

East Sacramento News

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Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

JUNE 27, 2025

**SEE
INSIDE**

KEEP 4TH FIREWORKS
SAFE AND LEGAL



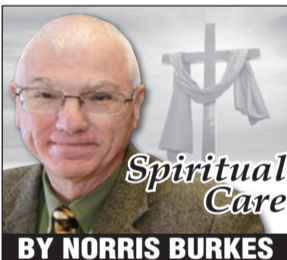
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VALUE, ACCESS THE
TALENT YOU HAVE



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GOOD MARRIAGES
REQUIRE SWEAT WORK



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Party Like a Patriot

Parades, Fireworks and More to Attend on Fourth of July



Take family and friends to the July 3 to celebrate Independence Eve with an all-you-can-eat barbecue feast and a firework display at the Sutter Health Park, 400 Ballpark Drive. Photo courtesy of Sacramento River Cats

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Independence Day is approaching, which means celebrations of red, white and blue are underway.

There will be several events in the East Sacramento area that residents can plan to attend

and stay entertained this Fourth of July weekend.

Fourth of July at River Park

The Sacramento River Park Neighborhood Association will host its 32nd annual River Park Fourth of July Parades and Festival on July 4.

There will be live music, food trucks, carnival games and other fun activities for both adults and children.

At about 9 a.m., the classic car parade and the firecracker parade will kick off festivities at Moddison Avenue, then continue throughout the streets of the River Park

neighborhood.

The festival will be held at Glenn Hall Park, 5415 Sandburg Drive, right after the parades.

July 4th Pocket Parade

Every year, Councilmember Rick

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Mudbuddies Rekindle Passion to Play in the Mud

Story by Kristina Rogers

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - There comes a point when adulting has worn thin and one is ready to become re-acquainted with their inner child.

That is undoubtedly true for four artists from Land Park, Pocket and Woodland who have put their fingers back in the mud. It all began when Paula Swayne, Patti Heimlich, Sandy Calhoun and Lee Kendall took clay classes together at Alpha Fire Arts.

When the COVID-19 pandemic closed the studio, they found another way to work in clay.

"First, we went to the park, then my backyard. When the weather stopped cooperating, we found a new place," Swayne said.

Swayne is a real estate agent with Dunnigan Realtors, and the Freeport building had a free space upstairs. The women cleared out the room and organized their desks.

Today, the artists meet every Monday at the Mudbuddies studio that opened in 2021. Guests

who visit can find the creative energy palpable.

Swayne has a bachelor of science degree in art from Oregon State

University. She worked with bronze until the Great Recession and then switched to clay. Asked what her favorite subjects

are, Swayne replied, "I sculpt animals. Fairly realistic. It's my favorite thing to do."

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Lee Kendall sculpts "Snoods Snake Oil." Photo by Kristina Rogers

Women's
Empowerment
Receives
\$20,000 from
Safe Credit Union

Women's
Empowerment
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Women's Empowerment received a grant of \$20,000 from SAFE Credit Union to provide housing readiness training, transitional workforce housing and financial empowerment training to Sacramento women who have experienced homelessness.

Women's Empowerment's comprehensive program helps women access safe homes they can afford now for their families while they secure jobs with upward mobility so they can eventually afford permanent housing.

"We are so grateful to SAFE Credit Union for recognizing the powerful role affordable housing plays in our community and the many facets that go into making it work, from financial empowerment to housing readiness training and transitional programs," said Lisa Culp, the executive director of Women's Empowerment. "Thanks to grantors like SAFE, we can continue to offer our long-term solution to homelessness that also meets immediate needs as we navigate Sacramento's ongoing housing crisis."

Each woman begins with Women's Empowerment's two-month employment-readiness and empowerment program that helps women who are unhoused pick up the tools to secure a safe home and steady job. She receives free transportation assistance and childcare for children up to age five in the group's onsite child development center. She works one on one with a social worker, housing specialist, employment specialist and volunteer career mentor, and attends a range of classes on job-readiness, financial empowerment, housing readiness and more. She receives health services and can join support groups.

Graduates of the initial program can return for services at any point in their lives when they need additional tools, including counseling, job search and retention support, access to a professional clothing closet, financial coaching, support from a housing specialist, health services,

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Keep Fourth of July Fireworks Safe and Legal

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- With Independence Day coming up, it's always a good idea to know the risks of fireworks, only use legal fireworks and stay safe when using them. If you see or suspect illegal firework usage, reporting it is encouraged. When it comes to fireworks, we want to keep it safe and keep it legal.

The use or sale of illegal fireworks will result in fines. In 2022, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors adopted a social host ordinance that levies fines, starting at \$1,000, against property owners who either use or allow the use of illegal fireworks on their property, in addition to fines for use in places such as the American River Parkway, schools and parks.

"Host" means a person who knowingly permits or allows fireworks to be lit, exploded or sold on private property owned or controlled by the person.

If the illegal fireworks are being set off from your property, you are responsible for the fines. Penalties for violations are \$1,000 for the first violation, \$2,500 for the second violation within one year of the first violation, \$5,000 for each additional violation within



It's always a good idea to know the risks of fireworks, only use legal fireworks and stay safe when using them. Image by Barbara A Lane from Pixabay

one year of the first violation and \$10,000 for each violation that occurs at schools, parks and within the American River Parkway.

Calls for service throughout the county increase dramatically on July 4 and emergency response resources are stretched extremely thin.

During the Fourth of July holiday weekend, use 9-1-1 for emergencies only, such as an active fire, injury or immediate threat to persons or property. Each

jurisdiction has provided an alternative method to report illegal fireworks sales and usage.

The unsafe use of fireworks can cause severe burns, amputations, blinding and even death. Damaging fires might occur when children use fireworks unsupervised by adults. Parents are responsible for any property damage or injuries caused by all fireworks.

All legal fireworks in California are called Safe and Sane Fireworks and must bear the State Fire

Marshal's seal. Safe and Sane Fireworks can only be sold from noon June 28 through 9 p.m. July 4. Safe and Sane Fireworks can only be used between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. from June 28 to July 4. Any firework that goes up in the air or explodes is illegal and dangerous.

To maintain safety, always have a non-combustible bucket of water to dispose of fireworks and leave fireworks in the water overnight before disposing. Always have an

available hose connected to water in case of fire and do not use fireworks near dry grass or other flammable materials. Do not use fireworks under a canopy, covered balcony, covered patio or under a tree or bushes.

Report illegal fireworks sale and usage in unincorporated Sacramento County to 916-874-5115 or reportfireworks@saccounty.gov.

Report illegal fireworks sale and usage in the City of Sacramento to 916-808-FIRE (3473) or the Sacramento Fire Department app.

Report illegal fireworks sale and usage in Rancho Cordova to 916-362-5115 or the Rancho Cordova Connect App.

Report illegal fireworks sale and usage in Citrus Heights to 916-727-5500 or seeclixfix.com.

Report illegal fireworks sale and usage in Elk Grove to 916-714-5115 or fireworks@elk-grovepd.org.

Report illegal fireworks sale and usage in Galt to 209-366-7000.

Aren't sure who or how to report? Call 3-1-1 to be connected to the right place.

Together, we can ensure that Independence Day celebrations are fun, safe and do not cause undue injury or fire in our communities. ★

Mosquito Samples Test Positive for West Nile Virus

Sacramento Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District announced on June 18 that the first signs of West Nile virus (WNV) activity have been detected in Yolo County as one mosquito sample collected from Davis has tested positive for the disease.

This finding comes a week after a mosquito sample also tested positive in Sacramento County.

"As the weather gets warmer, WNV activity will steadily increase," said Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District Manager Gary Goodman. "This is a cause for concern, especially as summer is around the corner and we are approaching the hottest months of the year when activity typically intensifies. We urge residents to continue taking proper precautions to protect themselves from mosquitoes."

The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District's "D's" of Mosquito Prevention practices include

draining standing water that might produce mosquitoes and avoiding being outdoors dawn and dusk. Also dress appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside and defend yourself by using an effective insect repellent and following label directions. Another practice is to make sure that door and window screens are in good working condition.

Call district personnel at 1-800-429-1022 or visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net to address mosquito problems.

In response to the recent findings, the district will continue to monitor West Nile

virus activity through widespread mosquito trapping and testing. In addition, to quickly reduce mosquito populations and protect public health, ground treatments will also be conducted in areas where virus-positive mosquitoes have been detected.

For current information about district activities, visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net. Residents can also subscribe to mailing lists to receive email notifications for upcoming mosquito treatments by zip code. To sign up, go to Spray Notifications on the website. ★

The 'New' K-ZAP Turns 10

By J.G. Wirt

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

July 8 will mark 10 years since the rebirth of K-ZAP as a low-power broadcaster and internet radio station. In that time, former listeners have tuned back in and have helped to spread the word about the "50 Years of Rock, Blues & More" station.

There's no big celebration planned, said Dennis Newhall, program manager and weekday morning announcer.

Rather, K-ZAP's current big effort aims to secure a second low-power signal that would help its radio broadcasts (at KZHP 93.3 FM) cover an area from Rocklin to Mather and McClellan to El Dorado Hills. A waiver from the Federal Communications Commission, with help from the area's U.S. representatives, just might make it happen, Newhall said.



Tubby the K-ZAP cat adorns bumper stickers, shirts and hats promoting the station.

The petition is at k-zap.org/zapthegap.

Meanwhile, the all-volunteer crew continues to raise the K-ZAP profile by supporting events and selling tee-shirts and hats featuring the smiling K-ZAP cat and shows such as "Mick Martin's Blues Party" and "Psychedelic Sunday."

