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Pocket News

VOL 34 • ISSUE 21

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NOVEMBER 7, 2025

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Piskoti, Beloved Local Artist, Dies at 81

By Mark Hanzlik

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Early in October as the fall weather began to cool in the Sacramento Valley, I stood close to Jim in his fourth-floor hospital bed and looked out a window at a scene that would have inspired him to splash paint on canvas and maybe add his own unique kinetic touches.

The spot was a flat landscape of East Sacramento, teeming with green tree-tops against a cloudless brilliant blue sky. The ancient Alhambra Water Tower and a familiar McDonald's sign were bursting up from an array of businesses, and most importantly in the foreground, a vast freeway structure filled with the daily movement of vehicles.

One week later, on Oct. 10, Jim Piskoti, age 81, died at home in his studio, with his wife Carol and others gathered in support.

Jim was an art instructor and a figurative artist who by his own account considered himself an outsider, preferring to work in isolation. He produced works

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Pictured is Jim Piskoti looking at his painting "City of Gold." Courtesy photo

Tunnel to Towers Races Through Land Park



Firefighters participated in last year's Tunnel to Towers race. Photo courtesy of Tunnel to Towers Foundation

By Abbey Wicks

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Nov. 1, about 300 participants ran in Tunnel to Towers Foundation's fifth annual 5k Run & Walk in William Land Park.

The race series, which takes place each year in cities across the United States including New York City and Fort Worth, raises funds and awareness for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, whose mission is to honor the sacrifice of New York City firefighter and father Stephen Siller who gave up his life to save others in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Tunnel to Towers provides mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children.

In recent years, the foundation has expanded beyond helping families impacted by 9/11, to all first responder and military families with young children.

Michele Schroeder, Sacramento's Tunnel to Towers race director, directed the Sacramento race for the second year after stepping into the role last year.

Schroeder said she and the rest of the volunteer team, including her husband, fire captain Matt Schroeder, were hesitant at first to take on the responsibility after the previous director stepped down.

"(We felt like) we don't know what we're doing," Schroeder said.

After three phone calls from the previous director, Schroeder accepted the position as race director, with just nine weeks to spare before last year's Sacramento race.

A full year of planning and preparation went into this year's event. Tunnel to Towers partnered with Capitol Road Race Management to time the event, drawing more dedicated runners, as well

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Honoring Heroes, Respecting Valor



*Veterans
Day Area
Events
Highlighted*

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Once a year, the nation pauses to honor and recognize the sacrifices of those who have served to protect the United States. Veterans Day, observed annually on Nov. 11, marks the armistice that ended World War I in 1918 at the "11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month."

Home to California's Capitol, the Sacramento region flies its flags high for this important federal holiday by hosting events for veteran residents and their families. Several organizations are also paying their respects through free or discounted activities offering special opportunities for active-duty service members and veterans.

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The California Automobile Museum will offer free admission to veterans and active-duty service members Monday, Nov. 10, during its regular hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 2200 Front St. Photo courtesy of California Automobile Museum

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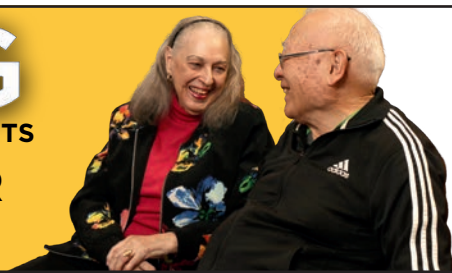
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Pictured is Jim Piskoti's "Convenience Store." Courtesy photo

Sound Business Summit Offers Free Workshops



Department of Sound, a creative economy initiative supported by the City of Sacramento's Office of Arts and Culture, is hosted at Shattered Records in Midtown. This November, the initiative is hosting a free summit for aspiring musicians in the region. Photo courtesy of Department of Sound

Department of Sound News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Department of Sound, a creative economy initiative supported by the City of Sacramento's Office of Arts and Culture, will host its inaugural Sound Business Summit, a weeklong series of six free workshops taking place Nov. 10 to Nov. 15.

The summit will include sessions such as "Making Money with Music," led by author and industry expert Randy Chertkow. The summit's primary goal is to provide aspiring local musicians of any genre with practical knowledge and key connections that will result in measurable and meaningful economic outcomes.

Each night will offer an identical curriculum highlighted by Chertkow, a musician, journalist, public speaker, instructor and author of the book, "Making Money with Music." Participants will

also receive year-long access to the Making Money with Music course on the CCE Learning Hub at ccelearn.org.

"Sacramento is home to an extraordinary number of working artists. It's time we back them to thrive," said J. Hamilton Hodgson, Department of Sound co-founder and CEO. "With the inaugural Sound Business Summit, we're focusing on artists 'on the cusp' and giving them practical tools around royalties, licensing, live-show strategy, merch and more so their creative businesses can grow. This reflects Department of Sound's mission to make music education and opportunity accessible for our community because when artists are supported, it strengthens the cultural fabric of our city and keeps creative dollars here at home."

Artists 18 years or older who reside in the City of Sacramento are eligible and encouraged to apply at deptofsound.org/summit

(choose all dates you can attend). Space is limited to 18 attendees per session and a waitlist will be offered, if needed.

