "standard" monthly Part B premium because of a provision called "IRMAA."

The "hold harmless provision" says that monthly Social Security benefits cannot decrease as a result of a Medicare premium increase, so if the annual SS COLA (cost of living adjustment) is insufficient to offset any increase to the standard Part B premium, then the SS beneficiary may pay a smaller Part B premium amount so that their SS benefit doesn't decrease (note there are exceptions to this rule).

Conversely, those with a higher "provisional income" (an IRS definition), may pay more than the standard Medicare Part B premium. That's because of a provision known as "IRMAA" (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount), which adds a supplemental amount on top of the standard Medicare Part B premium. IRMAA supplement amounts are determined using a sliding scale to define the required higher Part B premium for each income level category, and IRMAA will cause the Part B premium to be more than the standard premium amount. For those with exceptionally high incomes, the Part B premium can be as much as \$690 per month.

FYI, income reported to the IRS two years ago is used

to determine if an individual is subject to IRMAA for the forthcoming year. The reason for this is timing: when next year's Part B premium is determined in October of each current year, the IRS has processed all tax returns for the preceding year but doesn't yet have individual income for the current year. Thus, they must use a person's income from October of the preceding year to determine who will pay the standard Part B premium next year, and who will pay a higher IRMAA amount.

And just to complete this picture, you should be aware that IRMAA also applies to Medicare Part D premiums. And that means that those with higher incomes who are affected by IRMAA for Part B will also pay a higher Medicare Part D premium. (Medicare Part D is private insurance coverage for prescription drugs). But none of this is related to your Social Security benefit amount.

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An Iran war that was supposed to be brief, and then was supposed to be over, is imposing an increasing price on Donald Trump's presidency.

We've seen a second term of a Republican administration go this way before. There are distinct echoes of George W. Bush's Iraq War -- the conflict that Trump has long excoriated -- in the president's predicament.

Now, the Iran War is different from Iraq. There is no ground invasion, no regime change, no occupation, no counterinsurgency. The casualties aren't close to the same scale, and Donald Trump has been fighting Iran for months, whereas George W. Bush was embroiled in Iraq for years (and so were his successors).

Yet, the political trajectory looks similar. Then, as now, an unpopular conflict is putting downward pressure on a Republican president's approval rating.

Mainstream pollsters routinely have Trump's approval rating below 40%, and some put it below 35%; Fox News has him at 39%, while CNN (34%) and AP (33%) are lower. At this juncture of Bush's second term, his average approval rating was a roughly comparable 38%, although he had further to fall as the war continued and the financial crisis hit.

If the Iran War is not exacting nearly the same price in blood and trea-

The Iran War is Eating Trump's Presidency

sure as the Iraq War, it is inflicting a direct economic cost on Americans that wasn't present during the Iraq war.

It was often said of violent clashes in the streets of the U.S. in the 1960s, "The Vietnam War has come home." Well, the Iran War came home the first time the average price per gallon of gasoline went above \$4. Trump would have much more leeway to engage in a protracted operation to bring Iran to heel if the public could, in effect, forget about the war for a while, but there's a reminder every day of what's happening in the Strait of Hormuz on gas signs across America.

In the CNN poll, 28% approve Trump's handling of Iran, while 25% approve his handling of inflation and 21% of gas prices. These issues are related. Trump wants his presidency to matter. So, rather than being content with doing whatever he could at the margins to lower prices, he went for big, legacy-defining initiatives -- tariffs and the Iran War -- that raised prices. In so doing, he forfeited his signature issue of economic stewardship. In the latest Fox News poll, 33% approve of his handling of the economy and 67% disapprove.

When the memorandum of understanding with Iran was signed, Trump boasted about how, by reopening the strait, it would avoid greater economic distress; he said he didn't want to be another Herbert Hoover. Now, the strait is basically closed

again. Absent another deal, he's faced with the choice of escalation or an ongoing low-level conflict, neither of which is going to be palatable to the public.

The CNN poll found that nearly three-quarters of Americans think Trump hasn't paid enough attention to the country's most pressing problems. The fact is that Iran wasn't a priority for the public and there was no attempt by the White House to make it one until after it had already launched the war.

