



Parade Honors
Hometown Racing Hero

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Pocket News

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NOVEMBER 21, 2025

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INSIDE

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RINK OPEN FOR
33RD SEASON



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CALIFORNIA IS A
HIGH-TAX STATE



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LET'S KEEP ROOTING
FOR THIS SQUAD



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Feasts, Food Drives and Festivities

Ways to
Celebrate this
Thanksgiving

By Idaly Valencia

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As the weather turns colder, it's clear that the holiday season is here, a time for gathering with friends and family to celebrate the festivities ahead.

With Thanksgiving Day approaching on Nov. 27, several events and activities across the Sacramento area offer residents an opportunity to give back, share a meal or simply enjoy time together.

Run to Feed the Hungry

For those looking to give back while getting some steps in, the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services will host its 32nd annual Run to Feed the Hungry on Thanksgiving morning (8 to 11:30 a.m.). The long-standing Sacramento tradition, Continued on Page 7



Celebrate Thanksgiving by participating in a morning run, walk or jog at the 32nd annual Run to Feed the Hungry 5K or 10K. Photo courtesy of Run to Feed the Hungry

Lights and Magic in Old Sacramento Waterfront



Theatre of Lights is a free, immersive performance retelling of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" in a uniquely Sacramento way on the balconies of Old Sacramento Waterfront. Photos courtesy of Old Sacramento Waterfront

Old Sacramento Waterfront News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Old Sacramento Waterfront will once again shine bright this holiday season as downtown's most spirited destination for shopping, entertainment and festive fun. With its twinkling décor, a 60-foot holiday tree, beloved Theatre of Lights performances, pedestrian-friendly streets and a growing lineup of interactive experiences, the waterfront is where Sacramento comes together to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year.

Located just steps from Golden 1 Center and the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink, Old Sacramento Waterfront offers a walkable, vibrant neighborhood full of small businesses, holiday activities and one-of-a-kind photo moments that make the season merry and bright.

Now in its 17th year, Theatre of Lights returns brighter than ever, with new Sunday performances added for 2025.

This free, family-friendly light show transforms the balconies of Old Sacramento Waterfront into a live holiday stage, blending a retelling of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" with stories from Sacramento's history. Narrated by Disney voice legend Bill Farmer (Goofy) and created by Stage Nine Exhibitions' Troy Carlson, the show continues to be one of Sacramento's most beloved traditions.

Continued on Page 2

Golf Ball Cleaning Raises \$3,000 for Scholarships



Elks 6 Exalted Ruler Rob Moore, left, and Lecturing Knight Aaron Jefferson are literally sitting on and behind 13,000 golf balls that will bring in \$2,840 for Elks 6's golf club scholarships. Each bag contains 100 golf balls.

Story and photo by Elks Past Exalted Ruler Stephen B. Clazie

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In the United States alone, more than 800,000 golf balls are lost every single day. Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 has a golf club that collects those golf balls. Members clean and sort the balls into plastic bags, each holding

100 balls, which the club sells to a resale outlet at 20 cents per ball.

Elks 6 Exalted Ruler Rob Moore and Lecturing Knight Aaron Jefferson recently checked in on the 13,000 golf balls that will bring in \$2,840 for the Elks 6 Golf Club Scholarship Fund.

Last year, the Elks golf club raised \$3,000 through this effort and the

money was used to fund two scholarships. The club awards scholarships to the top female and male high school golfers from a local high school. Last year, there was no outstanding male golfer, so the funds were divided between the top two female golfers.

At present, the club has 13,000

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Lights and Magic in Old Sacramento Waterfront



This free, family-friendly light show transforms the balconies of Old Sacramento Waterfront into a live holiday stage, blending a retelling of “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” with stories from Sacramento’s history.



The historic Old Sacramento Waterfront district transforms into a holiday destination filled with shows, shopping and seasonal surprises. Photos courtesy of Old Sacramento Waterfront

Continued from page 1

Holiday Tree Lighting

On Wednesday, Nov. 26, opening performances by talented community groups begin at 5:30 p.m. The 60-foot Holiday Tree will be lit at 6 p.m. and the first Theatre of Lights performance of the season will follow shortly thereafter.

Theatre of Lights

Theatre of Lights, produced by the Downtown Sacramento Partnership and sponsored by the Sacramento Kings, a free, immersive performance retelling of “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” in a uniquely Sacramento way on the balconies of Old Sacramento Waterfront.

Always free, guests can enjoy two performances each on Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and now a special Sunday show at 6:30 p.m. every weekend from Nov. 28 through Dec. 21.

There will be two special show dates on Dec. 23, with shows at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 24, with one show at 6:30 p.m. And to increase accessibility, an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter will be on-site for Saturday evening Theatre of Lights performances throughout the season, as well as our Tree Lighting Ceremony and our final show on Dec. 24.

Holiday Bingo Card

The district is home to over 150 small businesses, each ready to help shoppers find the perfect holiday gift. This year, visitors can support local merchants in a new way with the Old Sacramento Waterfront Holiday Bingo Card. Guests can explore the district’s shops, restaurants and attractions while collecting stickers for the bingo card. Completed cards can be entered for a chance to win a family four-pack of tickets to The

Polar Express Train Ride in 2026, along with other festive prizes.

North Pole Safari

Ten festive artifacts have mysteriously appeared across the Old Sacramento Waterfront, but which Christmas characters do they belong to? Embark on a North Pole Safari to find out! Guests can follow one of two themed routes, The Workshop Route or The Winterwood Route, to uncover holiday magic.

