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Gold River Messenger

VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 2 *Serving Gold River and Sacramento County* FEBRUARY 2025

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Teens Create Messages of Love



Aislynn Hartman, left, and Sophia Alonso prepared more than 300 Valentine's Day kits for area schools. Photo courtesy of Norcal Gift From the Heart

MPG Staff

GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG) - Two high school students have found a way to give back to young patients and their families at Shriners Hospital in Sacramento this Valentine's Day.

Norcal Gift From the Heart Foundation's second annual Valentine's Day Drive is underway and preparing to shower patients and their families with handmade Valentines and hundreds of toys and teen items on Feb. 14.

Oak Ridge High School Junior Aislynn Hartman, 16, and Ponderosa High School Sophomore Sophia Alonso, 15, created their nonprofit organization, the Norcal Gift From the Heart Foundation, in 2024 with the mission of encouraging philanthropy among students in their community while focusing on the specific support of children's charities.

The nonprofit Norcal Gift From the Heart organization is based out of Gold River.

"It all started with the simple idea of collecting handmade Valentines with loving messages for teens," Hartman said. "The first year, it was just the two of us and we asked our own schools to help us make Valentines but this year, more than 12 schools in four counties have agreed to either make Valentines or collect toys for Shriners."

While their first year was largely focused on all the paperwork necessary for starting a nonprofit

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Raley's Announces New Food for Families Grant Program

**Raley's Food
for Families
News Release**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - To assist with the ongoing challenge of safely storing, transporting and distributing food, Raley's is introducing a new Food for Families grant program for its partner food banks and supporting networks.

Starting at a minimum of \$5,000 each, the grants will reflect a wide range of funding depending on the demonstrated need of the requesting food bank. The new Food for Families Grant program is made possible by Raley's and donations from throughout the community. Donations are being gratefully accepted now at the Sacramento Region Community Foundation site to support this important initiative that represents an expansion of the long-time Food for Families effort.

Raley's Food for Families converts customer and team members donations into food for more than 2.2 million people each month through 12 partner food banks in the communities where Raley's serves.

"For years, Raley's customers have provided unwavering support with their generous donations to our Food for Families program. Through experience with our ongoing programs, we recognized the need to further support the crucial food distribution needs within our existing food bank family," said Chelsea Carbahal, executive director, Raley's Food for Families. "This new Food for Families grant program will enable our current partners to more effectively and efficiently serve their communities by equipping them with resources that otherwise may have been out of reach financially."

Grant funds will help support food bank necessities, such as refrigerators, freezers, warehouse racking, transportation crates, shipping vehicles, and other infrastructure items required to safely provide food to communities. Grant applications are accepted now through Feb. 7, with application forms provided directly to and through Raley's Food for Families food bank partners to their partner agencies.

"Our goal at Raley's is to help get food in the hands of as many people in need

Continued on page 4

San Juan Board of Education Welcomes New Members

Avey Becomes President

San Juan Unified School District News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - San Juan Unified held a special ceremony Dec. 17 to welcome new and returning members to the Board of Education.

Pam Costa (Area 2) started her fourth term, while Nick Bloise (Area 4) and Abid Stanekzai (Area 1) joined the board for the first time.

At the meeting, Ben Avey (Area 6) was chosen as president for 2025. Tanya Kravchuk (Area 5) was selected as vice-president and Manuel Perez (Area 7) will be the clerk.

Bloise lives in Carmichael and has lived in Sacramento County his whole life. He served more than 23 years in the U.S. Army and retired as a major. Bloise enjoys helping his community by



The San Juan Unified School District Board of Education held a ceremony Dec. 17 to welcome new and returning members. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified School District

serving on local boards and running a small genealogy business.

Stanekzai works hard to support the community. Since 2021, he has helped run programs that improve lives and bring people together. Stanekzai

has three children who go to Greer Elementary School, where he has been an active parent.

Costa has served on the San Juan Unified Board of Education for 12 years. She has been a student, teacher, principal and director in

the district. Now, Costa is a proud grandparent who stays involved in the schools.

To learn more about the Board of Education, visit the San Juan Unified website at <https://www.sanjuan.edu>. ★

Area Native Recalls Simpler Times

By Judy Andrews

GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG) - What was it like to grow up in nearby Fair Oaks in the 1930s and '40s? Just ask Marjorie “Margge” Wood, a Gold River resident for more than 15 years, who recalls a simpler time when everyone knew everyone else in Fair Oaks. Wood’s family ties to the area date back over a century.

Born in 1933, Marjorie “Margge” Wood lived in Fair Oaks until she turned 21. Her father’s family owned ranch property in Mills, just south of the river where Rancho Cordova is now. Her mother’s side was from Roseville.

When Wood was two or three, her grandfather broke his leg while working at Pacific Coast Aggregate, then known as PCA. The rock-crushing company, located in present-day Gold River, was one of the area’s largest employers at the time. Wood’s family moved into the grandparents’ Fair Oaks home to help care for the elder Wood.

Eventually, her parents bought “prime location” property in “downtown” Fair Oaks, which Wood still owns today.

The properties include six businesses on Fair Oaks Boulevard, including O Café Bakery. The family home, which her father and grandfather built from Basalite bricks around 1940, is currently home to Honeymoon Tattoo, a business owned by Andy Campoy.



Margge Wood displays past news articles and photos from 1950 when she was crowned the second Queen of Fair Oaks. Photo by Judy Andrews

“Fair Oaks was pretty quiet in those days and there wasn’t much to do,” recalled Wood. “We didn’t even have a stop sign in town until after I was married.”

For fun, she liked to play tennis at two nearby courts, one at her grammar school (where Meraki High School is today) and another at Temescal and Bridge streets. During summer, all the youth swam in the river, which was the main recreational activity for Fair Oaks families.

Before World War II, Wood’s father ran a car dealership from their Fair Oaks home. When the war broke out,

however, everything familiar to Wood’s childhood changed.

“It was a scary time to be a kid. It felt like you were always on edge. I had seven uncles and two aunts in the military, so anyone who was in the service left town,” she said.

Wood’s father was forced to close his auto business because “no one had new cars during the war.” Her father took on war-related work to help keep the family afloat.

She remembers the soldiers driving their military trucks past the house: “We gave them water from buckets. I don’t know what they were doing but they’d always stop, wave and comment about the beautiful countryside. Some of them vowed to return someday and many of them did after the war.”

When the war ended, Wood’s father opened Wood Motors with a showroom next to their Fair Oaks Boulevard house.

“People called him ‘Doozy’ Wood and he knew everyone within a 20-mile radius,” said Wood.

When her father retired in the late ‘50s, Charlie Edgett bought the dealership. Edgett was her father’s only salesman at Wood Motors.

San Juan High School was the only high school in the area until Bella Vista opened in 1960. Every student within miles attended San Juan, High, which was part of



Margge Wood’s family home, which her father and grandfather built around 1940, is now a tattoo shop owned by Andy Campoy. Photo by Judy Andrews

the Fair Oaks Unified School District.

