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Gold River Messenger

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Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

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By Roger Neillo



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SHE SINGS IT LIKE SHE FEELS IT



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Racing for a Cause

Fifth Annual Great American Triathlon Takes Place



The Great American Triathlon took place on July 19 along the American River Parkway. Photo by Rick Sloan

By Ornella Rossi

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

The fifth Great American Triathlon took place July 19 along the American River Parkway where athletes laced up their running shoes, mounted their bikes and launched their kayaks for a cause.

Billed as the region's premier summertime outdoor sporting event, the triathlon follows the historic route of Eppie's Great Race, which began in 1974 and earned a reputation as the "World's Oldest Triathlon." Revived and



First-place Junior Relay 18U stand at the podium holding their winning plaques at the Great American Triathlon on Saturday July 19. Photo by Rick Sloan

rebranded in 2019 as the Great American Triathlon, the event remains as challenging and community-driven as ever.

Set against the natural backdrop of the American River Parkway, competitors tested their strength and stamina through a 5.8-mile run, 12.5-mile bike ride and a 6.1-mile paddle with categories for individuals, teams and racers of all experience levels.

"Training side by side with my fiancé and crossing the finish line together made the Great American

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Reservation Enhancements Coming to California State Parks

CDPR News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Californians and visitors from all over the world can now access campground availability on Parks.ca.gov and book their perfect campsite in just a few clicks as part of customer-focused reservation upgrades announced July 24 by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Previously, campground availability and reservations were only available on ReserveCalifornia.com, the department's official reservation service, and were not accessible on the main website.

While reservations will still be made through ReserveCalifornia, visitors to Parks.ca.gov will now experience improved integration and convenience to book their campsite while accessing a trove of helpful information, including almost real-time campsite status and availability at other nearby campgrounds, to plan their state parks getaway.

"California's state parks are home to some of the world's best campgrounds and we want to make it as easy as possible to find your perfect campsite," said California Department of Parks and Recreation Director Armando Quintero. "Whether you prefer camping among the redwoods, steps away from the ocean or high up in the mountains, your next state parks adventure is just a few clicks away."

Along with improved web integration with ReserveCalifornia, State Parks also is expanding reservation drawings to three more popular state park campgrounds.

Following a successful pilot at Mount Tamalpais State Park, reservation drawings will now be offered for popular campgrounds at Malibu Creek State Park starting this month, and Morro Bay State Park and McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park later this summer.

Drawings are free to enter on ReserveCalifornia and give more visitors a chance to stay at some of the state's most coveted campsites.

Since launching the first reservation drawing in 2023, there have been more than 100,000 entries for the Steep Ravine Cabins at Mount Tamalpais State Park. Visit the Reservation Drawing FAQs on parks.ca.gov for more information on how this feature works. ★

Girl Scouts Celebrate Capitol Bridging Ceremony

Girl Scouts Heart of Central California News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

Girl Scouts Heart of Central California (GSHCC) hosted its annual Capitol Bridging Ceremony on June 21, bringing together Girl Scouts of all ages for a memorable morning of reflection, celebration and advancement.

Held at the iconic Tower Bridge in Sacramento, the event invited girls and their adult volunteers or troop leaders to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, connect with fellow Girl Scouts and bridge to the next level in their Girl Scout journey.

This cherished tradition highlights the spirit of Girl Scouting growth,

sisterhood and service, providing a unique moment for girls to set new goals, honor their achievements and be inspired by the community around them.

"We are always excited to welcome Girl Scouts and their families to

the Capitol Bridging Ceremony and celebrate each girl's progress and the strong community that surrounds them," said Claudine Niski, a learning and development specialist for Older Girl Trainings at Girl Scouts Heart of

Central California.

The Capitol Bridging Ceremony is one of the most symbolic events of the year for Girl Scouts Heart of Central California and reflects the organization's

Continued on page 2



Through various programs and initiatives, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California empowers girls to take the lead in their lives and communities. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts Heart of Central California



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Roger's Review

By State Senator Roger Niello

schools that have helped their children thrive and succeed at learning.

Charter schools in California serve nearly 100,000 students, and their student population is deeply diverse: 58% are socioeconomically disadvantaged, 7% are English learners, and 15% have disabilities.

Flexibility is not just a luxury for these students, it's a lifeline.

The grassroots advocacy from students, parents, and concerned community members has been loud and clear, and I join the overwhelming number of my constituents opposing Assembly Bill 84.

State Sen. Roger Niello represents District 6, which includes Antelope, Arden-Arcade, Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Clay, Fair Oaks, Folsom, Foothill Farms, Franklin, Galt, Gold River, Herald, Mather, Orangevale, Rancho Cordova, Rancho Murieta and Wilton in Sacramento County. The district also includes Auburn, Granite Bay, Lincoln, Loomis, Newcastle, Penryn, Rocklin, Roseville and Sheridan in Placer County. To reach the senator, call 916-772-0571 or email senator.niello@senate.ca.gov. ★

Girl Scouts Celebrate Capitol Bridging Ceremony



Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors and millions of alums, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California leads the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts Heart of Central California



Girl Scouts Heart of Central California (GSHCC) hosted its annual Capitol Bridging Ceremony on June 21, bringing together Girl Scouts of all ages for a memorable morning of reflection, celebration and advancement. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts Heart of Central California

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continued commitment to building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

Through various programs and initiatives, the organization empowers girls to take the lead in their lives and communities.

