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East Sacramento News

VOL 34 • ISSUE 15

Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

AUGUST 8, 2025

**SEE
INSIDE**

School's Back in Session Back-to-School Events and Giveaways

By Idaly Valencia

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As summer winds down, students are preparing for the start of a new school year by gathering school supplies, updating wardrobes and filling backpacks.

In East Sacramento, Sacramento City Unified School District classes for the 2025-26 academic year are set to begin on Aug. 18.

A series of back-to-school celebrations and resource fairs are scheduled in the area, offering free school supplies, food, services and entertainment.

Here are a few events that students and their families can attend to be ready for the first day of school.

Phoebe A. Hearst Elementary Ice Cream Social

A new-student ice cream social will be held at 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15 at Phoebe A. Hearst Elementary School, 1410 60th St., for families with students starting their first year at the school.

This event will be full of family-friendly fun and provide information about the campus as well as its resources.

Families will receive information for the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), a uniform fashion show to learn about the Uniform Policy, meet Principal Brooke Fahey, cool off with ice cream and meet fellow community members.

There will also be a Uniform Swap Sale where uniform pieces can be purchased.



On Saturday, Aug. 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Greater Sacramento Urban League's Youth & Families Center and the Black Child Legacy Campaign will present the YFC Block 2 School Bash at Fourth Avenue Park. Photo courtesy of Greater Sacramento Urban League

Back-to-School Block Party: Community Love Roberts Family Development Center, in partnership with Crown Connection, will host the Back-to-School Block Party: Community Love from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11.

This fourth annual event will be held at the center's

campus located at 770 Darina Ave.

Focused on community support and unity, the event will provide free backpacks and school supplies, children's haircuts, food and drinks, games, music and face painting.

A variety of family-focused community resources will also be

available to attendees.

YFC Block 2 School Bash

On Saturday, Aug. 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Greater Sacramento Urban League's Youth & Families Center and the Black Child Legacy Campaign will present the YFC Block 2 School Bash at Fourth

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I Street Bridge Replacement has 2026 Build Start



City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO/WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The City of Sacramento is moving one step closer to breaking ground on the long-anticipated I Street Bridge Replacement Project, a transformative effort that will replace the existing 113-year-old bridge with a new multimodal crossing linking Sacramento and West Sacramento.

Sacramento city staff presented an update on the project's funding and financing strategy at the July 29 Sacramento City Council meeting.

The update outlined major progress toward construction in 2026, thanks to recent commitments of state and federal funding and ongoing efforts to finalize interagency financing agreements.

The project has benefited from strong and sustained leadership at the local, state and federal levels. U.S. Congresswoman Doris Matsui has championed the project from the beginning, even proposing the architectural design competition that helped shape the bridge's final look.

State Senators Angelique Ashby and Christopher Cabaldon have also played key roles, advocating for funding and interagency collaboration.

"This is not just a bridge; it's a once-in-a-generation investment in connectivity, safety and opportunity for both cities," said Assistant City Manager Ryan Moore. "We're deeply grateful to all of our local, regional, state and federal partners who continue to work alongside us to bring this vision to life."

The replacement bridge will feature 12-foot shared-use paths for pedestrians and cyclists, wider travel lanes to accommodate buses and emergency vehicles, and improved connectivity to trails and

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STATE IS FINALLY ADOPTING PHONICS



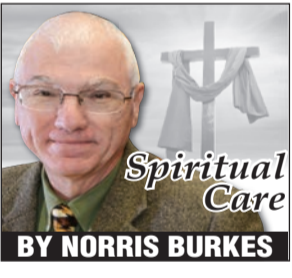
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SUMMER CAN BE TORMENTING, FANS



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SYNCHRONIZING OUR HEART WITH OUR ACTIONS



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'Dreamers' Business Incubator Taking Applications



Pittador Brews, last year's Calling All Dreamers winner, plans to open in September in Old Sacramento Waterfront. Photo courtesy of Downtown Sacramento Partnership.

Downtown Sacramento Partnership News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Downtown Sacramento Foundation is encouraging entrepreneurs to submit their big ideas in the 13th annual Calling All Dreamers business incubator. This program provides a one-of-a-kind chance for aspiring business owners to receive resources and support to launch their dream business.

Applications can be submitted online at CallingAllDreamers.org through 11:59 p.m. Sept. 1.

