



Artist Reclaims  
Wood, Creates  
Beautiful Pieces

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# Pocket News

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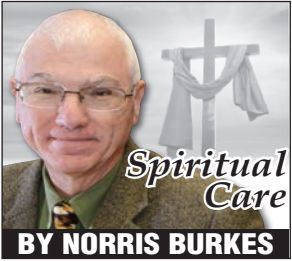
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SEEKING A PROVEN  
POINT GUARD



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WHAT IF YOU KNEW  
HOW YOU WERE  
GOING TO DIE?



PAGE 8

## One Weekend, World of Flavors

*Terra Madre Americas Culinary & Cultural Festival*

By Idaly Valencia

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Experience the flavors of the Americas at a first-of-its-kind event when Terra Madre Americas is in Sacramento from Sept. 26 to Sept. 28.

Presented by Visit Sacramento and Slow Food, the weekend will be dedicated to showcasing the diverse flavors and traditions of Sacramento and cultures from around the globe.

The Terra Madre Salone del Gusto, Slow Food's premier international festival, is held every other year in Italy, where farmers, chefs and food lovers gather to promote good, clean and fair food for all.

Inspired by that festival, Terra Madre Americas will bring food and drink tastings, live music, chef demonstrations, educational panels, artisan vendors and family-friendly activities to Sacramento.

Apart from certain ticketed/reserved experiences, the festival entrance is free and open to all ages.

Whether you're a cook, farmer or just a food lover, Terra Madre Americas is an opportunity to learn and connect with the cultural background behind the food that is being enjoyed.

Grand Tasting

The Grand Tasting, a



The Enoteca at Terra Madres America, presented by Bank of America, will offer wine tastings from North and South America, emphasizing the stories and traditions that are behind each pour from Sept. 27 to 28. Photo courtesy of Terra Madre Americas

separately-ticketed event, will kick off the weekend from 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 26 and feature tastings from more than 20 chefs, along with craft drinks and live entertainment.

Local chefs who will participate include Rebecca Campbell of Sac City Brews, Pedro Depina of The 7th Street Standard, Craig Takehara of Binchoyaki, Michael

Fagnoni of Hawks Public House and Nina Curtis of Plant-ish & Co.

General admission is \$125 and includes two drinks with unlimited tastings. The experience is limited to ages 21 and older.

**Live Music at the Golden 1 Stage**

The Golden 1 Live Music Stage, located at

14th and I streets, will host free performances Sept. 27 and Sept. 28 where attendees can listen to the contemporary sound of national headliner performers to standout local talent.

Acts include deejay NESSS, Son Café, hot-plug, Jon Wiilde, Zephyr, Passion Pit (solo acoustic), Jade Bird, Spoon, The War on Drugs, deejay Lady  
*Continued on Page 2*

## County Revises Approved 2025-26 Budget



**Sacramento County  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on Sept. 3 to revise the approved budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

The \$9.2 billion Revised Recommended Budget included an increase of \$239 million in total appropriations from the \$8.9 billion Recommended Budget that the board approved in June.

The increases included a \$16-million increase in General Fund appropriations and a \$223-million increase in appropriations in other funds, resulting primarily from re-budgeting of capital projects and other contractual expenditures and including \$529,000 in non-General Fund growth.

Additional growth in the revised recommended budget includes total appropriations of \$4 million in Net County Cost and 16 full-time equivalent positions.

Re the Sheriff's Department's Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) Expansion, \$0.5 million Net County Cost is recommended to fund one full-time equivalent Sheriff Sergeant and four full-time equivalent Deputy Sheriff positions needed for the expansion of the IOP program to comply with the Mays consent decree.

Re the Correctional Health Services - IOP Expansion, \$1.8 million Net County Cost is recommended to increase the UC Davis mental health services contract for five months of expanded IOP operations during Fiscal Year 2025-26 and to provide funding required Fiscal Year 2025-26 Revised Recommended Budget for one-time capital improvements needed

*Continued on Page 4*

## Teen Collecting Signatures for Crosswalk Safety

Story and photos  
by Stephen B. Clazie

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - It was a sunny Saturday in Sacramento, with a high temperature of 63 degrees on Nov. 26, 2022, when Eric Norem and a family friend, Sandy Louey, were crossing Riverside Boulevard. They walked southbound in the Lelandhaven crosswalk.

At that intersection is also Greenhaven Place, a senior living facility. Eric and Louey were on their way just after 6 p.m. to have dinner at Banzai Sushi in the Grocery Outlet shopping center, located across Riverside Boulevard from the Elks Lodge 6 parking lot.

But they did not make it to the restaurant because, when crossing the boulevard, they were hit by a car.

*Continued on Page 7*



Eric Norem and a trusted family friend, Sandy Louey, are at the Elks Lodge 6 parking lot on busy Riverside Boulevard. In the background is Eric's large, bright yellow poster. Neither one can recall all the details of how they were both seriously injured by a speeding driver.



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# One Weekend, World of Flavors

*Continued from Page 1*

Char and Big Head Todd and the Monsters.

Performances on Sept. 27 will be from noon to 8:20 p.m. and from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 28. For set times, visit [TerraMadreUSA.com](http://TerraMadreUSA.com).

Visit Sacramento curated a playlist for attendees to get a sneak peek of the music that will be heard at Terra Madre Americas festival on Spotify at [bit.ly/41CSL6U](https://bit.ly/41CSL6U) (case sensitive).

**Marketplace and Outdoor Vendors**

The Terra Madre Americas Marketplace, presented by UC Davis Health, will be open to all attendees to shop with local and international vendors offering coffee, spirits, meats, cheeses, seafood, produce and other products.

There will also be outdoor vendors featuring some of the best of Sacramento’s flavor with food, locally made beers and wines, handmade goods, interactive exhibits and more.

**Educational Panels**

Free workshops and panels will be held at the convention center covering topics such as globalized food systems, access to food, biodiversity and indigenous perspectives.

Sessions include “Food as Relationship: Reimagining the Future Through Connection,” “What Is Specialty Coffee,” “Cacao in a Cup: Traditions from Brazil, Mexico and Ecuador” and a Wilton Rancheria discussion. Seating is first-come, first-served.

**Enoteca Wine Lounge**

The Enoteca, presented by Bank of America, will offer wine tastings from North and South America, emphasizing the stories and traditions that are behind each pour.

**Terra Madre Americas Bistro**

Sponsored by SMUD, the Terra Madre Americas Bistro will present three-course meals curated by world-renowned chefs on Sept. 27 and 28. This reservation-only dining experience ranges from \$55 to \$80, with optional wine pairings for \$25.



Terra Madres America Bistro will present three-course meals curated by world-renowned chefs, such as Matthew Beaudin, on Sept. 28. Photo courtesy of Terra Madre Americas

On Sept. 27, chef line-up includes Matthew Beaudin, Drew Deckman and Elizabeth Falkner. Dishes featured in their dining experience vary from an Ora King Salmon Tartare, a Dubai Croissant, Silken Tofu and Pan Roasted Halibut.

On Sept. 28, chefs Jeremiah Tower, Mary Sue Milliken and Sean Sherman will prepare dishes such as Goat Birria, a Ceviche Sampler, Incense

Cedar Braised Rabbit, Blue Corn Tostada and vegan Wild Rice “Tres Leches” Cake.

**Slow Food International**

The organizer, Slow Food, is a grassroots movement dedicated to good, clean and fair food for all. The organization cultivates a worldwide network of advocates in cultural and biological diversity, promotes food education and influences policies in public and private sectors that transform food systems.

The festival runs from noon to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28 at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in downtown Sacramento, 1401 K St.

For more about the festival, visit [terramadreusa.com](http://terramadreusa.com). ★

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# Artist Reclaims Wood, Creates Beautiful Pieces

Story and photos  
by Kristina Rogers

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - When the pandemic drove people to find how to cope, Jaime Dempsey decided to burn wood. To be clear, art was always an outlet.

She received an art minor at Sacramento State, where she first discovered her interest in wood as a medium.

