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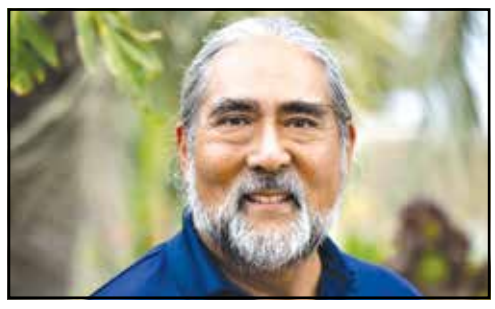

Dixon Independent Voice

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Council Approves Changes for Dispensary



The Artist Tree signage has already started going up at Club 420 on Dorset Court in Dixon.

Story and photo by Kevin Dietrich

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Club 420, a Dixon marijuana dispensary in operation since 2021, is expected to be sold to a Southern California cannabis chain sometime next year.

Rob and Mike Read of Davisville Business Enterprises Inc., who own Club 420 sites in both Dixon and in Davis, received initial approval from Dixon City Council on Nov. 17 to transfer management of their Dorset Court location to TAT Dixon, which operates dispensaries in California and New York.

State law requires city approval before a dispensary business can be sold, Rob Read said. City Council introduced an ordinance to authorize a new development agreement for the operation, which received tentative approval. That ordinance will be back before City Council for a second reading on Dec. 15.

If approved, the sale is expected to be completed within six months.

The City Council also adopted a resolution allowing amendments to the cannabis conditional-use permit for Club 420, which will allow continued use of the existing operation by TAT Dixon until it moves into a new location.

TAT Dixon will operate the location under The Artist Tree name. Signage with The Artist Tree name has already been erected at the site.

The Read brothers will continue to own the Dixon property and said they plan to build a larger store for the Dixon dispensary, which is currently housed in modular units.

"We'd like to have the new building up, and the dispensary moved over within a couple of years if everything goes smoothly," Rob Read said.

The new structure would be about 12,000 square feet, considerably larger than the current site, which has less than 3,000 square feet. It will be near the existing locale, between Cattlemens Steakhouse and Quick Quack Car Wash.

Approval for the new development agreement and the cannabis conditional-use permit was hardly a slam dunk.

City Council approved by a 3-2 vote to allow the extension of a development agreement and sale of the business to new ownership, with council members Kevin Johnson and Don Hendershot dissenting. The Council adopted the resolution allowing an amended cannabis conditional-use permit by a 3-1 vote, with Hendershot voting no and Johnson abstaining.

Continued on page 2

Council Seeks Low-Interest Loan to Expand Wastewater Treatment Plant

By Shaunna Boyd

DIXON, CA (MPG) - At the Nov. 17 meeting, the Dixon City Council considered approval of $27,361 to purchase power track data loggers and associated equipment from Also Energy, which already provides solar monitoring services for the city.

Solar electric systems were constructed in 2012 to generate energy for City Hall, the Senior Center, Hall Park's pool and irrigation well, the Police Department and the Fire Department. But due to equipment failures last year, only one solar site is currently transmitting data, resulting in inaccurate reporting to PG&E and higher energy costs for the city. The new equipment is necessary to ensure accurate reporting.

While the equipment will be purchased through Also Energy, installation will be done by a third-party contractor, and staff recommended Element Electrical, at a total cost of $11,100.

The council voted unanimously to approve the purchase and installation of the new equipment.

The council also considered whether to authorize staff to continue pursuing a loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to cover the cost of expanding the city's wastewater treatment facility.

The city's current wastewater treatment facility includes two process trains. Its capacity is rated at 1.9 million gallons per day (MGD), which can cover a population up to 30,000.

When the facility was completed in 2017, the city had 18,000 residents, which utilized about 60% of treatment capacity. Now in 2026, there are 21,000 residents and the facility is at 70% capacity. Best practices caution against hitting 80%, and if the city does reach that threshold, the regional water board will require annual reports about the city's plans to expand the facility.

So, expanding the facility now will ensure the city can continue to effectively meet the demands, especially with planned build-out of the residential units at Homestead, which will bring the city to an estimated 23,000 residents, reaching 76 percent

Continued on page 5

First Northern Begins Downtown Renovation

By Kevin Dietrich

DIXON, CA (MPG) - First Northern Bank began preparing its downtown Dixon headquarters for remodeling work last week.

First Northern is expected to begin work on its 195 N. First St. location shortly, with renovations to the 18,700-square-foot site scheduled to be completed next August.

"We're taking it back to a brick façade, so it can better fit in with downtown Dixon," Chief Executive Officer Jeremiah Smith said.

The existing downtown location was built in the late 1950s, with an addition added in the mid-1980s. The bank has had an office at the site since 1911, just a year after it began operations as Northern Solano Bank.



Rendering showing what First Northern Bank's downtown Dixon office will look like after renovation work is completed. Image courtesy of First Northern Bank

First Northern started seriously considering renovating its headquarters locale some 20 years ago, Smith said.

"We looked at renovating this building in 2006, and we went as far as getting designs done," he said. "But then the Great Recession happened, and we had to put the project on hold."

First Northern has shifted all in-person lobby services from downtown

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Vacaville Museum Sets Annual Holiday Home Tour



Vacaville Museum Guild hostesses will greet guests on the Holiday Home Tour. From left are Bonnie Schindler and Georganne Gebers.

Story and photo by Kathy Keatley Garvey

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Vacaville Museum Guild's annual Holiday Home Tour, set from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12, will feature six homes.

"Each is as different as it could possibly be," said coordinator Marian Chmieleski. "Two are on Buck Avenue and one is on Main Street, so these three are within easy walking distance of the museum."

Among the homes on the self-guided tours: "We'll have a sweet Victorian built in 1903, lovingly filled with period-appropriate furnishings; a darling cottage adorned in the owners' Scottish clan heritage; a beautiful, newer home made to welcome an ever growing family," Chmieleski said.

Tour participants will meet at the Vacaville Museum, 213 Buck Ave. for refreshments and a brochure, which show the location of each home and each owner's comments. Baked goods and fruit and coffee will be served at the museum, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Tickets for the tour are $32 and are available at the museum and online at https://vacavillemuseum.org/events/.

Raffle tickets for the holiday prizes, which include Santa Claus, snowmen and reindeer, will be $5 apiece or five tickets for $20. The drawings will take place at 3 p.m. on Dec. 12 at the close of the Holiday Home Tour. Winners will be contacted and may pick up their prizes at the museum, Chmieleski said.

Chmieleski's committee members include Georgia Samo, volunteers, Deborah Faaborg, refreshments; Kristy Vasquez, brochure; and Ann Rollins, program brochure advertisements. ★

Council Approves Changes for Dispensary

Continued from page 1

Johnson expressed dissatisfaction with the Reads' progress on meeting goals that were laid out prior to starting their operation in Dixon.

"I have a lot of disappointment in how you guys have operated," Johnson told Rob and Mike Read during the meeting.

Rob Read said the business and the industry as a whole in California have not performed as expected, in part because regulations and taxes make it harder to remain viable. Read added that without the sale of the business to TAT Dixon, the store would be closed.

The Reads spent $1.6 million to develop the store's infrastructure, borrowing money at an 18-1/2 percent interest rate for the project, according to Rob Read. Cannabis is listed federally as a schedule 1 drug, which means many conventional forms of business financing are not available for dispensary operations.

"Because we're in the cannabis industry, we get treated like drug dealers," he said. "Because we're in the marijuana business, and we do not have the same options for institutional lending … we pay more for everything."

Read added that the items his operation agreed to when starting in Dixon were things they wanted to do, but because the business didn't perform as hoped, the money wasn't there.

"It was not our intent to come in and tell you one thing and do another," Read said. "We … like everyone in the cannabis industry, have been trying to survive."

As part of the agreement, the city will change what it charges the dispensary, to seven percent of the business's gross receipts or $15,000 a month, whichever is greater, from five percent of gross receipts or $30,000 a month, whichever was greater.

As part of the new development agreement, the Dixon Police Department completed background checks on the principals of The Artist Tree and reviewed and confirmed its security plan.

The Artist Tree, which blends local art with its dispensary business, will have 11 locations in California once the sale is completed. The company is headquartered in Studio City. ★



Dixon News Briefs



Bicyclists gathered on Stevenson Bridge on Nov. 20 to celebrate a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the structure, which connects Solano and Yolo counties. Photo courtesy of Yolo County

By MPG Staff

Ribbon-Cutting Held on Stevenson Bridge

Solano and Yolo counties held a joint ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 20 to celebrate the completion of the Stevenson Bridge Rehabilitation Project and the recent reopening of the historic structure.

The ceremony included remarks from county supervisors, recognition of project partners and a ceremonial ribbon-cutting at the 103-year-old bridge, which connects Solano and Yolo counties.

Caltrans described the bridge, which spans Putah Creek, as "a rare example of a reinforced concrete through tied arch in California and is the oldest bridge of this type in California and possibly the United States."

The rehabilitation project included scour protection, seismic retrofitting and roadway realignment.

The contract to rehabilitate the bridge was $8,341,926. Each county's share of the project cost was approximately $1.65 million, with the majority of the funding provided through the federal Highway Bridge Program.

Dixon Drops Season Opener to Wheatland

The Dixon High School boys basketball team opened the 2026-27 season with a 58-40 loss to Wheatland.

The Rams will be back in action on Nov. 23 in their home opener against Rio Vista.

The Dixon girls basketball team opens its season Nov. 24 with a home contest against Valley.

Solano County Students Recognized

The Solano Constitution Discussion Group celebrated the 15th Annual Solano County High School Constitution Essay Contest at its Nov. 14 awards luncheon. Some 116 students from seven Solano County high schools, including Dixon High, submitted essays on the question: "What is a republic, and why did our Founders choose it?"

