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Dixon Independent Voice

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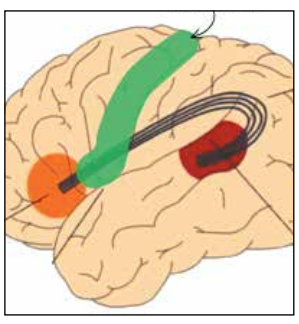
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Dixon Lengthens Data Center Moratorium



Raffi Boloyan, Dixon's director of community development, talks to City Council members during a Nov. 3 meeting.

Story and photo by Kevin Dietrich

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon City Council voted unanimously to extend its moratorium on data centers through Sept. 30, 2027, and it added a 45-day ban on battery energy storage systems during its Nov. 3 meeting.

The moratoriums will give the city time to study potential impacts involving water and energy use, along with the effects of noise and emissions, connected with data centers and battery energy storage systems, said Raffi Boloyan, Dixon's director of community development.

Dixon has not received an application for either a data center or battery energy storage system project as yet, but city officials want a planning process in place in case that happens.

"As it stands right now … if a data center wanted to come in here, they don't have to go through a public process, they don't have to tell us what they're using in terms of utilities, they're just allowed to build," city attorney Douglas White said before the vote. "That's what our code allows. That's part of what this change is."

City Council passed an initial 45-day moratorium on approval of new land use applications for data centers during a special meeting approximately six weeks ago. It didn't formally address a halt on battery energy storage systems at that time but instead did so on Nov. 3.

Data centers, which can vary in size and purpose, are physical structures that run large numbers of computers securely and continuously. Battery energy storage systems store energy for later use with the idea of boosting grid reliability and supporting renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.

The effort to impose a moratorium was prompted by recent City Council discussions regarding Dixon's regulations and ability to manage specific types of development, as well as a noticeable statewide increase in the development of data centers and battery energy storage system facilities.

These include the Corby Battery Energy Storage System project proposed by NextEra Energy on 40 acres near the intersection of Kilkenny Road and Byrnes Road in Solano County, just west of Dixon, and efforts by Middle River Power of Chicago to build two battery energy storage systems on 10 acres in Vacaville, called the Vaca Dixon Power Center project.

The Dixon Municipal Code currently does not identify data centers

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New Editor Returns to Family Roots



Dietrich said he enjoys covering an area where his family has lived for several generations. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - After a long and interesting career in journalism, the new editor of the Dixon Independent Voice, has returned to his family's roots. Kevin Dietrich lives on a family farm between Davis and Dixon where his grandfather, who graduated from Dixon High School 100 years ago, grew up.

Dietrich graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in journalism. A sports fan for as long as he can remember, his first job was a sports-writer, and he later spent many years covering business. He's also handled

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Council Hears Updates on Memorial Bench, Chrome VI Treatment Options

By Shaunna Boyd

DIXON, CA (MPG) - At the Nov. 3 meeting of the Dixon City Council, they heard an update about a memorial bench to honor Dixon resident U.S. Marine Corps Private First Class (PFC) Tanner Rubio.

Linda Babb, senior administrative clerk for the public works department, said the bench will feature a plaque with a bronze military seal to memorialize Rubio, who "gave the ultimate sacrifice in service for our nation" when he lost his life in service in 2025.

The city's Parks and Recreation Commission approved the placement of the bench near the basketball court in Veterans Park. Babb said this location has "immense personal meaning" and was the family's first choice, because it's where PTC Rubio played basketball while growing up: "It anchors Tanner's memory in the exact spot where he spent much of his youth."

The cost and installation of the bench is funded by Dixon residents Mary Lou and Jack Batchelor, and Babb thanked them for the generous gift, which will honor Rubio's "memory, his courage, and his love for his neighborhood."

To Rubio's parents, Marc and Jill, Babb said, "We know there are no words that can heal the pain of losing Tanner, but please know that the entire city stands with you in your grief – just as we stand in deep respect for every single man and woman who has ever worn the nation's uniform," said Babb.

Marc and Jill delivered emotional thanks to the city for the love and support they've received from Dixon. Jill said seeing their son honored this way "means the world to us."

Marc said he feels "so blessed to be part of this community. … It's been a place of refuge for us."

The councilmembers expressed their support for the family, and how glad they are to see Rubio's life honored in his hometown.

The council also received a quarterly report on the city's efforts to meet requirements for hexavalent chromium (Chrome VI) levels in drinking water. Chrome VI is a toxin often found in groundwater due to

Continued on page 5

MEMORIAL

JANE MARIE CLARK BERRY — 02/04/1940 - 10/26/2026



It is with great sorrow we announce the passing of Jane Marie Clark Berry, age 86. Peacefully, she entered eternal rest on October 26, 2026 with family by her side.

Born on February 4, 1940 in Jonesboro Arkansas to Wanda and Harry Clark Sr. as the eldest of four children. Jane and her siblings Linda (Allen) Kitchen, Rennie (Diane) Clark, Clyde Clark along with their parents moved to Dixon, California where she graduated from Dixon High School and later attended and graduated cosmetology school.

Blessed with five children, through 2 marriages, Jane strived to build a loving home where she enjoyed going to the beach, eating and making good food, spending time with loved ones, gardening, painting, and reading. As a convert, to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, she had a strong testimony of the gospel and teachings of the church--music often filled her home and she loved going to the temple.

Our beloved suffered a stroke and was diagnosed with Alzheimer Dementia, causing her to move to San Jose, California to be cared for by family. Then in 2024, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She was diligently cared for by family until her passing.

She is survived by her children Kimberly (Harry) Yamashita, Jessica (Jose) Sandoval, Tim Berry, and her brothers Rennie and Clyde Clark; 18 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, 11 nieces and nephews as well as 16 great nieces and nephews. Jane is preceded in death by her parents, Wanda & Harry Clark, sister Linda Kitchen, her sons Scott Kast and Brent Van Boxtel.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, November 19th at 1pm at the Silveyville Cemetery in Dixon, CA, located at 800 S 1st Street, Dixon, CA 95620

MEMORIAL

WALTER EDWIN SCOTT, JR. — 10/01/1956 - 10/29/2026



Walter Edwin Scott, Jr, known to most as Wally, passed away at home on Thursday, October 29, 2026, after a hard-fought battle with prostate cancer. He always had a positive attitude which helped him defy the odds and survive almost 6 years with this disease.

Walter was born October 1, 1956, in Tachikawa, Japan, to Walter and Rebecca Scott. His dad served in the US Air Force, which meant Walter grew up a true military kid, packing up moving from one base to the next. That roaming finally slowed down in the late 1960s when his father was stationed at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California, but chose to live in Dixon because the Scott boys were a bit too rambunctious to live on the base.

Walter started dating Hilda in March 1993 and they married at the Dixon Community Church on December 28, 1996. They were married for almost 30 years.

Over the years, he had several jobs as a Truck Driver. In 2000, he finally chose to become an Independent Truck Owner. He ran as Walt Scott Jr Transport for 23 years until his retirement due to illness.

My husband, as a young teen, was very well known with the Dixon Police Dept. for his playful mischief. If you ask his friends, they could tell you stories about his infamous car chase shenanigans. And he was so proud of them. He had a great sense of humor up to the night before his passing with his kids. He was liked by so many. He had the personality that he could walk into a room not knowing anyone, but by the time he left, he knew at least half the people. He liked meeting new people like his dad. He enjoyed riding his Harley with friends, especially the Blues Brothers Rides that we did for 8 years. Then we chose camping and had such awesome times with good friends. For the last 4 to 5 years on Friday nights, you could find him with the boys playing Wei Golf at our house. And eventually he got together with his retired buddies to play cribbage. You could also find him in the mornings during his daily drive around-town cruise.

He is survived by his wife Hilda, son Robert Scott (Aurora), two step-daughters Hillarie Chiofolo (Matthew) and Emily Stow (Eric); all from Dixon; sister, Ruth Anne Redmon from Sacramento; grandchildren – Shelby, Shayanne, Samia, Robert, Jr., Taylor, Ava and Scarlett; great grandchildren – Hayden, Camden, Mason and Will; nephews Stephen and Kenneth; and cousins Donna Wodjenski-Craig and Heather Phillip. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother.

Military Honors will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 10:00 am at the Sacramento Veterans Cemetery. Celebration of Life reception will follow at the Olde Veterans Hall, downtown Dixon.

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Dixon News Briefs



Employees of the Dixon Denny's restaurant, shown on the site's last day of operation, Nov. 4.
Photo by Nicolas Brown

By MPG Staff

Denny's Closes Dixon Restaurant

Denny's restaurant on Stratford Avenue in Dixon closed its doors on Wednesday, Nov. 4, after more than 35 years in operation.

The location, built in 1990, was shuttered because of declining business, restaurant manager Victor Perez said.

The location employed 26 people, most of whom learned the news just a couple of days before the closing.

Denny's also closed its location in Cordelia the same day.

Early this year, Denny's was purchased and taken private in a $620 million deal. The Spartanburg, S.C.-based company currently has more than 1,300 restaurants, including locations in Vacaville, Woodland and Fairfield.

Dixon Tops Natomas, 33-20

The Dixon Rams captured a 33-20 road victory over Natomas to end its 2026 football regular season on a strong note on Nov. 6.

