



Sacramento Ballet Offers Bold Visions, Timeless Classics

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There is Only ONE KING, Jesus Christ



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Frida's House Art Academy sold out its Día de Muertos-themed "Painting & Cafecito" event Oct. 10 at Con Azúcar Café (630 K St.), offering participants an evening to unwind with art, coffee and good company. Photo by Idaly Valencia

By Idaly Valencia

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - For Frida's House Art Academy founders Juanita Maribel Márquez and Claudia de la Rosa, art is more than color on canvas; it's a way to heal, connect and celebrate culture.

Through their work, the organization supports Sacramento-area students while also giving parents a space to relax and explore their creativity through art. Although it does not yet have a physical location, Márquez and De la Rosa host their own events and are often invited to

participate in school and community gatherings.

Frida's House recently sold out its Día de Muertos-themed "Painting & Cafecito" event Oct. 10 at Con Azúcar Café (630 K St.), where participants enjoyed an evening of painting, coffee and good company.

Founded just over a year ago, Frida's House has grown through its community paint nights and art events. Márquez and de la Rosa lead classes and activities that foster creativity and inclusion, offering sessions tailored for both children and adults.

Beyond paint nights, the organization hosts exhibitions where students can showcase their artwork, helping them build confidence and a sense of belonging. Frida's House has also been invited to offer classes at community events, including the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony for Intercare Therapy in Elk Grove, which provides services for children with autism.

By day, Márquez works at two schools within the Sacramento City Unified School District, assisting students with autism, learning

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North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - As many prospective homebuyers waited to see what happened with mortgage interest rates, new home sales in the Sacramento region dipped in September but remained above the average number of sales for the month, according to the North State Building Industry Association.

Association-member homebuilders reported selling 430 homes, 5 percent above the average 409 sales during September dating back to 1997. Sales were down 13 percent from August and 19 percent below September 2024. Building Industry Association President and CEO Tim Murphy said that many buyers are hoping that interest rates drop before pulling the trigger.

"While mortgage rates have dropped to below 6.5 percent, many potential buyers are betting that they will fall even further in the near future," Murphy said. "It is also possible that buyers are waiting to see how soon the government shutdown is resolved. Markets like certainty and homebuyers are no different."

Murphy said that many area builders continue to offer generous incentives to help make home buying more attainable and there is a wide selection of styles and locations in the 197 active new home communities from Yuba City to Galt. And Murphy again called on area governments to streamline the permitting process and reduce the fees that now average more than \$100,000 per home.

"Too often, the permitting process takes years between when a new development is proposed and when construction actually begins, and along with high fees and other costs, builders can't meet the demand for housing. Until this gridlock is broken, demand will continue to outstrip supply and housing costs will remain challenging," Murphy said.

In September, Roseville recorded the most sales with 98, followed by 75 in Rancho Cordova, 51 in Sacramento, 50 in Plumas Lake and 36 in Elk Grove. Natomas had 29 sales, Lincoln 25, Folsom 13, Rocklin 11 and El Dorado Hills 10. ★

Beanie Babies Needed for Kindergartners' Gifts

By Claire Gliddon, Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids Chief Blanket Gatherer

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Got Beanie Babies? Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids (SBSK) is asking for donations of new or gently used Beanie Babies for their kindergarten project that takes place each holiday season.

Every September, Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids picks as many low-income elementary schools as they can and finds out how many kindergartners they have.

Continued on Page 3



Kindergartners in a low-income Sacramento County classroom receive blankets and Beanie Babies as part of Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids' holiday drive. Photo courtesy of Claire Gliddon



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Paint Night Honors Art, Culture

Continued from Page 1

disabilities and behavioral challenges. She collaborates with psychologists, speech therapists and other specialists to help students improve communication and learning skills.

Originally from Mexico, Márquez studied art at Baja California University and moved to Sacramento nine years ago. Márquez said she never imagined how her passion for art would one day merge with her work helping others.

"I wanted to contribute to the local arts scene through my heritage and culture," Márquez said. "Art gives people a healthy way to express themselves and build good habits that support mental health."

That connection between art and culture was on full display during the Oct. 10 paint night, which celebrated the traditional Mexican Día de Muertos holiday. Día de Muertos, meaning the Day of the Dead, in the Mexican culture celebrates the tradition of honoring and remembering loved ones who have passed on.

"This holiday represents a small piece of all our traditions and what better way to celebrate than through art," Márquez said. "It's about unity and family, and many participants came with their children."

With Márquez's background in special education and de la Rosa's experience as a kindergarten teacher, the two work to make every class inclusive, ensuring all children, regardless of ability, feel supported. Márquez said inclusivity is at the core of their organization and is deeply connected to the spirit of art.

For parents, the paint nights provide a chance to relax and reconnect with their own creativity. For mothers looking to paint and unwind, Márquez said, de la Rosa often helps watch their children so they can fully enjoy the experience.

"We're dealing with parents who may be stressed," Márquez said. "Life is difficult and we don't always know what people go through. The least we can do is offer a smile and help them leave feeling relaxed and happy."

Frida's House hosts events throughout the area, including Elk Grove and Lodi, but recently partnered with Con Azúcar Café, where more art nights are planned.

Opened earlier this year, Con Azúcar Café replaced the former Starbucks on the corner of K Street outside the Golden 1 Center. The café is owned by Sacramento



The connection between art and culture was on full display during the "Painting & Cafecito" event, which celebrated the traditional Mexican holiday Día de Muertos. Photo by Idaly Valencia

State graduate Alan Jimenez, who said he hopes the business becomes a welcoming space for the community.

"I have a lot of love and ties to Sacramento, which is why I wanted to open something here and stay local," Jimenez said. "Once we opened, my biggest goal was to put myself out there and share the space with the community."

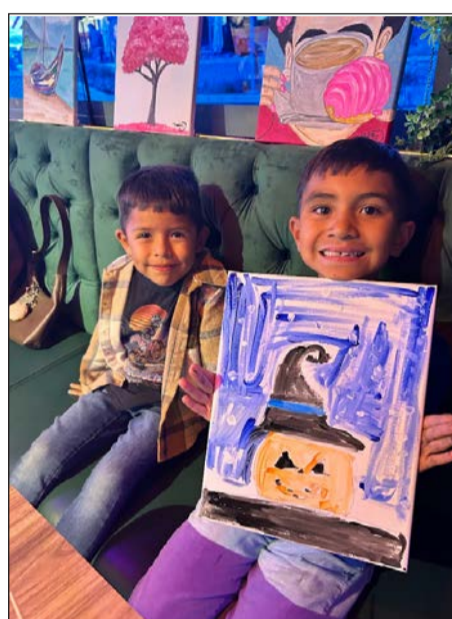
Jimenez said the café welcomes private events and community gatherings, noting that it has hosted Sacramento State student clubs, such as MEChA, and will soon serve as a venue for local chambers of commerce.

"We want to keep our doors open to everyone, not just Hispanics, but anyone willing to embrace us," Jimenez said. "That's my motivation: to build connections with people and let that drive our success."

While opening the café came with challenges, Jimenez said, operations have stabilized, allowing him to focus more on community partnerships.

