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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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NOVEMBER 7, 2025

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By Mary Jane Popp



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Historical Society Celebrates 50 Years



More than 100 members and their guests attended the Fair Oaks Historical Society's 50th Anniversary Banquet on Oct. 25 at the newly renovated Community Clubhouse.

Story and photos by Judy Andrews

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - October was an exciting month in Fair Oaks.

First, Noah Wright became the new honorary mayor, raising more than \$45,000 for the community.

Additionally, the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District reopened Village Park with a new Performing Arts Center for hosting special events and year-round entertainment.

The month ended on another high note with the Fair Oaks Historical Society's much anticipated 50th Anniversary Banquet, held on Oct. 25 at the park's newly renovated Community Clubhouse.

More than 100 guests celebrated with the Fair Oaks Historical Society



Special guests included the Fair Oaks Historical Society's second President, Sue Roark, seen here with Mike Maddox.

and enjoyed a special dinner program highlighting memories and events from Fair Oaks' past through music, songs, stories and special guests.

Fair Oaks Historical Society President Claudia Thorn greeted guests via

video. Thorn was traveling abroad with her family and couldn't attend in person. With 280 members, Thorn will share more about the organization's future goals and outreach plans in the coming months.

Singer, songwriter and

local minister Carole Brewer started the evening with a beautiful rendition of The National Anthem, followed by a sit-down dinner from World Fare Catering.

"Fifty years is a significant milestone for the Historical Society's enthusiastic members who recognize the importance of preserving the memory of the people and past events that shaped our town into what it is today," Brewer said.

Appetizers were provided by Sprouts Farmers Market and Carolyn Spotts, who also managed the event. David and Sandra Navarro provided the desserts.

The audience joined musician and Historical Society Vice President Pete Schroeder in singing

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Del Campo Students Lead Effort to Improve Safety

Commentary by
Cheyenne Treft, Crash
Analysis Research
Studio Vice President

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Students at Del Campo High School are taking an active role in addressing traffic safety concerns on Dewey Drive, a busy corridor shared with Will Rogers Middle School. The stretch of road experiences heavy congestion during morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups, creating a daily challenge for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians alike.

In addition to the high volume of school-related traffic, many residents and students have observed that Dewey Drive is unusually wide for its 35-miles-per-hour speed limit. This combination of width and visibility often encourages drivers to exceed the posted speed, raising concerns about the safety of students who walk or bike to school.

Recognizing the need for change, Del Campo students formed the Crash Analysis Research Studio (C.A.R.S.), a club dedicated to improving roadway safety through data collection and community engagement. The group's mission is to involve both students and staff in developing practical solutions that benefit the local community.

As part of their work, members of C.A.R.S. regularly gather traffic data along Dewey Drive. Their studies have revealed that during one observation period between 10 and 11 a.m., the 85th percentile speed (the speed that 85 percent of cars are above or below) was 42 miles per hour. Out of 176 vehicles recorded, 102 were exceeding the speed limit.

Such findings highlight the dangers posed to pedestrians and cyclists, especially given the narrow sidewalks and bike lanes that many use. Students have noted that vehicles often encroach on these bike lanes, leaving little room for safe travel.

To address these issues, C.A.R.S. has developed what they call the "10-10-10 Proposal." The plan recommends narrowing the roadway by 10 feet to naturally slow traffic, reducing the posted speed limit by 10 miles per hour to a consistent 25 miles throughout the entire stretch, and aiming to lower the city's long-term maintenance

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From Volunteer to Employee

Jessica Reyna's Involvement Inspired Growth At San Juan Unified

San Juan Unified
School District
News Release

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Jessica Reyna, a school playground recreation aide at Green Oaks Fundamental Elementary School, sets the tone for the students' day in the morning by telling them, "You're a great person, be positive and always make good decisions."

Positive quotes are one of the many ways that Reyna has built relationships with students, both as a former parent volunteer and now as an employee at Green Oaks Fundamental Elementary School.

With three of her children enrolled in the San Juan Unified School District, Reyna wanted to

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Positive quotes are one of the many ways that Jessica Reyna, a school playground recreation aide at Green Oaks Fundamental Elementary School, has built relationships with students, both as a former parent volunteer and now as a school employee. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified District

Annual Stand Down Event Serves Veterans

By Janna Haynes,
Sacramento County
Public Information Office

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - At Mather Community Campus, a line of expectant veterans wraps around the building. Men and women donning hats, vests and jackets filled with patches identifying their service history: which branch and which war they survived.

Some are walking with a noticeable limp; others have prosthetic limbs showing. Many are in wheelchairs, having lost a partial or full leg.

The air is heavy with pride and grief at the annual Sacramento Stand Down event. Pride for the service they gave and the brothers and sisters they served beside, grief for the ones they knew and loved who didn't make it home.

Booths line both sides of the streets, filled with agencies and organizations dedicated to helping veterans get back on their feet after returning from service. For some, that means filling out applications for VA benefits and healthcare. Others need more intervention, such as a job, housing and mental health treatment.

But every person there came searching for the same thing: a community of individuals and support that understands what they've been through and are willing to gently guide and love them through the struggle of returning to civilian life.

As folks amble booth to booth, the strains of a bagpipe ring out and a hush falls. The bagpiper makes his way around the corner, solemnly playing and walking his way through the crowd toward the American flag. At the conclusion of his piece, another veteran steps up to the microphone and sings the National Anthem. My heart squeezed at the reverence and honor in that moment. The weight of sacrifice in the crowd



Pictured are attendees of the Annual Stand Down Event serving local veterans. Photo courtesy of Janna Haynes



Speakers at the annual Stand Up event included members of Volunteers of America, an organization committed to serving veterans and helping support them through the transition back into society. Photo courtesy of Janna Haynes

was so heavy that I could barely breathe.

Sacramento County District 5 Supervisor Pat Hume steps on stage to open the event. His district covers Mather Community Campus, which houses the Volunteers of America (VOA) veteran's service center and

shelter, in addition to several additional shelter programs serving singles, families and transitional aged youth.

Supervisor Hume shared his own family story of sacrifice, losing his father in war. Yet the pride in his voice is evident. He speaks directly to the hearts of



Booths at the annual event offered resources to veterans getting back on their feet after returning from service. Photo courtesy of Janna Haynes

each person in the crowd, "You are not alone. You do not carry this burden by yourself. Do not walk away today without making the connections you need

and the help you need."

As the opening ceremony concludes, the crowd disperses to walk the booths they came to see: dental care, eye exams, haircuts, benefits, basic medical care, lunch tent and more.

The Sacramento County Veterans Services Office staff is onsite to help people get connected to VA benefits. Human Services Supervisor Nick Pulaski shares the challenges of connecting veterans to their earned benefits.