Award winners were Kelly Hernandez Romero, Sem Yeto High School, who captured the grand prize; Nisha Mistry, Rodriguez High School, Founders' Choice Award; and Paulina Salgado, Armijo High School, and Safyre-Rose Franklin, Buckingham Collegiate Charter Academy, both of whom were named best of school.

Participating schools were Armijo High School, Buckingham Collegiate Charter Academy, Dixon High, Kairos Luminary Academy, Rodriguez High, Sem Yeto High and Vanden High.

Solano Superintendent to be at Dixon Library

Solano County Superintendent of Schools Nicola Parr will hold a meet-and-greet from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 7 at the Dixon Library.

Parr was appointed interim superintendent in 2025 and won election to the position this past June. She has more than 25 years of experience in education.

The event is open to all ages. Registration is suggested but not required.

The Dixon Library is located at 230 N. First St. in Dixon.

Dixon Tree Lighting Set for Dec. 5

Dixon will hold a downtown Christmas tree-lighting festival between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Dec. 5.

The theme of the event is a Victorian Christmas and will include a stationary parade of Christmas floats, performances in Pardi Park and pony rides. The Christmas tree lighting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at 230 N. First St.

First North Street in Dixon from East C Street to East Mayes Street will be closed to traffic from noon to 10 p.m.

Bah Humbug! To Play in Dixon

Dixon Community Theater will present Bah Humbug! Scrooge's Christmas Carol at 7 p.m. on Dec. 4 and at 2 p.m. on Dec. 5 and Dec. 6.

This musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" brings the spirit of Christmas to life through unforgettable characters, heartfelt storytelling and the original music of Bill Francoeur. It is filled with humor, emotion and holiday magic, and is designed for the entire family to enjoy.

The play, directed by Kaitlyn McEowen, will be performed at the Dixon Community Performing Arts Center, 555 College Way, Dixon. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

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.

Festival of Trees Set for Dec. 12

The Dixon Kiwanis Festival of Trees will take place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 12 at the American Legion Hall, 1305 N. First St., Dixon.

Photos with Santa will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 12.

For more information, call 707-635-3303.

Davis to Hold Parade on Dec. 3

The city of Davis invites the community to attend the 45th annual Candlelight Parade, Community Tree Lighting and Winter Wonderland celebration from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Dec. 3.

Santa and Mrs. Claus are returning this year to lead the Candlelight Parade, which will start promptly at 6 p.m., from the Davis Food Co-op parking lot at 620 G St. and conclude at the E Street Plaza.

Additional activities include: Free horse and carriage rides at G Street; singing by the "Grace Valley Carolers" in front of the Varsity Theatre; and music by the quartet "All About Trombones" on the patio of the Hunt Boyer Mansion. ★

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Bohart Museum Showcases Live Petting Zoo

Story and photos by Kathy Keatley Garvey



Elias Hartley, 9, of Dixon learning about stick insects, aka walking sticks, at the Bohart Museum of Entomology at UC Davis.



Bohart Museum intern Grace Crites talks about stick insects with Elias Hartley, 9, of Dixon.

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - "Who wants to hold a walking stick?"

"Me! Me! Me!!"

That's usually the chorus of responses greeting those who staff the live petting zoo at the Bohart Museum of Entomology, located in Room 1124 of the Academic Surge Building, 455 Crocker Lane, UC Davis campus.

The Bohart Museum showcases its popular petting zoo at its regularly scheduled open houses and at the public walk-ins, usually held two days a week, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1 to 4:30 (prospective visitors should check for updates on the website at https://bohart.ucdavis.edu/.

Admission to the open houses and the public walk-ins are free. Parking is free only on weekends.

The Bohart Museum's volunteer interns, all UC Davis students, assist with the petting zoo, and perform other duties, such as staffing the family arts-and-crafts activity at each open house.

Tabatha Yang, education and outreach coordinator, recently issued a call for new interns. Fifty-five attended the introductory session, 45 applied and 15 were accepted.

One of those accepted was Grace Crites, a transfer student from a San Jose community college who is majoring in genetics but also loves entomology. "I've loved insects since my childhood," she said, adding that she once held a funeral for a pet lady beetle, aka ladybug.

Crites staffed a recent public walk-in and met bug enthusiasts Elias Hartley of Dixon, 9, and his grandfather John Katonah of Woodland.

While Elias held stick insects and Madagascar hissing cockroaches, Crites enthusiastically answered his questions. He liked the stick insects more than he did the cockroaches.

The next Bohart Museum open house will be on UC Davis Biodiversity Museum Day on Saturday, Feb. 27. This is the annual "Explore Science" Day involving nine nature collections on campus. Admission and parking are free. (Note: Those who wish to support this annual event can donate here: https://give.ucdavis.edu/CAES/BIOFUND).

UC Davis entomologist Professor Richard Bohart founded the insect museum in 1946. It is now the home of a global collection of eight million specimens, the seventh largest insect museum in North America.

Bohart Museum director is Professor Jason Bond, the Evert and Marion Schlinger Endowed Chair of Systematics, UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology. Bond serves as the executive associate dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CA&ES) and as president of the American Arachnological Society. For more information about the Bohart Museum, access the website or contact bmuseum@ucdavis.edu. ★

First Northern Begins Downtown Renovation

Continued from page 1

to its operations center at 210 Stratford Ave.

The bank will keep a drive-up teller window and ATM open at its North First Street location. The bank may need to limit hours or close the teller window or ATM depending on construction activity during the project, Director of Administration Devon Camara-Soucy said.

The expansion underscores First Northern's commitment to Dixon, no small matter given the city's changing financial services landscape. Over the past decade or so, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Chase Bank have all closed full-service locations in Dixon.

Conversely, the Bank of Stockton opened a branch in town in 2024, and Travis Credit Union has operated here since 2003.

"Banking is ever-changing, but it's always been that way," Smith said.

First Northern has 14 total branches, from Fairfield to Auburn and north to Orland and Willows, and approximately 200 employees.

First Northern, which has nearly $2 billion in assets, is focused on being around for the long haul, Smith said.

"We've been around for more than a century, and we want to make sure we're here for the next 100 years," he added. ★



Asian American Chamber of Commerce of NorCal
PREMIER FINANCIAL ALLIANCE
Bernadette Pomar



Vallejo Chamber of Commerce
PIERCE ELECTRIC INC.
Laura Pierce & Matt Pierce



Benicia Chamber of Commerce
HIRE MY HUSBAND
Dawson Urban



Vacaville Chamber of Commerce
CHICK-FIL-A VACAVILLE COMMONS
Josh Parker

SPIRIT OF Solano



Dixon Chamber of Commerce
DAWSON'S BAR & GRILL
Jill & Greg Orr

Honorees

Westamerica Bank and Pace Solano are proud to host the Spirit of Solano awards. As community leaders, we acknowledge our responsibility to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. The Spirit of Solano award recognizes the vital work of the Solano Chambers of Commerce and honors the local businesses helping our communities thrive.

SPIRIT OF SOLANO LUNCHEON | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026

For tickets, contact Marissa Villalon at (707) 863-6932.



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Fairfield
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Dixon Named Partner of the Year, Celebrates Transit Employee of the Year at 29th Annual STA Awards

City of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The City of Dixon received two honors at the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) 29th Annual Awards on Wednesday, Nov. 4. The city was named Partner of the Year, and Shaunna Wouda, a dispatcher for the city's public dial-a-ride transit service, Dixon Readi-Ride, received the Transit Employee of the Year award.

Dixon earned Partner of the Year for its role in launching the Solano Express Route 30 Pilot Program, an intercity bus line serving Solano and Yolo counties. To support the launch, the city purchased a bus, provided parking for all seven program buses at its Public Works facility and contributed staff expertise to evaluate schedules and bus options. Dixon Readi-Ride staff also advocated for the program before the STA Board. Route 30 now provides Dixon residents and workers with a convenient alternative to driving, making it easier to access jobs, education and other destinations across the region. The service connects Dixon and Vacaville hourly, with weekday connections to UC Davis and commute-hour service to Sacramento.

The STA also recognized Dixon's ongoing work on its Community-Based Transportation Plan, participation in the Safe Routes to School program and planned South First Street Corridor Improvements, which will improve bicycle and pedestrian connections.

In the individual categories, Shaunna Wouda was named Transit Employee of the Year for her outstanding customer service. Wouda, a lifelong Solano County resident living in Dixon, joined Dixon Readi-Ride in August 2024 as a part-time dispatcher, where she coordinates six buses and handles more than 200 daily calls. The STA praised her professionalism and ability to keep daily operations running smoothly.

Dixon's Crystal Peacher was also nominated in the Safe Routes to School category for her role in expanding the program to every school in Dixon, organizing bike rodeos and safety assemblies and launching a helmet program at Dixon Montessori.

"We are incredibly proud of Shaunna, Crystal and our entire city staff for their dedication to improving mobility and safety across Dixon," said Mayor Steve Bird. "Being named Partner of the Year reflects Dixon's commitment to regional collaboration and reliable transportation options to our community."

For more information about Dixon Readi-Ride and local transportation initiatives, visit CityOfDixonCA.gov/Departments/Transit. ★

Christmas Movie Night at Farmstead



The senior living community is turning up the holiday spirit with a showing of the Christmas classic "Miracle on 34th Street." Photo courtesy of Farmstead at Dixon Senior Living Facebook page

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Let the holiday magic begin!

Grab your coziest blanket, bring your Christmas cheer and join Farmstead at Dixon Senior Living for a holly jolly Christmas movie night at 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7.

The senior living community is turning up the holiday spirit with a showing of the Christmas classic "Miracle on 34th Street."

Farmstead will provide delicious, festive treats including freshly popped popcorn, sweet Christmas cookies and a festive Hot Cocoa Bar with all the fixings.