The on-air team adds context to the K-ZAP music mix in three-hour shifts. And it's all about the music: new songs by

old artists and just the right mix of the new stuff. K-ZAP airs plenty of deep tracks and b-sides, along with artists that don't get airplay on the major stations.

"It's a craft. Like you're building something," Newhall said of curating the playlist from the vast K-ZAP music library. "Sometimes a great artist has something new but it doesn't fit our format."

The on-air volunteers do three-hour shifts, all remote, and support the station because it's convenient, Newhall said. No commute. "And it's fun. It's a sandbox."

"For the most part they're radio veterans," Newhall said. "No one's hiring 60-year-old DJs."

Newhall, who also helps to curate the Sacramento Rock and Radio Museum, says he and the other veteran announcers do this work



Volunteers with the K-ZAP "Emporium of Swag" help to promote the low-power radio and internet station at area events. Photo courtesy of Dennis Newhall

for mental stimulation and camaraderie.

"And like any hobby, you try to get better at it," he said.

Learn more at K-ZAP.org.

K-ZAP's Specialty Shows

"Mick Martin's Blues Party" is from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

"Floydian Slip" is at 8 p.m. Tuesdays.

"The Grateful Dead Hour" is at 9 p.m. Thursdays.

"Rush Hour Blues" is at 5 p.m. Fridays.

"Psychedelic Sunday" is 10 a.m. to noon Sundays. ★

Women's Empowerment Receives \$20,000 from Safe Credit Union

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financial assistance for housing support, paid job training and transitional workforce housing.

Women's Empowerment offers the most comprehensive job-readiness program in the Sacramento area designed specifically to help women break the generational cycle of homelessness for themselves and their children. In 2024, 155 graduates secured employment or enrolled in advanced training or school and 89% of graduates maintained or improved their housing.

Since 2001, 1,955 women have graduated from the

program with more than 4,000 children. Women's Empowerment is funded through private donations from the community and grants. To make a donation visit <http://www.WomensEmpowerment.org>.

"SAFE is thrilled to be able to help women get a strong start on a healthier and higher quality of life," said Lauren LeBov, a community impact manager at SAFE Credit Union. "We are especially committed to community programs like these that demonstrate our philanthropic goals to support affordable housing and life-skill development initiatives."

SAFE Credit Union supports organizations and individuals working to improve the community and themselves, with a focus on organizations that align with its pillars of philanthropy, including financial literacy and stability, workforce development, affordable housing and youth/young adult education. SAFE provides support through grants, sponsorships, direct donations, and volunteerism and invests in the future of community members with scholarship programs.

For more, visit safecu.org/community/community-impact. ★



A Women's Empowerment graduate celebrates her new home at the nonprofit's Trellis Gardens transitional workforce housing program. Women's Empowerment receives a grant from SAFE Credit Union for the program. Photo courtesy of Women's Empowerment

Mudbuddies Rekindle Passion to Play in the Mud



Mudbuddies artists working in their studio are Sandy Calhoun (front right), Lee Kendall (front left), Paula Swayne (back right) and Patti Heimlich (back left). Photo by Kristina Rogers

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Heimlich, who likes to say her last name is spelled like the maneuver, was sculpting a large whimsical frog. Clay has always been her creative outlet but Heimlich left it behind for family and work.

Heimlich explains her journey back to clay: "I got laid off and started dreaming in clay. So, I got a block of it and experimented with it. Then got another job as an office manager and forgot about it for another 10 years."

But adult obligations began to weigh on Heimlich.

"I was taking care of my parents and my husband noticed I needed a stress reliever, so he signed me up for classes at Alpha Fire and I've been doing it ever since," Heimlich said.

Heimlich began with faces and portraits and then shifted to animals, such as the frog she was working on.

"I do things that make me happy, plus they sell better," Heimlich said.

Kendall retired from Aerojet as a master planner and production control manager and said that her career was all about practicality.

"I have worked very hard not to do practical things," Kendall said, as she embraces her free spirit.

"I like to say I'm older than dirt," Kendall said. "When the rain came, it got the dirt muddy; I realized you could make things with it."

Kendall's subjects range from animated birds and people to roly-poly cats and dogs. Kendall also creates little fish on plant spikes that she calls "fish sticks."

Her inspiration can come from anywhere.

"I'm working on this truck, which I call 'Snood's Snake Oil,'" Kendall giggled. "A



"One's Not Like the Others" is by Paula Swayne. Photo by Paula Swayne

cartoon inspired the car but I'm trying to remember which one."

Calhoun likes to say, "For me, it was love at first touch."

Calhoun spent four years at San Francisco State University studying graphic arts, but after an introductory clay class at Chico State, she went on to graduate with a bachelor of arts degree in ceramics.

Calhoun became a sixth-grade teacher and her passion for clay remained on the back burner until she retired in 2012. Today, Calhoun has a home studio with a kiln in Woodland. She looks forward to driving to the Mudbuddies studio and hanging out with her friends once a week.

Calhoun talked about her relationship with clay and creating.

"I love it but I also hate it. Sometimes, it has a mind of its own. It's like a willful child. You think you're making a mouse and then it turns out to be a frog."

The other women laugh, because they know the feeling. Swayne added, "I'll come back from lunch and think, 'Wow, what was I doing?' We don't feel bad telling each other what's not working. We



"Funny birds" is by Lee Kendall. Photo by Kristina Rogers

bounce off each other."

Calhoun continued, "I get inspiration from everywhere. You don't have to work hard at it, only open up to what's around you. Once you tap into that creative energy, it flows."

"We are not like the potters who use wheels. That's a bit too 'science-y' or serious for us," Calhoun said.

The group prefers the freeform work of hand sculpting.

The women rely on a childlike curiosity to get their ideas. Sometimes, it's a dream or a pattern on the wall. At other times, it's interesting people or even a piece of art in an office. Whatever they make, no piece is like the other. And although the ideas get a bit muddy, what's clear is that the women will continue to meet on Mondays and play together.

The Mudbuddies studio is open to the public during Verge Sac Open Studios, taking place the weekend of Sept. 13. Individuals can learn about upcoming art showings for Calhoun at sandycalhoun.com. The public can reach out to Swayne to schedule a visit to the Mudbuddies studio at paula@paulaswayne.com. ★



Here is a whimsical piece by Sandy Calhoun. Photo by Sandy Calhoun



"Girl and flowers" is by Patti Heimlich. Photo by Kristina Rogers



"Litte Big Man" is by Sandy Calhoun. Photo by Sandy Calhoun

KP International MARKET
 FOOD COURT NOW OPEN
 10971 Olson Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
 916.853.8000
 Market - 7 Days: 8am - 9pm
 Food Court - 7 Days: 11am - 7:30pm
 Korean/Mex/Viet: 7:30pm last call
 Chinese/Japanese: 7:00pm last call

KP KARAOKE SPECIAL
 Sun-Thu Come before 6pm (Valid Time)
 Fri-Sat Come before 5pm (Valid Time)

- For 6 people \$95.00** + Gratuity
 3 Hours Karaoke + Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 2 Main Dishes (Small Room)
- For 12 people \$210.00** + Gratuity
 3 Hours Karaoke + 2 Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes (Medium Room)
- For 14 people \$230.00** + Gratuity
 3 Hours Karaoke + 2 Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 5 Main Dishes (Family Room)
- For 18 people 295.00** + Gratuity
 3 Hours Karaoke + 3 Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 7 Main Dishes (Large Room)
- For 28 people \$385.00** + Gratuity
 3 Hours Karaoke + 3 Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 8 Main Dishes (Party Room)

Dishes To Choose From: Chicken Fried Rice, Beef Fried Rice, Pork Fried Rice, etc.

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

- Korean Kimbap**: 4 kinds, 230 g, REG. \$3.99/EA, **\$1.49/ea**
- Assi Frozen Oyster**: 226 g, REG. \$5.99/EA, **\$3.99/ea**

WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

- Chuck Roast Boneless**: **\$5.49/lb**
- Beef Ribeye Roast - Bnls**: **\$8.49/lb**
- Chicken Leg Quarters**: **99¢/lb**
- Pork Neck Bones**: **\$1.99/lb**
- Pork Cushion Meat-Bnls**: **\$2.99/lb**
- Pork Loin Ribs (country style)- Bnls**: **\$2.99/lb**

WEEKLY HALAL SPECIALS

- Chicken Leg Quarters**: **99¢/lb**
- New Zealand Lamb Shoulder Chops Bone-In**: **\$5.49/lb**
- Chuck Roast Boneless**: **\$5.79/lb**

FRESH PRODUCE

- American Cucumber**: **59¢/lb**
- Russet Potato 10 lbs Bag**: **\$2.59/bag**
- Grey Squash**: **89¢/lb**
- Mexican Green Onion**: **99¢/lea**
- Woodear Mushroom 6 oz**: **\$2.29/ea**
- Green Papaya**: **89¢/lb**
- Red Walnut 8 lbs Bag**: **\$16.99/bag**
- Yellow Onion 3 lbs Bag**: **\$1.69/bag**

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

- Dasani Drinking Water 24 x 16.9 f.oz**: **\$6.99/ea** +CRV
- Shultz Mini Twist Pretzels 16 oz**: **\$1.99/ea**
- Super Lucky Jasmine Rice 5 lbs**: **\$6.99/ea**
- Pedialyte Freezer Pops 16 pops 33.6 f.oz**: **\$3.49/ea**
- Sunny D Tangy Original Orange Drink 64 f.oz**: **\$1.79/ea** +CRV