"We see so many people with incomplete paperwork; missing discharge papers or the worst is when private companies take advantage of them by charging them for help," Pulaski said. "We do it for free. We'll never take a percentage of your earned benefits. We work so hard to help and advocate for our clients."

Volunteers of America is committed to serving those who served our country and helping support them through the transition back into society. They serve nearly 1,400 veterans a year at the Mather Campus drop-in center. They provide help with resume building, job applications, mock interviews and job placement with cultivated veteran-friendly employers.

For veterans who need help exiting homelessness, Volunteers of America also has on-site shelter and a housing specialist to help with permanent placements, including paying rental deposits and first and last month's rent.

Don Harper, the Stand Down Event founder and vice president, emphasizes the moniker, "No wrong door" to getting help.

"Our goal is to get veterans off the streets and into the services they need to thrive, whatever that looks like for them," Harper said. "We're here to help." ★

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From Volunteer to Employee



Just like Jessica Reyna, parents and guardians can begin their own journey to make a difference for district students. Learn more about volunteering at San Juan Unified District. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified District

Continued from page 1

find more ways to support her students' success.

"As a parent, when we do drop off, we think, 'What are they learning? How is my son interacting or how does he behave in school?'" Reyna said. "The main reason I wanted to volunteer was to see what was happening in the classroom and help my sons feel confident."

Reyna volunteered Tuesdays through Fridays with the kindergarten class. She supported different projects, made copies, prepared packets, graded homework and helped students one-on-one.

She initially encountered some challenges with her schedule, due to being a stay-at-home mom, but managed to work around them, even accomplishing specific projects from home. Reyna cared for her kindergartener in the morning and would stay at school and volunteer after dropping him off for his afternoon kindergarten class.

After three years of volunteering, a job opportunity presented itself to Reyna. She applied for the school playground recreation aide position at Green Oaks Fundamental Elementary School and is now working in the role.

"I would always admire seeing the rec aides and the teachers, thinking, 'One day, I hope that I could be here,'" she recalled.

As a first-generation student, Reyna had a support system at school that she never forgot. Her third-grade teachers would

support Reyna and her parents, regardless of the language barrier, from calls about academic progress to homework support.

"They definitely impacted my view on relationships and confidence. I felt different but they made me feel important," she said.

Reyna encourages parents to become involved with their school community, such as volunteering. She emphasized the importance of parent involvement in supporting students.

"I've noticed that when they see the support and the more we are involved, it helps with their confidence and bonding," Reyna said.

Parents or guardians interested in volunteering with San Juan Unified District must complete a one-time volunteer verification form and fingerprinting.

Volunteer opportunities can be found by connecting with the school site.

"It's helpful to speak with the front office staff, who are familiar with the volunteer process and the needs of their campus. It's also a good idea to let your student's teachers know that you've completed the clearance process and are available to volunteer," said district volunteer and partnerships facilitator Vanessa Valenzuela.

Just like Reyna, parents and guardians can begin their own journey to make a difference for district students. Learn more about volunteering at San Juan Unified District. ★

Historical Society Celebrates 50 Years



Some of the Fair Oaks Historical Society Board of Directors are, from left, Bud Beebe, Pete Schroeder (vice president), David Navarro, Carolyn Spotts, Terry Clifton, Lynn Steen and Chris Highsmith.

Continued from page 1

"California, Here I Come," accompanied by organist Dave Moreno.

Retired Fair Oaks Village mailman Mike Maddox served as the event's emcee. Wearing his U.S. Postal Service pith helmet, Maddox kept the program running smoothly.

One of the evening's highlights was an interview between Maddox and Sue Roark, who reminisced about growing up in Fair Oaks. Roark served as the Fair Oaks Historical Society's second president from 1976 to 1981, a time when the organization had only 20 members.

"I wish more people were aware of the effort the historical society puts into preserving our past and the true spirit of what the Village used to be," Roark said. "It's the small businesses and the people that carry the heart of this community."

Organist Dave Moreno was one of the two acts providing entertainment for the anniversary program. Moreno flawlessly played silent movie era songs on a Wurlitzer/Morton Pipe Organ. The organ is currently on loan to the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District from the Sierra Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society. ★

The night's entertainment also featured Scottish dancing and a bagpipe performance by Kyla Groeschel's School of Highland Dance in Fair Oaks.

Banquet guests received a free copy of "Fair Oaks Village Park: A Century of History," edited by Ralph Carhart and written by Chris Highsmith. The book was recently published to mark the Fair Oaks Historical Society's 50th anniversary and the 130th anniversary of the Fair Oaks Colony. A limited number of copies are available for sale at \$5 each at the Fair Oaks History Center and Museum, 10340 Fair Oaks Blvd. (next to the Sunflower Drive-in).

"Being a member of the historical society is a great way to get involved in community activities and make friends with other residents," Brewer said. "Our gatherings are fun and uplifting. Our museum is interesting and informative, and our community roots are as solid as the mighty oak trees growing around us."

For more information about the Fair Oaks Historical Society, visit fairoakshistory.org. The History Center is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. ★



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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 museum's 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? 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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AND THE
RED BARON

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OCTOBER 18 - DECEMBER 31

Curated by the Charles M. Schulz Museum
and Research Center, Santa Rosa, California, U.S.A.

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PoppTalk

With Mary Jane Popp

Risk Away Today

Did you know every 40 seconds someone has a stroke in the USA? That's like some 795,000 strokes each year? It's deadly and leaves many victims with significant health challenges. So, let's start with what IS a stroke. A stroke happens when something prevents your brain from getting enough blood flow. A blocked blood vessel or bleeding in the brain can cause strokes. And boy was I surprised when I learned the long list of symptoms. I thought I had a pretty good idea, but I was wrong. How about this list? Aphasia (trouble speaking in complete sentences), Blurry Vision or double vision, Confusion or Agitation, Coma, Dizziness or Vertigo, Loss of coordination or clumsiness, Memory Loss, Mood swings or personality changes, Nausea or vomiting, Neck stiffness, Passing out or fainting, Seizures, Slurred or garbled speaking, Sudden loss of your senses (including vision, hearing, smell, taste and touch), Weakness or paralysis on one side of the face or body. Whew! That should get your attention.

Now to recognize signs of a stroke. Remember to BE FAST!!! "B" is for Balance. Ask the person to stand. Look for trouble staying on their feet. "E" is for Eyes. Ask if they see double or if things are blurry or decrease in vision. "F" is for Face. Ask the person to smile. Look for a droop on one or both sides of the face. "A" is for Arm. Ask the person to raise their arms. Look for one arm to droop forward. "S" is for Speech. Listen for slurred speech or trouble choosing words. "T" is for Time. CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY!!! Look at the time so you can tell medical personnel when symptoms started.

I got all this good information from a site at the Cleveland Clinic which is great. Now I needed some facts on how to reduce stroke risk. So I asked Dr. Jeremy Liff on POPPTALK to give us some practical tips. He's a Board-certified neurologist specializing in stroke and brain aneurysms. Here's his top ten.