“I always liked doing things with wood,” she said. “Sometimes I’d paint on it, or paint on paper and nail it to the wood.”

Homebound with her husband and two daughters, Dempsey remembers, “I had a pause giving me a chance to slow down, so I started wood burning. It was inspiring: the smell and the relaxation of it. You draw the picture, then you trace it and put it directly on the wood. It felt like adult coloring books, a place to zone out and relax.”

The birch tree stump in the backyard caught her eye and Dempsey decided to make her first table.

“My mantra was, ‘What’s the worst that could happen?’” Now, the table sits in her living room. Her friends and family loved it and asked her to make them furniture, too. After work, which is with the state, she creates commissioned pieces like furniture, wall art and epoxy pourings.

Like many artists, Dempsey’s ideas emerge while she sleeps. It’s how she developed her shed’s personality.

“I had a dream about Frida Kahlo and her Blue House, Casa de Azul, and I thought, ‘That’s it!’” Today, Dempsey’s Blue House participates in Verge’s Sac Open Studios, where the public can visit artists’ homes and tour their work.

Dempsey’s home reflects a welcoming, cozy bohemian style. Plants hang from the ceiling and drape over wooden tables and bookshelves. Her walls display wood-burned images of women and flowers that might make one think of lazy summer afternoons listening to Fleetwood Mac.

Her desire to maintain the natural elements of the wood is what makes the pieces so inviting.

“I feel like it’s different from a wood-worker where perfection is involved. My stuff is so wabi-sabi, where I say, ‘You know what? I like that mistake in it, that’s life. Nothing in this world is perfect.’ It’s my favorite part. I want people to know a human made it.”

She encourages her girls to play with



Artist Jaime Dempsey proudly shows off her Blue House Studio.

their creativity, too. During the lockdown, Dempsey put together a craft corner stacked with supplies. Each day, she set aside time for artful experimentation.

“I told them to turn off the TV and let’s do something. They would draw stories in blank books, play with clay, or crochet. Sometimes I gave them a theme like ‘It’s a parade; you have one hour to present it to me.’ They loved doing that.” The creative play continues today.

Trading artwork with others is encouraged, too. Her older daughter exchanged “cat art” at an art show with another creator. The painting she received is now part of an eclectic mix of kitty art gracing the girl’s bedroom wall.

For creative spirits who feel the artist’s call, but have full schedules, Dempsey offers encouragement.

“There was a stretch after I had kids where I wasn’t creating and asked, ‘Where do I even begin? Will it be good enough?’ I decided to bring that child out. For instance, I’d paint colors on a tiny canvas and play for at least half an hour every night. Then I’d wonder, ‘Do I like it? Does it matter?’ I’d put the pieces aside and come back a month later, realizing it wasn’t so bad, and why was I so critical?”

When she’s asked to make something, there are no promises of how it will

turn out. But that’s what’s special about Dempsey’s work. Discovery is a natural part of the process.

“Sometimes when I have a slab, I’ll sit with it and ask, ‘What do you want to be next?’ I’ll try to honor that. It feels like an energy exchange. When someone receives it, it becomes a healing piece for their home.”

As Dempsey’s children grow, her ambition evolves. She has plans to apply to the Krenov School of Fine Woodworking in Mendocino. Dempsey also dreams of bringing various woodworkers together in a collective space where they can create, display and sell their pieces.

For now, work and family contain Dempsey’s artistic aspirations to a part-time endeavor. She is building a bookshelf for the girls’ room and a new headboard for her bedroom. In addition, she’s preparing for Verge’s Sac Open Studios. And she continues to experiment with wood, discovering what it will evolve into next.

People can see Jaime Dempsey’s artwork at Anchor & Tree Coffee Roasters, 1412 16th St.; and 1970 Salon at 2631 Riverside Blvd. Her website is [bluehousesac.com](http://bluehousesac.com). Sac Open Studios will be held on the weekends of Sept. 14 and 20. Details can be found at [sacopenstudios.com](http://sacopenstudios.com). ★



This unnamed piece is displayed in Jaime Dempsey’s living room.



A dream inspired the stingray seascape.



Jaime Dempsey is working on a new wood burning of wildflowers.



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# Sacramento Zoo Unveils ‘Quack Tracks’

**Sacramento Zoo News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Zoo is excited to announce the official return of “Quack Tracks,” an interactive, family-friendly experience sponsored by Quick Quack Car Wash.

Starting on Sept.13, guests can take part in this quack-tastic scavenger hunt, featuring painted yellow duck footprints that guide guests through the zoo on a nostalgic journey of discovery.

The Sacramento Zoo will host an official unveiling event on Saturday, Sept. 13. Festivities begin at 9:30 a.m. on the zoo’s entrance plaza. Children will have the

chance to win duck-themed prizes and follow an animal scavenger hunt.

“Quack Tracks” begin at the zoo’s entrance and waddle their way through select animal exhibits, culminating near the American alligator habitat.

As they follow the path of duck prints, participants will use the Goose Chase app to answer trivia questions about the animals they pass. For the official unveiling on Sept. 13, children who have completed the scavenger hunt can stop by the zoo’s entrance to receive a Sacramento Zoo duck print sticker.

The zoo’s education department will also be stationed near the entrance with family-friendly crafts and activities. ★

# County Revises Approved 2025-26 Budget

*Continued from Page 1*  
at the Rio Consumnes Correctional Center.

Re Health Services - Behavioral Health Services Act, \$1.4 million of state funding will add nine full-time equivalent positions to provide administrative support for Behavioral Health Services Act mandates.

Re Public Defender - State Prison Unit, \$0.5 million of state funding will add two limited term full-time equivalent positions in the department’s state prison unit.

During the hearings, the Board of Supervisors approved a one-time General Fund contribution of \$10 million to

the Roads Fund from Service Stability Reserves and a one-time General Fund contribution of \$17,980 to Regional Parks from Service Stability Reserves and \$7,020 from Parks Revenues for a Zodiac Boat.

For more details, go to the county’s Office of Budget and Debt Management website at [bdm.saccounty.gov](http://bdm.saccounty.gov) or view budget documents on the Office of Budget and Debt Management website at [bdm.saccounty.gov/FY2025-26BudgetInformation/Pages/default.aspx](http://bdm.saccounty.gov/FY2025-26BudgetInformation/Pages/default.aspx). ★



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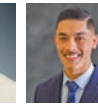


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# Thank

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



How important is it to have a capable if not notable point guard on an NBA team?

Ask Magic Johnson, John Stockton, Steve Nash, Jason Kidd, Stephen Curry, Oscar Robertson or Isiah Thomas and you will get an overwhelming consensus.

Even though hall of famers, John Stockton and Steve Nash have never won a championship, having a top caliber point guard does not come with any guarantees.

Nonetheless, having a court general that can distribute the basketball, all the while controlling the tempo and avoiding needless turnovers, is a recipe for winning a lot of NBA games, and that is what every one of these stalwarts were good at.

The Sacramento Kings find themselves in an uneasy position as the regular season looms just weeks away, as for the past 7 years the point guard position was the one area that provided great optimism and not concern.

Drafting DeAaron Fox will be remembered as one of the more erudite maneuvers that the organization has ever made, and as the 2025/2026 season approaches, fans and pundits alike are watching to see how the next floor general will compete and lead the Sacramento Kings.

By reaching into the trade market and acquiring journeyman Dennis Schroder, the Kings are providing the team with a proven point guard that can not only be counted on night in, and night out but also provides young players like Devin Carter and Nique Clifford, a player that can mentor their young careers.

Dennis Schroder deserves no criticism, and it's my hope that not only will he find a team that can provide him with a long-term home, but that he will flourish in his new city.

It has been difficult for fans to let go of DeAaron Fox, and I completely understand. The situation was badly handled last season, and it left a bad taste. But as the new season begins, it's critical that the fan base gives the new floor leader a vote of confidence, and I believe that is just what we can expect to see from the Sacramento base.