The Sound Business Summit's free workshops will be hosted at Shattered Records (2010 Alhambra Blvd.) in Midtown. For more information about the Sound Business Summit or Department of Sound, visit deptofsound.org.

Founded in 2018, Department of Sound is a Sacramento nonprofit organization that uses music production and podcasting to improve youth well-being and grow the region's creative economy. Powered by community and a shared love of music, Department of Sound is built on the premise that every young person deserves to be heard and to feel whole. Offering programs and events that are always free, Department of Sound is hosted at Shattered Records. More information is available at deptofsound.org. ★

Mercy San Juan Medical Center Upgrades Stroke Center



Mercy San Juan Medical Center physicians discuss with ribbon-cutting attendees how the biplane imaging system works and helps improve care. Photo courtesy of Dignity Health

Dignity Health News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Dignity Health Mercy San Juan Medical Center is celebrating the grand opening of its newly renovated Neuro-Interventional Suite, a space designed to deliver faster, safer and more advanced stroke care.

The centerpiece of the upgrade is a new Canon biplane imaging system, which allows doctors to see detailed, real-time images of the brain and blood vessels from multiple angles helping them treat strokes and other complex conditions with greater precision.

Mercy San Juan is the only Comprehensive Stroke Center for Dignity Health in California and the first hospital in the Greater Sacramento Market to receive this designation from The Joint Commission. According to the commission, the

Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification is the most demanding stroke certification and is designed for those hospitals that have specific abilities to receive and treat the most complex stroke cases.

The \$12.9 million renovation also includes a new procedure room, monitoring area and updated staff spaces to support exceptional patient care and teamwork.

With this investment, Mercy San Juan strengthens its position as the region's leading hospital for advanced neurological care.

The grand opening was on Oct. 22.

Most of the patients served by the Neuro-Interventional Suite come from the greater Sacramento region, including Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Orangevale, Rancho Cordova, Folsom, Elk Grove, West Sacramento

and Roseville. The medical center is located at Mercy San Juan Medical Center, 6501 Coyle Ave., Carmichael.

Dignity Health is a multi-state nonprofit network of 10,000 physicians, more than 60,000 employees, 41 acute care hospitals and 400-plus care-centers, including community hospitals, urgent care, surgery and imaging centers, home health and primary care clinics in Arizona, California and Nevada. Dignity Health is dedicated to providing compassionate, high-quality and affordable patient-centered care with special attention to the poor and underserved.

Dignity Health is a part of CommonSpirit Health, a nonprofit health system committed to advancing health for all people and dedicated to serving the common good. For more information, visit Dignity Health's website at DignityHealth.org. ★

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Continued from Page 1

The University of the Pacific, Sacramento Campus, School of Dentistry will host Give Veterans a Smile to offer free dental screenings for veterans and active-duty members of all ages from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10.

Attendees must bring either a physical or electronic copy of an official military document (DD214) and photo identification to verify eligibility. The clinic is ADA-compliant and wheelchair accessible; questions can be sent to phcc@pacific.edu.

Give Veterans a Smile will be facilitated at the Pacific Health Care Collaborative Clinic located at 3333 3rd Ave. Appointments are required and can be made at bit.ly/43zjl1C or by calling 916-672-2774.

On Monday, Nov. 10, the California Automobile Museum will offer free

admission to veterans and active-duty service members. The museum features more than 120 cars spanning nearly 120 years of automotive history, from brass-era vehicles to modern models with advanced technology.

Proof of service is required, and the offer applies only to individual veterans and active-duty personnel. The California Automobile Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is at 2200 Front St.

The Veterans Affiliated Council of Sacramento and Vicinity will sponsor for its fifth year the annual Veterans Day Parade and celebration from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11 at the California State Capitol, 1315 10th St.

This year's celebration will pay special tribute to the 250th anniversaries of the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps. The event will feature a military aircraft flyover, static displays, informational booths and presentations from local Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs.

Several local leaders are supporting this year's event, including Sacramento County Supervisors Rosario Rodriguez, Phil Serna, Patrick Kennedy, Pat Hume and Rich Desmond, and Sacramento City

Councilmember Rick Jennings.

The annual parade brings together veterans, families and community members from across the region to celebrate and recognize those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. For more information, visit Calvac.org.

Free Admission to State Parks

More than 140 California state parks will offer free admission to U.S. service members and their families on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Participating parks include local attractions such as the California State Railroad Museum, the State Indian Museum and Sutter's Fort State Historic Park.

To receive free admission, veterans and active-duty or reserve military personnel must show a valid military identification or proof of honorable discharge. A full list of parks is available at parks.ca.gov/VeteransDay2025.

Veterans Day Barbecue

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 67 (VFW 67) will host a Veterans Day Barbecue from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 11, offering hot dogs and hamburgers, with side dishes and desserts provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 67 auxiliary.

The event will be at the VFW 67

Canteen, 2784 Stockton Blvd.

On Saturday, Nov. 15, Macedonia Baptist Church will host a Pre-Thanksgiving Veterans Day celebration from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Robertson Community Center, 3525 Norwood Ave.