Wood was 16 when her mother suggested that she run for the annual Queen of Fair Oaks pageant. The contest took place over Fiesta Days in 1950. Wood competed against two other girls on behalf of the Professional Women’s Club and won, making her the second reigning Queen of Fair Oaks in the pageant’s history.

“It was an honorary title. I’d show up to business openings and hand out stuff,” she said. “They invited me to the Folsom Rodeo and announced me as the Rodeo Queen, which I had no idea they would do. Someone handed me a cowboy hat and told me to wear it.”

Wood was 21 when she married. She and her husband moved to Woodland, where they resided for many years. Eventually, she returned to Fair Oaks, her hometown, and became the first female director on the board of American River Bank. She also sold cars at Edgett Motors while her youngest child was in college. Both businesses are now gone.

Recently asked what she misses the most about “Old Fair Oaks,” Wood replied, “I miss the genuine camaraderie of everyone pitching in and doing their part. We didn’t separate ourselves by organizations and roles back then. Everything was done for the welfare of the town and the people.”

Today, Wood lives in Gold River and is active in both the Gold River and Fair Oaks communities. Currently, she serves on the board as secretary/treasurer for the Manor IV Village and was the past president of Discovery Village. She is active with the Villagers group and enjoys participating in their activities with other members within

her community, Wood is also a busy great-grandmother, grandmother and mother to four children aged 62 to 72. Wood has kept physically active all her life. Although she no longer skis or plays tennis and golf, Wood loves riding her bike along the American River and enjoys socializing with girlfriends. ★



Margge Wood, shown here as a 14-year-old, attended San Juan High School. Photo courtesy of Margge Wood



Margge Wood, shown here as a 3-year-old, is with her father, “Doozy” Wood, on a fishing trip. Photo courtesy of Margge Wood

CRPD Supports Families in Transition

By Shelby Golden, Cordova Recreation & Park District

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The Cordova Recreation & Park District (CRPD) proudly supports the Folsom Cordova Unified School District’s (FCUSD) Families in Transition (FIT) Services program with a heartfelt donation of \$1,465 in Target and Dollar Tree gift cards.

Every dollar was generously donated by Cordova Recreation & Park District staff, board members and former board members, demonstrating a personal commitment to uplifting our community.

The Families in Transition Services program provides essential resources to students and families facing hardships and offers support that gives students the stability they need to focus on their education.

“At CRPD, we are not just public servants, we are neighbors, parents and community members who care deeply about making a difference,” said Cordova Recreation & Park District General Manager Patrick Larkin. “This donation is a reflection of the compassion and generosity of our staff and board members, who wanted to personally support students and families in need.”

Cordova Recreation & Park District’s partnership with the Families in Transition Services program is part of a larger tradition of giving. Earlier this year, Cordova Recreation & Park District staff also organized a donation drive that collected more than 500 self-care items for the program. These collective efforts showcase the power of community-driven support and the impact of individuals coming together to help others.

“A big thank you to the amazing team at CRPD for going above and beyond to support Families in Transition at FCUSD. Your generosity and dedication are sincerely appreciated. It’s incredible to see what a team can achieve when we work together to serve our community. You’re making a real difference and we’re so grateful for all you do,” said Folsom Cordova Unified School District Superintendent Erik Swanson

The FIT Services program continues to welcome contributions and community members and organizations are encouraged to join in supporting these vital efforts. More information can be found on the program at fcusd.org/educational-services/social-emotional-learning-sel-and-educational-equity/families-in-transition.

“CRPD continues



Cordova Recreation & Park District staff join Folsom Cordova Unified School District staff with donations. Photo Courtesy of Cordova Recreation & Park District

to inspire us with their incredible generosity and unwavering support. They remain trusted and valued partners in serving FCUSD’s most vulnerable families. We are deeply grateful for CRPD’s ongoing partnership, which

exemplifies the power of community collaboration to achieve the collective good. Thank you for making such a meaningful difference,” said Folsom Cordova Unified School District Director Social Emotional Learning &

Equity Dr. Iyuan Pease Cordova Recreation & Park District is humbled and honored to contribute to such an impactful program. Together, as a community, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive. ★

Teens Create Messages of Love



Co-founders and best friends, Aislynn Hartman, left, and Sophia Alonso organize donations of toys and teen items for delivery to Shriners Hospitals for Children. Photo courtesy of Norcal Gift From the Heart

Continued from page 1
organization and getting their IRS tax-exempt status, the teens shared that this year has been dedicated to spreading the word and encouraging other schools to help them reach their goal of collecting 1,200 valentines.

To reach this goal, Hartman and Alonso created a Student Ambassador program, recruiting students from area high schools and providing them with the tools and public speaking points

to launch the program on their own campuses.

“Our foundation supplies pre-made valentine kits for all the schools that want to participate. The kits include things like stickers, card-making materials and sample messages,” said co-founder Alonso. “This year, we also created a special QR code to link our Amazon Gift List to our website and social media so donors could ship a toy or teen item directly to the foundation.”



Marina Middle School students enthusiastically join Norcal's Valentine's Day Drive for a second year. Photo courtesy of Norcal Gift From the Heart

Both girls agreed that their favorite part of the drive is reading the sincere personal messages and seeing how much effort kids put into making their cards.

“We hope the kids and teens at Shriners really feel all of our love this Valentine's Day,” Hartman added.

Also feeling the love is Hartman's mother, Kellie Hartman.

“Exposure to running her own business is not new to Aislynn,

who spent much of her life working at her parents' businesses growing up. Her father, Galen Hartman, owned Ground Zero Auto Body Inc., located at 11297 Coloma Road, for 25 years before transitioning to teaching auto body at Mather Center,” Kellie Hartman said. “At an early age, Aislynn learned data entry and greeting customers. I own a family law office in Gold River, where Aislynn works as a part-time law clerk. It simply

made sense to start her nonprofit in Gold River, since that has always been where she spends her time outside of school and the community has always been so supportive of her family's businesses.”

