



Ancil Hoffman Park Reopens with Upgrades

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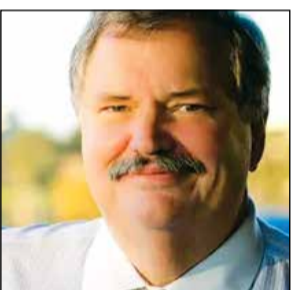
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Nonprofits Thrive at Chicken Festival



The lovable Rocky is at every Orangevale/Fair Oaks Grange number 354 pancake breakfast. Courtesy photo

By Sabrina Bernardo

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Each year, the Fair Oaks Chicken Festival draws thousands of attendees with its quirky charm, live entertainment, mouthwatering food and vibrant community spirit but behind the feathers and festivities lies a deeper purpose. The event proudly serves as a platform for local nonprofit organizations and community groups to fundraise and promote their causes, reinforcing the festival's true mission: community impact.

One beloved tradition that kicks off the day is the pancake breakfast,

hosted by the Orangevale/Fair Oaks Grange number 354. Breakfast proceeds directly support Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the Grange's Garden Project, helping cultivate the next generation of agricultural leaders and empowering youth with hands-on learning about sustainability, farming, and food production. It's more than just pancakes; it's a plate full of purpose.

Festivalgoers can also dive into fun at the Adventure Zone, proudly hosted by the Bella Vista Band Boosters. While children play and families explore this high-energy area, they're also supporting the

school's award-winning music program. Proceeds help fund essential needs such as instrument repairs, equipment purchases, competition fees and student scholarships, ensuring that every student can participate, learn and perform. Bella Vista High School is home to the only marching band in the entire San Juan Unified School District, making community support for their program more important than ever.

Nearby, you'll find some friendly competition at the Cornhole Tournament, hosted by the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce. As

Continued on page 3

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 at the Rio Consummes 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. ★

Kelly Anderson Serves with Navy JAG Corps

By Megan Lemly, Navy Office of Community Outreach

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Lt. Cmdr. Kelly Anderson, a Fair Oaks native, recently participated in Yankee Operational Law Training (YOLT) while serving with the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps.

Yankee Operational Law Training is the Navy JAG Corps Reserve Component's premier operational and international law training focused on relevant operational law and strategic warfighting issues facing the United States and its allies. Participants will directly enhance the warfighting readiness of the legal community, build interoperability and increase the lethality of the Joint Force.

"I particularly enjoyed YOLT because it gave me the opportunity to hear from a variety of non-Navy national security professionals about how government contracting



Navy Lt. Cmdr. Kelly E. Anderson, a Fair Oaks native, is a reserve judge advocate supporting U.S. Fleet Forces Command. When not in uniform, Anderson serves as an associate in Steptoe's International Trade and Regulatory Compliance practice. Prior to joining the Navy, Anderson attended law school at the University of Notre Dame and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Dallas. Courtesy photo

and acquisitions fit into the broader national security law practice," Anderson said. "It was also a really great opportunity to learn more about how my military national security law and civilian law practices can intersect. In my

civilian capacity, I've spent the past year clerking for a judge on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. One of my favorite things about being a reservist is the unique opportunity it presents to bring my experiences in the Department of Defense

(DOD) into the civilian world, and vice versa, to bring my civilian practice skills to my reserve work in the DOD."

Anderson graduated from St. Francis High School in 2010, earned

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# Kelly Anderson Serves with Navy JAG Corps

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a bachelor's degree in drama from the University of Dallas in 2014 and a Juris Doctor in 2018 from Notre Dame Law School. Anderson joined the Navy seven years ago.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found during Anderson's time in college and growing up.

"I think it surprises people but my theater degree really taught me a lot of lessons that have stayed with me throughout my time in the Navy," Anderson said. "Working with actors and leading a cast as a director taught me a lot about leadership and stage managing taught me a ton about project management. Acting, costume running and backstage work also teach about adaptability and working under pressure. For example, if a show is actively happening, it doesn't matter if the original plan has gone wrong; you'd better come up with a new plan. All of those skills are useful in the military, particularly to JAG adjacent activities like planning. Law school didn't really teach me how to be a planner but my undergraduate did and I love it when the Navy gives me the chance to use those skills.

"Additionally, my dad was a huge influence on the kind of officer I wanted to be. He always told me that, 'Good officers lead from the front.' I've tried to remember his advice in both my military and civilian careers," Anderson said.

Her father is Christopher Anderson from Fair Oaks.

"My father served in the Army Reserves," Anderson said. "I grew up watching his service and I think that's probably what first made me want to serve. I discovered I liked languages in high school and I knew the Navy had an amazing language school at Monterey, so that then led me to an interest in the Navy. I thought about joining straight out of high school but I wanted to do Navy



Here, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Kelly E. Anderson is promoted to the rank of lieutenant. For a U.S. Navy officer being promoted to lieutenant, the oath of office is reaffirmed, and it involves the officer solemnly swearing to support and defend the U.S. Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and to bear true faith and allegiance to it. She is now a lieutenant commander, which is senior to the rank of lieutenant. Courtesy photo

ROTC and the recruiter I spoke with told me that in order to focus on linguistics, I'd have to enlist. So I decided not to join, got my undergraduate degree and then went to law school, where I applied to join the JAG Corps through the student program. By the time I applied to the JAG Corps, joining the Navy was something I'd thought about at so many different stages of my life that I knew that if I didn't do it, I'd always wonder and would always regret it. I wanted to serve my country and I'm grateful to the Navy JAG Corps for giving me the opportunity to do so."

Anderson was commissioned into the Navy through the U.S. Navy JAG Corps

Student Program and completed Officer Development School in November 2018. Anderson then attended the Basic Lawyer Course at the Naval Justice School in 2019 before reporting to the Region Legal Service Office, Naval District Washington. After completing that tour, Anderson served at the Defense Service Office North, followed by a tour as the counsel advising Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia. While on active duty, Anderson also served at Amphibious Squadron FIVE and Region Legal Services Office Southwest.

Today, Anderson continues to serve as a reservist supporting U.S. Fleet Forces (Legal).

The Navy JAG Corps provides full-spectrum legal services to enable naval and joint operations in support of U.S. national security.

The U.S. Navy is celebrating its 250th birthday this year.

According to Navy officials, "America is a maritime nation and for 250 years, America's Warfighting Navy has sailed the globe in defense of freedom."

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric

of America.

Anderson has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"I'm proud of a lot of little moments that wouldn't be exciting to recount, where I was given the opportunity to do good work that impacted real sailors who needed assistance," Anderson said. "I'm also really proud of my time serving in Diego Garcia and particularly of the work I did there as the emergency management officer. I'm grateful for the fact that I was able to serve in such a remote location and the emergency management role was a collateral duty that had nothing whatsoever to do with practicing law. However, it let me use a lot of those stage management skills from theater. As a reservist, I've loved being a planner for MAKO because it's really rewarding to get to directly contribute to an exercise that helps hone the broader readiness of our reserve force."

Anderson serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation's prosperity and security.

"The Navy is about preserving the freedoms that led me to law school," Anderson said. "I really love our Constitution but the rights it guarantees are only as good as our ability to preserve the peace and safety that lets us govern ourselves. Serving in the DOD is about preserving peace through deterrence."