Now entering its 13th year as a business incubation program, last year's Calling All Dreamers winner signed a lease in Old Sacramento Waterfront and plans to open in September.

Last year's runner-up is in lease negotiations and plans to sign a lease this summer.

"Calling All Dreamers is a great

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'Dreamers' Business Incubator Taking Applications

Continued from Page 1
 opportunity for entrepreneurs to connect with local experts to develop and elevate their business models," said Andrew LaFrance, business development manager at Downtown Sacramento Partnership and program manager for Calling All Dreamers.

"This free program has assisted nearly 40 retail, food-based and experience-based businesses with opening in Sacramento since 2013. I am eager to see which exciting business concepts participate in the 13th season of this impactful program that has brought so much value to the downtown community."

Selected applicants will participate in business

development workshops that call for extensive planning, market research and proof of financial sustainability. After several months, the top five concepts are chosen to move forward and are eligible to receive a \$5,000 to \$20,000 cash infusion into their business provided they complete the program and sign a lease in Downtown Sacramento Partnership's district within one year.

Leading the cohort through the process is a special selection committee formed by the Downtown Sacramento Foundation, including prominent business leaders and SCORE volunteers who assist them in building out their business plan and financial projections.

Ultimately, the



Dipped N Color Splat Studio, a 2023 Calling All Dreamers recipient, is open on I Street in Old Sacramento Waterfront. Photos courtesy of Downtown Sacramento Partnership.

committee will select the most viable candidate to receive the cash infusion to assist the successful launch of their downtown

Sacramento storefront.

After being selected by a committee in early September, the cohort attend a variety of business



Capital Tuk-Tuk, a Calling All Dreamers participant, is doing business in Old Sacramento Waterfront.

workshops from September through November.

The selection committee will choose the five program finalists in December and the finalists will practice and deliver a final pitch in February.

The final awardee and runner-up will be announced in February

2026.

Former finalists and runners-up currently operating in downtown Sacramento include Pittador Brews (coming soon), Haus of Comedy (coming soon), Ecojoyous (2024), Dipped N Color Splat Studio (2023), and NEO Escape Rooms (2018). ★

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Hot Jazz Jubilee Releases Lineup

Hot Jazz Jubilee News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Hot Jazz Jubilee will once again feature four days of music and entertainment over Labor Day weekend from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1.

Five venues will offer music at the Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento, ranging from the large Grand Ballroom to the more intimate Garden Terrace and RJs. Dancers will want to hang out in the three ballrooms, which offer dance floors.

"We are excited to offer some new music genres and some great bands new to the festival," said Hot Jazz Jubilee Director Pat Jones. "Plus, some

fabulous guest artists. The variety at this festival can't be beat. We have jazz, swing, gypsy jazz, zydeco, blues, old time rock 'n' roll, western swing and R&B. Something for everyone."

This year's band lineup includes Black Market Trust, Crescent Katz, Swingin' West, Steve Lucky & the Rhumba Bums, Dave Bennett Quartet, Katie Cavera & the Lost Boys, Two Tone Steiny & The Cadillacs, Tom Rigney & Flambeau, Todd Morgan & The Emblems, Stephanie & Paolo, San Lyon, Groovus, The Summer Groove Band (formerly High Street Band) and Yve Evans & Company. Joining them will be Sax Gordon,

Adrian Cunningham, Dan Barrett, Jason Wanner, Bill Dendle and jazz vocalist Meloney Collins.

This family-friendly event is in air-conditioned comfort at the newly remodeled DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento on Point West Way in Sacramento. There is free admission for youth 18 and under. The Sacramento Jazz Education Foundation will sponsor youth clinics where young musicians can perform with the pros.

Food and drinks as well as a jazz vendor fair will also be on site. Get tickets at hotjazzjubilee.com.

For special group rates, inquire at info@hotjazzjubilee.com. ★



Five venues will offer music for the Hot Jazz Jubilee at the Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento, ranging from the large Grand Ballroom to the more intimate Garden Terrace and RJs. Photo courtesy of the Hot Jazz Jubilee

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I Street Bridge Replacement has 2026 Build Start

Continued from Page 1

regional destinations. The existing I Street Bridge, built in 1911, will remain in place but be converted into a bicycle and pedestrian-only crossing on its upper deck.

Construction of the new bridge is estimated to cost \$300 million. Caltrans (California Department of Transportation) has committed \$250 million in federal Highway Bridge Program funds toward construction and the California Transportation Commission awarded an additional \$25 million in competitive state funding earlier this summer.