Scan QR codes at each trail marker to reveal 3D artifacts and their owners in augmented reality. Collect all five artifacts on either route to claim a prize, or complete both to become an official North Pole Explorer and unlock bonus digital gifts.

Holidays on K

New this year, Holidays on K expands to both Saturdays and Sundays from Nov. 29 through Dec. 21. Between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., K Street will



In addition to the Old Sacramento Waterfront holiday tree, every building in the district will be adorned with garland and lights, street poles will sport red bows and storefronts will have their own decorations. Photo courtesy of Old Sacramento Waterfront

become a pedestrian-only zone, inviting visitors to stroll, shop and play amid the festive backdrop of Old Sacramento Waterfront.

From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., enjoy live music while relaxing in al fresco seating. The street will also feature a “Letters to Santa” station, interactive building blocks, mobile library carts

and family-friendly games, creating a lively outdoor experience for all ages to enjoy.

Festive Decor

In addition to the Holiday Tree that has nearly 24,000 lights, every building in the historic district will be adorned with garland and LED lights,

every street pole will sport red bows, and storefronts will have their own decorations. To show off Sacramento pride, the Holiday Tree will be lit Kings’ purple on game nights.

For more information about Old Sacramento Waterfront, visit oldsacramento.com. ★



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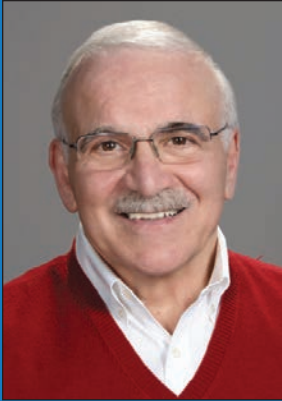
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KELLERWILLIAMS

By Abbey Wicks

The price to skate remains the same as previous years: \$15 for general admission and \$8 for children ages 6 and under. Skating admission includes skate rental and sizes run as small as youth 8 and as large as men's 15. Skaters can enjoy the rink from 2 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays and 10 a.m. to



Donation Weeks have been implemented this

The ice rink will collect much-needed items and accept donations all day during Donation Weeks, which run from Monday, Nov. 17 through Sunday, Nov. 30. Skaters who bring something to donate will receive \$5 off skate admission. Suggested items to donate include winter

“These lights embody our commitment to reimagine downtown block by block, paying homage to the marquee lights which have lined K Street for generations and enhancing Sacramento’s central



Better lighting encourages more foot traffic, which in turn promotes safety, supports local businesses and builds community pride.

“When we invest in placemaking, we invest in people,” said Scott Ford, Downtown Sacramento Partnership deputy director. “Downtown Sacramento is truly a neighborhood that belongs to all residents and guests of our community. We want to ensure we are creating and maintaining an environment which is a positive reflection of Sacramento to the rest of the world.” ★

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\$1-Per-Meal: Dine Downtown Seeking 2026 Nonprofit Partner

Downtown Sacramento Partnership News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Downtown Sacramento Partnership and its sister organization, Downtown Sacramento Foundation, announced a call for qualifications on Nov. 5 from local nonprofits interested in becoming the charitable partner for the upcoming 2026 Dine Downtown program.

From Jan. 9 to Jan. 18, 2026, the 10-day culinary celebration brings together Sacramento’s top restaurants to offer special three-course meals for \$45. For each meal purchased, \$1 will be donated to the selected nonprofit, supporting vital causes impacting Sacramento’s urban core.

“Our incredible restaurants and talented chefs are an integral part of the culture of downtown Sacramento, and their contribution to the vibrancy of the city cannot be overstated,” said Executive Director Michael Ault of Downtown Sacramento Partnership. “Dine Downtown is an important tradition that introduces our unmatched culinary creativity to new guests, uplifts the restaurant community during a relatively slow time for the industry, and gives back to a community partner whose work aligns with our shared vision of a safe, engaging and prosperous downtown.”

Dine Downtown’s charitable component has grown over time, and the



Nonprofit applications are being accepted now through Nov. 23 to partner with Downtown Sacramento Partnership and its sister organization, Downtown Sacramento Foundation, for the city’s annual restaurant week that helps to enhance the downtown experience. Photo courtesy of Downtown Sacramento Partnership

nonprofit partner rotates each year. In January, more than 13,500 meals were sold as part of the Dine Downtown program, resulting in thousands of dollars donated to support a worthwhile local nonprofit.

For 2026, a nonprofit partner will be selected based on alignment and focus on these issues critical to downtown Sacramento, including farm-to-fork initiatives and downtown restaurant support; downtown arts and cultural activations and events; small business assistance; access to healthy food for those in need; and nonprofit partnership opportunity.

Proposals will be evaluated based on their alignment with the goals of Downtown Sacramento Foundation and potential impact for the community. Downtown Sacramento Foundation, the 501(c)(3) under Downtown Sacramento Partnership, is

dedicated to fostering civic pride through the improvement of the social and physical environment of downtown.

Applying organizations should be designated as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and have a mission and vision that align with Downtown Sacramento Foundation’s vision of fueling innovation in the downtown core through cultural arts, creating an active and attractive community and providing assistance for those in need.

The nonprofit partner proposal deadline is Nov. 23. After a selection process, the nonprofit partner for the 2026 Dine Downtown will be announced in mid-December.

Full proposal guidelines are available at downtownsac.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/DineDT25_CharityRFP.pdf. In general, visit downtownsac.org. ★

Home for the Holidays

Saturday, December 13 3:00pm

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

November 5 seems like a long time ago, but that’s the last time the Sacramento Kings won a basketball game. Since then, it has been a string of defeats that now registers six with an average deficit of 20 points per defeat.