Anderson is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"Thank you to my dad for setting the example of what service looked like," Anderson added. "Thank you to Stefan and Kyle as well for building a theater program where your drama majors could do lots of unique things. I got to develop a lot of skills that I'm constantly surprised to find myself using in ways I never imagined I would way back in college." ★

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<p><b>Pork Neck Bones</b> <b>\$1.99/lb</b></p>	<p><b>Pork Butt Boneless</b> <b>\$2.99/lb</b></p>	<p><b>St. Louis Ribs</b> <b>\$3.99/lb</b></p>

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<p><b>Pringles Potato Chips 5.5 oz</b> REG. \$4.99 <b>\$2.99/ea</b></p>	<p><b>Rosarita Refried Beans 16 oz</b> REG. \$2.49 <b>\$1.49/ea</b></p>	<p><b>Nelle &amp; Joe's Key West Lime Juice 16 fl.oz</b> REG. \$4.49 <b>\$3.49/ea</b></p>	<p><b>El Mexicano Pinto Beans 4 lbs</b> REG. \$5.99 <b>\$4.99/ea</b></p>
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<p><b>Roxo Assorted Sesame Peanut Candy 7 oz</b> REG. \$2.49 <b>\$1.99/ea</b></p>			

## EUROPEAN GROCERY

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<p><b>Korovka Sweetened Condensed Milk 380 gr</b> REG. \$3.99 <b>\$2.99/ea</b></p>			

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<h3 style="text-align: center;">FROZEN &amp; FISH DEPT</h3> <p>REG. \$14.99/EA <b>\$10.99/ea</b></p> <p><b>Abalone Style Shellfish Meat 340 g</b></p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">HOUSEWARE</h3> <p>REG. \$10.99 <b>\$8.99/ea</b></p> <p><b>ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (AOP)</b> <b>\$5.49</b></p> <p>REG. \$10.99 <b>\$8.99/ea</b></p> <p><b>ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (1000W)</b> <b>\$5.99</b></p> <p>REG. \$16.99 <b>\$16.99/ea</b></p> <p><b>ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL</b></p>
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# Ancil Hoffman Park Reopens with Many Upgrades

# Nonprofits Thrive at Chicken Festival

*Continued from page 1*

a nonprofit organization supporting and enhancing business success in the community, the Chamber of Commerce promotes local businesses and offers valuable networking and advocacy opportunities while also bringing the community together. Besides participating in the Chicken Festival, the chamber organizes beloved events such as Best of Fair Oaks, Christmas in Fair Oaks and Concerts in the Park, fostering strong community connections year-round.

Another vital partner is the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks, a nonprofit organization committed to serving area youth and seniors. Rotary hosts the lively Watering Hole, where attendees can enjoy beer and wine in support of local service projects at the Chicken Festival. Funds raised help support scholarships, classroom resources, youth leadership programs, and community enrichment efforts.

In addition to these highlighted groups, countless other nonprofit organizations line the festival grounds with informational booths and engaging activities that provide resources, build awareness and connect directly with the community.

From history to health to animal rescue, these passionate organizations represent the heartbeat of Fair Oaks. Some of this year's participating groups include the Kiwanis Club of Orangevale-Fair Oaks, Fair Oaks



Players look forward to participating in the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce's Cornhole Tournament during the Fair Oaks Chicken Festival. Courtesy photo



Orangevale/Fair Oaks Grange number 354 members prepare the annual pancake breakfast. Breakfast proceeds support Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the Grange's Garden Project. Courtesy photo

Historical Society, Lyme Fight Foundation, Mama Bears Fighting Childhood Cancer, and Stars & Stripes Dog

Rescue. The Chicken Festival provides these organizations with vital fundraising opportunities and meaningful visibility.

Attendees can learn about local causes, find ways to get involved, and make a difference simply by showing up and celebrating together. As you stroll through the festival, whether having breakfast, cheering chicken contest participants, chatting with nonprofit organizations, playing in the cornhole tournament, sipping a cold drink at the Watering Hole or exploring the Adventure Zone, you're also helping lift up the organizations that keep Fair Oaks thriving. The spirit of Fair Oaks comes alive not just through celebration but through collaboration.

*Sabrina Bernardo is the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District's recreation supervisor.* ★



Representatives from Sacramento County and Granit Construction celebrate the reopening of Ancil Hoffman Park in Carmichael with an Aug. 26 ribbon cutting. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

## Sacramento County Parks and Recreation News Release

**CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County Regional Parks celebrated the reopening of Ancil Hoffman Park on Aug. 26 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the completion of roadway and parking lot improvements.

"The Ancil Hoffman Park ribbon cutting is significant because it's an opportunity to showcase the many great things we are doing in our unincorporated communities," said District 3 Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond. "I've been pushing to get this project done for years, and it's a project that's very near and dear to my heart as a lifelong Carmichael resident who has enjoyed this park my entire life."

The upgrades, which were finished in August, include freshly repaved roads and parking lots, creating smoother access, safer parking and an overall better

experience for visitors.

The park fully reopened to the public on Aug. 17, welcoming residents back to one of the region's most beloved recreation destinations.

"These improvements are about more than paving; they're about making Ancil Hoffman Park more accessible, safe and enjoyable for everyone," said Liz Bellas, director of Regional Parks. "We are grateful to our community for their patience during construction and are thrilled to officially celebrate this milestone."

Ancil Hoffman Park, located at 6700 Tarshes Drive, Carmichael, is a cornerstone of the American River Parkway, offering trails, picnic areas, the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and abundant opportunities to enjoy nature and wildlife close to home.

For more information about Ancil Hoffman Park (and all the other area parks), visit the Regional Parks website at regionalparks.sacounty.gov. ★

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# Constitution Day in the Park Fun, Educational



The upcoming Constitution Day Celebration promises an engaging program for all ages to foster understanding and appreciation for the United States Constitution. The celebration is from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Fair Oaks VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) building Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Constitution Discussion Group

By MPG Staff

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Constitution Discussion Groups (CDGs) of Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado counties are proud to announce their upcoming Constitution Day Celebration on Sunday, Sept. 21.

The free celebration presented by the Sacramento County Constitution Discussion Group includes family-fun activities, live music, educational activities and food trucks.

For the third year, this event will mark a significant occasion as we honor and reflect on the enduring principles of our nation's foundational document, which belongs to all of us, according to Kaye Lynn Peterson, the Sacramento Constitution Discussion Groups organizer.

The Constitution Day Celebration promises an engaging program designed to foster understanding and appreciation for the United States Constitution.

Participants will have the opportunity to engage in thoughtful discussions, explore key constitutional topics and celebrate the legacy of this historic document, according to Peterson.

The celebration will be from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Fair Oaks VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) building at 8990 Kruitof Way, Fair Oaks at Phoenix Park near Hazel Avenue and Sunset Avenue.

"We are thrilled to host this nonpartisan event in commemoration of Constitution Day," Peterson said. "It is a chance for our community to come together, learn from each other and reaffirm our commitment to the principles that shape our constitutional republic."

For more information about the three Constitution Discussion Groups and updates on the Constitution Day Celebration, visit [www.SacCDG.org/](http://www.SacCDG.org/) events or email Peterson at [kalypso1@protonmail.com](mailto:kalypso1@protonmail.com) or call 916-346-6858. ★

# Fair Oaks Theatre Festival Closes

By MPG Staff

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - The Fair Oaks Theatre board has made the difficult but necessary decision to dissolve the nonprofit Fair Oaks Theatre Festival, according to the festival's website, after more than 40 years of providing quality community theatre to the Sacramento area.

The nonprofit organization was dissolved because of higher production costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and because the Fair Oaks Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District's Veterans Memorial Amphitheatre rental space was unavailable, according to board members.

The pre-COVID cost to put on a single play was more than \$26,000 and the post-COVID cost probably rose to more than \$30,000, according to the Fair Oaks theatre Festival website

The theatre festival was founded by a group of local businesses and community leaders. When Wendell and Lois Frazier, the original founders, began Fair Oaks Theatre Festival, it was their vision to be primarily Shakespeare and to provide quality theatre, mentoring, educational, cultural and performing arts opportunities for theatre students, local actors, and the community.

The Fraziers' mission was continued by Tony and Barbara Sestito, past presidents responsible for the original upgrades to amphitheater.

Former board member Chrysti Tovani in her

I Love Fair Oaks website page, wrote, "For more than 40 years, the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival in Fair Oaks Village, California; known as Theatre Under the Stars, was a beloved summer tradition. Families, neighbors, and visitors gathered at the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater to enjoy plays, concerts, and community performances... In the heart of summer, Theatre Under the Stars was our Village rhythm.

The Veterans Memorial Amphitheater became more than a stage, it was where neighbors, friends, and families gathered beneath the night sky. The air carried laughter, live music, and moments that could only belong to the fine folks of Fair Oaks, California."

The board sends their heartfelt gratitude to the following creative visionaries for their decades of support, among many others:

Robert (Bob) Irvin, artistic director Maggie Upton, director and actor Deane Calvin, assistant artistic director and actor Joe Hart, assistant artistic director and actor Beth Duggan, artistic director and costume designer Mike Dixon, long-term sound and lighting director, stage manager and facility manager Jeff Karl, set construction and technical director Lucy D'Mot, vocal and music director Sunni Smith, choreographer Kathy Burleson and the local actors who participated in the productions for decades.