- 1. BLOOD PRESSURE.** Keep your blood pressure treated less than 140/80.
- 2. NOT NEW BUT IMPORTANT.** Stop smoking or vaping.
- 3. BLOOD SUGAR.** Keep your diabetes controlled. Screen for diabetes. Test your insulin sensitivity.
- 4. EAT HEALTHY.** Some examples are healthy fats and protein. It's the Mediterranean diet.
- 5. SUGAR.** Avoid sugar, seed/vegetable oils, and corn syrup.
- 6. AVOID ULTRAPROCESSED FOOD.** Something that can sit on a shelf for 100 years without changing isn't really food.
- 7. EXERCISE.** Start slow if you don't do anything currently. Walk, jog, elliptical (low impact), and light weights.
- 8. HEALTHY HEART.** 25% of strokes are a direct result of a heart disease creating a blood clot.
- 9. REDUCE STRESS.** Yoga, meditation, athletics, and healthy hobbies.
- 10. THIS ONE WILL GET YOU THINKING.** Spend 24 hours with your left arm tied to your side. Picture that for the rest of your life, then check out steps 1-9 again! Check out www.JeremyLiffMD.com for a ton more information! Stay safe and **STROKE FREE!** ★



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Informing, Empowering and Engaging Readers with Their Community



Saving a Divided Democracy, One Club Membership at a Time

Choosing Connection Over Convenience and How

By Patsy McGavock JustServe.org

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Last time, I asked: How do we save a divided democracy? Robert Putnam says it doesn't start in Washington. It starts in thousands of small ways when we, the people, make a single, nonnegotiable choice: to be together. In person. Meaningfully. Regularly. Talking about what matters.

Putnam's research, featured in Pete Davis' documentary "Join or Die," establishes one essential truth: successful democracies, stable, effective, trusted; depend on dense networks of civic and social connection.

He found, for 80 years we increasingly go it alone, losing shared rhythm of doing things together. Now we feel deep divide. Much like the early 20th century, the Gilded Age, when industrialization brought extreme wealth gaps, political gridlock, feeling that America teetered on democratic collapse. But we didn't continue that path.

"The Upswing," by Putnam and Shaylyn Romney Garrett, shows how America came together then and how we can again. Out of division came association, civic invention: Rotary Clubs and neighborhood groups, suffrage organizations, labor unions, countless cultural and faith-based circles. Some marched; others taught, served, read or shared meals.

But the result was the same. Connection. Community. Power, not over each other, but with each other.

They didn't wait for permission. They built what was missing.

"To tackle today's challenges, we need millions of Americans to become joiners," said Davis.

Even if it's inconvenient or at first uncomfortable.

The People, A Democracy Metaphor

In construction, joiners are people who fit wooden pieces together naturally, without fasteners. Carpenters use force: nails and glue. If democracy were a house, government might be the carpenter with tools, policies and funding. But we, the people, are the joiners. We connect pieces naturally, creating structures that last. Not because they're forced but because they're trusted. Human connections are warm and accountable.

Even the best-designed political system can't succeed without joiners building strong civil society on democratic habits. None of it works if we're not participating. Voting is part, yes, but habits such as walks, talks, organizing and shared efforts, are where we learn, teach and live democracy.

More personally, joining a club is good for you and America.

Research consistently links high social participation to healthy habits, breaking unhealthy ones, stronger mental health and relationships, greater trust, happiness, better jobs, economic mobility and stability. Whole communities report greater health when connected.

It's a different way of being, a healthier, community-minded way, we must re-learn, lean into and choose again and again, until it no longer feels inconvenient, until it feels like home.

I agree with Putnam and Davis. This isn't just nice; it's vital. To democracy. To our health. And to healing a polarized, increasingly violent nation.

How Do We Begin?

With one non-negotiable choice: connect in groups, in person, regularly.

Behavioral economist James Clear reminds us, "You don't rise to the level of your goals; you fall to the level of your systems."

Let's sketch a system. (*Items will be explored fully in future issues.)

DO WHAT YOU LOVE — with others — regularly

"Local, interest-based communities are where trust and civic momentum take root," writes Garrett. When you connect what you love to people, community becomes sustainable.

***BRING OTHERS; DON'T LEAVE OTHERS**

Invite across lines of difference: age, belief, background.

Diverse groups make better decisions 87% of the time and take more sustainable action, stated the Harvard Business Review. "Thoughtful invitations shape who belongs, and belonging is the gateway to connection," says Priya Parker.

PUT DOWN DISTRACTIONS; BE PRESENT

Digital connection is efficient; human connection, transformative.

***GO EVEN IF YOU'RE TIRED**

In-person time boosts mental and physical health, especially on hard days.

Let your group sustain you. You may increase your survival rate by 50%, says Holt-Lunstad.

CONSISTENT GATHERING PLACE
A park. A porch. A library room.

"Attachment to place" is a top predictor of civic engagement and satisfaction, according to the Knight Foundation. Familiarity builds comfort. Comfort builds commitment.

CONSISTENT DATE
Monthly is magic. Weekly is wonderful. Consistency builds culture.

A set date makes showing up a habit. Regular gatherings increase participation by 40%, shows Meetup.com's analytics.

***INVOLVE THE YOUTH**

Invite them with hope. Invite them to lead.

Let's get started.

I'm launching a Return and Report Community Connection Club. You're invited. Ponder this: What do you love to do and how can you connect with 10 others to do it, together, regularly? Write back. I'll share what we're building.

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Connect with Patsy McGavock at PatsyMcGavock.JustServe@gmail.com. ★

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Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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If Walls Could Talk

'The People vs. The Golden State Killer' Reveals Lead Prosecutor's Official Account of 40-Year Cold Case



Thien Ho is the author of "The People vs. The Golden State Killer." He was elected Sacramento County district attorney in 2022 and took office in 2023. Courtesy photo

By Seth Henderson

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- For the first time, the story of a cold case that lasted more than 40 years plaguing the Sacramento area and various communities throughout California was officially recounted by the then lead prosecutor in "The People vs. The Golden State Killer" (Third State Books, Nov. 11, 2025). The book was written by Thien Ho, Sacramento County's current district attorney.

Joseph DeAngelo, better known by monikers such as the East Area Rapist, Visalia Ransacker, the Original Nightstalker and the Golden State Killer, wreaked havoc throughout six counties in California, committing more than 120 burglaries, more than 50 rapes and 13 murders. DeAngelo's first victims murdered in Rancho Cordova were a couple, Brian and Katie Maggiore.

"Nothing compares to (DeAngelo's case) for me personally of any case I've worked on and it's just because of the scope and the volume and the challenges that came with prosecuting a cold case that was 40 years old," Ho said.

During the time of DeAngelo's investigation, capture and conviction, Ho was the assistant chief deputy district attorney and lead prosecutor of the team that successfully achieved a conviction of the notorious killer.

