"Wickedictionary" by Derek Abbott (CreateSpace, \$14, 200 pages): This clever trick picks up where Ambrose Bierce's satirical "The Devil's Dictionary" left off in 1911. Like this: "Economist: An expert who will know tomorrow why the things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today." And: "Mission statement: A corporate creed passed on to employees so they can remember why they're skipping lunch."

The Bee's Allen Pierleoni can be reached at (916) 321-1128 or apierleoni@sacbee.com. Contact him with news of coming literary events that are open to the public.