ASIAN GROCERY

- Dragonfly Snake Jelly Cups 24.8 oz**: **\$6.99/ea**
- Saigon Quail Eggs (in brine) 15 oz**: **\$2.99/ea**
- Lucia Bamboo Shoots Strips 19 oz**: **\$1.99/ea**
- Martin Luncheon Meat 12 oz**: **\$2.99/ea**
- Caffino Barista 4 in 1 Coffee 10.56 oz**: **\$3.49/ea**

EUROPEAN GROCERY

- Ahmad Tea Earl Grey Tea 100 T/B**: **\$8.49/ea**
- Zvijezda Sunflower Oil 3 liters**: **\$13.99/ea**
- Marco Polo Pomegranate Juice 1 liter**: **\$5.49/ea**
- Kinder Chocolate 100 gr**: **\$2.29/ea**
- Sadaf Raw Wildflower Honey Comb 400 gr**: **\$10.99/ea**

KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

- KOOK SOON DANG DRAFT MANGGOLLI**: **\$2.69/ea** (REG. \$4.49)
- Makgeolli Rice Wine 750 ml**

HOUSEWARE

- ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (6 CUPS)**: **\$54.99**
- ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (10 CUPS)**: **\$59.99**
- ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL**: **\$39.99/ea**

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

- Frozen Baby Octopus 2 lbs**: **\$9.99/ea** (REG. \$13.99/EA)

EUROPEAN DELI

- Columbus Applewood Ham**: **\$6.99/lb** (REG. \$7.99/LB)
- Green Olives Stuffed w/ Almonds**: **\$6.39/lb** (REG. \$7.39/LB)
- Belmont German Ham**: **\$5.49/lb** (REG. \$6.49/LB)
- Kalamata Olives w/ Garlic & Pepper**: **\$6.39/lb** (REG. \$7.39/LB)

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE JUNE 25 - JULY 01, 2025.

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Pup Pool Days Benefit SPCA

By Seth Henderson

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A pet boarding facility is sponsoring and hosting four Splashy Hour open-swim sessions for dogs to “get a break from the Sacramento heat” that doubles as a Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) fundraiser.

Between July and August, the Animal Den Pet Resort and Spa, located at 4060 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, features an in-ground “doggy” pool and attached play yards, allowing dogs to run around as much as they want.

Two 90-minute swimming sessions will be held on July 16 with the first starting at 5:15 p.m. and the second starting at 7 p.m. Only dogs are allowed in the pool.

Two sessions on Aug. 13 mirror the July 16 schedule with the first starting at 5:15 p.m. and the second starting at 7 p.m.

Each dog must be accompanied by at least one person. Ticket prices are \$35 per dog and admission for owners is free. Each of the four sessions has a limit of 30 dogs and 60 people.

All proceeds will benefit the animals at the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Dog owners must show proof of current vaccines ((Rabies, DHPP and Bordetella) for their dog ahead of time to info@animaldenpetresort.com with “Splashy Hour” in the subject line.

According to the



Multiple dogs trot into the shallow water of the Animal Den Pet Resort and Spa's in-ground pool during a previous Splashy Hour event in partnership with the Sacramento SPCA. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Animal Den Pet Resort and Spa, this event is best suited for dogs who are well socialized and comfortable playing in large groups. Animal Den employees reserve the right to observe all dog interactions and make necessary decisions to keep all dogs and humans safe.

Adult beverages will be available for purchase.

A community sponsor of the event is Pet Evolution, a locally-owned franchise in Folsom, located at 25065 Blue Ravine Road, Suite 110. Pet Evolution provides an array of grooming and dietary services for pets, promoting health and wellness.

Featured vendors at the Splashy Hour include Howling Apparel; Photogra-V; Rocky and Stella's Treats; and Xochi's Pawfections.

Howling Apparel sells printed dog-tie bandanas and stickers, according to its Etsy shop page. The company's Instagram profile said its production is considered “small batch” and it's based



A black dog is soaking wet and sticking its tongue out during a previous Splashy Hour event at the Animal Den Pet Resort and Spa, giving the event an ear up. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

in California.

Photogra-V, a photography company run by Victor Martinez and his wife, Deanna, assists adoption agencies around Sacramento and the Bay Area, according to its Instagram profile. They also take professional photographs of dogs and their owners, according to Photogra-V's website. Booking contact information can be found at photogra-v.com.

Rocky and Stella's Treats is a Latina owned all-natural dog and cat

treat company that advertises “no sugar, no dyes, minimal ingredients” on its Instagram profile. On its website, products range from ostrich and chicken heads to plush toys and pinatas. Other products include T-shirts, cakes and breath mints for dogs.

Xochi's Pawfections features many themed bandanas and plush toys on its website, including pastries, tacos and a “Pawchata Toy,” playing on the popular Latin American drink, horchata. Xochi's also gives back to a local animal shelter, according to its website.

The Animal Den Pet Resort and Spa offers memberships that give access to its pool and playground, with new members signing up at Splashy Hour to receive their first month of membership for free, according to its event flier. Membership access is Thursday and Friday nights, and Saturdays and Sundays.

More information about the Splashy Hour can be found at sspc.org/splashy-hour. ★

87 Animals Receive New Homes



Quincy, 8 months old, is one of 87 animals adopted from the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals during California Adopt-a-Pet Day on June 7. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Sacramento SPCA News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

The Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) joined more than 150 organizations in California to help find loving homes for pets during the second annual Adopt-A-Pet Day on June 7.

Thanks to CalAnimals, San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, all pet adoptions were sponsored during this one-day event.

Eighty-seven animals were adopted from the Sacramento Society for

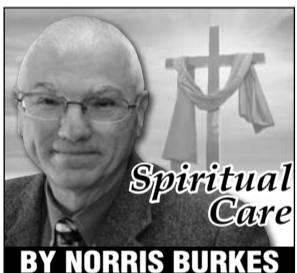
the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on Adopt-A-Pet Day: 26 dogs, 56 cats and five small animals.

Three of the SPCA's adventure-loving dogs, Amigo, Suri and Dolce, who were previously featured in Sacramento SPCA postings, were also adopted.

And last week, Cosmo, who was transferred to the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in January in response to the Los Angeles fires, was adopted following a foster furlough adventure shared on social media.

If you are still looking for a pet to join your family, view the SPCA's adoptable animals at sspc.org/adoptable. ★

Good Marriages Require Sweat Work



Spiritual Care

BY NORRIS BURKES

Wedding season is in full bloom for Elk Grove Park and area churches, I've seen the lovely dresses spilling from stretch limos, flowers flowing, and jewelry sparkling.

Looking at this outside view, I see the signs that the couple spent countless hours sweating the details of their lavish affair.

But long before this summer spectacular, I hope someone has asked the couple this question:

“You've prepared for the special day, but what have you done to consider the lifetime you are committing to?”

It's a question I always asked the couple in my role as officiant and premarital counselor. But it was the questions the couple asked of me that sometimes threw me off guard.

For instance, just a few weeks before a wedding, I once had a groom-to-be toss me a “by-the-way bomb.”

“My fiancée wants to omit the promise, ‘Till death do us part.’ Would that be a deal breaker for the ceremony?”

Deju vu. It was the same question from a bride-to-be who asked me to change the promise to read, “Till love do us part.”

I told both couples, “I really have to stick with the unbridged format.”

The first couple responded by finding another chaplain. The latter couple dissolved their marriage when the groom left on a Navy cruise and the bride parted to go with a land lover.

Unfortunately, marriage

counseling is far less comedic and much more frustrating.

The most frustrating thing is that I feel like I have been blessed with a marriage that I cannot clone in others.

A good marriage is a complicated dish, and I don't have the recipe, or I'd publish it. Often, I've come home from a difficult counseling case, and I'll hold my wife tight.

There is no greater priority than my marriage, because I believe God gave marriage to mankind as the closest equal to unconditional love. Despite God's intention for marriage, many are willing to take the risk of making marriage analogous to hell.

While working as a hospital chaplain, a respiratory therapist burst into my office, “Chaplain, Chaplain! She said ‘yes!’”

“She” was another therapist who'd just accepted his wedding proposal after two years of dating.

I knew them well enough to assume their biggest challenge would be to quit smoking. Despite what respiratory therapists witness, some still smoke like chimneys.

He heralded the news from floor to floor until he arrived on the bottom floor — literally and figuratively. His last stop was the nurses' station where his old girlfriend was the shift manager.

She invited him into a supply closet where her congratulatory “hug” went much farther than it should have. In a hot Texas minute, a two-year relationship went up in smoke.

Hospital administration congratulated them both with unpaid vacations.

When I've seen people like these therapists risking something so precious, I'm often left shaken. It makes me try to define and categorize what I have in a vain attempt to keep it and control it. I wish it worked that way.

I am not entirely sure what my wife and I have. It's the kind of love that continues, whether I burn the toast or burn my temper. It's a love that tells me I'm forgiven before I ask. It's the kind of love described in our wedding vow that “halves a sorrow and doubles a joy.”

Like many couples, we sometimes go to bed dead tired, sometimes too tired for the fun I seek and too tired for the prayers she wants. But we rarely are too tired to talk out our day and absolutely never too tired for our three good night kisses and “I love you.”

Still, maybe there is a thing that I know about marriage that respiratory therapists also know about smokers.

Therapists, who watch smokers die, know they are no less likely to become smokers.

Ministers, who watch marriages die, aren't any less likely to divorce. It takes work to quit smoking, and it takes work to make marriages successful.