For more information or to get involved, go online to Norcalgiftfromtheheart.org or look for Norcal Gift From the Heart on Facebook and Instagram. The foundation accepts donations all year. ♥



Co-founder Aislynn Hartman admires cards made by students at Holy Trinity Parish School on Jan. 17. Photo courtesy of Norcal Gift From the Heart



Co-founder Sophia Alonso, right, poses with Holy Trinity student Mary Cabaral. Photo courtesy of Norcal Gift From the Heart



The girls are confident they will reach their goal of 1,200 cards this year. Photo courtesy of Norcal Gift From the Heart





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Sacramento Author Helps Shelter Animals Nationwide



Photo of the book’s author, Carolyn Wooddall. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Wooddall

iPub Cloud International News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A new children’s book series is empowering young animal allies nationwide. In

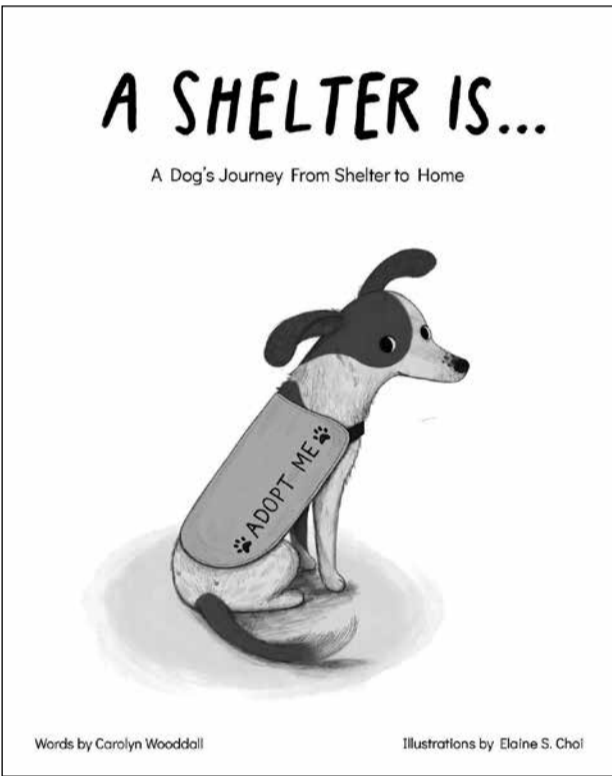
2024, approximately 6.3 million companion animals found themselves in shelters across the United States. iPub Cloud International is thrilled to introduce an extraordinary new children’s book that shines a light on this urgent issue. “A Shelter Is... A Dog’s Journey from Shelter to Home,” the debut picture book by Carolyn Wooddall and beautifully illustrated by Elaine S. Choi, captures the hopes, resilience, and love that define the shelter experience.

With its heartfelt storytelling and vibrant artwork, this inspiring book empowers young readers to connect with the cause and take action to support their local animal shelters.

The author aims to enlighten and motivate children through her Animal Ally book series. The first book, “A Shelter Is...,” tells the touching story of a hopeful dog in a shelter navigating its path to finding a forever home. Through simple storytelling and vivid illustrations, the book highlights shelters’ essential roles in nurturing and rehoming pets. “A Shelter Is...” not only aims to educate young minds about animal shelters but also encourages our youth to actively participate in creating happier endings for all animals in need.

A beautifully illustrated piece showcasing the invaluable resource our local shelters play in our communities. A perfect introduction for children to learn about the life-saving work of dedicated staff and bringing families and pets in need of homes together!” Explained Meghan Ramezyk, Animal Services Manager for the Lodi City animal shelter.

The author’s deep passion for animal welfare shines through in her writing. “My goal with this book is to educate readers about the powerful impact of animal shelters and their remarkable work,” she said. “I also want to empower kids to understand how they can get



Cover artwork on display for “A Shelter Is...”. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Wooddall

involved and make a difference in the lives of shelter animals in their communities.”

Community Impact:
Key Statistics (Source: www.ShelterAnimalsCount.com):

Approximately 3.2 million sheltered animals are cats, while 3.1 million are dogs. Around 50% of U.S. shelters maintain no-kill policies. An estimated 4.1 million shelter animals find homes each year.

Proceeds from the Animal Ally series will benefit Hard Luck Animal Welfare Advocates, a nonprofit that the author and her husband started in 2023 to help shelter animals who are down on their luck, as well as other animal shelters, supporting medical care and adoption efforts for animals in need. This initiative reflects a significant opportunity

for communities to rally together for a compassionate cause, ensuring more animals like the one in Wooddall’s book find their happily ever after.

The author resides in Sacramento with her family and their four shelter pups. Her debut picture book is perfect for young animal lovers, and anyone interested in positively impacting animals’ lives. It is a compelling reminder that while shelters are essential, the ultimate goal is to turn them into temporary stops on the way to loving homes.

For more information on how to support or to order a copy of “A Shelter Is...,” visit www.ipubglobalconnection.com. For more information about how kids can get involved with their local animal shelters and become Animal Allies, visit www.animalally-books.com. ★



Photo of the book’s illustrator, Elaine S. Choi. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Wooddall

Raley’s Announces New Food for Families Grant Program



Raley’s Food for Families converts customer and team members donations into food for more than 2.2 million people each month through 12 partner food banks in the communities where Raley’s serves. Photo courtesy of Raley’s Food for Families

Continued from page 1
as possible,” said Carbahal. “We know the food that we and our food bank partners provide is only helpful if there is a means to safely store and distribute it. This new Food for Families grant funding effort is all about growing the positive impact in our communities and helping provide the physical means to do so.”

Raley’s anticipates awarding up to \$500,000 in grant funding in the first year of the new program. Grant funding will be made available in two waves, including this current grant application phase and another scheduled for later

in the year. The Food for Families grant program is available to Raley’s Food for Families food bank partners and their expansive network of more than 2,400 partner agencies, such as smaller food banks, food closets, and church distribution sites.

Growing from a single store opening in 1935, The Raley’s Companies now includes brick and mortar locations under Raley’s and Bashas’ family of brands, including: Raley’s, Bel Air, Nob Hill, Raley’s ONE Market, Bashas,’ Food City, AJ’s Fine Foods and Bashas’ Diné Markets. In addition to the special

hurricane relief efforts, The Raley’s Companies are deeply committed to giving back by addressing local hunger needs, advocating for good, and focusing on child welfare, the environment and sustainability, food access, food system education, and total wellness. Between 2022 and 2023, the organization donated more than \$3 million to local and regional nonprofit organizations. For more information about Raley’s commitment to give back and their nonprofit, visit Raley’s Food for Families website at raleys.com/giving/food-for-families. ★

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Fewer Days That Suck

Do you want to ditch unhealthy habits? Do you want to build a happier and more prosperous year? What if I told you that you can do both in six steps? **Deborah Mallow** says you can do it by knowing how to reset your mindset, shift your energy, and cure those negative habits that trip up your moving forward. I guess it's retraining your brain. Then this one really got my attention. She also mentioned that negativity can make us sick. That sure sucks. What I like is it's an uncomplicated fix. I guess that's why they call her a "Ray of Sunshine." **Deborah** is a positivity expert, mindset coach and also author of "6 Steps to Fewer Days That Suck." So I asked her to give me a synopsis of those six steps on my POPPTALK Radio Show, but to please keep them simple.

1. THE DECISION...DAILY DECISIONS DETERMINE DESTINY. This step empowers readers to take accountability for their lives and recognize what holds them back. Deborah provides strategies to improve the inner dialogue, overcome excessive worry and self-doubt, and manage excuses. Included are tips to help build confidence and self-belief in order to pursue heartfelt dreams.