It's the perfect recipe for a magical evening filled with laughter, holiday cheer, sweet treats, and a little Christmas movie magic!

Come sip, snack and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with Farmstead at Dixon Senior Living, located at 350 Gateway Drive, Dixon.

For more information, visit the Farmstead at Dixon Senior Living Facebook page. ★

Bring Christmas Magic to Four Dixon Youth

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is collecting new, unwrapped toys to help brighten Christmas for the four children after the recent loss of their mom.

The four children are a 10-year-old girl, an 8-year-old boy, a 5-year-old girl and a 3-year-old girl."

Toys will be collected through Dec. 15 at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, 220 N Jefferson St., Dixon.

Monetary donations are also accepted online through GiveSendGo. Search "Bringing a Little Christmas Magic to Four Kids" on the platform.

"Every gift, big or small, makes a difference," the Chamber wrote on a Facebook post.

For more information, visit the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. ★





Adaptability Fuels Pomegranate Potential

California's history as a major pomegranate producer is relatively short. But according to farmers and researchers, the crop possesses traits that could give it a promising future in the state. Compared to most fruits and nuts grown in the Central Valley, pomegranates are better able to tolerate water scarcity and soil salinization, both of which are expected to worsen in the region. "Pomegranates get planted in really poor soils because they're highly adaptable," said Louise Ferguson, professor of Cooperative Extension at the University of California, Davis. "There aren't many options for poor ground that would have the ease of production." Farmers have also planted pomegranates to make the most of low-quality soils. The trees grow well in rocky, gravelly and sandy soils, thrive in soils with a wide pH range and without many nutrients, and tolerate drought and relatively high soil salinity, Ferguson said. On top of that, they require little or no nitrogen fertilizer, hand pruning, fruit thinning or ladders for harvest, all of which reduces costs for farmers, she added.

Farmers Seek New Tools to Ward Off Copper Wire Theft

With California experiencing a rise in copper wire thefts, farmers are looking for new ways to protect their property. Copper wire is often a component of water pumps used for irrigation, and such thefts can threaten crops and create costly damage for farms. Sacramento County farmer Ray Yeung was hit five times this year, with one theft as recently as last week and another occurring in July, a critical growing period. "Your crop needs water, so you're kind of screwed," Yeung said. "You might have a million dollars' worth of crop out there that you could lose because these guys stole 50 bucks worth of wire." Some technological developments have become available to farmers. Last year, agricultural automation company Farmblox released COP-R-LOCK, a security system specifically made to prevent copper wire thefts. The system uses sensors to detect activity in an area. When a sensor is triggered, it sets off an on-site siren. It also sends a wireless signal to a solar-powered base station that then sends the alert to the grower.

Lima Bean Breeders Explore Regional Differences in Trial

New research being conducted at the University of California, Davis, aims to help lima beans climb the culinary ladder by breeding beans that are tastier, higher yielding and more resilient. During the past year, researchers conducted field trials in California's intermountain region and different parts of the Central Valley. Antonia Palkovic, a specialist who is working on the breeding project, said findings from this year's field trials could help the researchers determine how to breed beans that are more resistant to lygus bugs or other production challenges. "If you have a really good, strong seed, it's going to germinate and produce a strong plant that yields well and is resistant to different pests and diseases," said Rachael Long, an emeritus farm adviser for UC Cooperative Extension. "That's farm resilience because it's almost like an insurance policy." ★

Ask DR. UNIVERSE

How was the Earth made?

– Penny, 8, Washington State

Dear Penny,

Blue oceans, green forests, a cozy blanket of oxygen. Our planet is a super comfy home. It's hard to imagine there was ever a time it didn't exist.

I asked my friend Julie Ménard how Earth formed. She's a planetary scientist at Washington State University.

She told me it started with the Big Bang. That was nearly 14 billion years ago.

"The Big Bang is not an explosion," Ménard said. "It's an expansion. Everything in our universe today was in a tiny spot—smaller than the eye can see. Eventually, the pressure and density got so high that it started to expand."

That expansion is why our universe has space, time, energy and matter.

At first, the universe was like a hot stew. Instead of carrots and potatoes, it had particles. As the soupy universe cooled, particles collided to make atoms and elements. Lumps of gas came together until they were super heavy. They collapsed into fiery stars.

About 4.6 billion years ago, a star exploded near where our solar system is now. That explosion caused a shockwave that sent a nearby cloud of dust and gas spinning.



An artist made this to show what a dusty accretion disc around a protostar looks like. Accretion happens in our homes, too. Have you ever seen a dust bunny under your bed? That forms when dust and debris in your house bumps and clumps together - *AKA accretion. NASA*

Most of the stuff in the spinning cloud rushed to the center of the cloud. It formed a protostar—our baby Sun. As it spun around the baby Sun, the cloud flattened into a disc. It spun faster and faster.

Bits of dust and gas in the disc started bumping into each other. They clumped together into bigger bits. That bumping and clumping is called accretion. Little by little, bits of dust and gas banged together until planetesimals formed. Those itty-bitty planet builders were about the size of a few city blocks. They were big enough to have their own gravity. That gravity pulled and pushed different planetesimals toward each other. They bashed together and formed protoplanets—sometimes called baby planets.

Then those protoplanets collided and formed planets—like our Earth.

"With each of those impacts, there's a little more heat that is added to it," Ménard said. "So, when the planet first formed, it was a ball of lava. It was molten."

For about a billion years after it formed, Earth was super-hot. Plus, tons of comets and asteroids collided with it. It was very different from the planet we know.

Eventually, things cooled and settled down. Earth slowly changed into the cozy, life-supporting home it is now.

You could say it was a stellar improvement.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe



Riley Reviews

"GHOST SOLDIER" STRIKES A CHORD TAKING ON PURE VILLAINY

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"GHOST SOLIDER" Rated PG-13

It should come as no surprise that there is a divide between critics, a mostly dour bunch of cranks, and moviegoers on a film like "Ghost Soldier," an action thriller about a former Green Beret going full vigilante against a mega corporation threatening his community.

The story of a solitary man, Henry "Fitz" Fitzgerald (Jim Caviezel), single-handedly taking up arms against a foreign corporate entity terrorizing his rural Wyoming neighbors, is just too simplistic for high-minded critics, while regular people enjoy the action-packed drama.

Jim Caviezel gained initial fame for his starring role as Jesus Christ in Mel Gibson's 2004 film "The Passion of the Christ," which garnered a share of controversy at the time, leading to some professional challenges for the actor for a period.

Caviezel's more recent film "Sound of Freedom," in which his character of a former American government agent who embarks on a quest to rescue children from Colombian sex-traffickers, received highly positive audience support and mixed reaction from critics not surprisingly.

By now, you can sense a pattern for the actor's film choices, which plays out once more with "Ghost Soldier." Controversy, whether real or imagined, might rear its head, but the villains in this story are tailor-made to be objects of hatred for their vile tactics.

Fitz was once a Special Forces officer and now he serves as an advanced weapons developer working for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), an independent research and weapons development agency within the U.S. Department of War.

This explains why Fitz has an elaborate underground compound at his home in remote Valentine, Wyoming, where the water rights held by ranchers are of considerable value to the corporation wanting to supposedly build AI data centers.

Some of the landowners holding huge acreage of undeveloped land have sold out their properties, often under duress initiated by mercenary goon squads flexing their intimidating muscles.

The story works from a familiar narrative. Fitz is a highly trained soldier with lethal skills living off the grid. He operates with an immutable code of justice and stands ready to help his neighbors.

The corporate villain is Brownstone (evoking imagery of a BlackRock-like entity), which is funded by Middle Eastern interests, and their methods to acquire land require various methods of coercion.

An elderly couple are seen as the first victims of corporate terror, as they decide at their advanced age they don't have the stomach for a fight, and instead sign over the property without so much as a whimper.

Meanwhile, the Hernandez family does not take kindly to threats, at first veiled and then escalated to extreme danger, where the bad guys go so far as to torch their barn as well as the family home.

The Hernandez patriarch is the grandfather Javier (Carlos Gomez), whose son was killed in action. Living on the ranch are adolescent grandson Jack (Cameron Gayden) and his mother Sophia (Jaina Lee Ortiz).

While the stoic Fitz operates as a lone wolf, he does have two allies in town. One being his good friend Garry (Michael Ironside), a gun shop owner. The other is Deputy Sheriff Heidi (Olivia Thirlby), whose sense of obligation to the community gets her fired by the corrupt mayor.

A movie like this needs bad guys to root against, and Garret Dillahunt's Graves, the corporate security chief backed up by henchmen, bullies and strongarms his targets into submission.

When threats don't work, the corporation sends in the burly antagonist Mirko (Beau Knapp), a hulking mass of steroid-infused mayhem, who proves to be a tough match for the vigilante hero. Nevertheless, the Russian thug has a contingent of machine-gun wielding goons backing him up.

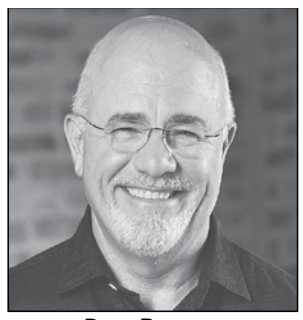
Outnumbered and outgunned, Fitz has the benefit of an arsenal of high-tech gadgets, including a cloaking shield, target-seeking bullets, and prototype weapons he has been developing in his bunker funded by the government.

With its timely premise, "Ghost Soldier" taps into the zeitgeist of concerns with the proliferation of data centers that displace rural landowners and ostensibly consume too much water and electricity for their operational needs.

The film has a tone of a vintage Western film. Sergio Leone's 1968 "Once Upon a Time in the West" comes to mind, where a railroad tycoon and his hired gun Frank (Henry Fonda) try to seize water-rich land from a widow.

There is something viscerally exciting about the lone ranger exacting retribution. Like an old-fashioned thriller, "Ghost Soldier," at its most basic, is simply one good guy taking out a platoon of truly despicable characters.