So, at the end of the day, I realize there is something Freudian about the way my fast fingers often seem to mistype “sweetheart” into “sweatheart.”

The typo is a great reminder that a good marriage takes a lot of work and spiritual sweat. Good marriages require honest heart work, but most especially real sweat work.

“I love you Sweat-heart!”

Sign up to receive this weekly column in your email box at <https://thechaplain.net/newsletter/> or send me your email address to comment@thechaplain.net.

All of Norris's books can be ordered on Amazon. Autographed copies can be obtained on his website www.thechaplain.net or by sending a check for \$20 for each book to 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. ★

ABOUT TOWN

Genealogy Learning Event July 16

The Genealogical Association of Sacramento will hold a special summer event on Wednesday, July 16 at Belle Cooledge library, 5600 S. Land Park Drive, Sacramento. We will hold a learning event with several stations to learn about various genealogy sites to explore for your genealogy expansion.

The doors open at 11:30 a.m. Bring a friend; bring two friends. It is free; there will be prizes and light refreshments. Questions? Call Melanie, 916-383-1221.

Area Museum Experiences

A sampling of must-see and must-do experiences and special activations offered by local museums include the following:

California Museum – Experience four decades of powerful activist printmaking in “Mission Gráfica: Reflecting a Community in Print,” a striking exhibition that showcases the rich legacy of Mission Gráfica, a renowned community print center in San Francisco. Featuring 42 vibrant screenprints from influential artists such as Carmen Lomas

Garza, Rupert Garcia, and Favianna Rodriguez, the exhibit explores themes of cultural celebration, political resistance, and social justice—from gentrification and gender equality to international solidarity. Through Sept. 14.

Details at californiamuseum.org.

California Automobile Museum – Sixty Years of Mustang. A comprehensive history of the Mustang, from when it first hit the roads in 1965 to the current era of Mustangs.

Highlighting stories from prolific names in Mustang history like Saleen, Shelby and Iacocca. Interactive experiences and digital displays showcase the iconic Mustang image over the decades.

Details at calautomuseum.org.

California State Railroad Museum– The Chinese Railroad Workers' Experience offers visitors a view of the Chinese workers who built the western portion of the nation's first Transcontinental Railroad. Marginalized by history, the Chinese workers were more than a nameless group of laborers.

Details at californiarailroad.museum.

Laser Light Shows at SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity

The UC Davis Multiverse Theater at MOSAC offers an immersive music experience, paired with spectacular full-dome lasers, for the best way to listen to your favorite artists outside of a live performance.

Our laser shows offer a robust library of classic rock, pop music, and family-friendly favorites playing over our 25,000-watt Dolby 5.1 surround sound system. Details at visitmosac.org.

Elks Lodge 6 Calendar of Events

Elks Lodge 6 Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am; \$15 tax included.

Yoga, Monday 12 p.m., Wednesday 3:30 p.m. Lodge members free.

Martial Arts, Monday 5 p.m.

Pickleball, Monday, Wednesday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; Thursday, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 4-7 p.m.

Karaoke Nights, Thursdays and Saturdays, 7 p.m.

Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 p.m. See elks6.net for weekly menu. ★

LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

Find out what's happening in your local area

Arrest Logs updated daily

EASTSACRAMENTONEWS.COM

Mercy General Hospital Celebrates 100 Years of Babies

**Dignity Health
News Release**

SACRAMENTO AREA, CA (MPG) - As part of a year-long effort to celebrate Dignity Health Mercy General Hospital's 100th year of providing compassionate, high-quality health care to the Greater Sacramento community, the hospital held a birthday celebration June 11 for the community and staff to celebrate generations of families born at the hospital.

Held in the Mercy Healing Garden, the celebration brought together hospital leaders, multi-generational families and longtime staff. The group celebrated the connection they have with the hospital and reflected on the legacy of Mercy General's Family Birth Center. Since opening its doors in 1925, the hospital has welcomed tens of thousands of babies, becoming a trusted part of life's most meaningful beginnings for Sacramento families.

"This event was a powerful reminder of the deep connections our hospital has built over the last century," said Steven Foster, president and chief executive officer of Mercy General Hospital. "It was an honor to stand alongside community members whose lives began here and celebrate the generations who have continued to turn to us for care."

Kevin Duggan, president and chief executive officer of Mercy Foundation, Sister Katherine Doyle and other special guests



Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities including a historical photo display, interactive photo booth and a commemorative cake cutting. Photo courtesy of Mercy General Hospital

joined Foster in offering remarks at the event. Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities, including a historical photo display, interactive photo booth and a commemorative cake cutting. The hospital also unveiled a new mural by renowned artist Amanda Lynn, paying tribute to Mercy General's century-long legacy of compassion and healing.

The event's highlight was an announcement that the hospital's Family Birth Center will be named the Sister Kathleen Horgan, RSM (Religious Sisters of Mercy), Family Birth Center at Mercy General Hospital. Long-time friends and supporters of Sister Kathleen collectively donated \$500,000 to Mercy



Held in the Mercy Healing Garden, the celebration brought together hospital leaders, multi-generational families and longtime staff. Photo courtesy of Mercy General Hospital

Foundation to complete a refresh of the Family Birth Center to ensure the hospital continues its mission of providing exceptional, compassionate care to mothers, newborns and their families.

Originally from County Cork, Ireland, Sister Kathleen came to Sacramento as a young novitiate and began her ministry in education before serving as director of Mission Services at Mercy



The Mercy General Hospital unveiled a new mural by renowned artist Amanda Lynn, paying tribute to Mercy General's century-long legacy of compassion and healing. Photo courtesy of Mercy General Hospital

General Hospital from 1992 to 2006. Her decades of dedicated service and unwavering commitment to the Mercy mission continue to inspire and uplift the community.

The Sister Kathleen Horgan, RSM, Family Birth Center at Mercy General Hospital will stand as a lasting tribute to her legacy of compassion, leadership and faith.

"This generous gift is a reflection of the impact Sister Kathleen has had on Mercy General and the community as a whole," Duggan said. "Support like this enables us to invest in the future of our region's children, ensuring compassionate, high-quality care for all families."

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy General Hospital has grown into a modern center of excellence while remaining deeply rooted in its mission of service and community partnership. ★

Sacramento-Area New Home Sales Bounce Back



A total of 254 new homes were sold in Sacramento County new home communities during the month. Image by Paul Brennan from Pixabay

By North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - New home sales in the Sacramento region dropped off sharply in early May as area buyers continued to pull back due to heightened economic uncertainties but they rebounded in the second half of May, the North State Building Industry Association (BIA) reported June 10.

A total of 455 new homes in the region were sold by Building Industry Association members during May, which was up 10% from April but down 32% from May 2024, which was the highest-selling May since 2005. In fact, May 2025 sales were just slightly below the average for the month dating back to 1997.

North State Building Industry Association President and CEO Tim Murphy said that buyers here and nationally are continuing to react to the swings in economic news.

"Early in the month, prospective buyers were still adjusting to the administration's tariff policies and other initiatives but by the end of the month, the number of people visiting new home communities rebounded to the highest level since January and sales increased as well," said Murphy. "While

mortgage interest rates remain close to 7% and the number of existing homes on the market is slowly increasing, it's clear that the demand for new homes in our region remains strong."

A total of 254 new homes were sold in Sacramento County new home communities during May, as expected, given that the majority of developments are located there.

Another 141 homes were sold in Placer County, with the remainder of sales in the Yuba-Sutter region, El Dorado County and Yolo County.

"As people continue to adjust to current economic trends, we continue to believe that new home sales in our region will remain solid," said Murphy.

Roseville again saw the most sales of any submarket last month with 87, followed by Rancho Cordova with 71, Elk Grove with 63, Sacramento with 61 and Natomas with 29. Rounding out the Top 10 markets were Lincoln (21), Rocklin (17), El Dorado Hills and Folsom with 16 each, and Plumas Lake with 14.

Building Industry Association statistics include sales by members in Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. ★

Board of Supervisors Appoints Chief Probation Officer



Jamal Rowe is the new chief probation officer appointed by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors on June 10. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted to appoint Jamal Rowe as the new chief probation officer on June 10.

Rowe's appointment follows an extensive and competitive recruitment process coordinated by the Sacramento Superior Court. The hiring committee was comprised of Sacramento Superior Court judges and the deputy county executive for public safety and justice, Eric Jones.

Following panel interviews, Rowe was identified as the most qualified candidate for the chief probation officer role. His selection was unanimously approved by the Superior Court Executive Committee and subsequently by all Sacramento Superior Court judges.

"The unanimous support

for Mr. Rowe's appointment by our judicial officers reflects the confidence we have in his leadership, public service experience, and commitment to public safety," said Sacramento Superior Court Assistant Presiding Judge Lawrence G. Brown. "We are confident he will lead the probation department with integrity and vision."

Rowe brings to the post more than 25 years of experience in public safety, including more than two decades with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. He most recently served as acting deputy director of the Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO), where he provided statewide leadership in operations, policy direction, and executive communications. His career began in Sacramento County, where he served four years as a probation assistant at Juvenile Hall, bringing his professional journey full circle with this new role.

"We welcome Jamal Rowe back to Sacramento County," Jones said. "His extensive background in community corrections, leadership in statewide parole operations, and demonstrated commitment to public safety and rehabilitation make him an outstanding choice to lead our probation department."

