



**Arts and Crafts
Fair Oct. 17
in Vacaville**

PAGE 2

**Butterfly
Garvey on
the Move**

PAGE 3





Dixon

Independent Voice

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OCTOBER 16, 2026

**SEE
INSIDE**

**DMV
APPRECIATION
MONTH**



PAGE 9

**HOBBIES
HELP**

By Mary Jane Popp



PAGE 5

**FOOD & FARM
NEWS**



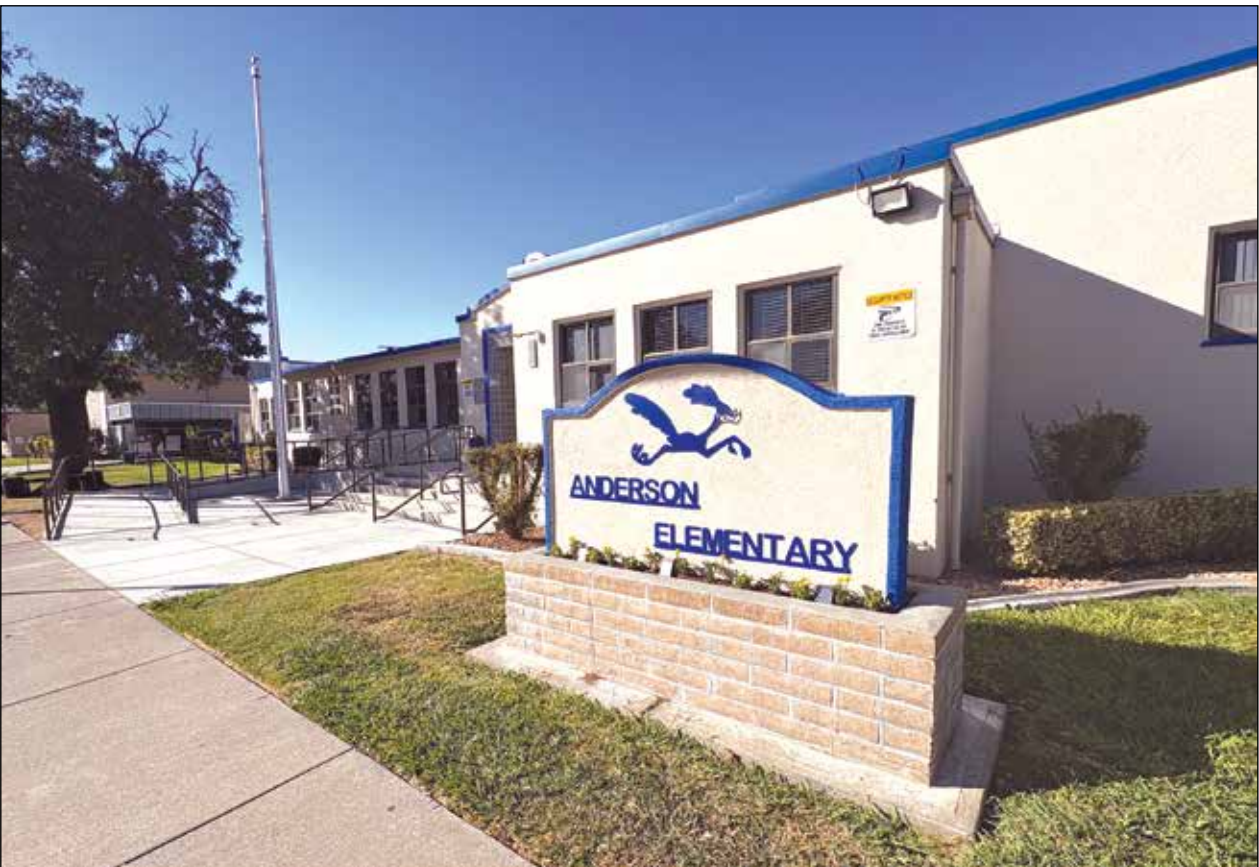
PAGE 4



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DUSD Asking Dixon for More Money



Anderson Elementary School is one of the schools Dixon Unified School District has said it would direct funds from Measure U toward if the bond measure passes.

**Story and photo
by Kevin Dietrich**

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Measure U, the bond issue local residents will vote on next month, represents the fourth time in the past 24 years that the Dixon Unified School District has asked residents for more money.

Voters passed a \$30.4 million bond in 2016 and a \$29.2 million bond in 2002, while a \$32 million bond was defeated in 2010. This year’s general obligation facilities bond measure is valued at \$49 million.

Money from Measure U would go to repairing and upgrading aging classrooms, roofs, plumbing, technology and electrical infrastructure; upgrading disabled access; and installing security systems, fire alarms and fencing, District Superintendent Brett Barley said.

If passed, Measure U would result in an estimated \$30 tax increase per \$100,000 of property, according to district officials. The median sale price of a home in Dixon is

approximately \$640,000, which would mean an additional \$192 a year in property taxes if the measure is approved.

That amount would be tacked on to what residents are already paying for Measure Q, the 2016 general obligation bond, and Measure J, the 2002 general obligation bond.

Measure Q added about \$27.57 per \$100,000 of a property’s assessed value to local homeowners’ tax bills in 2026. Property owners will continue to pay on Measure Q through 2043.

Measure J added about \$34.71 per \$100,000 of a property’s assessed value in 2026. Property owners will pay on Measure J through 2044.

If Measure U passes, the tax burden for the three bond measures combined would be more than \$590 annually on a house assessed for \$640,000.

Homeowners are already paying a substantial sum for overall property taxes. A Dixon home assessed at \$640,000 carries an annual property

tax bill of more than \$10,000.

At least one Dixon resident said he’s wary of giving the district more money.

“What are we, their personal piggy bank/ATM?” said former Dixon Mayor Joe Anderson. “If the school district cannot establish a capital improvement and maintenance program to cover/fund the ongoing maintenance issues, then they need to attend a class or two.”

Dixon Unified School District serves approximately 3,060 students at three elementary schools, a middle school and two high schools. All homeowners and business owners within the district area are taxed for the repayment of general obligation school bonds. A 55 percent vote is required for approval of the measure.

Funds from Measure U would go “to fix deteriorating roofs, plumbing, gas, and electrical systems, remove asbestos/lead pipes, repair/upgrade aging classrooms, science labs, technology and school facilities to

Continued on page 5

Tribute Video Celebrates UC Davis Faculty Retirees

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

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - UC Davis Distinguished Professor Walter Leal of the Department of Molecular and Cellular recently released a tribute video congratulating all UC Davis faculty who transitioned to emeriti during the 2025-26 academic year.

Leal spotlighted 22 retirees. This is the fourth video in Leal’s series of annual emeriti tributes, and the one with the largest number of participants (22). His tribute videos date back to the 2021-22 academic year.

“On average, these newest members of the UC Davis emeriti served our campus and the people of California for 26 years,” Leal said during the introduction. “Their ranks include colleagues who joined our faculty within the past decade, as well as others who devoted 43 or 44 years of their careers to UC Davis. Together, they have made our campus a richer academic ecosystem and helped create the environment in which a new generation of scholars will begin and develop their own academic careers. Retirement, of course, does not necessarily mean retiring from academic life. Many of our newest emeriti will remain active on campus, continuing their research, creative work, mentoring and service.”

Leal dedicated the 2025-26 video to emeritus H. Rao Unnava, former dean of the Graduate School of Management, who with his wife, Vasu, adjunct associate professor at the Graduate School of Management, were enroute to Tibet on Aug. 26 when catastrophic flash floods swept through the Nepal-China border region. They are among hundreds missing.

Rao Unnava served as the Michael and Joelle Hurlston Dean of the UC Davis Graduate School of Management for 10 years until his retirement in June.

Leal also paid tribute to “two colleagues who passed away in 2026 before they had the opportunity to retire”: UC Davis Distinguished Professor Bruce Hammock (Aug. 13, 1947, to Jan. 5, 2026), who held a joint appointment with the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology and the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, and

Continued on page 2

Dixon Voters to Change Congressional Districts

By Kevin Dietrich

DIXON, CA (MPG) - For the fourth time in a little more than 20 years, Dixon will be shifting congressional districts.