The event will honor veterans with a free Thanksgiving-style meal, warm winter items and resources for about 80 families in need. Sponsors include SMUD, Sprouts, Planned Parenthood and FoodsCo.

Registration is available at macedonia-sacto.com/events or contact Sis. Natavia Hughes at 916-585-0735.

Veterans Day Freedom Run

The Best Races Freedom Run will take place Saturday, Nov. 16 at Sutter's Landing Park (20 28th St.), offering 5K, 10K and half-marathon options.

Participants are encouraged to run in gratitude for veterans' service and can raise funds for a charity of their choice. Wave start times are 7:30 a.m., 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

Registration details are available at bit.ly/4odKNtX. ★





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Donate to Keep Adaptive Riding Program Open

Therapeutic Riding and Off-Track Rehabilitation News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Therapeutic Riding and Off-Track Rehabilitation, one of Northern California’s leading adaptive riding programs for people with developmental disabilities, has launched an emergency fundraising campaign to sustain its operations.

The program draws students from throughout Northern California, especially Sacramento County, Yolo County and surrounding counties.

According to Therapeutic Riding and Off-Track Rehabilitation (T.R.O.T.R.) board President Shannon Johnson Personeni, the Woodland-based nonprofit organization is facing unprecedented financial strain, due to rising costs for insurance, staffing, facility upkeep and animal care.

“Despite cutting non-essential expenses and stretching every dollar, we have been forced to release over 60% of our instructors, eliminate more than half of our weekly program hours and turn away nearly 75% of our riding students,” Personeni said. “Just to stabilize our core operations and prevent further losses, we must raise at least \$45,000 by Dec. 1.”

Personeni, who founded Therapeutic Riding and Off-Track Rehabilitation in 2005, is a certified therapeutic riding instructor and an equine specialist in mental health and learning, accredited through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) International.

“Demand for our services has been growing at an astonishing rate,” Personeni said. “We typically have several hundred people on our waiting list. The lives of these children and adults could be transformed by the therapeutic power of horses if we can remain



Instructor Debbie and Leo tack up Cindy Lu for a lesson. Photo courtesy of Therapeutic Riding and Off-Track Rehabilitation



India and Mr. B share a moment. Two hearts. One healing moment. Photo courtesy of Therapeutic Riding and Off-Track Rehabilitation

open to serve them.”

Therapeutic Riding and Off-Track Rehabilitation combines recreational riding instruction with principles of physical, occupational and social-emotional therapy. It serves students with conditions such as autism, attention-deficit disorder/attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD), brain and spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy,

developmental delays, Down syndrome, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy and learning challenges, as well as mental, emotional, visual and hearing impairments.

“A horse’s stride mimics the human gait, which stimulates the rider’s physical and cognitive development,” Personeni said. “This gentle, rhythmic motion enhances balance, muscle



Shannon Personeni rescues the horses and they rescue us. Photo courtesy of Therapeutic Riding and Off-Track Rehabilitation

control, coordination, posture and body awareness. By interacting with their horses, riders also learn trust, patience and self-control while developing communication and social skills.”

In addition to serving riders with disabilities, Therapeutic Riding and Off-Track Rehabilitation operates a rehabilitation program for horses off the racetrack. Many of these horses arrive after neglect, abandonment or career- ending injuries. “With

training, care and compassion, they become part of our adaptive riding program or are placed in loving permanent homes,” Personeni said.

Community members, businesses and foundations are encouraged to contribute to this urgent effort by donating at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/keep-trottr-alive> or contacting Therapeutic Riding and Off-Track Rehabilitation at info@TROTR.org. ★

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Missing a Tooth?

Here Are Your Options

By your local dentist Dr. Ashkan Alizadeh, Master at Academy of General Dentistry

Losing a tooth is more common than most people realize, whether it’s from decay, gum disease, or an accident.

But even one missing tooth can affect more than your smile. It can make chewing more difficult, lead to shifting of nearby teeth, and even change the shape of your face over time.

The good news is, there are several ways to replace missing teeth. Understanding the options can help you make the best decision for your health and comfort.

1. Do Nothing (Not Recommended)

While it may seem easier to leave the space empty, this can cause nearby teeth to drift, throwing off your bite and leading to more tooth wear or jaw pain. Once teeth move out of proper alignment, it becomes harder to clean, increasing the risk of cavities and gum disease. It also becomes more challenging to replace the teeth if you wait too long to replace the teeth, so it’s best not to wait too long.

2. Removable Partial or Full Denture

A removable denture is a simple and affordable way to replace one, several, or all missing teeth. These appliances are taken out at night and cleaned daily. While they can restore your smile and chewing function, they tend to cover a large portion of the mouth and can sometimes feel bulky or less secure.

3. Fixed Bridge

A bridge is a permanent option that connects an artificial tooth to the natural teeth on either side of the gap. This provides a more natural look and feel than a removable denture. However, the neighboring teeth must be shaped to support the bridge, and it’s not ideal if too many teeth are missing.

4. Dental Implants

Dental implants are the most advanced and long-lasting option. An

implant is a small titanium post that replaces the root of a missing tooth and supports a crown, bridge, or even a full denture. Implants look, feel, and function like natural teeth, and they help preserve the jawbone beneath the gums. Implants aren’t for everyone, though. Factors like bone quality, health conditions, and medications can affect whether they’re the right choice. Your dentist can take X-rays and discuss if implants are a good fit for you.