No argument will be made here that the film does not feel generic. But Caviezel's Fitz is a righteous hero, wading fiercely into battle with an assortment of bad guys, where the action becomes quite intense. The audience expects thrills and "Ghost Soldier" delivers. ★



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says

The Ultimate To-Do List

Dear Dave,

Do you have a list of the important, immediate things people should think about if they have to deal with being laid off from a job?

– Oscar

Dear Oscar,

It's great to know you're thinking ahead. Hopefully, you're not facing this problem at the moment, but if you are, here are just a few ideas that come to mind to help hold things together until you're back on your feet again.

First, take any severance pay — plus all the other money you have — and put it in an emergency fund. You never know how long money will be tight in a situation like this. I mean, even if you immediately find a part-time job to tide you over, you're still going to be facing a significant loss of income in the short term.

You know how much I love beating down debt, right? At this point, you need to stop paying extra on any debt you have. Pull the plug on retirement planning temporarily, too. You don't need to worry about this stuff when you're in the middle of a full-blown crisis. A detailed, bare-bones household budget is also a necessity. It's beans and rice time when something like this happens, so no eating out, buying new things or vacations for a while.

Many times, people don't want to experience the pain of a scaled-back lifestyle while they're also feeling the pain of a job loss. Some of them even turn to credit cards, and that's a really bad idea. It only makes a bad situation worse.

Be on the hunt for life insurance, as well, if you previously had it only through your employer. Everyone needs a good, inexpensive level-term life insurance policy outside of what's offered at the workplace. And when it comes to medical insurance, consider looking into a government health care plan, or health savings account (HSA), one with a high deductible and low premium.

Finally, you've got to be willing to take any honest work that comes your way. This means even part-time jobs like delivering pizza. There's no shame in honest work, and you might even be surprised by how much some people make doing this very thing.

Great question, Oscar!

– 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 Seeks Low-Interest Loan to Expand Wastewater Treatment Plant

Continued from page 1

capacity of the current facility.

The facility was designed to accommodate future expansions, with space planned for two new process trains and a total capacity covering up to 60,000 residents. But the expansion will be incremental, with just one new process train planned at this time.

Design and environmental review for the expansion is complete, and now the city is ready to secure the CWSRF low-interest loan, which offers excellent interest rates at 2% over the life of the 30-year loan.

Costs have risen significantly since the facility was initially constructed, and the current estimated project cost is $48 million to add one new process train with 1.4 MGD capacity.

The city will request $45 million for the loan, and with the 2% interest rate, the annual repayment cost will be $2 million – which will primarily be funded through developer impact fees collected by the city. Staff said the level of development in recent years should cover that annual repayment cost, but even if development stalls, the city has $20 million in the capital reserve fund that could be used to cover any funding gap.

Loan details and construction bids will come back to the council for approval, with actual construction expected to begin by late spring of 2027. The project will take about two years to complete.

The council voted unanimously to authorize the loan application.

The next meeting of the Dixon City Council is scheduled for Dec. 1. ★



California Nonprofits Receive $500,000 to Restore Habitats, Expand Education and Strengthen Food Systems

PG&E News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The PG&E Corporation Foundation (PG&E Foundation) is awarding five community-based organizations in Northern and Central California a total of $500,000 in grants for local initiatives dedicated to environmental stewardship. Sacramento Splash is among the grantees.

"For 27 years, Sacramento Splash has helped kids connect with the natural world through hands-on science and environmental education," Chief Executive Officer, Sacramento Splash Mackenzie Wieser said. "Thanks to PG&E's support, about 7,000 students will experience Project Agriculture, Water, Energy & Environment during the 2026–27 school year, learning where their food comes from and how everyday choices can help create a more sustainable future."

Since its launch in 2022, the Better Together Nature Positive Innovation Grant Program has invested $2.5 million in 25 organizations across Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) service area, advancing environmental stewardship and supporting community-led innovation.

The five organizations will each receive $100,000 through the Better Together Nature Positive Innovation Grant program for leading efforts to preserve California's unique biodiversity, focusing on land, air quality and water stewardship.

Funding for this initiative comes from PG&E shareholders, not customers.

"We extend our sincere gratitude to all the organizations, partners and community leaders who helped make this program a success," President, PG&E Corporation, and Chair of The PG&E Corporation Foundation Board Carla Peterman said. "What inspires us most is seeing local organizations turn their deep understanding of their communities into meaningful action, creating lasting impact where it matters most."

Receiving grants include Sacramento Splash located in Sacramento. Project Agriculture, Water, Energy & Environment gives students in grades 2-5 from underserved Sacramento County schools hands-on learning experiences at the Historic Nicolaus Dairy in Elk Grove, often providing their first opportunity to visit a working farm. Students explore agriculture and environmental stewardship by planting and harvesting crops, building compost, observing bees, and learning about water conservation. Grant funding will support educators, transportation for Title I schools, and educational materials, helping the program reach approximately 7,000 students from 231 classes during the 2026-27 school year.

Noyo Center: Kelp Forest Recovery in Fort Bragg. The Noyo Center helps Mendocino Coast kelp forests by removing and ranching overabundant urchin and conducting research on bull kelp recovery. The project also supports red abalone recovery and environmental education. These efforts help create healthier, more resilient coastal ecosystems.

Friends of Sausal Creek in Oakland. Friends of Sausal Creek will expand its paid youth stewardship program to provide year-round green job skills training for Oakland youth while helping restore the 2,600-acre Sausal Creek watershed. Participants will gain hands-on experience through habitat restoration, water quality improvements, and kayak-based estuary cleanups. In Jingletown, youth will also design and install a native planting plan and help create a community interpretive sign.

Point Blue Conservation Science in San Benito County. Point Blue Conservation Science's program gives K-12 students hands-on experience restoring natural habitats while learning about environmental stewardship. In San Benito County, students, community college interns, residents and land stewards will work with local partners to plant native vegetation and restore streamside habitat along an important wildlife corridor. The project will improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and climate resilience while providing students with education, job training and career development opportunities in conservation.

Lastly, Black Urban Farmers Association in Stockton. Black Urban Farmers Association (BUFA) has operated a pesticide-free urban farm in Stockton since 2015, providing fresh food and promoting regenerative farming. The project will help BUFA expand to a permanent one-acre site with more green space, education and sustainable agriculture opportunities. Grant funding will support site planning, environmental reviews, infrastructure and a community launch, strengthening long-term food security and environmental stewardship.

With the selection of the 2026 grantees, the application period has closed, and the Better Together Nature Positive Innovation Grant Program is no longer accepting applications. ★

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COMICS & PUZZLES

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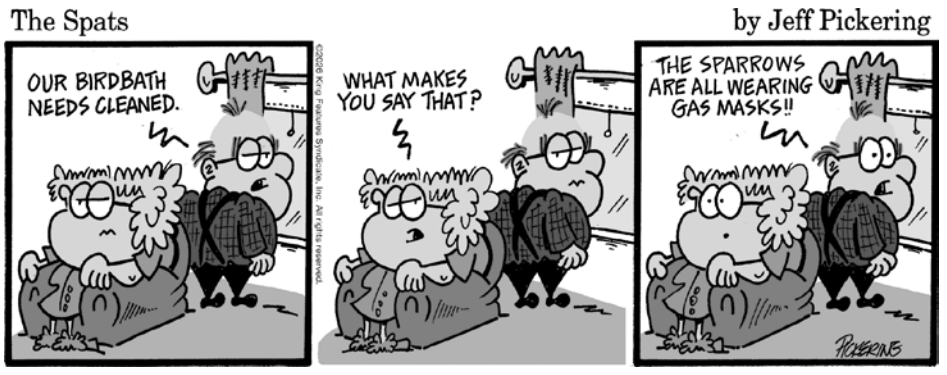

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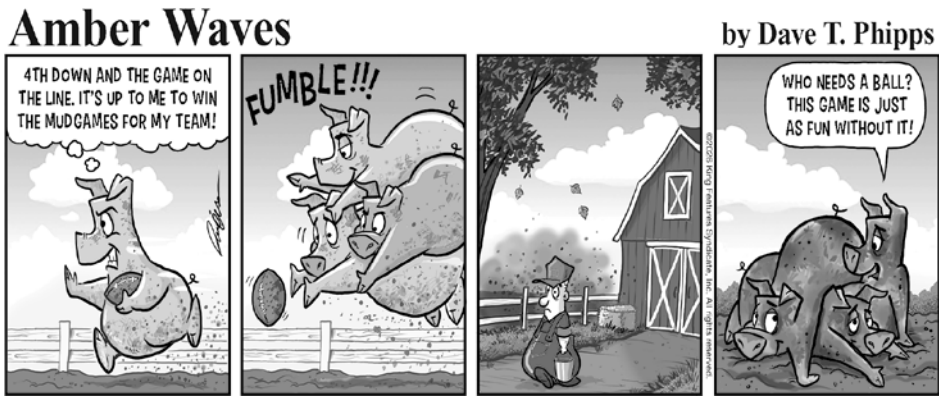

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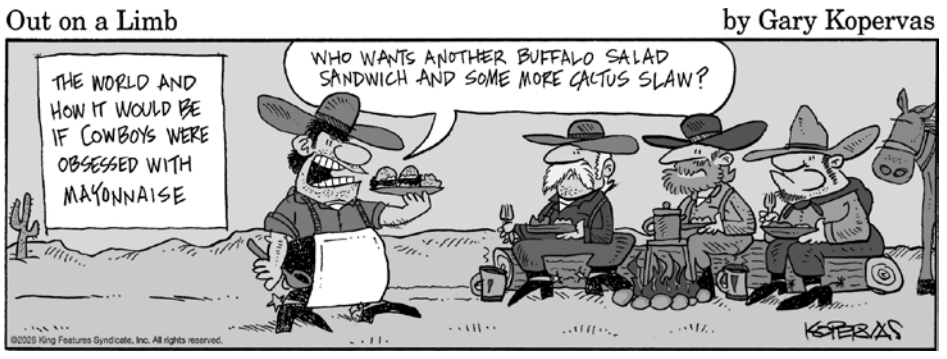