Rowe has been recognized for his achievements

throughout his career, including being named Division of Adult Parole Operation's Professional of the Year in 2022 and serving as a member of the California Sex Offender Management Board from 2018 to 2021. He has led the development of training and policy initiatives, including Division of Adult Parole Operation's first POST-certified parole academy and a customized principled policing training module. Rowe is also a subject matter expert in electronic monitoring and sex offender treatment and a graduate of the Los Angeles Police Department Leadership Program.

Rowe holds a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from California State University, Sacramento, and is a senior fellow with the American Leadership Forum.

"I am honored to return to Sacramento County and serve in this vital role," Rowe said. "I look forward to working alongside dedicated probation professionals to support our communities, enhance public safety, and expand opportunities for successful reentry and rehabilitation."

His appointment follows the retirement of former Chief Probation Officer Marlon Yarber in December 2024 and the interim leadership of Assistant Chief Probation Officer Julie Wherry. ★

Proposed Initiative Would Increase Graduation Ethnic Studies Requirements

California Secretary of State News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., announced that the proponent of a new initiative was cleared to begin collecting petition signatures on May 30.

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on initiative petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponent and to the

Secretary of State, and the initiative can be circulated for signatures.

The Secretary of State then provides a calendar of deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials.

The Attorney General's official title and summary for the measure is as follows: Increases ethnic studies requirements for graduation from the California state university. Initiative statute.

Under current law, undergraduate students at the California State University (CSU) must complete one three-unit ethnic studies course

to graduate.

This measure would change California State University's graduation requirements to require, beginning in the 2030-2031 academic year: undergraduate students to complete two ethnic studies courses (one three-unit lower division course and one three-unit upper division course); and graduate students to complete one three-unit ethnic studies course.

The measure prohibits the Legislature from reducing the number of required courses for graduation or altering the required

course curriculum.

An estimated summary by the Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments states "Increased state costs in the tens of millions of dollars annually during initial implementation of the measure, with the bulk of costs phasing out over time."

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1979 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 25-0003.

The proponent of the measure, Emeka Ogbatue, must

collect signatures of 546,651 registered voters (five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2022 general election) for the measure to become eligible for the ballot.

The proponent has 180 days to circulate petitions for the measure, meaning the signatures must be submitted to county elections officials no later than Nov. 26, 2025.

The address for the proponent is 420 N McKinley St., Unit No. 111-307, Corona. The proponent can also be contacted at eogbatue@goldenvalues.org. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



I have long known that Sacramento Kings fans are true basketball fans, so the NBA finals were a real treat for everyone that loves the game.

Two small-market teams vying for the title of the best in basketball, with defense as the defining factor of the series. It was a clinic on team defense, and Sacramento fans had the privilege of witnessing exactly how it's done.

This series could have gone either way, and if Tyrese Haliburton hadn't gone down in the first quarter of game seven, perhaps it's Indianapolis celebrating Monday morning. We'll never know, and for true Kings fans, seeing Tyrese go down with what experts' suspect is an Achilles injury was a sobering moment.

If the injury is a torn Achilles, Haliburton will likely miss all next season and greatly hamper any chances the Pacers have of reaching the finals.

Now that the finals are over and the Oklahoma City Thunder were crowned NBA champions for the 2024/2025 season, one area where Indianapolis truly dominated was their bench. With a record-breaking 249 points in the series, led by TJ McConnell and Obi Toppin, the bench kept them in the fight, playing a key role in pushing the finals to its limit.

Both teams share players that are long and have huge wingspans.

Chet Holmgren proved why he was the No. 1 draft pick for the Thunder two seasons ago, setting an NBA record with five blocks in Game 7. He added 18 points, and his energy gave OKC what they needed as they capitalized on a Pacers team that found themselves short-handed in the first quarter of Game 7.

TJ McConnell's 68 points, 28 assists, 19 rebounds and 14 steals, set a finals record for a bench player, but even this remarkable effort was no match for the defense of the Oklahoma City Thunder.

What can Scott Perry and his Sacramento Kings take from watching this series?

Value the talent you have and access it accurately. If the Kings have a shortcoming, it's their inability to access talent.

Sacramento Kings fans are optimistic that with a leadership change, new GM will change that and begin the process with a notable find in the

upcoming NBA draft.

Is there a player at pick No. 42 that can make any impact with the Kings next season? Can Scott Perry and his staff find a diamond in the rough?

Unless a trade is made to move the Kings into the first round, that is what the new leadership team has to do.

Trades are beginning to occur, and 7-footer Kevin Durant is on the move. The same Kevin Durant that was drafted No. 2 overall by the Seattle SuperSonics that became none other than the Oklahoma City Thunder.

The traveled Kevin Durant will settle in Houston, Texas, where he'll reunite with former teammate Steven Adams to help the Rockets rebuild. In return, the trade sent Dillon Brooks, Jalen Green, and five second-round draft picks to the Phoenix Suns. Who ultimately wins this trade remains to be seen.

Draft choices matter, and the Sacramento Kings not only let fan-favorite Davion Mitchell go to the Toronto Raptors last season for a player who never saw a minute of regular-season action, they also threw in a second-round draft pick.

These are the moves that must stop if the Kings franchise is going to become a playoff contender.

Do Kings fans want to accomplish what OKC just did, and hoist the Larry Obrien trophy for the first time in franchise history? Of course, but I assure you fans will settle for playoff tickets every year as a place to start.

Mr. Perry, all eyes are on you! What exactly do you have in your bag of tricks that doesn't include trading Domantas Sabonis? Add to that list Keon Ellis, Isaac Jones, Devin Carter and Keegan Murray.

Teams are chomping at the bit to bite into our young talent that haven't had the opportunity to show what their true potential is.

Moves are imminent, and while some fans will never be happy with the players that are traded, but patience and true appreciation for the young talent we have is needed.

Stay tuned Kings fans, because just as the sun will rise tomorrow, a trade is in the offing.

All the best!

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

Social Security Matters

What about Non-Career Veterans and their VA Healthcare?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: In your answer to the retired U.S. Navy veteran about why he is forced to enroll in Medicare, you focused on military TriCare's requirement for the member to enroll in Medicare. But you said nothing about regular VA health care. If a non-career veteran is eligible for VA health care, couldn't that be used in place of Medicare? **Signed: Veteran Advocate**

Dear Veteran Advocate: Thank you for your feedback. FYI, I have previously explained numerous times that veterans who rely on the VA for 100% of their healthcare can, indeed, disenroll from Medicare Part B (thus saving the monthly Part B premium). I don't personally recommend it because of my personal experience, but it certainly is possible to do so. Personally, I use the VA for some of my healthcare needs - usually an annual checkup and optometry services - at my local VA clinic which is only a mile away from where I live. But for any

extensive treatment needs (medical tests, etc.) I must travel about 40 miles to the nearest VA hospital facility. For contrast, I have numerous private healthcare services, specialists, and hospitals very near where I live, but to use them under the VA I must get VA preapproval and use only certain VA-approved providers, which is inconvenient for me. Personally, I prefer the freedom to go to any healthcare service provider I choose, without restriction, at any time I need to. So, I use my VA coverage when it is convenient for me but rely also on non-VA, Medicare-approved specialists who I can choose to use (or not) at will. For me, it's a matter of convenience and the freedom to use whichever healthcare provider I want. That said, I fully understand that some veterans rely exclusively on the VA for their healthcare needs, and I have explained to many who have written to me that they have that option. I have also published several public articles about this as well. Here is one such article:

<https://socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-why-should-a-veteran-pay-for-medicare/>

So, please rest assured that we regularly advise our veterans about their healthcare options under Medicare, including the ability to decline Medicare Part B coverage if they have full VA healthcare

coverage. FYI, free Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65, but Medicare Part B coverage is always optional because there is a premium associated with Part B. A veteran can decline Medicare Part B coverage and save that monthly premium, but they would need to contact Social Security to do so. Social Security will want to interview the veteran to ensure they are aware of the potential financial consequences of not having Medicare Part B. And they may need to file form CMS-1763 (Request for Termination) But a non-career veteran can opt out of Medicare Part B if they get all of their healthcare services through the Veterans Administration.

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Politicians Agree on School Money But Poor Test Scores Need Attention



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Historically, the annual process of writing a state budget has often stumbled over how much money California should spend on its public school system and its nearly 6 million students. However, as Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders negotiate a final budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year, dealing with a multi-billion-dollar deficit, they have only small disagreements on school finance.

Both Newsom's latest budget and the Legislature's alternative draft would peg state spending on schools at \$80.5 billion, including transitional kindergarten, a new education subcategory.

That's \$4.5 billion less than the current budget allocates, but with anticipated increases in education's share of local property taxes, total spending would remain roughly even.

With schools off the table, politically, Newsom and legislators are wrangling over more contentious issues, particularly the reductions in medical and social services for poor, elderly and disabled Californians that Newsom seeks to close the budget gap.

The comity on school spending, however, shuns a debate that California's politicians should be having — what to do about the system's chronically subpar academic achievement.

This week the Public Policy Institute of California issued a timely reminder that there's been little progress — and some regression — in such basic skills as reading and mathematics, with wide gaps among students tied to family income, ethnicity and other socioeconomic factors.

In an analysis of state academic tests that were administered last year, PPIC researchers reported that fewer than half of all students "met or exceeded state standards in English Language Arts, while about a third (36%) did so in math."

The analysis also found that "proficiency rates were highest among Asian students: just above 70% in English and nearly two-thirds in math. White students' rates were lower, with 60% meeting the standard in English and 50% in math. Proficiency rates were lower on average for Black and Latino students — 24% and 37% in English, respectively, and 18% and 30% in math."