2. DITCH BAD HABITS. NO ONE'S A SUPERMAN OR SUPERWOMAN. BE YOUR OWN HERO. It's time say goodbye to toxic people, thoughts, habits and actions that disrupt your life. Deborah offers practical methods to help purge negativity and self-nurture. Learn to put worry into context, manage stress, and perfectionism. Listen to your intuition and embrace joy while worrying less.

3. THE MINDSET. FEED YOUR POSITIVE ENERGY. REJECT THE

NEGATIVE. Our mindset sets us free! We must nourish it with positivity and bravery, not negativity and fear. Be inspired by stories such as Walt Disney's and Ben Silverman's (Pinterest co-founder). Gain tips on believing in yourself, practicing self-kindness, and living on your own terms.

4. THE ACTION. THE CLOCK GOES IN CIRCLES. YOU DON'T HAVE TO. Dreaming of success is just the start. Taking action is crucial. While fear is natural, Deborah offers strategies to manage it. Discover three methods to find your happy place, and learn how to incorporate self-care into your day to replenish your energy.

5. THE ATTITUDE. ENHANCE YOUR STORY. THOUGHTS CONTROL THE NARRATIVE. It's all about attitude. Positivity unlocks potential while negativity locks you out. Deborah explains how to align your goals with a can-do attitude. She offers empowerment tools and best practices to have you stepping up and stamping yourself approved.

6. THE COMMITMENT. WHY MAKE A COMPROMISE? INSTEAD, MAKE A COMMITMENT. This final step offers strategies, tips, and action items to help commit to becoming the best version of yourself. The mantra..."Never Give Up" will resonate, empowering you with practical advice. You WILL be ready to shine and no longer feel stuck.

So get yourself unstuck and live life to the fullest. Check out Deborah's website **www.thedailydecisions.com**. And get started on those six steps in "6 Steps to Fewer Days That Suck." **NEVER BE STUCK AGAIN!** ★

Assemblyman Hoover Introduces Bill to Increase Penalties on Looting



Josh Hoover
Office of Assemblyman Josh Hoover News Release

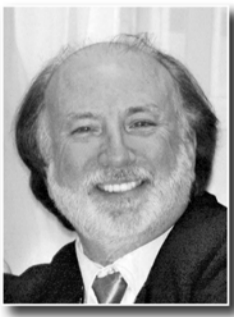
SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Jan. 23, Assemblyman Josh Hoover (R-Folsom) announced the introduction of Assembly Bill 271 to help protect fire victims from additional hardship by increasing penalties on looters during declared states of emergency.

"Criminals continue to prey on victims of the wildfires in Los Angeles and across the state, callously stealing

valuables from people who have been driven from their homes and are experiencing unimaginable heartache. Clearly, our penalties are not sufficient to deter those willing to exploit vulnerable individuals during this disaster," Assemblyman Hoover said. "We must do more to protect victims during these tragic events and send a message that these crimes will not be tolerated."

AB 271 allows a felony to be charged for offenders who commit burglary or grand theft in an area where a state of emergency, local emergency, or an evacuation has been called. It also imposes a two-year sentence enhancement for those who impersonate a government employee, such as a firefighter or peace officer, a tactic being used by some criminals to gain access to homes.

Josh Hoover represents Assembly District 7, which includes the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova and the unincorporated communities of Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms, Gold River, Mather, McClellan Park, North Highlands, Orangevale and Rosemont. ★



**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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Gold River Messenger

Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

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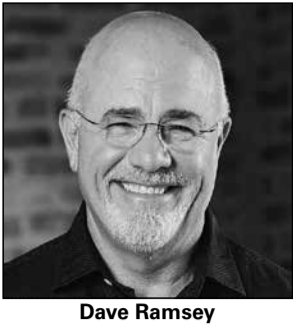
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MPG

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.





Dave Ramsey Says The Importance of Employee Buy-In

Dear Dave,

How do I get my employees to buy-in to the company mission, and really get onboard with what I want to accomplish and the steps toward making it happen? I feel like I have a lot of good people working for me, but I'm not sure I'm getting the message across in terms what I expect and what it will take for them and the business to succeed.

– Franklin

Dear Franklin,

It's a no-brainer that employee buy-in is great, even essential, for your business. But actually getting buy-in? That can be tough. But here are four steps I believe are essential to setting the stage for winning employees over and gaining their trust, their loyalty and their respect.

First, evaluate your leadership. Ask yourself, Would I follow the leader

I am today? Great leaders are open to feedback, humble and willing to grow. They lead by serving. And most teams will follow a good example, so lead with confidence, focus and transparency.

Next, define your mission, vision and values. Your mission describes what you do and why it matters. Your vision paints a picture of what the future will look like when your mission is lived out, and your values declare what your company stands for and guide how you make decisions. Share these often, and be very clear when you do. If these principles aren't firmly in place and understood, you're asking your team to navigate without a map.

Also, communicate consistently and clearly. Your team members aren't a bunch of mind readers. Share all your expectations and goals frequently, along with the why behind your plans. Make time for questions and mentoring, too. Your ability to communicate well goes a long way

toward determining team satisfaction and retention, along with the quality of your relationships and the level of trust you earn.

Finally, have a solid strategic plan. Don't just relay a vague outline your company's destination, map out a clear path of how to get there with all your leaders. A strategic plan with actionable steps shows your team what winning looks like and what it'll take to succeed.

And when the plan is specific and achievable, your team will rally around it.

– Dave

Leadership and small-business expert Dave Ramsey is the CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored eight national bestselling books, including "EntreLeadership," and he hosts "The Ramsey Show" and "The EntreLeadership Podcast." He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN and Fox Business. ★



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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Mark your calendars for March 7 in the friendly confines of Golden One Arena, as it should be a night to remember. Yes, on that night when the San Antonio Spurs arrive, you'll have the opportunity to once again witness the fastest man in the NBA, and you guessed it, none other than former King DeAaron Fox.

Emotions are running high right now as arguably the best overall player in Sacramento Kings history leaves the Sactown family to join the San Antonio Spurs.

What do I think of that? Sad simply doesn't get it. There's a hole in my heart, but a gratitude for a player that turned back the clock when it comes to professionalism and fan involvement.

DeAaron has comported himself with a degree of elegance and grace seldom seen in professional athletes. I feel that Sacramento is not only losing an amazing athlete, but an amazing family as well. Make no mistake about it, the Foxes are a package, and they will steal your heart.

I fondly recall a moment earlier this season in which DeAaron took a hard fall at the edge of court where the baseline meets the sideline. He went head over heels, and as he rolled over to get up, who was there to assist but none other than his wife who was sitting on the front row with his son. It made me smile as DeAaron was helped to his feet by Recce, and then it was on with the game.

I will miss watching his young son clapping gleefully, and DeAaron streaking to the hoop and scoring baskets that would be beyond the capability of most NBA players.

I won't forget his record setting 60-point performance against the Minnesota Timberwolves, albeit in an overtime loss, but it took nothing away from the highest scoring single game total in franchise history.