Headquartered in Sacramento, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California serves over 16,000 girl and adult members across 18 counties, including Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Mariposa, Merced, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba.

Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them. To join us, volunteer, reconnect or donate, visit www.girlscoutshcc.org. ★



Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors and millions of alums, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California leads the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts Heart of Central California



The Capitol Bridging Ceremony on June 21 is one of the most symbolic events of the year for Girl Scouts Heart of Central California and reflects the organization's continued commitment to building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts Heart of Central California

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- Condensed Milk & Toffee 370 gr \$2.99/lea**
- Mars 2X Bounty Chocolate Bar 57 gr \$1.29/lea**

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- Columbus Applewood Ham \$6.99/lb**
- Belmont German Ham \$5.49/lb**
- Green Olives Stuffed w/ Almonds \$6.39/lb**
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Racing for a Cause



Chance Manzanares and Samantha Sloan from Rancho Cordova approach the finish line. Photo by Rick Sloan



Competitors tested their strength and stamina through a 5.8-mile run, 12.5-mile bike ride and a 6.1-mile paddle. Photo by Rick Sloan



A sea of colorful kayaks lines the ground at the fifth annual Great American Triathlon. Photo by Rick Sloan

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Triathlon an unforgettable experience. It was even more special to complete it along the American River, right in our own beautiful backyard," said Samantha Sloan, a triathlon participant.

But what sets this event apart goes beyond the finish line. At its core, the Great American Triathlon is a charitable celebration of community and conservation, channeling its proceeds into local causes

through the nonprofit Reach Your Potential (RYP).

Proceeds from the 2025 race will benefit several key nonprofit organizations, including the American River Parkway Foundation, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Placer County and Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH).

"Taking on the Great American Triathlon was more than just a personal challenge; it was a chance to raise awareness and

support for the American River Parkway Foundation," said Chance Manzanares, another participant. "We're proud to give back to the place that gave us so many miles of training and memories."

The American River Parkway Foundation works year-round to preserve the nearly 5,000 acres of land that make up the parkway, home to rich ecosystems, miles of trails and the very route that athletes traverse each July. Current projects include habitat

restoration, trail maintenance, clean-up efforts and addressing urgent concerns such as wildfire risks and water quality.

Also benefiting is CASA of Placer County, whose volunteer advocates provide stability, support and a voice in the courtroom for children impacted by abuse and neglect.

Community Against Sexual Harm, or CASH, was formed in 2008 by a coalition of law enforcement officers, professors,

survivors and Oak Park residents to combat exploitation and trafficking. It offers a non-judgmental safe space, access to basic needs and long-term support for women leaving the life of commercial sexual exploitation.

Registration will open soon for the sixth annual Great American Triathlon next July 18, according to the website. For more information and race results, visit <https://www.greatamericantriathlon.com/>. ★



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Abide by Will of Voters

Commentary by Doug Ose

Homelessness and the mental illness and drug addiction that are the major contributing factors to it are a scourge on every neighborhood where it occurs. The inability over the last ten years to address homelessness reflects a profound unwillingness by our elected leaders to do the tough and dirty work of dealing with unfortunate souls who can't tend to their own affairs. These fellow citizens need our help!

In November, 2024, in a desperate effort to address homelessness, the citizens of California overwhelmingly voted to impose accountability on mentally ill and/or drug addicted homeless persons. The citizens said that they had had enough of turning a blind eye to such situations and wanted to help these individuals get back on the right path. The passage of Prop 36 with over 70% of the vote was a clear message that the voters wanted a change in direction when it comes to dealing with homelessness.

I appreciate that some of our elected officials who for years have coddled the homeless and enabled aberrant behavior are now rushing to put forward legislative proposals to deal with these individuals who are disrupting our neighborhoods and fouling our parks.

One proposal specific to Sacramento County is to create a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to manage and implement all local aspects of programs focused on helping the homeless. I have reviewed the proposal and have written this piece in an effort to explain the legislation.

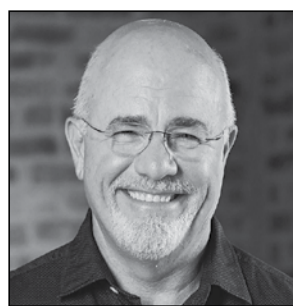
I have four main points.

My first point is that the voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of Prop 36; so, before creating new governmental structures to address homelessness, our elected leaders need to abide by the will of the voters and properly fund Prop 36 and find out if it has the positive impact we all hope for. Unfortunately, the Governor and Legislature have chosen to spend money elsewhere, so Prop 36 remains very inadequately funded.

My second point is that the communities that have been invited to join the JPA, with the exception of the City of Sacramento, have historically done a good job dealing with homeless persons in their respective municipalities. "If it ain't broke, then don't fix it!"