When things are going this badly, it’s important to look for a lifeline. A sliver of hope or a whisp of sunlight on a dreary day.

Fans are looking forward to the return of 4th year man Keegan Murray to help right the ship.

While Keegan has not ascended to the level of an all-star, Keegan has made definite strides in particular with regards to his defensive presence and his rebounding.

Domantas Sabonis is off to a slow start due to injuries and is still ranked 4th in the NBA in rebounding, but he needs some help. Drew Eubanks has been a pleasant surprise coming off the bench and keeping the Kings in games, but Jonas Valanciunas has been sorely missed.

Gone are the days when the celebrated big man would come off the bench and give the Kings perhaps the best one-two punch in basketball.

Fans will forever scratch their heads and ask the question why, as the Kings allowed Valanciunas to walk out the back door and sign with the Denver Nuggets. Not surprisingly, the Nuggets are in the top 10 in rebounding while the Kings rank 25th in the league.

But the conundrum is not just the lack of rebounding or even the lack of talent on this Sacramento team. It resides in their inability to work together as a team and play up to their individual ability. Cohesive they are not, and sadly the answer at point guard in Dennis Schrader has been a bust when he’s in the starting lineup.

Head coach Doug Christie sent Schrader to the bench when his contribution became almost nonexistent, and surprisingly Dennis responded when 2 stellar games in a row.

Yes, there is talent on this team, but knowing how to place the talent so the team begins to flow has been a mystery.

Ten games back with a 3-11 start is far from what the Kings franchise had expected, and it has prompted pundits and fans alike to begin calling for a complete rebuilding of the team.

What that represents to Kings fans is the likelihood that your favorite player may soon be playing for another franchise, and it’s a hard pill to swallow.

For me, over the course of just one year, I saw Davion Mitchell, DeAaron Fox, Trey Lyles, Jonas Valanciunas, and Isaac Jones all cast to the winds, and I believe the Kings would be a much better team with a much better record if they had all 5 of these players back.

Bad decisions simply must stop. Some were made from the Monte McNair administration, but some are from current brain trust with Scott Perry at the helm. Make no mistake about it, Vivek Ranadive has had his hand in many if not all the player fax paus, and if things are going to change for the better, the owner must start letting the GM and coaches have some level of autonomy.

But fans are buying tickets and going to games with expectations. How can the players and coaches turn humbling defeats into victories.

Coaches must start analyzing the talent on this team and putting them in positions to win. That means using the strengths of every player and giving him the opportunity to use those strengths.

The Kings have a player under a guaranteed contract that has played in one game for limited minutes by the name of Doug McDermott. McDermott has a reputation for sinking 3’s with great consistency but he has all but been forgotten.

Yes, there are bigger fish to fry than this example, but it starts with the coaching, and getting a maximum effort out of every player every night. Fans need to see that the players care as much as they do.

This team can still win games and even back-to-back games. Let’s keep rooting for this squad and see if we can make some noise.

Don’t lose heart Kings fans. These players are our extended family, and we need to treat them that way!

All the best!

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

California is a High-Tax State

Are More Taxes Balm for Its Budget Deficits?



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California has long had the reputation — backed by copious data — of being a high-tax state, which made Gov. Gavin Newsom’s declaration last June, in a prerecorded State of the State address, a bit startling.

“Here’s the truth Republicans never tell you: California is not a high-tax state,” Newsom said.

Later he clarified his assertion, saying California’s taxes on low-income residents are relatively lower than those in red states.

“Catering to big business and the rich is also why red states tax their lowest earners far more than California does. They punish you when you’re struggling, but give you a free pass when you’re wealthy,” the governor said.

There’s some truth to that. California’s very progressive income tax system, with the nation’s highest marginal rate of 13.3%, makes its state budget highly dependent on taxing incomes of its wealthiest residents, while those in low- and moderate-income brackets pay little or no income taxes.

Nevertheless, taxes imposed by state and local governments put California in the highest ranks of the 50 states, not only in total — more than \$400 billion a year from all sources — but in per capita terms

— more than \$10,000 each — and as a percentage of its \$3.6 trillion in total personal income.

The Washington-based Tax Foundation ranks Californians’ state and local tax burden 48th, one of the highest in the nation, out-taxed only by New York and New Jersey.

“California combines high tax rates with an uncompetitive tax structure, yielding one of the worst rankings on the Index,” the Tax Foundation says.

The state’s \$322 billion 2025-26 budget counts on \$297 billion from about a dozen different taxes, while cities, counties, school districts and other local agencies take in another \$100 billion or so, primarily from property taxes and local shares of the sales tax.

The budget anticipates \$207 billion in general fund revenues. So far revenue is running a bit ahead, but general fund spending is budgeted at \$226 billion. Maneuvers to cover the gap include shifting \$7.1 billion from emergency reserves, pushing the June 2026 state payroll into the following fiscal year and tapping special funds for loans.

State budget experts call it a “structural deficit” that will continue indefinitely in the absence of either sharp spending reductions or tax increases.

There’s little appetite for the former in a Legislature dominated by Democrats but some support for the latter. The California Taxpayers Association recently reported that legislators proposed more than \$16 billion in new taxes and fees during the recently concluded 2025 session.

The battle over taxes

appears to be headed for the 2026 ballot, with two pro-taxation measures being pushed by public employee unions and other left-leaning groups and one that would create a new hurdle for local tax increases.