I can't help but smile and nod my head when I remember DeAaron taking several minutes to talk with my grandson and sign his treasured DeAaron Fox rookie card prior to a game last season. The photos of that moment along with the card itself will be something my grandson will never forget, and it simply is who

DeAaron Fox really is.

Sunday Feb. 2 will be a day that most Kings fans will never forget, and as big a trade as the Luka Doncic for Anthony Davis was over the weekend, for those of us that love the Kings, it pales in comparison.

The nuts and bolts are that DeAaron Fox is going the San Antonio Spurs in a 3-team trade that also sends Jordan McLaughlin to the Spurs, and Keven Huerter to the Chicago Bulls.

What the Kings receive in return is 2-time all-star Zach Lavine who at age 29 is right in the heart of his prime. Zach was the longest tenured player on the Bulls squad, so like most Kings fans, Chicago is likely shedding tears. Lavine is scoring 24 points per game this season, which is just a hair below the scoring output of Fox.

Not to be ignored by any means in this blockbuster trade, are the 6 draft choices that come with the trade. The Kings receive 3 #1's and 3 #2's and it will be years before the Sacramento Kings and their fans are able to see the full completion of this trade.

Zach Lavine does not solve the missing component at the power forward position, but many believe that another move is coming prior to the trade deadline this week. Auspicious in all of this, is the remarkable 3-point shooting that Lavine brings with him. Currently shooting just over 44% ranks among the league leaders, and as Keven Huerter departs, leaving Sacramento as somewhat of a disappointment from beyond the arc, a 44% 3-point shooter is just what the doctor ordered. That combined with a field goal percentage of over 50% is notable for a guard in the NBA, so let's all take a deep breath, and a collective wait and see approach.

Will I miss DeAaron Fox? Do I believe he is the #1 overall best first round pick in the history of the Sacramento Kings? I say heartily, YES!

Godspeed DeAaron Fox and may you and your family thrive in San Antonio! You will be missed!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

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Social Security Matters

Social Security Benefits for Someone with Multiple Ex-spouses

You Never Even Call Me By My Name



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: If a financially well-off individual had multiple ex-spouses, could it happen that the multiple ex-spouses could each be collecting Social Security based on their own financial situation as compared to their rich ex-spouses? Thus, multiple payouts by SS? Just curious, because there are probably many people in this situation as a result of the ever-increasing number of people involved in multiple marriages that each lasted more than ten years. **Signed: Curious Ex-Spouse**

Dear Curious Ex-Spouse: A former spouse can only collect one SS benefit – either their own SS retirement amount, or an amount as an ex-spouse if the marriage lasted 10 years or more. And it is possible for multiple ex-spouses

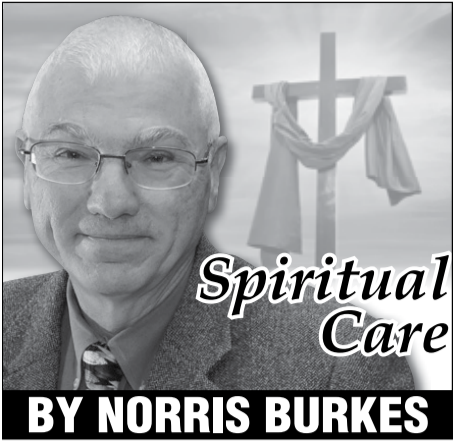
of a marriage to the same person to qualify for benefits from those unions, if each marriage lasted at least 10 years. But each ex-spouse can only qualify for one benefit payment – either their own earned SS benefit, or their benefit as an ex-spouse. In other words, someone with two (or more) ex-spouses might have their ex’s collecting full benefits on their record, provided that each marriage lasted at least 10 years. But an ex-spouse can only get one benefit –their own SS retirement amount or an ex-spouse amount - whichever is higher).

It’s possible, also, that an ex-spouse can collect benefits from a former spouse at the same time as a current spouse is also collecting spouse benefits on the same record. And there is no detriment to either’s amount because multiple spouses or ex-spouses are collecting on a one person’s SS record (Social Security is, after all, a means for spouses, or ex-spouses, to avoid poverty). However, an ex-spouse’s own SS retirement benefit (from their personal lifetime work record) must be less than any ex-spouse

benefit they are entitled to from a former spouse. Essentially, if the “10-years-married” rule is satisfied, ex-spouses are subject to the same benefit rules as a current spouse.

You are correct that we see some cases like this these days, but each eligible ex-spouse can only get one benefit, and their ex-spouse benefit is always offset by any personal SS retirement benefit the ex-spouse may also be entitled to on their own lifetime work record.

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During my adolescent years, I rarely introduced myself with verbal clarity. My soft introductions were hard to hear and communicated more doubt than any kind of confident identity.

I’d try to tell people that my name was Norris, but they’d often respond with a one-word question. “What?”

If I repeated my introduction, my inquisitors only became more frustrated. “What? Did you say Morris?”

Even if they heard “Norris,” they might say, “Yes, but what’s your first name?” The assumption was that Norris could only be a surname.

So, by the time I graduated from high school in 1975, I’d had enough of the confusion. I anticipated an opportunity to end it when I accepted a summer job at a church conference center outside Santa Fe, New Mexico.

A few weeks later, I entered the grounds ready for a change. The first person I met introduced himself and I responded with the first syllable of my middle name, “Ed.” I was not only using my middle name, but I’d adopted the abbreviated version.

I still remember his reply – “What? Did you say Fred?”

It was quickly apparent that my lack of confidence was still causing me to mumble my name. “Ed” rolled off my tongue with no more clarity than did “Norris.”

By the end of the summer, I’d already received a lot of grief from my mother who constantly reminded me that she wouldn’t have named me Norris if she had intended for me to go by Ed. I returned to Norris.

Out in Northern New Mexico, the name experiment seemed harmless enough. After all, it was only a summer job. Since I was headed for Baylor University in Texas, I resolved to leave my AKA-Ed life in New Mexico’s high desert.

Not so fast. I wouldn’t be the only staff member from the camp headed for Baylor.

Imagine the surprise on the face of the freshman girl I escorted to the homecoming bonfire when we were greeted by two of my former New Mexico coworkers who called me “Ed.”

In the weeks that followed, my old camp friends continually called me Ed, compounding the confusion among my new Baylor friends. My roommates were further puzzled when they brought in mail addressed to “Ed Burkles.”

During my sophomore year, David Allen Coe’s, “You Never Even Call Me by My Name,” became a favorite song. By my senior year, I’d persuaded all of my friends to call me Norris once again – with only one exception.

That exception was the especially spirited blonde I’d met in that New Mexico camp named Becky. Through four years of college, my roommates teased me at every mail call. “Yoo-hoo, Ed!” they’d croon in a falsetto voice. “She wrote you another letter.”

It took a lot of persuasion to get this girl to call me Norris. She preferred the name Ed and it seemed as though she’d never concede. However, at our wedding in 1980, she finally made a pledge to forever call me Norris.