"We had lines out the door nonstop. Now we've leveled out to a manageable flow and we want to continue opening the space to people like Juanita Maribel to engage the community," Jimenez said.

Márquez said helping one another is a key value in Mexican culture and she plans to continue partnering with local



Boys pose with their completed paintings during the "Painting & Cafecito" event at Con Azúcar Café on Oct. 10. Photo courtesy of Frida's House Art Academy



A girl shows her completed artwork after the guided paint session hosted by Juanita Maribel Márquez and Claudia de la Rosa of Frida's House Art Academy on Oct. 10. Photo courtesy of Frida's House Art Academy



Participants at the Oct. 10 Día de Muertos-themed "Painting & Cafecito" event focus on recreating artwork during a guided painting session led by Frida's House Art Academy founder Juanita Maribel Márquez. Photo courtesy of Frida's House Art Academy

art," Márquez said. "Even in a small way, I can show that we're here, we're united and we achieve great things together."

Frida's House Art Academy will host another Día de Muertos-themed "Painting & Cafecito" event at Con Azúcar Café at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be reserved by calling 916-767-3854.

To learn more about Frida's House Art Academy or to check out future events, visit fridasacademy.org. ★

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 Market - 7 Days: 8am - 9pm
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WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast - Bnls Costilla Cruzada de Ternera Asada Deshuesada \$4.99/lb	Beef Ribeye Roast - Boneless Chuleton de Ternera Asado Deshuesado \$6.99/lb	Beef Ribeye Steak - Boneless Filete Chuleton de Ternera Deshuesado \$7.99/lb
Chicken Drumsticks Piernas de Pollo 79¢/lb	Pork Baby Back Ribs Costillitas de Cerdo \$3.99/lb	Pork Neck Bones Huesos de cuello de Cerdo \$1.79/lb
		Pork Butt - Bone-in Trozo de Puerco con Hueso \$2.69/lb

FRESH PRODUCE

Bartlett Pear \$1.39/lb	Mini Sweet Pepper 1 lb \$2.79/ea	Grey Squash \$1.19/lb	Jalapeno Pepper 79¢/lb
Pomegranate \$1.29/lb	Fuyu Persimmon 99¢/lb	Thai Young Coconut 9 ct / Box \$15.99/box	Kabocha 79¢/lb

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

La Fiesta Pasilla Ancho Entero 8 oz \$5.99/ea	Shultz Pretzels Sticks 16 oz \$1.99/ea	Hawaiian Punch Orange 6 pack 6 x 16 oz \$1.99/ea	Ocean Spray Juice Cocktails 64 oz \$3.99/ea	Diamond Shelled Walnuts & Chopped Pecans 16 oz & 8 oz \$6.99/ea
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ASIAN GROCERY

Lee Sweet Chili Sauce 2.95 oz \$2.49/ea	Ameriqueen Rose Rice Cooking Wine 750 ml \$2.99/ea	Growers Garlic Flavor Peanuts 9.85 oz \$4.99/ea	Knorr Chicken Bouillon Powder 35.2 oz \$10.99/ea	Mama Loa Macadamias Hawaiian Salt 4 oz \$6.99/ea
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EUROPEAN GROCERY

Allegro Pure Sunflower Oil 5 liters \$17.99/ea	Sodaf Ghalami Pure Ceylon Tea 454 gr \$8.99/ea	Czar Nikolas Premium Tea Green Tea 250 gr \$6.99/ea	Sadaf Moroccan Sardines in Oil 125 gr \$1.29/ea	Krowka Milk Cream Fudge 256 gr \$3.99/ea
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Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 23 - OCTOBER 29, 2024.

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Scallion REG. \$6.99/ea	Korean Pancake 300 g \$3.99/ea
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FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Scallion REG. \$6.99/ea	Korean Pancake 300 g \$3.99/ea
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EUROPEAN DELI

Columbus Roast Beef \$13.19/lb	Belmont German Ham \$5.49/lb	Green Olives Stuffed w/ Feta REG. \$9.09/lb	Green Cracked Olives REG. \$5.59/lb
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Voting in California's 2025 Special Election

How to Make Sure Your Ballot is Secure and Counted



Pictured is California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. Photo courtesy of the California Secretary of State

By Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
California Secretary of State

As voters across the state prepare to make their voices heard on Prop 50 — arguably one of the most important elections in California's history — it's essential their ballots are cast with confidence that their vote will be counted securely and on time.

There has been some misinformation surrounding ballots leading up to the Statewide Special Election on Nov. 4, and voters must understand the safeguards put in place to protect every ballot.

California ballots are designed with multiple layers of security. It is against the law to tamper with a ballot. Whether a voter chooses to vote by mail, drop off a ballot at a secure location, or vote in person, rules and regulations ensure ballots are not tampered with.

How to Vote Securely by Mail

Mail ballots are sent to every registered voter in the state. Each envelope is carefully tracked from the moment it's issued, and every ballot returned undergoes signature verification and inspection. Election officials check for any irregularities, such as damage to the envelope, or other signs it was compromised, before the ballot envelope is opened. If there's a red flag, the voter will be notified and corrective action taken.

To make sure a mail ballot is counted, it must be postmarked on or before Election Day, Nov. 4. In some areas, the U.S. Postal Service may not postmark mail until the following day, so it's recommended to

send ballots early. If mailing on Election Day, ask a postal employee at your local post office for a manual postmark to confirm it was mailed on time.

Secure Ballot Drop-Off

When returning a ballot in person, use only official, county-operated locations. Secure ballot drop boxes are constructed with tamper-resistant materials, locked, and anchored in place. Each box is regularly emptied by trained, bipartisan election staff following strict chain-of-custody procedures. Ballots can also be returned at any vote center, polling place, or county elections office, where election workers directly accept and track them through the county's system.

Voting Safely at Polling Places and Voting Centers

Voting in person is another secure and reliable option for California voters. Polling places and vote centers are staffed by trained election workers who follow strict procedures to verify each voter, issue the correct ballot, and ensure every vote is properly recorded.

Ballots cast in person are immediately placed into secure ballot boxes or scanned using approved voting equipment that is tested and certified before every election.

These locations also provide language assistance, replacement ballots if one was lost or damaged, and same-day voter registration when needed.

Still have Questions?

Voters who have questions about their ballots or the security of voting should go to a trusted source such as the Secretary of State's office, which offers voter hotlines in multiple languages including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Thai, and more. Another option is to visit your county elections office. A complete list can be found at sos.ca.gov/elections.

Additionally, the state provides tools to check when your ballot is received and counted, giving voters peace of mind and reinforcing the transparency of the process.

By taking the time to plan your vote, verify your registration, and use official information sources, you strengthen both your voice and the integrity of our elections. Make sure your voice is heard on Nov. 4. ★

Sacramento Ballet Offers Bold Visions, Timeless Classics

Sacramento Ballet News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Ballet highly anticipated 2025-26 season kicks off Oct. 24.

Following the triumph of the 70th Anniversary Season, this year promises an extraordinary mix of breathtaking artistry, innovative choreography and unforgettable performances. With the support of season sponsors Western Health Advantage and Dignity Health, the 2025-26 season invites audiences to witness the magic of both beloved classics and daring new works.