One proposal, backed by the California Teachers Association, would make permanent a temporary tax increase on high-income Californians, first approved in 2012 to close a budget deficit and later extended to 2030 via a ballot measure. All of its revenue, as much as \$15 billion a year, would go to K-12 schools and community colleges.

A second measure, sponsored mainly by the Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West, would impose a one-time 5% tax on the wealth of California’s billionaires, raising about \$100 billion, which would be spent at the rate of \$25 billion a year to cover the state’s structural deficit and prop up health care services.

The third, sponsored by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, would overturn a state Supreme Court ruling and re-impose a two-thirds voter approval requirement on all proposed local taxes designated for particular purposes.

California is a blue state with relatively high taxes now. Do voters want to add more or make it difficult to add more?

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

Did the Obama-era Social Security Tax Cuts Hurt the Program?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I will be retiring early next year but my question to you is: During the Obama administration, payroll taxes that employees pay were cut in half from 6.2% to 3.1%, while the employer’s part stayed the same at 6.2%.This continued for around a year I think. This was an attempt at giving people a tax cut, which I think was a bad idea or maybe the wrong way to have done it. How much damage do you think this may have caused to Social Security?
Signed: Soon to Retire.

Dear Soon to Retire: FYI, the Obama-era cut in the employee portion of FICA payroll taxes and SECA (self-employment tax) was a temporary measure, which has long since expired. However, the legislation which enabled that cut in employee FICA/SECA taxes also included

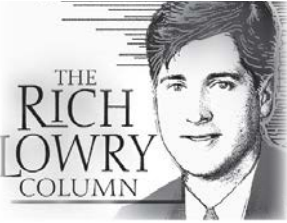
a provision to replenish the Social Security Trust Funds from the General US Treasury in an amount equal to the estimated loss of tax revenue to the Trust Funds. So, in effect, there was little or no impact on the Social Security Trust Funds.

FYI, the Trustees of Social Security have been projecting for many years that the Social Security reserves would be fully depleted in the mid-2030s, unless Congress takes action to reform the SS program. Unfortunately, Congress has not yet taken any meaningful action to accomplish that reform, and the current projection from the Trustees is that all Social Security reserves will be depleted in about 2033, necessitating an across the board cut of about 21% in everyone’s benefit. Time is running short, and we see signs that Congress is finally starting to seriously discuss Social Security reform.

At AMAC, we have developed and submitted to various Congressional Representatives a reform plan which would restore Social Security to full solvency. You can see AMAC’s suggested plan at www.amac.us/social-security-guarantee. And

AMAC is working every day in Washington, D.C. to promote Social Security reform to avoid future cuts in benefits. We believe and hope that Congress will eventually reform the Social Security program to avoid future benefit cuts but, unfortunately, not until they can muster sufficient bipartisanship to make the hard choices needed. To this end, contacting your Congressional Representative to demand Social Security reform now would be a good thing to do. The longer Congress delays reform, the harder the choices will be.

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★



Americans are going to get a little healthier. President Trump cut deals with the drugmakers Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk to increase access to obesity drugs in a major benefit to American public health.

The agreements are a win-win-win -- good for consumers, good for the companies and good for Trump.

One of the most irrational superstitions of our time is that Big Pharma, which has long been routinely delivering near-miraculous therapeutics to extend and improve our lives, is a public enemy. Its latest breakthrough is a class of so-called GLP-1 drugs that make it easier to lose weight and to avoid associated serious health problems, from Type 2 diabetes to heart disease.

The basic dynamic of the Trump deals is that the companies will, through lower prices, expand their market share, thus generating more revenue. The companies also get tariff relief and expedited review for select drugs.

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the MAHA leader with a paranoid streak about modern medical advances, has been hostile to GLP-1 drugs, the most famous of which is Ozempic, sold by Novo Nordisk.

If everyone could do as many pushups and pullups as the hyper-fit 71-year-old Kennedy, perhaps we could turn our back on GLP-1s.

Certainly, RFK Jr. is cor-

Yes, Ozempic for All

rect that Americans should eat better and work out more. But our body mass index has been increasing for about 150 years, as we’ve made calories cheaper and more abundant over time. As it happens, the things that we like to eat or drink that are bad for us -- fast food, soda, chips, cookies -- are cheap, convenient and taste good.

Even if we manage to convince people that they should eat more fruit, vegetables and legumes, while taking a Peloton class every day, not everyone is going to do it as a matter of lifestyle constraints, individual preference or simple lack of willpower.

There’s also the fact that once you put on weight, physiological changes make it more difficult to shed it.

About 40% of Americans are obese. Wouldn’t it be great for them -- and for American society at large, which spends roughly \$170 billion a year on obesity-related medical costs -- if there were a safe, relatively convenient way for them to slim down?

Lo and behold, here it is. The GLP-1s started out as a treatment for diabetes and have exploded in popularity as weight-loss drugs.

Trump’s reflex to make it easier for people to obtain Ozempic and the like -- while, not incidentally, boosting his reputation as the nation’s foremost deal-maker -- is the correct one. Drug pricing is complicated, but by expanding the sale of the drugs direct to consumers, the companies can reduce prices. Meanwhile, Medicare will do

more to cover the drugs, also bringing down their cost.

According to Gallup, about 12% of Americans report having used a GLP-1 drug at some point for weight loss, a stunning increase from about 6% in early 2024. Not coincidentally, Gallup is also now showing a slight dip in obesity. From 2008 -- when the polling organization regularly began asking about weight -- to 2022, the percentage of obese Americans increased by 14 percentage points, to nearly 40%.