"There's one thing to arrest somebody but there's another thing to build a case and present it in a court of law," Ho recently told Messenger Publishing Group. "And building a case is like building a house; you have to build a foundation first."

When presenting a case for trial, Ho said, he first questions how he wants to tell the story and creates an A layer, B layer and C layer that cohesively converge throughout its duration.

The A layer was the overarching case, Ho said, going through the investigation, capture and prosecution of the Golden State Killer. The B layer was Ho's personal story, a Vietnamese refugee who studied at McGeorge School of Law, taught there and rose through the judicial ranks, elected to district attorney in Sacramento

in 2022. The C layer was conveying the voice of the survivors, a tremendous responsibility that Ho said he felt out of respect.

"There were literally three-million pages of documents that had to be reviewed, organized and turned over," Ho said "And so part of the challenge of any case is telling the story but before you can do that, you have to understand it and the challenge here is that this is a cold case, where the crimes happen 30 to 40 years prior."

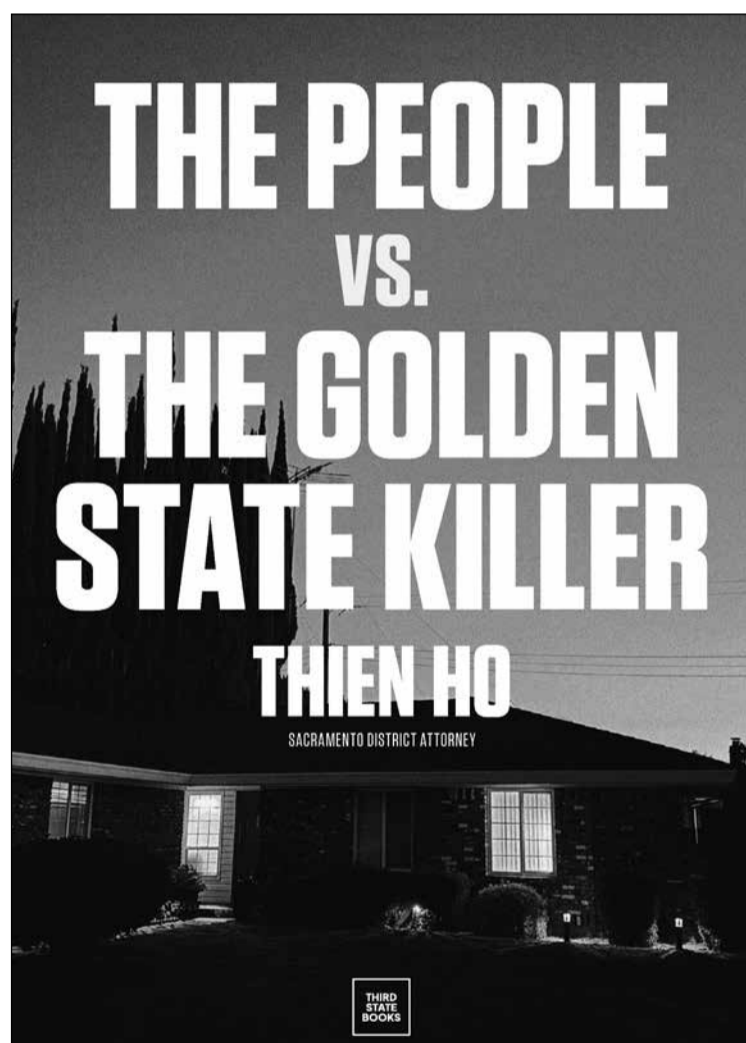
Facing lost witnesses, discarded evidence and faded memories, Ho said, rebuilding the case was a meticulous process that was taken one case at a time. He said that DeAngelo's pursuit was aided by investigative genetic genealogy (IGG), a process that builds a genetic family tree to profile suspects. Nearly 1,000 cases have been solved so far because of investigative genetic genealogy, according to Ho.

Tens of thousands of suspects were identified over the cold case's four decades before DNA evidence eventually tied DeAngelo to the string of crimes that captivated six counties throughout California. Leaving bodily fluids and other DNA at multiple crime scenes during his criminal career, Ho said that DeAngelo's crimes were consistent, his actions served as a signature, tying him to the nearly 200 crimes he was convicted of through his genetic family tree.

Ho outlined the obstacles to be overcome during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the creation of a courtroom at the Sacramento State Ballroom to accommodate roughly 200 people while social distancing, a term that Ho said was foreign to most up until spring 2020.

"Those victims deserved to be there," Ho said. "So we looked around at the Golden One Center here in Sacramento where we looked at the Memorial Auditorium. We even looked at an airport hangar."

A makeshift courtroom during a pandemic was unprecedented, Ho said, and the ballroom's back entrance had to facilitate an armored vehicle, in addition to 200 individuals. He said it was a challenge to protect the victims' health as well as his own and that



Joseph DeAngelo worked as a police officer and then a mechanic while committing horrific crimes in secret. DeAngelo's ability to meticulously compartmentalize allowed him to evade detection and reminds us that evil doesn't always look like a monster. Courtesy photo

of his family, while continuing to move the case along in court. Ho said that a traditional courtroom fits about 40 people without social distancing, so a larger venue was sought to accommodate courtroom victims capacity while social distancing.

"If you know your why, you will find your way," Ho said. "We knew our why, we were doing this for the victims, we were doing it to bring them justice. That was our why."

Ho said that the prosecution team created a profile on DeAngelo from his birth in Bath, New York to his post-arrest as a camera was placed inside DeAngelo's cell without his knowledge. DeAngelo's cell footage showed him obsessively pacing around, Ho said, but he was rolled into the courtroom via a wheelchair to seem frail and weak. Ho said that the prosecution saw right through DeAngelo's feeble act because his timing was

too deliberate. He said it seemed as if DeAngelo was attempting to create a narrative of mental instability.

"DeAngelo was meticulous. He compartmentalized his life with surgical precision. He was not impulsive, he planned, he stalked, he adapted. That is how he avoided capture for so long," Ho said. "It was chilling to realize that someone could commit such evil while maintaining the appearance of normalcy. But evil does not always look like a monster. Sometimes, it looks like your neighbor."

With modern technology, Ho said, the likelihood of serial killers living "normal" lives is not as high as when DeAngelo's criminal career was at its peak. Ho said there's too much forensic and electronic evidence to connect the dots of a case plus the plethora of security cameras and cellphone cameras in this modern age.

DeAngelo's God complex, the

feeling of unstoppable control, revealed how weak he truly was in his own life, hunting his victims like prey, Ho said. DeAngelo's actions displayed his manipulative compulsion throughout his crimes.

"He was playing God. When he tied him up and he put a bedsheet over them and glasses on top of them, he was being God over them," Ho said. "He held their lives in the palm of his hands when he was committing his sexual assault."