"As we say in the theatre, this was a good run," the Fair Oaks theatre Festival website stated. ★



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20TH ANNIVERSARY

# Fair Oaks CHICKEN FESTIVAL

presented by Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District

**SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> 2025**

**12PM - 6PM | FAIR OAKS PARK**

11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. Fair Oaks

**FREE**

General Admission & Parking



**RIVER CITY OUTLAWS**  
12:30PM-3:00PM

**DUNSBAR ROAD**  
3:30PM-6:00PM

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for more info visit:

[forpd.org/chickenfest](http://forpd.org/chickenfest)

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**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

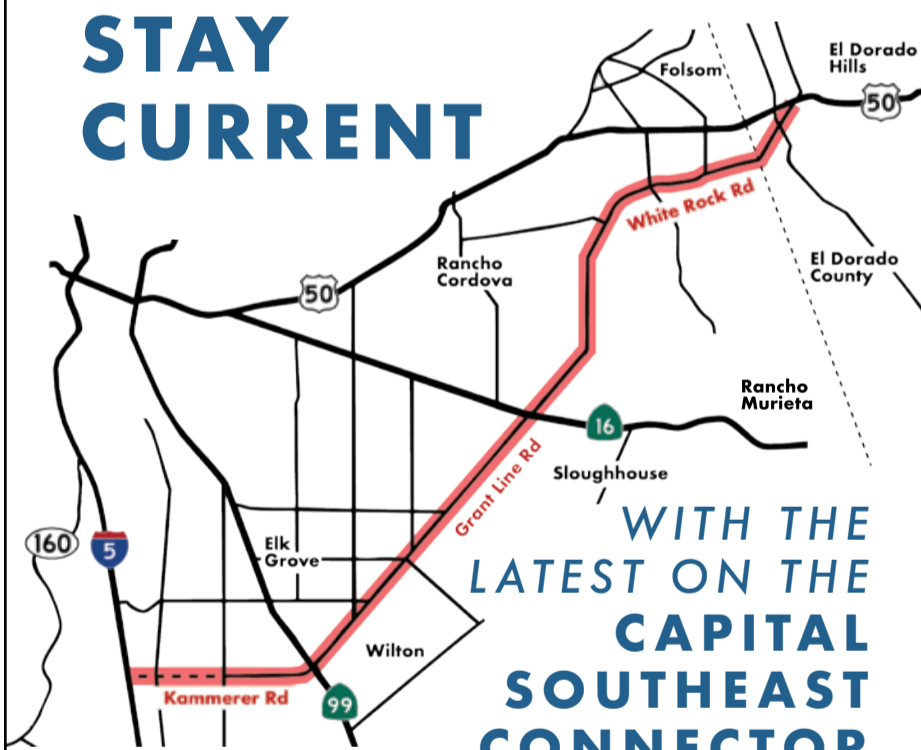
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Orangevale Grange

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Connecting Communities

# California Mid-Decade Redistricting Scheme



**Commentary**  
By John McGinness, MS

Beware of ethically challenged and desperate politicians' intent on using the electorate as pawns in their relentless quest for power.

Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Rob Bonta and loyal party leaders are moving with haste to put a redistricting measure on a special election ballot this November. They are invoking an emergency status to warrant the hasty process with minimal time, a mere five days, allowed for the drafting of thoughtful language and deliberation to influence the electorate. Their motive is raw political ambition, not even thinly veiled, an effort to eliminate Republican seats in the State House and the U.S. House of Representatives. An element essential to candid communication in this regard is the fact that the voters of California have on two prior occasions exercised their

right to call for an Independent Redistricting Commission. The voters spoke clearly and unequivocally, calling for a thoughtfully constructed commission to be comprised of five Democrats, five Republicans and four people not affiliated with either of the two major parties. Appropriate limitations have been placed on the persons who pursue service on the commission. They are subject to a vetting and selection process, they are precluded from most forms of political activism, they are prohibited from running for office, donating to the campaigns of candidates, or working for elected officials. The foregoing is the law of the state and represents a California State Constitutional Amendment that ensures adherence to this practice, for now.

Because the state of Texas, and most other states in the US do not have such an independent commission, the Texas legislature has the right to redraw legislative maps. The Lone Star State is not bound by any manner of restriction or constitutional language; they are free to do precisely what they are doing (SCOTUS – Rucho v Common Cause 2019) regardless of how

many of us may feel about it, it is lawful. This concept of gerrymandering is not, as Governor Newsom relentlessly asserts, unprecedented. Rather, it is a plot that goes back to 1812. In fact, the very term gerrymandering was coined as a portmanteau of the word salamander and the name of Elbridge Gerry, who would become the vice-president of the United States, but in 1812 as governor of Massachusetts, signed a bill that created a partisan district in the Boston area. Obviously, by including salamander- a slimy crawling amphibian – the term was not intended to be flattering. The voters of California have recognized the unsavory element of such conduct and moved to eliminate that practice by force of law.

Our Attorney General, Mr. Bonta has publicly opined that Texas (and Florida) should have a commission and laws like we have in California; he is correct on that point. Nonetheless, he is working in concert with Governor Newsom and partisan legislative leaders in this state to usurp the twice expressed will of the people in 2008 and 2010, and the Constitutional Amendment their votes created.

The most recently drawn

lines were completed by the independent commission in 2021 after the decennial census, consistent with current law. The deliberations of the commission were in public and conducted by persons who met the explicit criteria established in law created by California voters. Those decisions were made based upon enumerated criteria, and specifically not for the purpose of benefiting either political party. In fact, the final maps were criticized by both major political parties, likely a testament to their legitimacy. In addition, the work of the commission survived legal and political challenges.

The plan advanced by Governor Newsom and his sycophantic legislative leaders is unscrupulous by any reasonable measure. However, Attorney General Rob Bonta, whose job includes the obligation to represent the public interest, has breached his codified obligation to his constituents. Additionally, it will be his responsibility to defend this unprincipled scheme against a legal challenge. Further, his office holds the duty to draft the Title and Summary for your November ballot. Do you believe for a moment that his conduct thus far has demonstrated a scintilla of

objectivity? We deserve an attorney general who will recognize and adhere to their fundamental obligation to their constituents, to represent the public interests and support the electorally expressed demands of the public.

Governor Newsom either fails to understand the role of democracy in this Constitutional Republic, or is estranged from the truth. Once again, the people have spoken through a democratic act on this critical issue. But the governor does not care for the outcome, so he profoundly and almost pathologically rejects it, ignoring his oath of office.

If these elected officials who have taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, and the State of California succeed in their blatant usurpation of democracy, the 2026 midterm election will likely result in California having only four of fifty-two House seats, approximately nine percent, while nearly forty percent of California voters voted Republican in the last election. Democracy, Governor Newsom?

Governors, attorneys general, and legislators in California have historically engaged in misleading propositions with wholly

disingenuous Title and Summary language intended to dupe the voters to an unwanted and often destructive course of action. Gerrymandering for raw political power against the clearly expressed will of the people is not consistent with the expectations of representative government or the fundamentals of a Constitutional Republic.

Make no mistake, this is not simply a creative way to silence many Californians, it is a disgraceful collaboration to reject the twice expressed democratic will of the voters of the state of California. It also represents a needless expenditure of more than two hundred million dollars in taxpayers' money, while the state is in fiscal crisis.

As good citizens, we have an obligation to inform ourselves and vote wisely. I urge you to join the League of Women Voters and other responsible Californians and reject this partisan affront to democracy.

*John McGinness, MS is the retired sheriff of Sacramento County, and adjunct professor of criminal justice and the host of the John McGinness Show on KFBK. He can be reached at 916-924-3901 or at john.jpm.solutions@gmail.com* ★

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## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Informing, Empowering and Engaging Readers with Their Community



By Patsy McGavock  
JustServe.org

**ORANGEVALE, FAIR OAKS CA** - The Human Library uses the tagline, UnJudge Someone. There are no books to check out, only people. A “reader” sits across from their “book,” a person with a lived experience or demographic unfamiliar to them, and engages in open, honest conversation.

The library creates a space for curiosity without judgement where difficult questions are welcomed and answered. The rules are simple: Respect the book. Be curious. Return the book on time and in the same condition it was lent. Either party may end the loan at any time.