Where any number of fashionable diets and continual government exhortations for more physical exertion have failed (before RFK Jr., Michelle Obama was urging, “Let’s Move!”), drugs to slow digestion and reduce the urge to eat are working.

The percentage of Americans using GLP-1s will inevitably keep growing, especially if prices continue to go down, if more oral GLP-1s come online in addition to injectables, and if other medical benefits of the drugs emerge. GLP-1s could easily match the saturation level of statins, the cholesterol-reducing drugs.

By all means, we should all eat more arugula. Until then, we have found a pharmaceutical path to alleviating an ongoing health crisis. President Trump and the drug companies are to be congratulated for their creative cooperation to make it available to more Americans.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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ABOUT TOWN

Holiday Fair Nov. 30

The Green and Red Vintage Christmas Fair on Sunday, Nov. 30 will offer shopping for home décor, delicious baked goods and other food and drinks. Local vendors will show their wares from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sacramento Portuguese Hall, 6676 Pocket Road.

Breakfast with Santa Dec. 21

Elks Lodge 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd., invites families to take photos with Santa Claus during its Sunday breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 21. The Elks breakfast will include a ham-carving station. Cost is \$20 adults, \$10 for ages 6 to 10 and under 5 free. For parties four or more, reservations are requested; call 916-422-6666.

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

– Junk in the Trunk Antique and Vintage Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov., 23. Explore treasures from throughout time, along with art and local items, displayed in and sold out of our collection of antique and classic cars! This event is free with paid museum admission.

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.

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 – RCAF in Mictlán: 50th Anniversary of Dia de los Muertos, through

April 5, 2026. The exhibit will be highlighted by public programs that document and celebrate the 50-year history of the Dia de los Muertos (DDLM) observance in Sacramento.

The exhibit will demonstrate why the anniversary is a major milestone in our city’s cultural history, as well as an example of the enduring impact of the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF), a seminal collective of artists and activists.

It will also offer the Museum’s audience an exhibition and related programming that introduces or expands their knowledge of the RCAF’s contributions to Sacramento’s history. Details at sachistorymuseum.org.

SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity – Laser Concert Series is an immersive music experience, paired with spectacular full-dome lasers. Taylor Swift laser concert, Dec 5-6. Beastie Boys laser show, Jan. 9-10. Details at visitmosac.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.

Golf Ball Cleaning Raises \$3,000 for Scholarships

Continued from Page 1
golf balls sorted and ready for delivery, which is worth \$2,840.

Club representatives estimate that there are another 25,000 golf balls to clean, sort and bag, which would bring in about \$5,000 more. This past February, the club raised \$1,240, and in July, another \$1,800.

The golf club is now deciding whether to offer more scholarships or increase the amount of each award.

“We already have \$3,040 set aside for this year’s scholarships,” said Past Exalted Ruler Bruce Synhorst, the Elks 6 Golf Club scholarship chair.

Approximately 300 million golf balls are sold in the U.S. each year, driven by both recreational players and professional tournaments, according to imarc.com. North America

holds the largest share of the global golf ball market at 35 percent. In 2022, the global export market was led by Chinese Taipei, which shipped golf balls valued at \$295 million, 31.3 percent of the world’s total, according to imarc.com.

Elks members hope that golfers keep losing those 800,000 balls every day; they still have a pickup truck full of balls waiting to be cleaned and sold. Moore and Jefferson both chanted, “Hit a ball into the water or lose it in the rough; you’re helping a golfing scholar go to college!”

Anyone who has unwanted golf balls can call Elks 6’s office at 916-422-6666 and leave their name and phone number. A golf club member will call them to make arrangements to pick up the golf balls.

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Feasts, Food Drives and Festivities

Continued from Page 1
presented by KCRA/My58, offers participants the option to run, walk or jog a 5K or 10K course.

This family-friendly event helps to raise funds and awareness about hunger in the community. Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, which has served Sacramento County for more than 49 years, notes that the demand for food assistance has never been greater.

Whether you choose to run or walk, donate to a team or start your own fundraiser, every dollar raised will help to feed the more than one in four Sacramentans at risk of hunger.

For more information or to register, visit runtotofeedthehungry.com.

Share the Holiday Cheer

Since 1983, Sacramento Loaves & Fishes has provided homeless survival services and continues its mission this Thanksgiving by collecting donations to serve hearty holiday meals to its guests.

Requested donations include frozen turkeys, marshmallows, apple juice, store-bought pies, whipped cream, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls and dry stuffing mix. Due to county regulations, home-cooked food cannot be accepted.

Donations can be delivered between now and Nov. 23. For fresh bakery items such as pies, deliveries are recommended between Nov. 21 and 23 to ensure freshness through the holiday.

Drop-off hours are from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday



Those looking to help can contribute to the cause by donating at rivercityfoodbank.givingfuel.com/donate, helping ensure more families have a Thanksgiving meal to enjoy this season. Photo courtesy of River City Food Bank

through Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends at the organization's warehouse, 1251 N. C St.

The warehouse will be closed Nov. 29 and Nov. 30. Monetary donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 13495, Sacramento, CA 95813, or made online at sacloaves.org. For questions, call 916-446-0874.

Holiday Food Distribution

River City Food Bank is helping to make the holidays a little brighter with its Holiday Food Distribution, providing healthy groceries for families in need.

Two distribution events are planned: one at an Arden location, The Center at St. Matthew's, 2300 Edison Ave., from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22; and another at the Midtown location, 1800 28th St., from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Those looking to help can donate at rivercity-foodbank.givingfuel.com/donate, helping ensure more families have a Thanksgiving meal to enjoy this season.