Just as Bush's success in toppling the Taliban created the predicate for the Iraq War, Trump's stunning capture of Nicolas Maduro made it easier to believe that the Iran war would be a cakewalk. The idealistic establishment Republican and the "America First" populist both got lured into overestimating the efficacy of American military power.

We still don't know how the Iran war will end. Perhaps Trump will manage a satisfactory conclusion, and he has more room to bounce back up again politically than Bush did after years of the Iraq War. Still, the next Republican president would be well served to be more prudent and mindful of worst-case scenarios when launching major military operations than either of his two, otherwise very different, GOP predecessors.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Dixon Resident Named to Local United Way Board

Continued from page 1
Way California Capital Region. “We are honored to welcome these accomplished leaders to our board of directors and look forward to the collective impact we can make together as we work to help every

individual and family in our region thrive.”
United Way California Capital Region has been a driving force across the region for more than 100 years, listening, responding and taking comprehensive action to meet local

needs. From advancing youth opportunities and helping kids excel in school, to strengthening local communities and investing in families’ financial security and health, United Way mobilizes communities to build a future where everyone can reach

their full potential and thrive. Working across Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties, the local United Way provides books and literacy tutoring, addresses housing and food security, leads the region’s largest tax preparation

initiative, works with foster youth across school districts, launched the region’s first guaranteed income program and leads the Community Schools initiative in West Sacramento. To make a donation, visit www.YourLocalUnitedWay.org. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001253
The following persons are doing business as: Paseo Psychotherapy, 1250 Oliver Road #1092, Fairfield, CA 94534.
Erika Medina McGee, 1250 Oliver Road #1092, Fairfield, CA 94534.
Date filed in Solano County: July 15, 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 July 14, 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: July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2026
PASEO 8-14-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001049
The following persons are doing business as: Iron Sight Construction Co, 603 Alexander Court, Suisun City, CA 94585.
Ramon Alejandro Avellar II, 603 Alexander Court, Suisun City, CA 94585.
Date filed in Solano County: June 9, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: June 1, 2026
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

June 8, 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: July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2026
IRON 8-21-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001250
The following persons are doing business as: Urban Earth Sound, 420 Virginia Street 1B, Vallejo, CA 94590.
Urban Earth Enterprises, 420 Virginia Street 1B, Vallejo, CA 94590.
Date filed in Solano County: July 15, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
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 July 14, 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: July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2026
URBAN 8-21-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001276
The following persons are doing business as: Havenstars Living, 249 Lighthouse Way, Vacaville, CA 95688.
YX&Associates LLC, 249 Lighthouse Way, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Date filed in Solano County: July 20, 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 July 19, 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: July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2026
HAVENSTARS 8-21-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001291
The following persons are doing business as: Summit Commercial Services, 130 Allison Court, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Hector Serafin, 130 Allison Court, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Date filed in Solano County: July 22, 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 July 21, 2031. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2026
SUMMIT 8-21-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 20260001237
The following persons are doing business as: Stellium Interpreting, 305 Ridgecrest Circle, Suisun City, CA 94585.
William Torres, 305 Ridgecrest Circle, Suisun City, CA 94585.
Date filed in Solano County: July 13, 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 July 12, 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: August 14, 21, 28, Sept 4, 2026
STELLIUM 9-4-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001348
The following persons are doing business as: F.T. Trucking, 430 Priddy Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.
Francisco Torres, 430 Priddy Drive, Dixon, CA 95620
Date filed in Solano County: July 30, 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 July 29, 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: August 14, 21, 28, Sept 4, 2026
FT 9-4-26

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-07094
Jirachaya Smith filed a petition with this court for a decree chang-

ing names as follows: Jirachaya Smith to Jayne Jirachaya Smith
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. October 1, 2026, 8:30 a.m. Department 8, Room TBD, 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: July 31, 2026
Publish: August 14, 21, 28, Sept 4, 2026
SMITH 9-4-26

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LOREN BOBBY JOE WOLFF CASE NO. PR25-00729
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Loren Bobby Joe Wolff.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Chris Wolff, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting Annalisa Alvarado, CLPF be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
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: September 2, 2026, 9:30 a.m. in Dept 22; Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 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: Lily M. Harris, 400 Capitol Mall, 11th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-558-6000
Publish: July 31, August 7, 14, 2026
WOLFF 8-14-26

2026 General Election - Notice of Measures and Poll Places

NOTICE is hereby given that the following measures will be submitted to the voters of Solano County at the Statewide General Election to be held on November 3, 2026.