While based in Copenhagen, Denmark, you don't have to travel abroad to have a similar, perspective-expanding experience. Sacramento County is the 17th most diverse county in the U.S., according to the 2020 census. a ranking that didn't yet reflect many European and Middle Eastern immigrant communities, all categorized as white until 2024.

I saw this diversity more clearly while reaching out to local churches, temples, and synagogues to explore how faith communities might work together to support each other and the broader community. (That's another “connecting community” hat I wear.)

In Orangevale and Fair Oaks alone, numerous houses of worship conduct services in languages such as Ukrainian, Russian, Punjabi, Arabic, Korean, Chinese and Spanish.

## Unjudge Someone in Your Community

These congregations offer cultural connection for first-generation immigrants as well as a place of worship. While language can feel like a barrier in the broader community, it binds these smaller communities together. Recognizing this can be a window to a broader, more diverse community we might otherwise overlook.

Which brings me to a personal invitation for you: the new and informal Orangevale Interfaith Collaborative will host its first community gathering, an Interfaith Peace Vigil at Redeemer Covenant Church (7800 Main Ave. in Orangevale, at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 28).

While considering what they could offer, the common thread was a gift of peace. Not a message or lecture, but a space for stillness and connection. A space where each person can find peace where they need it most in their life: interpersonal, intercultural, inter-political or simply stillness in the overwhelmed, uncertain and chaotic. A space to foster a heart at peace.

A gathering with intention to understand ourselves and others better. Words of peace and prayer from diverse local faith leaders. A time for personal reflection to write a prayer or intention, to lift something up or let something go. Then, light refreshments and fellowship. All grounded in respect and curiosity, returning in better condition than when we arrived.

Everyone is welcome. This event falls one week after the International Day of Peace but you don't need a special date to start engaging with the human library of our own community.

Each time we step into

a space outside our comfort zone, sit with someone who speaks a different language, holds a different belief or comes from a different walk of life and we will see the world more brightly. We'll see it through a larger lens.

That broader lens is a gift. Its gateway is courage: the courage to leave the comfort of familiarity and the greater courage to challenge our own perceptions. It would be arrogant to think we can see clearly from only our personal vantage point. As Leo Tolstoy wrote, “There is a chief harm in arrogance. It interferes with a person's main task in life, becoming a better person.”

In “The Anatomy of Peace” book, the Arbinger Institute suggests that the way out of conflict is a heart at peace. It references a construction process of justification, the process of setting a crooked wall straight. When our view of others becomes crooked, we often justify ourselves but this doesn't fix the wall; it only skews our perception and our peace further. These justifications protect our ego but trap us in cycles of misunderstanding and conflict. The way forward is not correcting others but stepping outside our own box.

So go. Be courageous. Find a “book” in your own neighborhood. Visit a new place of worship. Attend a cultural event. Invite someone into conversation. Because every time we do, we tear down part of the wall around us and we invite others to do the same.

Patsy McGavock is a volunteer community advocate and freelance writer. Connect with her at PatsyMcGavock.JustServe@gmail.com. ★



## A Bigger, Better Future for Sacramento International Airport

By Sacramento County Supervisor  
Rosario Rodriguez

If you've traveled through Sacramento International Airport (SMF) lately, you've probably noticed it feels more crowded than ever. Long TSA lines, full parking garages, and jam-packed gates have become the norm. In fact, June 2025 was the busiest month in the airport's history, with more than 1.3 million passengers moving through SMF.

That kind of demand shows how important our airport is; not just for vacationers and business travelers, but for Sacramento's growing role as a hub for commerce and economic opportunity. It also shows why expansion is overdue.

The SMForward program, a \$1.3 billion expansion now underway, is the largest upgrade in the airport's history. Planned improvements include more gates in both Terminal A and Concourse B to handle more flights, a new pedestrian walkway connecting the terminals, expanded parking to reduce congestion in the garages and lots, and streamlined TSA checkpoints to make security faster and less stressful. When completed, these upgrades will make travel more efficient, give airlines more room to expand service, and boost Sacramento's economy.

One of the most important details: no local tax increases will fund this expansion. Instead, the project is financed through airport revenue, things like parking, concessions, and airline fees, along

with federal grants. That means travelers and the airlines that serve them are paying for the improvements, not Sacramento County residents.

Construction on a project of this size is bound to cause some inconvenience in the short term. Airport leaders have committed to keeping travelers informed with updates on designs, timelines, and tips for navigating SMF during construction. I encourage residents to stay engaged and share feedback about the current challenges they experience at the airport. Your voice can help shape priorities and ensure this investment delivers on its promise: a bigger, better, and more efficient Sacramento International Airport.

If you'd like to share your thoughts or concerns about SMF or the SMForward expansion, my office is always open to you. You can reach me at 916-874-5491 or email me at SupervisorRodriguez@sac-county.gov. Your feedback helps shape priorities and ensures Sacramento's airport grows in a way that truly serves our community.

Sacramento County Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez represents the 4th District, which includes all or part of the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, Rio Linda, Elverta, Gold River, Rancho Murieta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms and Fair Oaks. ★

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## Travel Well

Have you been thinking of doing some out-of-country travel? Well, I spoke to a mother-daughter travel team on POPPTALK who told me travel can boost well-being. I countered with, if all goes well, right? So mom Dr. Evelyn Kelly and Natalie Kelly, world travelers, shared some great tips on how to make it a great time. When I say world travelers I am not kidding. They have been to 7 continents, 88 countries and all 50 USA states finding wellness in each adventure. They want to get all of us motivated in “Have A Love Affair With Travel” Your ticket to an exhilarating life.

**1. PACKING HACKS.** Travel light! Wear old underwear and toss it after use. Roll clothes in packing cubes to save space, and bring a wrap for planes, pillows, or modesty at religious sites. Skip expensive jewelry, carry tissues, and stash small drinks in zip-lock bags. Don't forget an empty water bottle to refill after security.

**2. LUGGAGE HACKS.** Snap a photo of your bag before checking it. Use TSA-approved locks, bright luggage bands, and Air Tags for tracking. Place your following lodging address inside your bag in case it goes astray.

**3. SAFETY HACKS.** Add a portable door stopper to hotel rooms. Use a two-wallet system: a “decoy” wallet for small cash, and a safe spot for cards and bigger amounts. Photograph your parking spot and hotel card, and always grab the hotel's business card.

**4. DIGITAL AND POWER HACKS.** Email yourself photos of key documents and keep a paper copy hidden in your shoe. Carry a mini power strip to charge multi-

ple devices, use a data scrambler for public USB ports, and if needed, charge via the hotel TV.

**5. CURRENCY HACKS.** Bring crisp bills, especially \$1s for tipping. Use an offline currency converter app, exchange only small amounts at banks, and divide cash into multiple safe spots.

**6. CLEAN CLOTHES HACKS.** Wash essentials in the sink with detergent sheets and dry with the towel roll-and-ring method. Bring a washcloth because many hotels don't provide them.

**7. LANGUAGE HACKS.** Learn key local phrases or use a translator app for smooth communication.

**8. AIRPORT AND JET LAG HACKS.** Use TSA PreCheck or Global Entry, print a backup boarding pass, and follow the S.A.M. approach...Socks, Agua (water), Move. Reset your watch to destination time to fight jet lag.

**9. CELL HACKS.** Check your mobile plan. Consider an international package or local SIM, and use Wi-Fi apps to avoid roaming fees.

**10. BUDGET HACKS.** Maximize loyalty programs and travel rewards cards... points can mean free flights, upgrades, or hotel nights.

And don't give me that I'm too old thing. Mom, Evelyn, is 90 years old and wants to visit 100 countries by the time she's 100. Hope the good Lord helps her make it. Check out their website for more ideas [www.travelers\(a\)theart.com](https://www.travelers(a)theart.com). So, get ready for your travels with “Have A Love Affair With Travel.” So, where do you want to go? Oh, and Happy Trails to you! ★

# One Hundred Years Young

## Marine Stuart McIntyre Celebrates His Birthday Among Friends

Story and photos by Elise Spleiss

**SACRAMENTO REGION (MPG)**

-Gunnery Sergeant Stuart McIntyre, as he was known 85 years ago, celebrated his 100th birthday on Aug. 20 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 6158 in Fair Oaks.

It all started with a call from a friend of his, leading to a contact at VFW Post 6158 in Fair Oaks, asking if they could have a surprise birthday party to celebrate the 100th birthday of a Marine who had served in World War II and Korea. This was met with a resounding “yes” and the planning began.