The Rams ended their regular season with a 1-5 record in the Golden Empire League, good for sixth place, and 2-8 overall. Natomas fell to 0-6 and 1-9 with the defeat.

Yolo County to Honor Veterans

Yolo County will honor veterans and mark the installation of a new flagpole during Veterans Day ceremonies on Nov. 11.

Retired Yolo County Judge and U.S. Army veteran Dave Rosenberg, who contributed to the cost of the new flagpole and installation, will join county and community representatives for the ceremony.

The ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. at the Herbert H. Bauer Building, 137 N. Cottonwood Street in Woodland.

Wreath Ceremony Set for Dec. 19

The Wreath Project will mark its 20th year at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery this year.

This year, an estimated 42,000 evergreen boughs will be placed on veterans' graves on Saturday, Dec. 19. Volunteers are welcome at the cemetery, located at 5810 Midway Rd., Dixon, to help with bough placement beginning at 7:30 a.m. At 9 a.m. that day, there will be a Wreaths Across America program that is open to the public.

The program began with placing wreaths on the graves of American veterans but switched to boughs in 2020 due to the Covid lockdown.

For families and friends wanting a more private placement, boughs will be available for pickup starting in early December. You may pick up a bough and place it any time before Dec. 19. You do not need to donate to participate.

Each bough costs $10. To donate, make a check payable to RememberAVet.net and mail it to P.O. Box 773, Winters, Calif., 95694; donate on GoFundMe.com; or Venmo to @ RememberAVet.

Chamber Giving Tree is Up

The third annual Giving Tree is up at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce. The tradition, presented by the Chamber's networking group, brings the community together to support local students in need.

This year's donations will go to benefit the Dixon High Ram's Vault, Maine Prairie Vault and Anderson Roadrunner Nest – three school campus programs serving those in need.

This year's goal is to raise $4,500 – $1,500 for each school. Those interested in donating can do so by stopping by the Chamber's office on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., between Nov. 2 and Dec. 15. The Chamber of Commerce is located at 220 N. Jefferson St., Dixon.

Donations may also be mailed to the Chamber. Donations may be tax-deductible. A Tax ID and donation letter can be provided upon request.

Legion Post Seeking Donations

American Legion Post 208 in Dixon is conducting a toiletries drive for local veterans and homeless in need.

The post is seeking the following unused items: travel-size shampoos and conditioners, combs, bar soaps, deodorant, disposable razors, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, disposable wipes, socks and blankets.

The veterans hall is located at 1305 N. First St., Dixon. For more information, call 530-304-5385.

Moose Lodge to hold Spaghetti Feed

Dixon Moose Lodge No. 1120 will hold a spaghetti feed from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Nov. 13, at 180 W. A St., Dixon.

Those dining in can enjoy an all-you-can-eat feast. Take-out orders are also available. There will be a raffle and door prizes.

Tickets are $25 and can be purchased at the lodge or by calling 530-867-1693.

DWIC Meeting to Look at Transportation

The Dixon Women's Improvement Club will hold its November general meeting at 1 p.m. on Nov. 18, at the Dixon United Methodist Church Social Hall, 209 N. Jefferson Street, Dixon.

Guest speakers will include Zavier Bates of Dixon Readi-Ride and Brandon Thompson of Solano Mobility. They will explain how they can assist individuals and families in the Dixon community.

For additional information, contact Teri Osterman Brown at 916-601-3371.

Bunco at Dixon Moose Lodge

Bunco at the Dixon Moose Lodge will take place at 12:30 p.m., Dec. 12, at 180 N. B St.

The event includes prizes, with food and beverages available for purchase. Cost is $20 per attendee. Moose members and their guests are welcome.

For more information, call Sherry Haight at 916-704-7875. ★

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New Editor Returns to Family Roots

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marketing and communications including a stint as a speech writer for the governor of South Carolina.

"The advantage of being a business writer was work hours were from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and no late nights – it gave me time to be a dad," he said. He has five grown children and a stepdaughter, all with interesting careers, including a son who investigates meteorite landings and a daughter who works in archeology, studying old buildings and history. The others are in communications or teaching. They may have developed their interests from their dad who openly admits he "finds everything interesting."

His career highlights include covering the final game of the 1990 Stanely Cup Finals at the Boston Gardens, where he got to go into the locker room as champagne was being sprayed.

He later spent many years as a business writer, covering banking and finance. He said the most difficult part of being a journalist is covering crime and having to talk to a family after a tragedy.

Over his career, Dietrich welcomed the expansion of online resources.

"It has made it much easier to research – as long as you are discerning. And, if you work long enough, you know where to look," he said looking satisfied. "But there is always a learning curve. It's been harder than I thought to interview or talk with City of Dixon staff, but I hope with time that will change." Dietrich is also the editor of the West Sacramento newspaper and splits his time between the two publications.

"Most people here are dedicated to this city – they are interested in Dixon and their goal isn't necessarily moving on to something bigger. West Sac is a little island in itself. Some of the people there seem to be wanting to go somewhere," he said

Dietrich likes his boss, Paul Scholl, who took over the publication in 2020 and who now owns 20 newspapers covering 13 cities across six Capital Region counties. Some are small town newspapers – print and online – similar to Dixon.

"I like that he lets you go after whatever you think is best," he said.

"My favorite writing is feature stories, but I also enjoy news stories that give me a chance to educate people, such as the recent Dixon school bond issue," he said. "We were already paying for two bonds when the latest bond was put on the ballot. It is rewarding to educate people about what's going on."

"Although not everyone agrees on any one subject, facts are facts," he said. "My job is to report the facts and usually people are pretty nice."

Dietrich said he enjoys covering an area where his family has lived for several generations.

"My family has been here a long time. My great-great-grandfather came here in the 1850s, and I have a lot of relatives buried out at Tremont Cemetery," he said.

He lives in the house his great-grandfather helped build more than a century ago, and his family leases land to growers who plant a lot of different crops, including almonds, tomatoes, sunflowers, corn and melons.

"Growing up, we moved around a good bit as my dad was a metallurgical engineer who worked on projects around the country. But we would always come back and visit family in Dixon," he said. ★

School Pulls Plug on Downtown Location

By Kevin Dietrich

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Valley of the Sacred Heart Academy has withdrawn its application to build a new Catholic school near downtown.

The decision came last month, several weeks after Dixon City Council tabled a request by the school to move forward with construction at the corner of North Second Street and East A Street, across from St. Peter Catholic Church.

"It's definitely disappointing; however, at the council meeting there was discussion of a land swap with the city," Director Chris Simpson said. "If a land swap with the city happens in the future, we look forward to working with them."

Valley of the Sacred Heart, which has leased classrooms at St. Peter's since the school's inception in 2013, will also consider other alternatives such as buying land elsewhere, either within city limits or beyond.

"We are exploring all options," Simpson said.

The school went before City Council on Sept. 1, seeking approval to erect an 11,539-square-foot Spanish colonial revival structure on the half-acre lot.

That lot was reclassified as downtown mixed-use when city officials adopted the current zoning map in 2024.

As a result, the project would have required a zoning text amendment for a conditional allowance of a private school within the downtown mixed-use area, and Simpson said it was apparent that City Council members weren't going to approve such a move.

Among project opponents was Jill Orr, president of the Downtown Dixon Business Association and owner of Dawson's Bar & Grill.

"Zoning is critical to keeping a viable, sustainable synergy downtown," she said. "I'm sorry that the Catholic Church has been through this. Some better guidance should have been given them before they began the application process."

School representatives approached city officials before purchasing the long-vacant lot nearly a decade ago to make sure the property was properly zoned for a school, and it was, Simpson said.

But because any approval the academy received years ago was informal, the school was required to get formal confirmation for the project.

In addition to the millions of dollars a new structure will cost, a revamped plan farther from St. Peter's will likely require the school to add a chapel to the project, to enable students to attend daily Mass.

Valley of the Sacred Heart, a nonprofit entity, spent more than $200,000 on the project, between city fees, a traffic study and other expenses. It will not get those funds back.

Valley of the Sacred Heart Academy serves children ages 3-18, with plans to add an infant/toddler Montessori program.

"We are eager to find land to expand our growing program, whether that is through a land swap with the city or via a private land donation or purchase," Simpson said. "God has a plan that is better than ours. While we wait, we continue to serve our children and families." ★



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School Bond Measure Comes Up Short



Signage out front of the Dixon Unified School District offices on South First Street.

Story and photo by Kevin Dietrich

DIXON, CA (MPG) - For the second time in 14 years, Dixon-area voters have said no to a school bond.

Measure U, a $49 million general obligation bond placed on the ballot by the Dixon Unified School District Board of Trustees, is on pace to lose in the Nov. 3 election.

Measure U was losing handily, 54.46 percent to 45.54 percent, according to uncertified results through Nov. 6. Some 4,312 votes had been cast against the bond and 3,606 for. To pass, the measure would have required 55 percent of voters to approve it.

The totals have not been certified by the Solano County Registrar of Voters Office. In California, counties must count and report the results from most ballots by the 13th day after the election. The Secretary of State then certifies the results 38 days after the election.