“Norris,” she said, “I take thee to be my wedded husband. To have and to hold, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part.”

Happy 45th anniversary, sweetheart. You’ve always known who I am, even though I often lack a clue. Your love changes me because it honors the best in me.

It is a love for the person God created me to be, not what I should, could or would have been. And in that love, I find the most cherished reminder of the love of God.

And that is something Ed and Norris will cherish forever. ★



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35. Kon-Tiki and such
37. Be in a cast
38. Very, in music
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48. Dugout river ride
50. Check-in via text
52. *Sign of nervousness (2 words)
55. One up
56. Lowest female voice
57. One quark plus one antiquark
59. Toothpaste brand
60. Riddle without solution
61. Cogito ____ sum
62. *Leg's partner, price-wise
63. Make a mistake
64. Robin's house

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- DOWN
1. "Eureka!"
2. *They cause no problems when they sleep
3. Nursemaid, in India
4. ____ 5. band
5. "Il Trovatore" composer
6. Garment insert
7. Month before Nisan
8. Torus, pl.
9. Word before sesame
10. *Cupful that's not for everyone
12. Adjective derived from bulb
13. Distorts
14. *Cutting these leads to poor results
19. Prods
22. Dot follower
23. Lost, in Provence
24. Live's partner
25. Hungry
26. Voting no
27. Like Fran Drescher's voice
28. Wide open
29. Bear digs
32. Group of buffaloes
33. *Breaking it relieves tension
36. *When these meet, one can afford what they want (2 words)
38. Remote in manner
40. Football's extra point
41. "The Call of the Wild" author
44. Gold bar
46. Dig further
48. One on artist's wheel
49. Communion table
50. Feline vibration
51. Unit on a list
52. *Easy piece
53. Ireland's other name
54. Duds
55. Edible tuber
58. 1990s negation

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Gov. Meets with Small Business Owners Impacted by Firestorm

Office of Governor Gavin Newsom News Release

LOS ANGELES, CA (MPG) - Continuing to have an eye toward recovery and rebuilding, Governor Gavin Newsom on Jan. 21 met with workers and small business owners impacted by the devastating Los Angeles firestorm to hear their stories and highlight the state’s work to help communities rebuild.

The Governor visited NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in La Canada Flintridge for a conversation with employees impacted by the Eaton Fire. Hundreds of Jet Propulsion Laboratory employees lost their homes, with over 100 more likely to be displaced due to damage to their homes. Joined by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, Governor Newsom talked with the employees about rebuilding efforts, as well as concerns about home insurance.

As the largest employer of those impacted by the Eaton Fire, Jet Propulsion Laboratory started a disaster relief fund to help employees, which has already raised over \$2 million. Jet Propulsion Laboratory manages the Deep Space Network, a global web of antennas that communicate with spacecraft. The NASA facility has partnered with CAL FIRE to use soil moisture sensors to support the state's fire management and prevention efforts. JPL also helped California launch pollution-tracking satellites last year and partners with the state on drought monitoring.

Governor Newsom also visited with small business owners Kevin Hockin and Rosanna Kvermmo. They started Side Pie as a pizza pop-up during the



Governor Newsom met with small business owners to see how the recent wildfires have impacted them. Photo courtesy of the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

middle of the pandemic. After it went viral, they expanded into a brick-and-mortar shop in Altadena in 2021. They received news while at Disneyland with their daughter that they had lost their restaurant and that their home suffered extensive smoke damage. Kevin and Rosanna plan on rebuilding when safe to do so.

“Thousands of hard-working Californians lost their homes, their businesses and their livelihoods to this firestorm. From the hundreds of workers at NASA’s iconic Jet Propulsion Laboratory who lost their homes to folks like Kevin and Rosanna who lost their Altadena pizza shop – the numbers will never capture just how life-changing these fires were for Californians. It will take years to rebuild and fully recover but California will be there every step of the way,” said Governor Gavin Newsom.

Also on Jan. 21, Governor Newsom stopped by CAL FIRE and CDCR conservation camp crews filling sandbags that will be placed in firestorm-affected

areas to help protect against potential flooding and mudslides. Yesterday, the Governor issued an executive order to help mitigate this risk and protect communities by hastening efforts to remove debris, bolster flood defenses, and stabilize hillsides in affected areas.

Helping Small Businesses Recover

Since the firestorm, California has worked with federal and local providers to help businesses with the resources and support they need to recover and rebuild.

200+ business advisors from Small Business Support Centers funded through the California Office of the Small Business Advocate’s (CalOSBA) Technical Assistance Program are staffed across the region.

This includes business advisors from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Women’s Business Center (WBC) who can answer loan application, insurance, employee wsupport and business recovery questions. They are co-located



Governor Newsom speaks with CAL FIRE employees in the wake of the Los Angeles fires. Photo courtesy of the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

at the Disaster Recovery Center at Pasadena City College and the Disaster Loan Outreach Center in Camarillo (Ventura County).

Small Business Development Center and Women’s Business Center advisors are also present at the various Business Recovery Centers organized by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

California Office of the Small Business Advocates has launched a Resource Guide for small businesses impacted by the wildfires through its Outsmart Disaster website, and is conducting a series of online trainings in both English and Spanish.

The California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) is offering loan programs for businesses from one to 750 employees affected by the LA wildfires.

Disaster Relief Loan Guarantee Program (DRLGP) issues loan guarantees up to 95% of the loan through IBank’s partner Financial Development Corporations to help small business borrowers

impacted by disaster who need term loans or lines of credit for working capital.

Additionally, Governor Newsom has issued a number of executive orders in response to the Los Angeles fire storms to help aid in rebuilding and recovery, create more temporary housing, and protect survivors from exploitation and price gouging.

Get Help Today

Californians can go to CA.gov/LAfires – a hub for information and resources from state, local and federal government.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses from wildfires in Los Angeles County can apply for disaster assistance online at DisasterAssistance.gov, by calling 800-621-3362, or by using the FEMA smart phone application. Assistance is available in more than 40 languages.

If you use a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service. ★

State Water Project Increases 2025 Allocation Forecast

California Department of Water Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Jan. 28, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an update to the State Water Project allocation forecast for 2025. The allocation has increased to 20 percent of requested supplies, up from 15 percent in December. The State Water Project provides water to 29 public water agencies that serve 27 million Californians.

While January has been incredibly dry across California, storm runoff into the state’s reservoirs came in higher than forecasted at the end of December allowing for a modest allocation

increase. Storms in late November and early December had a positive impact by saturating the ground, allowing for storms through December to more efficiently runoff into reservoirs.

More storms are needed, and the long-range forecast does hint at a return to wet conditions in early February that could bring much-needed rain and snow.

“We are in the middle of our biggest months for precipitation for California, and unfortunately January has been very dry, putting a significant dent in our season,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “A return to wet weather is critical for our season’s success and it will take many more storms to make up the deficit

and further boost water supply deliveries.”