California’s new congressional redistricting map, approved under Proposition 50 last year, takes effect upon the seating of the 120th Congress.

Dixon residents, currently part of the 4th Congressional District, will become part of California’s 8th District at 12 p.m. on Jan. 3, 2027. In anticipation of the change, voters will cast ballots for the redrawn district on Nov. 3.

John Garamendi (D-Walnut Grove), who represented Dixon as a U.S. representative serving

Continued on page 5



Map showing California’s 8th Congressional District, to go into effect Jan. 3, 2027. Photo courtesy of California State Senate Office of Demographics

Arts and Crafts Fair Oct. 17 in Vacaville Museum Courtyard



Ready to greet the crowd at the Oct. 17 Vacaville Museum Guild's annual all arts and crafts fair are (from left) Vacaville Museum Guild members Jean Cox, Marian Chmielecki and Pam King. Photo courtesy of Vacaville Museum Guild

By Kathy Keatley Garvey

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - To raise funds for the Vacaville Museum – a center for Solano County art, history and culture – the Vacaville Museum Guild will host its annual fall arts and crafts fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 17 in the museum courtyard, 212 Buck Ave.

The event will include vendors with assorted wares, antiques, vintage items, a bake sale of muffins, cookies, cakes and other pastries (baked by guild members), bling jewelry and a plant sale that includes succulent pumpkins (succulents planted in pumpkins), said Pat Zetah, outgoing guild president.

Edyie Santomieri is coordinating the bling jewelry sale. (Those who wish to donate can drop the items off at the Vacaville



A succulent pumpkin is among items to be sold at the annual fall arts and crafts fair. Photo courtesy of Vacaville Museum Guild

Museum.)

Among the many other items featured: cookbooks, speakers and a television set.

Vendors will include T. Marie Pottery, author Tony Wade, Oddly Made Design, Angie's Car Freshies, Mentecata Cosmetics, Ev's Dirty

Pour Jewelry, Just Write, Nanette's Designs, Sandy Bee/Art, Tupperware, Preston Quilting, Wood Works, Sew Crafty and Cinnamon Sparrow Designs.

For more information, contact 707-447-4513 or email: info@vacavillemuseum.org. ★

Tribute Video Celebrates UC Davis Faculty Retirees



Screenshot from the UC Davis emeriti tribute video shows emeritus H. Rao Unnava (left), former dean of the Graduate School of Management, and UC Davis Distinguished Professor Walter Leal, video producer. Photo courtesy of UC Davis

Continued from page 1

Professor Mariel Vazquez (Feb. 24, 1971, to July 5, 2026), who held joint appointments with the Departments of Mathematics, and Microbiology and Molecular Genetics.

UC Davis celebrated the life and legacy of Bruce Hammock Saturday, Oct. 10 in California Hall.

UC Davis will celebrate the life and

legacy of Mariel Vazquez on Oct. 27 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the International House. In keeping with her spirit of celebrating culture and diversity, attendees are invited to wear culturally significant attire rather than black.

The video can be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gd-4qQb7-NtY>. ★

Dixon News Briefs



The Cloverleaf Farm, on the property of the Collins Farm on Olmo Lane just northeast of Dixon, is shutting down. Photo by Kevin Dietrich

By MPG Staff

Ballots Arriving in Dixon Mailboxes

Solano County voters have begun receiving ballots and voter information guides for the upcoming Nov. 3, 2026, election.

County and state voter information guides include material about candidates and the 14 propositions appearing on the November ballot. Guides are mailed to each household with a registered voter in Solano County.

Voters who have not received their ballot or county or state voter information guides by Oct. 14 are encouraged to contact the Solano County Registrar of Voters at 707-784-6675 or elections@solano-county.gov.

Dixon Planning Commission Meeting Postponed

The Dixon Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Oct. 13, to include an update on the proposed General Plan 2040 amendments, has been rescheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 10.

The informational update will include proposed green line, sphere of influence and policy refinements shaped by public feedback. No final decisions will be made at the meeting.

The public is invited to attend in person at City Council Chambers or virtually.

Addams Family Musical Begins Oct. 9

Dixon Community Youth Theater will present six showings of The Addams Family Musical in October.

Show dates are Oct. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 at 555 College Way in Dixon. Show times are 6:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sundays.

Directors are Kelly Pidgeon James and Stevie Carr.

Tickets are available at <https://dixoncommunitytheater.org/addams-fam-youth-2026>.

Women's Improvement Club Hosts Solano Group

The Dixon Women's Improvement Club will welcome the League of Women Voters of Solano County at its upcoming meeting.

The guest speaker will be Craig Paterson, board member for League of Women Voters of Solano County.

The presentation will begin at 1 p.m., Oct. 21, in the social hall of the Dixon United Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St., Dixon.

The League of Women Voters bills itself as a political grassroots network and membership organization that believes the freedom to vote is a nonpartisan issue. It has members from throughout Solano County. The public is invited to attend.

UC Davis Class on Beeswax, Candles

Registration is underway for an all-day UC Davis class for those who want to learn "the fascinating world of beeswax, from how honeybees produce it to how beekeepers can collect, process and transform it into beautiful and useful products."

The California Master Beekeeper

Program annual class, "Wax Working, Honey and Hive Products," is set from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7, in the E.L. Niño Bee Lab at the Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility, 1 Bee Biology Road, UC Davis. Space is limited; registration is advised by Oct. 23.

Participants will learn how bees make wax and how it functions within the colony, how beekeepers collect wax from the hive, how to safely clean and process beeswax, and how to turn beeswax into handcrafted products that one can make again at home.

The \$200 registration fee includes all workshop materials and supplies, along with snacks and refreshments. Participants should bring their own bag lunch.

Register at <https://campb.ucdavis.edu/classes/class-catalog/wax-working-honey-and-hive-products>

Davis Seeks Applications for City Commissions

The city of Davis is accepting applications from residents interested in serving on the Climate and Environmental Justice Commission, the Senior Citizen Commission or the Transportation Commission.

The application deadline is Oct. 23, 2026. Applicants must be 18 years of age.

For an application, visit: <https://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/commissions-and-committees>. Applications may be submitted via mail to the City Clerk's Office, 23 Russell Blvd., Suite 1, Davis, CA, 95616, via the drop box located in the City Hall parking lot or via email to: ClerkWeb@cityofdavis.org.

For more information, call 530-757-5648 or visit the City of Davis website at: <https://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/commissions-and-committees>.

The Dixon Football Team

Lost its sixth straight game with a 47-0 loss at the hands of Sutter on Oct. 9 at Finney Field.

Undefeated Sutter (6-0) snared three interceptions and three sacks en route to the victory.

The Rams, 1-6 overall, have been outscored by Sutter 222-24 over the past four games between the two teams. Dixon is back at Finney Field for its next game, against Woodland on Oct. 23. This will be last home game of the season for Dixon.

Cloverleaf Farms Closing Its Doors

The Cloverleaf Farm, a small farm located near Dixon that specializes in fruit and herbs, is closing.

The operation, an eight-acre organic orchard and farm, has been running since 2011.

"We are ending the lease and will not be operating anymore," Cloverleaf wrote on its Facebook page on Oct. 7.

Located on the Collins Farm on Olmo Lane, near the border of Solano and Yolo counties, Cloverleaf gained a reputation for its peaches, nectarines, apricots, figs and herbs.

Cloverleaf sold produce to grocery stores, restaurants, specialty food processors and online markets through the area and as far away as San Francisco and Berkeley. ★

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Butterfly Garvey on the Move



A radio-tagged monarch. Photo courtesy of David James, Washington State University

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

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Wings up, Garvey! Let's go!

This year we adopted a migratory monarch through the Adopt-a-Monarch program of Washington State University entomologist David James, who is radio-tagging monarchs in Idaho and Oregon and recording their movements as they head toward their overwintering sites in coastal California and elsewhere.