Dixon voters also voted no on a school bond measure in 2012. They approved bonds in 2016 and 2002.

Rising inflation costs and an already-heavy tax burden contributed to the measure's defeat.

Money from Measure U would have gone to repairing and upgrading aging classrooms, roofs, plumbing, technology and electrical infrastructure; upgrading disabled access; and installing security systems, fire alarms and fencing.

Dixon residents are already paying for bond measures passed in 2002 and 2016, respectively. Those bonds won't be paid off until the 2040s.

If passed, Measure U would have resulted in an estimated $30 tax increase per $100,000 of property for area residents. With the median sale price of a home in Dixon at approximately $640,000, that would have meant an additional $192 a year in property taxes.

That would have been tacked onto what residents are already paying for Measure J, the 2002 general obligation bond which raised $29.4 million, and Measure Q, the 2016 general obligation bond which secured $30.4 million.

A Dixon-area home assessed at $640,000 already carries an annual property tax bill of more than $10,000. ★

Incumbents Struggle in Dixon Elections

By Kevin Dietrich

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Incumbency offered no guarantee of success in Dixon elections on Nov. 3.

One sitting member of the Dixon City Council and two sitting members of the Dixon Unified School District Board of Trustees appear to have fallen short in re-election bids in the 2026 elections.

City Council member Thom Bogue and school board trustees Jewel Fink and John Gabby were on pace to lose as mail-in ballots trickled in.

In the race for the District 2 seat, Bogue was trailing Dixon businesswoman Christina Cerna, 58.33 percent to 41.67 percent. In the District 1 race, incumbent Jim Ernest led Emily Schroeder, 52.76 percent to 47.24 percent.

In the school board race, sitting board President Julian Cuevas was on track to be re-elected, but Fink and Gabby look as though they'll be replaced by Phil Lockwood and Michael Monson. Gabby was first elected in 2007 and had served multiple stints as board president, while Fink was initially elected to the board in 2018.

Lockwood led the seven candidates with 16.51 percent of the vote, followed by Cuevas, 16.10 percent, and Monson, 15.75 percent. Fink and Gabby were fourth and fifth at 14.53 and 13.97 percent, respectively, while Cheryl Summers received 12.60 percent and Michael Ceremello Jr. got 10.54 percent. Voters could select up to three candidates.

All totals are through Nov. 6 and have not been certified by the Solano County Registrar of Voters Office. In California, counties must count and report the results from most ballots by the 13th day after the election. The Secretary of State then certifies the results 38 days after the election.

In the race for the 8th Congressional District, John Garamendi led handily over Rudy Recile, 67.20 percent to 32.80 percent. Dixon moves into the 8th District early next year as a result of state redistricting approved under Proposition 50 last year. Dixon residents have been part of the 4th Congressional District for several years.

In the 11th California Assembly District, incumbent Lori Wilson had a strong lead over Dixon resident Jenny Leilani Callison, 65.68 percent to 34.32 percent.

In the race for Solano County Board of Education Governing Board, Kathryn Kedarisetty led Tamika Hamilton, 55.59 percent to 44.41 percent, for the Area 6 seat, which represents the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Dixon and southeast Vacaville.

In the race for the 4th District of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, Vacaville City Council member Mike Silva was in front of John Carli, the current mayor of Vacaville, 55.41 percent to 44.59 percent. District 4 includes all of Dixon, a large portion of Vacaville and unincorporated Solano County.

Dixon City Clerk Lupe Ruiz ran unopposed and was re-elected.

Measure E, which would have increased the business license tax on commercial wind turbines and imposed business license taxes on commercial solar energy systems, front-of-the-meter battery energy storage systems, natural gas extraction facilities and data centers for businesses in unincorporated parts of Solano County, was losing handily, 62.52 percent to 37.48 percent.

Measure H, which would have increased the county's hotel tax from 5 percent to 12 percent, also trailed, 64.62 percent to 35.38 percent. ★

Vacaville Partners with Intrepid Fiber Networks to Strengthen Broadband Infrastructure

Public-private partnership will expand fiber access, support City operations and enable future connectivity improvements.

City of Vacaville News Release

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - The City of Vacaville is partnering with Intrepid Fiber Networks, to expand access to fiber infrastructure that can support municipal operations, public safety communications and future connectivity initiatives.

The City Council approved the partnership on Sept. 22, advancing a multi-year effort to improve broadband infrastructure for residents, businesses and municipal facilities through a public-private partnership. The agreement leverages private investment to expand Vacaville's digital infrastructure while securing substantial infrastructure benefits for the city.

"This partnership brings significant infrastructure value to Vacaville," said Mayor John Carli. "By securing long-term fiber access through private investment, we are strengthening the foundation for essential City services and creating opportunities to improve connectivity for our residents and businesses."

A key component of the agreement is a 20-year, no-cost lease providing the city access to 48 strands of dark fiber along Intrepid's planned 17.8-mile fiber backbone. This infrastructure will give the City additional capacity to support connections between public facilities and develop future technology applications.

Planned fiber access points will serve municipal facilities, fire stations, community centers and parks. These include City Hall, public safety facilities, Public Works and Utilities facilities, McBride Senior Center, Ulatis Community Center and other locations that deliver services to the community.

"Vacaville has been a forward-thinking partner, and this agreement shows what's possible when a city and a private provider work toward the same long-term goals," said Shane Peverill, chief commercial officer, Intrepid Fiber Networks. "Fiber is the infrastructure that today's world runs on. This network puts Vacaville in a strong position to attract and keep employers, help entrepreneurs and remote workers compete from anywhere, and give residents more choice in how they connect."

The infrastructure will also create opportunities for future free public Wi-Fi in community parks such as Centennial, Al Patch, Andrews, Keating, Nelson and other public spaces, supporting access to educational resources, employment opportunities and online city services. These applications would build upon fiber infrastructure as the city advances implementation.

"This agreement gives Vacaville additional infrastructure capacity that we can build on for years to come," said City Manager Savita Chaudhary. "By securing access to fiber infrastructure through this partnership, we are creating opportunities to improve how we deliver City services, support public safety and expand public connectivity, while positioning us to pursue additional investment and grant funding."

Beyond the direct benefits to city operations, Intrepid's wholesale open-access network is designed to accommodate multiple internet service providers, creating opportunities for additional broadband choices for residents and businesses. The city's Broadband Master Plan identifies improved connectivity, economic competitiveness and access to broadband infrastructure as important considerations in the city's long-term planning.

For more information about the city's broadband initiatives, visit CityofVacaville.gov/Broadband. ★



California Farmers Explore Seaweed Crop

Seaweed farming in the United States remains in its infancy but has grown in recent years. In 2015, there were just a handful of kelp farms along the Atlantic and Pacific coastlines, according to a 2026 report by the aquaculture nonprofit GreenWave. There are now around 250 permitted seaweed farms across the U.S. and Canada, amounting to more than 6,000 acres. "Over the past decade, we've come a long way," said Kendall Barbery, GreenWave's director of partnerships and industry engagement. The company worked with Cal Poly, Humboldt, to open the state's first commercial, open-water seaweed farm in 2020. "We're at the point where we have achieved some serious scale and ability to produce and demonstrate viability as a new industry across the U.S.," Barbery said. However, she said the industry faces barriers in California due to the state's environmental regulations and an arduous permitting process.

Soaring Costs and Low Yield Dampen Walnut Prospects

California walnut growers face the prospect of another year in the red as harvest wraps up this month and handlers market the new crop. Despite increased walnut prices, industry experts said growers could struggle to break even due to rising production costs and low yields. On Oct. 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated the state's crop at 680,000 tons, down 16% from last year. Inconsistent chill hours during winter and varying temperatures in the spring caused uneven pollination and a lighter nut set, according to an October report from the California Walnut Board and Commission. Robert Verloop, CEO of the walnut board, said prices for growers were expected to be "significantly higher" this year than the 75 cents a pound they earned on average for last year's crop. However, "they may not go up enough to cover the light crop and higher production cost," Verloop said."

Ventura County's record Crop Values Describe 'Only Half the Story'

Ventura County farmers and ranchers generated a record $2.41 billion in gross production value in 2025, but cost estimates in the county's annual crop report indicate that growers of some major commodities earned little or nothing after production expenses. The report found that production costs consumed an estimated $1.01 for every dollar in strawberry revenue, leaving growers with no return. Lemon growers faced an even larger shortfall, spending an estimated $1.12 for every dollar earned. By including the cost estimates associated with producing a crop and the net return to growers, the 2025 Ventura County crop and livestock report represents a departure from traditional crop reports, which typically provide only the gross revenue of agricultural commodities. "We're always fighting that perception that farmers are rich because the gross (revenue) is so high," said Louise Lampara, CEO of Farm Bureau of Ventura County. "That's only half the story. That's not even the real story." ★





Ask DR. UNIVERSE

Why can't my cat talk?

–Bruce, 4, California

Dear Bruce,

As a talking science cat, I'm a special case. Other cats meow, purr, chatter and chirp. But they don't talk.

It turns out humans are the only animals with true language.

That's what my friend Samantha Gizerian told me. She's a neuroscientist at Washington State University.

She told me that talking works because of human anatomy and brain function.