Measure B – Winters Joint Unified School District – Bond Measure
“To improve the quality of education; repair or replace leaky roofs; modernize/renovate outdated classrooms, restrooms and school facilities; and replace deteriorating plumbing and sewer systems; shall Winters Joint Unified School District’s measure authorizing \$29,900,000 in bonds, at legal interest rates, and levying approximately \$49 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation (raising \$1,600,000 annually) while bonds are outstanding, be adopted, with a Board-appointed citizens’ oversight committee and annual independent audits to assure proper expenditure of funds?”

Measure E – Solano County - Business License Tax
“Shall Solano County update its business license tax to raise the commercial wind turbine rate (\$0.00003 to \$0.00008 per kWh) and extend the tax to commercial solar energy systems (\$0.00008 per kWh), battery energy storage systems (\$1.50 per MWh), natural gas extraction facilities (\$0.30 per McF), and data centers (\$5.00 per building square foot), with annual inflation adjustments, generating approximately an additional \$353,000 annually, until ended by the voters?”

Measure H – Solano County – Transient Occupancy Tax
“To fund local programs and essential public services, shall Solano County increase its existing Transient Occupancy Tax, paid by tourists and others staying overnight at short-term lodging facilities in unincorporated areas (excluding cities), from 5% to 12% of the total rent charged, providing approximately an additional \$58,500 annually, until ended by the voters?”

Measure O – City of Rio Vista – Extending General Services Tax
“Shall the existing three-quarter (3/4%) percent transactions and use tax measure to support the City of Rio Vista’s general services, including police, fire, parks, and other unrestricted general fund expenditures, be extended for three years, commencing on April 1, 2027, and which is projected to provide between \$1,398,000 to \$1,467,000 of revenue annually for the City?”

Measure P – City of Fairfield – Extending Sales Tax
“To provide and protect funding for Fairfield’s services, such as police, fire, 911 emergency response, neighborhood safety, street and sidewalk repair, homelessness prevention and response, and general governmental use, shall an ordinance be adopted to extend the City’s sales tax and increase the rate by up to one-cent per dollar until ended by voters, adding approximately \$24 million annually, with independent citizen oversight, annual audits, public spending reports, and all funds locally controlled?”

Measure Q – City of Fairfield – Appointive City Clerk “Shall the Office of City Clerk be appointive?”

Measure U – Dixon Unified School District – Bond Measure
“To fix deteriorating roofs, plumbing, gas, and electrical systems, remove asbestos/lead pipes, repair/upgrade aging classrooms, science labs, technology and school facilities to support college/career readiness in math, science, technology, arts, engineering, and skilled trades; shall Dixon Unified School District’s measure authorizing \$49,000,000 in bonds at legal rates be adopted, levying approximately \$30 per \$100,000 assessed value (\$3,000,000 annually) while bonds are outstanding, with citizen oversight, independent audits, and all money locally controlled?”

Measure V – City of Vacaville – Essential Services Measure
“Shall the citizens of Vacaville adopt a measure maintaining the City’s financial stability and essential services—including 911 emergency response; fire and ambulance protection; crime prevention; parks and recreation; safe public spaces; supporting local businesses; repairing streets; and other general city services--by establishing an additional one-cent sales tax providing

approximately twenty-eight million dollars annually, with local control, citizens oversight, annual audits, and public reporting, until ended by voters?”

Measure X – City of Benicia – Limited Charter
“Shall the City of Benicia adopt a Business License Tax measure, exempting businesses with \$100,000 or less in annual receipts, setting tax rates by business category ranging from \$0.25 to \$1.25 per \$1,000 in receipts, capping those annual taxes at \$1,500 in the first year with 10% annual increases until the cap is \$25,000, with a separate Marine Terminal rate of \$3 per \$100 in receipts, generating approximately \$1,612,000 in the first year, until repealed by voters?”