Ours departed Sept. 17 in Phoenix, Oregon.

On Sept. 16, I contemplated her departure, “Butterfly Garvey is packing her bags. She’s ordered a first-class ticket from Phoenix, Ore., Jackson County, to Santa Cruz County, coastal California. She’s got her boarding pass. She’s picked out her destination, a 100-foot

Eucalyptus tree at Natural Bridges State Beach, city of Santa Cruz, to join her overwintering friends. That’s a 420-mile trip, with stops for flight fuel (nectar) and perhaps the contemplation of her dwindling species, *Danaus plexippus*.”

And Sept. 17, it happened. Butterfly Garvey WR124, Tag A7834AD2, took flight. We’re tracking her through blue-tooth technology. As of noon Sept. 17, the Project Monarch mobile app says she’s been detected 430 times.

Butterfly Garvey is part of 2026 Great Monarch Migration, specifically Professor James’ 200-monarch radio-tagging project.

As James explained Sept. 6 on his Facebook page, “Monarch Butterflies in the Pacific Northwest,” <https://www.facebook.com/MonarchButterfliesInThePacificNorthwest>: “Each carries an electronic tag which ‘pings’

when someone with a cell phone is within 100 yards or so. The pings are transmitted to ‘Project Monarch’ and show up on the app and over time provide a detailed record of that particular monarch’s migration route.”

One of the first butterflies to be e-tagged on Aug. 12 in Hayden, Idaho is now more than 600 km to the SSE just about to cross into Utah. None of the Idaho-released monarchs are showing flight towards California so far. The monarchs in Oregon have only just been released in Portland and Sisters and are yet to show clear movement, but we fully expect them all to head to California.

“This extraordinary number of monarchs e-tagged in the Pacific Northwest was made possible by 200 citizen scientists, monarch advocates and conservation organizations adopting monarchs through

our Adopt-a-Monarch website <https://adoptamonarch.org/>,” James wrote.

“This site is well worth a visit if you want to learn more about our program including the locations of all the releases we make this season. The site also contains a tutorial on how to get and use the Project Monarch app. With this app installed on your phone you can join in the fun of tracking individual butterflies released in Idaho and Oregon! You will see data being collected in real time along with the scientists! Will Idaho monarchs end up in Arizona or even Mexico? You (along with many others) will be the

flying.; R for roosting, she will bundle with others in large clusters on trees at night to stay warm and protect themselves from predators. V for vectored navigation, her internal “compass” system that uses the sun's position and the Earth's magnetic field to stay on course; E. for eucalyptus, the specific tree she’ll rely on for shelter, and Y for yield, the final arrival and rest at her winter destination after traveling 420 miles.

It all began when we noticed this Facebook message from James on Jan. 11: “The Washington State University Pacific Northwest Monarch tagging program, which

the use of a tiny transmitter that can be carried by a Monarch!” he wrote. “This solar-powered transmitter allows us to see the progress and route taken by a monarch in real-time! Signals produced by these E-tags are detected by any cell phone with Bluetooth capability that is within about a quarter of a mile of the butterfly. The signals and data are automatically transmitted to a central data-gathering point and available to scientists. This year, we hope to E-tag at least 100 monarchs in Idaho. Unfortunately, E-tags cost \$200 each, so we need donations. We will accept any amount but if you want to contribute the full cost of a tag, then you can name the Monarch that carries your tag. You will also be able to track the progress of your Monarch on your cell phone! If you are interested in helping our research and solving this mystery, then go to: <http://adoptamonarch.org> where you will find all the details about the program and how to donate. Hopefully, our Monarch E-tagging program this year will go a long way towards solving the Idaho Monarch Mystery and you will be part of it.”

We donated to the project on Jan. 14. Shortly afterwards, a thank-you note arrived, “Your gift directly funds the tracking technology for one monarch butterfly, helping scientists uncover migration mysteries and guide conservation efforts across North America. Because of supporters like you, we can better understand where monarchs travel, what challenges they face along the way, and how to protect the habitats they depend on. We’re deeply grateful for your support and for being part of this important work. Every tagged monarch brings us one step closer to ensuring these incredible butterflies continue their journey for generations to come.”

When Butterfly Garvey took flight Sept. 17 from Phoenix, she was not alone. She joined other e-tagged monarchs with such names as Barbara, Barbie, Betsy, Christine 51726, Debbie Sue, Fern, Gem, Hope, Jamison, Justinatti, Leslie Diane, Liz, Mary, Mona Lisa, Nowinski 799 and Rusty.

Names of other monarchs yet to be released in Oregon include such creative monikers as Flappy, Get Free, Pokeynose, and Go the Distance.

Safe travels, monarchs! You, too, Flappy and Pokeynose .★



Monarch butterfly in flight over a Mexican sunflower, *Tithonia rotundifolia*, in a Vacaville garden. Photo courtesy of Kathy Keatley Garvey

first to know.”

Wouldn't it be amazing if the Garvey butterfly fluttered into our garden, just like one of the monarchs in James' project did on Sept. 5, 2016? Citizen scientist Steven Johnson of Ashland, Ore., paper-tagged and released it on Aug. 28. The monarch, a male, nectared on Mexican sunflowers (*Tithonia rotundifolia*) and a butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*) for flight fuel before continuing its journey. The tag read “Monarch@wsu.edu A6093.”

James later told us, “So, assuming it didn't travel much on the day you saw it, it flew 285 miles in seven days or about 40.7 miles per day. Pretty amazing.” He mentioned it in one of his research papers.

Now the G. A. R. V. E. Y. butterfly may be heading our way. To us, the letters stand for generation, altitude, roosting, vectored navigation, eucalyptus and yield.

G for generation, she is the unique super generation (the fourth generation of the year) that lives for up to eight months to make the long trip; A for altitude, the high altitudes and thermal air currents she rides to conserve energy while

started 14 years ago has proved that all Oregon Monarchs and the vast majority of Washington Monarchs migrate to California and overwinter along the coastline. However, it has not answered the question of where the majority of Idaho Monarchs go. From many thousands of Monarchs tagged in Idaho, only three have been recovered in California (compared to hundreds of Oregon and Washington-released Monarchs). Where do most Idaho Monarchs migrate to? It is possible that they head due south (we have some short-distance tag recoveries that suggests this), flying through Utah, Arizona and perhaps end up in Mexico for overwintering. Conventional tagging, using paper tags seems unable to throw a light on this mystery likely because of the wide, open spaces and relative lack of people to sight tagged Monarchs on an inland route south through Utah and Arizona.”

“Excitingly, due to very recent technological advances, we now have the opportunity to track individual Monarchs via

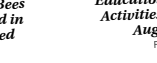
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Honey Bees Trapped in Milkweed
PAGE 10



Educational Activities in August
PAGE 3



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SEE INSIDE
ART AND WINE STROLL
PAGE 2

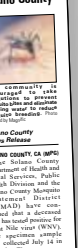
HOW DO BUTTERFLIES TASTE WITH THEIR FEET?
PAGE 5

POLICE LOG
PAGE 2

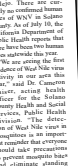
Independence From Hunger Campaign Underway



West Nile Virus Activity Detected in Solano County



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Popsicles in the Park Encourages Community Dialogue



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Riley Reviews

“NEAGLEY” THE “REACHER” SPIN-OFF; LIFETIME DRAMAS FOR OCTOBER

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

“NEAGLEY” on AMAZON PRIME
“Reacher,” the Amazon Prime action series now in its fourth season, has taken its most important series regular outside of the hulking tower of the titular character (Alan Ritchson) to launch a spin-off series with “Neagley.”

Like Reacher’s past with the military police, Maria Sten’s Frances Neagley, a former Army Master Sergeant, was part of the same investigation unit in the military as Reacher, until both retired from the service only to find their abilities useful in crossing paths with dangerous people.