Ho writes about sleepless nights in anticipation of new developments in the DeAngelo case. Asked about the crimes' dark nature and how it affected him, Ho said that the darkness remains a part of him but does not consume him as much.

"Maybe it doesn't creep over your consciousness as much or often but it's always there," Ho said. "It's never completely gone. It becomes a part of you in some way."

"The People vs. The Golden State Killer" is set to be released on Nov. 11 in the Nonfiction/True Crime section. Ho said he woke up at 5 a.m. to write the book two hours every day for seven months. Ho started with a 30-page outline. The book's cover depicts the Rancho Cordova neighborhood in which the first couple murdered by the Golden State Killer took place.

Ho will have a book launch party from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 12 at the Sacramento Public Library's Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 828 I St., Sacramento. Ho will also travel to St. Louis, Houston, Seattle, the Bay Area and Southern California for a book tour throughout the fall.

To learn more about the district attorney's book launch event at the Sacramento Public Library, visit <https://engage.saclibrary.org/event/14608224>. The book is for sale online at Third State Books' website at thirdstatebooks.com, Barnes and Noble, and Amazon.

"The People vs. The Golden State Killer" is \$30. A portion of the book's proceeds will be donated by Ho and Third State Books to Phyllis's Garden, a non-profit organization advocating for sexual assault survivors' rights begun in honor of a DeAngelo survivor. ★

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 admirable 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 vgharriskingsfan@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 mudflats. 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

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.

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



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, every-

one 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 infitida" would skate? Certainly, Marjorie Taylor Greene comes in for heavy criticism for her anti-Israel 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 reacquire themselves with Koch's wisdom.

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

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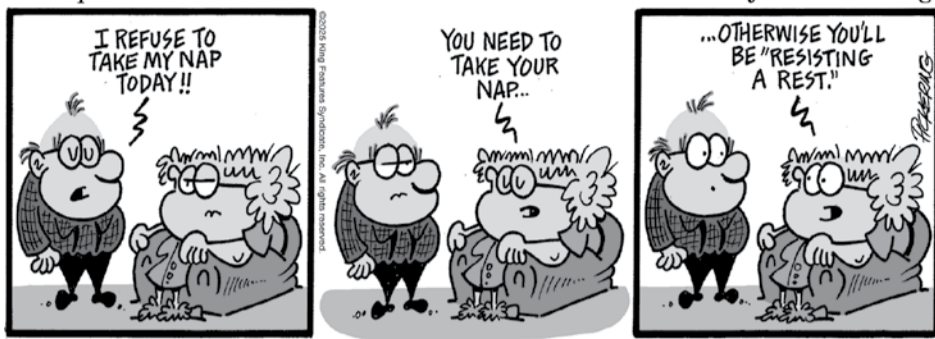
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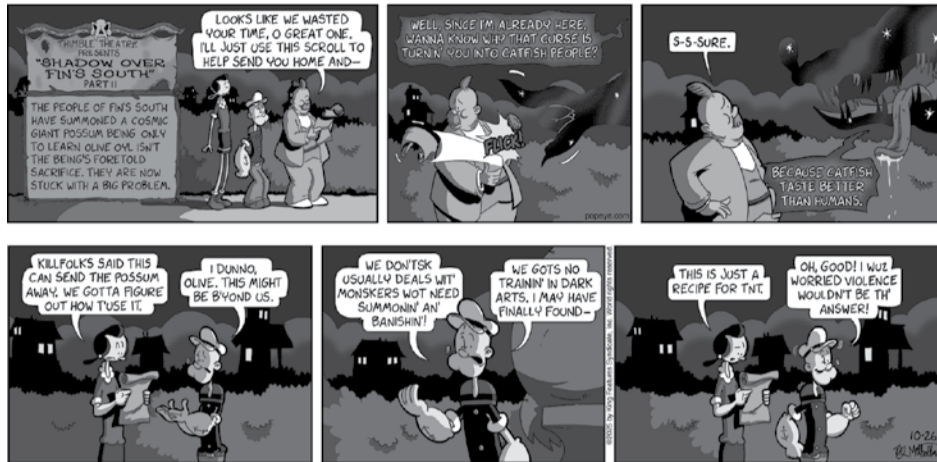
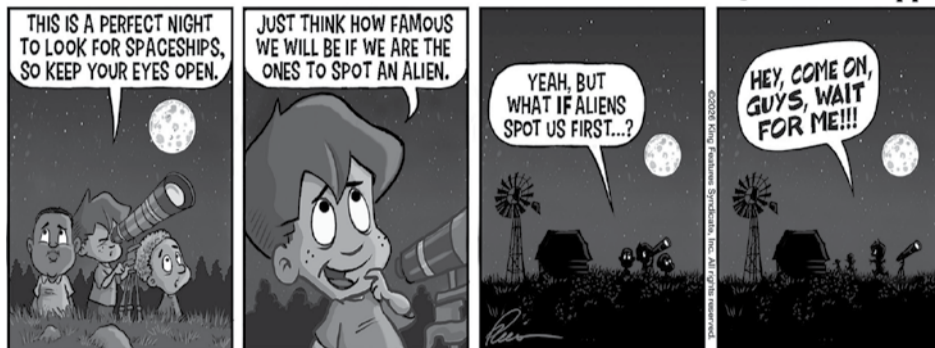
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Out on a Limb

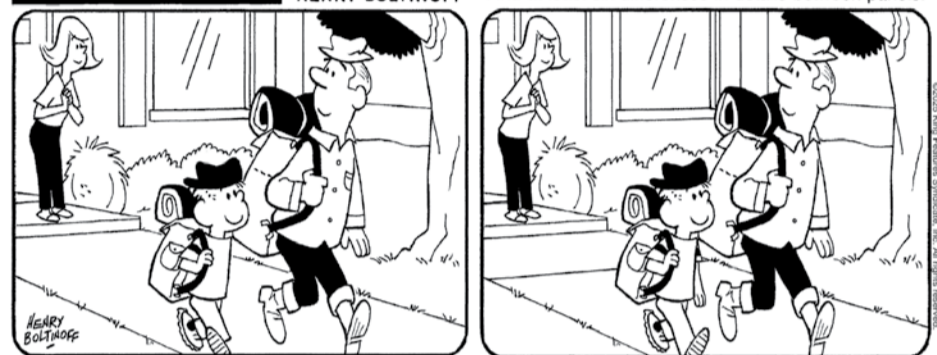
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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GRIN AND BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



"Paying college players a small part of bowl revenues is an insult! They'd never stand for a pay cut!"