So, just who is Dennis Schroder? Born in Braunschweig Germany, Dennis Schroder found basketball at the age of 11, and by the age of 19 was playing professionally in Germany. Showing an entrepreneurial spirit at an early age, Schroder became the owner of the Loewen Braunschweig, a professional

team in Germany.

By 2013 Schroder had gained the attention of the NBA and was drafted 17th overall by the Atlanta Hawks, where he would carve out his young career for the next 5 years. In his last season with the Hawks Schroder scored a career-high 19.4 points per game while contributing 6.3 assists.

Over the next 7 seasons Dennis would go on the play for the Thunder, Lakers, Celtics, Raptors, Nets, Warriors, and Pistons, finally arriving in Sacramento to start the 2025/2026 campaign.

This much movement begs the question, is there something wrong, or is he just an immensely intriguing player with a wealth of experience?

I don't have the definitive answer, but I would say to those who ask, buy a ticket and come see this guy. For me he represents a complete ball player, expert at handling the basketball, able to score when needed, and an excellent passer with an unselfish spirit.

Do I think he can fit in with the Kings and provide the leadership needed to be the starting point guard. I absolutely do, and I think where other teams moved on, the Kings struck gold!

There remain many question marks as the upcoming season nears, but for me Dennis Schroder is not one of them. I believe in short order he will win over the naysayers in the cheap seats and may very well find a destination spot in Sacramento.

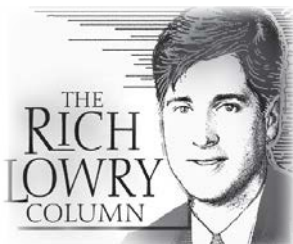
Defense has long been a thorn in the side of Sacramento, and Schroder has a reputation for playing tough defense. Not known for being a lock-down defender, Dennis has quick lateral ability, and his long wingspan helps make him a deflection specialist.

Keegan Murray made noticeable improvements in his defense last season, and Keon Ellis has developed into a tenacious defender. Adding a point guard that can complement these two will undoubtedly make a positive impact.

The preseason is almost upon us Kings fans, and I can't wait to see what this point guard in the prime of his career can give the Sacramento Kings.

Stay positive, because I feel that more moves are coming soon!

*Your thoughts are always welcome at [vggharriskingsfan@gmail.com](mailto:vggharriskingsfan@gmail.com).* ★



**Lisa Cook is Wrong**

Uncharacteristically for him, Donald Trump is being too modest in asserting his power over the Federal Reserve.

He's fired Lisa Cook "for cause," citing a clearly pre-textual alleged mortgage infraction, when, as a constitutional matter, he should be able to fire her, or Chairman Jerome Powell, for any reason he deems appropriate.

The independence of the Federal Reserve largely rests on its status as a constitutional anomaly, exercising executive authority without being subject to the same rules as the rest of the executive branch. There are good policy reasons for this -- an independent central bank promotes monetary stability -- but the Fed has been granted, in effect, an exemption from our constitutional order for prudential reasons.

The Fed itself isn't in on the joke. Lisa Cook thinks she can't be fired and is suing to keep her job, while Jerome Powell has laughably maintained that he can't be removed from the chairmanship.

Cook can only be given a pink slip for "cause," according to the statute. "Cause" is a broad term, though. If it is interpreted the usual way, it would include a refusal to carry out a presidential directive or policy disagreements. As for Powell, there isn't even any statutory restriction on

dismissing him as chairman.

The head of the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau was also supposed to be insulated from removal thanks to a provision saying that it had to be "for cause." How did that turn out? In 2020, the Supreme Court held that such a constraint was unconstitutional.

This decision was in keeping with the Court's recent drive to vindicate the president's power to fire at will officials whose agencies carry out executive functions.

Article II of the Constitution doesn't explicitly say the president can fire executive-branch officials, but it is implied in the president's power to run the executive branch, as such Founding-era luminaries as James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson recognized.

In a 1922 Supreme Court case, Chief Justice Taft wrote for the majority that as the president's "selection of administrative officers is essential to the execution of the laws by him, so must be his power of removing those for whom he cannot continue to be responsible."

The rise of independent agencies with the New Deal and a Supreme Court decision called Humphrey's Executor, saying FDR couldn't fire at will the commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission, sent the removal power into retreat.

But the decision in the CFPB case undercut the logic of Humphrey's Executor, as have other recent decisions. In a concurrence in the CFPB case, Clarence Thomas said it wasn't clear what was left of the reason-

ing of Humphrey's. Whatever remained, he wrote, wasn't enough "to justify the numerous, unaccountable independent agencies that currently exercise vast executive power outside the bounds of our constitutional structure." That should have gotten the Fed's attention.

The Court has side-stepped the status of the Federal Reserve in its removal-power jurisprudence. But there's no legal reason that it should be considered an oasis standing apart from the Court's ruling that there is no "de facto fourth branch of government" lacking "accountability to either the president or the people."

The Fed clearly exercises executive power in its vast regulatory functions, just as the CFPB does. It promulgates rules, polices banks, and issues fines. The Court has held that if an agency exercises executive power only in a fraction of its functions, it is subject to the president's removal power.

The cleanest solution would be to pass a constitutional amendment authorizing an independent Fed or a similar entity. Short of that, the Federal Reserve's regulatory functions could be handed over to another executive agency (although core monetary functions of the Fed also may be executive in nature).

The Supreme Court will surely be reluctant to grasp the nettle on the Fed. Yet, there's little doubt that, on the legal merits, Lisa Cook should be sending out her resume.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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Social Security Matters

Can I Claim My Own SS Benefit Now and Get Half of My Husband's Benefit Later?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I would like to get an answer concerning taking my Social Security benefit soon and switching to my spouse's benefit when he begins to take his. I am 64 years, 9 months old and my husband is 65 years, 7 months. My benefit is low due to the fact that I did not work for about 25 years while raising our children. My benefit would be \$573 at age 65. My husband's benefit at age 67 will be \$3,326. My first question is: can I receive half of my husband's benefit once he begins drawing his? Secondly, if I draw my benefit now will that reduce the amount I can draw from his benefit later? **Signed: Ready to Collect**

**Dear Uncertain:** As you may know, the full retirement age (FRA) for both you and your husband is 67. If either of you claim before your FRA your monthly SS retirement amount will be permanently reduced and, if you are currently working, you will be subject to

Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for early filers is \$23,400 for 2025 (changes yearly) and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away some of your benefits (\$1 for every \$2 over the limit). They "take away" by withholding future payments until the penalty is satisfied.

That said, if you claim your personal SS "soon" (e.g., at age 65), you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until your FRA to claim. You would, indeed, get a "spousal boost" when your husband claims, but you would not get 50% of his age 67 amount. That's because of the way spouse benefits are calculated. When your husband claims, you will get a "spousal boost" added to your early benefit amount (\$573?). The amount of that spousal boost will be computed as ½ of your husband's FRA amount (e.g., \$1663), minus your FRA entitlement (likely about \$661) for a spousal boost of about \$1002. But since you won't have yet reached your FRA when your husband claims, the amount of the spousal boost will also be reduced (to about \$926), which will be added to your age 65 amount of \$573 for a total monthly spousal benefit of about \$1499.

So, the answers to your two questions are:

1. Because you claimed your Social Security retirement benefit early and won't yet be your full retirement age when your husband claims, you will not get half of your husband's benefit when he claims. You would likely get about 45% of his benefit.
2. If you take your own SS retirement benefit now, you will get a higher benefit when your husband claims, but the amount you get will be less than half of his FRA entitlement.

The only way you can get the full 50% of your husband's FRA benefit entitlement is to wait until your own full retirement age to claim Social Security.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).* ★

New California Law to Make Housing Projects Easier, Cost More



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Two months ago, Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislators from both parties celebrated enacting landmark legislation to remove the California Environmental Quality Act as an impediment to new housing construction.

Lopsided votes in the Legislature for Assembly Bill 130 and Newsom's immediate signature seemingly ended decades of debate over how the environmental law, signed by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan more than 50 years ago, was being used to delay or kill residential developments.