Unlike Reacher’s constant drifting around the country, Neagley has returned to her hometown of Chicago, helping her ailing father and becoming a private investigator, who likes to work alone much to the chagrin of her boss Gerald York (Joel Keller) and aspiring investigator Renee (Adeline Rudolph).

Perhaps for no other reason than to reinforce Neagley’s connection to the “Reacher” universe, the first episode brings Alan Richtson to connect with Neagley, even going to a Chicago Cubs game at Wrigley Field.

The opening scene sets the stage for a storyline engulfing disparate characters. Neagley’s childhood friend Tommy (Jhaleil Swaby), looking like he’s in a trance, strips naked and climbs on the tracks of an elevated train to face an unfortunate outcome.

Investigating her friend’s demise results in collaborating with Chicago police detective Hudson Riley (Grayson Holt), a relationship that is rocky at times given the idiosyncrasies of Riley’s family involved in criminal activities that could be compromising.

Meanwhile, the trail of Tommy’s past leads to how he had been a member of a cult led by the sinister Lawrence Cole (Damon Herriman), who is running a crooked communal farm dealing with illicit pharmaceuticals.

Behind the scenes of the criminal enterprise is the even more despicable Pierce Woodrow (Matthew Del Negro), CEO of a drug company who is financing cult leader Cole’s Echo Canyon Farm.

The pacing of “Neagley” is slower and more deliberate than “Reacher,” where the action is often concentrated on Reacher’s imposing physique as he finds the need to often pummel the bad guys into oblivion.

Maria Sten’s Neagley, while lacking her mentor’s brawn, is a tough character. There is some focus on the condition of Neagley’s aversion to being touched, even though it is obvious that she has no reservations about brutally pounding deserving criminals.

Those who appreciated Sten’s role in the “Reacher” universe are likely to enjoy “Neagley.”

LIFETIME CRIME DRAMAS FOR OCTOBER

The Lifetime Channel cranks out more

movies in a month than most studios. October is no exception with four original movies that are dramas sometimes based on true stories.

In “A Doctor to Die For: The Sarah Harris Story” based on a true story, Siobhan Williams stars as Sarah, a young woman drawn into a dangerous relationship with middle-aged surgeon Dr. James Ryan (Luke Macfarlane).

As Dr. Ryan secretly supplies her with surgical-grade drugs to keep her compliant and submissive, Sarah’s life spirals out of control. When tragedy hits, Sarah’s mother and sister begin investigating the doctor, uncovering shocking and disturbing truths.

Based on the book “Fatal Prescription: A Doctor Without Remorse” by John Griffiths, “The Monster She Married” stars Matthew Morrison and Molly Saunders and follows the story of a woman, groomed since she was a teen, who breaks her silence and confronts the terrifying truth about her husband.

Shelley (Saunders) has spent years building a life with Joseph (Morrison), the man she once trusted as her pediatrician, while also enduring the abuse and manipulation that has trapped her since she was a teenager.

But when another one of Joseph’s teenage patients is murdered just days before testifying against him, Shelley is forced to face the dark truth of her marriage that she has long avoided.

Based on the New York Times best-selling book “Abandoned Prayers” by Gregg Olsen, “Sins of an Amish Husband” follows Sarah (Maddy Hillis), a devout Amish woman who suspects foul play after her sister, Ida (Karis Cameron), dies in a mysterious barn fire.

Driven to protect her young nephew Danny, Sarah begins investigating her brother-in-law, Eli (Jean Luc Bilodeau), despite the constraints of her close-knit Amish community and its conservative traditions.

When Eli abruptly disappears and Danny is later found frozen to death, Sarah’s worst fears are confirmed, and she’s lead down a path toward justice and a long-awaited reckoning.

Closing out the October slate of films, “Secrets of Mercy Hospital” finds Major Kendra Williams (Judy Reyes), a battle-hardened Army nurse, returning to the working-class town she fled as a teenager for her estranged mother’s funeral.

After helping deliver a baby during a roadside emergency, Kendra is drawn into the understaffed maternity unit at Mercy Hospital, where is forced to confront the long-buried secret of the daughter she gave birth to and left behind at age 18.

As she works alongside her former best friend, now married to Kendra’s first love, Vaughn Maddox (Tahmoh Penikett), she must face the pain, guilt and unanswered questions that have shaped her life. Her journey ultimately leads her toward healing, forgiveness and the possibility of a second chance. ★



Farm Bureau Team Seeks Solutions in D.C.

A California Farm Bureau delegation that included more than a dozen of the organization’s members, staff and executives traveled to Washington, D.C., last month to advocate on issues affecting farmers and ranchers. Among the group’s priorities were discussions around passing a new farm bill and policies related to endangered species and the farm workforce. “It makes all the difference when lawmakers can hear directly from farmers and ranchers about the challenges they face and the real-world impacts of policy decisions,” California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass said. “Our members were able to share specific examples of how they’ve been affected by rising production costs, trade conflicts, labor shortages and other headwinds that have made the current farming environment one of the most difficult in decades.”

Diesel Price Spike Increases Financial Stress for Farmers

California diesel prices skyrocketed in September, adding another layer of stress for farmers and truck fleet owners who depend on the fuel for daily work. Experts attribute the price spike in part to continued disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz amid the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran. Diesel and gas prices have dramatically increased since the war began in February. California’s average diesel price on Oct. 1 was more than \$8 a gallon, representing the highest in the nation. Ryan Cummings, an economist with the Stanford

Institute for Economic Policy Research, said California’s taxes and fees are among the factors driving the state’s higher price. Yolo County farmer Bill Cruickshank, who serves as chairman of the California Wheat Commission, said he and other wheat growers already felt the sting of rising diesel prices when they harvested their crop earlier this year.

New Date Crop Hits Market as Fruit Goes ‘Mainstream’

Much of California’s medjool date crop was picked during the past several weeks after a spring heat wave sped fruit development, bringing harvest forward by as many as four weeks. Growers reported below-average yields, though they said production is markedly better than last year, when ill-timed rains in the Coachella Valley caused significant crop losses and left handlers with little to no carryover heading into this year’s harvest. With high demand for the fruit, date handlers said they are working to get the new crop shipped to retailers across the country. “There’s a lot of pent-up demand,” Coachella Valley grower and shipper Albert Keck said. “We’re scrambling to fill orders.” The fruit has recently gained traction among U.S. consumers, with sales increasing more than a third during the past two years, according to the market research firm SPINS. “Everybody is really excited about the trajectory of dates,” said Kristy Kneiding, executive director of the California Date Commission. ★



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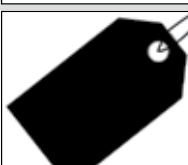
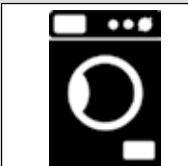
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Ask DR. UNIVERSE

Would it have been possible to domesticate bears instead of wolves?

- Florian, Austria

Dear Florian,

Humans have lived in partnership with cats like me for a long time. The earliest evidence for our friendship is 9,500 years old. Archaeologists found cat and human remains buried together.

But that’s nothing compared to how long humans and dogs have hung out. They might’ve been a duo for 30,000 years.

I asked my friend Sean Farley if that could have happened with bears instead. He’s a wildlife biologist in Alaska. He studied at the Washington State University Bear Center.

He told me that wolf biology made them good candidates to live with humans. That includes their social structure and physical needs. Bears...not so much.

Dogs share a common ancestor with gray wolves.

Sometime between 11,000 years ago and 32,000 years ago, dogs split from wolves on the family tree.

Scientists think those dog-wolves probably domesticated themselves.

Back then, humans were hunter-gatherers. Over time, some wolves became less fearful of humans. They became friendlier and more dog-like. They would have been great partners for hunters.

That probably wouldn’t have worked with bears. Bears don’t live and work together as a pack.