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Impromptu (2 words)
6. Chop
9. Little bit, in Cancun
13. Luffa, alt. sp.
14. The day before
15. An, a health hazard
16. Surveyor's maps
17. Black gunk
18. Run off, as in couple
19. *Mount _____, Earth's southernmost active volcano
21. *Antarctica - world's largest _____
23. A Bobsey twin
24. Not to be broken?
25. Eyeball shape
28. Minimal distortion
30. *Polar bear, a _____ mammal
35. Goldfish or koi
37. Memorial Day solo
39. Red-dot pointer, e.g.
40. Purse to match a gown
41. *Amundsen-_____ South Pole Station
43. Hipbones
44. Letter H, phonetically speaking
46. Biblical twin
47. Frog delicacy
48. Intellectual
50. Novice or beginner
52. Café alternative
53. You, in bygone era
55. Ciao, in the U.S.
57. *_____, Nast, imagined Santa at North Pole
60. *The largest lake near South Pole
63. Hotel room option
64. *Barents or Laptev
66. Blackfin and bluefin
68. Remove location from digital map
69. Paul Simon's former partner
70. Swelling
71. Monster's loch
72. An affirmative
73. Button on electrical outlet

DOWN

1. Mountain peak
2. Pineapple producer
3. Gray-haired
4. As a rule
5. The Clash: "Rock the _____"
6. Answer to "Shall we?"
7. Female gametes
8. Lost, in Marseille
9. Opposite of sun-kissed
10. Deodorant's target
11. Native Egyptian, in Roman times
12. "How many sunsets in a year on either pole?"
15. Close again, as in envelope
20. Yards and miles, e.g.
22. "Slippery" tree
24. Quick and clever reply
25. *North Pole "base"
26. Fraction, e.g.
27. Beasty person
29. Front of the head
31. Not top-shelf
32. Part of archipelago
33. Sound like Secretariat
34. Clear the whiteboard
36. Ancient Briton
38. Dog command
42. Supercharger
45. Glen Powell's 2023 role, pl. (2 words)
49. Cuban dance step
51. Half-shell delicacy
54. English homeword
56. Chopin's composition
57. Ad jingle, e.g.
58. Shakira's don't lie
59. Milo's adventurous canine friend
60. Giant kettles
61. Change for a five
62. Glacier's deposit
63. *Midnight _____, opposite of polar night
65. Old-fashioned "before"
67. Aptitude test, acr.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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Baudouin, Riva to Represent Big Sky

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento State doubles team of juniors Lou Baudouin and Irene Riva have been selected to represent the Big Sky Conference at the 2025 Intercollegiate Tennis Association Conference Masters Championships on Nov. 6 to Nov. 9 at the Barnes Tennis Center in San Diego.

The duo was selected by a vote of the conference's head coaches following a round of nominations. Coaches could not vote for their own players.

Each Division I conference will send one singles player and one doubles team to the event, with the four singles semifinalists and top three doubles teams qualifying for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Individual Championships hosted at the United States Tennis Association National Campus in Orlando, Fla., on Nov. 18 to 23.

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association Conference Masters Championships is one of four qualifying tournaments that will seed the field for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Individual Championships,



Entering the tournament as the No. 9 seed, Lou Baudouin and Irene Riva became the first Sacramento State doubles team to reach the semifinal round since Clarisse Baca and Maria Meliuk gained the finals in 2011, defeating opponents from Stanford, Washington (which was ranked No. 24 in the nation) and Oregon before falling to a team from California in three sets and falling just a win shy of qualifying for the NCAA Championships. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

joining the Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-American Championships (10 singles, four doubles), the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regional Championships (26 singles, 13 doubles) and the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Sectional Qualifiers (24 singles, 12 doubles). All told, 64 singles players and 32 doubles teams will vie for the National Collegiate

Athletic Association Individual Championships.

Teaming up as a doubles pair for the first time in their Hornet careers, the duo is already off to an impressive start in 2025-26, highlighted by a semifinal appearance at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Northwest Regionals in Berkeley the second week of October.

Entering the tournament as the

No. 9 seed, Baudouin and Riva became the first Sacramento State doubles team to reach the semifinal round since Clarisse Baca and Maria Meliuk gained the finals in 2011, defeating opponents from Stanford, Washington (which was ranked No. 24 in the nation) and Oregon before falling to a team from California in three sets and falling just a win shy of qualifying for the National

Collegiate Athletic Association Championships.

The duo also finished 2-1 at the Cal Fall Invitational, reaching the main draw semifinals of that tournament, and punctuated a 1-1 finish at the prestigious Battle in the Bay Classic with a win over the No. 53-ranked doubles team in the country from Oklahoma State.

Last spring, Baudouin was a combined 14-6 in doubles and 6-2 against Big Sky opponents while earning all-league second-team honors, while Riva was 8-5 in doubles play at the top two spots in the lineup after bouncing back from an early-season injury.

This will be the second trip to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Conference Masters Championships for both players after Baudouin won a pair of singles matches and Riva joined former teammate Maddy Ferreros to reach the semifinals in doubles, eventually finishing fourth, just one win shy of an National Collegiate Athletic Association berth.

Complete information on the 2025 Intercollegiate Tennis Association Conference Masters Championships is available here: <https://wearecollegiatennis.com/ita-conference-masters-championships>. ★

Back-To-Back Sweep

Equestrian Dominates ECAC Rider of the Week Awards



Sophia Blake, Ada Hirschfeld, Lauren Kolbe and Kylie Jacobson were each recognized for their standout equestrian performances for two consecutive weeks. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - For the second consecutive week, University of California, Davis swept the Eastern College Athletic Conference Rider of the Week honors, as Sophia Blake, Ada Hirschfeld, Lauren Kolbe and Kylie Jacobson were each recognized for their standout performances across two Top-10 meets in Georgia.

Blake earned the honors in flat, while Kolbe was recognized in fences. On the Western side, Jacobson claimed the award in horsemanship and Hirschfeld brought home the honor in reining.

Blake delivered consistent high scores in flat throughout the weekend. The sophomore notched an 82 aboard Love against South Carolina, then secured the Aggies' lone point in the event versus No. 1 Georgia with an impressive 87 on Snookie.

Hirschfeld secured a crucial point in reining with a 70.75 aboard Slash to help clinch

a 3-1 team win in the event against No. 2 South Carolina, earning the MOP honors for her ride. The sophomore then added a 72 aboard Jewels against Georgia, capping off a consistent doubleheader weekend.

Kolbe posted an event-high 86 aboard Everest against No. 2 South Carolina to claim UC Davis' lone point in fences, besting her opponent by two points. The junior followed with another strong ride versus Georgia, scoring an 85 on Constantine to narrowly miss another point by just one mark.

Jacobson turned in a key point-winning ride of 74.5 aboard Teddy against No. 1 Georgia, earning the lone point and top score in horsemanship, anchoring the Aggies' Western lineup with a polished performance.