Also girls fared much better than boys in English. And proficiency in basic skills among low-income students is scarcely half that of those from moderate- or high-income families.

To cap it off, PPIC notes that California students' rates of proficiency in federal tests continue to lag behind those of other states.

None of these findings is unexpected. California students have been lagging behind the state's expectations and national norms for many years, even as spending on the school system has continued to climb to well over \$20,000 a year per pupil from state aid, local property taxes and federal subventions.

One would think that California's stubbornly

mediocre — at best — education outcomes would sit atop the political agenda, given their negative effects on students and the state as a whole.

However, the Capitol's discussions of education usually start and end with how much money schools should receive, when it's obvious that school finances, while important, are just one factor in outcomes.

There are some signs of progress on those other factors, such as a recent agreement to encourage local school systems to use phonics in teaching elementary students how to read, the most important of all academic skills.

While the state is stopping short of mandating phonics, as many education experts advise, it's a step forward that more or less declares a winner in the very long debate over methodology that's been dubbed "reading wars."

However, there's also been some regression. As PPIC notes in its study, the state Board of Education, which tends to reflect the education establishment's priorities, has adopted new definitions of academic test proficiency that could obscure embarrassingly low results. For instance, if a student scores below grade level, their performance will be labeled "Developing" or "Minimum."

"Understanding student scores could be growing more difficult," PPIC says. That's not a good thing.

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. ★



The New Massive Resistance

On Sept. 30, 1962, the University of Mississippi experienced a "mostly peaceful" demonstration. As with all such protests, it was peaceful until it wasn't -- it became a riot, and a particularly heinous and destructive one.

The mob attacked federal officers, including border patrol agents, with rocks and Molotov cocktails. They burned cars. They smashed streetlights. They ransacked buildings. They drove vehicles at the officers. And they did it all to try to prevent the federal government from enforcing the law.

This, discerning readers will realize, was the notorious Battle of Oxford, when students at Ole Miss and outside agitators exploded in fury to prevent the enrollment of James Meredith, an African-American, who was under the protection of federal agents.

President John F. Kennedy had federalized the Mississippi National Guard days before the disturbance, and sent in the Army when things got out of hand. Eventually, he drew on 31,000 troops, a necessary exercise of overwhelming force.

Now, once again, mobs are in the streets in opposition to federal power and federal law. We are probably at the beginning stages of another titanic struggle over whether the writ of

federal law will run in jurisdictions opposed to it, and over the morality of those underlying laws.

To use a term borrowed from segregationists in Virginia in the 1950s, the opponents of ICE are engaged in a campaign of "massive resistance."

Virginia Democrat Harry Byrd and his allies came up with an across-the-board strategy to undermine Brown v. Board of Education. "If we can organize the Southern states for massive resistance to this order," Byrd said, "I think that in time the rest of the country will realize that racial integration is not going to be accepted in the South."

Similarly, Democratic officeholders and activists hope to make ICE raids so politically toxic and so painful to implement that the federal government stands down and accepts the status quo of routine lawlessness.

The opposition is relying on a version of another doctrine of the Southern resisters: nullification. This is the idea that states can invalidate federal laws that they deem an offense against our constitutional order.

This notion has a long, undistinguished history in this country as a precursor to the Civil War and, later, as a tool to attempt to preserve segregation. Although it is most associated with the South, other parts of the country have tried to resort to it as well.

Now progressive cities and states are joining the list. They have no equivalent of John C. Calhoun, the brilliant, if catastrophically wrong, South Carolina statesman who de-

veloped a sophisticated defense of the concept. Instead, they want de facto nullification, or nullification as a practical matter rather than a theory.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass has been quite clear about this. "We need to stop the raids," she insists. "The only thing it does is contribute to chaos." Her attitude would take Los Angeles well beyond its status as a sanctuary city, which involves not affirmatively cooperating with the feds, and make it something else -- effectively a no-go zone for immigration officers and a jurisdiction that affirmatively resists them.

Of course, the anti-ICE resistance would reject any association with the massive resistance of yore, arguing that its cause is just, in contrast to the segregationist South. But violent opposition to law enforcement officers acting within their lawful powers is deeply wrong, whatever the underlying cause (and the mass illegal immigration imposes significant costs on our society).

If enforcing our laws is offensive to progressives, they should seek to change the statutes in question and pass a large-scale amnesty, rather than relying on a rioter's veto to dictate what ICE agents can do and where they can go.

Violent mobs have no legitimate part to play in our democratic republic, not in Oxford, Mississippi, in 1962, not in Los Angeles, California, or anywhere else inspired by its sordid example in 2025.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Party Like a Patriot

Continued from Page 1

Jennings hosts the largest parade in the Sacramento area in the community of Pocket/Greenhaven.

The parade will start at 10 a.m. July 4. The route starts on the corner of Windbridge and South Land Park Drive, south on Windbridge and right on Pocket Road, and ends at the Garcia Bend Park entrance.

This free event will be a morning filled with vintage cars rolling down the streets, local sports teams showing up in full spirit and creative, high-energy parade floats that celebrate the community.

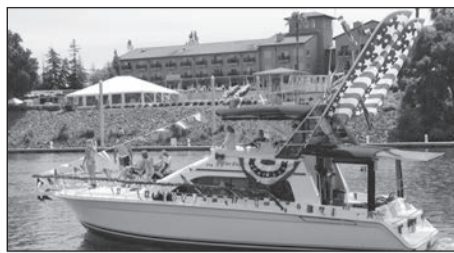
Sacramento Zoo

Start the Fourth of July celebrations by going to the Sacramento Zoo where there will be a reduced entry fee on July 3 and July 4. Admission for these days will be \$10 and zoo members enter for free.

The zoo will be open with its regular hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are available to purchase ahead of time at tickets.saczoo.org/calendar.

Sacramento River Boat Parade

Celebrate the 4th of July weekend by watching the Independence Day Boat Parade on the Sacramento River at the Old Sacramento Waterfront. Spectators can watch from both sides of the Sacramento River, including the Old Sacramento



Celebrate the 4th of July weekend by watching the Independence Day Boat Parade on the Sacramento River at the Old Sacramento Waterfront. Photo courtesy of Old Sacramento Waterfront

Waterfront, the River Walk Trail and various restaurants and parks along both sides of the river.

Decorated boats will leave the Sacramento Yacht Club, located at 3365 Chicory Loop, about 1 p.m. and head north up the Sacramento River. The parade will go through Old Sacramento Waterfront and turn around at the Virgin Sturgeon Restaurant and Marina.

Old Sacramento Waterfront is located at 1002 Second St.

Barbecue, Baseball and Fireworks

Take family and friends to the ballpark July 3 to celebrate Independence Eve with an all-you-can-eat barbecue feast.

Fans can purchase single game tickets to the Sacramento River Cats July 3rd game or the July 3rd BBQ ticket pack which



Take family and friends to the July 3 to celebrate Independence Eve with an all-you-can-eat barbecue feast and a fireworks display at the Sutter Health Park, 400 Ballpark Drive. Photo courtesy of Sacramento River Cats

includes seating at the Sky River Casino Solon Club with unlimited servings of barbecue.

Barbecue will be served at the Sky River Casino Solon Club and will start at 5 p.m., until the top of the fifth inning. Tickets for adults are \$65 and \$45 for children ages 12 and under. A 10-minute firework show will be presented at the of the game. Purchase tickets online at rivercats.com.

On July 4, the Athletics will play against the San Francisco Giants where the game will be preceded by a display of patriotic postgame fireworks presented by Chevrolet.

To view ticket prices and availability, visit mlb.com/athletics/tickets/single-game-tickets.

Both games will be held at the Sutter

Health Park, located at 400 Ballpark Drive in West Sacramento.

Red White and Brew Bar Crawl

For residents 21 and over, the annual Fourth of July Bar Crawl will be from 6 to 11 p.m. July 4 and July 5. Registration will start at Kbar in DOCO, 732 K St. and tickets for a single adult are about \$35.

With the purchase of a ticket, attendees get a wristband that grants free entry to bars and get discounted drinks as well as food specials.

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Tickets are available to purchase online at vipnightlife.com/events/sacramento-pre-4th-of-july-red-white-and-brew-bar-crawl-party. ★

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Sacramento Launches Solutions Center to Help Small Businesses Thrive

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The City of Sacramento has launched the Business Solutions Center, a new resource hub offering free expert guidance, funding opportunities and data tools to help local small businesses succeed.

Developed by the City's Office of Innovation and Economic Development and funded through American Rescue Plan Act and U.S. Small Business Administration dollars, the Business Solutions Center consolidates multiple small business services into a single, streamlined program. It delivers personalized, one-on-one support for entrepreneurs looking to build a business plan, expand operations, access capital or navigate permitting and licensing.

"We know small businesses are the backbone of Sacramento's economy, and the Business

Solutions Center is about meeting them where they are with the support they need to succeed," said Denise Malvetti, deputy director of the Office of Innovation and Economic Development.

"Whether it's funding, permits or someone to help navigate your next steps, this Center puts real, tangible resources within reach."

Through the Center, businesses can access:

- One-on-one consultations with expert business counselors in partnership with California Capital Financial Development Corporation;

- Up to \$5,000 in micro-grant funding to invest in equipment, digital tools, or service expansion;

- Up to \$2,500 in City fee credits to help cover permitting, licensing or inspection costs; and

- SizeUp Sacramento, a powerful data tool offering insights on business performance, competitors and



The Business Solutions Center consolidates multiple small business services into a single, streamlined program. Photo courtesy of City of Sacramento

customers.