My third point is that buried deep within the proposed legislation is a reference to nine federal and state programs dealing in whole or in part with aspects of homelessness. Nobody knows the nuanced requirements of these programs, but because these programs are referenced in the proposed legislation, the JPA would be compelled to comply. Agreeing to comply with terms and conditions that you are not knowledgeable about is a recipe for disaster.

My final point is that putting forward new and untested programs to replace existing, tested and successful programs in the municipalities throughout Sacramento County is a fool's errand and the equivalent of putting lipstick on a pig. The State of California needs to properly fund Prop 36. Until that is done and the results are known, adopting multiple "new ideas" is premature. ★



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says Focus on What's Important Now

Dear Dave,

I'm 22, working my way through college and I've already been able to start setting money for life after graduation. I had a talk with my parents recently about my plans once I get a real job and get out on my own. They seem to think I'll be okay, but sometimes things can seem so overwhelming. How do people manage and prioritize more adult responsibilities like investing, marriage, having kids and everything else?

—Kieran

Dear Kieran,

You're right, it can be overwhelming if you look at all these things as if they have to be done right now. But I'll tell you something you already know: You don't have to do everything right now. It's great to look toward the future, and have a plan, but you're only 22. You've got plenty of time to decide what's important to you. For now, let's just say you've done

a great job so far. Take a deep breath and relax. You're way ahead of the game compared to most young people your age, and you should be proud of your accomplishments.

Now, all the things you mentioned are great goals. Some of them are kind of intimidating, but those aren't what you're facing right now. In my mind, finishing college is your number one priority. Then, after you graduate and begin life on your own, you can begin looking at the other things you mentioned—one at a time. Once you find a good job, you can begin setting aside for retirement. If your car is about to roll over and die, that first step may be a better vehicle. If there's a special lady in your life, you might begin focusing on marriage somewhere down the road.

Don't be too intimidated, Kieran. Things are often easier to deal with when you break them down into smaller pieces and address them individually. There's a funny old adage that goes something like this: How do you eat

an elephant? One bite at a time. Do you get what I'm saying? Nobody can do four or five big things at once and do them all to the very best of their abilities. Decide what matters most, put it at the top, and list everything else in descending order of importance. Once you've done this, go down the list, focus and knock them out one after the other.

You're a smart and determined young man, who has accomplished a lot already. Something tells me you can do just about anything you set your mind to!

—Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

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Popp Talk
 With Mary Jane Popp

She Sings it Like She Feels it

What can I say about a country music outlaw star that she hasn't said about herself as she sings/tells it like it is, and never pulled punches about life. **Lacy J. Dalton** is one-of-a-kind and an icon in the entertainment industry. Her songs reverberate with what is

Jones, and she toured for long periods of time with outlaws like Merle Haggard and Hank Williams Jr at a time when it was very unusual for a woman to do so. But she was no ordinary woman. She spoke out and still speaks her mind through her songs. But if



But what I love about Lacy J has a passion for helping others, two legged and four-legged. Courtesy photo

you follow country music, you will recognize her songs from way back with "16th Ave" and "Crazy Blue Eyes." Her signature song "16th Ave" became the anthem for Nashville songwriters. She is so modest about her stellar reputation. But I'm not. She was inducted into the North

American Country Music Association Hall of Fame.

But what I love about **Lacy J** has a passion for helping others, two legged and four-legged. She has fought so very hard trying to save the wild horses that really make the west what it is as they roam the plains, and how they are sold and slaughtered for profit. **Lacy J's** heart is as big as they come. I can go on and on about what she does for so many, but how would you like to see and meet her personally? She will be coming to Sacramento to perform August 15 at "The Side Door" at 2900 Franklin Blvd from 7-9 PM and then she is off to Watsonville the following day August 16 to perform at The El Vaquero Winery at 5 PM. Check her out at www.lacyjaldon.org for her great story.

And I am so happy that I can call **Lacy J** my dear friend. You will love her too! See you at the Side door! ★

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UC Davis Among Nation's Best

UC Davis Medical Center Ranked as Top Hospital in the Sacramento Region

UC Davis Health News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - UC Davis Medical Center has been ranked the No. 1 hospital in the Sacramento region, according to the 2025-2026 U.S. News & World Report prestigious Best Hospitals ranking.

This marks the 14th consecutive year that UC Davis Medical Center has earned the top spot locally. The medical center was also named the No. 7 hospital in California, continuing an 11-year streak of being ranked in the state's Top 10.

"This year's rankings are a testament to our unwavering commitment to delivering the highest quality care across California, transforming lives and strengthening communities," said Michael Condrin, interim chief executive officer for UC Davis Health. "Our success is driven by the exceptional dedication of the entire UC Davis Health team, who consistently go above and beyond to provide patient-centered care without parallel."

UC Davis Medical Center is at 4301 X St, Sacramento.

UC Davis Medical Center ranked among the Top 50 hospitals nationwide in six specialties: Ear, Nose and Throat (number 27), Geriatrics (number 27), Neurology and Neurosurgery (number 27), Pulmonology and Lung Surgery (number 27), Cardiology, Heart and Vascular Surgery (number 46)



This year, UC Davis Medical Center was one of only 76 hospitals nationwide to receive recognition as one of best regional hospitals for community access. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Health

and Diabetes and Endocrinology (number 48).