"Saying 'no' to housing in my community will no longer be state sanctioned," said Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, an Oakland Democrat who has long advocated for CEQA reform. "This isn't going to solve all of our housing problems in the state, but it is going to remove the single biggest impediment to building environmentally friendly housing."

Newsom took obvious pleasure in achieving what had eluded other governors, including predecessor Jerry Brown, who once described overhauling CEQA as "the lord's work."

As Newsom signed the measure into law he thanked legislators and housing, labor and environmental leaders "who heeded my call and

came together around a common goal — to build more housing faster and create strong, affordable pathways for every Californian.

"Today's bill is a game changer which will be felt for generations to come," he said.

While AB130 does remove CEQA as a weapon for labor unions and opponents of high-density projects to stall construction, there's a provision buried in the lengthy bill that could create a new impediment.

Two sections, 137 pages in, declare that if a residential project has "significant transportation impact," local governments or regional agencies can impose fees to "mitigate the transportation impact to a less than significant level by helping to fund or otherwise facilitating vehicle miles traveled-efficient affordable housing or related infrastructure projects...."

The so-called vehicle miles traveled, or VMT, fees are "a new housing tax families simply cannot afford," the California Building Industry Association publicly complained, adding that impact fees are already major factors in housing costs.

Local traffic impact fees are not new. In fact, a dispute over a \$23,420 traffic mitigation fee imposed nine years ago for a factory-built house in El Dorado County is still pending after going all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

However, AB 130 appears to broaden the potential use of these fees not only for roadway improvements, but also to pay for low-income housing projects throughout the state by contributing to the state's Transit-Oriented Development

Implementation Fund.

Drafting AB 130's CEQA language was a complex process involving multiple stakeholders, not only housing advocates but environmental groups that often employ CEQA to slow or kill major public and private developments and labor unions, which have used the threat of CEQA lawsuits to compel developers to use union workers. The latter issue was a major hang-up that required last-minute amendments to the measure.

The language about traffic fees was never mentioned in analyses of the bill nor in the debates that preceded legislative passage. It's another example of how such budget trailer bills are used by governors and legislators to enact major legislation on the sly, with little or no public airing of the issues.

Trailer bills often contain language that has little or nothing to do with the budget and are often fleshed out just hours before enactment. Under the guise of being budget-related, the bills can be passed with simple majority floor votes, take effect immediately upon being signed by the governor and cannot be taken to voters via referendum.

Those factors make trailer bills convenient vehicles for legislation that might not survive close scrutiny. Newsom has been especially willing to utilize them for his legislative priorities.

*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.* ★



# ABOUT TOWN

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

**California Museum** – “Revolutionary Grain: Celebrating the Spirit of the Black Panthers in Portraits and Stories, through Nov. 2. This temporary exhibition features striking contemporary portraits and deeply personal stories of former members of the Black Panther Party.

The exhibit portrays former Panthers as lawyers, social workers, teachers, and political activists who continue to make a difference in their communities.

“Recuerdos Ilustrados: Día de los Muertos 2025” (“Illustrated Memories: Day of the Dead 2025”) features contemporary altars and artwork by artists from Southern California and the Central Valley. Opening Oct. 11, the annual exhibit explores the Mexican cultural tradition of honoring deceased loved ones each year Nov. 1-2 by creating sugar skulls, altars of the dead) and offerings, which has evolved from

the Aztecs to modern day Mexico and California.

This year’s exhibit features the work of printmaking artists Stephanie Mercado, Daniel Villa, and Álvaro D. Márquez, whose altars will be centered around the topic of immigration. Details at californiamuseum.org.

**California Automobile Museum** – OG Lowrider x Wired Down Sacramento Festival and Car Show, Saturday, September 13. Vehicle registration is \$50, and general spectators are free.

Freewheelers Car Club car show full of vintage luxury, Oct. 11. The show will benefit the museum, helping to raise money for new placards that will expand the history and knowledge shared for 130+ classic cars. All car owners are welcome; bring your favorite out to celebrate! Car registrations are \$40 each, \$50 on the day of. Spectators are free!

Details at calautomuseum.org.

**California State Railroad Museum** – The Chinese Railroad Workers’ Experience offers visitors a view of the Chinese workers who built the western portion of the nation’s first

Transcontinental Railroad. Marginalized by history, the Chinese workers were more than a nameless group of laborers.

Details at californiarailroad.museum.

**Sacramento History Museum** – Come play our brand new SacTown History Quest! Set in the four corners of the city, come find out about the best hidden gems of Sacramento!

The city is your game board, take your time to find out about these spots and discover areas you never think about! Gears provided & prizes at the end! Drive the quest with your team up to 6 people and unscramble the final puzzle! Saturdays, Sept. 13, Oct. 4, Nov. 8, Nov. 22. Details at sachistorymuseum.org.

**Sacramento Fine Arts Center** – “Bold Expressions,” Sept. 30-Oct. 25. Hosted by Northern California Arts Inc., this international exhibit features a wide range media and artists. This art makes a statement every year.

Our galleries are free and open to the public. Details at sacfinearts.org.

**Sacramento Open Studios at the MACC** – Sept. 19-21, kicks off with a live concert featuring the FBI Band. The

gallery will be open with all 17 artists present to talk about their work. The artists are all members of Rancho Cordova Arts and offer a variety of mediums and styles. Photographers, painters, ceramists, jewelers, and mixed media artists fill the two-story gallery and cultural center. There is plenty of free parking, and fun to be had on the 19th.

We also are a venue to see other artists in the area, where we will have samples of their works upstairs. Details at rcmacc.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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# 8th & O Street Light Rail Platform Closed Through 2026

**Sacramento Regional Transit District News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is notifying riders and the public that the east platform (for travel inbound toward 8th & Capitol) at the 8th & O Street light rail station will remain closed through late 2026. While major building construction by the California Department of General Services at 1416 9th St. is expected to conclude at the end of this year, additional work is still needed at the station before full

reopening is possible. The bus stops that were closed during construction efforts at 8th & O streets and 9th & N streets reopened to riders on Sept. 2. Due to the construction fencing and site limitations, SacRT was unable to raise the east platform during the last phase of light rail station platform upgrades. The platform must be modified to meet the new height requirements for SacRT’s modern low-floor light rail trains. A new construction contract for this platform work is expected to be in place by early 2026. “We understand the inconvenience

this extended closure causes and appreciate our riders’ patience,” said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. “Once we are able to begin this next phase of platform upgrades, 8th & O Street Station will be a top priority.” Until the work is complete, the east platform (for trains traveling inbound toward 8th & Capitol) will remain closed. Riders should use Archives Plaza Station as an alternative for inbound service. The west platform at 8th & O Street Station (serving trains traveling outbound toward Archives Plaza) remains open. ★



**Due to the construction fencing and site limitations, SacRT was unable to raise the east platform during the last phase of light rail station platform upgrades.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento Regional Transit District

# Teen Collecting Signatures for Crosswalk Safety

*Continued from Page 1*

“I don’t know if I saw it coming. The only thing I remember is looking both ways before starting to cross,” Eric said. “We were struck by a lady in a speeding white Toyota Camry and we were both seriously injured.” It was not a hit-and-run; the driver stopped and cooperated with police. The police reported that the driver was cited for speeding. Both Eric and Louey were taken to the UC Davis Medical Center. Eric sustained a brain bleed, concussion, fractured fibula (calf bone), abrasions and bruises. Sandy, a Greenhaven resident, suffered several broken bones requiring extensive surgery and rehabilitation. Two years later, she said, “I’m grateful to be alive, healthy and to have the love of family and friends.” Eric had twice-weekly physical therapy for six weeks after being released from the hospital. During that period, Eric said, “I used a walker and then graduated to a cane before