How to participate

If you don't have a 311 Account: Visit the 311 Portal;

Register for a 311 account; Add your business to

your 311 account; and Submit a "Business Resources" request through the dashboard.

If you already have a 311 Account but haven't engaged with the Center: Log in and select "My Profile" and "Add

Business." Then hit "Request Service" and make sure to click the request is a "Business Case."

A customer relationship management system tracks service requests and outcomes, allowing the City

to evaluate the program's impact and adjust based on the evolving needs of Sacramento's business community.

For more information or to get started, visit cityofsacramento.gov/BusinessSolutions. ★

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Announcements

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Initial Funding for Implementing Proposition 36 Recognized

Office of Senator Roger Niello
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A bipartisan group of state legislators, public safety officials and victim advocates gathered at the State Capitol on June 18 to recognize the initial investment in implementing the will of the voters while emphasizing the need for funding a comprehensive approach to probation and supervision reversing ongoing cuts to probation which will ensure the measure's long-term success.

Specifically, attending the June 18 press conference included State Senator Catherine Blakespear, (D-Encinitas); State Senator Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks); Sutter County Sheriff Brandon Barnes, California State Sheriffs' Association President; Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper; Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni, California District Attorneys Association First Vice President; San Diego County Sheriff Kelly Martinez; San Joaquin County Probation Chief Steve Jackson, Chief Probation Officers of California President; Tulare County Probation Chief Kelly Vernon; El Dorado County Probation Chief Brian Richart; Solano County Probation Chief Dean Farrah; Lake County Probation Chief Wendy Mondfrans; Yuba County Probation Chief Matt Ricardy; Napa County Probation Chief Amanda Gibbs and Anna Berry with Crime Victims United-California.

"Proposition 36 passed with overwhelming voter support and now it's time to provide the resources needed to implement it," Blakespear said. "This initial investment is a strong first step



Senator Roger Niello speaks at the California State Capitol Building in Sacramento to recognize funding for Proposition 36 on June 18. Photo courtesy of the Office of Senator Roger Niello

in a tough budget year, but we need to make sure there is ongoing funding for supervision, treatment and accountability."

Said Niello, "A budget is an expression of priorities and the current state budget does not acknowledge the will of the voters who overwhelmingly supported Proposition 36. The \$110 million designated to fund Proposition 36 is wholly inadequate to achieve the goals of a treatment-focused approach that will lead to improving lives and self-sufficiency."

The proposed budget includes an initial, one-time funding of \$110 million toward Proposition 36. While this investment marks progress, public safety officials and law enforcement say

it falls short. The initial plan misses the mark relative to the measure's core component, ensuring accountability to complete court-mandated treatment. By failing to fully and properly fund law enforcement accountability efforts, the Legislature and governor are unable to meet the will of California voters and threatening the success of Proposition 36.

"We cannot implement Prop 36 effectively if we ignore the reality of what's happening on the ground," Barnes said. "County sheriffs and probation departments are essential partners in making sure treatment is delivered and enforced. But right now, we've been left out of the equation. We need real

resources to deliver real results."

Public safety officials emphasized that the budget must not only restore cuts to county probation departments but increase those funds as they are responsible for supervising court-ordered treatment and ensuring compliance. Without those frontline supports, there is no accountability. In the Legislature's budget, there are \$25 million in ongoing supervision cuts and \$20 million in ongoing pre-trial cuts in the governor's proposed budget.

"Probation ensures people stay on track with their treatment plans and court orders and holds them accountable when they don't," Jackson said. "This budget significantly cuts

probation funding at the exact moment we're being asked to do more. That means less people will follow through with rehabilitation and that threatens public safety."

Even the funding that has been allocated is narrowly directed to county behavioral health departments, leaving out key justice system partners who are critical to successful outcomes.

"Treatment without accountability isn't what Prop 36 says. We need to ensure law enforcement has resources it needs to best hold people accountable, which will improve public safety," Pacioni said. "Voters said yes to Prop 36 because they wanted a better path forward. That means the budget needs to support the full system: courts, probation, law enforcement and treatment. Not just one piece of it. Otherwise, it is set up to fail."

The Legislature's proposed state budget specifically ignores critical elements, including no support and a budget cut for county probation departments to handle the increased workload of supervising individuals and connecting them to treatment in the community while holding them accountable; no resources for frontline law enforcement to support interventions in the community; no funding to house arrestees in county jails and provide in-custody treatment; and no funding for key partners of treatment delivery such as county sheriff and probation departments who are critical for court-ordered supervision and successful outcomes while only offering modest funds to county behavioral health agencies.

For more information, call Lea Park-Kim, Office of Senator Roger Niello's communications director, at 916-651-4006. ★

SMUD and DESRI Announce 640 MWh Clean Energy Storage Project



Rancho Seco's energy infrastructure includes a 160-megawatt solar facility, showcasing the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's commitment to clean energy generation. The innovative site combines solar power with sustainable land management through sheep grazing. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
District News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - DESRI and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) announced June 19 that they executed a long-term power purchase agreement for the Dry Creek Energy Storage project.

Dry Creek is a 160 megawatt/640 megawatt-hour battery energy storage system (BESS) located in Sacramento County.

"Our DESRI team is proud to bring this reliable, cost-effective clean energy storage project to the California energy system, an exciting new addition to our partnership with SMUD over many years," said DESRI Chief Development Officer Hy Martin. "This project will play a critical role in helping SMUD to maintain and enhance grid reliability, optimize performance of their renewable energy assets and contribute to their decarbonization goals."

SMUD and DESRI have worked on the project jointly over several years. Given the significant transmission infrastructure at the decommissioned Rancho Seco generating station, the battery-energy storage system is optimally located to leverage the existing infrastructure and limit costly upgrades on the system.

The energy storage system will be charged using renewable energy

and other clean sources available on SMUD's grid, supporting the integration of sustainable power and enhancing grid reliability.

"This battery storage project represents another significant milestone in SMUD's Zero Carbon Plan as we work toward carbon-free electricity by 2030," said SMUD Chief Zero Carbon Officer Lora Anguay. "By enhancing our existing renewable infrastructure at Rancho Seco with battery technology, we're building a more flexible and reliable grid while enabling a more efficient integration of renewable energy."

DESRI and its affiliates develop, acquire, own and operate long-term contracted renewable energy assets in the U.S. DESRI's portfolio of contracted, operating and in-construction renewable energy projects currently includes 70 solar and wind projects representing more than nine gigawatts of aggregate capacity.

As the nation's sixth-largest, community-owned, not-for-profit electric service provider, SMUD has provided low-cost, reliable electricity to Sacramento County for more than 75 years. In 2023, SMUD's power supply was, on average, 78 percent carbon free and SMUD has a goal to reach zero carbon in its electricity production by 2030.

For more information on SMUD's Zero Carbon Plan and its customer programs, visit smud.org. ★

Civil Case for Pesticide Violations Resolved

MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho, and several other District Attorney's Offices in California, resolved a civil case against Pure Maintenance Holdings LLC, Pure Products LLC, Michael Adams and Brandon Michael Adams for pesticide violations and unfair business practices.

Michael Adams is the founder and chief operating officer of Pure Maintenance and was a manager of Pure Products. His son, Brandon Michael Adams, is the chief executive officer of Pure Maintenance. Pure Maintenance licenses the use of its "Dry Fog" machines and sold pesticides, including InstaPure and EverPure, to its licensees for use in the machines.

Both Adams appeared in advertising for Pure Maintenance and Pure Products. The defendants made statements about their products that were false and illegal. They claimed that their products were approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, when in fact they were not.

The statements included that InstaPure was EPA-approved to kill all bacteria and fogging with InstaPure during COVID-19 was promoted. They also falsely claimed EverPure was verified by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for

effectiveness in sterilization.

Both the father and the son advertised Dry Fog as safe, green, natural and non-toxic when the pesticides sold and used in Dry Fog required "WARNING" or "DANGER" on the label because they are toxic. Both Adams also sold unregistered and registered pesticides without having the required pesticide broker license or paying the required tax.

The stipulated judgment requires the defendants pay \$425,000 in penalties and costs, of which \$100,000 will go to Sacramento County. It also requires them to hire a compliance manager and put into place practices and protocols to ensure all advertising claims and instructions are consistent with the labelling required for the pesticides used, recommended or sold for its services.

"Law-abiding businesses that follow health and safety regulations should not be undercut by those that violate the law. Consumers deserve accurate information to make informed and responsible choices that protect their families and communities," Ho said.

The other District Attorney's Offices participating in the civil case are Fresno County, Los Angeles County, Orange County, Riverside County, San Bernardino County, San Diego County, San Joaquin County, Santa Barbara County and Ventura County. ★

Libraries Provide Free Summer Lunches

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Public Library will provide free lunch to children 18 and under while school is out through the Lunch at the Library project, beginning on June 17.

Meals will be distributed at 13 library locations from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays until Aug. 8. Food is provided without question for free to children from 0 to 18 years old. No paperwork or identification is required.

Meal sites are available at 13 library locations: Arcade, Carmichael, Del Paso Heights, Elk Grove, Fair Oaks, North Highlands (Antelope), North Sacramento (Hagginwood), Rancho Cordova, Rio Linda, South Natomas, Southgate, Sylvan

Oaks and Valley Hi (North Laguna).

According to the Sacramento Public Library website, libraries provide free meals over the summer because families don't always have consistent access to free meals since school is not in session. The Lunch at the Library project aims to assist with that need and help fuel children's learning. Libraries also offer convenient neighborhood locations to eat a meal as well as pick up reading materials, games, DVDs and more.