“Bears recognize a hierarchy, but it’s based more on size and dominance and fear—not a hierarchy of



Top left: The scientific name for the gray wolf is Canis lupus. The scientific name for the dog is Canis lupus familiaris. So, technically dogs are a subspecies of wolves. ©Tracy Brooks/USFWS
Top right: Bears are great problem solvers. But they don’t work together to do it. The WSU bears use their problem-solving skills to help humans. ©WSU College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences

working together,” Farley said. “Even black bears can take down prey much larger than themselves by themselves. But for wolves to take down a moose, it really takes the pack effort to do it.”

Plus, bears are massive—and ancient bears were even bigger. Think about the prehistoric cave bear. It definitely lived around humans. That ginormous bear weighed as much as 2,000 pounds. It would take tons of food to maintain their size.

As they sat by the fire, humans probably tossed bones and bits of meat to friendly wolves. That would have been a steady food source for them. But scraps wouldn’t be enough to feed a bear.

Baby bears would be kind of a problem, too.

Wolf pups stay inside a den with their mother for a few weeks. Then they’re big enough to run and play with the pack.

Bear cubs are born while their mother hibernates. And they’re altricial—or super helpless. They won’t come out of the den for months.

“They don’t look anything like the bear cubs that you see running around in the springtime,” Farley said. “They can’t do anything except scream and nurse. And they’re like that for several months.”

That long hibernation and those needy babies wouldn’t have worked with the early human lifestyle. Hunter-gatherers moved around a lot. They traveled to find food and shelter from the weather. They met up with other groups of people. Humans would have had to change their whole lives to try to domesticate a bear.

I guess humans couldn’t bear the huge cost of trying to befriend those furry guys.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

DUSD Asking Dixon for More Money

Continued from page 1

support college/career readiness in math, science, technology, arts, engineering, and skilled trades,” according to the official ballots for the Nov. 3 election.

“We have some buildings that are quite old, and they are in need of repair and renovation,” Barley said. “Some of our facilities are 60 years old or older. And some of our schools were built with modular structures and portables, which have reached the extent of their usefulness.”

The district has an annual budget of approximately \$50 million. As much as 85 percent of that amount goes to salaries and benefits, leaving a diminished pool for everything else, from repairs to electricity to supplies, said Barley, who joined the district in 2024.

The district’s facilities master plan reported that the “total estimated facility cost for both modernization and master planned campuses over the next 10 years is \$170 million to \$202 million.”

District officials believe that if Measure U passes, they will be able to secure additional funds from the state through Proposition 2, passed two years ago, which approved a \$10 billion bond

to pay for upgrades at K-12 schools and community colleges.

“One of the reasons why we decided to begin investigating a new bond now is because there is new state money available, and if we could bring matching funds in the future, we could essentially double the amount of money that we could spend to improve our facilities with that state match,” Barley said during a Measure Q Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee meeting in February.

Funds from Measure J, which received 67 percent approval from voters, and Measure Q, which garnered 60 percent approval, were used to upgrade aging and deteriorating schools, and to construct John Knight Middle School and Dixon High School.

Measure D, the 2010 bond measure, received less than 47 percent of votes. The \$32 million in borrowed money from that proposed measure would have been spent to “acquire, construct, repair, and improve classrooms and support facilities, including career technical and vocational facilities, increase student access to modern technology, provide utility and energy efficiency improvements, and purchase leased facilities.” ★

Dixon Voters to Change Congressional Districts

Continued from page 1

the 3rd District from 2013 through 2023, is running against Republican Rudy Recile in the 8th District race.

Garamendi, 81, first elected to Congress in 2009 and currently representing the 8th District, has served in politics for more than 50 years. He was California’s lieutenant governor from 2007 to 2008.

Recile is a retired U.S. Army officer and holds a master’s degree in quality systems management. He has worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and now runs a small website-development company headquartered in Vacaville.

The 8th District dates back to 1903, when it was created to serve Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura counties.

For the past few years, Dixon has been part of California’s 4th Congressional District. Under the 2020 redistricting, California’s 4th District encompasses Lake, Napa and Yolo counties, and parts of Sonoma and Solano counties. Rep. Mike Thompson, who has been in Congress for more than 25 years, has represented the district since 2023.

From 2013 through 2023, Dixon was a

part of the 3rd District, which stretched from Suisun Bay to Glenn County and included Fairfield, Davis and Yuba City. Garamendi represented the district during the entire 10-year period.

From 2003 until 2013, Dixon was part of the 10th District. That consisted of portions of Alameda, Contra Costa and Sacramento counties, in addition to part of Solano.

Prop. 50, a congressional districting gerrymander designed to help Democrats gain five U.S. House seats in response to a pro-Republican gerrymander in Texas, was approved by voters at the Nov. 4, 2025, special election.

Under Prop. 50, California will temporarily use legislatively drawn Congressional district maps starting in 2026 and through 2030. These district maps will be used until the state redistricting commission draws new maps following the 2030 U.S. Census.

Prop. 50 did not alter current State Senate, State Assembly or State Board of Equalization district lines, according to information found on the California Secretary of State’s website.

Those district lines, drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission after the 2020 Census, remain in effect. ★

Vacaville Police Department Awarded Grant for Traffic Enforcement Program

City of Vacaville News Release

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - City of Vacaville Police Department announced Oct. 7 that it has received a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to support its ongoing enforcement and education programs to help reduce the number of serious injuries and deaths on our roads. The grant program runs through September 2027.

“We are grateful to receive

this grant, which will strengthen our traffic enforcement efforts and improve road safety,” Vacaville Police Department Lieutenant Rob Myers said. “Through a combination of education and enforcement efforts, our goal is to reduce dangerous driving behaviors, prevent crashes and make our roads safer for everyone.”

The grant will provide additional programs and resources, including:

DUI checkpoints and patrols focused on stopping suspected

impaired drivers.

High-visibility distracted driving enforcement operations targeting drivers in violation of California’s hands-free cell phone law.

Enforcement operations focused on the most dangerous driver behaviors that put the safety of people biking or walking at risk.

Enforcement operations focused on top violations that cause crashes: speeding, failure to yield, stop sign and/or red-light running, and improper

turning or lane changes.

Community presentations on traffic safety issues such as distracted driving, impaired driving, speeding and bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Collaborative enforcement efforts with neighboring agencies.

Officer training and/or recertification: Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE).

“Through focused traffic enforcement and education, we’re working toward a future where everyone will be safe on California roads,” OTS Director Stephanie Dougherty said. “By encouraging people to prioritize safety in their daily choices, we are creating a strong road safety culture together.”

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ★



PoppTalk

With Mary Jane Popp

Hobbies Help

She is a regular on my POPPTALK Radio Show on KAH1 Radio. She is a true holistic health advocate for optimal nutrition, physical fitness, stress management, balanced living, positive aging, and natural approaches to greater energy and well-being. She has written numerous books with her latest “A Hug in a Mug,” “Uplifted,” “Wired for High-Level Wellness,” and also authored the award-winning novelette “Joy and the Butterfly” a magical story for children of all ages. She is the most caring friend I have ever known. So, I asked **Dr. Susan Smith Jones** to share why hobbies can help!

- 1. REDUCE STRESS.** Painting, knitting, gardening, music and other absorbing activities can interrupt worry and help the nervous system shift out of high alert.
- 2. LIFT YOUR MOOD.** Having enjoyable interests can encourage happiness, life satisfaction, optimism, and a welcome sense of possibility.
- 3. GIVE WORRY LESS ROOM.** When you focus on the next brushstroke, puzzle piece, garden row, dance step, or musical phrase, the mind has less space to rehearse problems.
- 4. KEEP THE BODY MOVING.** Gardening, dancing, hiking, horseback riding, tennis, pickleball, swimming, and walking groups make movement enjoyable instead of feeling like punishment.
- 5. EXERCISE THE BRAIN.** Reading, music, puzzles, photography, games, languages, and dancing challenge memory, coordination, observation, problem-solving and learning.
- 6. BUILD CONFIDENCE.** Finishing a project, learning a skill, or improving little by little reminds you: I can still learn, create, and surprise myself.
- 7. STRENGTHEN SOCIAL CON-**

NECTION. Book clubs, choirs, sports, classes, volunteer teams, and riding clubs create opportunities for friendship, laughter, and belonging. 8) **RESTORE WONDER.** Hobbies help us notice beauty again—a new flower, bird in flight, melody, sunrise, or the pleasure of creating something with our own hands. 9) **NURTURE THE SPIRIT.** A meaningful hobby can become a form of moving meditation or prayer, bringing us into the present with gratitude, patience, and peace. 10) **GIVE LIFE SOMETHING TO ANTICIPATE.** Hob-

bies place little islands of joy across the calendar and remind us that life is more than productivity.