Despite the dry conditions, California has effectively managed its reservoirs to keep storage above average for this time of year. Lake Oroville, the State Water Project’s largest reservoir, is currently at 127 percent of average for this time of year. San Luis Reservoir, which is jointly operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, is at 102 percent of average for this time of year.

Reservoirs in Southern California are also near or above their historical averages.

Each year, the department provides State Water Project allocation forecasts based on available water storage, projected water supply, and water demands. Allocations are updated

monthly as snowpack, rainfall, and runoff information is assessed, with a final allocation typically determined in May or June.

As the winter progresses, if California sees an increase in rain and snowfall, the allocation forecast may increase. Learn more about how the State Water Project allocation process works at <https://water.ca.gov/News/Blog/2025/Jan-25/Get-the-Facts-About-the-State-Water-Project-Allocation>.

The allocation forecast notice to State Water Contractors and historical data on SWP allocations are available at <https://water.ca.gov/programs/state-water-project/management/swp-water-contractors>. ★

FAIR Applauds Passage of the Laken Riley Act

Federation for American Immigration Reform News Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - The following statement was issued by Dan Stein, president of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) in response to final passage of the Laken Riley Act by Congress.

“The Federation for American Immigration Reform applauds Congress for its swift action in passing the Laken Riley Act with bipartisan support. Fittingly, final passage by the House of Representatives comes eleven months to the day after the Georgia nursing student was brutally murdered by a criminal illegal alien who had been allowed to enter our country and remained at large even after being charged with serious offenses in New York City.

“The Laken Riley Act will be one of the first pieces of legislation President Trump signs into law in his new administration. In his inaugural address, the president spoke of the need to restore common sense to government, and enacting legislation that requires Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain more criminal aliens certainly fits that description.

“It is especially heartening that the bill that emerged from the Senate Monday and passed today in the House is stronger than the original version. Led by Senators Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and John Fetterman (D-Pa.), that chamber, by

a 75-24 margin, added key provisions from Sarah’s Law to the final bill. The amendment is named for Sarah Root, another promising young woman who was killed in 2016 by an illegal alien drunk driver who was released from federal custody and allowed to run free. This added provision requires DHS to issue detainers and take into custody aliens who are charged with, arrested for, convicted of, or admit to having committed crimes that resulted in death or serious bodily injury.

“Along with the executive orders signed by President Trump on his first day in office, the bipartisan support for the Laken Riley Act gives Americans hope that enactment of other commonsense border and immigration enforcement measures, that truly protect the interest and security of the American people, can be achieved in the 119th Congress.”

About FAIR

Founded in 1979, the Federation for American Immigration Reform is the country’s largest immigration reform group. With over 3 million members and supporters nationwide, the Federation for American Immigration Reform fights for immigration policies that serve national interests, not special interests. The Federation for American Immigration Reform believes that immigration reform must enhance national security, improve the economy, protect jobs, preserve our environment, and establish a rule of law that is recognized and enforced. ★

Center for Environmental Health News Release

CALIFORNIA (MPG) - On Jan. 14, the non-profit watchdog Center for Environmental Health (CEH) announced new legal action against eight companies for exposing customers to Bisphenol S (BPS)–the lesser-known but also harmful chemical cousin to Bisphenol A (BPA)–in receipt paper.

Bisphenol S, like Bisphenol A, is a hormone-disrupting chemical that mimics estrogen and can disrupt the normal functioning of the body, including metabolism, growth and development and reproduction.

Bisphenol S was added to the list of chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer and reproductive issues at the end of 2023, which allowed businesses a one-year grace period to ensure that their products either did not contain this chemical, or included a clear and reasonable warning for the presence of Bisphenol S. After Dec. 29, 2024, the Center for Environmental Health conducted testing to determine if receipt paper still included this chemical in levels that can harm human health and found eight companies in violation of California Proposition 65.

The retailers are Exxon, Walmart, Saks Off 5th, Aesop, Dick’s Sporting Goods, Ross, Ace Hardware and Lowe’s.

Previously, the Center for Environmental Health reached legal agreements with over 10 major retailers and suppliers of receipts, requiring that they remove Bisphenol A from their receipt thermal paper. While the receipts were reformulated to remove Bisphenol A, Center for Environmental Health’s recent investigation showed the

presence of Bisphenol S.

“For more than two decades, CEH has ensured that companies and manufacturers that remove one toxic chemical from their products do not replace it with another toxic, regrettable substitute,” said Kizzy Charles-Guzman, CEO at Center for Environmental Health. “These companies have the opportunity to lead by improving their product specifications so that the receipt paper they purchase is safer for their workers and customers.”

In 2021, Center for Environmental Health co-created a certification program that highlights products—including thermal paper used for receipts—that do not contain harmful chemicals.

“Studies show that BPS, like BPA, can be absorbed through skin when handling receipt paper, even for short periods,” said Shakoor Azimi-Gaylon, senior director of the Toxic Exposures and Pollution Prevent Program at Center for Environmental Health. “When companies know better, they must do better. We are calling on retailers to demand a healthier specification for receipt paper from their suppliers, and suppliers have an opportunity to meet this demand and certify their products under CEH and Clean Production Action’s standard.”

To reduce exposure to Bisphenol S, Center for Environmental Health recommends that whenever possible, consumers either decline receipts printed on thermal paper, or opt to receive receipts via email for their purchases. Store workers who must handle receipts should wear gloves if possible or avoid using alcohol-based hand cleaners before handling a receipt because it can significantly increase the absorption of Bisphenol S. ★

Aggies Earn Riders of the Week Awards

UC Davis Athletics
News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Seasoned UC Davis student athletes Jessie Rechs and Margaret Franke were named conference riders of the week in Eastern College Athletic Conference’s Jan. 28 release.

Rechs, a senior from San Diego, claims her second Fences Rider of the Week accolade on the season and third in her overall career. Going second in the event while riding Bear, captain Rechs scored an 85 for her equitation over the Fences in a thrilling matchup versus the Delaware State Hornets. She won against her Hornet opponent with a large 23-point differential and



UC Davis student athletes collected Rider of the Week accolades on Jan. 28. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

took home the Most Outstanding Performer award in the event.

Over on the Flat, Franke collects her first Rider of the Week nod of the season following her impressive slew of credentials from previous years of competition such as being named the conference's Flat Rider of the Year. With a fascinating 31-point difference, Franke and Otis played a hand in the 5-0 Aggie sweep on the Flat versus the Minnesota Crookston Eagles. Her performance was scored a brilliant 84, and she took home the Most Outstanding Performer award in the event.

In Fences, Rechs has tallied up six wins on the season, while Franke has collected seven victories on the Flat. ★

Hornet Soccer Adds UCLA Transfer

Sacramento State University
News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Jan. 28, Sacramento State University head men's soccer coach Michael Linenberger announced that Amjot Narang, a midfielder who has played the last three seasons at UCLA, has transferred and will join the Hornets for the 2025 season.