Lunch at the Library is a project of the California State Library in partnership with the California Library Association and supported with funds from the state of California.

For more information, visit saclibrary.org/lunch. ★

Williams is Nation's Second Best Tight End

University of California, Davis Athletics News Releases

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - University of California, Davis' returning senior tight end Winston Williams has been named the second-best returning tight end in the nation by HERO Sports as part of its 2025 Football Championship Series season preview.

Williams was a 2024 First Team All-Big Sky Conference honoree and he ended the season leading all Big Sky tight ends in touchdown receptions, finishing second in the nation for most receiving touchdowns by a tight end.

When the 2024 season came to an end, Williams had racked up career numbers finishing with 265 receiving yards on 34 receptions, snagging six touchdowns while averaging 19.0 yards per game.

Aggie senior Ian Simpson joined Williams on the list, coming in at No. 24, giving the Aggies a pair among the Top 25 returning tight ends in the nation.

In other football news, UC Davis football has been ranked among the best in the nation, this time No. 11 in the country as part of the 2025 HERO Sports FCS Preseason Top 25 Media Poll.

The Aggies are among five Big Sky teams represented in the poll, and the No. 11 ranking places UC Davis as the third highest team in the conference to earn a ranking. No. 2 Montana State, No. 7 Montana, No. 10 Idaho and No.



The Aggies finished 2024 No. 5 in the nation after going 11-3 and making a deep run into the NCAA FCS Playoffs, reaching the quarterfinals for only the second time in program history while going 7-1 in Big Sky play. Photos courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

12 Sacramento State all joined the Aggies inside the Top 25.

This season, the Aggies open 2025 in Montgomery, Alabama in a ranked match up against No. 12 Mercer on ESPN as part of the FCS Kickoff Classic and they will make key trips to Washington, No. 10 Idaho while hosting Causeway Classic rivals No. 12 Sacramento State on Nov. 22 to wrap up the regular season.

The game at Washington is set for the BIG 10 Network and the game at Montana State is scheduled to be picked up by a linear ESPN network and, along with the season opener on ESPN, the Aggies will play a program record three games on national television



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FCS Playoffs, reaching the quarterfinals for only the second time in program history while going 7-1 in Big Sky play.

Second-year head coach and 2024 Eddie Robinson Award finalist Tim Plough and the Aggies return a collection of starters, including All-American safety Rex Connors, 2024 Fred Mitchell Award finalist Hunter Ridley and All-Big Sky Conference honorees Williams, Eli Simonson and Ernesto Nava.

UC Davis also signed and secure a strong collection of incoming freshmen and transfers from other programs to fill out a strong and competitive roster.

Season tickets are on sale now, and fans can head here to secure their spot in Shredville for the 2025 season. Tickets start at \$100 for new alumni and \$140 for the general public.

Football group ticket discounts start at 10 or more tickets and provide a great opportunity for gatherings and parties to enjoy Aggie football.

Create an unforgettable experience with a group by reaching out to the Aggie Ticket Office to customize your day at 530-752-2471. Fans can head to ucdavisaggies.evenue.net/events/FBS to purchase their group ticket packages. The Aggie Ticket Office is located at 1 Shields Ave., UC Davis Health Stadium, Davis and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. ★

ARC Swimmer Named State Athlete of the Year



Cayden Pitzer, a sophomore and a swimmer from American River College, was named Tri-Swimmer of the Meet and won Performance of the Meet awards at a recent state event held at Santa Rosa Junior College. Photo courtesy of American River College

Compiled from California Community College Athletic Association and American River College websites

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - American River College swimmer Cayden Pitzer was recently honored as the 2024-25 California Community College Sports Information Association (CCCSIA) State Male Athlete of the Year, solidifying his status as one of the top junior college athletes in the state.

Pitzer shares this prestigious recognition with Breanna Lutz of Palomar College, who earned the State Female Athlete of the Year award for her outstanding softball season.

The sports information association started the State Athletes of the Year honors in 2011-2012.

Pitzer's performance in the pool this year was nothing short of dominant, according to the American River College website. Pitzer shattered multiple school and meet records, consistently placing first in his individual events while also anchoring American River College's powerhouse relay teams. His versatility and power in the breaststroke and IM events made him the man to beat at the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCA) State Championships.

Pitzer not only brought personal accolades but was instrumental in leading American River to top finishes at each level of competition, according to the college website. His commitment to

excellence helped set a new standard for the Beavers' men's swim program, long considered one of the premier aquatic teams in the state.

Pitzer was named Tri-Swimmer of the Meet and won Performance of the Meet awards at the recent state event held at Santa Rosa Junior College.

The sophomore set a state meet record in the prelims for the 200-yard individual medley at 1:46.80 and later won the event gold at 1:47.63.

In the opening men's event, Pitzer helped the Beavers win the 200-yard freestyle relay. He then participated in a state record-setting swim as American River College won the 400-yard medley relay.

Pitzer opened day two with another state record as he joined teammates Josh Branson, David Tsypan and Gar Long to win gold in the 200-yard medley relay (1:28.86).

Pitzer then busted an 11-year record with a magnificent new state standard of 52.98 in the 100-yard breaststroke.

On the final day, Pitzer missed another state record by just .03 with his first-place triumph in the 200-yard breaststroke. Fittingly, Pitzer helped American River College close the meet with a win in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Pitzer recently earned a scholarship to continue his academic and swimming career at the University of Kentucky.

It is the fourth time that a swimmer has won the men's Athlete of the Year award. ★

Women's Tennis Recruits Among Mid-Major Top 25



Last season, the Sacramento State University women's tennis team claimed its second straight Big Sky Conference Tournament title and NCAA Tournament berth. The Hornets were included among the region's best teams, ending the spring ranked No. 5 in the Northwest Region, according to the Intercollegiate Tennis Associations final poll. Photo courtesy of California State University, Sacramento

California State University, Sacramento Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California State University, Sacramento women's tennis team's 2025 recruiting class has been ranked No. 18 in the nation among all mid-major programs, according to Tennis Recruiting Network.

"We are very excited for our new Hornets to finally arrive to campus this fall," head coach Sophie Breault said. "We have another strong recruiting class that will help us further elevate the program to new heights."

It is the second time in the program's history that the Hornets have been ranked among the Top 25, both coming in the last three seasons after Sacramento State's class of Reese Walker, Irene Riva and Elena Mercioiu was the No. 16 mid-major class prior to the 2023-24 campaign. The Hornets were among those receiving votes in 2024.

Sacramento State University is the only Big Sky Conference school and one of only four West Coast programs, along with San Diego (No. 7), Cal Poly (No. 13) and University of California, San Diego (No. 23), to make this year's mid-major ranking, which includes all colleges in all divisions except for those in the four so-called "power" conferences in college football, including the ACC, Big 10, Big 12, and SEC, as well as the Ivy League. The rankings do not factor in incoming transfer student-athletes or those who competed at another university in 2024-25.

The Hornets' incoming class is made up

of three players who have international ties.

Lisann Brinkmann is one of the top juniors in Germany, ranking as high as No. 109 in the German women's division and ranked No. 21 in the Under-18 division at the time of her signing.

Mexico's Cami Maldonado Gutierrez is ranked as one of the country's top 10 juniors while Isabella Temenugov, who was born in the Czech Republic, was the No. 32-ranked junior in Southern California and ranked as high as No. 24 in the Czech Republic at the time of her commitment.

Sacramento State University wrapped up the 2025 spring with a 21-4 overall record and a 7-1 mark in Big Sky play, finishing second in the regular season standings before claiming its second-straight league tournament crown and National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament berth. The Hornets gained an Intercollegiate Tennis Association national ranking for the first time since 2015, reaching as high as No. 49 in the nation, while finishing the year ranked No. 5 in the Northwest Region and tied for the second-highest regional ranking since 2008 behind only the 2010 squad which reached No. 4 in the midseason rankings.

Memphis leads the 2025 top mid-major recruiting classes, followed by Rice, Furman, Louisiana Tech, University of Massachusetts, Florida Gulf Coast, San Diego, Stetson, Florida Atlantic and Air Force rounding out the Top Ten, with Navy, Fordham, Cal Poly and others including Sacramento State University, MIT, and Seton Hall completing the Top 25. ★

Blake Willey Claims Championship Silverware

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On opening night, homegrown player Blake Willey became the second youngest player to start for Republic FC in a season opener.

Now, he's added another milestone to his breakout year.

On the week of June 11, the 18-year-old lifted the championship trophy in the Union of European Football Associations Friendship Cup.

Willey appeared in every match, including two starts, and added an assist to help the U.S. U18 Men's National Team go 4-0 against some of the top national squads in the world.

This was Blake's most senior national team call up to date. He has been on U.S. Soccer's radar since he was younger, earning multiple Talent I.D. invitations, two stints with the U16s, and a training camp appearance with the U17s.

He first joined Republic FC as a part of its youth academy in 2017 and played at every age

level before becoming the seventh homegrown player to sign a pro contract with the club ahead of the 2024 season. In 2022, he was named the U15 Team MVP after leading his team to become the only non-Major League Soccer club to reach the MLS NEXT Cup semifinals.

Now in his second pro season, Willey has emerged as one

of the United Soccer League's brightest young stars. Prior to his national team selection, Willey appeared in every game across all competitions. In league play, Willey is among the team leaders across several stats categories, including seven chances created, nine tackles won and an 84% passing accuracy. ★