The human mouth, throat and tongue are more flexible than those of other animals—even other apes.

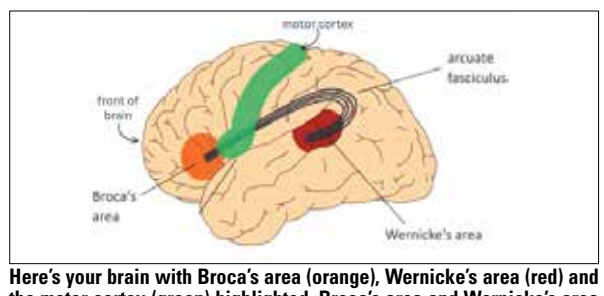
The throat houses the voice box, or larynx. The vocal cords sit inside the voice box. They vibrate when air from the lungs blows past them. Then the throat, tongue and mouth shape the vibrations into sounds that make sense to humans.

"If you look at the throat structure in non-human apes, their larynx is higher," Gizerian said. "And there's a vocal membrane across the top. That actually prevents them from making the variety of sounds that we can make."

Humans don't have that vocal membrane—but some of their ancestors probably did. Over millions of years, the human voice box got simpler. The vocal membrane went away. That simplification made talking possible.

The human brain adapted for talking, too.

Your brain has a language network to help you understand what someone says and respond. That includes regions of the brain like Wernicke's area, which helps you understand language, and Broca's area, which helps you plan what to say back. The language network is connected by nerve pathways so the parts can work together.



Here's your brain with Broca's area (orange), Wernicke's area (red) and the motor cortex (green) highlighted. Broca's area and Wernicke's area connect via a bundle of nerves called the arcuate fasciculus. Peter Hagoort CC BY 3.0, green highlight and two labels added by Dr. Universe

Your brain also coordinates the movements that produce words, with help from the motor cortex. That's the part of the brain that moves the muscles you can control—like the ones you use to talk. It's how you move your lips and tongue and control your voice box.

Humans have gobs of brain cells and connections in the parts of the motor cortex that control the face, lips, tongue, mouth, throat and voice box. That gives you finer control over those muscles.

"Those two areas and the connections between them don't exist in our animal friends in the same way they do in humans," Gizerian said. "So, our brains have a unique ability to understand and then output language. They also have all of that specialized real estate for manipulating the parts of our body that do the talking."

Cats have a voice box with vocal cords like yours. Like you, they don't have a vocal membrane.

But they still can't talk. A cat's mouth, throat and tongue aren't flexible enough. They can't move those muscles to form vowels and consonants. And they lack the brain connections and language network to learn and make complex language.

So, they express themselves in other ways.

Cats use body language to say how they feel—like tail movements, ear position and slow blinks. They've adapted to pick up chemical messages from each other using smells. They use some vocalizations, too—like yowls, hisses and meows. Cats even have extra pads on their vocal cords for purring.

So, even though your cat can't talk to you, it can still communi-cat.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe



Riley Reviews

"ETERNALLY YOURS" AND "CUPERTINO" HEADLINE NEW SEASON CBS SHOWS

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"ETERNALLY YOURS" AND "CUPERTINO" ON CBS

More than any of the other major broadcast networks, CBS may be the most conventional and traditional in its programming choices, relying heavily on customary procedurals and a couple of reality series that have racked up decades of running time.

The Tiffany Network's schedule is light on comedy, but at least there's a new entry for this year with "Eternally Yours," a supernatural sitcom written by Joe Port and Joe Wiseman, the creative team who adapted the British comedy series "Ghosts" into an American version for CBS.

Instead of spectral beings haunting a country house, the eternal figures in this new series are vampires playing their roles for laughs rather than for the gothic drama popularized by Anne Rice.

"Eternally Yours" is the love story of Charles (Ed Weeks), a vampire who falls for a mere mortal, Liz (Allegra Edwards), in the year 1526. Passion leads him to turn her into a vampire for a life of eternity.

Five hundred years later, Charles and Liz are still together, with their own coven living in Seattle, which Liz notes is a great place for their kind since they can go outside every day because of the cloud cover.

Being undead, Charles and Liz could never have their own children, but for about two centuries their adopted daughter Emma (Helen J. Shen), a veterinarian, remains with them.

A downside to being a vampire is a never-ending life, and for Charles and Liz this is a problem for their loveless marriage, because one of the rules is that one cannot get divorced.

They even had marriage counseling in 1888 with Sigmund Freud, who sided with Liz and offered advice that they should "be kind to each other," and admonishing Charles to "try to suppress your desire to sleep with your own mother."

Whether dealing with his family or advising clients at work in his job as financial advisor, Charles is lacking in social skills. When advising an older couple, he tells them retirement lasts 20 years and "then you get to die," which is not very comforting.

Also living in the house is Jesse (Parker Young), a vampire who uses spray tan for his job as personal trainer, otherwise he would appear as just tanktop and gym shorts in the mirrors at the health club.

Married to a human, Phyllis (Rose Abdoo), since 1989 when they were both 28-years old, Jesse says he stays married until they croak and then gets a new model. Phyllis is clueless about living with vampires because Jesse uses jedi mind tricks to wipe her memory.

Meanwhile, Emma is in a relationship with the human Max (Jaren Lewison), who's wondering why he doesn't get to meet her family, until the day he shows up at their house in his job with Social Security to question Jesse claiming benefits for over one hundred years.

A legal drama sprinkled with humor, "Cupertino" opens with boxes shown being filled with personal items from office desk drawers, signaling the imminent departure of two colleagues. That's not the funny part, at all.

Lawyer Michael Price (Mike Colter), a partner in tech firm S-Talk in Silicon Valley, has been fired for supposedly leaking proprietary information, and Olivia Siffre (Rachel Keller) is an associate one year out of law school.

The two of them meet on the street holding their boxes, and Olivia tells Michael he was the only one who was nice to her and says she overheard last week the question posed by higher-ups about what offense could justify taking away equity from a co-founder.

Michael consults with an attorney friend about suing his former employer, specifically co-founder Everett (Will Brill), who is so sleazy that he also crudely sexually harassed Olivia, a devout Christian repulsed by his advances.

The attorney tells him to let it go and that he will be in demand. He notes that Apple, Google, Facebook, and Open AI have a combined value of $23 trillion, and if Michael files a lawsuit he'll never work in this town again.

The last thing Michael wants to do is to return to his overbearing father's (Joe Morton) law firm. A bond forms between Michael and Olivia, as they initially contemplate suing separately, but as a team, for wrongful termination and sexual harassment.

Michael's former assistant Christy (Ella Stiller) gets the boot when caught talking to Michael. She gladly joins them at their firm, adding some more humor with her sassy demeanor and inventive ways to make the small firm seem bigger than it is.

For a television series that puts Silicon Valley under review for its questionable behavior, "Cupertino" does a far more interesting probe into the tech world culture than the recent film "The Social Reckoning."

By having an upstart law firm taking on clients to challenge powerful tech companies, this CBS show does a really nice job of elevating the David versus Goliath scenario to something to root for, and it shows great promise for a lengthy run. ★



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says

Bad Things Happen When You Don't Save Money!

Dear Dave,

How important is saving money when you're young and have a good income? If you're just saving it, you're not really doing anything with it, right? So, what good is money if you don't actually use it for something?

– Garrett

Dear Garrett,

I'm going to shoot straight with you. It worries me that you seem to think that you're not doing anything with your money when you save it. Saving money is one of the most important things you can do with your money, because when you save you're planning for the future *and* the unexpected.

Retirement may seem long way off right now, but think for a second how it would feel to have worked your entire life only to end up broke by the time you're 65. If that thought doesn't scare you, it should. Have you ever seen someone that age, or even older, sweeping floors in a fast food restaurant? Wrangling carts in the rain outside a shopping center? In most cases, it's not because they love the job and meeting people. They're doing it because they have to in order to make ends meet. Why? Because they did not plan for the future and *save some money.*

Let's talk about a few other things. How will you get by if you're laid off, or fired, from your job if you haven't saved any money? What if your air conditioning unit goes out and needs to be replaced? Long story short, bad things happen when people are foolish enough not to save money.

Do you get my point, Garrett? Saving is doing something with your money. It's one of the most important things you can ever do with your money!

– 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. ★

Council Hears Updates on Memorial Bench, Chrome VI Treatment Options

Continued from page 1

industrial contamination, but it can sometimes occur naturally. California updated the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) in 2024, stating that Chrome VI cannot exceed 10 parts per billion (ppb).

Water Operations Supervisor Josh Hudson said Dixon's public water source relies solely on groundwater, with the operation of five production wells. All five of the existing wells have Chrome VI levels ranging from 12-24 ppb.

Dixon must bring its Chrome VI levels into compliance by Oct. 1, 2027, and the city submitted a compliance plan to the state in 2025, outlining potential treatment options. Hudson said that to meet current demand, at least three of the city's wells will need to meet the new compliance levels, while the others can be reclassified as standby sources or decommissioned.

Treatment options include ion exchange, reduction/coagulation/filtration (RCF), and reverse osmosis.

But Hudson said reverse osmosis is too complex, costly, and not a good option for the city's water chemistry. So that's not a realistic option.