Narang, a 6-foot-1, 160-pound midfielder, becomes the third student-athlete to join the Sacramento State soccer program this spring along with freshman Allbranly Gue and junior college stand-out Eli Reyneveld.

“We are very excited to add Amjot to our team for fall 2025,” Linenberger said. “He is a classy central midfielder who has incredible technical ability and vision on the ball. He can dictate the tempo and rhythm of the game as a box

to box midfielder. He will immediately make us better.”

A native of El Dorado Hills, who prepped at Oak Ridge High School, Narang appeared in 22 matches over the last three seasons with the Bruins, posting a pair of assists in 2023 as a sophomore and appearing in a career-high 312 minutes last season. He was a fall Academic All-Big Ten selection in 2024 and was a member of the UCLA Director’s Honor Roll.

Prior to heading to Southern California, Narang was ranked as the No. 7 prospect in Northern California by Top Drawer Soccer and played club with the Sacramento Republic FC Academy. He made his debut with the first team on Aug. 31, 2021, against San Diego Loyal and helped lead the U19 squad to the final four of the “MLS Next” Tournament. ★



Midfielder Amjot Narang is transferring from UCLA to Sacramento State for the 2025 season. Photo courtesy of UCLA Athletics

A’s Announce 2025 Promotional Schedule

Major League Baseball
News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA - The A’s 2025 promotional schedule for their inaugural season at Sutter Health Park will feature 14 giveaway items including three bobbleheads, four fireworks shows and more. Single-game tickets will go on sale on Friday, Jan. 31.

Opening Series Giveaways. Every fan who attends the A’s inaugural game at Sutter Health Park on March 31 against the Cubs will receive a green-and-white trucker hat donning the new Sacramento jersey patch that the team will wear this season in addition to a Rickey Henderson rally towel.

The following day, every fan in attendance will receive a 2025 magnet schedule and on the final day of the opening series, each fan will receive a Rickey Henderson t-shirt in honor of the greatest A’s player of all time.

Player Bobbleheads. The A’s are giving away three bobbleheads throughout the course of the season to celebrate the exciting talent on the field in 2025. On Sunday, June 8, fans will receive a Home Run Counter Bobblehead of 2024 Silver Slugger Award-winner Brent Rooker. Two

weeks later, on Sunday, June 22, fans will receive a Mason Miller bobblehead in honor of the flamethrowing closer’s All-Star 2024 campaign. Finally, a Lawrence Butler bobblehead will be given away Thursday, July 10, which also happens to be the superstar’s 25th birthday.

Wearables Galore. The rest of the giveaways feature a plethora of wearable items, including an A’s basketball jersey on April 26, a straw hat on May 6, a cooler bag on May 22, an A’s backpack just in time for the back-to-school rush on Aug. 3, a hat on Aug. 26, a t-shirt on Sept. 14, and a crewneck sweatshirt on Sept. 26.

Four Fireworks Days. The 2025 home schedule will feature four super-sized fireworks shows. Following the games on June 7 vs. the Orioles, July 4 vs. the Giants, Aug. 16 vs. the Angels, and Sept. 27 vs. the Royals, fans will be treated to a fireworks display they won’t want to miss.

Heritage Nights Return. The A’s will bring back heritage nights for the 2025 season beginning with Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Night on May 20. African American Heritage Night will be held on June 19 to honor Juneteenth, and Sept. 23 will mark Hispanic Heritage Night. ★

Saving the Environment at Kings Games

Sacramento Kings
News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Kings and Golden 1 Center unveiled a new PATH Grab-and-Go location, integrating Amazon’s Just Walk Out technology to enhance the fan experience. This innovative store debuted at the Jan. 22 game against the Golden State Warriors and will be available during all Kings home games, as well as most concerts and events at Golden 1 Center.

“Sustainability is a core value of Golden 1 Center, and this Grab-and-Go location not only provides fans with convenient access to PATH’s eco-friendly aluminum bottles but also reflects our shared dedication to environmental responsibility,” said Sacramento Kings President of Business Operations John Rinehart. “By also adding PATH refillable water stations, we are furthering our commitment to reduce waste and protect our environment for future



Grab-and-Go location at Golden One Center provides fans with convenient access to PATH’s eco-friendly aluminum bottles containing still purified water. Photo by Sacramento Kings

generations.”

“Golden 1 Center is setting the standard for convenience and sustainability in sports venues,” said PATH Partner Cedric Benaroch. “This innovative Grab-and-Go location not only makes it easier for fans to enjoy PATH’s sustainable aluminum bottles, but it also highlights our shared commitment to enhancing the fan experience while prioritizing the planet. Additionally, the PATH refillable water stations allow fans to stay hydrated while reducing single-use waste, reinforcing our mission to create lasting change.”

The new PATH Grab-and-Go location will offer a selection of beverages, including co-branded PATH aluminum water bottles, featuring a sleek, redesigned black finish. These lightweight bottles contain still purified water with electrolytes for taste and serve as a stylish, reusable souvenir for fans. PATH water has been available at Golden 1 Center since the 2021-2022 season, and as part of this partnership, water refill stations presented by PATH will also be available throughout the arena.

Shopping at the PATH Grab-and-Go is fast and simple. Fans start by scanning their credit card or mobile wallet at the gate to enter. Once inside, they can grab what they need and simply walk out. Payment is automatically processed as they leave. ★

Aggies Post Top Fall Quarter Academic Marks

UC Davis Athletics
News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Tying for the sixth-highest quarterly GPA in Division I history, UC Davis student-athletes again set the standard in the classroom posting a fall quarter cumulative GPA of 3.25.

The Aggie women's team tied

for its fourth highest Division I GPA with a mark of 3.35 and the UC Davis men posted a 3.07 GPA tying for the eighth highest mark in the Division I era.

An impressive 12.95 percent of Aggie student-athletes finished with a quarterly GPA of 4.0, with 89 Aggies breaching the mark during the fall quarter. 272 Aggies finished with a

3.5+ quarterly GPA (39.59 percent) and 476 student-athletes posted a mark of 3.0+ GPA, encompassing 69.29 percent of all student-athletes.

Women's golf posted the highest quarterly team GPA with a mark of 3.68, tying for the program's fourth-highest GPA in Division I history. Men's cross country led the men's teams

with a 3.25 GPA (fifth highest in Division I) and that mark was also the seventh highest posted by an Aggie Division I men's team.

AGGIE NOTES

Men's water polo had its highest team GPA of the Division I era with a mark of 3.51. Men's basketball had the program's second highest

GPA of the Division 1 era with a 3.14. Baseball had the program's fourth highest team GPA of the Division 1 era with a 3.05. Women's tennis had the program's fourth highest team GPA of the Division 1 era with a 3.51. Women's lacrosse had the program's fifth highest team GPA of the Division 1 era with a 3.44. ★

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