The Bottom Line

Replacing missing teeth is about more than appearance. It’s about maintaining good oral health, proper chewing, and a confident smile. Whether you need to replace one tooth or a full set, there’s a solution that can fit your needs and lifestyle.

If you’re ready to explore your options, schedule a consultation to see what’s best for you.

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Fall Back to Once-a-Week Watering, City Says

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As temperatures cool and days grow shorter, landscapes across Sacramento don't need as much water to stay healthy as they do in spring and summer.

Beginning Nov. 1, residents and businesses should use sprinklers just once per week – on either Saturday or Sunday – at any time of day.

“When the weather cools down, so should your watering,” said William Granger, the city’s water conservation coordinator. “This is the time of year to give your sprinklers a break and let

Mother Nature do more of the work.”

According to city staff, cooler weather, longer nights and seasonal rainfall help soil to retain moisture longer, allowing lawns and plants to thrive with far less irrigation.

Many customers can even turn off their automatic sprinklers entirely during the fall and winter months.

“You’d be surprised by how far a little rainfall can go for your lawn,” Granger added.

More about the watering schedule can be found on the city’s water conservation website, cityofsacramento.gov/utilities/water-conservation/watering-schedule. ★



According to city staff, cooler weather, longer nights and seasonal rainfall help soil to retain moisture longer, allowing lawns and plants to thrive with far less irrigation. Photo courtesy of the City of Sacramento

ABOUT TOWN

Area Museum Experiences

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

Aerospace Museum of California – “Snoopy and the Red Baron,” through Dec. 31. On loan from the Charles M. Schulz Museum, this national traveling exhibit brings the full story of the World War I Flying Ace to life. Featuring original comic strips, vintage toys and rare memorabilia, it’s a fun, family-friendly look at one of Peanuts’ most iconic storylines.

The exhibit will delight fans who grew up with Snoopy the Flying Ace

and introduce new audiences to Snoopy’s adventures in the sky. Details at aerospaceca.org.

California Automobile Museum – Sunday Drives. The third Sunday of every month, enjoy a free ride (with paid museum admission) in one of the museum’s many beautiful cars from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There’s no better way to enjoy history than to experience it firsthand down the streets of downtown Sacramento. Details at calautomuseum.org.

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. Through Nov. 16.

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 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 six people and unscramble the final puzzle! Saturdays, Nov. 8, Nov. 22.

Details at sachistory-museum.org.

Elks Lodge 6 Calendar of Events

Elks Lodge 6 Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am; \$15 tax included.

Yoga, Monday 12 p.m., Wednesday 3:30 p.m. Lodge members free.

Karaoke Nights, Thursdays and Saturdays, 7 p.m.

Martial Arts, Monday 5 p.m.

Pickleball, Monday, Wednesday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; Thursday, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 4-7 p.m.

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

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www.greenhavenlutheran.org



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Subscriptions should be mailed to *Pocket News*, 2508 Garfield Ave. Suite A, Carmichael, CA 95608.

The *Pocket News* is published twice a month. Call (916) 773-1111 for more information.

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Tunnel to Towers Races Through Land Park



The honor wall set up at last year’s Tunnel to Towers 5k Run and Walk. Photo courtesy of Tunnel to Towers Foundation



Participants took off at the start line at the Tunnel to Towers 5k in Land Park. Photo by Abbey Wicks

Continued from Page 1

as families and kids being pushed in strollers.

“It’s sort of a combination event,” said Schroder, due to the variety of running experience and race day goals of participants.

The event brought out Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper, City of Sacramento Fire Chief Chris Costamagna, Sacramento Mayor Kevin McCarty and Sacramento Area Senior Fire Chaplain Kevin Snider.

Adam Maciel, a Sacramento city firefighter, served as DJ for the morning as participants checked out booths for the California Highway Patrol, Sacramento Police Department, Firefighters Burn Institute, Rally Point Foundation and Capitol Road Race, who timed the event.



Race participants took off at the start line at the Tunnel to Towers 5k in Land Park. Photo by Abbey Wicks

Sacramento Firefighters Pipes and Drums and the C.K. McClatchy High School ROTC Color Guard presented and performed the national anthem during the opening ceremony.

Schroder’s father-in-law, retired Sacramento City Fire Chief Don Schroeder, was the creator behind an honor wall honoring all first responder victims of the 9/11 attacks.

The honor wall was placed in Land Park for participants to view at the Saturday event. Prior to lining up at the start line, participants were able to choose a fallen first responder to pin to their badge and run in honor of.

Amber Saks, a 2022 Gold Star recipient, reflected on the impact Tunnel to Towers made in her life and the lives of her two daughters when husband and father

Marine Captain John Sax passed away in an aviation accident.

“When I had the chance to meet Tunnel to Towers CEO [Frank Siller], he remembered my name and the names of my daughters, he remembered John’s story,” Saks said.