The city conducted a successful ion exchange treatment pilot at one of the well sites, so there is a feasible design and cost estimate for that option.

This month, the city is starting pilot treatments with two different vendors for RCF treatment. Once those are completed, Hudson said they'll be able to determine whether that is a viable option.

The city could also dig new wells, deeper than the standard 1,500-foot depth, to tap into a lower aquifer and bypass the Chrome VI contamination. The city dug a deeper monitoring well in June, and no Chrome 6 was detected. The city is working on the design for a production well, and if they secure a driller by early 2027, the new well could be operational by early 2028.

However, Hudson cautioned that while their monitoring well showed good production levels, there is not a lot of long-term data on deeper wells, since there has not previously been a need to drill that deep. So, long-term production levels are unknown.

The current cost estimate for the ion exchange treatment is $4.24 million per well site, which includes equipment, consulting and construction. This option also has an annual cost of up to $300,000 based on the amount of water produced.

The cost of the RCF treatment is currently unknown pending completion of the pilot studies.

Drilling deeper wells is expected to cost $5 million per site – $1 million for the initial monitoring well, $2.5 million for the production well and $1.5 million for topside improvements, consulting and construction.

Hudson said the current water rates were set prior to the new Chrome VI requirements, so the rates don't account for treatment costs. However, the rates did include costs for critical and near-term Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), some of which will not be necessary if those wells are going to be shifted to standby sites. So, CIP funding for those sites can be reallocated toward Chrome VI treatment.

The city also received $500,000 in state funding toward Chrome VI treatment.

Hudson said the city will have more detailed recommendations for next steps once the RCF pilot treatments are completed and can compare all the options.

During public comments, a Dixon resident worried that the cost for these treatments will end up increasing customers' water rates: "Somehow, it is going to come out of our pockets."

Councilmember Kevin Johnson said the rest of the country allows levels of Chrome VI that are five times higher than California's new limit. He called the whole situation "frustrating," and said the city has been fighting this "unfunded mandate."

City Attorney Doug White said that while the city lost the initial court case, they are currently appealing the decision. He said, "This council has done everything they can to push back against having to comply with this regulation."

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

Dixon Lengthens Data Center Moratorium

Continued from page 1

or battery storage systems as permitted uses. When a proposed use is not defined, city officials must classify it as a use substantially similar in character to a listed use.

Absent specific regulations for data centers or battery storage systems, Dixon faces uncertainty in processing, entitling and conditioning proposed project sites.

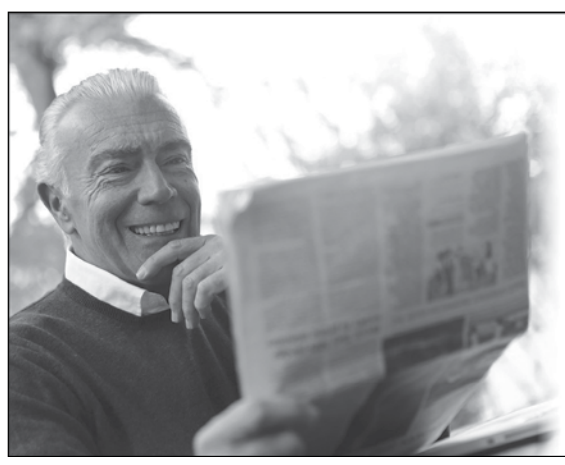
An applicant could, for example, seek to classify a data center as similar to a utility or telecommunications facility, whose standards were not designed to address the electricity, water, noise and infrastructure impacts of large-scale data centers.

Research into the effects of both data centers and battery storage systems will likely be done simultaneously, Boloyan added.

Dixon is preparing a request for proposal to obtain qualified consultant assistance on both data centers and battery energy storage systems. It may also use city employees to conduct such research, Boloyan said.

City Council has until Dec. 18 to enact a longer moratorium on battery energy storage systems, should it choose that path. ★


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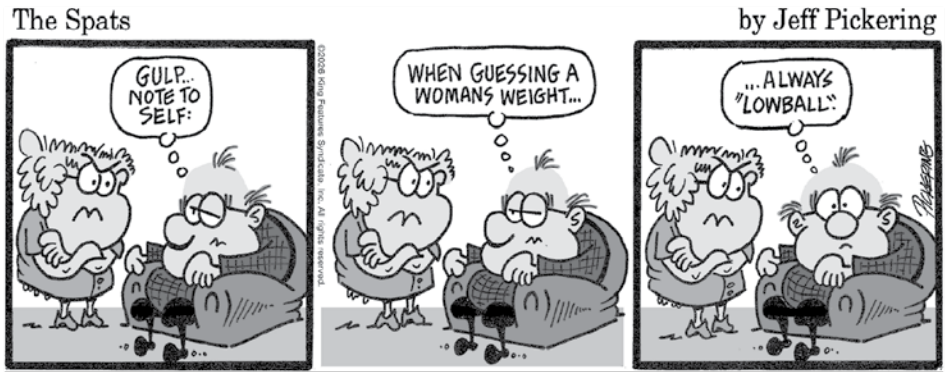
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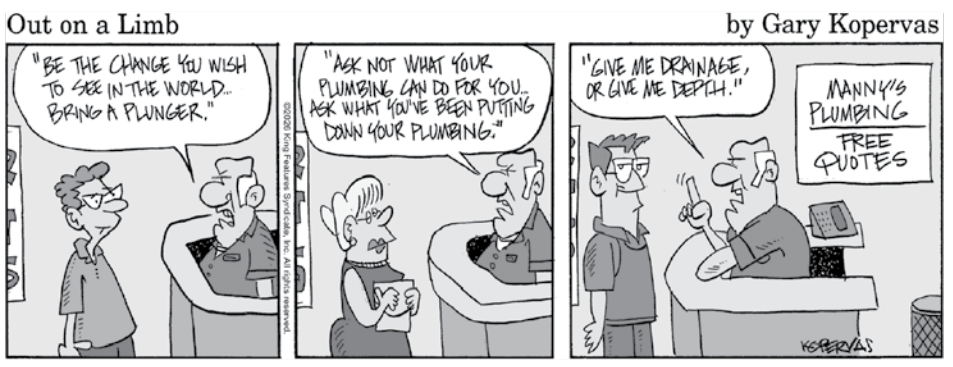
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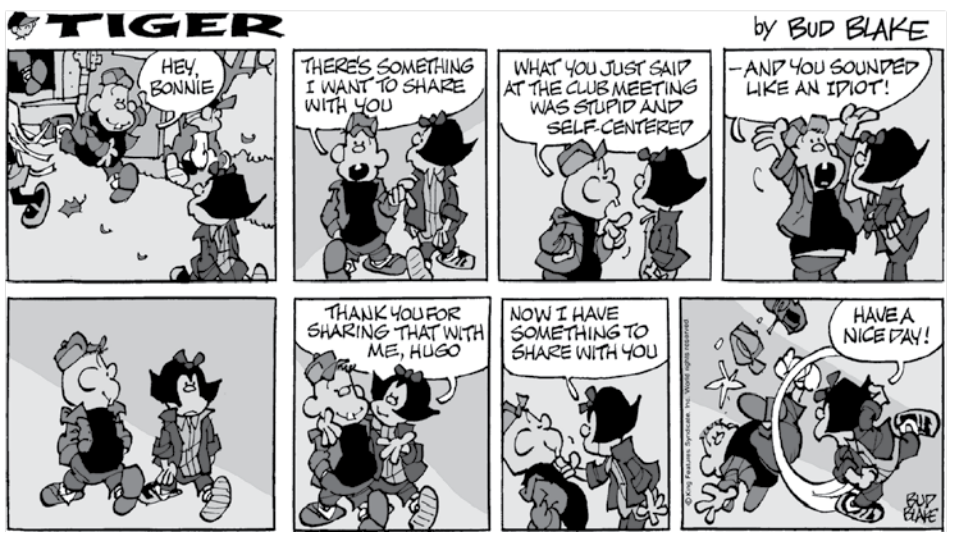
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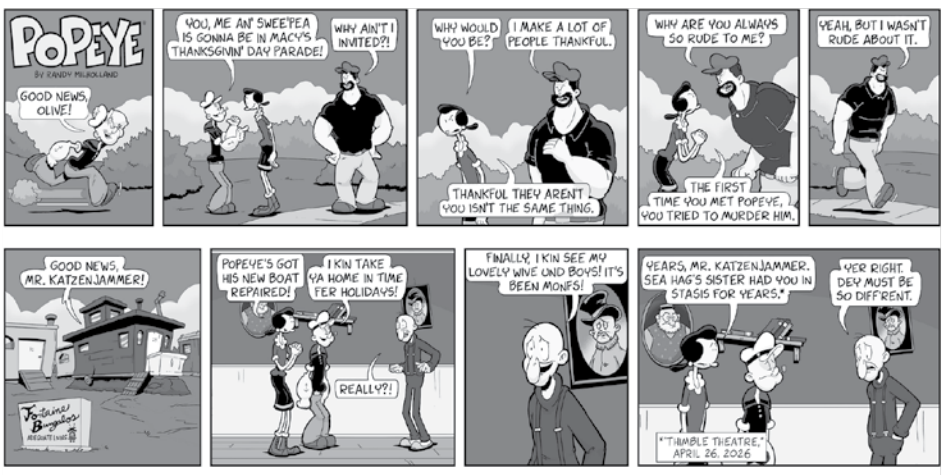