The City of Sacramento is continuing to work with its partners to finalize key financing arrangements that

will support the project's construction phase.

Key next steps include presenting the financing strategy to the Sacramento Transportation Authority this month and submitting a final finance plan to Caltrans.

The City of Sacramento is also working with the City of West Sacramento to finalize cost-sharing agreements, with each city expected to contribute between \$13 million and \$32 million, depending on the final financing structure.

These agreements will require further Sacramento City Council review and approval, expected in September.

Construction is expected to begin in spring 2026 and take approximately four years to complete. ★



The long-anticipated I Street Bridge Replacement Project is expected to take four years to finish. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2026. Photo courtesy of City of Sacramento

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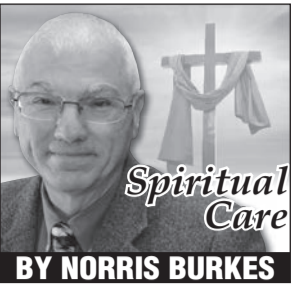
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ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

Synchronizing Our Heart With Our Actions



BY NORRIS BURKES

Have you ever done the right thing in a difficult situation, but your heart said, "I'm just not feeling it"? If so, then you know how hard it is to sync your feelings with your actions.

I remember such a moment in 1995 in Mountain View, California where I was stationed at Onizuka Air Station. It was memorable because it was the very first time I shared a chaplain's assignment with a Catholic priest.

His name was Richard Regan.

Father Regan was a winsome and gregarious guy who was adored by his parishioners. We became fast friends, and he encouraged me to call him Richard, but around his parishioners, I had to call him "Father."

One weekday morning, Richard and I arrived in uniform for a meeting in our chapel office. As we walked toward the entryway, we met two contractors hired to refurbish the steps.

The two men scrambled to their feet. They looked past me and greeted Richard in a deep Irish brogue.

"Top o' the morning to ya', Father."

Richard returned a polished smile as we walked past them to enter our office suite.

Inside, I noted how the

men barely glanced at me. Richard explained.

"I met them a few days ago and they asked about the Christian cross we both wear on our uniforms. I told them that I was a Catholic priest and you are a Protestant minister."

Richard described how the men looked down at their work in an awkward pause. "Is that so?" they asked.

"I hope that won't stop you from greeting him each morning too," Richard said.

"We'll greet him if you insist," one admitted, "but I'm afraid we'll be giving him a rather frosty 'top-o'-the-morning.'"

Richard laughed. The men didn't.

I had much in common with those men. We both were having trouble syncing our feelings with doing what we knew was right.

It was a stretch for me to call my friend "Father" because I was raised with the literal interpretation of Jesus' words in Mathew 23:9: "Do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven." Yet I learned to do it because it was a professional courtesy of clerical protocol.

The catholic men, likely raised in the Northern Ireland conflict, probably found it difficult not to spit on Protestants, but the good Father's insistence encouraged them to do what was right.

Today, in the current political climate, I'm aware that there are many issues that work to separate us, such as gun control, immigration and

abortion. These topics are difficult to decide, but we choose our views for various reasons based on our upbringing, personalities and experiences.

Yet as people of faith, we do know what is right between each other. Our faith demands we do unto others, as we would have them do unto us. We know for certain that we must love God with all our heart and our neighbor as our self.

So, even during these days of political madness and uncertainty, I hope we will pledge to ourselves and to our faith, to do the right thing between each other. We will remain civil and kind and will synchronize our faith with our actions.

As for the Irishmen, I told Richard that they'd warmed a bit, but still hadn't wished me, "Top-o'-the-morning."

"Sounds like progress," he said.

"How so?"

"If they really didn't like you, they'd insult you with something like, 'May the cat eat you, and may the devil eat the cat.'"

I grinned. I suppose sometimes you take what you can get.

Discounted versions of all my books can be found on Amazon by searching for "Norris Burkes." Autographed copies can be obtained on my website www.thechaplain.net by sending a check for \$20 for each book to 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602.

Sign up to receive this weekly column by email at www.thechaplain.net/newsletter/ or send me your email address to comment@thechaplain.net. ★

School's Back in Session

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Avenue Park.

The free event offers backpacks (while supplies last), food, music, games and vendor booths.