"Our 2024-25 season was a milestone for us as we celebrated the legacy of Sacramento Ballet while embracing bold, new dance works," said Board President Alyssa Paoletti. "With the 2025-26 season, we're continuing to build on that momentum by showcasing our dancers' exceptional talent, reimagining a classic fairytale and pushing the boundaries of ballet through collaborations with some of the world's most exciting choreographers."

The season lineup includes the following shows: "Connections" (Oct. 24 to Nov. 2), "Nutcracker" (Dec. 12 to Dec. 21), "Sleeping Beauty" (Feb. 13 to Feb. 15) "Visions" (March 20 to March 22) and Sacramento Ballet's annual "Beer & Ballet" (May 28 to May 31).

"It's always an honor to get to create on the company," said company artist Julia Feldman, who has been a member since 2010 and has choreographed numerous works on Sacramento Ballet. "I'm incredibly inspired by the artists in this company and excited to make ["Connections"] a piece that celebrates their strength, artistry and complexity."

Sacramento Ballet's beloved holiday tradition returns with a spectacular production of "Nutcracker" from Dec. 12 to Dec. 21, featuring live music by the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera. This magical performance is sure to



Sacramento Ballet Company artists Hiyori Ushikubo and Maxence Devaux will perform in "Connections" from Oct. 24 to Nov. 2. Photo by Tony Nguyen

enchant audiences of all ages. Sacramento Ballet's "Nutcracker" features the talents of hundreds of young dancers from across the capital region. Each year, these young dancers ensure that Sacramento Ballet's "Nutcracker" maintains a hometown feel as they dance the roles of shooting stars, candy canes, mice, toy soldiers, party children and more.

The season will culminate with Sacramento Ballet's annual "Beer & Ballet" performance from May 28 to May 31, where company artists step into the role of choreographer, creating original works on their fellow dancers. This truly unique experience offers a rare glimpse into the creative process while celebrating collaboration, artistry and community. Audience members will receive a complimentary drink from Bike Dog Brewing, adding a festive touch to this event.

Sacramento Ballet is more than a performing arts organization; it is an engine for growth, connection and vitality in California's capital. The arts generate significant economic activity, supporting local businesses, restaurants and hospitality industries while drawing visitors from across the state.

Beyond dollars and

cents, cultural institutions such as Sacramento Ballet increase the quality of life within their communities by fostering creativity, empathy and shared cultural experiences that bring residents together across backgrounds. As one of California's leading professional ballet companies, Sacramento Ballet proudly represents the region on local, national and international stages.

Sacramento Ballet's mission is to enhance the human condition through dance and to make it accessible to everyone. As the region's only professional dance company, Sacramento Ballet brings world-renowned dancers and choreographers to create groundbreaking work, while showcasing California's vibrant cultural landscape both locally and internationally.

Founded in 1954, Sacramento Ballet has remained a beacon of artistic excellence, offering innovative performances, educational programs and community outreach. With support from individual donors, corporations, foundations and government entities, Sacramento Ballet continues to inspire audiences through performances and initiatives that leave a lasting impact on the region. For more, visit sacballet.org. ★

Beanie Babies Needed for Kindergartners' Gifts

Continued from Page 1
Volunteers then make double-fleece blankets (about 50 inches by 60 inches) for all the youth, as well as a fleece pouch with a Beanie Baby in it to go with each blanket.

Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids gives these blankets and Beanie Babies to the children right before Christmas break. Some of the children live in their cars or in places without heat and this is all they get for Christmas. In

2024, Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids gave out more than 3,300 blankets and Beanie Babies in their kindergarten project, reaching 58 schools.

Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids is a non-profit organization that serves children in need from infants to 18-year-olds all year long. The kindergarten project is its special project each year.

This is the 12th year running this project and members hope to continue

doing it as long as they can get Beanie Babies.

Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids is always looking for new volunteers to make blankets all year round for children in need.

Like to knit, crochet, sew, quilt, make no-sew blankets and have run out of people to make gifts for?

We're looking for you! If you'd like more information, go to sacblankets4kids.com to sign up. ★

VOTE EARLY!

AVOID LINES

November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election **Vote Early and Vote by Mail**

All voters will be mailed a ballot

- Ballots will begin to arrive the week of October 6

You can return your ballot

- By Mail
- At an Official Ballot Drop Box
- At a Vote Center (starting October 25)

You can find a full list of Official Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations in your County Voter Information Guide or online at www.elections.saccounty.gov

Vote Early! Vote by Mail.

My Voter Portal (MVP)

- Check your registration status
- View your political party preference
- Update your language preference if other than English
- Track your Vote by Mail status
- Access your Remote Accessible Vote by Mail Ballot
- Locate Official Ballot Drop Boxes or Vote Centers near you
- View your voting history

Scan the QR code or visit myvoterportal.saccounty.gov

Free Mammograms for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Uninsured and underinsured members of the community are urged to act now

UC Davis Health News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. An estimated one in eight females will get breast cancer in their lifetime. Screening is key to catching breast cancer when it is most treatable.

The UC Davis Health Department of Radiology and UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center are once again teaming up to provide free mammograms for uninsured and underinsured women in the community. An additional screening day has been added to the schedule this year.

The free mammograms will be offered on Oct. 18, 19, 25 and 26. The screenings, by appointment only, will take place from 7:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the UC Davis Health Lawrence J. Ellison Ambulatory Care Center, 4860 Y St., Sacramento.

"Mammograms can show a



UC Davis Health is offering free mammograms on Oct. 18, Oct. 19, Oct. 25 and Oct. 26 in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Health

breast lump before it can be felt and can also show precancerous cells or other conditions," said UC Davis Health Department of Radiology Chief Elizabeth Morris. "Women should get regular screening mammograms to detect breast cancer annually, starting at age 40. Women younger than 40 who have

risk factors for breast cancer should ask their doctor if they should have a mammogram and how often."

Who is eligible for the free screening?

The mammograms are for females aged 40 to 74 who have not had a mammogram in the past year and are

not experiencing symptoms. Women with symptoms such as a lump, pain, swelling or discharge need a more advanced diagnostic mammogram.

"In Sacramento County, only 68 percent of eligible individuals are up to date on their breast cancer screening," said Marissa Bashore, health

education supervisor for UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center Office of Community Outreach and Engagement. "Regular screening mammography can help find breast cancer at an early stage when treatment is more likely to be successful. We urge all females over the age of 40 to get annual mammograms."

To make an appointment, call 916-734-8449 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Ask to book an appointment for a free Breast Cancer Awareness Month screening mammogram.

Language interpretation services are available. Appointments are required and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Appointments fill up quickly, so call early.

UC Davis Health has partnered with the community health center, WellSpace Health, to schedule additional diagnostic testing or follow-up care, if necessary. ★

State Parks Invites Public to Free Halloween Tours



Enjoy the Halloween Ball Mystery Tour at Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park. Reserve your free tour now at bit.ly/StanfordMansionHalloween. Photo courtesy of California State Parks 2025

California Department of Parks and Recreation News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Care to dance? California State Parks welcomes those who dare to Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park (SHP) for the Halloween Ball Mystery Tour.