**City Councilmember Rick Jennings, left, who told Eric Norem to keep collecting petition signatures, was at Elks Lodge 6’s parking lot, visiting with Exalted Ruler Rob Moore’s family earlier this year.**

the therapists said I could safely walk on my own.” His neurologist said that Eric could not play any “helmet sports.” He was also excused from PE for a year. Eric, 14, completed eighth-grade on June 10 at Winston Churchill Middle School, a magnet school

in Carmichael offering the International Baccalaureate program. He is now a Mira Loma High School freshman. Eric’s interests include martial arts (kung fu for seven years), reading, video games, Pokémon, Taylor Swift and cats. Eric said that it was appropriate that Prime Minister Churchill had a pet Bulldog named Rufus. He is “kind of like Churchill and Rufus because they represent strength and the ability to keep going, even when things get tough. Since the accident, I have developed a new interest: advocating for public safety.” “As a person, I am more careful and aware of safety issues in the community,” Eric said. “I wanted my eighth-grade community service project to be more of a personal project, something I could be an advocate for and truly support.” Eric’s community-service project is to get the city to install a push-button Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the current crosswalk on Riverside Boulevard and Lelandhaven Way, which will make it safer for pedestrians to cross the intersection. Eric’s eighth-grade community service project involved the whole family. He said, “My father has been the contact with

Rick Jennings’ staff on the issue.” Eric also met with Jennings earlier this summer. His mother said, “Councilman Jennings said he would like to help Eric and that Eric should keep collecting more signatures in the meantime. Councilman Jennings indicated that these processes can take a very long time, so Eric should be patient.” Sacramento Elks Lodge 6 Exalted Ruler Rob Moore, who has two small children, said, “I’m extremely proud that we are supporting Eric and his petition drive. This is a dangerous crossing on a 40-mile-per-hour boulevard.” Eric has a large, bright yellow poster set up from 11 to 1 on most Sunday mornings at the Elks Lodge 6 parking lot at 6446 Riverside Blvd., and one section asks: “What is a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)?” An RRFB lights up when a pedestrian pushes a button to cross the street. It lights up only when someone is crossing, allowing traffic to flow on busy Riverside Boulevard.” Eric’s petition states: “Neighbors for Safer Streets for All

Yes! I will join my Pocket Greenhaven neighbors to make our roadways safer for all children, seniors, and cyclists. I urge the Sacramento City Council to install a push-button Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the current crosswalk on Riverside Boulevard and Lelandhaven Way, so we can all live in a safer community.” Eric continues to collect signatures for his petition drive. When he approaches someone, he typically says, “Hi, I’m Eric. I was hit by a car (pointing in the direction of the street) crossing Riverside Boulevard. I want to make this safer for others. Would you sign my petition?” Just moments before the 2022 accident, Eric was looking forward to Japanese curry. Last month, Eric finally returned to Banzai Sushi for Japanese curry. While he has recovered, Eric remains dedicated to gathering enough signatures to go before the Sacramento City Council to keep area residents and visitors safe at the crossing where he was hit in 2022. ★

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# Tahara Named County Teacher of the Year

By MPG Staff

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento teacher Derek Tahara, alongside Elk Grove Elementary School teacher Bethany Hancock, was named 2025 Teacher of the Year by the Sacramento County Board of Education at an Aug. 22 ceremony.

The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) recognized district Teachers of the Year and announced the two county winners during its annual celebration at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West.

Tahara, a third-grade teacher at David Lubin Elementary School in the Sacramento City Unified School District, and Hancock, a third-grade teacher in the Elk Grove Unified School District, received the Elinor Lincoln Hickey Award of Merit, the top honor bestowed by the board. Trustees O. Alfred Brown Sr., Vanessa Caigoy, Heather Davis



**Derek Tahara, a third-grade teacher at David Lubin Elementary School, was named a 2025 Teacher of the Year by the Sacramento County Board of Education.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Office of Education

and Youth County Board Member Nairobi Dunbar presented the awards.

The Sacramento Scottish Rite continued its tradition of awarding perpetual trophies to the winners.

Tahara and Hancock now join a select group of educators who will represent Sacramento County in the California State Teachers of the Year program. Past honorees include Elinor Hickey, the 1978 County Teacher of

the Year and namesake of the award. The two winners were selected by a committee of education professionals, including past Teachers of the Year, who interviewed candidates and reviewed essays from 13 district nominees. Large districts are eligible to nominate two teachers each year.

The program is presented by Sacramento County Office of Education in partnership with the Sacramento Kings, Sacramento Republic FC, Sacramento River Cats, SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and Sacramento Scottish Rite.

Sacramento County Office of Education serves more than 258,000 students across 13 districts in Sacramento County, providing direct education, training and support services.

It also leads the Capital Service Region, a 10-county area in Northern California. ★

# County’s Golf Carts Enhance Parking Patrols



**The Department of General Services Security team has deployed two golf carts to patrol downtown parking facilities.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County’s Department of General Services (DGS) Security team has a new tool to help keep downtown parking facilities safe and accessible: two security patrol golf carts.

The carts will be used to patrol three county-managed properties: the employee garage at 7th and F streets, the public parking garage at 725 H St. and the Jury Parking Lot at Eighth and F streets.

The idea came after the county partnered with local businesses and the Downtown Sacramento Partnership to improve safety and cleanliness in the area.

Capitol Protection Group, a private security company assisting with the effort, already uses golf carts for patrols. Seeing the benefit, DGS Security secured two carts to expand coverage and efficiency.

“The carts will allow our building security attendants to cover more ground and strengthen patrols of the county’s parking facilities,” said Deputy County Executive Sylvester Fadal.

“This is a cost-effective way to enhance security and support the safety of both employees and visitors.”

With more frequent and visible patrols, the carts will help create a safer, more welcoming environment for employees and the public alike. ★

# Event Offers Water-Saving Resources and Rebates

## City of Sacramento News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento residents can learn to save water and money at the free Water Wise Garden Showcase from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 27 at the Department of Utilities main campus, 1395 35th Ave.

“This event is about giving people the confidence and resources to make water-efficient improvements to their yards, no matter their skill level,”



said William Granger, the city’s water conservation coordinator.

Attendees can connect one-on-one with gardening professionals, irrigation experts, landscape designers and contractors.

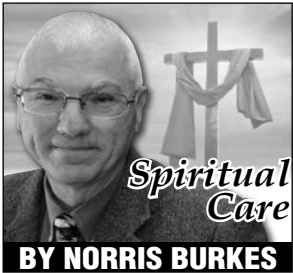
The event also will

feature educational talks and information about rebates from the city’s water conservation team.

“We’re also excited to introduce some new features this year, including tours of our drought-tolerant garden, a native plant sale and even a mobile coffee bar,” said Granger.

People are encouraged to RSVP on the Department of Utilities’ Facebook page, @SacramentoCityUtilities. A response is not required to attend but helps staff plan for the event. ★

# What if You Knew How You Were Going to Die?



If you knew what you were going to die from, would that change the way you live?

That’s the question I faced in my next assignment in 1999 at Patrick Air Force Base, That’s the year my Air Force doctor, a graying 50-something flight surgeon brought me in for my pre-deployment physical.

I had mixed emotions about the physical. After all, if he pronounced me healthy, I’d leave my family to go to Saudi Arabia for four months. If he declared me unhealthy, I might face a medical evaluation board and soon find myself unemployed.

During my 15-minute office visit, he hammered on my boney knees, peered into my uncertain brown eyes and shined his flashlight into the airfoils I call ears. He’d put a tongue depressor in my upper orifice and a gloved finger in its southern cousin.

Just as I was refastening my shiny belt buckle, his assistant knocked on the door.

“Enter,” the doctor barked.

A balding young airman appeared, handed the doctor a manila folder and was quickly dismissed with a perfunctory, “Thank you.”

“Ahh. Your test results,” he said.

The doc put on the eyeglasses dangling from his neck and flipped through pages of blood tests, pee

tests and vision tests. All the while he was nodding, spouting numbers and mumbling approving words like “good” or “OK.”

He closed the file with a smile, so I ventured a guess.

“Am I good to go to Saudi?”

“Yes, but there’s been a recent increase in your blood pressure, so I’m prescribing some medications.”