Families are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and enjoy a day filled with fun and connection. Fourth Avenue Park is located at 4040 Fourth Ave.

Back 2 School Block Party

One of the largest events, the Back 2 School Block Party, will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23 at McClatchy Park (3500 Fifth Ave.).

Hosted by The Hope Community Church, the event is entering its third year and aims to connect families with resources and provide a fun experience for youth in the community to become excited for the new school year.

Event highlights include a kids' zone with inflatable attractions, face painting and sensory-friendly activities. Children can also take photos with superhero characters.

"Back-to-school events are vital for our social fabric and cultivating healthy communities, especially in underserved areas," said Hope Community Pastor Caleb Crenshaw. "It's a place to get necessities, connect to free community resources, enjoy a free hot dog lunch while making memories with the family."

In addition to entertainment, the event provides a range of free services.

Haircuts will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, ensuring students can head into the classroom with confidence.

A free hot dog lunch will be served to all attendees, and thousands of grocery bags and food packages



There are several back-to-school celebrations and resource fairs scheduled in the area, offering free school supplies, food, services and entertainment. Photos courtesy of The Hope Community Church



In addition to entertainment, several back-to-school events in the area will provide a range of free services such as haircuts for students to feel confident on their first day of school.

will be available to take home.

More than 20 community resource vendors will share information and services ranging from nutritional support to free garden seeds.

Those who register in

advance online at thehope.cc/blockparty will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 gift card.

For questions or vendor participation, community members can contact info@thehope.cc.

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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. ★

Razo Elected Chair of Local United Way Board

United Way California Capital Region News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Joaquin Razo of East Sacramento has been elected chair of the board of directors for United Way California Capital Region. He is senior manager of

learning and development on the national team for Blue Zones.

“Joaquin has been an incredible asset to our organization for years as a board member, volunteer, fundraiser and more. We look forward to his leadership as board chair in our work to mobilize our community

so everyone can thrive,” said Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region.

Razo has been working with Blue Zones for more than four years to support transformative well-being in communities across the United States. Before joining the national team, he

was executive director for Blue Zones Project Upper Napa Valley. He previously served as vice chair of the local United Way’s board of directors and has chaired the group’s annual gala for the past three years.

Last year, Razo served as chair of the Sacramento Metro Chamber’s Metro

EDGE group for young professionals and was named 2024 Metro Edge Young Professional of the Year. He was one of Comstock’s Magazine’s Region’s Top Young Leaders in 2024.

He is a graduate of the University of San Francisco’s McLaren School of Management and holds a master’s degree in organizational leadership from Gonzaga University. ★

ABOUT TOWN

Banana Festival in Land Park

The 14th Annual Sacramento Banana Festival, Aug. 16-17 at Land Park, is a multicultural event celebrating cultures in Asia, Africa, and the Americas that use the banana as a source of food, art, and culture.

It will feature music, food and craft vendors, art exhibitions and activities and a kids zone. Details at bananafestivalsac.org.

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 print-making 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 californiarailroadmuseum.org.

Sacramento History Museum – “Sacramento In a Can – Featuring the Campbell’s Sacramento

Story” chronicles the fascinating history of the canning industry in the Capital City.

The limited time “Sacramento In a Can” exhibit is perfect for visitors interested in learning how Sacramento became the Tomato Soup capital of the world. Through Sept 1.

Details at sachistory-museum.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.

Karaoke Nights,

Thursdays and Saturdays, 7 p.m.

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.

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

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Sapphires in the Mail, Arriving by the Day

Story and photos by Kimberly A. Edwards

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The highlight of my day is awaiting the mail truck, as I'm on the watch for flats, bundles and cardboard boxes.

This new pastime is an unexpected treat of buying books and articles written by early authors of the California Writers Club Sacramento. Our club is turning 100 years old this fall. The hunt has made me realize that not only were these authors talented but that they deserve honor. They are deceased now but the books, poems and articles they left behind endure.

Daily, I scour club records for references to work published. Then I tear through the internet, screen after screen, chasing available titles.

Books are searchable, although covers changed by publishers make first editions hard to identify.

Magazines can be fleeting. For example, so-and-so sold stories to Love Stories, Argosy, Secrets, Intimate Stories, Essence, Popular Mechanics, Weird Tales, Dude, Popular Science, Better Homes and Gardens, Teen and so on. But our records don't specify the exact date of publication. So last night, I foraged for an hour for "The Torso on the Rocks," sold to Trapped Detective Story Magazine. No luck.