U.S. News also rated the medical center's services in Cancer, Gastroenterology and GI Surgery, Orthopedics and Urology as "high performing." That means the hospital scored in the Top 10 percent of all hospitals rated for those specialty areas.

UC Davis Medical Center was rated as "high performing," the highest rating possible, for its quality of care in 16 common adult procedures and conditions: acute kidney failure; aortic valve surgery; back surgery (spinal fusion); chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); colon cancer surgery; diabetes;



UC Davis Medical Center ranked among the top 50 hospitals nationwide in six specialties* Ear, Nose & Throat (#27), Geriatrics (#27), Neurology & Neurosurgery (#27), Pulmonology & Lung Surgery (#27), Cardiology, Heart & Vascular Surgery (#46) and Diabetes & Endocrinology (#48). Photo courtesy of UC Davis Health

gynecological cancer surgery; heart arrhythmia; heart failure; Leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma; lung cancer surgery; pacemaker implantation; pneumonia; prostate cancer surgery; stroke; and transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR).

Last year, U.S. News & World Report introduced a "Community Access" badge to recognize hospitals that serve vulnerable and historically underserved populations, particularly those facing socioeconomic challenges.

This year, UC Davis Medical Center was one of only 76 hospitals nationwide to receive recognition as a best regional hospital for community access.

"We believe the ability to live a healthy life should be a right enjoyed by every person. That's why we're committed to inspiring better health for all," said Condrin. "Research shows that health is shaped by more than medical care; it's influenced by access to jobs, housing, healthy food and clean air. We're working to address these factors and move our community closer to true health equity."

The U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals rankings, published annually since 1990, enable consumers and their physicians to determine which hospitals provide the best care for the most serious or complicated medical conditions and procedures.

The full list of hospital rankings can be viewed on the U.S. News website at [health.usnews.com/best-hospitals](https://www.health.usnews.com/best-hospitals). ★

Philanthropy Summit Challenges Old Ideas and Sparks New Ones

SRCF News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Region Community Foundation will hold the second annual Philanthropy Summit on Monday, Sept. 15 at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West.

Bringing together donors, nonprofit organization leaders, volunteers and changemakers, the collaborate event's theme this year is "Mission: Possible, showing how local philanthropy continues to drive positive change even in uncertain times."

To kick off the high-energy motivational event, award-winning author, TEDx speaker, social entrepreneur and founder of 916 Ink Katie McCleary will deliver a "Because if Dinosaurs Can Fly, So Can We" keynote address.

McCleary will explore how philanthropy can help communities move from silos to solidarity and from cynicism to curiosity so we can tackle our biggest challenges together.

Following the keynote address will be nine educational sessions offering practical insights about building stronger nonprofit organization boards, trends in giving and fundraising, and new ways to grow impact and connections.

The Philanthropy Summit will conclude with the Sacramento Region Community



The second annual Philanthropy Summit set for Sept. 15 is expected to sell out. This year's theme is "Mission: Possible, showing how local philanthropy continues to drive positive change even in uncertain times." Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation

Foundation's Celebration of Generosity, a spirited evening of food, drinks and community that honors the shared impact of those who champion causes across the region.

"The Philanthropy Summit is about rethinking the powerful relationship between nonprofits and donors and the collective impact they can create,"

said Sacramento Region Community Foundation CEO Kerry Wood. "We believe everyone has something to give to their community and the summit is a chance to come together, learn from each other and lead with heart to create real change right here in the Sacramento region."

The upbeat event ties directly to its

mission of growing local giving across El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties through popular programs such as Big Day of Giving and philanthropic services that help individuals, families and businesses support the causes they care about.

Similar to its inaugural year in 2024, organizers said, the summit is expected to sell out. In fact, a portion of the event, Association of Fundraising Professionals California Capital Chapter's National Philanthropy Day, is already sold out but plenty of other options are still available.

More information about the 2025 Philanthropy Summit and advance registration is available at www.sacregcf.org/summit.

Since 1983, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation has awarded more than \$275 million in grants and scholarships on behalf of local individuals, families, and businesses, and through its flagship program to grow charitable giving with the Big Day of Giving. The foundation's mission is to lead, serve and inspire enduring philanthropy for a just and vibrant Sacramento region.

For more information about the Sacramento Region Community Foundation and ways to learn more about charitable giving, visit online www.sacregcf.org. ★

California Sees 13% Reduction in Stolen Vehicles Statewide

From the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

SACRAMENTO - California continues to lead the way out of the COVID-induced crime surge, as the number of vehicles stolen statewide has dropped by 13% from 2023 to 2024 – the first year-over-year decrease since 2019.

Of those vehicles stolen, nearly 92% of cars, trucks and SUVs successfully recovered.

"We continue to put the safety of California communities first. Through strategic funding and partnerships with local and state law enforcement partners, we are putting a brake on lawlessness and criminals disrupting our way of life."

Governor Gavin Newsom said.