The Aggies hit the road to Delaware next weekend for a pair of matchups, taking on Delaware State and UT Martin on Nov. 7 and Nov. 8 in back-to-back meets. ★

Baseball Releases Loaded 2026 Schedule



Two of the Hornets' final three WAC series will be at home as they host league co-champion Abilene Christian (May 1 to May 3) and Tarleton State (May 14 to May 16). Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Fresh off its third Western Athletic Conference regular season title and its sixth conference crown overall, the Sacramento State baseball team looks to carry the momentum of that successful campaign into a 2026 season that features a star-studded 56-game schedule, according to head coach Reggie Christiansen.

"Our players and staff are excited about this year's schedule which may very well be the toughest non-conference schedule in the nation," Christiansen said on Oct. 21. "It will give our program the opportunity to compete on the road against some of the best teams in the nation, like reigning NCAA national champion LSU and UCLA, which is likely to be among the top-ranked programs in the country once the season begins, as well as a trip to Omaha to take on Creighton at Charles Schwab Field (home of the Men's College World Series).

"That being said, I think what I am most excited about is the home schedule for our boosters and our fans," Christiansen said. "The opportunity to host games against programs like UC Irvine, California, UConn and Winthrop early on is exciting and we are looking forward to treating our fans to some exciting weekends of baseball."

The Hornets' non-conference schedule features six opponents that finished in the top 50 in the final 2025 RPI, four of which ranked among the top 25 at season's end. Seven of Sacramento State's opponents for 2026 were NCAA Tournament qualifiers UC Irvine, Fresno State, LSU, Kansas, Creighton, UCLA and WAC rival Utah Valley, while the aforementioned Tigers and Bruins both reached the College World Series.

In addition, the Hornets will face six schools that either won or shared their respective conference's regular season title: Creighton and UConn in the Big East, Nevada in the Mountain West, Abilene Christian in the WAC, UC Irvine in the Big West, and UCLA in the Big Ten.

Meanwhile, three conference tournament champions also dot the Sacramento State slate in Big East champion Creighton, Mountain West champion Fresno State and WAC champion Utah Valley.

A three-game series against UC Irvine kicks off the season from Feb. 13 to Feb. 15 as the Hornets play eight of their first 10 contests within the friendly confines of John Smith Field. It will be the first meeting between the two California powers since 2020 and will give fans a sneak preview of a future conference rival as Sacramento State will join the Big West Conference, beginning with the 2027 campaign.

The inaugural meeting with Saint Joseph's follows from Feb. 19 to Feb. 22 with a four-game series, followed by a mid-week road contest at Pacific on Feb. 24. A three-game home-and-home series against California is next as games one and three in the series will be played in Berkeley with the Hornets playing host for game two on Feb. 28.

Following a midweek trip to Fresno State on March 3, Sacramento State makes its second-ever trip to Baton Rouge to take on LSU from March 6 to March 8. The two programs first met in a three-game series in 2016, with the Hornets winning the middle game of that weekend with the No. 5-ranked Tigers by a 5-4 score, thanks to a pair of ninth-inning RBIs from Matt Smith and Vinny Esposito

and six shutout innings by the bullpen.

Sacramento State returns home to host eight of its next nine, welcoming UMass Lowell (March 10) and Pacific (March 11) for single games before UConn heads west for a three-game series from March 13 to March 15. The Hornets face San Francisco (March 17) in a midweek match-up before playing host to Winthrop out of the Big South from March 19 to March 21.

A week-long trip to the Midwest has Sacramento State taking on Kansas in a pair of midweek contests from March 24 to March 25 before heading to Omaha to face Creighton at the home of the College World Series from March 27 to March 29.

Upon returning home to face Nevada in the team's final non-conference tune-up, the Hornets open WAC play on the road at Utah Tech (April 2-4), then sandwiches midweek contests against Fresno State (April 7) and San Francisco (April 14) around a three-game league series against future Big West rival Utah Valley, which upset No. 12 national seed Oregon in its NCAA Regional opener last season, on April 10-12.

The gauntlet continues with eight consecutive games on the road as Sacramento State travels to Texas for a three-game conference series with UT Arlington (April 17-19) and faces Causeway rival UC Davis (April 21) and Nevada (April 28) around a trip to Los Angeles to take on UCLA (April 24-26).

Two of the Hornets' final three WAC series will be at home as they host league co-champion Abilene Christian (May 1-3) and Tarleton State (May 14-16), while facing UC Davis (May 5) in a single game on the road prior to a trip to Riverside to take on another future Big West rival in California Baptist (May 8-10).

"When all is said and done, I believe this schedule will set us up for what is a yearly battle once WAC play begins in April," Christiansen said. "With only 18 conference games this year, our non-conference slate will undoubtedly prepare us for success once league rolls around." ★

A's Unveil Gold Sacramento Jersey for 2026 Season



The gold Sacramento jersey will make its on-field debut during the 2026 season, beginning with Opening Weekend. Photo courtesy of the Athletics

Athletics News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Beginning next season, the A's will take the field in a bold new look: a gold alternate jersey featuring "Sacramento" across the chest.

Inspired by popular demand, the design pays

tribute to the A's interim home in the Capital Region and offers a modern take on the Athletics' iconic gold.

The jersey will be worn throughout the 2026 season and will be available for fans to buy in the team store and online as part of the official A's apparel lineup.

"Sacramento has welcomed the Athletics with incredible passion and support. The new 'Sacramento' jersey is our way of recognizing that support and saying thank you to the fans, businesses and community leaders who helped bring Major League Baseball to town," said A's President Marc Badain. "It's been an unforgettable first season in West Sacramento and this uniform is another way to celebrate the passion we've

already felt throughout the community."

In addition to on-field use, the gold Sacramento jersey will anchor special theme nights and community initiatives throughout the year, including Sacramento Saturdays.

Sacramento Saturdays is a series of fan-focused promotions and community appreciation nights. To kick off the celebration, all fans attending the April 4 game against the Houston Astros will receive a replica jersey. Merchandise featuring the new design will also be available in the A's Team Store and online during the 2026 season.

The gold Sacramento jersey will make its on-field debut during the 2026 season, beginning with Opening Weekend. ★

Historic Townhouse Listed for Sale



Shown is the original Fair Oaks residence when it was home to Hamilton's Horse and Buggies. Photo courtesy of Fair Oaks Historical Society



Here is the inside of the Townhouse's original bar. Photo courtesy of Fair Oaks Historical Society



Original photos of the building depict what the original residence looked like when it was home to Hamilton's Horse and Buggies. Photo courtesy of Fair Oaks Historical Society



Realtor Nan Danford of Nan Danford Properties hopes that "the right investor or buyer" will revive the Townhouse's status of a thriving restaurant and bar. Photo by Thomas J. Sullivan

By Thomas J. Sullivan

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Do you remember Connie's Townhouse? Or the Sonora Inn?

These popular establishments were once housed in this iconic Fair Oaks Village building, the Townhouse at 10236 Fair Oaks Blvd.