Dine Out for Thanksgiving

Looking to skip the stress of cooking this year? Several local restaurants are offering Thanksgiving meals to either enjoy in-restaurant or at home with family and friends.

Chevy's Fresh Mex, 1369 Garden Highway, will feature a Thanksgiving buffet complete with a roasted turkey and ham carving station, unlimited champagne and mimosas, and an array of sides including apple-jalapeño stuffing, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, a taco station and desert bar. Prices are \$43.99 for adults and \$14.99 for children. For more details, visit chevys.com/open-thanksgiving.

Yard House, 405 K St. Suite 100, will offer two turkey options of classic sliced turkey with gravy or fried Nashville hot turkey, both starting at \$29.99 for adults and \$13.99 for children 12 and under. Plates include parmesan mashed potatoes, sausage stuffing, mac and cheese, brussels sprouts, cranberry sauce and a choice of pumpkin praline cheesecake or Oreo

sundae for dessert. More details are at yardhouse.com/events/thanksgiving.

At The Firehouse Restaurant, 1112 Second St., guests can enjoy a three-course Thanksgiving menu for \$99 per person and \$45.95 for young patrons. The menu includes a Bloomsdale spinach salad, a choice of roasted breast of free-range turkey, pan-roasted Alaskan halibut, filet mignon or braised sweet potato and ricotta ravioli. Dessert options include Old World carrot cake and pumpkin cheesecake.

Reservations can be made at firehouseoldsac.com/thanksgiving-menu or by calling 916-442-4772.

Friendsgiving and Riverfront Dining

For a more casual celebration, Crawdads on the River will host its 10th annual Friendsgiving event at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 1375 Garden Highway. The evening will include food, music from DJ NADZ and plenty of time to share stories and make memories with friends. Register for the event at bit.ly/4i1Zrm7



Those wanting a festive dining experience with a view can celebrate Thanksgiving aboard the historic Delta King Riverboat, 1000 Front St., from noon to 6 p.m. Nov. 27. Photo courtesy of Delta King Riverboat



Celebrate Thanksgiving by participating in a morning run, walk or jog at the 32nd annual Run to Feed the Hungry 5K or 10K. Photo courtesy of Run to Feed the Hungry

(case sensitive).

Finally, those wanting a festive dining experience with a view can celebrate Thanksgiving aboard the historic Delta King Riverboat, 1000 Front St. Guests can enjoy a buffet with roasted turkey, prime rib, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy and seasonal

desserts, including pumpkin pie. The event runs from noon to 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Tickets are \$70 for adults and \$28 for children ages 12 and under.

For more information, contact inquiry@deltaking.com or call 916-444-8052. ★

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Parade Honors Hometown Racing Hero



Pictured is Elk Grove native and professional racing driver Kyle Larson with his 2025 NASCAR Cup Series Champion Driver trophy. Photo by Roger Neria

By Nathan Felix Valencia

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The Elk Grove community gathered on Friday, Nov. 14 for yet another parade during the week, but this time honoring Elk Grove native Kyle Larson.

The parade was held for Larson, who won his second NASCAR Cup Series Championship Nov. 2 after earning his first championship in 2021.

Born and raised in Elk Grove, Larson found a love of racing at a very early age when he went to his first race at just a week old. He attended Pleasant Grove High School before transitioning to being homeschooled to pursue his promising racing career, even being nicknamed “Young Money” early in his career in recognition of the talent he possessed.

Larson was able to turn his talent into greatness. He not only has two NASCAR Cup Series Championships, but has won the 2024 Brickyard



Elk Grove celebrated hometown racing hero Kyle Larson with a parade on Nov. 14, celebrating his most recent NASCAR Cup Series Championship win. Photo by Roger Neria



Wide Open Walls created a Kyle Larson mural at The Sign Center on Elk Grove Boulevard. Photo by Nathan Felix Valencia

400, 2023 Southern 500 and the 2022 Daytona 500, with these wins just being the tip of the iceberg for his achievements. His greatness on the track also earned him the 2022 ESPY Award for Best Driver as well as being named one of NASCAR’s 75 Greatest Drivers in 2023.

Larson’s success on and off the track has made Elk Grove proud, as one of their own is making national headlines. This hometown pride prompted

community members to celebrate with a parade for Larson’s achievements. This is the second parade for Larson, as he had one in 2021 after winning his first NASCAR Cup Series Championship.

The parade took place on Elk Grove Boulevard at noon. It started at DreamGirls Salon and ended at the Old Town Plaza. Before the parade, Wide Open Walls created a mural for Larson at The Sign Center, where the

community gathered to see him sign the mural at 11:30 a.m. Fans then lined up on the street to support the hometown hero.

The parade was led by the Elk Grove Police Department and the Cosumnes Fire Department, followed by 20 parade cars. These 20 cars consisted of exotic cars and Chevrolet models old and new, with two classic cars from the Sacramento Auto Museum. Once the parade was



Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume presents proclamation to Kyle Larson dedicating Nov. 22 as “Kyle Larson Day.” Photo by Roger Neria



Kyle Larson signs Hendrick Cars merchandise for a fan at Old Town Plaza on Nov. 14. Photo by Roger Neria



Kyle Larson signs the mural painted in his honor, done by local arts organization Wide Open Walls, on Nov. 14. Photo by Roger Neria

over, everyone gathered in the Old Town Plaza where Larson received a warm welcome home and a red-carpet arrival.