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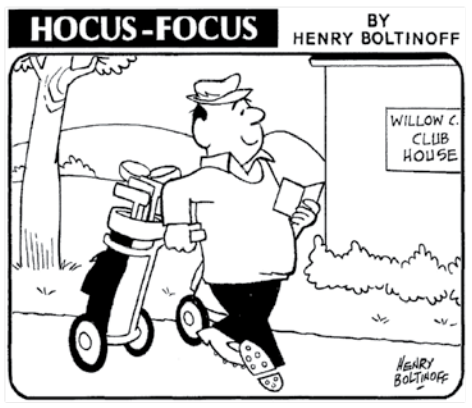


TIGER by BUD BLAKE

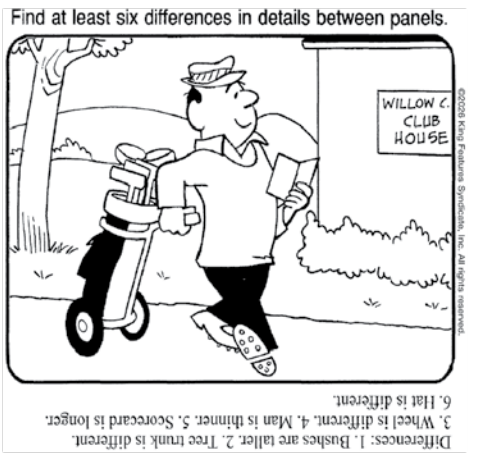




HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bushes are taller. 2. Tree trunk is different. 3. Wheel is different. 4. Man is thinner. 5. Scorecard is longer. 6. Hat is different.

GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps





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CLUES

ACROSS
1. Chevy of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"
6. Broadcast breaks
9. Electrical current unit, pl.
13. Mineral veins
14. Neighbor of Ger.
15. Gem state
16. 1960s abstractionism
17. "I" mania
18. *The only First Lady to issue official Thanksgiving Day proclamation
19. *First department store to host Thanksgiving parade
21. *Keeping turkey juicy
23. Use one's eyes
24. Same as island
25. Chasing game
28. 4th planet from sun
30. Milk-related
35. 1952 Olympic site
37. *Brad who starred in a Friends Thanksgiving episode
39. Remus Lupin's nickname
40. Continent
41. Most common vowel in English language
43. Try
44. Ascetic holy Hindu
46. Fail to mention
47. Ditty
48. Interruptions
50. "Do ____ others..."
52. P in m.p.g.
53. Partiality
55. Pie ____ ____ mode
57. *Gizzard, heart, liver, neck
61. *Soaking turkey
65. Heart chambers
66. Polite form of address
68. Outspoken
69. Behave like a coquette
70. "But I heard him exclaim, ____ he drove out of sight..."
71. Allergic reaction to bee sting
72. Bloodsucking hopper
73. "Ideas worth spreading" talk
74. Counseled

DOWN
1. Heidi's shoe
2. Kachina doll maker
3. *"The Thanksgiving Song" performer
4. Some Slavs
5. Put on a pedestal
6. Gorillas and orangutans
7. *National ____ Show
8. Pigsty dwellers
9. Mine passage
10. Neither mini nor midi
11. What phonics and cacophony have in common
12. Playlist item
15. Trouser measurement
20. Bounds' partners
22. Opposite of nothing
24. Isthmi, sing.
25. *Charlie Brown's meal: ____, popcorn, pretzels, jelly beans
26. Allegro ____, in music
27. Move like on ice
29. Organized crime-related ____ Act, acr.
31. Selling price minus profit
32. Add (2 words)
33. Absurd
34. *____ Monday after Thanksgiving
36. Hawaiian island
38. "The Parent Trap" child
42. Rose oil
45. Cheerful
49. Dog command
51. Dickens' Twist
54. Opposite of liability
56. Positive electrode
57. Gamecock's spur
58. It will
59. French hors d'oeuvre staple
60. Turkish money
61. Raised
62. Like some cakes
63. ID info
64. Happy
67. Ill temper



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L	O	D	E	S	■	P	O	L
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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

No Win but Progress

By V.G. Harris

It has been said the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. It's just possible that the Sacramento Kings took that first step against the Miami Heat on Sunday night.

As the Heat ultimately bested the Kings by the score of 114-108, one might ask how a person can say you took a positive step when you just walked away with a defeat.

While 1st round draft choice Darius Acuff Jr. chalked up a 32-point 10 assist night, the Sacramento Kings overcame a 16-point deficit in the 2nd half to tie the score at 95 points apiece with 6 minutes remaining in the game.

No, the Kings did not close it out, and that remains an element yet to be learned. But suffice it to say, Sacramento kept their faithful fans engaged, and for more than a second gave the Golden One fans a reason to get excited.

Without debate, Giannis Antetokounmpo and Bam Adebayo are genuine NBA superstars and combined with a talented defensive minded point guard in former King Davion Mitchell, the Miami Heat had the horses to close out a very competitive game.

There would be no resting of the regulars for Miami in this contest, as the Kings gave an earnest effort, and even with Domantas Sabonis sitting this one out, Sacramento let Miami know they had a game on their hands.

The longest tenured current coach of an NBA team, Eric Spoelstra had to bear down in the final 6 minutes to put this game in the victory column.

For the Kings, what this game represents is a small step forward, but one that sends a message of confidence to a team in sore need.

Prior to Sunday's game came the news that the Kings had traded former first round draft choice Nique Clifford to the Oklahoma City Thunder for 2 second round draft choices.

The trade brought to an end the 2-year experiment of trying to make a point guard out of a player that was clearly suited as either an off guard or a small forward.

With the acquisition of Darius Acuff Jr., and his noteworthy start to the season, the handwriting was on the wall. Although I have been at odds with most of the trades the Kings have made in recent years, this admittedly makes sense, and although the draft picks aren't until 2028 and 2030, it remains possible that Sacramento can ultimately come away with a positive result.

Truth be told, with Malik Monk returning from injury, the Kings were faced with a logjam that was going to relegate Clifford to be bench, and instead Sacramento chose to make a move that may very well benefit both Clifford and the Kings.

Meanwhile, Zach Lavine and De'Andre Hunter chipped in 15 and 14 points respectively, but without question young Darius Acuff was the offensive star of the show.

What is encouraging for Kings fans is the progression of Darius game in the first 10 games of the season. He is learning his craft, and what stands out for me is watching his level of comfort on the floor.

Defense is a bit of a moving target, but I would not label Acuff as a poor defender. He is not Davion Mitchell and probably never will be, but if anyone questions whether he is the Kings point guard of the future, just buy a ticket and see for yourself.

Currently coach Christie is ratcheting down on his substitutions, going 11 deep Christie left Alex Karaban on the bench, and I'm convinced that has to change.

Once again, fans scratch their heads as assessment of talent is the order of the day, and that assessment was on display all night as Sacramento watched former King Davion Mitchell in action.

There are few point guards in the NBA that have the defensive ability to shut down the competition as does Davion Mitchell, and he is the poster child when it comes to defense.

If you go to my website thekingskorner.com I have a spot for fans to see the players that have gotten away in recent years, and I'm hopeful I don't have to add any more names to the list.

Wins begin with competitive games, and that's what we're starting to see!

All the best! ★

California's Congressional Gerrymander Worked. What Happens After the Next Census?



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Last year, after Texas Republicans reconfigured their congressional districts to grab five more seats, California's Democratic governor, Gavin Newsom, and its Legislature countered with a gerrymander to shift five seats their way.

Both partisan maneuvers, and those in a few other states, were designed to either bolster or erase the paper-thin GOP majority in the House.

On Tuesday the Texas two-step failed spectacularly. Democrats won four of the five targeted districts there, while California's counterplay succeeded even more spectacularly as five Republican congress members from here were wiped out.

The GOP held just eight of the state's 52 congressional seats going into the election, plus one Republican-turned-independent. Their ranks now shrink to a miniscule four, even though a quarter of the state's voters are Republicans.

It's a testament not only to the determination of Newsom and Democratic legislators to affect the national power struggle over Congress, but also to the professional competence of Paul Mitchell, the Sacramento-based political guru Democrats recruited to draw the new, gerrymandered redistricting maps.

The plan, which was pushed through the Legislature and onto a special election ballot as Proposition 50 last year, didn't go exactly as envisioned, but the result was exactly what Newsom and Co. intended. And it burnishes Newsom's status as a partisan warrior for his almost certain bid for the Democratic Party's presidential candidacy in 2028.

As it turns out neither the failed Texas gerrymander nor California's successful one played decisive roles in the "blue tsunami" that swept Democrats into solid majorities in both houses of Congress.

California now has five new members of Congress, most likely for at least six years. But what then?

The gerrymandered maps of 52 congressional districts will legally be in effect through the 2030 election, after which the state, under current law, will revert to the prior districts drawn by an independent commission for the 2032 elections and beyond.

However, it's not that simple. Political ambition and demography will likely combine to create a dilemma for the state's dominant Democrats.