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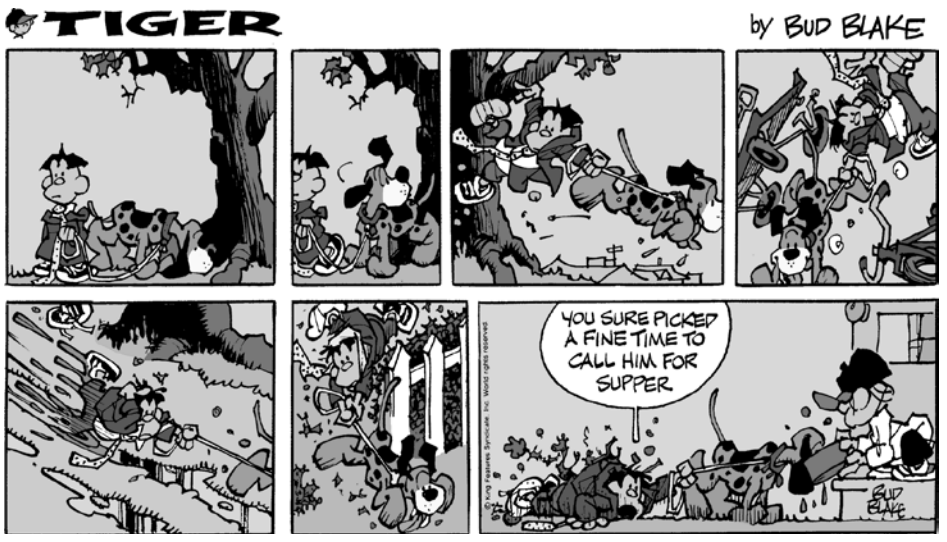

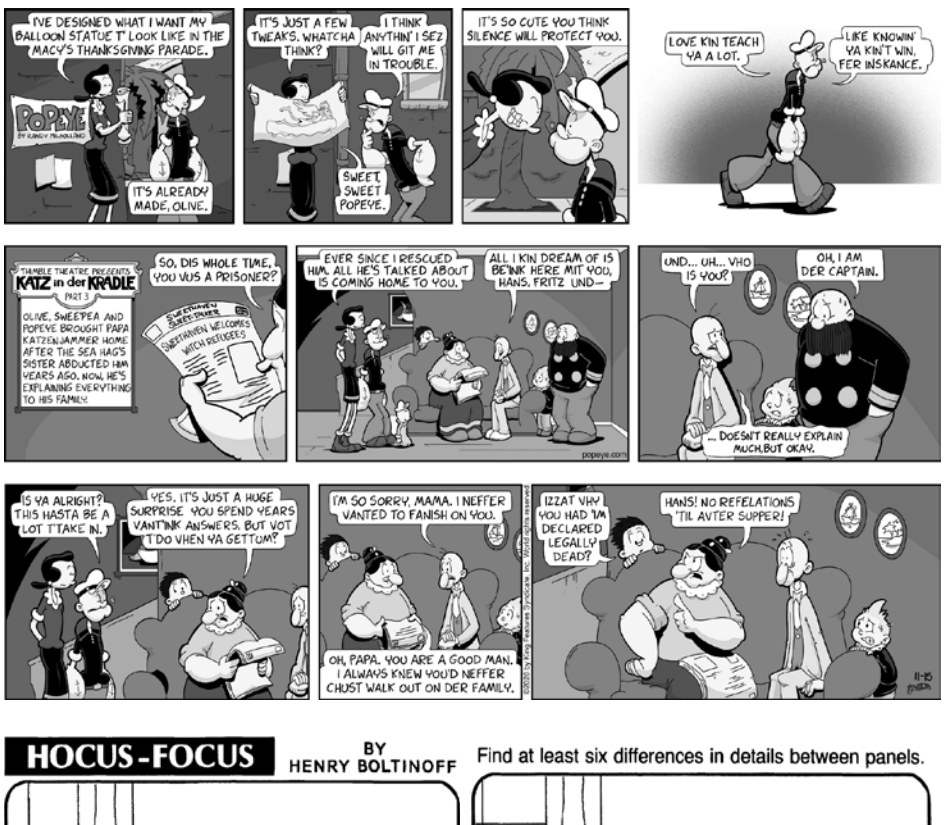

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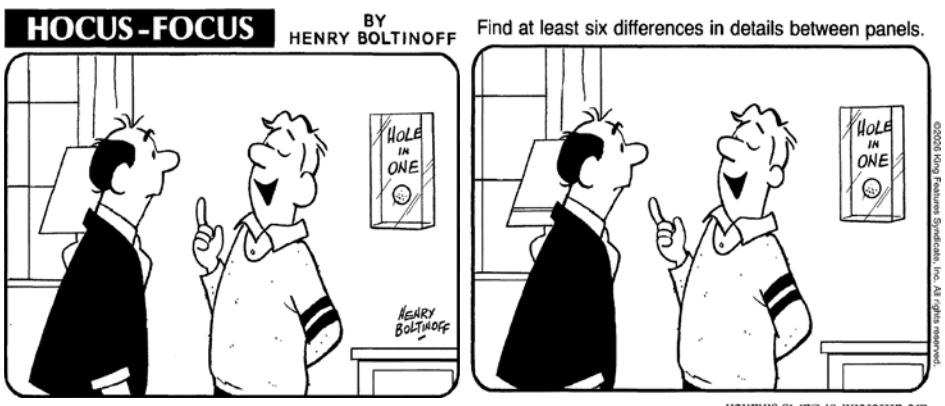

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Grin and Bear It



"OK, I need to pick one of you for my vice president."

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



A	B	A	C	A	■	A	M	P
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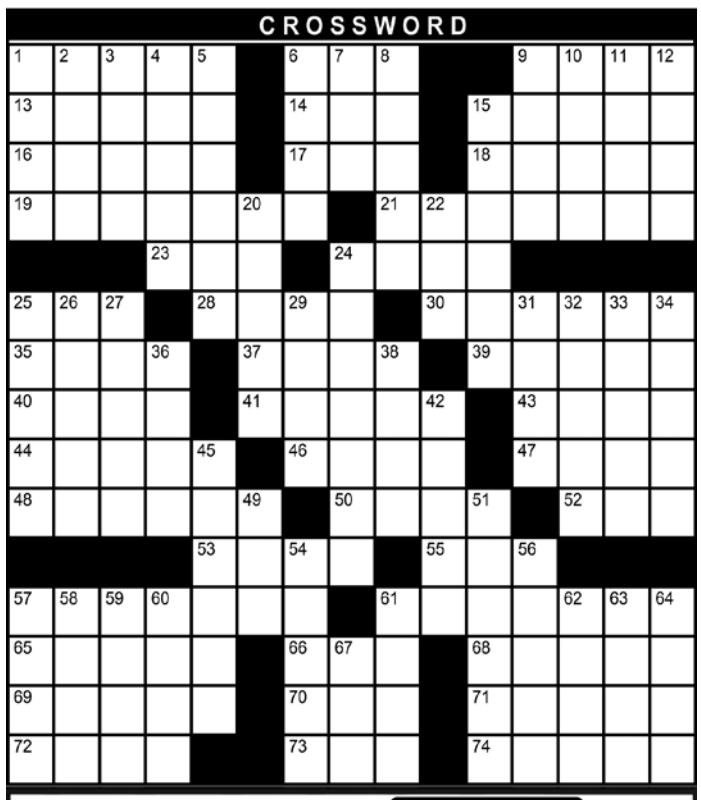

CLUES

ACROSS
1. a.k.a. Manila hemp
6. Unit of electric current
9. Army dining hall
13. Channing of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"
14. Spy org.
15. A in AV
16. Are not
17. ____-been
18. Beech tree pulp fabric
19. *I in CGI
21. *2004 Indian Ocean disaster
23. Am is to I a ____ is to we
24. Chutzpah
25. *Ann Patchett's "____ Canto"
28. Zohran Mamdani's branch of Islam
30. Like some breads
35. Sun beams
37. Cathedral recess
39. Fungal skin infection
40. *Shrek or Fiona
41. *Sasha Baron Cohen's role
43. *Mr. Incredible's son
44. What scribes do
46. Awful
47. Silage holder
48. Bee's favorite drink
50. ALCS counterpart
52. ____ Tsu
53. Hoodlum
55. Not hers
57. *Peter ____ of "The Lord of the Rings" fame
61. *Social network
65. Saudi neighbor
66. Not a sweet wine
68. Sign of cancer
69. Subway coin
70. Long time
71. Mideast V.I.P.
72. Place at angle
73. Genetic info carrier, acr.
74. Pulls apart

DOWN
1. Antioxidants-rich smoothie berry
2. Yeasty foam
3. ____ 51
4. "Come on, shake your body, baby, do the ____"
5. Modifies
6. Hurting
7. *Jukebox musical "Mamma ____!"
8. Fusilli, e.g.
9. Unstable particle
10. Tropical tuberous root
11. Thailand, once
12. Solo, pl.
15. Protective necklace
20. Substance abuse treatment inst.
22. *"Rocky Balboa" writer and director
24. Stove burner (2 words)
25. *"The Da Vinci Code" author
26. High wave
27. Chicago opera house
29. *Revolutionary music-playing device
31. Helps
32. Type of mail
33. *All-electric Roadster manufacturer
34. *Popular search engine, with !
36. Badger's den
38. *"My Name Is ____"
42. Related to technology
45. Dines at home
49. Greek R
51. *Train's "Hey, Soul ____"
54. Six feet where?
56. Sea foam
57. Scribbles down
58. In a frenzy
59. *"Short Skirt/Long Jacket" band
60. "I ____ it!"
61. Mimicking bird
62. End of prayer
63. College girl, old-fashioned
64. Mistakes
67. *Anchorman a.k.a. ____ Burgundy



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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

IT'S A WIN

By V.G. Harris

How much does an NBA win mean to a fan base? If you ask the Sacramento Kings fan base, the answer is a lot!