Measure Y – City of Benicia – Real Property Transfer Tax
“Shall the measure, adopting a limited City Charter for the City of Benicia that allows the real property transfer tax in Measure Z to take effect if voters approve both Measures Y and Z, and continues the City’s existing council-manager form of government, be adopted?”

Measure Z – City of Benicia – Business License Tax
“Shall the Measure, to primarily ensure newly constructed property sales contribute to maintaining city services and infrastructure, establish a real property transfer tax that will

1. not apply to existing homes that sell for less than \$2 million,

2. not apply to immediate-family transfers but apply to other property sales at rates of:

1. \$2,000,000 or less: 0.004

2. Over \$2,000,000 - \$10,000,000: 0.006

3. In excess of \$10,000,000: 0.008

providing approximately \$230,000 annually, with citizen oversight, until ended by voters, be adopted?”

NOTICE is given that August 14th is the last day to file arguments for or against measures, Arguments are not to exceed 300 words in length. Arguments for or against the measure shall be filed in the Registrar of Voters Office, 675 Texas Street, Suite 2600, Fairfield, CA., no later than 5:00 P.M. This excludes Measure B which was filed in Yolo County. Based on their calendar, the deadline to file arguments for or against Measure B with Yolo County was July 24th and rebuttals August 4th.

August 18th is the last day to file rebuttal arguments for or against measures. Rebuttal arguments are not to exceed 250 words in length. Rebuttal arguments shall be filed with the Registrar of Voters, no later than 5:00 P.M. The viewing period will commence immediately afterward.

In accordance with section 9600 of the California Elections Code, all arguments and rebuttals filed pursuant to this notice shall be accompanied by a signature statement form to be signed by each author. Further information about filing arguments and forms are available on the Registrar of Voters website at www.solanocounty.gov/government/registrar-voters or contact the Election Department (707) 784-6675 or e-mail us at elections@solanocounty.gov.

On November 3, 2026, the polls will be open between 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Persons interested in volunteering at polling places should contact our office or e-mail: pollworker@solanocounty.gov.

Dated: 8/5/2026
John H. Gardner, Assistant Registrar of Voters

Dixon Independent Voice 8-14-2026

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Pollination Ecologist Elected Fellow

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

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Professor Neal Williams of the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology, a pollinator ecologist internationally recognized for his research on bee and pollination biology, is a newly elected Fellow of the Entomological Society of America (ESA).

The ESA Governing Board elected Williams and eight other scientists as Fellows for their outstanding contributions to entomology. The honor acknowledges achievements in insect science via research, teaching, extension, administration, military service or public engagement and science policy.

Williams, a member of the Department of Entomology and Nematology (ENT-NEM) faculty since 2004, was named a Chancellor’s Fellow (2015-20) and a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences (2019).

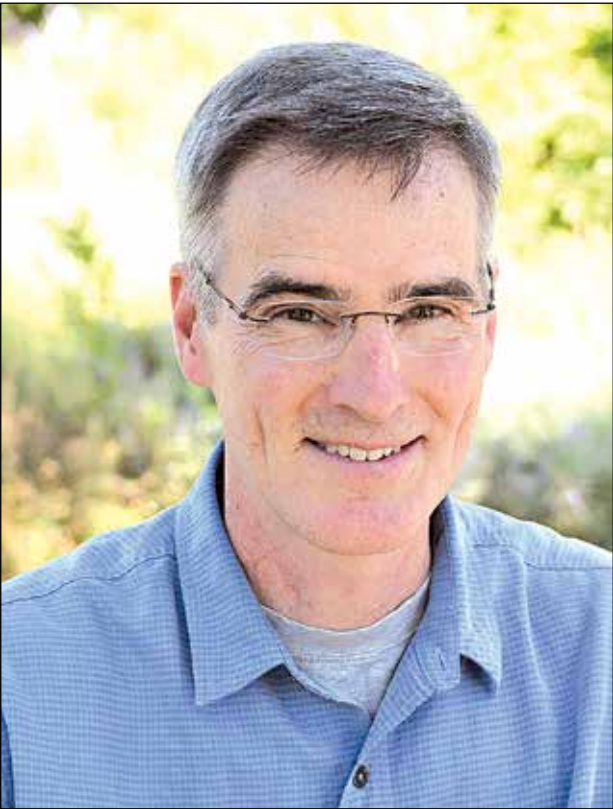
His work emphasizes the role of bee biodiversity in providing critical ecosystem services in natural and agricultural systems and informing actionable strategies for conservation of wild insect pollinators in the face of global change.