This year, Tunnel to Towers awarded nine local Sacramento first responders or military with mortgage-free homes. ★

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Well Kings fans, the hometown boys are in the midst of a tough road trip and in the early going have a 2-4 record. That’s the bad news. The good news is that with the exception of one game, the Sactown ballers have been in every game, and if it weren’t for horrendous free throw shooting that record could just as easily be 4-2.

There are other teams that could say the same thing you say, but the positive that comes from this is that when you know your weakness you can work on it and it can be fixed.

Going into last week’s game against the Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee Bucks with only one win for the 2025/2026 campaign, the Sacramento Kings stepped into View Fiserv Forum and handed the mighty Bucks a humbling 135-133 defeat much to the chagrin of the hometown fans. The Kings broke a 10- year famine in Milwaukee capturing a win that few thought was possible.

After an up and down start this season for big man Domantas Sabonis, the Sactown stalwart played Giannis to a standstill putting up 24 points, 13 rebounds, and 6 assists. Although Antetokounmpo matched the effort by Sabonis with a 26-11-8 night, the Sacramento Kings did an admiral job of holding down the former MVP.

We have talked about the talent the Kings have in their starting lineup, but the conundrum has been putting it all together. In Milwaukee the big four of DeRozan, Sabonis, LaVine, and Schroder did just exactly that. LaVine led the group with 31 points, DeRozan with 29, While Sabonis and Schoder both chipped in 24 points apiece.

There will never be a moment in time when it’s ok to play pedestrian defense, but there are nights when you will be called to simply outscore your opponent, and Saturday night was just such a night in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Our Sacramento Kings beat a playoff team on their home court, much like they did last season to the Celtics in the Boston garden.

What is most telling though about this win, is how the starting lineup played together all night, and the balance with

regards to scoring.

Not to be lost was the contribution off the bench by Russell Westbrook who added 12 points and 10 big boards to the win. Russell continues to win the hearts of Kings fans as he gives 100% effort every night and his energy is contagious.

One of the keys was the play of Dennis Schroder, who on this night lived up to his billing. Schroder played well defensively but also shot the ball in rhythm, scoring 24 points while adding 5 rebounds and 7 assists. The type of night Kings fans have been hoping for, and it shows the Sacramento faithful what is truly possible.

The tandem of Schroder at the point and Sabonis in the paint are secret sauce that when they play as they did on Saturday night will lead to victory after victory.

LaVine and DeRozan can be counted on to get their points as their pedigree speaks for itself, but when Schroder and Sabonis hold down the fort the Kings are a very tough opponent.

The good news is that this does not have to be an anomaly, and it should not be! Capable? Absolutely they are capable, and if the Kings can continue to get this type of ubiquitous scoring, it will not only take pressure off the bench, but it will also lead a pathway straight to the playoffs. Not the playin, but the playoffs!

Yes, the Kings still must play good defense, but balanced scoring as we witnessed against the Bucks makes up for defensive mistakes, and the Kings have proven in the past that they are more than capable of putting up points.

Schroder remains a key, but let’s not forget that this season is not his first rodeo, and a veteran at the helm that is not distracted by all-star caliber competition is just the floor general the Kings need.

Young rookie Nique Clifford needs to find a way to contribute on the scoreboard, and right around the corner will be the return of Keegan Murray. Let’s hope Keegan’s return will mark a contributing factor and not a necessity.

Be of good heart Kings fans because the light is starting to shine.

All the best!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgarris@riskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

Erie Canal Contrasts Glacial Pace of Public Works



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

This week, one of the nation’s earliest and most important public works projects, the 363-mile Erie Canal linking the Hudson River with Lake Erie, marked its 200th anniversary.

There was only negligible media and political notice. That’s regrettable, because the canal opening in 1825 utterly transformed the nation’s economy and ignited its expansion from a few sparsely populated former colonies on the Atlantic Coast some 3,000 miles westward to the Pacific Ocean.

Rugged mountains had stymied westward expansion from the coastal plain into the Ohio River valley and the Great Lakes region. But New York Gov. DeWitt Clinton saw an opportunity for New York City to become the nation’s commercial capital, outfoxing rival Philadelphia.

The New York Legislature authorized construction with bonds in 1817 and just eight years later, having been dug mostly by hand, the Erie Canal opened. Tolls repaid all of its construction debt in the first year.

Eventually, of course, the canal’s commercial importance was superseded by railroads and later highways. But it continues to operate for recreational and excursion boats and remains a symbol of how timely public works can have major economic impacts.

A quarter-century after the Erie Canal opened, California was admitted as a state. During its first decades it was somewhat isolated, with an economy based on resources — gold, timber, farm produce, cattle, fish and, eventually, oil.

However, as California entered the 20th century, massive public works projects surfaced to encourage economic expansion and transformation, notably in Southern California. Los Angeles and Long Beach created deep-water ports from what had been coastal mud-flats. Los Angeles secretly tapped the Owens River 250 miles away on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, and built an aqueduct to carry its water to the city, making its meteoric population growth possible.

The Great Depression spawned other historic public works projects that were not only beneficial unto themselves but created much-needed jobs.

The federal government built the Central Valley Project, a network of dams, including Shasta Dam, and canals to provide water to farms in the 450-mile-long valley.

The state built a long-planned bridge over San Francisco Bay while simultaneously, a consortium of counties constructed the iconic Golden Gate Bridge. Both were finished in just a few years.