I love how she finishes getting to the heart of ways to help heal body, mind, and spirit like choose something that genuinely delights you. You don’t have to be “good” at it for it to be good for you. Begin small, stay curious, laugh at mistakes, and let your hobby become your sanctuary from stress and pressure. I will add...**START TODAY!** Let’s face it, we all talk a good talk, but the action is what it takes to make things a reality. By the way, you can check out **Dr. Susan Smith Jones** for lots more GREAT life enhancing ideas at **www.susansmithjones.com**. While you’re there, check out how to get her monthly newsletter. It has super inspiring information and delightful sayings to put a smile on your face in addition to helping you become the best you can be. No strings attached. Just click on the newsletter and it will be in your email monthly. Almost forgot. **IT’S FREE!!!** I take her advice seriously! Would you believe **Dr. Jones** will be 76 in November? **WOW! HAPPY HOBBY HUNTING!!!**



Dr. Jones 76? Really? Yes, Really!



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BY JOSH F.W. COOK

★ CALIFORNIA ★ POLICY AND ETHICS

CA Water Woes a Plenty

By Josh Cook

Native American tribes are now contesting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s relicensing of Oroville Dam—something they could not do when the dam was first licensed more than 60 years ago. That challenge adds another layer of legal uncertainty to a water regulatory system already running on borrowed time.

California’s water infrastructure has barely grown since the Oroville Dam was completed in nineteen sixty-eight. The state has added millions of people since then. Still, no comparable storage or conveyance projects have followed—Sites Reservoir, the one major new reservoir in decades, is still only about one million acre-feet in the best case. Population outran the plumbing (infrastructure), and the gap is why you have a miserable low-flow shower to start your day every day.

California faces a projected nine-million-acre-foot annual water gap by 2024, driven by weather changes, shrinking snowpack, and regulatory shifts. The new State Water Plan 2028 sets that as its first statewide target: roughly two Shasta Reservoirs of supply to replace.

On top of all that, the Colorado River is tightening. Under the Trump administration’s twenty twenty-seven and twenty twenty-eight operating plan, California

must cut four hundred forty thousand acre-feet a year—about twelve percent of its allotment—while Arizona and Nevada take deeper reductions.

Reservoirs are at record lows, and the federal Bureau of Reclamation controls the taps. Meanwhile, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is ending the era of unlimited pumping in the Central Valley. Local agencies are now imposing limits and fees; some farmers are already leaving fields dry, and up to 900,000 acres may eventually go fallow.

The Delta tunnels remain unfinished. The Delta Conveyance Project has cleared some federal biological reviews but still faces court fights, financing questions, and water-rights decisions. Construction is unlikely before twenty twenty-nine at the earliest.

All of this leaves California’s water system dependent on federal support. The state cannot balance its own books without Bureau of Reclamation operations, Colorado River agreements, and federal actions by EPA, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries, and collaboration with Federal Indian Tribes on treaty-level land and water rights.

Sacramento is effectively waiting on Washington—and on Trump—to keep the system from breaking, and without cooperation, the system will cease to function.

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • BASEBALL

CLUES

ACROSS

1. Diver's acronym

6. *Bat wood

9. 1970s "pet"

13. *High-flying fly ball

14. *Tampa Bay player

15. Round loaf, in Paris

16. Oak fruit

17. Golf peg

18. Investigative report

19. *Winningest World Series team

21. *How many feet between bases?

23. Help

24. Queen of Hearts' pastry

25. *80-game restriction, e.g.

28. Cecum, pl.

30. Mr. Miyagi's forte

35. Some soaps have none

37. Mobile phone in Britain, slangily

39. Heat-conducting solid

40. Australian palm

41. Borders on

43. Large African antelope

44. Campus VIPs

46. *Umpires: Men in

47. Wednesday Addams' roommate

48. *Babe Ruth, a.k.a. the ____ of Swat

50. Campaign worker

52. Before, old-fashioned

53. Buck or doe

55. GDP predecessor

57. *Grand slam: home run with bases ____

60. *____-inning stretch

64. Courteous and respectful

65. Large coffee pot

67. Habituate

68. Administer ceremonial oil

69. Bird word

70. Come in

71. Magnifying glass

72. Flow's partner

73. Classroom furniture pieces

DOWN

1. Fix a cat

2. Kind of cola

3. "Once ____ a time..."

4. Muslim woman's cover

5. Relating to apnea

6. Crafts' partner

7. Ed.'s request

8. Laughing predator

9. *Record holder for most career hits

10. Give a boot

11. Modeling material

12. Piano's E or G, e.g.

15. Small chicken variety

20. Organ swelling

22. Rub the wrong way

24. Arranged in rows and columns

25. *Record holder for most career home runs

26. Farewell, in France

27. Edible cactus

29. *One of five first Hall of Fame inductees

31. Blood vessel network

32. Repent

33. Short-trunked ungulate

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Let ‘Em Play

By V.G. Harris

After witnessing two home games at the Golden One Center, I can unequivocally state that the Sacramento Kings fans have lost none of their passion for NBA basketball. Although not a sellout crowd, the home fans rooted on their Kings with true enthusiasm and passion.

To many fans myself included, we were puzzled as to why coach Christie made the decision to sit out Ben Simmons, Malik Monk and Keegan Murray. I later learned that Monk was nursing a toe sprain, but there was no report as to why Simmons and Murray were held out for the first two preseason games.

The Lakers meanwhile put their full contingent on display, and the final score recorded the results. In the first game it was over by half time as the Lakers took a more than 30-point lead and never looked back.

In the Thursday game in Los Angeles while the Lakers star Luka Doncic put on a show, once again coach Christie had veterans sitting on the bench. Neither Domantas Sabonis nor Vach Lavine recorded a single minute, and once again the outcome was predictable.

What makes this apparent strategy so strange, is that if there is one intangible that most pundits and fans agree is critical to winning it is team chemistry. Team chemistry can only develop if players have the opportunity to play together, and what better time to get the ball rolling than the preseason.

The Sacramento fans finally got to see a cameo appearance from Ben Simmons and Keegan Murray Saturday night against the Golden State Warriors. Simmons recorded nine minutes of action and Murray was on the hardwood for a total of eight. Although Simmons did not grab a single rebound, he scored seven points and went three for four from the charity stripe. Murray managed five points and no rebounds, but at least the fans got a glimpse of the two players expected to make an impact in the upcoming season.

The play thus far has fans scratching their heads, and without a full contingent of players on the floor, what is being witnessed is a hodge-podge that does little more than confuse fans.

Five or six preseason games doesn’t allow for a lot chemistry to develop, so let’s get these players on the court and let them adjust to one another. Rotations and minutes remain a critical component and fans are already finding their favorites.

Whether Darius Acuff Jr., Emmanuel Sharpe, Alex Karaban, or some of the second-year players, fans want to see these players on the court and getting enough of a look to see what they’ve got offer.

Emmanuel Sharpe has impressed from the get-go, and if coach Christie is honest about finding players that exemplify defense, look no further than young Sharpe. Sharpe not only is playing exemplary defense, but he is also a capable scorer as well.

What will be interesting is whether his standout play will translate to the regular season, and will he receive 20-25 minutes per game?

It is way too early to become overly critical although I’m certainly confounded with this rather odd beginning to the preseason.