The last two games have seen the Sacramento Kings become the team that competes, and it is a pleasure to watch.

Going into Los Angeles and facing the mighty Lakers was not where anyone wanted to be, especially on an extended losing streak. What happened next was more than just surprising, it was completely unexpected.

Holding Luka Doncic to 25 points and 2-for-9 shooting from 3-point range is no small feat, but that is exactly what the high-energy Sacramento Kings did. Although the Kings ultimately lost the game, the intensity and competitiveness made it riveting to watch.

106 to 104 was the final score, but something was brewing, and it was about to be unleashed on the vaunted Boston Celtics.

On their home floor the Sacramento Kings hosted the Boston Celtics the following night, and everyone in Boston had apparently already put this game in the win column, because the Celtics decided to rest their best player in Jason Tatum.

Ultimately, that decision would prove big for the Sacramento Kings, as they battled the Celtics from the opening jump to the final buzzer, in a game that neither team will soon forget.

For the Sacramento Kings fans, they are watching the maturation process of rookie Darius Acuff Jr., as he played team basketball from start to finish and gave the Kings 21 points and eight big assists to defeat the heavily favored Celtics by the score of 97-96.

For Sacramento fans to see fifth year man Keegan Murray contribute 15 points and 12 rebounds was a thrill to watch, but his ferocious defense in the final possession was what ultimately won the game. Yes, I said it was defense that won this game, as the Kings held the Celtics to only 96 points and made them wonder what they were thinking of when they gave all-star Jason Tatum the night off.

The Sacramento Kings could easily be celebrating a two-game winning streak, and many fans are scratching their heads and asking, what changed?

I am finally beginning to see a rationale as to the substitution patterns for the Kings, and that in large part is contributing to more fluid offense that fans have witnessed over the past two games.

Recognizing who can get the job done and then letting the best players play together is a critical start in trying to turn around the most abysmal start in Sacramento Kings history.

Monday night at Golden One Center will undoubtedly see a larger crowd, and many fans will want to see the return of DeArron Fox, and the offensive juggernaut Victor Wembanyama.

If David can defeat Goliath, the Sacramento Kings can face the Spurs with a game plan. Underestimate this team and pay the price!

Progress Kings fans, progress. Rome wasn't built in a day, and it will take a little time to see the Sacramento Kings espousal as they become the competitive team they want to be night in and night out.

Once again, big man Domantas Sabonis made his presence felt contributing 15 points and a huge 17 rebounds in the win over the Celtics and it was just what the doctor ordered.

Although Zach Lavine scored only 13 points, he was 2-3 from the 3-point line and has shown flashes that his shooting stroke is once again a valued commodity.

Likewise, Keegan Murray fans are raising eyebrows and asking if this valued forward is turning his game around. Although still not the 3-point sharpshooter Kings fans got to know in his rookie season, Keegan is beginning to do two very important things and it's making a difference.

Number one is attacking the basket, and good things happen when Murray drives to the hole. He is an accomplished finisher, and it opens the floor for potential 3's when he's more active.

Number two and even more important has been his combination of stringent defense and aggressive rebounding. Helping Sabonis on the boards leads to all good things, and if Keegan's recent successes are a glimpse into the future, more wins are coming.

It's heating up Kings fans. Still early and auspicious things are beginning to happen!

All the best! ★

With California's Insurance Crisis at an Impasse, It Might Be Time for a Different Approach



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Nobody really likes writing those premium checks to insurance companies that always seem to be increasing — until they need their insurance to cover losses from auto crashes, fires or other calamities.

The conflict between those two priorities has been particularly acute in California in recent years as a series of horrendous wildfires swept through the state, taking lives, destroying billions of dollars in property and disrupting lives — even of those who escape direct losses.

Californians spend more than $100 billion a year on what the industry calls "property and casualty" policies, according to the state Department of Insurance.

Bills for fire and homeowners coverage topped $19 billion in 2025, but thanks largely to the destructive fires that hit Los Angeles and its suburbs 22 months ago, insurers incurred more than $31 billion in losses on those policies — more than four times the losses in 2024.

As payouts mounted over several years of wildfires, insurers began either pulling out of the California market or imposing tighter restrictions and higher premiums, forcing millions of property owners to scramble for coverage mortgage lenders require.

The state's last ditch "FAIR plan" was deluged with applications for coverage that was both costly and minimal, putting its finances in jeopardy.

It was — and is — a genuine crisis, needing a solution that provides consumers with adequate coverage at affordable prices and makes insurance profitable enough to keep insurers in the market.

After the Legislature failed to come up with a solution, Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara weighed in three years ago with a plan he said could advance both priorities, allowing insurers to base rates on estimates of future losses, rather than past experience, while requiring them to meet coverage quotas.

Lara has taken heat from consumer groups, such as Consumer Watchdog, accusing him of caving in to insurers.

Oddly, however, the industry and consumer groups forged a strange bedfellows alliance this year to oppose a scheme Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed, limiting the liability of electric utilities such as Pacific Gas & Electric when their transmission lines fail and spark fires.

Without such limits, utilities argued, their financial stability would be undermined, making it difficult for them to borrow money and attract investors. The plan would, in effect, shift more of fire losses to insurers or property owners.

However, adding utilities' liability to an already dicey insurance coverage crisis was too much to swallow, and as the legislative session ended that plan remained on the table.

Lara could not run for another term, and the election of his successor this month adds still another factor to a situation already fraught with political complexity.

Two Democrats, former San Francisco Supervisor Jane Kim and state Sen. Ben Allen, finished in the top two in the June primary, putting both on the Nov. 3 ballot. Their duel took on an ideological aura. On the left, Kim proposed that the state set up its own fire insurance system, while Allen, a moderate, said Kim's proposal would cost too much and the state should build on Lara's plan.

Kim won decisively, one of many political races that progressives claimed this year. Her victory sets the stage for another legislative struggle.

Kim's notion of having the state directly provide at least some coverage is not particularly novel. The state already has an insurance program for workers' compensation, and it offers earthquake insurance.

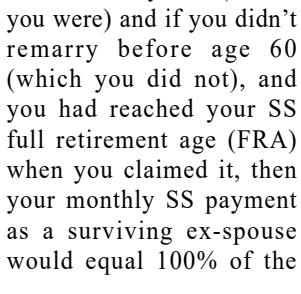
Nor is it fatally unworkable, as Allen and the industry contended. Having base coverage provided by the state through taxes or mandatory fees tied to property value — and backed by reinsurance — could, if designed adroitly, protect insurers, utilities and consumers from the economic jolts of catastrophic wildfires.

At the very least, it warrants an independent and authoritative examination.

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

Have My Social Security Survivor Benefits Increased Since I Claimed Them?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My ex-husband died in 2013. We were married for 24 years and I have never remarried. I am now over 70 years old. I don't remember when I started collecting my Social Security. When he died, I applied and received 50% survivor benefits. Have there been any changes in the survivor benefits that would increase my Social Security payments? I know I may need to contact Social Security for further help, but I would like to know if there have been changes and what to ask. Thank you. ***Signed: Widowed Ex-Spouse***

Dear Widowed Ex: FYI, the rules about ex-spouse survivor benefits haven't changed - how much you get as a surviving ex-spouse depends upon your age at the time you claimed your ex-spouse survivor benefit. If you were married for at least 10 years (which you were) and if you didn't remarry before age 60 (which you did not), and you had reached your SS full retirement age (FRA) when you claimed it, then your monthly SS payment as a surviving ex-spouse would equal 100% of the amount your ex-husband was receiving when he died. However, if you applied for your surviving ex-spouse benefit before you reached your Social Security full retirement age – somewhere between age 66 and 67 depending on the year you were born – it would have been reduced. So, depending on your age when you claimed the ex-spouse benefit, the survivor benefit amount you are entitled to could be less than 100% of the amount your ex-husband was receiving when he died.

The SS rules for surviving ex-spouse benefits have not changed since your ex-husband died in 2013, but it's also important to understand how your ex-spouse survivor benefit is paid. If you have your own SS retirement benefit and claimed that benefit first, and you were awarded more as your ex-husband's surviving spouse when he died, you would continue to receive your own SS retirement amount, supplemented by an additional amount to make your payment equal to the amount you're entitled to as a surviving ex-spouse. You get only one SS payment, but it is comprised of two elements – your own SS retirement benefit and a supplement to make your payment equal your benefit entitlement as a surviving ex-spouse.

If you are uncertain about any of this and wish to confirm that you are receiving the correct amount as your deceased ex-husband's surviving spouse, then I encourage you to contact Social Security to make an appointment to review your current survivor benefit amount. You can make that appointment at your local SS field office (go to www.ssa.gov/locator), or you can call the national SS number 1.800.772.1213 to make an appointment. Social Security will almost certainly conduct this appointment over the phone, so you will likely not need to make a personal visit to your local SS office to confirm your monthly SS benefit amount. You simply need to tell them that you and your ex were married 24 years and that you didn't remarry. Also tell them when he died and when you previously claimed your surviving ex-spouse benefit. Social Security will then do the necessary research to confirm your current benefit amount (it will facilitate the discussion if you have your ex-husband's Social Security Number available).

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



Thank you, Specialist Thomas Iglesias

The Secretary of Defense visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veterans Day, and yet the true voice of military authority on this occasion was an Army specialist.