Of the stolen vehicles in California, nearly 94% cars and 90% personal trucks and SUVs were recovered.

Through expanded regional efforts with the California Highway Patrol and local law

enforcement agencies, Governor Newsom sought to strengthen efforts to fight vehicle theft through crime suppression operations in key areas, including Oakland, Bakersfield and San Bernardino.

These ongoing regional operations have shown positive results throughout the broader communities in Alameda, Kern and San Bernardino counties. Working closely with local law enforcement agencies, auto thieves, repeat offenders and organized crime groups have been disrupted, and their activities have been thwarted.

As a result of these public safety collaborations, each of these counties saw a significant drop in vehicle thefts in 2024. Alameda:



the number of vehicles stolen statewide has dropped by 13% from 2023 to 2024 – the first year-over-year decrease since 2019. Image by Dayron Villaverde from Pixabay

down 18% from 2023, Kern: down 28% from 2023, and San Bernardino: down 11% from 2023.

Other notable drops by county in stolen vehicles from 2023 include Imperial: down 13%, Orange: down 16%, Riverside: down 24%, Sacramento: down 23%, San Diego: down 11%, San Francisco: down 17%, Santa Barbara: down 29%, Tulare: down 22% and Yolo: down 24%.

"We are proud to see fewer vehicles being stolen across the

state," said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. "The CHP and our law enforcement partners are working hard every day to stop these crimes, protect California's communities and hold criminals responsible."

Automobiles are a vital part of daily life for work, school and family. When a vehicle is stolen, it impacts more than just property—it can take away a person's freedom and sense of security. View the 2024 report on stolen vehicles and their recoveries at <https://www.chp.ca.gov/siteassets/forms/recruiting/2024-ca-vehicle-theft-facts.pdf>.

Stronger enforcement. Serious penalties. Real consequences.

California has invested \$1.6 billion since 2019 to fight crime,

help local governments hire more police, and improve public safety. In 2023, as part of California's Public Safety Plan, the governor announced the largest-ever investment to combat organized retail crime in state history, an annual 310% increase in proactive operations targeting organized retail crime, and special operations across the state to fight crime and improve public safety.

Last August, Newsom signed into law the most significant bipartisan legislation to crack down on property crime in modern California history. Building on the state's robust laws and record public safety funding, these bipartisan bills offer new tools to bolster ongoing efforts to hold criminals accountable for smash-and-grab robberies, property crime, retail theft, and auto burglaries. While California's crime rate remains near historic lows, these laws help California adapt to evolving criminal tactics to ensure perpetrators are effectively held accountable. ★

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MEALS ON WHEELS SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Trio of Hornets Taken on Day Two of Major League Baseball Draft

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Three Sacramento State baseball players were selected on day two of the 2025 Major League Baseball Draft on Monday, as right-hander Carson Latimer (Cincinnati), infielder JP Smith (Minnesota), and right-hander Kade Brown (Athletics) were among the 615 players chosen overall during the league's two-day event.

This year's trio becomes the 30th, 31st, and 32nd Hornets either to be drafted or to sign a professional contract with a Major League club under Head Coach Reggie Christiansen since 2011 and marks the 19th consecutive season that a Sacramento State baseball player has been drafted or signed since 2007.

Taken with the 354th overall pick in the 12th round, Latimer became the highest drafted Hornet since Travis Adams (sixth round) and Scott Randall (seventh round) were top-10 round selections in 2021 and is the seventh Sacramento State player drafted by the Reds in program history, the first since infielder Ray Brown was selected in the 28th round in 1994.

In his first season with the Hornets, Latimer made 15 appearances on the mound and started seven games for Sacramento State, finishing 2-3 overall with 28 strikeouts in 36.2 innings of work. He struck out a season-high five in



The Hornets' three draftees this year mark the first time since 2019 that three Sacramento State players were selected in the same season when Austin Roberts was picked by Pittsburgh in the eighth round, Tanner Dalton was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 17th round and Parker Brahm was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 27th round. Image courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

three innings against Abilene Christian on April 5 and had four more strikeouts in three innings against UT Arlington on March 22. Against California Baptist on April 18, he allowed just one hit over four shutout innings, striking out three Lancers.

Smith was selected with the 509th overall pick in the 17th round by Minnesota and became only the fourth Hornet to be drafted by the Twins in program history joining Tanner Mendonca (17th round in 2013), Tyler Beardsley (16th round in 2016), and the aforementioned Adams, who made his Major

League debut earlier this month and picked up his first career victory on July 12.

A first-team All-Western Athletic Conference selection for the second time in his career in 2025, Smith finished the campaign hitting .291 while starting all 58 games, scoring 42 runs, collecting 18 doubles, and slugging 12 home runs to go along with a team-high 52 RBI. He ranked in the top 15 in the WAC in hits (t12th), RBI (t8th), doubles (6th), home runs (t9th), and total bases (10th).

Brown became the third Sacramento State player selected

on Monday, taken by the Athletics in the 20th round (590th overall). It marked the second straight year that the Athletics drafted a Hornet after taking infielder Gunner Gouldsmith in the 19th round in 2024, while Brown became the ninth Sacramento State player to go from Hornet green and gold to Athletics green and gold.