World War II was a massive public works project in California, as billions of dollars were poured into military bases, aircraft factories, shipyards and other tools of warfare, transforming the state into an industrial powerhouse. The postwar era

brought the construction of freeways to handle traffic from the state’s population explosion.

Mid-century also saw arguably the state’s last truly transformative public works project, the California Water Plan. It dams the Feather River near Oroville with an aqueduct to carry its water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to Southern California.

The last decades of the 20th Century and the first decades of the 21st have been a period of stasis in public works.

Projects such as the tunnel to carry water under the Delta and the Sites Reservoir to divert and store high flows on the Sacramento River have kicked around for decades. Sites appears to finally be on track, but the tunnel struggles to overcome opposition from local landowners and environmentalists.

And then there’s the bullet train to link the northern and southern halves of the state, first proposed a half-century ago and approved by voters in 2008 — but limping along, neither fully alive nor dead, with some construction underway but no firm financial footing.

Looking back, it’s amazing that the 363-mile Erie Canal could have been dug by hand in just eight years, or that the two San Francisco bridges were erected in just a few years. The contrast with 21st Century foot-dragging is palpable.

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. ★

Social Security Matters

Should I Ask for Retroactive Benefits?



By Russell Gloor, [AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor](http://AMAC.org)

Dear Rusty: I turn 70 next month, October 3, and am making an application for Social Security benefits to begin in January 2026. I want the maximum Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) and the highest permanent monthly benefit. I do not want to leave money on the table, so should I request six months of retroactive benefits or at least retroactive to October when I turn 70? If I do this, will I lose DRCs and adversely impact my ongoing monthly benefit after February 2026? **Signed: Turning 70**

Dear Turning 70: I must ask - why claim

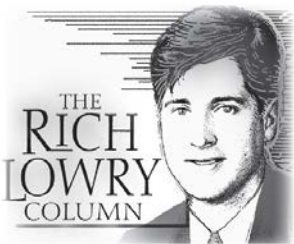
your Social Security to start in January? You are entitled to your maximum SS monthly benefit in the month you reach 70 years of age, so waiting until January doesn’t gain you anything. You could apply in August, specifying you wish your benefits to start in October, and you would get the maximum age 70 benefit you are entitled to (e.g., the maximum Delayed Retirement Credits available to you, and the highest possible monthly benefit).

Since you are looking for your maximum DRC’s, to prevent SSA from giving you any retroactive benefits (which would permanently lower your monthly amount) you should enter in the “Remarks” section of your application that “I do not wish to receive retroactive benefits. I want my maximum monthly benefit effective with the month I turn 70 years of age.”

If, however, for some reason you still wish to claim effective with January 2026, you should indicate in the “Remarks”

section of your SS application that you only wish three months of retroactive benefits, for the months of October, November and December 2025. This is to prevent you from losing the money you would miss by waiting beyond October to claim. If you ask for benefits retroactive to any month earlier than the month you turn 70, your monthly benefit will be permanently reduced.

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Zohran Mamdani has a hard time keeping it together when he thinks about Sept. 11 and its aftermath.

Not -- judging by his performance the other day -- when he contemplates the impact of two screaming jetliners on the Twin Towers; nor when he remembers the sacrifice of hundreds of courageous firefighters that day; nor when he thinks about the toxic, smoldering ruins where there had once been a thriving commercial center.

No, the front-running candidate for New York City mayor loses it when he recalls how someone may have looked askance at his hijab-wearing aunt.

Or so he would have us believe. In giving remarks about supposedly rampant Islamophobia in the closing days of the race, Mamdani paused -- seemingly overcome with emotion -- when he recalled that his aunt gave up riding the train after Sept. 11 for fear of her safety. Mamdani has clarified that the woman was really his dad’s cousin, not his aunt, but the narrative is more important than the facts.

The candidate is attempting to end his campaign as a victim, both as a shield against charges that he’s an antisemite and as a way to discredit his opponents and press his case that America is a racist society.

It’s extraordinary that more than 20 years later, New York City is about to

Mamdani’s Islamophobia Canard

go from a mayor, in Rudy Giuliani, who warned of the dire threat of Islamic terrorism, to a mayor, in Zohran Mamdani, who warns of the dire threat of Islamophobia. The city is about to go from a mayor who understood the stakes of a civilizational battle to a mayor who thinks the civilizational battle is all about addressing our own perfidy and hatred. One mayor saw his career revived by a crisis, while the other will -- if he delivers on his agenda -- create a crisis.

There was, of course, ignorance and malice directed at Muslims after Sept. 11, but FBI statistics showed that in the decade after the attacks, Muslims suffered hate crimes at a lower rate than black people, gays or Jews.

The idea that, as Mamdani said in his remarks, Muslims have to live in the shadows in New York City, or that Islamophobia is just part of the background noise of our political life, or that he himself has been abashed about his status as a Muslim man is absurd.

You have to look pretty hard to find any residual effects of Islamophobia on the son of a Columbia University professor and Oscar-nominated filmmaker, who graduated from the prestigious Bronx High School of Science and the elite Bowdoin College, before becoming a state assemblyman at age 29 and the Democratic nominee for New York City mayor at age 33.