Each day's mail brings surprises, as I rediscover the forgotten gems I've ordered. Our club, an affiliate of the California Writers Club in 1925, claimed members who

published as early as 1914. Yesterday, I discovered early publisher Jo Anderson, "His Print Shop," at 416 J St., Sacramento. The illustrations done by a name described as "Sacramento Boy" went on to become an internationally famous article.

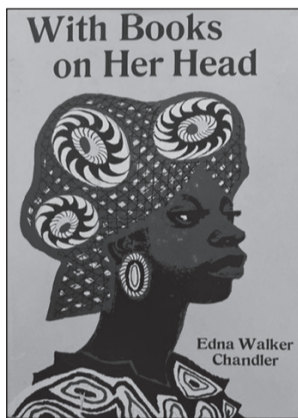
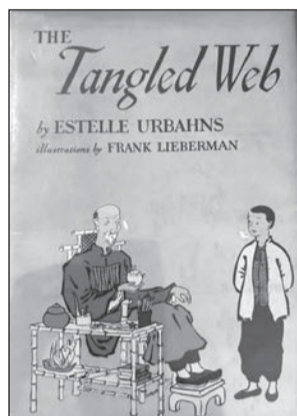
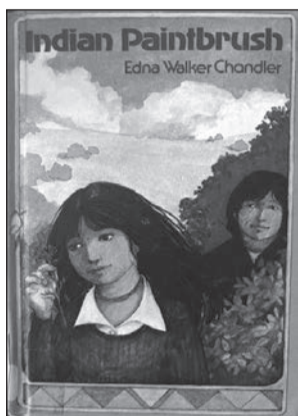
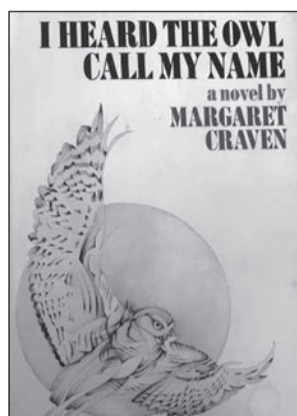
Enthusiasm can be dizzying. Four times I ordered duplicate copies of the same book but they were different editions with different covers. Twice I ordered "The Golfer's Bible" but one turned out to be a real Bible. Recently, the bank put my credit card on hold for charges thought to be suspicious.

On a dark night, I realized that I had accidentally disposed of something in the garbage bins. With a flashlight and a stool, I dug for a discarded photo of nationally-syndicated columnist "Helen Help Us" Helen Bottel.

It's exciting to find an early book, especially a scarce one. I'm not a professional book trader, so I obviously don't know what I'm doing. I'm just snatching what I can, convincing myself that the dazzle of yore belongs to us in Sacramento.

Having studied multi-cultural children's books in the '70s, I know that librarians in those days had little guidance when ordering books with diverse characters. I am, thankfully, finding in this growing trove of jewels respectable renditions.

What tested my mettle, however, were two early books with "Pickanny" in the title. One was dedicated to the students of



These books are just a few of the works by Sacramento-area writers. Some of the authors were published as early as 1914. California Writers Club, Sacramento will celebrate 100 years of excellence in writing on Oct. 18 at North Ridge Country Club. Go online to sacramentowriters.org for more information about the writers club and its 100th-year anniversary.

own our past and understand that perspective at the time differs from love on the page crafted laboriously by an author with good intentions.

Many of our early authors' books were made into movies. One inspired the TV series, "Grizzly Adams."

Edna Chandler and Lee Roddy published more than 50 books apiece.

Duane Newcomb sold 2,000 articles. Leo Rosenhouse sold dozens monthly.

Psychiatrist Walter Bromberg, author of "Crime of the Mind," served as an expert on famous criminal cases. Edna Mae Burnam Nauman wrote the "Dozen a Day," music instruction for piano students.

Attorney Ken Donelson and his wife, Irene, wrote "Married Today, Single Tomorrow: Marriage Breakup and the Law." Diane Davidson wrote "Feverisham" about a real-life murder in Tudor England.

Walter T. Boyd, having worked in secret military operations, wrote about cryogenics.

Amparo Campeón wrote a column for Spanish-language newspaper, "El Hispano."

Bud Gardner became the most inspirational writing teacher in the U.S.

Eva Rutland wrote, "When We Were Colored."