Born in Madison, Wisc., in 1969, Neal holds bachelor’s degrees in botany and zoology (1992) from the University of Wisconsin, where pivotal research experiences with Bob Jeanne, Ph.D., set him on a path studying pollinator-plant interactions. Williams went on to receive his doctorate in evolution and ecology in 1999 from the State University of New York (SUNY), Stony Brook, where he also worked extensively with colleagues at the USDA Bee Biology and Systematics Lab in Logan, Utah. There he explored the evolution of foraging and pollen diet specialization in solitary bees.

As a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Calgary and then Princeton University, Williams focused his research on applying basic concepts in pollination and insect ecology to pollinator conservation and the role of biodiversity in bolstering pollination services in agroecosystems.

Williams served on the faculty of Bryn Mawr College from 2004 to 2009, earning the Lindback Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2008. He joined the UC Davis faculty in 2009, aiming “to develop a research program studying native pollinators and to help implement a new major in sustainable agriculture and food systems and graduate programs in agroecology and biodiversity.”

Williams’ research continues to bridge fundamental and applied insect ecology. “Working across scales, from individual behavior and life-history to landscapes, he and his collaborators have quantified the impacts of land use change, agronomic management and environmental stressors on



Professor Neal’s work emphasizes the role of bee biodiversity in providing critical ecosystem services in natural and agricultural systems and informing actionable strategies for conservation of wild insect pollinators in the face of global change. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology

native bee populations, and community dynamics,” the ESA announcement related.

“His research has also revealed mechanisms by which diverse pollinator communities enhance pollination of multiple crops. Combining network and optimization approaches, his team identified the core set of native plant species widely used for pollinator habitats throughout California and other parts of the West Coast, as well as guidelines for monitoring their efficacy. His research is increasingly interdisciplinary, involving collaborations with agronomists, soil scientists, economists, computational modelers and multiple stakeholders. His program has naturally moved to explore native pollinator and pollination responses to multiple environmental stressors, including extreme temperatures, nutritional stress, and pesticides.”

Among his many honors, Williams received the A.G. Larsson Guest Research Fellowship at the Swedish

University of Agricultural Sciences, 2018-2023 and delivered the 2023 University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences’ Annual Distinguished Lecture and the inaugural R. Morse Lecture in Entomology at Cornell University in 2026. He and several UC Davis bee colleagues shared the 2013 Team Research Award from the Pacific Branch of ESA (PBESA). In 2019, he received the PBESA’s Plant-Insect Ecosystems Award.

Williams co-authored the landmark paper, “Crop Pollination from Native Bees at Risk from Agricultural Intensification,” published in the “Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences” (PNAS) that examines the effect of local management and landscape on pollination services. His resume includes more than 130 peer-reviewed publications.

Joanna Chiu, professor and chair of ENT-NEM, and a 2025 Fellow, describes Williams as an outstanding scientist, teacher and mentor. “He has trained 17 graduate students, more than 15 postdoctoral scholars and numerous undergraduate researchers. He served as a graduate advisor for the Graduate Group in Ecology (GGE) for more than 10 years. He helped rewrite and update the degree requirements for GGE and Program Bylaws for Entomology. In both cases, key elements included improving the transparency of student advising. For Entomology, he developed clearer expectations for advisors and a structure for accountability for advising and mentor-mentee relationships. In Entomology, he served as chair of the Committee on Inclusive Excellence.”

“Few scientists have done more to advance our global understanding of pollination ecology and native bee conservation than Dr. Williams, a preeminent authority whose innovative research and public engagement have reshaped both science and policy,” said UC Davis Distinguished Professor Emeritus James R. Carey, an ESA Fellow since 2011.