A third-team All-America selection and finalist for the "Stopper of the Year" by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, Brown was a first-team All-Western Athletic Conference selection in 2025, finishing 3-2 on the mound

with a 2.93 ERA, posted 49 strikeouts over 43 innings of work, and held opponents to a .204 average. A three-time All-WAC selection during his career and the school's all-time leader in home runs with 48 over his three seasons, Smith ranked in the top 15 in the WAC in hits (t12th), RBI (t8th), doubles (6th), home runs (t9th), and total bases (10th) this past year.

The Hornets' three draftees this year mark the first time since 2019 that three Sacramento State players were selected in the same season when Austin Roberts was picked by Pittsburgh in the eighth round, Tanner Dalton was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 17th round and Parker Brahm was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 27th round.

It also represents the first time that three Sacramento State players were drafted in the top 20 rounds since 2003 when right-hander Chris Kinsey was selected by Arizona in the fourth round, Jesse Schmidt was taken in the 10th round by San Francisco and Mikela Olsen was taken in the 15th round by Florida (now Miami).

In all, 10 former Hornets have appeared in a Major League game in the history of the program with five of them currently active on MLB rosters (as of July 14): Rhys Hoskins (Milwaukee), Nathan Lukes (Toronto), Sam Long (Kansas City), James Outman (Los Angeles Dodgers), and Travis Adams (Minnesota). ★

SACRAMENTO STATE BASEBALL DRAFT PICKS BY THE CINCINNATI REDS

Keith Brown, RHP, 1986 (21st round, 540th overall)
Doug Eastman, OF, 1986 (25th round, 636th overall)
Scott Selner, SS, 1987 (26th round, 643rd overall)
Bob Blankenship, RHP, 1989 (21st round, 547th overall)
Eric Bates, RHP, 1989 (31st round, 807th overall)
Ray Brown, 1B, 1994 (28th round, 772nd overall)
Carson Latimer, RHP, 2025 (12th round, 354th overall)

SACRAMENTO STATE BASEBALL DRAFT PICKS BY THE MINNESOTA TWINS

Tanner Mendonca, RHP, 2013 (17th round, 500th overall)
Tyler Beardsley, RHP, 2016 (16th round, 483rd overall)

Travis Adams, RHP, 2021 (6th round, 189th overall)
JP Smith, IF, 2025 (17th round, 509th overall)

SACRAMENTO STATE BASEBALL DRAFT PICKS BY THE ATHLETICS

Steve Necochea, 1B/OF, 1975
Dennis Stowe, OF, 1980
John Bulleri, P, 1980
Gary Weinberger, OF, 1981 (23rd Round / 585th Overall)
Tim Doyle, LHP, 1991 (6th Round / 178th Overall)
Blake Crosby, 1B, 2009 (42nd Round / 1,263rd Overall)
Justin Higley, OF, 2013 (13th Round / 401st Overall)
Gunner Gouldsmith, IF, 2024 (19th round, 556th)
Kade Brown, RHP, 2025 (20th round, 590th overall)

Five Aggies Named FCS Football Central Preseason All-Americans

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Rex Connors and Hunter Ridley took home first team honors to lead the way for UC Davis football's five members on the FCS Football Central Preseason All-American list, with Winston Williams, Jacob Psyk and Porter Connors earning the honors.

Williams and Psyk were named to the second team while Porter Connors earned a third team nod. The Aggies were tied for the third-most members on the team joining fellow Big Sky Conference member Montana State, North Dakota State and South Dakota.

Rex Connors adds to a quickly filling trophy case with this being his second Preseason All-American honor this season having earned the nod from STATS Perform. The Aggie defensive back was also named the Big Sky Preseason Defensive Player of the Year (the first Aggie to earn that honor) and earned Preseason Big Sky All-Conference honors.

His 2024 All-American season was record-breaking finishing with a program record 74 solo tackles, finishing with a total

tally of 115 on the season.

Ridley has had a busy summer of accolades, earning STATS Perform Second Team Preseason All-American honors along with being named Big Sky Preseason All-Conference. The Aggie primary kicker was also nominated for the 2025 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. He was named a 2024 Fred Mitchell Award finalist after going 16-for-18 in field goals and hitting 56 PATs during the 2024 campaign.

Williams, who has already earned STATS Perform Second Team Preseason All-American and Big Sky Preseason All-Conference honors was also named the second-best returning tight end in the nation by HERO Sports.

He ended the 2024 season leading all Big Sky tight ends in touchdown receptions and he finished second in the nation for most receiving touchdowns by a tight end. When the year 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.

Psyk joined the Aggies during the

offseason as a transfer after four seasons at Harvard. During his senior season Psyk was named All-Ivy League first team following a year where he ranked 29th in the nation in sacks, finishing with 26 tackles, 6.5 sacks, one forced fumbled and one recovery.

Porter gained STATS Perform Third Team Preseason All-American honors to go along with a Preseason Big Sky All-Conference nod. During the 2024 season he finished with 86 total tackles, made three interceptions and scored a defensive touchdown on a scoop and score in the season opener at California. His game at Cal earned him national defensive player of the week honors as the Aggie linebacker would go on to start 13 games over the remainder of the season.