So what will we do with this stockpile of early work of which we are so proud? We plan to display it at our "100 Years of Writing Excellence in Sacramento" event from noon to 3 p.m. Oct. 18 at North Ridge Country Club. Presenters

will include award-winning featured speaker Jack Ohman, Rich Ehsen, poet Carol Lynn Stevenson Grellas, literary agent Sandra Proudman and Alison Linton of the local CBS affiliate. For tickets or more information, go to sacramentowriters.org.

The 102-year Kiyo Sato International award winner will be on hand. Attendees will learn about early magazines and trends in publishing.

We thank our partners, the Crocker Art Museum, the California State Library, the Sacramento Public Library and the Center for Sacramento History.

As a child whose hands leaked stories from the minute I awoke, I believe that everyone who wants to write should be encouraged and we need to applaud all who have.

Questions remain: will my credit card be deactivated due to flagged purchases around the globe? What am I going to do with these treasures after the event, since they are taking over my condo?

Sapphires shine and can last forever, as will these works, long past my condo and me.

Kimberly A. Edwards, first vice-president of the California Writers Club, is a long-time writer with credits in national magazines, international media, newsletter publishing, reporting, column writing, poetry and memoir. Everyone in the writing community is invited to join the Centennial event (sacramentowriters.org) to honor early writers and those currently devoted to all genres, including journalism. ★

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Imagine having the confidence to forgo college basketball entirely and jump straight from high school to professional basketball. That's what Jonathan Kuminga did and so did Kobe Bryant and Lebron James. Things turned out pretty well for those two, and it may turn out well for Kuminga too. The only question is, will it be in a Sacramento Kings uniform?

Well, that's the question on the mind of every Kings fan, largely because that's the current talk of the town.

The Warriors, after surprising everyone and acquiring Jimmy Butler late last season, are apparently prepared to part ways with 22-year old Kuminga, and the Sacramento Kings are interested.

Should the two teams come to an agreement, the Kings would finally complete the missing piece they have long been looking for, front court help to compliment Keegan Murray.

The Kings have met with Kuminga and it's been reported that Kuminga is eager to join the beam team, and travel 90 miles north to unite with the Warriors closest rival.

Times in San Francisco have been tumultuous for young Kuminga, and he has fallen into disfavor with coach Steve Kerr. Stories vary as to the reason for his fall from grace, but reportedly Kerr is unhappy with Kuminga's desire to elevate his game and not play within the team style that Kerr desires.

Without question, Kuminga's beginning in the NBA could not have been any meteoric, as the Warriors captured the NBA title in Kuminga's rookie season.

Kuminga contributed nearly 10 points per game in his rookie campaign while logging just under 17 minutes per game.

Kuminga has steadily improved his game, but he has plateaued the past 2 season's averaging 15 points and just under 5 rebounds per game.

The age-old problem of minutes is the issue, and with stars Stephen Curry, Jimmy Butler, and Draymond Green, breaking into the starting lineup does not appear to be a realistic outcome for Kuminga.

The Kings are undoubtedly assuring a starting position in the negotiations, and Kuminga has expressed a real interest in joining the Sactown boys.

I can envision the first time the Warriors

come to town, with Kuminga lighting things up and showing the Warriors what they passed up on. Maybe lighting the beam with a smile to match.

This is not a done deal Kings fans, but it is not pie in the sky either. If the Warriors don't move Kuminga this season, they will run the risk of him signing elsewhere and receiving no compensation. Suffice to say, the Warriors are smarter than that, so making a good deal for Kuminga now makes loads of sense, and I believe Scott Perry is trying to help the Warriors do just that.

If reports are accurate, that means the Kings will in all probability say goodbye to Malik Monk, while including a first-round draft choice in the deal. The sticking point has been whether the pick will be unrestricted, and it's my view that in all likelihood the Kings may have to acquiesce to get this trade consummated.

Without question the NBA has yet to see the best of Kuminga, and there is no question in my mind that this talented young player could be the missing ingredient the Kings have long been looking for.

Sadly, trades that are as public as this one rarely come to fruition, so say your prayers Kings fans, because I do not see a down side to welcoming Kuminga into the Sactown family!

Summertime can be tormenting for true basketball fans, and with the summer league concluding, trade rumors that can change the landscape of the hometown team in a positive way, are just what Kings fans need to while away the hours waiting for training camp to begin.