When the group with Pete Hegseth laughed and began to chatter after taking a photo, the voice of Specialist Thomas Iglesias rang out, "All visitors will maintain an atmosphere of silence and respect at all times!"

It was a stunning moment. We aren't used to high-level officials getting so publicly and starkly upbraided by their underlings, but Iglesias, as part of the Old Guard, or 3rd Infantry Regiment, is a different breed.

The Old Guard stands vigil over the Tomb of the Unknown, 24 hours a day, rain or shine, in heat and cold, and protects it from any indignities, whether from thoughtless tourists or the briefly voluble entourage of the secretary of defense.

There was much tsk-tsking about the episode in the media, which relishes any opportunity to make Hegseth look bad. The secretary, though, cleverly and appropriately embraced the moment. He invited Iglesias and his colleagues to the Pentagon the next day and pinned a Joint Service Commendation Medal on him.

It's been a rocky tenure for Hegseth at the department, but there's no doubting his bond with the troops and his positive influence on recruiting. His handling of this matter showed why. "We love soldiers. We love standards. Well done, Specialist," Hegseth wrote in a social-media post.

Beyond the media commentary and jostling over Hegseth -- who narrowly escaped impeachment the day before -- the episode tells us something about America's egalitarian spirit, and about the sacred status of the Tomb of the Unknown and the amazing fidelity of the Old Guard.

Despite all the talk of inequality in America, we are still a culture that appreciates challenges to status and hierarchy -- think Hank Morgan in "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," disdaining all aristocratic trappings.

An analogue to the Hegseth episode is the famous story of Abraham Lincoln going to witness a battle outside of Washington, D.C., at Fort Stevens in 1864. He supposedly exposed himself to enemy fire and a soldier yelled, "Get down, you damn fool!" The president indeed took cover.

Of course, Specialist Thomas Iglesias wasn't seeking to defy authority, but rather to uphold his duty to see that the Tomb is afforded respect at all times. Established after World War I and containing the remains of war dead from World War I, World War II and the Korean War, the Tomb symbolizes the bond of the nation to its citizen-warriors who have made the ultimate sacrifice. "HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD," reads the inscription.

The Tomb has been continuously guarded since 1937, and since 1948 by the Old Guard. Its standard for carrying out its mission is nothing less than perfection. Every movement is precise and fraught with meaning. For instance, the sentinel's 21 steps walking in front of the tomb and then the 21-second pause before turning and walking back again is a reference to the high honor of the 21-gun salute. The inspection of the rifle during the changing of the guard is a strange and wondrous thing to behold, as elaborate and punctilious as a well-choreographed ballet.

It all betokens the nation's profound gratitude to its fallen, known and unknown, of whatever rank and from whichever walk of life. In his book about the Old Guard, Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton, who served with the Guard, includes an anecdote about a foreign military dignitary visiting Arlington Cemetery and commenting, "Now I know why your soldiers fight so hard. You take better care of your dead than we do our living."

Specialist Thomas Iglesias had so imbibed this ethic that he didn't hesitate to shout his admonition to a group of high-falutin visitors, a sterling example of duty and honor worthy of the 3rd Infantry Regiment he serves.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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California Farm Bureau Announces Recipients of Its Highest Service Awards

California Farm Bureau News Release

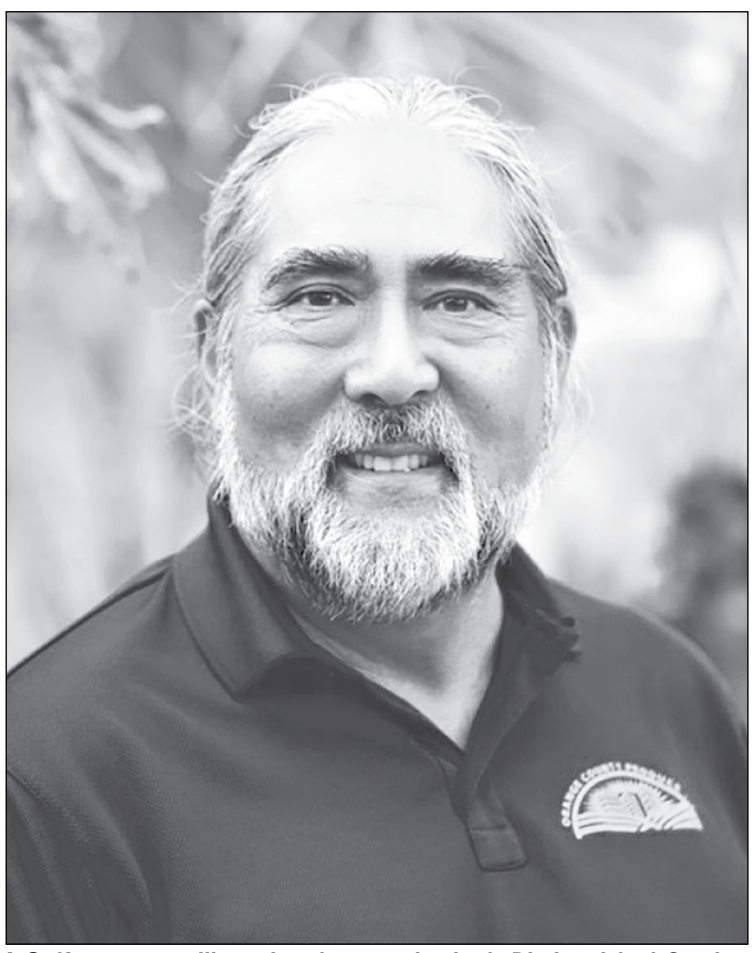
CALIFORNIA (MPG) - The California Farm Bureau will recognize two distinguished leaders whose careers have shaped California agriculture for decades.

A.G. Kawamura will receive the organization's Distinguished Service Award, and Karen Mills will receive the Helen Roberti Lifetime Service Award. Both honors will be presented on Dec. 6 during the California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada.

For more than six decades, the Distinguished Service Award has honored individuals whose dedication, leadership and advocacy have strengthened California agriculture and Farm Bureau.

A third-generation fruit and vegetable grower from Orange County, Kawamura has spent more than four decades advancing agriculture at the local, state and national levels. He served as California secretary of food and agriculture from 2003 to 2010 and remains a leading voice on food security, agricultural innovation, climate resilience and land stewardship. Throughout his career, he has championed practical solutions that support farmers as agriculture respond to a growing population and a changing environment.

Before his state service, Kawamura was president of the Orange County Farm Bureau and chair of Western Growers. He continues to farm with Orange County Produce and serves agricultural, educational and nonprofit organizations working to strengthen the future of food production.



A.G. Kawamura will receive the organization's Distinguished Service Award. Photo courtesy of California Farm Bureau

Established in 2013, the Helen Roberti Lifetime Service Award honors the legacy of longtime Plumas-Sierra County Farm Bureau manager Helen Roberti. It recognizes current and retired Farm Bureau employees whose dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact on the organization and California agriculture.

Karen Norene Mills served Farm Bureau members for more than three decades, drawing on her legal and policy expertise. After joining the organization in 1988, she became one of California agriculture's most respected advocates on energy, utility and regulatory issues. She represented farmers and ranchers before state agencies, the Legislature and regulatory bodies, helping secure policies that improved the affordability, reliability and availability of essential services for agricultural operations statewide.



Karen Mills will receive the Helen Roberti Lifetime Service Award. Photo courtesy of California Farm Bureau

As Vice President of Legal Advocacy and Corporate Secretary, Mills mentored staff, guided Farm Bureau's legal advocacy and helped develop policy solutions to some of the most complex issues facing farmers and ranchers. Colleagues across the state have long recognized her steady leadership, institutional knowledge and unwavering commitment to agriculture.

"A.G. and Karen have dedicated their careers to serving agriculture and the people who make it possible," Shannon Douglass, president of the California Farm Bureau said. "Their leadership, integrity and commitment have strengthened Farm Bureau and helped farmers and ranchers navigate challenges for decades. We are grateful for all they have done and proud to recognize them with these well-deserved honors."

"I've been fortunate to spend my life working alongside people who care deeply about agriculture and the communities it supports," Kawamura said. "This recognition is especially meaningful because it comes from Farm Bureau, an organization that has long been a strong voice for farmers and ranchers. I am honored and grateful to be included among those who have received this award."

"Serving California Farm Bureau members has been one of the great privileges of my career," Mills said. "For nearly four decades, I had the opportunity to work alongside dedicated farmers, ranchers and colleagues who care deeply about the future of agriculture. I am honored by this recognition and grateful for the many people who made that work so rewarding."

The awards will be presented at the California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Reno, where farmer and rancher delegates from across the state will discuss policy issues and set organizational priorities for the coming year.