Explore frightfully decorated rooms with dark tales of history and mystery as you make your way to the Halloween Ball. Costumes are encouraged. Be sure to check out photo opportunities out in the courtyard. Enjoy the mystery from Oct. 24 to Nov. 1.

Although this is a family-friendly event, some young visitors might find it a little too spooky.

Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park is located at 800 N St., Sacramento. Free tours are available from 1 to 8 p.m. during the Oct. 24 to Nov 1 season. On Oct. 27 to Oct. 29, daytime tours will only be available from 1 to 5 p.m.

Tours are free for all visitors but reservations are required. To RSVP, go online to parks.ca.gov/?page_id=31344.

Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park is an ADA accessible space. If you have questions or requests regarding accessibility, contact the park at (916) 324-9266.

The Leland Stanford Mansion is a stunning example of the splendor and elegance of the Victorian era in California. Originally built in 1856 by



Be prepared to be scared as you visit frightfully-decorated rooms with dark tales of history and mystery at the Leland Stanford Mansion. Courtesy of California State Parks, 2025

Gold Rush merchant Sheldon Fogus, the mansion was later purchased and remodeled twice by Leland and Jane Stanford. Leland Stanford served as California governor from 1862 to 1863. The mansion served as the office of three governors during the turbulent 1860s for Stanford, Fredrick Low and Henry Haight.

After a 14-year, \$22-million restoration and rehabilitation, the tour of the 19,000-square-foot mansion will also feature 17-foot ceilings, gilded mirrors and exquisitely detailed carved moldings, beautifully restored woodwork, elegant 19th-century crystal and bronze light fixtures, historic paintings, re-created carpeting and draperies based on photographs from the 1870s to match the original interior design, original period furnishings that belonged to the Stanfords and 19th-century style gardens outside. ★

California FFA Foundation Names New Board Members

California Future Farmers of America News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The California Future Farmers of America Foundation (FFA) has added two agricultural leaders, Shannon Douglass and Mel Machado, to its board of directors. Their leadership, experience and commitment to agriculture and youth development will further strengthen the foundation's mission of supporting the more than 108,000 Future Farmers of America members throughout California.

Since 2023, Douglass has led the California Farm Bureau as president, following six years of service on the board's executive committee as the first vice-president. A Glenn County farmer and co-founder of CalAgJobs, a company dedicated to connecting agricultural students and professionals with career opportunities, Douglass combines industry expertise with a strong passion for youth development.

An East Nicolaus Future Farmers of America Chapter alumna, Douglass held numerous leadership roles as a student, including chapter president and sectional officer. Today, her California Farm Bureau leadership centers on supporting California's farmers and ranchers, while her service on the foundation board will help cultivate the next generation of agricultural leaders.

"I'm grateful every day for what Future Farmers of America gave me: opportunities to lead, compete and grow," Douglass said. "Now, as a Future Farmers of America mom and a



Shannon Douglass, California Farm Bureau president, is joining the California Future Farmers of America Foundation as a new board member. Photo courtesy of California FFA Foundation

foundation board member, I have the chance to give back to ensure this program continues to inspire and prepare the next generation of farmers, ranchers and agricultural advocates."

Machado, the chief agricultural officer at Blue Diamond Growers, serves as a strategic partner on all aspects of agricultural operations. Machado has spent more than three decades at Blue Diamond Growers and has been actively involved in the industry and community. He has served as a director on the Almond Board of California and as a member of the University of California Integrated Pest Management Advisory Council and the Board of Directors of Opportunity Stanislaus. Machado is also an alumnus of Livingston Future Farmers of America, earning his State Future Farmers of America degree.

"I am so proud to serve as a member of the Future Farmers of America Foundation Board of Directors," Machado said. "The Future Farmers of America provides students with the best leadership training and skills development of



Mel Machado, chief agricultural officer at Blue Diamond Growers, is joining the California Future Farmers of America Foundation as a new board member. Photo courtesy of California FFA Foundation

any function in California's schools and provides a solid foundation for California's students as they prepare for their careers."

Douglass and Machado will help guide the California Future Farmers of America Foundation and ensure its resources are invested in preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders.

"The California Future Farmers of America Foundation is honored to welcome Mel Machado and Shannon Douglass as our newest directors," said Emily Rooney, California Future Farmers of America Foundation chair. "Their professional expertise and deep commitment to our mission and the agriculture industry will be invaluable as we advance the foundation's work and expand its impact. Their involvement strengthens our collective ability to serve and support all facets of agricultural education."

The new members join 25 business and industry representatives, nine education and program oversight representatives and staff members who represent the California Future Farmers of America Foundation board. ★

Property Tax Postponement Program Filing Period Announced

California State Controller's Office News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - State Controller Malia M. Cohen announced that applications for property tax postponement are now being processed.

California's Property Tax Postponement (PTP) Program, administered by controller Cohen, allows eligible homeowners who are seniors, blind or have a disability to postpone payment of property taxes on their primary residence.

In the 2024-25 tax year, California homeowners were able to postpone more than \$6.8 million in residential property taxes. Over the last few years, eligibility for tax deferral has been expanded several times by the addition of manufactured homes and adjustments to the income limit. This year, the household income limit has been raised to \$55,181, reaching more seniors and Californians with disabilities. Household income for this Property Tax Postponement cycle will be based on 2024

household income.

"For many seniors and Californians with disabilities, keeping up with rising housing costs can be overwhelming," Cohen said. "The Property Tax Postponement Program provides real relief, helping people stay in their homes, maintain stability and preserve the communities they've helped build. By expanding eligibility, we're ensuring that more Californians can access the support they need to live with dignity and peace of mind."

Property Tax Postponement

funding is limited. Applications will be processed in the order they are received, starting from Oct. 1. The final filing deadline for the current tax year is Feb. 10, 2026. Participants must reapply each year and demonstrate they continue to meet eligibility requirements. When an applicant is approved, a lien will be placed on the real property or a security agreement will be filed with the Department of Housing and Community Development for a manufactured home, until the account is paid in full.

Applications and additional program details can be found online, by calling 800-952-5661 or email at postponement@sco.ca.gov.

Property owners affected by California fires or other California disasters might be eligible for another tax relief program that allows for reappraisal of damaged or destroyed property. For more information on this program, visit the California Board of Equalization's disaster relief website at boe.ca.gov/prop-taxes/disaster-relief.htm. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Well Kings fans, the preseason is behind us, and there is one difference between last year's results and this year. Thanks to a stirring 117-116 win over the Los Angeles Lakers Friday night the Kings will enter the regular season on a winning note.

Fans will remember that one year ago with Mike Brown at the helm, the Kings ran through the preseason without a single win and finished the first 20 games of the regular season with a sorry win/loss record. That tepid beginning would be a catalyst that would eventually lead to the dismissal of coach Brown and bring on Doug Christie as the interim head coach.

Now one win certainly doesn't portend a definite turnaround, but winning never hurts, and what came out of the win over L.A. was very telling.