Thanks to Stacy with the VFW and other contacts, emails began to get the word out throughout the area.

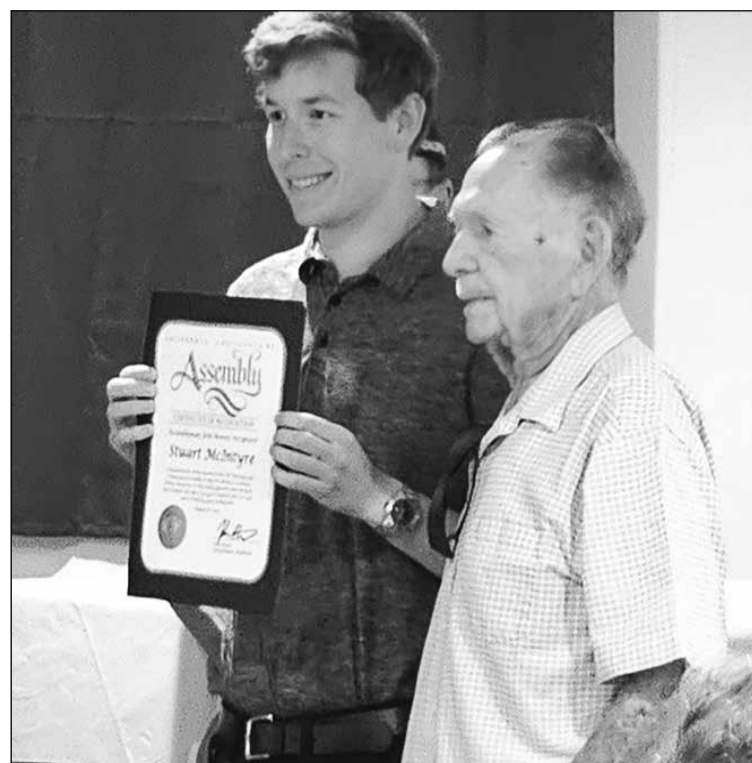
As the word got out, members of VFW Post 6158, American Legion Post 383 and American Legion Auxiliary 383, the Orangevale community and others got busy and, on that Wednesday, more than 100 friends, family, fellow veterans and the Patriot Guard Riders gathered for a surprise birthday party.

The venue was ready as McIntyre arrived by car, planning on attending his usual lunch date with a longtime friend. It took a few minutes before he realized the formal flag line created by the Riders, along with other veterans and the community were all there for him.

True to his love of poetry, McIntyre paused before entering the post to recite Rudyard Kipling’s entire poem, “Mandalay.” A fire truck and its company from Metro Fire Station 32 in Fair Oaks was also present to honor



Folsom Councilmember YeduKondalu “YK” Chalamcherla presents Stuart McIntyre with candy and a bottle of wine.



Representative Lane Gonick with Josh Hoover’s office presents Stuart McIntyre with a certificate of recognition.

McIntyre.

McIntyre was born in 1925 in Missoula, Montana. His family relocated to Washington and eventually to Walla Walla for his father’s job. He joined the Marines on Dec. 16, 1941, at the beginning of World War II. After being rejected by the Army because of his age, a Marine recruiter enlisted McIntyre, despite his age of 16. McIntyre arrived at Pearl Harbor shortly after it was bombed and was on the east coast preparing for the invasion of Japan when the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki ending the war. McIntyre was discharged on Dec. 31, 1945.

He rejoined the Marines at the start of the Korean War in 1950 and was stationed in Germany for three years and then Hawaii. McIntyre said

that he retired as a gunny sergeant, working his way up in the ranks during the 20 years of his enlistment.

In Germany, McIntyre was sent to serve with the High Commissioner as the United States was beginning to occupy Germany. Later, being an expert shot, McIntyre was assigned as a bodyguard to the Counsel General.

McIntyre commented that he would have stayed in the Marines longer after World War II but his wife died from cancer and he had to take care of their two-year-old son, Scott.

Remarrying, McIntyre, and the family moved to Sacramento in 1969 and to Arden Park 1972, where his son Scott lives with him, making his life much easier.

A friend with whom he lunches every day, shared that

despite low vision, McIntyre is always busy. He memorizes many poems, writes stories and taught himself French, which he speaks fluently.

Starting off the presentation of Certificates of Recognition, Povey introduced Kosim Latipov with Senator Roger Niello’s State Senate office; Lane Gonick from Assemblyman Josh Hoover’s office and Forrest Johnson representing County Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez. A certificate of recognition from the office of Congressman Kevin Kiley was also delivered to McIntyre.

Finally, all veterans stood at attention as McIntyre was presented with a special Certificate of Appreciation from the California Capitol Region Patriot Guard Riders. All saluted him, followed by many loud “Oorahs.”

Toward the end of the party, a lively bagpipe rendition of “Happy Birthday” was performed by David Canady, followed by all 100 attendees singing “Happy Birthday” to the Marine. He received birthday cards, his favorite See’s Candy and a bottle of fine wine.

At the end of the day, McIntyre said, “It was a tremendous tribute to me, I was surprised. Everybody was very gracious.”

Throughout the day, many had commented on how the world has changed so much over the span of Stu’s, (as he is known among friends) life, all he has seen and experienced, and how his service in the Marines has helped to make our lives all the better.

When asked what his secret is for longevity is, McIntyre said simply “to breathe.” ★

# Annual Fundraising Event to Support Life-Changing Healthcare

**Asha USA News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)**

Friends of Asha USA, Sacramento’s annual fundraising event on Sept. 28 is dedicated to raising critical funds for healthcare and community programs in the slums of Delhi, India.

This annual event, a key date in the Asha calendar, brings together supporters throughout the United States to make a tangible difference in the lives of thousands of underprivileged families.

Funds raised will go directly to Asha Society’s healthcare work in communities in Lal Bagh, one of Delhi’s largest slum clusters. Home to more than 6,000 people, Lal Bagh faces severe challenges: overcrowding, poor sanitation, inadequate housing and minimal access to medical care. Residents often suffer from chronic illnesses such as asthma, tuberculosis, diabetes, skin infections, anemia and hypertension.

Asha Society, founded in 1988 by Dr. Kiran Martin, works to break the cycle of poverty in Delhi’s slums through health, education, empowerment and financial inclusion.

Over the past 37 years, the nonprofit Asha organization has transformed the lives of more than one million people. Women especially will receive dedicated attention through antenatal and postnatal care programs, while children’s health will be addressed through nutritional and medical support.

Asha also places a special focus on the elderly, who are often the most neglected and isolated in slum communities, many living alone or depending on struggling caregivers while battling chronic conditions such as



Friends of Asha USA is inviting the public to join this mission of hope and change. The event promises inspiring stories from the communities, updates on healthcare programs, and opportunities for guests to contribute towards a healthier, brighter future for Delhi’s slum residents. Photo courtesy of Asha USA

arthritis, diabetes and respiratory issues.

Martin’s tireless work has been internationally recognized, including receiving one of India’s highest civilian honors, the Padma Shri Award, for her outstanding service to society.

Friends of Asha USA is inviting the public to join this mission of hope and change. The event promises inspiring stories from the communities, updates on healthcare programs, and opportunities for guests to contribute toward a healthier, brighter future

for Delhi’s slum residents.

The event is from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Sept. 28 and is free to attend with dinner included at the Maidu Community Center, located at 1550 Maidu Drive, Roseville.

To RSVP and for more

information, call Sunita Kapoor at 916-335-8407 or email kapoor264@gmail.com.