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

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001908
The following persons are doing business as: Nimax Lenders, 4380 Sonoma Boulevard Suite #156, Vallejo, CA 94589.
Nimax Gold and Jewelry LLC, 729 Placer Circle, Vacaville, CA 95687.
Date filed in Solano County: November 4, 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 November 3, 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 20, 27, Dec 4, 11, 2026
NIMAX 12-11-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001980
The following persons are doing business as: AM Landscaping Services, 14663 County Road 100B, Woodland, CA 95776.
Harjindra Kaur Singh, 14663 County Road 100B, Woodland, CA 95776.
Date filed in Solano County: November 18, 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 November 17, 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 27, Dec 4, 11, 18, 2026
AM 12-18-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001784
The following persons are doing business as: Paladin Photography, 524 Sitka Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687.
Daniel Sterling, 524 Sitka Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687.
Date filed in Solano County: October 15, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration 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: Nov 27, Dec 4, 11, 18, 2026
PALADIN 12-18-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001984
The following persons are doing business as: N'Joy Travel, 1500 Palmer Court, Dixon, CA 95620.
Sherry Delynn King, 1500 Palmer Court, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: November 19, 2026. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration November 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: Nov 27, Dec 4, 11, 18, 2026
NJOY 12-18-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026001973
The following persons are doing business as: Legado Commerce, 555 Wisteria Lane, Dixon, CA 95620.
Jorge Antonia Jimenez, 555 Wisteria Lane, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: November 16, 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 November 15, 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 27, Dec 4, 11, 18, 2026
LEGADO 12-18-26

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

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ERNEST LEE CLAY
CASE NO. PR26-00684
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: ERNEST LEE CLAY
A Petition for Probate has been filed by ERIC DARNELL CLAY in the Superior Court of California, County of SOLANO.
The Petition for Probate requests that ERIC DARNELL CLAY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or 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 on 12/17/2026 at 9:30 A.M. in Dept. 22 Room N/A located at OLD SOLANO COURTHOUSE 580 TEXAS STREET, FAIRFIELD, CA 94533.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, 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 a person 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.
Petitioner: ERIC CLAY, PO BOX 254, VACAVILLE, CA 95687, Telephone: 707-334-0998
11/27, 12/4, 12/11/26
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INDEPENDENT VOICE 12-11-26

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Strong Member Demand Leads to Sellout of Republic Stadium's First Two Clubs

Sacramento Republic FC News Release



Quail Club members will have direct access to a climate-controlled space with select refreshments and food included, as well as a private bar for speedy service. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Well in advance of the club's 2028 stadium opening, Republic FC announced that the first two club seating products introducing a new standard of comfort and premium hospitality for matchdays have sold out in just over three weeks.

After the club opened Republic Preview Center to guests in mid-October, Season Ticket Members were provided with an exclusive presale window as a thank you for their unrivaled support since the 2014 inaugural season. Since opening, the club has hosted over 600 appointments, and fans selected all the available inventory for the team's two new top tier premium experiences. As a result of the incredible demand from fans, Republic FC is accelerating its stadium offerings and introducing its next seating product – the Quail Club. Seat-selection appointments began by appointment only, Nov. 17.

"Our Season Ticket Members built this club, and selling out our two top-tier club offerings in three weeks shows how excited fans are for the amenities and experience that is coming in our new home," said Tim Holt, president and general manager, Sacramento Republic FC. "We're excited to welcome more people to Republic Preview Center to showcase the thoughtfully appointed Quail Club and the special experiences that we'll have for fans in 2028."

A world-class fan experience is a guiding principle in the development of Republic FC's new home. For the first time in the club's history, the team will be able to provide a modern, elevated matchday experience with amenities that will rival the best soccer-specific venues in the country.

Republic FC's new stadium ticketing, premium and partnership sales are being led by Elevate, the award-winning global sports and entertainment agency. Elevate also partnered with Republic FC to develop and design Republic Preview Center, where fans and customers can get a first look at the stadium design features and experiences awaiting fans in 2028.

"This is what it looks like when a club and its partner work as one team," said Dustin Vicari, chief revenue officer, Sacramento Republic FC, and EVP, Property Sales, Elevate. "The Republic Preview Center has given fans a chance to envision the type of matchday experience they desire by providing an incredibly personalized seat selection opportunity. Tunnel Club sold out in only 13 days, and based on that pace, we fully expect Quail Club to move quickly as well, therefore anyone who wants a premium seat should place a deposit now."

Season Ticket Members who did not purchase in Tunnel Club or The Fourteen keep their priority for Quail Club Seats and will receive details directly from their Republic FC representative. Premium Seating depositors will receive an email to begin booking their seat-selection appointments as well.

Fans can become a depositor and secure their place in line for an appointment by placing a $50 Premium Seating deposit at RepublicStadium.com. Based on demand for the first two clubs, Quail Club Seats are expected to sell out.

Embedded in the East Stand, Quail Club brings fans closer to the pitch than ever before. Twenty-two-inch-wide mesh seats with high back rests provide additional fan comfort. Quail Club members will have direct access to a climate-controlled space with select refreshments and food included, as well as a private bar for speedy service. With only 300 seats, Quail Club seats are expected to go quickly.

Tucked into the stadium's West Tower, Republic FC's first club offerings – The Tunnel Club and The Fourteen – are examples of the club's commitment to creating a world-class fan experience. The first-floor Tunnel Club puts guests at the heart of the action, located behind the team benches with a view to the team lineup before players step on the field. The Fourteen is designed as a club within a club located on the second floor of the West Tower located on the field's midline. Its name is homage to the inaugural season of the club when Republic FC smashed records, made Sacramento a soccer city, and earned our first championship hardware – proudly on display in the club. Award winning designer Edith Ponciano of EP Atelier worked with the club to develop the spaces with Sacramento Elegance as the central theme. EP Atelier has curated premium experiences at Chase Center, LAFC's BMO Stadium, Austin FC's Q2 Stadium, San Diego FC's Snapdragon Stadium, and most recently the Tennessee Titans' Nissan Stadium ahead of Super Bowl LXI.

Republic Stadium construction continues to make significant progress toward a 2028 opening. Foundations for the stadium super column structures that support the massive 4,300-ton canopy and trussing grid are actively pouring and curing. Some of the vertical elements of the stadium are set to begin later this month with structural retaining walls. Stadium infrastructure continues with construction of the streets surrounding the stadium site east of 7th Street. Over 100 jobs have been created since groundbreaking, with an expected $750 million in economic impact connected to construction.

For more information, visit RepublicStadium.com. ★

Akridge Makes History as the Hornets' First-Ever Big West Women's Basketball Player of the Week

Sacramento State Athletics News Release



Junior guard Koko Akridge became the first-ever Sacramento State women's basketball player to be named The Big West Player of the Week on Nov. 16. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Junior guard Koko Akridge became the first-ever Sacramento State women's basketball player to be named The Big West Player of the Week on Nov. 16 after helping the Hornets to a pair of victories to improve to 4-1 overall on the year.

Entering the week as the leading scorer in The Big West, Akridge spearheaded the offense for the green and gold, averaging 20.7 points, 2.7 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 2.3 steals per game against Cal State East Bay, University at Buffalo, and Niagara, while shooting a robust 56 percent (20-for-36) from the field overall and 50 percent (9-for-18) from beyond the arc.

After opening with an 18-point showing on 7-of-10 shooting in the win over the Pioneers to tip-off the home portion of the schedule, the San Diego, Calif., native netted her second and third 20-point performances of the year during the team's first-ever trip to New York, finishing with 21 points against the Bulls and matching her collegiate high with 23 points against the Purple Eagles.

She added three rebounds, a team-high six assists, and a pair of steals against Buffalo, while playing only 28 minutes in a rout of Niagara, adding two rebounds, two assists and two steals as part of a 57-point victory.

All told, Akridge has scored in double figures in each of the team's first five games, while her 99 points in that stretch are the most by a Hornet in the first five games of a season since Lianna Tillman collected 113 in her first five games in 2021-22 en route to Big Sky Conference Player of the Year laurels.

Aside from her conference-leading scoring average, Akridge also leads the league in total points, field goals made, and free throws made, while standing second in three-pointers made and three-pointers per game, sixth in both free throw and three-point percentage, and ninth in field goal percentage.

Her two 23-point performances against Nevada and Niagara are tied for the third-most in a single game in The Big West this year, while her five makes from beyond the arc in both of those contests are tied for the second highest total in a game this year as of press time. ★

Brent Martin Named Preseason All-American



Cosumnes River College sophomore Brent Martin has been named a 2027 California Community College Baseball Coaches Association (CCCBCA) Preseason All-American. Photo courtesy of Consumnes River College

Consumnes River College News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Cosumnes River College sophomore Brent Martin has been named a 2027 California Community College Baseball Coaches Association (CCCBCA) Preseason All-American, earning recognition among the top returning players in California community college baseball.

Martin enters his sophomore season following an outstanding freshman campaign in which he established himself as one of the Hawks' most productive two-way players and earned First-Team All-Conference honors.

The standout infielder/pitcher was a key offensive contributor for Cosumnes River throughout the 2026 season, leading the team with seven home runs while hitting .370 with 57 hits, 35 RBIs, 41 runs scored and 18 extra-base hits in 41 games. Martin also posted a .418 on-base percentage and .584 slugging percentage, finishing with an impressive 1.002 OPS.

His 57 hits ranked among the team's top offensive totals, while his seven home runs made him one of the Hawks' leading power hitters. Martin's combination of contact, power and run production made him a consistent presence in the Cosumnes River lineup.

"Brent, being named a Preseason All-American is a tremendous honor and a special accolade," said Don Mico, Cosumnes River head baseball coach. "He is a very good player but also a great human being."

Martin's contributions extended beyond the batter's box. He also appeared in 15 games on the mound as a freshman, recording 40 strikeouts in 34.1 innings while earning three saves. His ability to contribute in multiple roles made him one of the most versatile players on the Hawks' roster.

"Brent has earned the respect of his teammates and coaches through his work ethic, leadership, and competitiveness," said Scott Haynes, Cosumnes River associate head coach. "Being named a preseason All-American is well deserved."

Martin's freshman season also included a strong finish to the year. He helped the Hawks close the regular season with a three-game sweep of Diablo Valley from April 22-24, collecting wins in each of his final two appearances of the regular season before continuing to contribute on both sides of the ball during the postseason push.

Now entering his sophomore season, Martin returns as one of the Hawks' most experienced offensive weapons and a proven two-way contributor. His combination of power at the plate, defensive versatility and ability to impact the pitching staff gives Cosumnes River a dynamic piece as the Hawks prepare for the 2027 campaign.

The preseason honor adds to a growing list of accolades for Martin, who was already recognized as a First-Team All-Conference selection following his freshman season.

With Martin returning to the Hawks' lineup and continuing his role as a two-way player, Cosumnes River enter the 2027 season with one of the region's premier returning talents looking to build on a breakout freshman campaign. ★