The five new members will presumably want to keep their seats after 2030. But that year's census will confirm that California has had scant population growth since the 2020 census, or even a slight decline.

The size of each state's congressional delegation hinges on its population trend over the previous decade. California's stagnant population will almost certainly result in a loss of three to five of the nation's 435 congressional seats.

If redistricting reverts to the independent commission, as current law says it will, it probably would pare down — or even erase — the extra five gerrymandered seats, even if there is no overall decline in the delegation.

With a likely decline, a fair commission plan would probably end the careers of more than five Democratic members and return a few to the GOP.

Democrats will still dominate levers of control after 2030. And their leaders must decide whether to allow the commission to do its work or abolish it via another ballot measure in the 2028 or 2030 election.

Party leaders have never liked commission redistricting, a process forced upon them by a pair of initiative ballot measures in 2008 and 2010 championed by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Abolishing the commission system would return the drafting of new maps to the Legislature, thus allowing Democratic leaders (and possibly Paul Mitchell again) to redraw districts that maximize their party's share of seats.

That's what they did, or at last tried to do, after the 1980, 1990 and 2000 censuses, and what they probably would prefer to do after the 2030 count.

We shouldn't be surprised if gerrymandering becomes permanent.

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

How Can I Find out What I've Contributed to Social Security?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I have a simple question (I think). How do I find out how much I have paid into Social Security over the years? ***Signed: Curious Senior Citizen***

Dear Curious Senior: I expect you might rightfully believe you have contributed quite a lot and, fortunately, there are a couple of convenient ways for you to find out how much you have actually paid into Social Security over your lifetime:

1. If you have an online Social Security account **(www.ssa.gov/myaccount)** you can simply go to your online ***"my Social Security"*** account and click on the link for ***"Social Security Statement."*** In that online Social Security statement, you will see a listing of your lifetime earnings, and at the bottom of that listing you will see how much you (and your employers on your behalf) have paid in Social Security FICA payroll taxes (or SECA self-employment taxes) over your lifetime.

2. If you do not have your online Social Security account set up, you can also contact the Social Security Administration, either your local SS field office get the local office contact information at **www.ssa.gov/locator** or call 1.800.772.1213 to ask that a copy of your personal "Social Security Statement" be mailed to you.

Obviously, getting this information online is the most efficient method, so you may wish to create your online account if you don't yet have one. Instructions for doing so can be found at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Having this online account will open the door for you to access all the information Social Security has for you, including details of your monthly benefit and your lifetime earnings history.

FYI, many who seek this information are looking to understand when (or if) they might get back all their contributions once they start collecting Social Security benefits. Of course, much depends on the age at which you claim your benefits, but as a general guide, it usually takes about 5 years or less for you to get back in SS benefits all that you have personally contributed to Social Security. However, the length of time to "breakeven" is longer for self-employed individuals, who must pay both the employee and employer portion of Social Security payroll taxes.

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The Unauthorized War

President Donald Trump says that the Iran war will end "soon," a promise he's been making most of this year. Eventually, he will be right, but it hasn't happened in time for the midterm elections, and his party is bearing the brunt.

If Republicans get thumped, all the polling suggests that prices will be one of the main reasons, with the Iran war's contribution to higher costs looming large. According to a recent New York Times/Siena poll, 65% disapprove of President Trump's handling of the war in Iran, and almost 75% disapprove of his handling of gas prices, two closely intertwined issues.

Given the political risk, it's remarkable how stalwart Trump has been in prosecuting the war, the brief interlude of the misbegotten Memorandum of Understanding aside. "The quickest way of ending a war," George Orwell said, "is to lose it," and Trump has been loath to accept a strategic defeat as the way out of the conflict.

That doesn't mitigate the potential political damage. If the Iran war had been as short as initially advertised, or if it had dragged on with no appreciable cost back home, most people presumably wouldn't have cared very much, even if they weren't on board. It's the combination of a relatively drawn-out war causing elevated prices that's a killer, and it adds insult to injury that Trump has handled the matter with such high-handedness.

He didn't ask Congress to authorize the war, and barely made a public case beforehand, while giving the impression throughout that the entire enterprise depends on his whim.

It's often remarked that Trump's obsession with naming things after himself, or building things in Washington, is hurting him because it makes him seem out of touch and interested only in his own priorities. But none of this directly harms anyone -- unless they, say, hold a season pass to the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center.

The Iran war, in contrast, has imposed an economic cost on nearly everyone in the country. President Trump has an idiosyncratic view of representative government. The common understanding of our system is that we elect representatives who debate and vote on important public matters, before standing for election again and finding out if their constituents still want them.

Trump's populist understanding is different -- he's the people's representative. It makes sense that Trump, who has a highly personalized view of government and of his movement, has a highly personal view of himself as the tribune of the people. This tends to render the other representatives an unnecessary encumbrance, and indeed this is how Trump has largely treated Congress in his second term.

So it shouldn't be a surprise that it evidently didn't occur to him to ask Congress to authorize the Iran war. There have been comparisons made between Trump's war and George W. Bush's in Iraq, but this is a stark difference. Bush went to Congress, and by the time lawmakers authorized the war, it was a matter of national consensus (although one that fell apart).

Trump hasn't gone to Congress on his tariffs, either, but he made it abundantly clear in the 2024 campaign that he intended to drastically increase duties. Compared with that, the Iran war was a bolt from the blue.

There have been ongoing efforts to cushion the conflict from public accountability. Republicans have tried to argue that it isn't really "a war," and Trump has said that a renewal of a major bombing campaign will only occur after the election, an effort to keep the war from being front and center during voting.

Now, although the war hasn't gone as planned, we need to wait to see how it turns out to make an ultimate judgment -- if Trump manages to crack the regime, it will indeed be a legacy-defining achievement. The problem for now, though, is that you can't expect great patience from the public when it wasn't asked or even informed beforehand.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001772
The following persons are doing business as: Discovery Land Care, Inc., 5778 Dixon Avenue West, Dixon, CA 95620.
Discovery Land Care, Inc., 5778 Dixon Avenue West, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: October 14, 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 13, 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 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 2026
DISCOVERY 11-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001577
The following persons are doing business as: The Delinquent Urchin, 443 Larkin Drive, Benicia, CA 94510.
Julia Bernard, 443 Larkin Drive, Benicia, CA 94510.
Date filed in Solano County: September 8, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: August 6, 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 September 7, 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 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 2026
DELINQUENT 11-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001787
The following persons are doing business as: East Bay Screenprint LLC, 1110 Colusa Street, Vallejo, CA 94590.
East Bay Screenprint LLC, 1110 Colusa Street, Vallejo, CA 94590.
Date filed in Solano County: October 15, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on September 1, 2026
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 October 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: Oct 30, Nov 6, 13, 20, 2026
EAST 11-20-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001818
The following persons are doing business as: Passion to Heal Family Counseling, Inc, 2750 North Texas Street Suite 350E, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Passion to Heal Family Counseling, Inc, 2750 North Texas Street Suite 350E, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Date filed in Solano County: October 19, 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 18, 2031. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: Oct 30, Nov 6, 13, 20, 2026
PASSION 11-20-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001717
The following persons are doing business as: Abel To Do It Construction, 2110 Mariposa Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.
Abel Chavez-Tovar, 2110 Mariposa Drive, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: October 5, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on September 28, 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 October 4, 2031. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: Oct 30, Nov 6, 13, 20, 2026
ABEL 11-20-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001853
The following persons are doing business as: Solano Auto Repair, 210 Manatee Street, Suisun City, CA 94585
GB Mechanics LLC, 210 Manatee Street, Suisun City, CA 94585.
Date filed in Solano County: October 23, 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 October 22, 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: November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
SOLANO 11-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001864
The following persons are doing business as: Flexincomeplanners, Cents & Sheets, 809 Maple Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94591
Daniel Scott Sanchez, 809 Maple Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94591.
Date filed in Solano County: October 27, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: October 17, 2026
This Business is conducted by: 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 26, 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: November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
FLEX 11-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001875
The following persons are doing business as: Hyperion Tax Services, 845 Sage Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687
Nicholas Cavanaugh, 845 Sage Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687.
Date filed in Solano County: October 28, 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 22, 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: November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
HYPERION 11-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001901
The following persons are doing business as: Stone Editorial, Stone Age Distractions, Lithosludos, Kimberlily Boutique, 1961 Marshall Road, Vacaville, CA 95687.
Stone Creative Studios, LLC, 200 Prairie Court, Unit 1051, Vacaville, CA 95696.
Date filed in Solano County: November 2, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 4, 2022
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 November 1, 2031. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: Nov 13, 20, 27, Dec 4, 2026
STONE 12-4-26

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, Rapid Rooter 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: Nov 13, 20, 27, Dec 4, 2026
RAPID 12-4-26

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-08846
Matthew Miles Rliey filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Matthew Miles Riley to Nox Nyx Zyer.
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 18, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room 301, 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 on document.
Dated: October 9, 2026
Publish: Oct 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 2026
RILEY 11-13-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU26-09582
Charles Joseph Tamondong Ching filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Charles Joseph Tamondong Ching to Charles Manuel Tamondong Soriano.
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 7, 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: October 13, 2026
Publish: Oct 30, Nov 6, 13, 20, 2026
CHING 11-20-26

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JACK O. BERRY
CASE NO. PR26-00634
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Jack O. Berry.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Teresa Bibian Montoya, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting Teresa Bibian Montoya 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: December 10, 2026, 9:30 a.m. in Dept 22; Solano Superior Court, 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: Barbara Sonin, 21 Court Street, Woodland, CA 95695; 530-662-2226
Publish: November 6, 13, 20, 2026
BERRY 11-20-26

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SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Dixon City Council adopted Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 26-008, pursuant to Government Code section 65858, imposing a 45-day temporary moratorium on City approval of land use entitlements for certain standalone Battery Energy Storage System ("BESS") facilities while the City evaluates public safety risks and land use regulations. The ordinance applies to new or expanded standalone BESS facilities within City limits with a storage capacity of one megawatt-hour or more, or that are designed primarily to export electricity to the grid. While the ordinance is in effect, the City will not approve any entitlement or permit to establish, construct, or expand such a facility. The ordinance does not apply to residential or accessory battery systems, or to facilities certified by the California Energy Commission or otherwise exempt under state law.