I will give coach Christie and the staff the benefit of the doubt and presume that he is being overly cautious with Simmons and Murray while trying to avoid early injuries.

At some point basketball players have to play basketball, and no doubt that is what we will see.

Looking for the positives, especially during the preseason, before the real action gets started, has to be the order of the day. I firmly believe that the Kings will begin to gel when they actually find themselves on the court together and can begin the process of building that ever-essential team chemistry.

Make no mistake about it, there is abundant talent on the team right now, and I’m looking forward to the night that it all comes together.

Two areas that concern me most are guarding the three-point line and getting the team to shoot a higher percentage from the line. These two areas are ever so critical, and at the moment the Kings have gotten off to a tepid start in both categories.

Stay tuned Kings fans, because the real action is about to start!

All the best! ★

California’s Hallmark Economic Sectors are Confronting Threats to Their Survival



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California’s economy is not only one of the world’s largest at more than \$4 trillion but one of its most diverse.

No single industry dominates. Rather, there are three hallmarks with global reach — film and TV production, technology and large-scale agriculture — and a variety of less famous sectors.

In terms of sheer financial and employment importance, healthcare is California’s biggest economic activity at something over \$500 billion a year, most of which comes from federal and state governments.

Southern California’s logistics industry — the movement of goods through its ports and its vast warehousing and transportation complexes — dwarfs Hollywood in economic importance. And tourism is huge in both of California’s major urban centers.

These are uncertain times for California’s economy. It has not fully recovered from the economic shutdown during the COVID-19 pandemic, it still has more than a million unemployed workers, and its 5.1% unemployment rate is currently tied for the highest of any state.

Economic turbulence is especially strong in California’s three hallmark sectors and could have existential importance.

The recent kerfuffle over the merger of two Hollywood icons, Paramount and Warner Bros., underscored fears that Southern California is losing its dominance of film and TV production to other states and nations. The region has lost thousands of production jobs in recent years and the state government has attempted to stem the outflow with an array of subsidies.

Politico put it this way: “It all amounts to an existential crisis for the state’s leaders — one that this year’s candidates for governor and Los Angeles mayor confront as readily as those stumping in West Virginia grapple with questions over whether the coal mines will come back, or those in Michigan over whether the automotive assembly lines will ever roll again.

“Beneath the fight over tax incentives lies a larger question: whether the middle-class life that generations of Angelenos built working in Hollywood will soon become a thing of the past.”

Silicon Valley, some 340 miles north of Hollywood, is undergoing upheaval of a different kind. Artificial intelligence is a booming new product for high-tech firms, drawing countless billions of dollars in venture capital. It is also a target for federal and state politicians responding to public concerns about AI impacts.

The potential of societal harm from uncontrollable AI and physical harm from AI’s huge data centers have made the new technology the hottest issue in this year’s elections. It also has adversely affected the job picture as tech companies employ AI to trim their own payrolls. The San Jose Mercury News reported recently that Silicon Valley

firms have laid off nearly 14,000 workers so far this year, more than 2025’s yearly total.

Finally, there’s trouble down on the farm.

State officials have been pushing farmers to reduce their use of water to irrigate crops, both surface water from streams and reservoirs and underground water. Farmers also face shortages of labor, due to the Trump administration’s crackdown on immigrants lacking permanent legal status.

The Public Policy Institute of California has estimated that the state’s farmers will see a 20% reduction in water and may have to take as many as 900,000 acres out of production.

The most famous California agricultural product, wine, not only must contend with water and labor issues but a sharp decline in demand, leading to winery closures and decreasing acreage of wine grapes.

“Wine sales have decreased by more than 20% over a five-year period, causing prices paid for grapes to drop and prompting California growers to take roughly a quarter of the state’s vineyards out of production,” the Associated Press recently reported.

While Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislators have pledged millions of dollars to support Hollywood, they’ve ignored agriculture’s problems — and even worsened them via water restrictions.

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

Social Security Matters

Does a Veteran who uses VA Healthcare need Medicare at age 65?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I’m not yet old enough, but must I enroll in Medicare at Age 65? I am a disabled military veteran with VA benefits, so must I still take Medicare when I turn 65? **Signed: Disabled Veteran**

Dear Disabled Veteran: First, please accept my gratitude for your military service to our country. And please also know that if you now rely 100% on the VA for all your healthcare needs, and you expect that to continue for the rest of your life, then you have the option to decline enrolling in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. However, if you believe that using healthcare providers from outside the VA may someday be in your future, you should enroll in Medicare when you are first eligible.

Although you are required to enroll in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services)

if you collect Social Security after age 65, enrolling in Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient medicals services) is always optional because there is a monthly premium for Part B (\$202.90 for 2026 - changes yearly). So, as a military veteran using VA healthcare, you have a choice to either enroll in Medicare Part B at age 65, or not if you get all your healthcare services from the Veterans Administration. Just be aware that VA healthcare is not considered “creditable” for Medicare purposes, so if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period (IEP), and later choose to enroll in Medicare Part B, there will be a permanent Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B outside your initial enrollment period (your Medicare IEP is 3 months on either side of the month you turn 65).

So, the decision you will need to make as you approach 65 years of age is this: will all of your healthcare needs always be provided through the VA? Or do you want the convenience (and flexibility) to know you can use any healthcare provider anywhere the U.S. or its territories, whenever and wherever you

wish. If the latter is true, then you should likely enroll in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. You can still use the VA for some services if you are enrolled in both, but there is no coordination of benefits (e.g., the VA will not make copayments if you use Medicare services, and vice versa). Which means that you may also wish to also consider a Medicare Advantage plan or a Medicare Supplement plan to go with Medicare Part B if/when you enroll.

I hope this answers your question, but please don’t hesitate to contact us again if needed. And, importantly, thank you for your service to our country.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (<http://amacfoundation.org/services>) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. ★



The System Worked in the Cornell 7 Case

We’ve heard it from politicians, celebrities and influencers -- the system failed the accuser in the Cornell 7 case. This near-universal view is advanced with great certainty and a sense of outraged righteousness, but mistaken nonetheless. Based on the information available to them at the time, the authorities handled the matter in keeping with the facts and the law.

This isn’t to defend anything that occurred during that debauched night at the Chi Phi fraternity, which was “Lord of the Flies” meets “Eyes Wide Shut.” Nor does it foreclose the possibility that Jane Doe was the victim of crimes. But the critics of the school and the district attorney who declined to prosecute the case fail to account for a central element of the case -- a sworn statement by Jane Doe herself in November 2024 that appears to fail to allege any crime.

After getting slammed for his handling of the case, Tompkins County district attorney Matthew Van Houten publicly defended his office. He quoted extensively from Jane Doe’s statement. These excerpts do indeed describe her actions that night, in the words of the DA, as “voluntary, conscious and consensual.”

By her own account, she drank heavily before heading to the fraternity. She danced flirtatiously with a friend she was

interested in, and then agreed to a threesome because of “how attracted” she was to him and “drunken curiosity.” This was before she ingested any drugs. The assignment stopped when her friend dropped out because of drowsiness, while the other male began to dry heave. She periodically checked on her sleeping friend, while “consoling” the other male. This was a squalid scene, but not one where she was unconscious or refusing.

Another male entered the room, and he began making out with her, with Jane Doe apparently lodging no objection. Her friend then woke up and made another lewd proposal that she declined. More males piled into the room. It was suggested she take “more ketamine,” and vaguely recalling she had already snorted some at some point, she figured “why not do it a second time.”

When the guys, who behaved abysmally, asked if they could snort the drug off her body, she said, “Sure.”

Finally, another young man entered the room and said he was shutting down “whatever the f*** this is.”

Still, her so-called friend persisted and took her to another room with another male to begin having group sex again. She said she was tired and plaintively asked her friend, “What happened to just you and me?” But she apparently didn’t say “no.” Finally, around 5:45 a.m., she said she “was tired and needed

to turn in.”

This isn’t a hostile version of events concocted by a defense attorney -- it’s what she attested to weeks after the night of Oct. 19. The DA didn’t disbelieve her, or decide he couldn’t prove her allegations; he correctly determined that she described no actual crime.