My face flushed with obvious concern, so he took a more optimistic tack.

“Look at it this way,” he said. “At least you know how you’re going to die.”

“Excuse me?” I begged.

“Most likely a doctor will one day write ‘hypertension’ on your death certificate,” he declared.

I rubbed my eyes, in hopes of dismissing the grim reaper I saw draped in a white lab coat.

However, not to be dissuaded by my shaking head, Doc assured me that any thoughts I was having of an early demise were “greatly exaggerated.”

With some enthusiasm, he added that my problem would be defined as “service-related. That means that one day your wife, Becky, will get a nice death benefit – all because of your hypertension.”

“Bless your heart!” I said. (Southerners know what this means.)

He was predicting a silver lining in my death, but I didn’t want to hear it. After all, I was planning to live a long life in a beachside home with my officer’s retirement.

My thinking was much like the greedy farmer Jesus mentioned in the parable found in Luke

12:16–21.

The farmer was so successful that he built new barns to store his abundant crops. With his retirement set, the farmer told himself, “Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”

The story concludes with God prematurely calling the farmer to the pearly gates, leaving all his crops to spoil in the cavernous barns.

Then Jesus added his punch line: “That’s what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.”

These days, nearly every time I strap on a blood pressure cuff, I think about the survival odds quoted by that doctor. That cuff reminds me that although my earthly life is finite, God’s love is infinite, and God always gives better odds.

However, knowing how I might die has changed the way I live. I exercise regularly, eat better and take my medications. But most importantly, Becky no longer has to see me as a potential dollar sign from a VA pension.

**CORRECTION:** Last week, I misspelled the Amazon website where you can donate supplies to Chispa Project. Our Amazon Wishlist for the back-to-school season is <https://go.chispaproject.org/supplies> (Do not use “WWW.)

Email me with questions or comment at [comment@thechaplain.net](mailto:comment@thechaplain.net). Sign up to receive this column by email at [thechaplain.net/columns/](mailto:thechaplain.net/columns/) Contact Chaplain Norris at [comment@thechaplain.net](mailto:comment@thechaplain.net) or 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602 or voicemail (843) 608-9715. ★



SEASON 30  
FALL 2025



# Stained Glass Concert

October 25 | 7:30pm

Fremont Presbyterian Church: 5770 Carlson Dr, Sacramento, CA

VIVALDI  
Gloria

MOZART  
Regina Coeli

JAMES WHITBOURN  
Requiem Canticorum  
and Lux in Tenebris



Chris Mackey  
Baritone



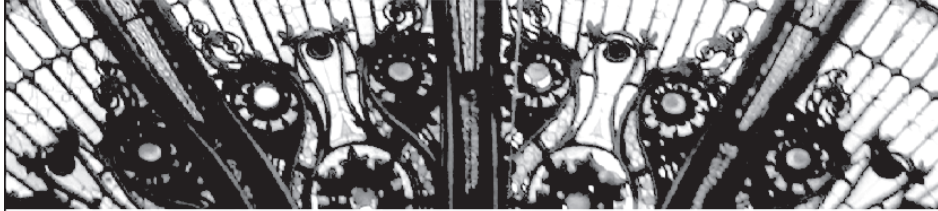
Rachael Davis  
Soprano



Sarah Sy  
Soprano

Donald Kendrick, Conductor  
Dr. Ryan Enright, Organist  
Russell Veirs, Concert Saxophonist

For more information & tickets: [sacramentochoral.org](https://sacramentochoral.org)



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HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS  
Saturday, December 13 | 3:00pm  
Memorial Auditorium  
SAFE CU PAC Box Office 916-808-5181

# Community Worship

River’s Edge Church

6449 Riverside Blvd. • 391-9845

Sunday Worship: 10:00am

[www.recsac.org](http://www.recsac.org)

Saint Anthony Parish

660 Florin Road • 428-5678

Sunday Masses: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

Daily Mass: 8:00 a.m Monday through Friday • [www.stasac.org](http://www.stasac.org)

Greenhaven Lutheran Church

475 Florin Road (across from Kennedy High School) • 428-8449

Bible Study & Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:15 a.m.

[www.greenhavenlutheran.org](http://www.greenhavenlutheran.org)



# Women’s and Children’s Center Celebrates Decade of Care

## More than 61,605 Babies Delivered There So Far

### Sutter Health News Release

*Editor’s Note: The Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center’s patients are from throughout Northern California and beyond, including from Sacramento, Yuba/Sutter, Yolo, Placer, El Dorado and Stanislaus counties. The center held a 10th-anniversary celebration on Aug. 21.*

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - When Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento’s new Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center opened in Midtown on Aug. 8, 2015, expectant mothers and new families were welcomed with the highest standard of maternity and pediatric care in Sacramento.

From beginning to end of the birth plan, parents received care in spacious suites with their newborn on the top patient floor of midtown Sacramento’s tallest building with great views. Then, as their child grew up, parents knew that they could continue to receive exceptional care in the same facility.

In the past 10 years, Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento has welcomed more newborns than in any decade of its 100-year history: 61,605 babies, to be exact.

But the Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center is far more than a place to welcome new life. It houses Northern California’s largest and most advanced neonatal intensive care unit and a high-risk maternity ward where mothers receive round-the-clock care to give their babies a healthy start. It also includes a comprehensive pediatric hospital within its walls, treating children facing complex, cardiac, oncological, neurological and other serious conditions.

“We’re proud to provide not just advanced medical treatments but a healing environment where mothers and children feel supported, safe and truly cared for every step of their journey,” said Rachael McKinney, president of Sutter Health’s Greater Sacramento Division and interim CEO of Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento.

In 2005, the Anderson and Lucchetti families generously committed \$18 million to Sutter Health to support the Women’s and Children’s Center’s construction. A decade later, in August 2015, the Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center opened as a 395,241-square-foot, 242-bed acute-care hospital where patients and their families could obtain the highest level of neonatal and pediatric intensive care services, pediatric cardiac, neurological and cancer services, and high-risk and conventional maternity



**The Bradley family of Manteca and their 10-year-old triplets help celebrate the 10th anniversary of Sutter Health’s Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center in midtown Sacramento on Aug. 21. The triplets were born premature at Sutter Memorial Hospital in East Sacramento and were transferred on Aug. 8, 2015 to the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) at the new Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center. In front are the triplets, from left, Carly, Ally and Sydney; holding photos of the day they were born. In back, from left, are parents Wendy and Todd Bradley, Sutter Children’s Center Medical Director Craig Swanson, Sutter Health Greater Sacramento Division President Rachael McKinney, and Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento Women’s and Children’s Services executive Whitney Clark.** Photo courtesy of Sutter Health

services, as well as other services. Construction costs totaled \$821 million.

In its 100-year history, from the original Sutter Hospital to Sutter Memorial Hospital to the Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center, the number of babies born total 417,428, more than the city of Sacramento’s population circa the year 2000.

In Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center’s first 10 years, there have been 1,152 sets of twins, 35 sets of triplets and one set of quadruplets. The smallest baby weighed 13.6 ounces and the biggest baby weighed 15 pounds, 7.3 ounces.

“Every baby born here represents a unique story of hope, resilience and the extraordinary care that our team is dedicated to providing,” said Whitney Clark, women’s and children’s services executive for Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento. “From the tiniest preemies to the biggest bundles of joy, we are honored to support families through every miracle and milestone.”

For 50 years, Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento has been on the forefront of care for women with high-risk pregnancies and their babies, who often need the advanced care of a NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). To help ensure these babies are delivered as healthy as possible, the high-risk maternity physicians (known as perinatologists) help mothers carry their pregnancies as long as medically safe. Extended hospital stays are common for these mothers, sometimes lasting

many weeks or even months, making the hospital their home away from home.

The Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center was built with a special unit designed especially for them. The 21 all-private, spacious rooms allow mothers to relax comfortably, welcome visits from family and even personalize the space to feel like home.