Noting that Williams focuses his research on “the crucial importance of native bees, their impact and why we should advocate for their conservation,” Carey said: “His work is vital due to the alarmingly global decline of both native bees and managed bees, as well as other pollinators. Indeed, he is one of our nation’s strongest voices heralding the importance of pollinator diversity and conservation. His work has led to our understanding of the responses of bees to different environmental drivers and to develop practical, scientifically grounded actions to support resilient pollinator communities.”

Outside of his scientific career, Williams is an accomplished classical musician and an active member (bassoonist) with the Auburn Symphony. He and his wife Melissa, a physician specializing in hematology and oncology in Sacramento and Davis, are parents of Linnea and Lewis.

DAR Chapter to Unveil Patriot Marker at Peña Adobe

By Kathy Keatley Garvey

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Chief Solano Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) will unveil its “America 250! Patriot Marker” at the Peña Adobe, Vacaville, on Sunday, Aug. 16 to celebrate the Spanish patriots in California who contributed to the success of the American Revolution.

The event, set from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., is free and open to the public, but reservations are requested. A reception and fiesta will follow the unveiling of the bronze plaque.

Several DAR members will speak, including outgoing California State Regent Christina Ramos of San Francisco, a former Vacaville resident and the descendant of a Revolutionary War surgeon, Silas Allen.

The celebration will include mariachi music by Serenatas Directo of San Jose; dancers from the Vacaville Ballet Company; and a horse demonstration led by Marco Del Campo of Cherry Glen Winery and Horses. Members of the Sacramento Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) will serve as color guards.

A number of DAR members trace their lineage to the Spanish patriots residing in California who donated money in support of the American Revolution. Two members of the Chief Solano chapter—Kim Kloppenburg Clary and her cousin, Anna Peña Bandettini, both of Vacaville--trace their lineage to Juan Felipe Peña, who with Manuel Cabeza Vaca, co-founded the city of Vacaville

“The Spanish patriots played a unique role,”



The Chief Solano Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) will unveil its “America 250! Patriot Marker” at the Peña Adobe, Vacaville, on Sunday, Aug. 16 to celebrate the Spanish patriots in California who contributed to the success of the American Revolution. Photo courtesy of Kathy Keatley Garvey

said Clary, event coordinator. “From 1775 to 1783, they aided the American Revolution with monetary contributions to the cause of liberty. Once Spain formally entered the war against Great Britain as an ally of France and the American colonies, the Crown (King Carlos III) called for a ‘donativo’ from soldiers and natives. This garnishee--actually an involuntary donation or mandatory war tax--was used to help defray the costs of the war in the colonies.”

Juan Bautista de Anza of Spain “held expeditions in the area of Alta California twice, 1774 and 1775-1776,” Clary explained. “The soldiers on the Anza Expedition, who ultimately settled in Alta California, paid this ‘donativo’ as a tax on residents of New Spain and Alta California. While many of these Spanish patriots didn’t fight in battles of the American Revolution, they were contributors and are being honored and recognized as such.”

The Peña Adobe, a California historical landmark and the home of the pioneer Peña family, is the oldest structure in Solano County. It was erected in 1842, the site of the 10-square-league



The families of Juan Manuel Vaca and Juan Felipe Peña were among the first settlers to arrive in Solano County. Photo courtesy of Kathy Keatley Garvey

Rancho Los Putos that Governor Pío Pico granted to Juan Felipe Peña and Manuel Cabeza Vaca.

The families of Juan Manuel Vaca and Juan Felipe Peña were among the first settlers to arrive in Solano County. The Vaca and Peña families followed the Old Spanish Trail from the New Mexico region to California. Gen. Mariano Vallejo, headquartered in Sonoma following Mexico’s Independence from Spain, granted the two families the land that would later become the Vaca Valley.

Reservations for the dedication can be made at <https://tinyurl.com/mjxjknh2>, or by scanning the QR code on the

website. Light refreshments will be served at the reception. The Peña

Adobe Park is located at 339 Peña Adobe Road, Vacaville. For more

information, contact Clary at kakc10188@yahoo.com

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