The ordinance took effect immediately upon adoption and will expire on December 18, 2026, unless extended by the City Council in accordance with Government Code section 65858.

This Urgency Ordinance was adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 3rd day of November 2026, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: BOGUE, HENDERSHOT, JOHNSON, ERNEST, BIRD
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

A copy of the full text of the adopted ordinance is available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or at **www.cityofdixonca.gov**.

Kristin M. Janisch
Elected City Clerk
Dixon Independent Voice 11-13-2026

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Dixon City Council adopted Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 26-007, pursuant to Government Code section 65858, extending the temporary moratorium on data centers established by Ordinance No. 26-006 for an additional 10 months and 15 days. The extension allows the City to continue evaluating the potential public health impacts of data centers and additional land use regulations, and to account for new state data center legislation taking effect January 1, 2027. The ordinance applies to facilities used primarily to house computer servers or data storage equipment with at least 5,000 square feet of floor area or a designed electrical load of at least 2 megawatts. While the ordinance is in effect, the City will not issue any entitlement or permit to establish, construct, or expand a data center.

The ordinance took effect immediately upon adoption and will expire on September 30, 2027, unless extended by the City Council in accordance with Government Code section 65858.

This Urgency Ordinance was adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 3rd day of November 2026, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: BOGUE, HENDERSHOT, JOHNSON, ERNEST, BIRD
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

A copy of the full text of the adopted ordinance is available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or at **www.cityofdixonca.gov**.

Kristin M. Janisch
Elected City Clerk
Dixon Independent Voice 11-13-2026

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Solano Community College Awarded $6.55 Million to Expand Biotechnology Education and Workforce Training

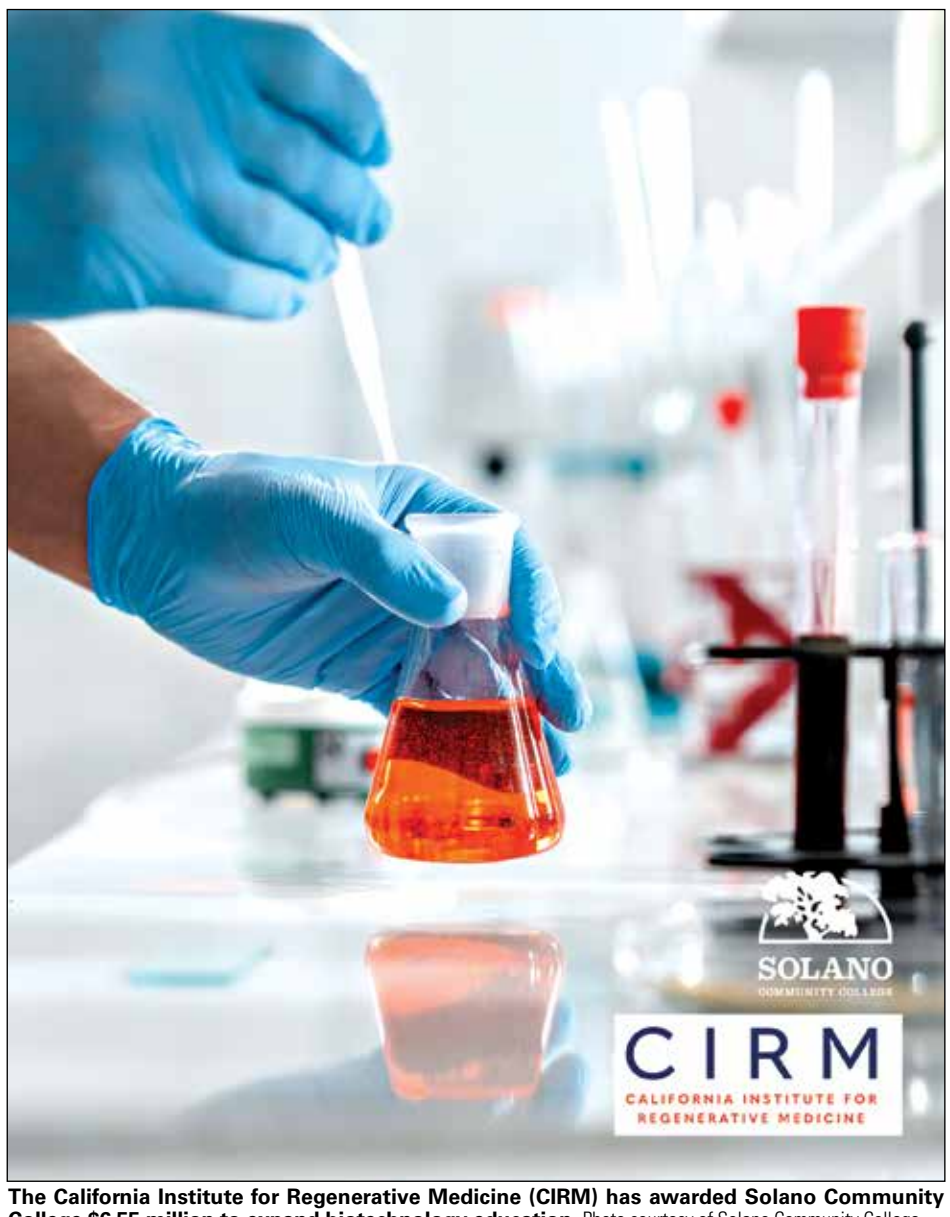
Solano Community College News Release

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) - Solano Community College has been awarded $6.55 million from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) to expand biotechnology education, hands-on training and career pathways for students pursuing opportunities in California's growing life sciences industry.

The $6,552,640 award will support EPIC-IDEA (Expanded Pathways in Cell-Based Manufacturing to Increase Diversity, Equity, and Advancement), an initiative designed to prepare students for careers in regenerative medicine, biotechnology and cell-based manufacturing. The funding was approved by CIRM's governing board in September 2026 as part of a statewide investment in education, research and workforce development.

"This investment is a tremendous opportunity for Solano Community College and, more importantly, for the students and communities we serve," said Dr. Kellie Sims Butler, superintendent-president of Solano Community College. "By providing affordable, expanded access to advanced biotechnology education and hands-on training, we are creating pathways to meaningful, high-demand careers while helping meet the workforce needs of one of California's most innovative industries. This award recognizes the strength of our programs and our commitment to transforming student lives."

The EPIC-IDEA program builds upon Solano Community College's established biotechnology and biomanufacturing programs, including its Bachelor of Science in Biomanufacturing, a degree program which just celebrated its 10-year anniversary. The initiative will integrate two complementary training pathways, Bridges and COMPASS, allowing students to progress from foundational laboratory training to advanced coursework, research experiences and industry internships.



The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) has awarded Solano Community College $6.55 million to expand biotechnology education. Photo courtesy of Solano Community College

Through the Bridges pathway, students early in their college education will have opportunities to develop laboratory skills and participate in extended internships. The COMPASS pathway will provide advanced training and professional development opportunities for students completing Solano's bachelor's degree in biomanufacturing.

Students participating in the program will gain experience in stem cell science, gene therapy, biomanufacturing and related disciplines. The initiative will also provide mentorship, career guidance and professional development designed to help students transition into the workforce or pursue additional education.

A central focus of EPIC-IDEA is expanding access to biotechnology careers for students from diverse and underserved backgrounds, including first-generation college students and individuals who may face financial or educational barriers to entering science-related fields.

Led by Dr. Rennee Moore, the program will build upon existing partnerships with academic institutions and biotechnology employers to connect classroom instruction with practical, career-focused experience.

The award further strengthens Solano Community College's role in developing the skilled workforce needed to support California's biotechnology and regenerative medicine industries. The college's existing programs provide students with opportunities to pursue advanced scientific training while remaining connected to their local communities and regional employment opportunities.

The new funding is part of more than $90 million approved by CIRM in September 2026 to support 17 education and workforce training programs throughout California. These investments are intended to expand opportunities for students and strengthen the state's capacity to advance regenerative medicine research and innovation.

For more information about Solano Community College's biotechnology and biomanufacturing programs, visit https://solano.edu/academic-programs/biomanufacturing.php. ★

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