It’s not the job of a DA, obviously, to get an alleged victim to change her story after she’s sworn to it in writing, or to make prosecutions based on vibes.

For its part, Cornell didn’t sweep the matter under the rug. The school carried out 50 interviews involving 32 witnesses. It expelled two of the students; suspended two others; banned from campus one who had already graduated; and allowed two others to remain, provided that they completed various trainings, including writing “reflective essays” (this is the source of the erroneous idea that essay-writing was the only consequence for the young men).

Both the DA and Cornell did their job. It’s not that the system failed Jane Doe but, rather, that she changed her version of events two years after the fact in a civil lawsuit against the men and the university, among others.

The risk now is that the system, with New York Attorney General Letitia James leading a politicized investigation, will be perverted to produce a predetermined outcome.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS



Sierra Donor Services Recognized DMV Partners During DMV Appreciation Month

Sierra Donor Services News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sierra Donor Services (SDS) proudly honored Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) partners across Northern California, celebrating DMV Appreciation Month during September.

As an important link in the donation and transplantation process, DMV staff play a vital role in helping individuals register as organ, eye and tissue donors, bringing hope to nearly 20,000 in California and more than 100,000 patients in need of lifesaving transplants across the nation.

Every year, September highlights the invaluable 21-year partnership between DMV offices and Sierra Donor Services in promoting the Donate Life California organ donor registry. 95% of Californians who register as donors do so through the DMV, making their front-line staff essential advocates for donation. They are more than DMV staff or state employees; they are life ambassadors. 2026 marked a historic milestone: a record breaking 20 million registered Californians who said ‘yes’ to donation.

This achievement gives us hope, but for those waiting for a transplant, the need is immediate. Every day, approximately 10 or more people are added to the national waiting list, while 16 people across the country die every day because a life-saving organ wasn't available. However, one donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and heal the lives of 75 more through tissue donation, giving the hope of second chances to those patiently waiting.



Sr. External Affairs Coordinator of Sierra Donor Services, Kevin Cao at Sacramento South DMV. Photo courtesy of Sierra Donor Services

“Our DMV partners are everyday heroes, and we celebrate them every month, not just for the month of September,” said Sean Van Slyck, chief executive officer of Sierra Donor Services. “Many times, they are the first people to introduce Californians to the option of donation. Their dedication and compassion directly impact lives saved through transplantation.”

Throughout September, Sierra Donor Services visited several DMV offices across its service county areas to personally thank staff, recognized staff for the life-changing work they provide, and share stories of lives saved through donation. DMV employees were also recognized on social media and the organization’s website, highlighting their contributions to the

donation community.

DMV staff are responsible for facilitating over 95% of new donor registrations in California.

Sierra Donor Services supports 19 DMV offices across 11 counties and the city of Santa Rosa in Northern California and Nevada.

DMV Appreciation Month is part of a national campaign led by Donate Life America and

state donor registries.

“Donate Life California is proud to continue its strong partnership with Sierra Donor Services and the California DMV,” said Lacey Felder, senior program manager of Donate Life California. “Since more than 95% of Californians register as donors through the California DMV, this partnership provides a trusted and accessible way for individuals to make this important decision. We extend our gratitude to the DMV for its critical partnership, dedication, and commitment to saving and improving lives through organ, eye and tissue donation.”

Sierra Donor Services encourages all Californians to say ‘yes’ to donation when visiting the DMV and to thank DMV employees for their role in saving lives. As Sierra Donor Services reflects on over 40 years of impact, the organization remains committed to its mission of saving lives, honoring donors, and educating the public. Be part of this life-changing legacy. Register today at SierraDonor.org.

About Sierra Donor Services
Founded in 1985, Sierra Donor Services is a federally designated, mission-driven nonprofit organ procurement organization (OPO) dedicated to saving and improving lives through organ, eye and tissue donation. Serving over 5 million people across Northern California, Nevada, and New Mexico, SDS is part of a collaborative network of organ procurement organizations working to advance donation efforts across California, Nevada, New Mexico and Tennessee. For more information, or to register as a donor, visit SierraDonor.org. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001642
The following persons are doing business as: Rosette Western Wear, 119 Falaise Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687
Lourdes Lizbeth Ornelas, 119 Falaise Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687.
Date filed in Solano County: September 17, 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 September 16, 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: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026
ROSETTE 10-23-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001474
The following persons are doing business as: CME Smog & Auto Repair, 777 Elmira Road Suite A, Vacaville, CA 95687
Phoenix Legacy Ventures LLC, 210 Lenix Avenue, Winters, CA 95694.
Date filed in Solano County: August 21, 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 August 20, 2031. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026
CME 10-23-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001679
The following persons are doing business as: Red Lion Wildfire Defense, 47 Monte Vista Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94590.
Kvon Wildfire Mitigation and Forestry Consultancy LLC, 47 Monte Vista Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94590.
Date filed in Solano County: September 25, 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 September 24, 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: October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026
RED 10-30-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001688
The following persons are doing business as: Superior Heating and Cooling, 5130 Fulton Drive

Suite K, Fairfield, CA 94534.
R.L. Fuller, Inc., 5130 Fulton Drive Suite K, Fairfield, CA 94534.
Date filed in Solano County: September 29, 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 September 28, 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: October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026
SUPERIOR 10-30-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001738
The following persons are doing business as: Integrity Bookkeeping and Notary, 1843 Shirley Drive, Benicia, CA 94510
Laura Krause, 1843 Shirley Drive, Benicia, CA94510.
Date filed in Solano County: October 6, 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 October 5, 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: Oct 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 2026
INTEGRITY 11-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001736
The following persons are doing business as: IRP and Drug Testing Services, IRP Services, 1335 Oliver Road, Fairfield, CA 94534
Masuta Logistics Inc, 65 Quinta Court Suite D, Sacramento, CA 95823.
Date filed in Solano County: October 6, 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 October 5, 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: Oct 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 2026
IRP 11-6-26

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE # 2021002417
The following person(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name: Rapid First Plumbing, 5013 Roberts Avenue Suite B, McClellan, CA 95652.
The Fictitious Business Name referred to above was filed in Solano County on December 15, 2021, File Number: 2021002417
Rov Enterprises, Inc., 5013 Roberts Avenue Suite B, McClellan, CA 95652.
This business is conducted by: A Corporation
Filed with the Clerk of Solano County on September 8, 2026.
Publish: October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026
RAPID 10-30-26

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #CU26-06811
Felisha Marie Gibson filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Julianna Marie Coram to Julianna Marie Gibson-Coram
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. November 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m. Department 7, Room 2, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer
Dated: August 10, 2026
Publish: Sept 25, Oct 2, 9, 16, 2026
GIBSON 10-16-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #CU26-08663
Sarah Woehler and Anthony Wharton filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Rylie Rae Woehler to Rylie Rae Wharton.
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. November 12, 2026, 8:30 a.m. Department 8, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court, unable to read.
Dated: September 17, 2026
Publish: October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026
WHARTON 10-30-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #CU26-08483
Kelly Lynn Mac Pheators Martinez filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Kelly Lynn Mac Pheators aka Kelly Lynn Seaton aka Kelly Lynn Martinez to Kelly Lynn Cosio.
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. December 3, 2026, 8:30 a.m. Department 8, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Wendy Getty
Dated: September 30, 2026
Publish: October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026
MARTINEZ 10-30-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #CU26-08565
Teresa Pham filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Teresa Pham to Teresa Pham Lam.
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. November 5, 2026, 8:30 a.m. Department 8, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Wendy Getty
Dated: September 30, 2026
Publish: October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026
PHAM 10-30-26



LIEN SALE AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will conduct a Lien Sale Auction on OCTOBER 28TH, 2026, at 11:00 AM. This is authorized by Division 8, Chapter 10 of the California Business and Professions Code. CASH ONLY. All items must be removed from the property immediately after sale.

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