



## College football must create playoff that looks like NFL

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# Record Searchlight

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Jim Dad, who co-owns Nello's Place in Redding with his wife Rosa, stands in front of the Italian restaurant's back bar on Feb. 5. MIKE CHAPMAN/SPECIAL TO THE RECORD SEARCHLIGHT

## Restaurant puts its heart into Valentine's Day dining

Mike Chapman  
Special to the Record Searchlight

Romance is in the air at Nello's Place in Redding.

Redding's renowned Italian dining spot is gearing up for another busy Valentine's Day this Saturday, Feb. 14.

Jim Dad, who owns Nello's with his wife, Rosa, had to stop taking reservations for the special night when the booking list swelled to 300.

Reservations filled fast, within about three weeks. "That's probably the quickest we've ever sold," Dad said.

"You open those doors up and (customers) just start coming in here," the long-time restaurateur said; "We'll have a 35-table rotation to do 300 people."

Couples who couldn't snag a Saturday slot were being squeezed in for Friday, which also was selling out.

Nello's popularity on Cupid's day shouldn't be a surprise considering it once again was voted the top romantic restaurant in the latest Best of North State Community's Choice Awards. The Bechelli Lane location also took three other best-of honors for premier dining experience, fine dining and best Italian food in 2025.

"I always tell them, thank you very much," Dad said.

### Setting the mood at Nello's Place

Don't be surprised if there's already a line of customers when the doors open at 5 p.m., especially on the weekends. The parking lot fills up fast.

Dad recommends reservations all year long, especially for diners traveling from out of town and on high-demand occasions.

"So it goes New Year's Eve, then Valentine's and then Mother's Day (in order of popularity)," Dad said. "Believe it or



The dining room at Nello's Place in Redding. The restaurant plans to serve up romantic dining and ambiance for Valentine's Day on Feb. 14.

KELVIN MATTHEWS/SPECIAL TO THE RECORD SEARCHLIGHT

not, our busiest month is always in December for Christmas parties."

With a reputation for haute cuisine, dinnertime patrons also turn to Nello's to celebrate anniversaries and birthdays or to just have a special night out.

Nello's is the kind of classy place where the waiters wear bow ties, black vests and white shirts as they prepare dishes such as Steak Diane and bananas flambe with a fiery flourish.

Dimly-lit dining rooms, tableside candles, cloth napkins and linen tablecloths are part of the elegant experience.

Background music creates an intimate atmosphere with Frank Sinatra singing "New York, New York" or perhaps Dean Martin crooning "That's Amore." "We still play the old music, believe it or not," Dad said.

Servers elevate the experience with a

floral touch. "We give roses to the ladies at the end of the dinner," Dad said.

### A Redding restaurant legacy

Nello's got its start in 1982 after founder Nello Miele and his wife, Tomiko, moved to Redding to supposedly retire. By that time in his life, Miele had a storied history of running famous restaurants.

In an online bio, Miele said he first got involved in the food industry in New York and Palm Beach, Florida, before opening his first restaurant in 1963 called Talk of the Town, where he "catered to the stars."

"(Nello) used to tell me people like Danny Thomas, Frank Sinatra and

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## MEASLES IN SHASTA COUNTY Cases rise; patients identified

Jessica Skropanic  
Redding Record Searchlight  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Another two people in Shasta County tested positive for measles, bringing the total number of cases in 2026 to eight countywide, health officials said Tuesday morning.

The seven new patients, identified in February, had close contact with the first Redding area patient with measles, Shasta County Health and Human Services said.

"These patients ... agreed early on to stay home and isolate before they became contagious," Shasta County Public Health Director Katie Cassidy said in the announcement, and "these new patients did not have contact with the public."

All of the eight people with confirmed cases of measles in Shasta County in 2026 "were either unvaccinated or had an unknown history of vaccination," said

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## Officials respond to outbreak

Drew Askeland  
Redding Record Searchlight  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Amid discussions of the seven additional measles cases recently identified in Shasta County, Supervisor Kevin Crye encouraged the public to "make their own medical decisions" in response to public comments regarding vaccination.

At the Feb. 10 Board of Supervisors meeting, what began as a broad presentation by Shasta County Public Health Officer Dr. James Mugiving a summary of his activities in 2025 and priorities in 2026, became a discussion of the recent Shasta County measles outbreak and the county's role in advocating for vaccination after three members of the community spoke out at the meeting.

The speakers criticized Mu for not coming before the board to encourage the public to get vaccinated in the wake of the

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Good morning!  
Philip Young

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