If this is what Islamophobia looks like, everyone should welcome having some sectarian hatred directed their way.

Mamdani complains of the harsh attacks by his opponents. What else, though, should be expected at the end of a high-stakes campaign? The rhetorical sallies against Mamdani are fundamentally driven by his extremist statements and radical associations, rather than his faith.

Does Mamdani really believe that a Christian candidate who didn’t accept the existence of Israel as a Jewish state, who smeared Israel’s conduct of the Gaza war and who refused to condemn the phrase “globalize the intifada” would skate? Certainly, Marjorie Taylor Greene comes in for heavy criticism for her anti-Israeli views, and no one can claim that it’s anti-Muslim sentiment at work.

At the end of the day, one of the most glaring problems with Zohran Mamdani is that, ideology aside, he is light as a feather. His callow and self-dramatizing Islamophobia speech, full of faux eloquence and stirring resolve over nothing, is a case in point.

Ed Koch, a different kind of mayor in a different time, said after he lost a re-election bid, “The people have spoken ... and they must be punished.” In turning to Zohran Mamdani, New Yorkers are preparing to reacquaint themselves with Koch’s wisdom.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS



Snoopy Has Landed in Sacramento

Aerospace Museum of California Unveils Freeway Sign, Traveling Snoopy Exhibit

Story and photos by Seth Henderson

NORTH HIGHLANDS, CA (MPG) - Snoopy Flying Ace traveled to the Aerospace Museum of California as the organization opened its “Snoopy and the Red Baron” exhibit to the public on Oct. 18 and announced the pending placement of a sign for Interstate 80 to promote the museum.

The traveling exhibit is on display in the museum until Dec. 31, complimenting the array of artifacts from World War I and memorabilia on display in partnership with the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa. Schulz was the creator of the character, Snoopy, in addition to the Peanuts characters and some of the comic strips or artifacts at the exhibit were signed by him.

Tom Jones, the president and CEO of the aerospace museum, said during the VIP opening ceremony on Oct. 17 that Snoopy and the Red Baron was one of Schulz’s most popular personas of snoopy and that Sacramento is quite fortunate to have this exhibit during Snoopy’s 75th anniversary.

“Who doesn’t love Snoopy? And then the kids see Snoopy and all of his different adventures that he goes on and his different personas that he assumes,” Jones said. “I just think it’s a fabulous way for kids to connect not only to Snoopy, but with aviation and aerospace.”

Out of Schulz’s nearly 7,000 comic strips, Jones said that he grew up reading those comics and some of the funniest ones were enlarged to be viewed at a distance. He said that the collaboration between the two museums was meaningful and allowed the aerospace museum to tie in other artifacts from World War II, showing how far Snoopy’s influence had spread.

“We’ve got great photo stations and all kinds of fun ways to engage with this exhibit,” Jones said. “Bring your kids, bring your grandkids, you know, just come see the museum. It’s a beautiful space and it’s super engaging for kids from 2 to 102.”

Jones said that the museum was able to incorporate artifacts from famed aviator Clay Lacy, who is actively encouraging aviators and a donor to the aerospace museum. The museum’s collection also featured artifacts from other aviators, such as Bud Anderson, Vicky Benzin and others.

Lacy flew his P-51 Mustang with a giant Snoopy in the cockpit, Jones said, winning the Reno Air Races in 1970, encouraging youth to become involved with aviation. He said Anderson, as a Boy Scout in 1934, became a World War II Triple Ace nine years later because of what he had learned. Artifacts depicting Snoopy’s tenure as a Beagle Scout pay tribute to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and military members.

The Aerospace Museum of California also celebrated the approval of a new sign to be placed on Interstate 80 by way of legislation that Jones wrote to define how museums are categorized with



Awaiting the real sign, weather permitting, the Aerospace Museum of California celebrates the approval of a highway sign for the museum on Interstate 80.



City Councilman Roger Dickinson poses with Snoopy at the opening ceremony of “Snoopy and the Red Baron,” a traveling exhibit making a pit stop at the Aerospace Museum of California on Oct. 16.



President and CEO of the Aerospace Museum of California, Tom Jones (left), stands with Mika Klinsmann from Senator Roger Niello's office, holding a certificate commemorating the museums approval of a highway sign on Interstate 80 on Oct. 16.

Caltrans. Jones said that museums were previously categorized with locations such as the Golden One Center or Levi’s Stadium, making the museum slightly beyond the scope of allowing signage on the interstate.

Jones said Assemblymember Josh Hoover asked him to write a piece of legislation, which became Assembly Bill 1320 and was unanimously approved by the state assembly. Jones said that not a word was changed from what he originally wrote.

“Governor Newsom signed it into law about two and a half years ago and then we thought, ‘OK, great. We’re going to get signs now,’”

Jones said. “But Caltrans had to change its manual.”

Before the aerospace museum’s inception, City Councilmember Roger Dickinson said that he has been involved with the organization, as he was the county supervisor for the area at the time. Dickinson helped get signs placed on Watt Avenue.