For more information about ASHA visit [www.ASHA-india.org](http://www.ASHA-india.org). Donations can be made online at <https://ASHA-india.org/how-you-help/donate/usa-donations>. ★

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# COMICS & PUZZLES

## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves

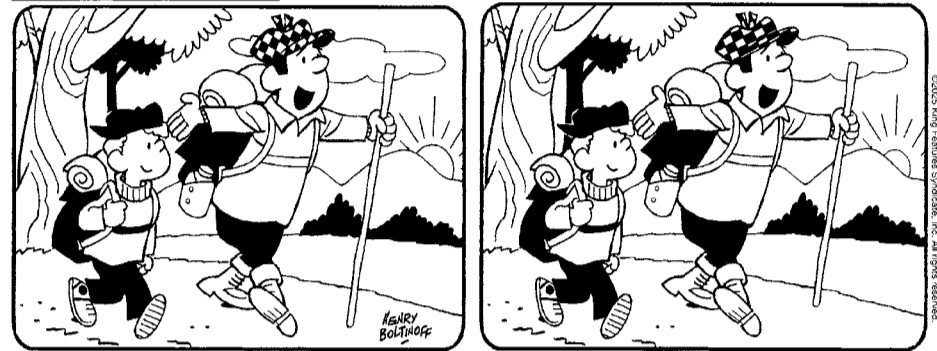


by Dave T. Phipps



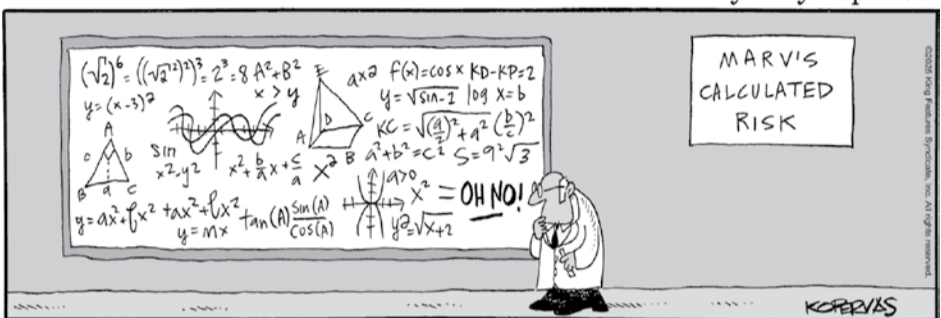
## HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



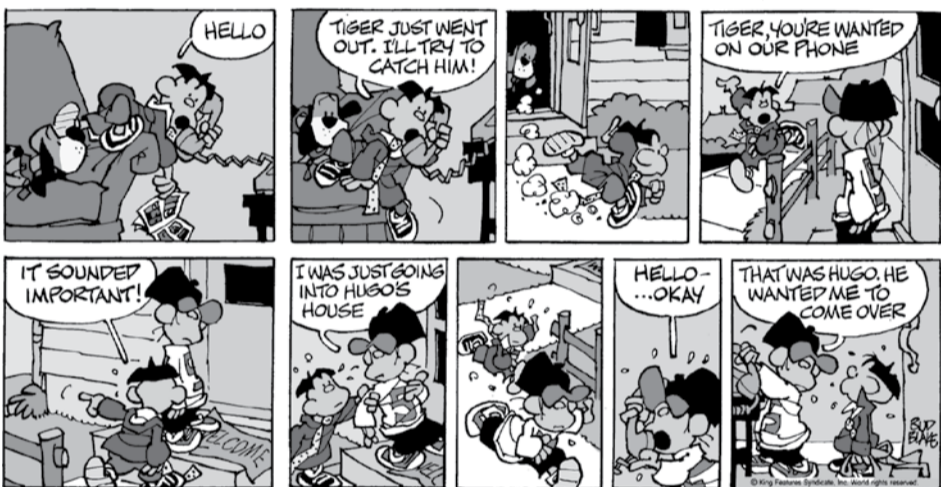
Differences: 1. Tree trunk is wider. 2. Sun is smaller. 3. Walking stick is shorter. 4. Cap design is different. 5. Thumb is moved. 6. Cloud is not as large.

## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

## TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

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## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • COMBO WORDS

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Wood file
  - Pick up a perpetrator
  - This and that
  - Title for Turkish leader
  - Tarantino's "Bill: Vol.1"
  - Ten million, in India
  - Type of word
  - Kent State state
  - Oohed partner
  - \*Sleeping in a very fancy tent
  - Board game of diplomacy
  - Canada's favorite tree?
  - Long time
  - Asian wild sheep
  - Galilei's first name
  - Ever, to a poet
  - Lease giver
  - Hokkaido native
  - Sends unwanted emails
  - Charlotte's creation
  - "Bravo! Bravo!"
  - Roughly (2 words)
  - Common spa treatment
  - Gobbled up
  - \*Movie theater snack
  - Infer using data
  - Entrepreneur Mary Ash's middle name
  - Wiser
  - Decomposes
  - \*Communication device
  - Veranda, in Honolulu
  - Rum-soaked cake
  - Skirt shape
  - Shades of color
  - Those against
  - Tehran location
  - Small island
  - Violin's Renaissance predecessor
  - Cloude's domain
  - Left after deductions, in U.K.
- DOWN**
- Escaped
  - Bug-eyed
  - Synagogue
  - Wide-brimmed straw hat
  - Nothing, in Latin
  - Skirt shape
  - \*Online journal
  - \*Exceptionally intelligent one
  - Aahs' partners
  - Hiker's journey
  - He had
  - Small hill rising up from veld
  - Classic TV's "lovely lady"
  - Pall \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ of America
  - ENT's first concern?
  - "The Fox and the Grapes" storyteller
  - Copy, slangily
  - Get the picture
  - Desert in China and Mongolia
  - Jasmine's kin
  - Related on mother's side
  - Revealed
  - Zeus in disguise
  - Not min or hr
  - \*Nonalcoholic drink
  - LDS missionary
  - Cook in a skillet
  - Sea in the Mediterranean
  - Desert mirage
  - Prickly marine invertebrate
  - \*Scornful remark
  - Keep someone \_\_\_ or away from causing harm
  - Indian princess
  - On top of
  - Wading bird
  - Yorkshire river
  - Patty follower
  - Abbreviation on a bathroom door
  - Part of tennis match

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# Sacramento Region Leaders Celebrate Ozone Attainment Milestone

## Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Pacific Southwest Region Administrator Josh F.W. Cook joined Sacramento leaders at a joint press conference Aug. 21 to celebrate the region's successful attainment of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone by the 2024 deadline. The announcement reflects successful efforts to reduce air pollution and improve public health in California's fastest-growing metropolitan area. It also underscores the region's ability to achieve real results through shared vision and partnership.

"Congratulations to the Sacramento metropolitan area for successfully meeting the 2008 ozone standard by the 2024 deadline – this is an achievement that will bring numerous health benefits to communities across the region," said EPA Regional Administrator Josh F.W. Cook. "I am so pleased to see multiple air districts coming together to accomplish this result. Achieving attainment not only brings cleaner air for residents but spares businesses from additional regulatory burdens and secures continued eligibility for future federal funding for vital

transportation and infrastructure projects."

In addition to Cook, the event speakers included Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Sac Metro Air District Board Chair and Folsom Mayor Sarah Aquino; Sacramento Metro Chamber Representative Cameron Gallad; Placer County Health & Human Services Director Dr. Rob Oldham, and Sac Metro Air District Board Member, City of Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem and California Air Resources Board Member Eric Guerra. The event was emceed by Sac Metro Air District Air Pollution Control Officer Dr. Alberto Ayala.

"Today, we are celebrating a cleaner, healthier future for families in the Sacramento region," said Sac Metro Air District Board Member, City of Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem and California Air Resources Board Member Eric Guerra, speaking on behalf of the air districts of the Sacramento region. "This achievement reflects years of hard work by local communities, businesses, and air agencies, made possible through strong partnerships at all levels of government. While reaching attainment is a proud moment, we're not stopping here. We remain committed to advancing innovative projects and programs to meet cleaner air quality

standards, which will protect our children and hard-working families for generations to come."

The EPA's final determination confirms that, based on certified air quality data from 2022 to 2024, the region has reduced ground-level ozone, meeting the 2008 standard by the 2024 deadline. The benefits of attainment include cleaner air for residents, helping businesses avoid additional regulatory requirements, less damage to crops and other vegetation, and continued eligibility for federal transportation and infrastructure funding. The air districts of the Sacramento region will now begin the process of developing a maintenance plan and requesting formal redesignation from the EPA to remove the region's severe nonattainment status.

### About the Sacramento Metropolitan Region's Air Districts

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District) is responsible for monitoring air quality, reducing air pollution and enforcing air quality regulations in Sacramento County. The air district also plays a leading role in promoting clean energy efforts through innovative programs, financial incentives and other initiatives throughout Sacramento County and the larger region. The air district's

mission is to achieve state and federal clean air and climate goals as we envision a clean air and sustainable future for all. For more information about the Air District, visit [www.AirQuality.org](http://www.AirQuality.org).

The Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District's mission is to protect human health and property from the harmful effects of air pollution. As a public health agency, the district is responsible for safeguarding air quality and overseeing air pollution control in Yolo and northeastern Solano counties, including the cities of Dixon, Rio Vista and Vacaville. For more information, visit [www.ysaqmd.org](http://www.ysaqmd.org).

The Placer County Air Pollution Control District's mission is to manage Placer County's air quality in a manner to protect and promote public health by controlling and seeking reductions of air pollutants while recognizing and considering the economic and environmental impacts. This is achieved through enforcement of local, state and federal air-quality regulations, the implementation of incentive programs to reduce emissions, air quality monitoring, efforts to reduce wildfire impacts and land use/development reviews. For more information, visit [www.PlacerAir.org](http://www.PlacerAir.org).

The Feather River Air Quality Management District

is a bi-county district that was formed in 1991 to administer local, state, and federal air quality management programs for Yuba and Sutter counties. The Feather River Air Quality Management District mission is to promote and improve the air quality of Sutter and Yuba counties. This is accomplished through monitoring, evaluation, education, implementing control measures to reduce emissions from stationary sources, permitting and inspection of pollution sources, enforcement of air quality regulations, and supporting and implementing measures to reduce emissions from motor vehicles. For more information, visit [www.fraqmd.org](http://www.fraqmd.org).

The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District is committed to improving air quality and the quality of life for El Dorado County residents by ensuring regulated sources control emissions in compliance with air quality regulations and by offering several emission-reduction grant and incentive programs. The district works to protect and promote public health by managing the implementation of air pollution control measures while also considering the economic impacts. For more information, visit <https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Land-Use/Air-Quality-Management-District>. ★

# Newsom Deploys 'Crime Suppression' Teams Statewide while Mocking Trump's Threats

By Alexei Koseff, CALMatters.org

As he publicly mocks concerns that crime in California is out of control, Gov. Gavin Newsom is also surging law enforcement resources across the state.

Newsom announced on Aug. 28 that he would deploy new "crime suppression" teams of California Highway Patrol officers to partner with local officials in six regions: San Diego, the Inland Empire, Los Angeles, the Central Valley, Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area.

It's an escalation of a strategy that Newsom has already tried in cities such as Oakland and Bakersfield, sending in state officers to assist with cracking down on retail

theft, stolen vehicles and drug dealing.

And it appears closely related to political considerations, as President Donald Trump ramps up threats of military action to "clean up" Democratic-led cities across the country.

During a press conference in his executive office overlooking the state Capitol, where he was flanked by high-ranking CHP officials, Newsom held up flyers showcasing Republican politicians whose states have higher murder rates than California.

"Perhaps the president could deploy the National Guard in every corner of Mississippi. The murder rate's out of control there. Carnage," Newsom said. "This is if they care about the issues of crime and

violence."

Crime has again become a hot-button national topic. Earlier in August, Trump deployed thousands of National Guard troops in Washington, D.C. and took control of its local police force, arguing that federal intervention was needed because of unsafe conditions in the city — though reports of violent offenses are at their lowest in three decades.

Since then, Trump has publicly mulled expanding the operation into numerous other cities that he claims Democrats have destroyed, including San Francisco and Oakland. Newsom has denounced the idea on social media and in interviews, referring to it on Aug. 28 as "authoritarian."

Newsom and Trump

are also in the midst of an ongoing struggle over the president's deployment of National Guard troops and Marines into Los Angeles earlier this summer to quell fierce protests against immigration enforcement. The governor sued to stop what he alleges was an illegal military action, and though most of the troops have since been demobilized, a potentially precedent-setting case is still ongoing.

This latest "crime suppression" program provides Newsom an opportunity to get ahead of Trump and show that California is already taking action with an approach that the governor claims is highly effective. Last year, CHP officers made more than 9,000 arrests, recovered nearly 5,800 stolen

vehicles and confiscated more than 400 firearms in Bakersfield, Oakland and San Bernardino, according to the governor's office. The announcement touted a 34% decrease in homicides and a 25% reduction in robberies in Oakland in 2024, while shootings in Bakersfield dropped to their lowest since before the coronavirus pandemic.

"Whatever the crime is, when we come in and do just enforcement that leads to good police work, that crime goes down," CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee said during the press conference.

Duryee said the new teams would be at least 12 to 15 officers and focus on problems flagged by local officials, which could include illegal street racing and open-air drug markets.

Newsom denied that the expansion was a reaction to Trump. He said his administration was "trying to be responsive to the people we serve," who want to see more done.

"You still have people whose cars are broken into. You still have crimes being committed. You still have murders," he said. "I'm not arguing to defend the status quo. Quite the contrary. We think we can do better still."

*Alexei Koseff covers Gov. Gavin Newsom, the Legislature and California government from Sacramento. He has written about California politics and government for more than a decade, twice winning the Sacramento Press Club award for best daily Capitol beat reporting.* ★

# Gallagher's 2-State Solution to California's Malfeasance



James Gallagher

By Katy Grimes, California Globe

California Assembly Republican Minority Leader James Gallagher (R-East Nicolaus) held a press conference Wednesday (Aug. 27) to announce a resolution calling for the creation of a new U.S. state made up of 35 inland California counties. This division of California between the coastal and inland counties, per Gallagher, will be called the "Two State Solution."

Gallagher's resolution is in response "to the chronic neglect of rural and inland California. The recent Democratic-led gerrymander would silence rural voices and rig the political system against them forever."

AJR 23 proposes to form a new state made up of 35 inland California counties to finally give these areas a voice.

Gallagher said with California's costs through the roof of fuel, water, fertilizer, people in the inland counties who have been long forgotten.

"My representation has been stripped," he explained as a result of Governor Gavin Newsom's and Democrat's jamming through redistricting maps, which strips away representation for the north counties.

"The Legislature promised this year it would address affordability concerns. It did not, and they are getting worse," Gallagher said.

"The inland counties have little voice, and will have no voice after Gavinmander and Proposition 50."

He talked about the right to representation and self-determination, which is the ability to pursue dreams.

"The people of inland California have no ability to do that," he said.

"California is run by politicians who don't care because they don't have to," said Gallagher. "They exploit our water, suppress our energy, skyrocket our costs, and kill our jobs."

"Whether you are from the North State, Central Valley, or the Inland

Empire, life has become harder and completely unaffordable. We have been overlooked for far too long, and now they are trying to rip away what little representation we have left."

Gallagher introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 23 to create a new state for inland California and its 10 million residents. "This is the constitutional way to go about introducing a new state," Gallagher said. "This is a new direction — our own statehood" where "governance would meet the needs of its people and isn't totally incompetent."

He said Orange County has expressed interest in being a part of the new state. We would govern ourselves."

Gallagher addressed the existing mater management system in California

and described it as "a complete disaster" in which there is "a government created drought."

Gallagher said the issues plaguing the state aren't new.

"Wildlife prevention — the governor continues to cut that budget every year since 2021."

"We don't want any part of a government that won't give us a voice."

He explained that the two-state solution is delineated between the coastal counties and the inland counties. "Gavin Newsom can continue to govern the way they [coastal] want — \$10 gas if you want. We don't want that."

Gallagher addressed the large Latino population in the inland counties, and noted that Latino voters have been voting against the establishment for a

while now. "It's probably why Gov. Newsom and Democrats shoved through redistricting to remove representation."

"The people are oppressed," Gallagher said. "Gavin, let my people go."

Assembly Joint Resolution 23 — Two-State Solution:

Formally expresses California's consent, as required under Article IV, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution, to allow inland counties to form a new U.S. state, pending congressional approval.

Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time investigative journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of "California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?" ★

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# Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Launches

## Young Children Can Receive Free Books

By MPG Staff

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County children from birth to age 5 can now receive one free book in the mail each month, regardless of family income, through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Since starting in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has become the preeminent early childhood book-gifting international program. The flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation, a nonprofit organization, has gifted more than 280-million free books in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and The Republic of Ireland through funding shared by The Dollywood Foundation and local partners.

The Imagination Library mails more than 3 million high-quality, age-appropriate books directly to children's homes each month. Each child enrolled in the program receives one book per month for children up to age 5 at no cost to families.