Not to be lost in the Kuminga hype, is current Kings power forward Trey Lyles who is currently a free agent. At 6'9" and 234 lbs., Lyles represents a big body and someone that the Kings can count on off the bench. Losing him would be a critical mistake and would remind me of the faux pas made just a season ago when Davion Mitchell slipped through their fingers and was unceremoniously traded to the Toronto Raptors.

Stay positive Kings fans, because Scott Perry brings with him much needed experience in the front office, at a time when a steady hand is very much required.

All the best!

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

Social Security Matters

Why Hasn't My SS Benefit Changed Because I Am Still Working?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am currently receiving Social Security benefits while continuing to work full time. There are no restrictions on my wage earnings because I waited until full retirement age before beginning benefits. However, I was also told that my benefit amount would be reviewed each year if my current earnings were higher than past earnings. That held true for the first two years but has yet to be adjusted for 2025. I thought it might be because of HR 82, which does not impact me directly, but I think it may be the reason my payment has not yet been changed. Has enough time passed so I should contact SSA now to see if this is the case? **Signed: Waiting Anxiously .**

Dear Waiting: If you are already collecting benefits, Social Security reviews your earnings each year to see if your more recent earnings are high enough to warrant an increase in your monthly

benefit. They do this automatically, after they get your most recent earnings data from the IRS, and they typically do that review by the end of the 3rd quarter of each year. If a higher benefit is indicated, they will increase your monthly amount and pay you retroactively to the beginning of the year for any difference in your benefit.

SSA has, indeed, been vigorously working on changes resulting from HR82 (the Social Security Fairness Act), which may have affected the timeliness of their review of your recent earnings. However, I suspect that is not why your SS benefit has not yet changed. More likely, it has to do with the fact that your past earnings have been adjusted for inflation (which is a normal part of Social Security's process when calculating your benefit amount). Your earnings for each year in your lifetime (up to age 60) were adjusted for inflation when you originally claimed SS, and your recent earnings would need to be higher than the inflation-adjusted amounts used by SS when you claimed. They use the 35 highest earnings years (adjusted for inflation) over your lifetime to calculate your benefit, and inflation has a substantial effect. For example, \$50,000 earned

in 1990 would require over \$100,000 in earnings today to cause an increase in your benefit. Thus, you cannot go by the actual dollars you earned in earlier years, because SS uses inflated amounts to calculate your benefit.

In any case, if you believe that the Social Security Administration neglected reviewing your earnings from last year, or in any year since you claimed, you can make an appointment to review that with them by calling 1.800.772.1213. SSA typically does such appointments over the phone, so you likely won't need to make a personal visit to your local SSA office to investigate this.

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California Is Finally Adopting Phonics

Fulfilling A Grandmother's Dream



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Marion Joseph died in 2022 and therefore cannot celebrate what at long last is happening in California to improve children's abysmal levels of reading comprehension.

Joseph, a renowned expert on reading instruction, came out of retirement in the 1980s to wage a personal crusade for the adoption of phonics, doing battle with educators who stubbornly supported a rival system called "whole language" that was failing to raise reading scores.

Phonics stresses fundamental instruction in the letters and letter combinations that make up sounds, thus allowing children to "sound out" words and later whole sentences and passages. The whole language approach assumes that reading is a naturally learned skill, much like speaking, and that exposing children to reading material will allow it to emerge.

Having realized that her own grandson, then a first-grader, was having difficulty with reading, Joseph began pestering the state's politicians to adopt phonics, persuading then-Gov. Pete Wilson in the 1990s to appoint her to a commission on reading instruction and then the state Board of

Education, platforms from which she could pursue her mission.

However, she achieved only modest success in what were dubbed "reading wars," and after she left the school board the whole language approach re-emerged as dominant.

Reading scores on state and national academic tests continued to languish, with fewer than half of fourth-graders reading at an acceptable level.

School districts that had voluntarily adopted phonics demonstrated remarkable gains. They recognized that the ability to read is fundamental to succeeding in other academic skills, such as mathematics.

Finally substantial numbers of legislators decided to intervene, and a pro-phonics contingent began pushing measures that would compel school districts to adopt what has been dubbed the "science of reading," backed by a phalanx of education reformers.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has struggled with dyslexia, a disorder affecting his ability to read, supported the efforts and included \$200 million in the 2025-26 state budget to train teachers in phonics.