“Our goal is to support both mother and baby through every step of their high-risk pregnancy, giving them the best chance for a healthy delivery,” said Dr. William Gilbert, Sutter Health’s longtime perinatologist and women’s service line medical director. “The private, comfortable rooms at Anderson Lucchetti provide a nurturing environment that helps reduce stress and promote healing, making a challenging time a little easier for families.”

When planning the new hospital, leadership was adamant that a helistop for medical emergency helicopters be included. The Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center helistop has been a lifesaver for hundreds of families. To date, more than 1,500 babies and expectant mothers with complicated pregnancies have been transported by medical helicopter to the facility.

“Having the helistop right on the roof means we can get critically-ill babies and moms the care they need faster than ever before,” said Dr. Gustavo Sosa, neonatologist and medical director of the NICU. “It’s made a huge impact on how quickly we can respond in

emergencies and that speed can be life-changing. For families facing high-risk situations, this facility offers hope and reassurance when every second matters.”

The Sutter NICU began 51 years ago to provide high-quality care to fragile infants. But as more babies needed the advanced services offered at Sutter Memorial Hospital, the NICU outgrew its location. The Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center’s NICU has 61 beds, each in an area that provides privacy for families.

Even after 10 years, Wendy and Todd Bradley of Manteca, who had triplets, talk glowingly about the center’s NICU.

“We were really impressed by the cutting-edge technology and the family-friendly atmosphere at the Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center,” Wendy Bradley said. “The new NICU’s modern design and spacious rooms gave our family so much more comfort and privacy, which made a world of difference during a stressful time. It truly felt like a place built with families like ours in mind.”

The new NICU was the first in Northern California to be outfitted with Angel Eye, a camera system that allows parents to check in on their little ones remotely via smartphone or computer and was a game changer during the COVID-19 pandemic. The system was made possible through donations to a nonprofit organization started by a Sutter NICU family.

The facility made national

headlines when its pediatric heart program successfully performed the first minimally-invasive surgeries on little patients. Instead of opening the chest and cracking the sternum, heart surgeons use a pioneering technique that accesses the heart through a small port underneath the armpit. This method helps children grow up without a long chest scar and recover much faster.

It is one of the many innovative approaches that pediatric interventional cardiologists and heart surgeons have been using at the new Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center.

Kristal Imbrie’s daughter, Ariel, who has Down syndrome and has appeared in several advertisements, was the first in the nation to undergo the minimally-invasive surgery.

“That approach avoided so many complications during recovery: no need to stay still as long, no ribs being cut,” Imbrie said. “Especially for a child with special needs, it meant she could bounce back faster. It was like she was on espresso.”

The pediatric intensive care unit is equipped to handle a wide range of complex medical conditions, including respiratory failure, sepsis, trauma and complications from chronic illnesses. This specialized unit ensures that children receive the highest level of care during critical times, which includes 20 beds and an additional 10 beds dedicated to pediatric cardiovascular care.

The pediatric ICU also collaborates closely with other specialized departments within Sutter Children’s Center, such as pediatric neurology and oncology.

“At our pediatric ICU, we focus on giving each child the care and attention they need when it matters most,” said Pediatric Critical Care Director Dr. Daniel Falco. “From breathing problems to complex conditions like cancer or neurological issues, our team works closely together to make sure every child gets the right treatment. By teaming up across specialties, we’re able to provide seamless care that supports the whole child and their family through tough times.”

*Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento, which consists of the Ose Adams Medical Pavilion and Anderson Lucchetti Women’s and Children’s Center, is Sutter Health’s flagship hospital and includes nationally-renowned institutes for cardiac, neurosciences and oncology care. Sutter Health is a not-for-profit healthcare system. Learn more at [sutterhealth.org](https://www.sutterhealth.org) and [vitals.sutterhealth.org](https://www.vitals.sutterhealth.org).* ★

# Sign Up for School Pesticide Notifications

### California Safe Schools News Release

**CALIFORNIA STATE (MPG)** - California Safe Schools, a nonprofit organization dedicated to children’s environmental health and safety, reminds parents, guardians, teachers and school staff at all California K-12 public schools and childcare centers to file the Right to Know Pesticide Use Notification form at the start of the school year.

This form is mandated under California legislation, the Healthy Schools Act.

Filing this form with your school office ensures that you receive advance notification of any pesticide applications in or around the school site. It is a critical safeguard and part of each school’s commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment.

Under the Healthy Schools Act, a "school site" is defined as any facility used for public day care, kindergarten, elementary or secondary school purposes. The term includes the buildings or structures, playgrounds, athletic fields, school vehicles or any other area of school property visited or used by pupils. "School site" does not include postsecondary educational facilities attended by secondary pupils or private day care or school facilities.

The Right to Know Notification requires schools to provide at least 72 hours’ advance notice before any pesticide application on a campus.

In rare cases when pesticides must be used immediately to address a health or safety emergency, schools can apply them without the standard 72-hour advance notice.

However, the Healthy Schools Act requires that the school district designee make every effort to provide the required notification, even under emergency conditions.

Filing the Right to Know Pesticide Use Notification with your school’s Main Office ensures that you will receive alerts before applications occur. This allows parents, guardians or teachers to make informed decisions on application days. Notification can be requested for any reason, not solely for known health concerns.

The Right to Know Pesticide Use Notification program began with the Los Angeles Unified School District’s groundbreaking Integrated Pest

Management (IPM) Policy in 1999. This policy embraces the precautionary principle, the idea that if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or environment, precautionary measures should be taken, even without conclusive scientific evidence. As part of this approach, Los Angeles Unified School District has not used Roundup for more than 20 years, setting

an important precedent in protecting children’s health. The success of the Los Angeles Unified School District’s

Integrated Pest Management policy led directly to the passage of the California Healthy Schools Act of 2000.

The "Right to Know" notifications are a critical tool that ensure parents, guardians, teachers and staff remain informed, connected and empowered within their school community.

“For more information about pesticide application policies at your school, visit your school’s website or contact the school or school district directly,” said Robina Suwol, founder and executive director of California Safe Schools.

Learn more about the California Healthy Schools Act at [https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/hsa\\_factsheet.pdf](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/hsa_factsheet.pdf) and see the full text at [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/99-00/bill/asm/ab\\_2251\\_2300/ab\\_2260\\_bill\\_20000927\\_chaptered.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/99-00/bill/asm/ab_2251_2300/ab_2260_bill_20000927_chaptered.pdf).

The California Safe Schools website is <https://www.calisafe.org/> and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation’s website is <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/>.

*California Safe Schools is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of students, teachers, and school staff through education, advocacy, and policy initiatives that promote safe learning environments across California. California Safe Schools spearheaded the effort to create the Los Angeles Unified School District’s celebrated Integrated Pest Management Policy in 1999 that led to California legislation such as the Healthy Schools Act.* ★





# Ethan Gao Claims Victory at State Fair Golf Championship

## Sacramento Golf Council News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Golf Council proudly concluded the 101st California State Fair Championship at the historic Alister MacKenzie Golf Course at Haggin Oaks, with a thrilling display of elite amateur golf talent over three days of fierce competition.

Ethan Gao of Johns Creek, Georgia emerged as the 2025 State Fair Champion, delivering a consistent and commanding performance with rounds of 67-66-68 for a total of 201 (-15). Gao fended off a crowded leaderboard to secure the title in one of California’s most prestigious amateur events.

“I was struggling early, just felt off, but you kind of expect that when you are leading in the final round,” Gao said. “But I just kept grinding.”

When asked what being crowned the California State Fair Champion meant, Goa said, “It means a lot. I have not won a big tournament in four years and I feel like I am turning the corner right as the Stanford fall college season is starting.”

A tightly-contested battle saw Taylor Knoll of Folsom and Luke Dugger of Davis tie for second at 203 (-13). Knoll made a final-round push with a 66, while Dugger’s solid 68 kept him in the hunt until the end.

Close behind in solo fourth was Kavi Marez of Carmichael, finishing at 204 (-12). Rounding out the top five were Jaden Hunter of Rancho Santa Fe and Tucker Sweeney of Pasadena, both tying for fifth at 205 (-11).