Elected officials gave speeches not only to praise the achievements Larson has made, but also the hard work and determination he has had throughout his career. A proclamation was even made that dedicates Nov. 22 as honorary Kyle

Larson Day in Elk Grove. Larson is not just a hero for NASCAR fans, but a hero for the entire community of Elk Grove.

Winning at the highest level possible yet still managing to come back to the community he grew up in to celebrate, he provides hope to the younger generation, showing that they can turn their dreams into reality. ★

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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California Farms Lose \$20,528 Annually to Natural Hazards

Trace One News Release

CALIFORNIA (MPG) - High grocery prices have been a defining economic story in recent years, driven by a combination of factors including pandemic-related supply chain breakdowns and labor shortages. However, an increasingly critical driver of food price inflation has been the impact of natural disasters, such as droughts, floods and hurricanes, on the nation’s agricultural output.

California farms have the largest losses due to natural hazards, according to a new study from Trace One, a company specializing in product lifecycle management and regulatory compliance software for the food and beverage industry.

In April, a devastating weather system massively flooded corn, rice, soybean, and wheat crops in eastern Arkansas, affecting 31% of agricultural acreage in the region and inflicting an estimated \$99 million worth of damage. The agricultural industry in North Carolina was hit hard by Hurricane Helene in late September 2024, prompting the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to grant \$221.2 million in federal disaster assistance block grants to help the industry rebuild in the state.

The increased frequency of natural hazards has created a challenging environment for farmers. However, the effects of climate- and weather-related disasters are not uniform, varying greatly depending on location. To pinpoint where these events are having the greatest impact on farmers and the nation’s food supply, Trace One researchers conducted an in-depth analysis of the latest data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



California farms are expected to lose a total of about \$1.3 billion per year to natural disasters, an average per-farm loss of \$20,528, according to Trace One analysis of Federal Emergency Management Agency data. The worst type of natural hazard for California’s agriculture is drought, which can reduce irrigation, shrink harvests and put extra strain on livestock. Photo by Mark Stebnicki <https://www.pexels.com>

According to Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates, natural hazards cause an average of \$3.5 billion in agricultural losses annually, with drought being the single largest contributor. Drought alone accounts for more than half of these losses, averaging \$1.9 billion per year. The financial impact of drought underscores its threat to farmers, particularly in regions reliant on water-intensive crops.

Other significant contributors to agricultural losses include hurricanes, which cause \$485 million in annual losses, along with flooding (\$437 million) and cold waves (\$286 million). Events such as hailstorms, strong winds, and heat waves collectively add hundreds of millions in losses to the yearly toll. While less frequent, disasters

such as tornadoes, winter weather and wildfires also contribute economic strain in certain regions.

Natural disasters impacting agriculture vary significantly across U.S. regions due to differing climates and geographic vulnerabilities. Drought is a persistent challenge on the West Coast, particularly in California, as well as the Southwest and parts of the Southern Plains, where water scarcity hampers crop yields and livestock production.

Hurricanes have the most severe impact in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, where states such as Florida and North Carolina frequently experience storm surges and high winds that devastate crops and infrastructure. Riverine flooding is most problematic in the Mississippi River

Basin and its extensive tributary networks, as well as in the Pacific Northwest. Cold waves are most prominent in the Midwest and Mountain West, where freezing temperatures can damage crops and livestock operations.

Taken together, California leads the nation in agricultural losses due to natural hazards, with farms in the state incurring an estimated \$1.3 billion in losses annually. This figure dwarfs losses in other states, with drought being the most significant hazard affecting California’s vast agricultural sector. On a per-farm basis, California reports an average loss of \$20,528, which is the highest of any state, reflecting its reliance on high-value crops such as fruits, nuts and vegetables, which are particularly vulnerable to water

shortages.

By comparison, Texas, which ranks second, faces an expected annual loss of \$205 million, with droughts again being the primary driver. Iowa, North Carolina, and Florida round out the top five, each suffering from a combination of droughts and hurricanes, although with lower total and per-farm losses than California.

At the county level, California continues to dominate the rankings, with Santa Barbara County reporting the largest expected losses at \$245 million annually. Drought is the principal hazard here, impacting high-value crops including strawberries, vegetables and wine grapes.

Other California counties, such as Yolo, Napa, Sutter and Colusa, also rank highly, with annual losses ranging from \$70 million to \$115 million. These counties experience some of the highest loss rates per farm, with those in Santa Barbara County and Yolo County losing an estimated \$180,339 and \$144,645 each year, respectively.

According to the data for California, the total expected annual loss due to natural hazards is \$1,283,017,450 and the expected annual loss per farm is \$20,528 for a total of 62,500 farms. California’s expected annual loss rate is 2.2%, the total agriculture value is \$58,490,098,696 and the worst natural hazard for agriculture is drought.

According to the date for the entire United States, the total expected annual loss is \$3,480,816,585 and the expected annual loss per farm is \$1,851 for a total of 1,880,000 farms. The country’s expected annual loss rate is 0.7%, the total agriculture value is \$503,268,663,042 and the worst natural hazard for agriculture is drought. ★

Society for the Blind Offers Services for All Ages

Society for the Blind News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The nonprofit Society for the Blind organization is encouraging residents to honor Blindness Awareness Month throughout October by participating in activities and supporting people with vision loss so they can gain the skills they need to stay independent and thrive.