Season tickets are on sale now, and fans can visit https://ucdavisaggies.eventvenue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/SEGetEventInfo?ticketCode=GS:UCD:FB25 26:FBSEA:&linkID=twucd&dataAccId=779&locale=en_US&siteId=ev_twucd to secure their spot in Shredville for the 2025 season. Tickets start as low as \$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. If you'd like to create an unforgettable experience with your group, the Aggie Ticket Office is here to help you customize your day! Fans can head to <https://ucdavisaggies.eventvenue.net/events/FBS> to purchase their group ticket packages.

Mini Plans are a great way for Aggie fans to save on tickets by bundling multiple games. Choose from 2 different options to get the biggest bang for your buck, and fans get to pick the games that work the best for you. The Pick Any 2 or Pick Any 3 Plans allow fans to pick and choose which games they want to attend at a discounted rate versus buying single-game tickets. Both plans can be purchased at <https://ucdavisaggies.eventvenue.net/events/FBPACK>.

Single game tickets are on sale now and fans can secure their spot at one five home games for as little as \$13 a ticket. Single game tickets can be purchased at <https://ucdavisaggies.eventvenue.net/events/FBS> ★

55th Sacramento County Women's Golf Championship

Sacramento Golf Council News Release

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

The 55th Sacramento County Women's Golf Championship took place on July 26 and 27, at Mather Golf Course in Rancho Cordova, drawing top female amateur golfers from around the region.

Taylor Baker of Sacramento emerged as the 2025 Sacramento County Women's Champion, capturing the Championship Flight title with an impressive

two-day total of 131 (69/62). Her second-round score of 62 set a women's course record on the back nine, cementing her place in the tournament's history.

In the Handicap Division, Karen Biscaha of Fair Oaks claimed victory with a gross score of 184 and a net score of 134, finishing an impressive 10 under par.

The Championship Flight featured golfers with a handicap index of 6.6 or less and was played from the Navigator (silver) tees at 5,550 yards.

The Handicap Flight included players with an index of 18.4 or less and was played from the Mustang (purple) tees at 5,250 yards.

Deborah Kanner was tournament chairman, assisted by Linda Bigler of the Sacramento Golf Council.

The Sacramento County Women's Golf Championship continues to showcase outstanding talent and sportsmanship in Northern California women's golf. ★



Karen Biscaha wins Sacramento County Womens Handicap Championship. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council



Taylor Baker wins Sacramento County Womens Golf Championship. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council

Celebrating Polish Culture

**Polish American Club
of Sacramento News Release**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)
- Have you danced the Polka, ate Pierogi and had your picture taken with a "Polish Princess?"

Never, you say? Well, it's about time you did.

Join the Polish American Club of Sacramento, Inc. at the 34th annual Polish Festival. Come celebrate and learn about the Polish culture through traditional food, drink and song from noon to 5 p.m. Sept. 6 at 327 Main St., Roseville.

The best part of the festival is the food and entertainment. There are no Polish restaurants in the greater Sacramento area, so the Polish Festival is the only time when people can enjoy authentic Polish food while listening to traditional Polish music, performed by professional musicians.

The Polish American Club of Sacramento, Inc preserves and perpetuates Polish traditions, customs, culture and heritage through social events and activities. Since the club's forming in 1959, membership and the festival have grown. For more information about the performers and vendors, visit the website at <https://sacpolishclub.com/annual-polish-festival>.

More than 1,500 festivalgoers are expected to attend this year's festival. But don't worry, there will be plenty of food. Come fill up on home-made Polish delicacies with more than 5,000 Pierogi (potato-cheese filled, meat filled or mushroom and sauerkraut filled dumplings); 1,000 Golabki (cabbage rolls); 700 pounds of Kielbasa (Polish sausage), hundreds of servings of placki (potato pancakes) and a variety of Polish pastries.

Beside all the wonderful food and entertainment, several vendors will sell Baltic Amber, handmade crafts, Polish souvenirs and Polish sausages.



Dance the polka or, while you eat, enjoy the music of Chet Chwalik Polmuz Polka Band and Nicolai Prisacar's accordion music, are sure to impress. Photos courtesy of the Polish American Club of Sacramento



Volunteers work on baking the paczki (Polish donuts).



Polish sausage sandwiches are another big draw for festivalgoers.



Dance the polka or, while you eat, enjoy the music.



Potato pancakes are another popular offering at the annual festival honoring the Polish culture. ★

Don't forget to visit the Polish marketplace.

If you're in a bidding mood, there is also the silent auction. For those who wish to try their luck, tickets for the raffle will be available. You can commemorate your visit with a picture

with a "Polish Princess" at the photo booth.

Dance the polka or, while you eat, enjoy the music of Chet Chwalik Polmuz Polka Band and Nicolai Prisacar's accordion music, are sure to impress.

There is something for everyone at the 34th annual Polish Festival.

Admission and parking are free. The event will have wheelchair access and credit cards will be accepted. The event is for all ages.