Ethan Gao of Johns Creek, Georgia emerged as the 2025 State Fair Champion, delivering a consistent and commanding performance with rounds of 67-66-68 for a total of 201 (-15). Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council

A field of 108 of the West Coast’s and beyond top amateur players competed across three rounds on the par-72 championship course, with the cut line falling at 1 under par (143) after 36 holes. The leaderboard featured players from across the United States and international competitors from France, China and Guam.

Notable performances included Reese Sato (Folsom), who posted a blistering second-round 63, the lowest round of the tournament, as well as Zach Mate (Elk Grove) and Kyle Dougherty (Irvine), who both finished at 206 (-10), tied for seventh.

The tournament continued its tradition of showcasing rising stars and seasoned amateurs at one of California’s premier public golf venues, named after its legendary architect, Alister MacKenzie.

“We’re honored to host this historic championship each year and proud to see such a deep field of talent,” said PGA Director of Golf, Mike Woods. “Ethan Gao displayed exceptional poise and consistency. He’s a deserving champion.”

The Sacramento Golf Council extends its thanks to the players, volunteers, sponsors and staff at Haggin Oaks for making the 101st playing of this storied event a resounding success.

Established in 1924, the State Fair Championship is one of California’s oldest and most respected amateur tournaments. Hosted annually by the Sacramento Golf Council, it has served as a proving ground for collegiate standouts, national champions and future professionals. Past Champions include Ken Venturi, Al Geiberger, George Archer and Kevin Sutherland. ★

# Singh Wins 2025 State Fair Women’s Golf Championship

## Sacramento Golf Council News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The 2025 State Fair Women’s Golf Championship ran from Aug. 30 to Aug. 31 at Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course.

Gianna Singh captured the Women’s Championship title with a birdie on the first playoff hole against Sneha Sharon. Singh carded rounds of 67-65 for a total of 132, while Sharon finished with 65-67 for the same 132 total.

In the Senior Division, Kelly Wilson of El Dorado Hills won the title with rounds of 67-74 for a 141 total.

The Low Net Champion was Liz Freeman, playing to an 8.0 handicap, who

posted net rounds of 75/67 each day for a total of 134.

The Championship Flight was open to all women amateur golfers with a World Handicap System (WHS) Index of 6.6 or less. The Senior Division was open to players ages 50 and older with a current handicap index of 18.4.

The competition was 36-hole stroke play.

Charlie Cheung was the tournament chair for the Sacramento Golf Council.

The Sacramento Golf Council is a non-profit volunteer-run organization that conducts and promotes golf events at Sacramento County-based golf courses for all interested golfers. Specific events are open to men and women of all ages and abilities and juniors. ★



Gianna Singh captured the Women’s Championship title with a birdie on the first playoff hole against Sneha Sharon. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council



The Low Net Champion was Liz Freeman, playing to an 8.0 handicap, who posted net rounds of 75/67 each day for a total of 134. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council

# Cal Expo Kicks Off Football Partnership

## California Expo News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Cal Expo, in partnership with California State University, Sacramento (Sacramento State) is kicking off the exploration of a new chapter for Hornet football.

In a unanimous vote, the California Exposition & State Fair (Cal Expo) Board of Directors approved an agreement with California State University, Sacramento to study the feasibility of transforming the Cal Expo Grandstand into a potential new home for the university’s football program.

"In addition to being two state agencies, Sac State is our neighbor, just over two miles down the road," said Tom Martinez, California Exposition & State Fair CEO. “We are excited to collaborate on a project that benefits the broader Sacramento community by bringing Hornet football to Cal Expo.”

The project calls for transforming approximately 9.25 acres of the grandstand and racetrack area into a modern football venue with seating for 25,000 and expandable to 40,000 in the future.

“Cal Expo provides an opportunity for us to go much bigger,” said Dr. Luke Wood, California State University, Sacramento president. “It’s a much larger vision for what we want to do with athletics.”

Plans also include installing a new field with lighting, adding modular locker rooms with showers and restrooms, expanding bleacher seating, and making cosmetic upgrades such as fresh paint and Sacramento State Hornets branding. The goal is to bring six to eight Hornet home games to the venue,

beginning in the fall 2026 football season.

“There’s no reason that we can’t have big-time college football here in Sacramento,” said California State University, Sacramento athletics director Mark Orr. “What we need is a facility that can support the aspirations we have for football. The students and community deserve it.”

With on-site parking for more than 15,000 vehicles, Cal Expo is well-positioned to host large-scale game-day events.

“Cal Expo has a long history of hosting major community events and this potential partnership reflects our mission to serve the region by providing facilities that bring people together,” said Martinez. This collaboration aims to transform the Cal Expo Grandstand into a state-of-the-art venue that brings together Sacramento State athletics and Cal Expo’s long tradition of serving as a premier community gathering place.

Cal Expo is home to the California State Fair and plays host to hundreds of other signature events each year. Featuring 350 beautifully landscaped acres, Cal Expo was initiated by Governor Pat Brown and opened by Governor Ronald Reagan in 1968. The current Cal Expo facilities were dedicated as a place to celebrate California’s achievements, agriculture, diversity of its people, traditions and trends that will shape the Golden State’s future. The California Exposition & State Fair mission is to create a state fair experience reflecting California, including its industries, agriculture, and diversity of its people, traditions and trends shaping its future supported by year-round events. ★

# El Futuro Scholarship Applications Open

## Sac Republic News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Ahead of the Sept. 15 kickoff of Hispanic Heritage Month, Republic FC and the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce are now accepting applications for the annual El Futuro Scholarship.

The partners have teamed up every year since 2019 to award a local student a \$1,000 grant to support their academic journey. The winner will be announced at the club's annual Noche Latina celebration on Oct. 1. Applications are now being accepted at [SacRepublicFC.com/scholarships](http://SacRepublicFC.com/scholarships).

“At Republic FC, we believe education is the ultimate goal and El Futuro helps students score it,” said Republic FC Vice-President of Community Investment Scott Moak. "None of this would be possible without the amazing partners who step up alongside us to invest in our youth and their future success.”

“Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to uplift the stories, achievements and leadership of those shaping our community's future,” said Cathy Rodriguez Aguirre, Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce president and CEO. “Through our partnership with Republic FC, we are investing in students pursuing higher education, helping build a stronger, more diverse workforce for years to come.”

Applicants must be currently enrolled at an eligible high school or in a minimum of six units at a California Community College and intend to enroll in a four-year college or university, or a California Community College (minimum 12 units). Additionally, they must be of Hispanic origin and live in the six-county Sacramento region. Applications close at 5 p.m. Sept. 19.

The winner of the scholarship will be notified on Sept. 24. For a complete list of requirements or to apply, visit [SacRepublicFC.com/Scholarship](http://SacRepublicFC.com/Scholarship).

Last year, Republic FC and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce awarded the scholarship to Larisa Rosales, who shared her passion for Mexican folklórico dance during the half-time ceremony.

Rosales’ interest in sharing and connecting with her Mexican heritage led her to pursue study anthropology at University of California, Davis. “I discovered my love for Mexican folklórico when I was in seventh-grade," said Rosales. "My first year of dancing was just for fun because I enjoyed dancing and took great pride in my Mexican identity.”

Cultures from across Latin America will be represented and celebrated on Noche Latina. Upon arriving at Heart Health Park, fans can browse an artisan market featuring local Hispanic and Latino vendors. Music and dance will also be a central part of the celebrations, with multiple groups and styles set to make an appearance before the match begins. Javier Arellano will also co-emcee the match alongside Republic FC’s Connor Sutton.

Since 2019, Republic FC has worked with various community partners, including the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Capital Black Chamber of Commerce, on its Rising Scholars Series. The program has awarded nearly \$20,000 to young people showing exceptional scholastic leadership and community involvement.

For more about Republic FC’s Rising Scholars Series, including the El Futuro Scholarship, visit [SacRepublicFC.com/scholarships](http://SacRepublicFC.com/scholarships). ★