After a less than stellar beginning for newly acquired point guard Dennis Schroder, the much-traveled guard broke out of a scoring slump with a rousing 25 points to lead all scorers on the Kings team. Moreover, Schroder looked like the veteran NBA point guard he is, and was impressive the way he managed the game and distributed the ball.

Certainly, it's a huge relief for Doug Christie in light of losing forward Keegan Murray for probably the next 6 weeks, and Domantas Sabonis pulling a hamstring that will limit his action entering the upcoming season.

Fortunately, the injury to Sabonis does not appear to be severe, so there is optimism that he will be back sooner rather than later.

The prevailing question going into the Laker game was who will fill the vacated minutes of Keegan Murray, and can the Kings find any kind of a flow as it relates to their offensive schemes? Although the Kings competed from start to finish, that question wasn't completely answered in the one-point win over the hometown Lakers, but we at least got a glimpse of what might be going through the coaches mind.

Isaac Jones finally got some quality minutes logging 23, and played solidly with 10 points, 3 rebounds, and 2 assists off the bench.

Dario Saric added 10 points of his own and 6 rebounds. Dario played 25 minutes

and while not sterling, was solid on both ends of the floor.

Keon Ellis returned to form with a stirring 20 points in 26 minutes of action, and it appears likely that these 3 players will be called upon to fill in for the largest portion of minutes replacing Keegan Murray.

The key question is whether Doug Christie can turn the injury to Keegan Murray into something positive, and that would be using these minutes wisely to bring on players that have the most to give.

I continue to be an advocate of Isaac Jones, largely because he has never been given enough court time to see his full repertoire, and given his size and length, Isaac is difficult for opposing teams to guard around the rim. He is particularly adept at finishing lobbs and has a soft touch in the low post.

Dario Saric has been around longer, and I think the Kings know what they can expect from him, but let's use this time wisely to find out who else we have that can be a key contributor.

Another bright spot was the play of 2nd round draft choice Max Raynaud, who added 9 points and 2 boards in only 16 minutes, and is appearing to be more and more comfortable with every game.

Not be overlooked is the stellar play of Nique Clifford who has become the bastion of consistency. Nique played 33 minutes giving the Kings a much needed 13 points, 5 boards, and 7 big assists. Clifford has played the preseason as a standout on both ends of the floor and is giving everyone notice that this rookie is NBA ready.

Can Kings fans get excited with only one win to show for their preseason endeavors? You bet they can!

Friday night's game was a win over a quality team led by svelte Luca Doncic, and it was accomplished with Sabonis, Murray, and Malik Monk on the sidelines!

Don't underestimate the contribution that this future hall-of-famer, Russell Westbrook, has to offer, and if he can fit in with his new teammates, Westbrook could be the unforeseen x-factor that the Kings so badly need.

All the best!

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

Social Security Matters

How Do I Navigate the Social Security Maze?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am a woman, turning 65 this October (2025). It seems that deciding when to claim Social Security is complicated. I would like more information to navigate through this maze. Thank you.

Signed: Ready to Claim
Dear Ready: Deciding when to claim Social Security can be challenging, but we hope to make it a bit easier for you. You can, of course, call us at any time to speak to one of our certified Social Security Advisors, but I'll share some pertinent information here as well.

Be aware that at age 65, you have not yet reached your Social Security (SS) full retirement age (FRA). Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67, and that is when you can get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. If you claim SS at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced by about 13.3% from your age 67 entitlement (a permanent reduction). If you wait a bit more and claim at age 66 the reduction would be about 6.7%. To get 100%

of your "primary insurance amount" you should wait until age 67 to claim. Note you can also wait longer than your FRA and earn Delayed Retirement Credits up to age 70, when your monthly amount would be about 24% more than your FRA entitlement.

If you are still working, at age 65 you will also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn when collecting SS benefits before your full retirement age. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 (changes annually) and if you earn more than that, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. There is also a special rule for the first calendar year you are collecting early benefits, which will result in you not getting benefits for any month your work earnings are more than \$1950 after your early benefits start. So, if you claim SS at age 65 and continue to work, you won't get any SS benefits in any 2025 month thereafter that you earn more than the monthly limit (unless your total annual; 2025 earnings are less than the annual limit). FYI, the earnings limit no longer applies once you attain your full retirement age.

In the end, deciding when you should claim Social Security should consider your need for

Social Security money, your life expectancy, your plans for working, and your marital status. If you are (or were) married, you might be eligible for a spousal (or ex-spouse) benefit. You may also want to peruse the Social Security Q&A section at our website www.SocialSecurityReport.org. So, as you have already discerned, deciding when to claim Social Security can be confusing, but we are always here to assist you as needed. You can either call us directly at 1.888.750.2622 or email your specific Social Security questions to us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. In either case, we will be most happy to help you decide when to claim, based on your unique personal circumstances.

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Still No Progress After Newsom's Housing Pledge



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

Eight years ago, as he began his campaign for governor, Gavin Newsom described fixing the state's chronic housing shortage as a moral imperative.

"This is a question of who we are," Newsom wrote in 2017. "Housing is a fundamental human need — let's not forget the human face behind the dire statistics."

"Housing instability can cause genuine mental and physical adversity," he added, "and lead to insufferable decisions: no one should have to choose between paying rent or buying groceries. Knowing that too many Californians face this kind of anxiety breaks my heart."

Newsom pledged that as governor he would lead the effort to develop 3.5 million new housing units by 2025, "because our solutions must be as bold as the problem is big."

"I realize building 3.5 million new housing units is an audacious goal," Newsom continued, "but it's achievable. There is no silver bullet to solve this crisis. We need to attack the problem on multiple fronts by generating more funding for affordable housing, implementing regulatory reform and creating new financial incentives

for local jurisdictions that produce housing while penalizing those that fall short."

The 3.5 million-unit goal

was never anywhere near realistic. It would have required increasing construction from about 100,000 units a year when he made the pledge to more than 400,000, doubling peak production in this century.

That said, Newsom has over the almost seven years of his governorship, pretty much, done what he said he'd do to increase housing. He has signed multiple bills meant to speed up housing permits by eliminating state and local legal impediments, capped by two major measures this year.

Newsom signed Assembly Bill 130, which makes it more difficult to use the California Environmental Quality Act as a tool to block housing projects, and Senate Bill 79, which overrides local government land use authority to authorize multi-family, multi-story housing projects near transit stops.

Meanwhile Newsom's Department of Housing and Community Development has set statewide goals of 180,000 new units a year and 2.5 million units over eight years. It also imposed ambitious quotas on local governments to designate land for residential development and cracked down on communities that impede multi-family projects for low- and moderate-income families.

The latter effort responds to the most acute aspect of California's shortage — housing the nearly 35% of Californians who are living in poverty or near-poverty, mostly due to housing costs that are among the nation's highest.

With the enactment of AB 130 and SB 79, the looming conclusion of Newsom's governorship and the

likelihood that he will run for president, it's time to appraise results.

Has the production of housing in California substantially increased? Unfortunately, no.