Meanwhile Assembly Bill 1454 is moving quickly through the legislative process. Sponsored by pro-phonics legislators including Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, it would require the state Board of Education to adopt phonics-based instructional materials and include phonics in reading teacher credential programs.

The pro-phonics moves are drawing praise from

EdVoice and dozens of other educational reform groups.

"When a child learns to read, they don't just decode letters on a page, they begin to dream bigger, think more critically, and imagine a future beyond what they can see. Today's committee approval brings us one step closer to all California children reading at grade level," said Marshall Tuck, CEO of Ed Voice, after the bill cleared the Senate Education Committee last week.

Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, a West Covina Democrat who has become the Legislature's top phonics advocate, said, "After months of hard work and collaboration, we are making steady progress toward delivering on our promise to teach all California children to read. The support we saw today in the Senate Education Committee moves us closer to ensuring that no child falls through the cracks because they weren't taught to read using scientifically proven reading methods. The continued bipartisan support on this bill tells us that California is ready and motivated to lead on literacy."

The actions fall a bit short of requiring local school districts to adopt phonics, but they go a long way toward achieving Marion Joseph's goal.

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. ★



Hamas is to Blame for Gaza's Woes

Hamas started a war, rejected a ceasefire and stole and profited from humanitarian aid, and we are supposed to believe that it's all Israel's fault.

International attention is focused on food shortages in Gaza, with the blame and the pressure -- as always -- on Israel to do something about it.

It is always difficult to get to the ground truth in Gaza, which is shrouded in the fog of war, of Hamas propaganda and of slanted media coverage, but there appears indeed to be a brewing humanitarian crisis.

Israel stopped shipments of aid into Gaza in March after a temporary ceasefire expired, and then started them up again in May, using the so-called Israel- and U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) as the conduit. The stoppage in aid, coupled with inadequate GHF operations, has led to the current situation.

It's necessary to understand the larger context, though. Israel halted food shipments as a means to deny Hamas revenue, not to target the general population.

The terror group had perfected the art of exploiting humanitarian aid (and commercial transactions) for its own purposes via

theft and taxes, plowing the proceeds into its military operations.

Although there is now an effort by Israel's critics to portray the concern over Hamas profiteering as fabricated or exaggerated, there is no doubt that this business model was crucial to the terror group. Both The Wall Street Journal ("A Depleted Hamas Is So Low on Cash That It Can't Pay Its Fighters") and The Washington Post ("Hamas Facing Financial and Administrative Crisis as Revenue Dries Up") have run reports on the squeeze felt by Hamas.

The Journal article back in April noted that the cash crunch with the cut off in aid was "making it harder for Hamas to bring in new recruits and maintain cohesion." The Washington Post reported about a week ago: "With its coffers depleted, Hamas's military wing can no longer adequately pay the salaries of its fighters, though it is still able to recruit teenage boys for missions like keeping lookout or placing explosives along Israeli military routes."

Making it harder for your enemy to pay its fighters and secure new ones is an important and legitimate military goal. The problem is the potential cost to people in Gaza who aren't combatants.

The shortages are just another consequence of how deeply embedded Hamas is in Gaza society. This isn't a group of terrorists who moved into territory adjacent to Israel to launch the Oct. 7 attacks and could be quickly extricated by an intense military

operation. Hamas has been the government of Gaza for a couple of decades, and has used every instrument of political and social influence at its disposal -- including the distribution of food -- to build its military capacity.

It's important to remember that Israel didn't start this war, that it'd much rather be fighting a conventional military force that abided by the rules of war, and that Hamas still holds Israeli hostages and has taken a rejectionist attitude to ceasefire talks.

Even Emperor Hirohito thought his people had suffered enough at the conclusion of World War II, but Hamas considers the agony of Gazans a useful weapon in the narrative war. From this perverted point of view, a famine would be welcome news, perhaps forcing Israel to stay its hand and leave Hamas to fight another day.

Clearly, Israel needs to find better ways to get aid into Gaza. The GHF hasn't gotten the support that it needed from the U.N. and other agencies (they are too invested in the corrupt status quo), while the distribution points for aid are chaotic and dangerous.

The best thing that could happen would be an end to the war with a decent political authority -- more invested in the general welfare than in tunnels and rockets-- finally in charge of Gaza. But Hamas would rather see the population starve than give up on the war, or its grip on power.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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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 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.eventue.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.eventue.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.eventue.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.eventue.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