For the first time in 50 years, the historic 1940s 5,550-square-foot mixed-use residential and commercial property, which currently includes four apartments, three of which are currently rented, a bar space and a restaurant space, is offered for sale at an asking price of \$1.3 million. The property is represented by

the brokerage of Nan Danford Properties of Fair Oaks.

The listing recently became public and already interest has been strong, Danford said.

"It's very special," Danford said. "It has a very rich history and I'm honored to represent the owners who are offering this building for sale."

Members of the Fair Oaks Historical Society in Fair Oaks Village provided a selection of photos depicting the original residence and the first businesses that were established there.

The Townhouse was once the commercial home of Hamilton's Horses and Buggies, according

to the historical society.

"I hope the new owners can revive and re-establish it in a way that will add to the charming character of our Fair Oaks village. It has an incredible amount of potential," Danford said.

The property consists of an original single-family residence dating from the 1940s still visible from Fair Oaks Boulevard, which was converted years ago into three one-bedroom/one-bathroom and one four-bedroom/one-bathroom apartments. A two-car garage is also located on that portion of the property.

A 1,000-square-foot bar space and an adjoining

1,000-square-foot restaurant space were added in front of the former residence.

Today, the beige-painted building faces a river-rock landscaped stone wall, which runs along the property front on Fair Oaks Boulevard.

The individual weathered letters of the Townhouse neon sign are still visible on the rooftop of the former restaurant. Another neon sign above the scalloped front entrance of the Townhouse Café has been removed. Decorative glass block surrounds each entrance as they did during the 1950s when patrons parked diagonally out front.

Fair Oaks Village is

experiencing a true renaissance with the recent reopening of its park and theater complex.

"Now is the perfect time to capitalize on this growth by owning the famed Townhouse and reviving its status into a thriving restaurant and bar," the broker wrote in its property's marketing brochure.

With the right investor or buyer, Danford said, she hopes that will happen.

For further information about the mixed-use Townhouse property at 10236 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Fair Oaks Village, contact Danford at 916-295-4151 or visit online www.nandanford-properties.com. ★

Del Campo Students Lead Effort to Improve Safety

Continued from page 1

costs by 10 percent. The proposal also includes the addition of protected bike lanes, ensuring that students and other cyclists have a safe and clearly designated space to ride.

In an effort to bring their proposal to the attention of local decision-makers, C.A.R.S. members have begun a petition, inviting anyone who regularly uses Dewey Drive to share their support. C.A.R.S. has also begun reaching out to residents along Dewey Drive, as well as staff and students at neighboring schools to build a large base of community backing.

The initiative has already gained recognition at the local level. Representatives from C.A.R.S. have met with officials from the Sacramento County Department of Transportation to present their findings and discuss potential collaboration. Their efforts have also earned the attention of Charles Marohn, a nationally-recognized civil engineer and the author of "Confessions of a Recovering Civil Engineer." Marohn, who is best known as the founder of the advocacy organization Strong Towns, has expressed support for Del Campo's efforts. Strong Towns

focuses on promoting safe, financially sustainable community design, which values align closely with the goals of C.A.R.S.

By combining research, civic engagement and collaboration with local experts, Del Campo students are demonstrating how youth-led initiatives can make a tangible difference in community planning. Their work serves as an example of how data-driven advocacy can inspire local governments to reconsider how neighborhood streets are designed and maintained.

The students hope that their 10-10-10 proposal will lead to meaningful change, not only improving safety on Dewey Drive but also encouraging other schools and neighborhoods to take a proactive approach to street design. Through their dedication and teamwork, Del Campo's C.A.R.S. club is proving that safer streets begin with informed and motivated citizens. To help C.A.R.S. with this goal, you can sign their petition at sites.google.com/sanjuan.edu/dctea.

Cheyenne Tref is a Del Campo High School senior and the school's Crash Analysis Research Studio (C.A.R.S.) vice president. ★

Best of Fair Oaks Voting Starts Nov. 13



Judy Andrews

By Judy Andrews, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Nominations are now open for the **Best of Fair Oaks 2025**. Voting kicks off on Nov. 13 and ends on Dec. 18. This is your opportunity to help your favorite business and organization shine. Save the date for the awards ceremony on Jan. 15 at North Ridge Country Club.

"The Best of Fair Oaks is a great way to support the small businesses in the community," said Kimberley Pitillo, CEO/President of the Fair Oaks Chamber. "Voting helps draw in more business to the area while honoring the best of the best who make Fair Oaks a vibrant place to live, work, and play."

Remember, online voting starts Nov. 13. Help us make this the biggest year for nominations and votes.

For more information, visit bestoffairoaks.com.

The **Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank** needs your immediate help! "Due to the federal government shutdown, CalFresh benefits are paused, and we are already seeing the impact," reported Angela Lee, Operations Manager for the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Foundation.

Donation needs include pantry staples such as peanut butter, cereal, pasta, sauce, and ramen. Lee added that the food bank also needs more plastic grocery bags for food distribution. Why not paper? Paper bags tend to get wet and soggy.

The Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank serves residents in Orangevale, Fair Oaks, Folsom, and Citrus Heights.

Donate anytime at the donation bin in front, located at 6483 Main Ave., Orangevale.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please visit ovfofb.org.

Do you live outside the area? Call 2-1-1 or visit sacramentofoodbank.org find-food to locate a pantry near you.

The **Orangevale-Fair**

Oaks Foundation will host its 5th Annual Community Friendsgiving on Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Orangevale Grange, 5807 Walnut Ave., Orangevale. Join the Foundation for an evening of family, friends, and community while supporting the Teen Council of Orangevale and Fair Oaks.

Tickets are \$37 per person and include a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, dessert, and a beverage. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for a no-host happy hour. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Get your tickets soon before they sell out. For more information, visit ovfofb.org.

Save the date for this year's annual **Fair Oaks Holiday Tree Lighting** on Dec. 4 from 5-8 p.m. at Village Park. Bring the whole family, your neighbors, and friends to an evening filled with holiday cheer, including photos with Santa, community stage performances, children's activities, hot cocoa, and more. The tree will be lit at 7 p.m. Village Park is located in the heart of Fair Oaks Village at 4238 Main Street, Fair Oaks. *See you in Fair Oaks!* ★

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BEST OF FAIR OAKS 2025

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BestofFairOaks.com

Nominations Open Voting Starts Nov. 13

CONTEST RULES

Business must be located in Fair Oaks or be a Fair Oaks Chamber member. All votes must be cast online at

BestofFairOaks.com

ONLY ONE VOTE PER CATEGORY PER PERSON.

All voting entries must have complete information or the votes will not be counted.

Best of Fair Oaks winners will be presented at this year's

You're Invited!

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Don't miss your chance to attend the 10th annual "Best of Fair Oaks" event.

This year's event will be held:

Where: North Ridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Ave, Fair Oaks

When: Thursday January 15, 2026

Cost: Contact the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce for detail

FairOaksChamber.com or call **916-967-2903**

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