At the time Newsom made his pledge, about 100,000 units were being built each year, with the net increase substantially lower due to losses by fire or destruction. Eight years later, it's virtually unchanged, no matter which authority one consults.

The Census Bureau reports that between 2019, when Newsom took office, and 2024 new housing permits in California ranged from a high of 120,780 units in 2022 to a low of 101,546 last year. Newsom's own budget agrees with the Census Bureau's data for the same period and projects future construction through 2028 at 100,000 to 104,000 units a year.

Clearly, even though systemic barriers to housing construction have been eased, many developers have been unable to see housing in California as a good investment. The COVID-19 pandemic, which had massive economic impacts, and increases in interest rates to battle inflation also have had an effect.

Housing is far more complicated than Newsom depicted it when he made his promises. He gets a 'B' for effort — and an 'F' for results.

Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★



The "ceasefire now" crowd finally got its ceasefire, although not the way it hoped.

Israel and Hamas have agreed to stop the fighting in Gaza, while the terror group will release all Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

There's always a chance the agreement falls apart. Still, it isn't creating jubilation from all the people who have been braying for Israel to end the war. There are two reasons -- one is that the deal is favorable for Israel, and the other is that the deal's architect is a president of the United States whom, the fiercest advocates of a ceasefire hate.

If it holds, the agreement is the biggest victory yet for Donald Trump's hyperactive, transactional diplomacy.

A lifetime of maneuvering for advantage in the real estate and media worlds in New York City -- searching for and using every ounce of leverage -- was better preparation for high-level international diplomacy than if Trump had spent a lifetime on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Whereas "international opinion" believed we had to isolate and cut off Israel, Trump armed the Jewish state, bombed Iran and squeezed Qatar to bring Hamas to heel -- and it worked. The deal is a tribute to avoiding the well-worn ruts of Middle East diplomacy.

The Gonzo Brilliance of Trump's Gaza Diplomacy

As for Israel, it needed to find a way out of a conflict that had become a PR disaster. Getting the hostages back is an important national goal, even if the exchange is lopsided (these swaps always are). Meanwhile, Israel will pull back to an agreed-upon line, but still hold an estimated 53% of Gaza as a security buffer. Even if things eventually go south again, Israel has bought time by decimating Hamas and significantly diminishing the threats from Iran and Hezbollah.

It is certainly true that Phase 2 of the deal, which is supposed to disarm Hamas and establish a technocratic Palestinian government in Gaza, will be much more difficult to pull off. If it were to come to fruition, though, it would be transformative for Israel's security and for the lives of Gazans.

There will presumably be no speeches at Hollywood awards ceremonies crediting Trump for his peace-making. Among other things, there's too much cognitive dissonance in saying, "I think President Trump is a dangerous fascist -- but appreciate how bound and determined he is to end conflicts around the world."

Trump is a gonzo version of standard U.S. foreign policy. All American presidents want to make peace in the Middle East, and all want, whether they say it or not, to win the Nobel Peace Prize. What's different about Trump is his methods, and his openness about

seeking a call from the Nobel committee.

A hallmark of his policymaking at its best is an unwillingness to take "no" for an answer, an unremitting sense of urgency and a creativity that is considered unrealistic or reckless by conventional metrics. We saw it during his first term with his success in securing the border, with the historic achievement of Operation Warp Speed and with the Abraham Accords.

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world," George Bernard Shaw maintained, "the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man."

In this sense, Trump is usefully unreasonable. Everyone around the world needs to be a little afraid of him, while he is willing to talk to anyone or consider anything. His optimism can be misplaced (the Ukraine war was a tougher nut than he thought) and his highly personalized diplomacy can misfire (he got unnecessarily crosswise with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi), but he can also prove all his doubters wrong.

The Washington cliché is that there is no limit to the good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit. Trump shows, to the contrary, that sometimes there is no limit to the good you can do if you want all the credit.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

Expanding Trail Network Supports Cleaner, Safer Travel



Shared-use path projects are helping to expand the city's network of connected, low-stress routes that make it easier for residents to travel without a car. Photo courtesy of the City of Sacramento

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento City Council on Oct. 14 received an update on the city's shared-use path network, the expanding system of paved, off-street routes for people walking, bicycling and scootering throughout Sacramento.

The Department of Public Works shared progress on planned and ongoing shared-use path projects that are helping expand the City's network of connected, low-stress routes that make it easier for residents to travel without a car.

"The city's investment in shared-use paths supports our commitment to building a healthier, more connected Sacramento," said Jennifer Donlon Wyant, the city's Mobility and Sustainability Division manager. "These projects make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to

get where they need to go – whether that's school, work or recreation – while helping us meet our climate goals."

Sacramento currently manages about 88 miles of existing shared-use paths and has identified an additional 113 miles for future development. The network is prioritized through the city's Transportation Priorities Plan, which focuses on improving air quality, access, health and equity while maintaining infrastructure as it grows.

City staff shared that work continues on the Two Rivers Trail and the Sacramento River Parkway, two major projects that will eventually link neighborhoods along the American and Sacramento rivers. When complete, the trails will provide new connections to parks, schools, jobs and other destinations across the city.

Each new mile of shared-use path adds

approximately \$31,000 per year in maintenance costs for pavement, landscaping and park ranger support: a challenge as the network expands and the city continues to seek ongoing funding.

Shared-use paths align with Sacramento's 2040 General Plan and Streets for People Plan, which prioritize safety, sustainability and equitable access to transportation options. Transportation accounts for more than half of the city's greenhouse gas emissions, and expanding the network of off-street, low-stress paths helps reduce emissions while promoting health and local economic activity.

City officials said shared-use paths aren't just about transportation but also creating great places. Walking and biking on these paths adds to Sacramento's sense of community and helps to make it a more connected, enjoyable place to live. ★



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SacRT Launches Transit Connect

Sacramento Regional Transit News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) recently launched the Transit Connect app, a new regional fare payment system that gives riders a faster, easier and more flexible way to pay for transit.

Riders can purchase and activate tickets anytime, using their smartphone's

Transit Connect app, eliminating the need for cash, paper tickets and ticket machines.

Transit Connect's first phase launches with SacRT's full-fare mobile ticketing only. Discount fare options and Yobus fare products are scheduled to be added in early November. This first phase introduces mobile ticketing, along with rider-friendly features such as stored value wallet to

load funds directly in the app and group ticketing to purchase multiple fares at once.

Future upgrades will expand the Transit Connect app to include additional transit partner integrations and add exciting new features, such as scan-to-pay for faster boarding, fare capping so you don't pay more than the daily max and the ability to load cash at fare vending machines and convenience stores.

"SacRT is proud to launch the Transit Connect app, which will make it easier than ever for people to travel throughout the Sacramento region," said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. "Our riders deserve a seamless, modern experience that makes it easier to connect to the entire region, and the Transit Connect app provides exactly that."

Powered by Masabi, a global leader in mobile

fare payment solutions, the Transit Connect app lays the groundwork for a seamless and unified transit payment system for the Sacramento region.

"Mobile ticketing is transforming public transit worldwide by putting convenience and simplicity first," said Masabi CEO Brian Zanghi.