Sacramento Superior Court Executive Officer Retires



Sacramento Superior Court Executive Officer Lee Seale was appointed Court Executive Officer in June 2021 following a unanimous vote by the court's judges. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Superior Court

Sacramento Superior Court News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Sacramento Superior Court Executive Officer Lee Seale will retire on Aug. 1, following a career dedicated to law and justice.

Presiding Judge Bunni O. Awoniyi made the announcement on July 25 and praised Seale's leadership and contributions to the court.

"Lee Seale has been an exceptional leader, providing clear direction, meaningful support and fostering collaboration with our justice and labor partners," said Awoniyi. "Under his guidance, the court expanded its capabilities, embraced innovation and improved access to justice for our community. It has been an honor to work alongside him and we wish him the very best in this next chapter."

Seale was appointed Court Executive Officer in June 2021 following

a unanimous vote by the court's judges.

During Seale's tenure, the Sacramento Superior Court saw both operational and service improvements, including a 30-percent increase in the court's budget, providing new resources for expanded operations, staffing increase by approximately 100 employees and strengthening court services across all divisions.

Seale saw the launch of eCourt and electronic filing for Civil, Probate, Small Claims and Unlawful Detainer cases.

He saw the introduction of postcard jury summons and jury service text message updates to improve communication with jurors, restructuring of the Probate Division and expanded hours at the Carol Miller Justice Center to reduce case backlogs and improve public access.

Seale saw the creation of the Guardianship Assistance Program, in partnership with local law schools, to support self-represented litigants and the launch of a civil home court model, leading to a reduction in civil case backlogs.

He saw continued delivery of grant-funded mediation services in Unlawful Detainer and Small Claims cases during his tenure and the celebration of two milestones: the 10th anniversary of the court's unique One Day Divorce program and the fifth anniversary of Civil Self-Help

Services, as well as significant progress on the new Tani Cantil-Sakaue Sacramento County Courthouse construction.

"Lee has demonstrated strong leadership in overseeing and developing the court executive team," added Awoniyi. "His steady and supportive guidance has had a lasting impact on our 700-plus court employees."

Before joining the court, Seale served as Sacramento County's Chief Probation Officer and held positions in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation under Governors Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jerry Brown. He also served as a Special Assistant Inspector General, overseeing investigations and legal staff in California's prison system, and worked as a Deputy Attorney General in the criminal division of the California Department of Justice, handling cases throughout the state and appearing before the California Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court.

"Serving as Court Executive Officer has been a rewarding role," said Seale. "I am proud of what this court has accomplished and thankful for the extraordinary judges, staff, and justice partners who have made our progress possible."

The court has begun a competitive recruitment process for its next Court Executive Office. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/SacCourtCEO>. ★

County Connects Veterans and Families to Benefits

Sacramento County Health and Social Services News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County's Veterans Services Office plays a vital role in helping veterans and their dependents access life-changing benefits. For Elyse Ehlert, that support meant a full college education at UC Davis—without the burden of student debt—and a future filled with purpose and opportunity.

As the daughter of a U.S. military veteran, Elyse qualified for both the CalVet Tuition Fee Waiver and Chapter 35 education benefits, support made possible through programs facilitated by the Sacramento County Veterans Services Office. These benefits covered her tuition, eased the financial burden of college, and opened doors that might have otherwise been closed.

"The impact of the tuition waiver and stipend on my time at college cannot be understated," Elyse shared. "It has prevented me from having any college debt and has allowed me to plan for my future with optimism."

Throughout her time at UC Davis, Elyse didn't just focus on academics—she thrived. She took on meaningful internships, unpaid educational roles and even contributed to a research study on hearing loss in military veterans. These experiences, made possible by the financial freedom her benefits allowed, helped shape her passion for community education and outreach.

Her achievements were recognized with the Outstanding Senior Award and a Department Citation for Academic Distinction. This summer, she plans to apply for her California substitute teaching credential, with dreams of one day teaching science and environmental education in schools or working with non-profit and state organizations to make a difference.

"I will forever be thankful to my father who served, and without whom I could not have received these benefits," she said.

Elyse's success story is just one example of how Sacramento County is making a real difference in the lives of veterans and their dependents.



Sacramento County's Veterans Services Office plays a vital role in helping veterans and their dependents access life-changing benefits. Photo by Mike Jones pexels

The Department of Veterans Services is committed to helping individuals access the benefits they've earned through military service—whether it's for education, healthcare, housing or financial support.

"As a veteran and mother, I understand firsthand how life-changing these benefits can be. Our team is deeply committed to honoring that service by making sure every veteran and their family have access to the resources they've earned. Elyse's story reminds us why this work matters," said Rochelle Arnold, Sacramento County Veterans Service Officer.

If you are a veteran, active service member or a dependent, you may be eligible for a wide range of state and federal benefits.

Our knowledgeable staff is here to guide you through the process and help you apply.

Don't leave your benefits unclaimed.

Visit <https://ha.saccounty.gov/benefits/VeteransServices/Pages/VeteranHome.aspx> or call us to speak with a Veterans Services Specialist today.

Call or visit the location at (916) 874-6811 or 3970 Research Dr., Sacramento, CA 95838. ★