“This has been an outstanding facility with tremendous offerings and great programs for kids, particularly in STEM subjects,” Dickinson said. “But as you can see by the location, it’s a little hidden, so I think the significance of the freeway sign in particular is to let people know that it’s here and what

direction to go to get here.”

Dickinson said that the aerospace museum is a great opportunity to honor Sacramento’s aviation and military history, as well as everything that goes along with it. He said it is one of those wonderful assets that the city has to help inspire young people to think about science, technology, engineering,

museum years ago because of its wheelchair accessibility.

Bernau said he is glad to see how much it has grown, including partnerships with schools or other organizations to keep children motivated. He said that a museum as high quality as the Aerospace Museum of California deserves a sign on the freeway.

“There’s so many things competing with people’s time today,” Bernau said. “And so to have that sign for going up and down the freeway, and it’s like, ‘Oh, what’s that?’ ^{SEP} I’ve never been there before. I didn’t even know that existed.’ So that’s a big deal to have that.”

The Aerospace Museum of California is located at 3200 Freedom Park Drive in McClellan Park and was founded in 1986. The organization is a nonprofit organization and features a 40,000 square-foot exhibit hall with 40 aircraft and rockets, as well as a four-acre outdoor air park. The museum is also a Smithsonian Affiliate and a member of the North American Reciprocal Museum Association.

The “Snoopy and the Red Baron” exhibit at the museum will feature special weekly pop-up activities for visitors of all ages that bring Snoopy and the other Peanuts characters to life, according to the museum.



A young guest at the “Snoopy and the Red Baron” exhibit poses for a photo with Snoopy at his doghouse during the exhibit’s opening day at the Aerospace Museum of California on Oct. 16.

arts and math (STEAM), such as the California Railroad Museum or the Crocker Art Museum.

Being exposed to the different facets of life through opportunities such as the aerospace museum, philharmonic or the symphony are experiences that help shape a person’s development, Dickinson said.

Sherrie Everhart, the owner of Hart 2 Hart wineries, made a sizable donation to the Aerospace Museum of California, providing funding for high quality display cases. Jones said that he was friends and members with Sherrie’s husband Jim Everhart, a member of the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Air Squadron. Jones said that Jim Everhart unfortunately died suddenly a few years ago.

El Dorado Hills resident Jerry Bernau said that he was friends with Jim Everhart and attended the VIP opening ceremony in honor of his friend. Bernau said he has a handicapped son who enjoyed visiting places such as the aerospace

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays to Sundays and admission to the Snoopy exhibit is included in the museum’s general admission. General admission is \$15 and to purchase tickets online, visit <https://www.aerospaceca.org/purchase/p/adult-general-admission>.

To learn more about the museum, visit its website at <https://www.aerospaceca.org> or call 916-643-3192 for more information.

The Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center is at 2301 Hardies Lane in Santa Rosa. The museum’s website is <https://schulzmuseum.org/> and its phone number is 707-579-4452. Follow the museum online at @schulzmuseum.

“I don’t think there has been an animal character in a long time that has done the different things that Snoopy has done,” Schulz once reflected. “He’s an attorney. He’s a surgeon. He’s the World War I Flying Ace.” ★

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2025
Crocker
Holiday
Artisan Market

Thanksgiving Weekend
November 28, 29, 30
Friday 12-5 Saturday 10-5 Sunday 10-4

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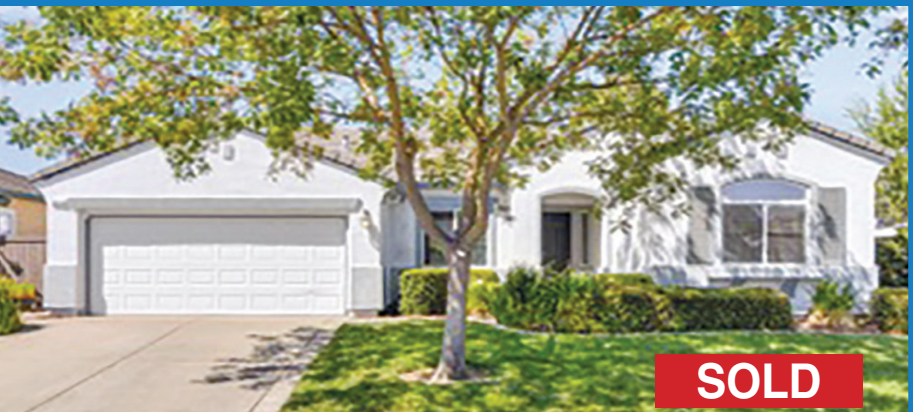
 Pixies & Elves 
Food Trucks
Victorian Santa - Saturday & Sunday

Online Tickets \$10 - good for all 3 days
www.crockerholidayartisanmarket.com

Adults at the door \$10
Free for Children 12 & younger
Members, Students & Seniors at the door \$9



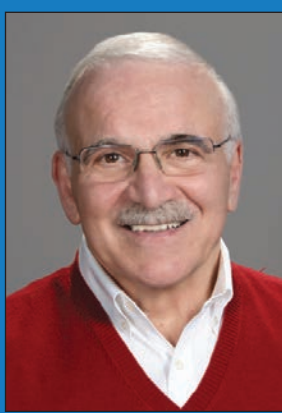
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SOLD

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