"We're excited to partner with SacRT to deliver Transit Connect, helping riders across the

Sacramento region access a modern and connected experience."

To use the Transit Connect app, riders show their activated ticket to a bus operator or fare inspector.

For riders currently using Connect Card (including state workers), full integration is expected as part of phase two in 2026.

The Transit Connect app is available for download in the App Store and Google Play.

For more, visit sacrt.com/transitconnect. ★

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 Dec. 14. 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.

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 print-making 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 - Freewheelers Car Club hosts a car show full of vintage luxury from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, 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.

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, 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 of media and artists. This art makes a statement every year.

Our galleries are free and open to the public. Details at sacfinearts.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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Sacramento Continues Progress on Al Fresco Outdoor Dining Initiative

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento's Al Fresco Dining Program continues to evolve as city staff recently provided an update to the city council on how the initiative is strengthening small businesses, improving streetscapes and activating public space across the city.

Originally launched in 2020 to help restaurants stay open during the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has since become a long-term strategy to promote local business vitality, take advantage of Sacramento's favorable climate and create more lively, walkable corridors.

The program, made permanent by the city council in 2022, allows restaurants to build or expand outdoor dining areas on sidewalks,



The Al Fresco Dining Program has since become a long-term strategy to promote local business vitality, take advantage of Sacramento's favorable climate and create more lively, walkable corridors. Photo courtesy of City of Sacramento

in parking spaces and on private property using pre-approved design templates and a streamlined permitting process.

These designs include options for simple,

mid-range and premium patio layouts, all meeting city standards for safety, accessibility and aesthetics.

"We've worked side by side with business owners, design consultants and

neighborhood groups to ensure that Al Fresco is not only vibrant and inviting, but also safe, accessible and sustainable," said Staci Kranitz, parking manager with the Department of

Public Works.

Since the permanent program's adoption, 16 Al Fresco patios have been constructed and another five are under construction. An additional 21 applications are currently under review.

In total, more than 150 outdoor sidewalk cafés operate within the public right-of-way throughout the central city. Those numbers include legacy patios that were established before the formal Al Fresco program.

City staff are working to identify and inventory outdoor dining areas across all neighborhoods to ensure consistent design standards, safety and long-term maintenance citywide.

To support local restaurants in creating new outdoor dining spaces and transitioning temporary setups into permanent installations, the

city offered grants of up to \$20,000 for eligible expenses such as design, construction and permitting. Between January and September 2023, the city received 87 applications and awarded \$365,000 in grants.

The funding helped to create 11 patios in the public right-of-way, nine on private lots and assisted at least 10 restaurants in converting temporary patios into permanent ones.

Moving forward, staff will continue outreach and technical support for businesses, conduct an inventory of older outdoor patios to bring them into compliance with new design standards and increase public awareness of available resources.

The city also plans to measure community and business impacts and adjust design guidelines as needed. ★

Judge Dismisses Indictment Against UC Davis Egghead Vandals

Yolo County District Attorney News Release

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Judge Sonia Cortés of the Yolo County Superior Court dismissed a grand jury indictment against defendants Nathan Orr, (32), Lyndra Dasilva (32) and Cheyenne Xiong (22), all from Davis, on Oct. 14.

The indictment alleged that on May 24, 2024, conspirators Orr, Dasilva and Xiong spray painted University of California, Davis' famed Egghead statues, as well as many other buildings and signs, as part of a coordinated vandalism attack across the campus.

The vandals' messages criticized the Israel-Palestine conflict and UC Davis

leadership.

UC Davis Police Department officers captured Dasilva and Xiong fleeing the scene of the crime, according to the District Attorney's office, and the crimes resulted in more than \$4,200 in damages. UC Davis police forwarded the case to the District Attorney's Office and requested formal charges.

On July 19, 2024, a criminal Grand Jury of Yolo County citizens indicted Orr, Dasilva and Xiong on charges of felony vandalism and felony conspiracy; both Dasilva and Xiong were additionally indicted on misdemeanor charges of resisting, obstructing or delaying a peace officer.

On Oct. 14, Cortes dismissed the

indictment against all defendants, over the objections of the D.A., citing their willingness to pay restitution, their lack of criminal record and 12 hours of community service they had each voluntarily completed.

In addition, an official representative from UC Davis indicated that community service that included an understanding of efforts undertaken to maintain the statutes would be beneficial and that the university did not object to a resolution to the case that fell outside the criminal justice system.

The District Attorney's Office consistently opposed the judge's decision to dismiss the case, arguing that it was an illegal court diversion. ★

"The judge's decision to entirely dismiss the felony indictment of the grand jury was unprecedented in my experience," District Attorney Jeff Reising said. "Judges are not generally authorized to unilaterally divert criminals indicted by the grand jury. We believe that Judge Cortes' decision was improper.

"Moreover, the decision by the official UC Davis representative to recommend against a criminal conviction flies in the face of their original request and referral for criminal prosecution and creates a dangerous precedent for future cases of such conduct, suggesting similar criminal behavior at UC Davis will be treated with kid gloves. This outcome is not good for public safety in our communities." ★

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Republic FC to Open 2025 Playoffs

USL Championship Playoffs at Home on National TV

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - This November, Republic FC's quest to lift its second Championship trophy begins as the club begins play in the 2025 USL Championship Playoffs presented by Terminix.

The Indomitable Club has secured a home match for the opening round and will host a Western Conference Quarterfinal match on Nov. 2 at Heart Health Park. The opponent will be determined following the conclusion of the regular season on Oct. 25 and additional details regarding kickoff will be announced in the near future.

The general public on-sale tickets began Oct. 16 at SacRepublicFC.com and seats start at just \$25. Season ticket members have priority access to purchase additional seats at a discounted price before any remaining seats are released to the public. To stay up to date on the latest playoff ticket news, supporters can text



Republic FC's 2025 playoff campaign is sponsored by Sentivo Vineyards & Winery. The partners will team up for a variety of fan and community engagement opportunities throughout the postseason, including the club's Week of Service leading up to the Quarterfinal match on Nov. 2. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

"PLAYOFFS" to 916-755-6334.

Fans are encouraged to secure their seats early as Republic FC prepares to host its first playoff contest since 2023. The club has already seen four sellouts this year, including the USL Jägermeister

Cup Final on Oct. 4 and has welcomed more than 10,000 fans in each of its last four postseason games at Heart Health Park.

The USL (United Soccer League) Championship Playoffs begin with the Conference

Quarterfinals the first weekend of November. The top eight regular season finishers from each conference qualify for the postseason and will enter a single-elimination bracket leading to the Final. Hosting rights for each match are

determined by each club's regular season record. For more information about the postseason, visit SacRepublicFC.com/Playoffs.

Republic FC's 2025 playoff campaign is sponsored by Sentivo Vineyards & Winery. The partners will team up for a variety of fan and community engagement opportunities throughout the postseason, including the club's Week of Service leading up to the Quarterfinal match on Nov. 2.

Together with fans, partners, and staff, the Republic FC will offer more than 250 hours of community service throughout the week starting on Monday, Oct. 27. Additional information, including service projects and registration, will be announced later in the week.