Grammy-winning singer, songwriter, actress, author and businesswoman Parton envisioned creating a lifelong love of reading and inspiring children to dream more, learn more, care more and be more. The program's impact has been widely researched and results demonstrate its positive impact on early childhood development and literacy skills.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library launched Aug. 27 in Sacramento through a partnership between United Way California Capital Region, Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) and The Dollywood Foundation.

Sacramento residents can sign up online at [yourlocalunitedway.org/our-work/youth-opportunity/dolly-parton-imagination-library](http://yourlocalunitedway.org/our-work/youth-opportunity/dolly-parton-imagination-library) to receive the books.

United Way California Capital Region also manages Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Yolo County, which on Aug. 27 presented its 100,000th book to a participating family.

"When we invest in a child's imagination, we invest in their future," said Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is more than books. This program is about opening doors, sparking dreams and imagination, and making sure every child, no matter their zip code, has access to books from an early age."

United Way and the Sacramento County Office of Education aim to enroll 65,000 children in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library across the county, 65% of the population eligible, within five years.

"The Imagination Library is a simple idea with a powerful impact," said David W. Gordon, Sacramento County superintendent of schools. "By mailing a free book each month to children from birth to age 5, we're giving



**Dr. Dawnté Early of United Way California Capital Region announces the launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Sacramento County at an Aug. 27 press conference at the Sacramento Central Public Library.** Courtesy photo

families the tools to build strong reading habits from the start. This program supports our Sacramento County READS literacy initiative and reflects our commitment to literacy, equity and early learning because every child deserves the chance to thrive."

The program has received funding from United Way California Capital Region, Sacramento County Office of Education, City of Rancho Cordova, City of Sacramento, Kellogg Family Foundation, Rotary Club of Elk Grove and Laguna Sunrise Rotary Club, and is seeking additional funders to meet their goal of serving all children in Sacramento County under age 5. To learn more about supporting the program, visit [www.uwccr.org/dpilsupport](http://www.uwccr.org/dpilsupport).

Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library began in Sevier County, Tenn. where Parton grew up, and the library has expanded internationally.

In California, the Imagination Library is also supported by a 50% state match, administered through the California State Library.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Sacramento County, home to our state capital and nearly 100,000 little learners," said Hallie Anderson, community engagement coordinator for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of California. "This partnership with United Way California Capital Region and Sacramento County Office of Education is a powerful investment in early childhood literacy, bringing Dolly's dream to life for many more children and inspiring a love of reading across the county."

United Way California Capital Region has been a driving force across the region for more than 100 years, listening, responding and taking comprehensive action to meet local needs. From advancing youth opportunities and helping children excel in school to strengthening local communities and investing in families' financial security and health, United Way mobilizes communities to build a future where everyone can reach their full potential and thrive. Working across Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties, the local United Way provides books and literacy tutoring, addresses housing and food security, leads the region's largest tax-preparation initiative, works with foster youth across school districts, launched the region's first guaranteed income program and leads the Community Schools initiative in West Sacramento. To donate, go online to [YourLocalUnitedWay.org](http://YourLocalUnitedWay.org).

The Sacramento County Office of Education educates more than 30,000 children and adults each year, including thousands of district teachers who attend training sessions and workshops. It provides support services to more than 253,000 students in 13 school districts. The Sacramento County Office of Education provides technical assistance, curriculum and instructional support, staff development, legal and financial advice, and oversight to Sacramento County school districts.

Sacramento County Office of Education programs and services are available to schools, districts and other county offices of education across the region. Considered a leader of the Capital Service Region, a 10-county area consisting of Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties; it is one of 58 county offices of education in California. Sacramento County Office of Education staff provide year-round services that complement and supplement those offered by public school districts in Sacramento County. For more information about the Sacramento County Office of Education's Sacramento County READS literacy initiative, visit online [www.scoc.net/sacramentocountyreads](http://www.scoc.net/sacramentocountyreads).

Penguin Random House is the exclusive publisher of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. For more information, go online to <https://imaginationlibrary.com>. ★

# Annual Women's Empowerment Gala Celebrates 100th Session

Women's Empowerment News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Women's Empowerment will hold its 24th annual Gala on Sept. 19, where guests will help raise funds for the Sacramento nonprofit organization that is celebrating its 100th session educating, empowering and employing Sacramento-area women experiencing homelessness so they can support their families.

The event will take place at 5 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Kimpton Sawyer Hotel, 500 J St., Sacramento and will include a cocktail party, plated dinner, silent and live auctions, and a panel discussion with program graduates.

"Our annual Gala is a culmination of the transformative work we do throughout the year to empower women and children to overcome homelessness but this year is even more remarkable as we celebrate our 100th session," said Lisa Culp, Women's Empowerment founding executive director. "This year's Gala will celebrate the nearly 2,000 incredible women who have walked through our doors over the past 100 sessions. But we also are gathering to raise needed funds to ensure we can continue to empower women facing homelessness in the months to come. This is an opportunity for the community to come together to fund powerful solutions to homelessness specifically for Sacramento women and children."

Women's Empowerment offers the most comprehensive job-readiness program in



**Women's Empowerment offers the most comprehensive job-readiness program in the Sacramento area designed specifically to help women break the generational cycle of homelessness for themselves and their children.** Photo courtesy of Women's Empowerment

the area designed specifically to help women break the generational cycle of homelessness for themselves and their children. Women's Empowerment mostly helps Sacramento County women, but due to its proximity to West Sacramento, also helps women there.

Each woman begins with an initial two-month program where she works one-on-one with a

social worker, housing specialist and employment specialist. She attends classes and support groups and receives free transportation assistance, onsite childcare, meals and more.

The nonprofit organization provides lifetime services for graduates of its initial program, including counseling, job search and retention support, financial assistance, paid job training and

its Trellis Gardens transitional workforce housing program.

In 2024, 155 graduates secured employment or enrolled in advanced training or school and 89% of graduates maintained or improved their housing.

Since 2001, 1,955 women have graduated from the program with their more than combined 4,000 children.

To purchase Gala tickets or a table, sponsor the event or sponsor a graduate to attend, visit online [www.womens-empowerment.org/gala](http://www.womens-empowerment.org/gala) or call 916-669-2307.

Women's Empowerment is funded through private donations from the community and grants. To make a donation, visit [www.womens-empowerment.org](http://www.womens-empowerment.org). ★

# 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.

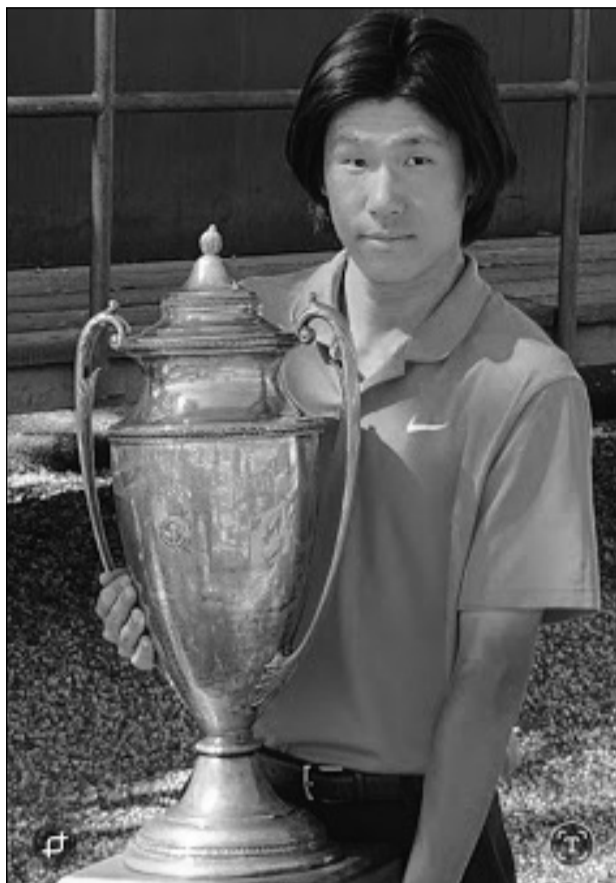
Ethan Gao of Johns Creek, Georgia emerged as the 2025 State Fair Champion, delivering a consistent and commanding performance with rounds of 67-66-68 for a total of 201 (-15). Gao fended off a crowded leaderboard to secure the title in one of California's most prestigious amateur events.

"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, Gao 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. ★

## 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). ★