The match will also kick off the club's sixth annual Winter Wishlist donation drive, presented by Downtown Ford. Republic FC fans are invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy to the match for the children and families of the Robla School District in North Sacramento. ★

Women's Golf Ties for Eighth at Golf Iconic Classic



The Hornets finished tied for eighth place out of 19 teams in the tournament with scores of 284-285-301-870 at the Golf Iconic Classic on Oct. 15 at the New Mexico State University Golf Course. Boise State won the team title after finishing 13-under par. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sophia Lee's even-par round of 72 led the California State University, Sacramento women's golf team during the final round of the Golf Iconic Classic on Oct. 15 at the New Mexico State University Golf Course.

The Sacramento State Hornets finished tied for eighth place out of 19 teams in the tournament with scores of 284-285-301-870. Boise State won the team title after finishing 13-under par. Northern Arizona stormed into second place in the team standings at 7-under while UC Irvine (5-under), Santa Clara (1-under) finished third and fourth.

Lee opened the third round on the seventh hole and parred her first three holes. Her first bogey came on the 10th hole and was later matched by a birdie on the par-4 14th. Lee moved to 2-over following

bogeys on numbers 16 and 18 but was able to finish even following birdies on the par-4 first and fifth holes.

Lee tied for 36th overall at 73-75-72-220.

The Hornets also counted rounds of 75 from Tova Hatton and 77s from Darla May Dela Torre and Jocelyn Tseng toward the team total.

Overall, Ella Kraft and Dela Torre tied for 22nd place for the highest finish on the Hornets. Kraft shot 70-66-81-217 while Torre had rounds of 69-71-77-217. Lee and Ashley Koga tied for 36th, Florencia Dufey was 43rd, Tseng 46th and Hatton 65th.

Sacramento State will quickly return to action as it competes at the Rainbow Wahine Invitational on Oct. 20 to Oct. 22, after press time, in Hawaii. The tournament will be the final event for the Hornets members during their schedule's fall portion. ★

Former Beaver Joseph 'Pey' Brito Dies



Joseph "Pey" Brito and his family were Beavers through and through. His wife, Nicole, played softball at American River College. Brito was the father of three children. Photo courtesy of American River College Athletics

American River College Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Joseph "Pey" Brito, a former Beaver from Delta High School, died two weeks ago. Pey redshirted at American River College in 2000 and then played second base for the Beavers baseball team in 2001 and 2002.

In 2002, he helped lead the Beavers to a second-place finish in the Bay Valley East Conference, as he hit .300 with five doubles and 14 RBI (runs batted in) while playing rock solid defense.

"Pey was a really good human being, a great father, friend and teammate," said

current American River College head coach Doug Jumelet. "He played the game hard and with passion and had the respect of all of his teammates and coaches. He was a leader on the field and off. He was full of energy and we will all miss that, especially his family."

Former head coach Kevin Higgins when Brito was at American River College, said that he saw Brito at the gym a couple of months ago and Brito was very upbeat and spiritual, although he wasn't in great health due to cancer.

Pey and his family were Beavers through and through. His wife, Nicole, played softball at American River College. He was the father of three children. ★

Athletics Director Rocko DeLuca's High Fives

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Caden Pinnick racks up weekly awards following a performance against No. 14 Northern Arizona that earned No. 6 UC Davis football a victory on homecoming. The red-shirt freshman quarterback added to his weekly awards being named the FCS Nation Radio National Offensive Player of the Week.

Pinnick was also named the Big Sky Offensive Player of the Week following the win against Northern Arizona, his third-straight such honor which tied a conference record.

The Aggie signal caller became the first Big Sky honoree to earn three-straight offensive player of the week honors since Dalton Sneed (Montana) earned the honor three times in a row in 2019. The difference between the two is that Pinnick has done it against three conference opponents, while Sneed played two conference opponents with his streak starting in the non-conference portion of Montana's 2019 schedule.

Pinnick shined in another Aggie victory throwing for a career-high, 348 passing yards while throwing five touchdowns, the most by an Aggie since 2018. Pinnick was also lights out going 25-for-29 to finish with a completion percentage of 86.2 percent. Over three games, Pinnick has gone 62-for-82, thrown for 949 yards, tossed 10 touchdowns and thrown no interceptions to lead the Aggies to 3-0 start in Big Sky play for the second-straight season.

As of Oct. 15, it was the fifth time this season that Pinnick earned weekly honors and the second time he earned national honors. He was named the Stats Perform National Freshman Player of the Week back in week one and he earned Big Sky Offensive Player of the Week honors after the Aggies knocked off Weber State, following the road win at Cal Poly and after the recent victory on homecoming over Northern Arizona.

Donor Impact – Willett Family

The Willett family's bond with UC Davis Athletics runs deep, rooted in both tradition and personal legacy. Genia Willett, daughter of long-time legendary UC Davis head coach Woody Wilson, and her husband, Jim, were recently recognized as the Champion Aggies Club Donors of the Game during UC Davis football's Big Sky opener against Weber State alongside their daughter and son-in-law, Tom and Kim Windall.

"We support athletics because of the high caliber of the program and the student-athletes," Genia said. "We also like to support athletics to honor my father, Woody Wilson, who put his

heart and soul into the track and field program."

Their philanthropy has helped fuel scholarships, facility upgrades, and opportunities that empower student-athletes to excel both on the field and in the classroom. For the Willetts, each donation is a way to celebrate excellence and remember a man who gave everything to elevate the program.

Today, the Willett family's involvement is visible across campus, from the stands at Aggie football and basketball games to the track that bears the late Woody Wilson's name.

Their passion continues to inspire others in the Aggie community, exemplifying how

one family's loyalty and love for a university can shape its legacy for generations.

Staff Spotlight – Jason Grace

If something runs smoothly at UC Davis athletics, chances are Jason Grace had a hand in it. As manager of Facilities and Operations, he's the steady presence making sure every field, court and locker room is ready to go, no matter what the day brings.

"My day can consist of stringing a lacrosse goal, setting up for a home game, fixing a locker or hanging a TV in a coach's office," Grace said. "I like not always knowing what my day is going to look like. Game days are the things I take the most pride in. It's not just the game but also the prep before and after the game."

After more than 20 years as a coach, Grace brings that same mindset into his work.

"Even though I'm not the coach, I still want everything set up the way I'd want it to be on game day," he said. "It's also helped me notice when something looks off and make sure it gets fixed so our coaches don't have to worry about it."

"Jason is one of those people who makes everyone around him better," said Director of Athletics Rocko DeLuca. "His commitment, reliability and pride in his work embody what UC Davis athletics stands for. We're incredibly grateful for the difference he makes every day across our department."

Team Spotlight – Volleyball

With wins over UC San Diego and Long Beach State two weekends ago, UC Davis women's volleyball is off to a historic start to their season.

"I think the team is playing with a ton of tenacity and courage, and it's been a ton of fun to watch them play over the start of the season," said head coach Dan Conners. "We're still early in the season and there are a lot of things to grow and get better at but I really like the way we are approaching growth and change and the way we compete."

We compete at a really high level and I really appreciate the team and their effort in that. ★

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