“Our clients tell us all the time that they thought their life was over when they began losing vision but they discovered it was the beginning of a new chapter,” said Society for the Blind executive director Shari Roeseler. “During Blindness Awareness Month, we want to make sure everyone knows that people can live their best lives with vision loss or blindness when they have the right tools. If you are losing your vision or you know someone who is, we have a wide array of classes and support that will



Society for the Blind’s senior program members learned how to carve pumpkins without vision last October during Blindness Awareness Month. Photo courtesy of Society for the Blind

help you build the skills you need, whether you are a child, working-age adult or senior.”

For more than 70 years, the Society for the Blind organization has continued to create innovative ways to carry out its mission, which is to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop

and achieve their full potential.

Since 1954, Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers to a nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of Northern California. Those counties include Sacramento, Sutter,

Yolo, Yuba, El Dorado, Placer, Amador, Butte and San Joaquin. Society for the Blind is located at 1238 S St., Sacramento.

The nonprofit organization provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship and access to tools to maintain independence for more than 5,000 youth, working-age

adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year.

In addition to its onsite Low Vision Clinic and assistive technology store, Society for the Blind offers four core classes to ensure people with vision loss can stay active, employed and live life to the fullest. The four core classes are on orientation and mobility, independent living skills, assistive technology and braille.

The nonprofit organization also provides a program for seniors that includes support groups and activities such as yoga and cooking classes.

For youth, Society for the Blind offers a support groups for caregivers and parents of children with vision loss.

The group also provides a braille production program and hosts events open to the public.

To learn more or make a donation, visit online www.SocietyfortheBlind.org. Or call the office at 916-452-8271. ★

AI Runs on Power But Power Isn't Moving Fast Enough



Christian Bonilla
Commentary
by Christian Bonilla,
co-founder and co-CEO
of DMARK Energy
Solutions

Artificial intelligence is booming and America's power grid is struggling to keep up.

At the World Economic Forum, President Trump recently warned that “We need double the energy we currently have in the United States for AI to be

as big as we want to have it.” Elon Musk has echoed similar concerns, predicting that AI data centers could overwhelm the electricity supply next year. The Department of Energy predicts that AI-driven electricity demand could increase sixfold by 2030.

They’re right about the scale of AI’s electricity needs. But they’re wrong about the diagnosis.

America doesn’t suffer from a lack of energy resources. We have vast oil and gas reserves, plus growing solar and wind energy capacity. The real problem is getting the electricity that’s already, or soon could be, generated from these energy sources to the data centers where it’s needed.

Solving this coordination challenge will require a new approach to energy infrastructure, one with an eye toward future needs.

This distinction between coordination and total capacity matters. If the problem were simply about generating more electricity overall, the solution would be straightforward: build more power plants and transmission lines to bring power to all the new data centers. But that would and will take years, if not decades. New transmission lines alone often take years to complete.

Instead, we need to build new data centers next to existing energy deposits, such as natural gas fields in places like West Texas,

Oklahoma, North Dakota and elsewhere, so that power-hungry data centers can build on-site generating plants and obtain the electricity they need, without having to connect to the broader grid. Using standardized data center designs and prefabricated components could further accelerate construction timelines and get data centers up and running years faster than previous generations of data centers built in traditional hubs like Northern Virginia or Silicon Valley.

Data center developers already recognize the advantages of this coordinated approach. A recent KPMG survey revealed that 77 percent of data center stakeholders

consider it key to build alongside energy generation.

But in practice, data center developers often struggle to understand and vet energy producers. And in turn, those producers often misunderstand the needs of data center operators.

This is a challenge even for the largest AI developers. The Stargate project, a \$500 billion AI data center investment backed by OpenAI and SoftBank, chose Abilene, Texas, as its flagship site after fielding interest from 16 different states, largely for Abilene’s energy availability, alongside other land and regulatory advantages. Despite the initial fanfare, practical challenges

quickly tempered aspirations and the initiative has mostly stalled. As a result, Stargate has quietly scaled back its 2025 ambitions to building a single data center in Ohio.

To lead in the AI age, America will need more than chips and capital. It needs clearer rules, faster transactions between energy producers and AI developers, and a system that rewards coordination just as much as production.

If we solve this coordination challenge, America can lead the AI revolution and improve everything from health care to education to national security. But if we fail, we’ll be left with plenty of power, just not where it matters. ★

River City Water Polo Makes History

Girls Capture Third Straight Title, Boys Return to Championship Stage

River City High School Athletics News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The 2025 season marked another historic chapter for River City High School Water Polo. Both the varsity boys' and varsity girls' programs advanced to their respective Monticello Empire League (MEL) Championship Games, a testament to the depth, talent and culture of excellence continuing to thrive within the program.

The varsity girls once again set the standard, defeating league rival Rodriguez High School 22–11 to capture their third consecutive league championship and second straight Monticello Empire League title. The victory also secured the best record in program history and cemented River City High's status among the Sac-Joaquin Section's Division I elite.

Led by the dynamic scoring tandem of Reagan Eisberg and Cat Hadda-Guimaraes, widely regarded as one of the most prolific offensive duos in California, the Lady Raiders combined relentless offense with disciplined defense anchored by senior Reese Castro. The team now heads into the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Sac-Joaquin Section Playoffs with confidence and championship experience, opening against



The River City High School Water Polo varsity girls once again set the standard, defeating league rival Rodriguez High School 22–11 to capture their third consecutive league championship and second straight Monticello Empire League title. Photo courtesy of Jonathan Sibayan

Laguna Creek High School in the first round.

The defending Monticello Empire League Champion

varsity boys also returned to the title stage, falling just short in a hard-fought 13–16 battle against Rodriguez. Despite the loss, the

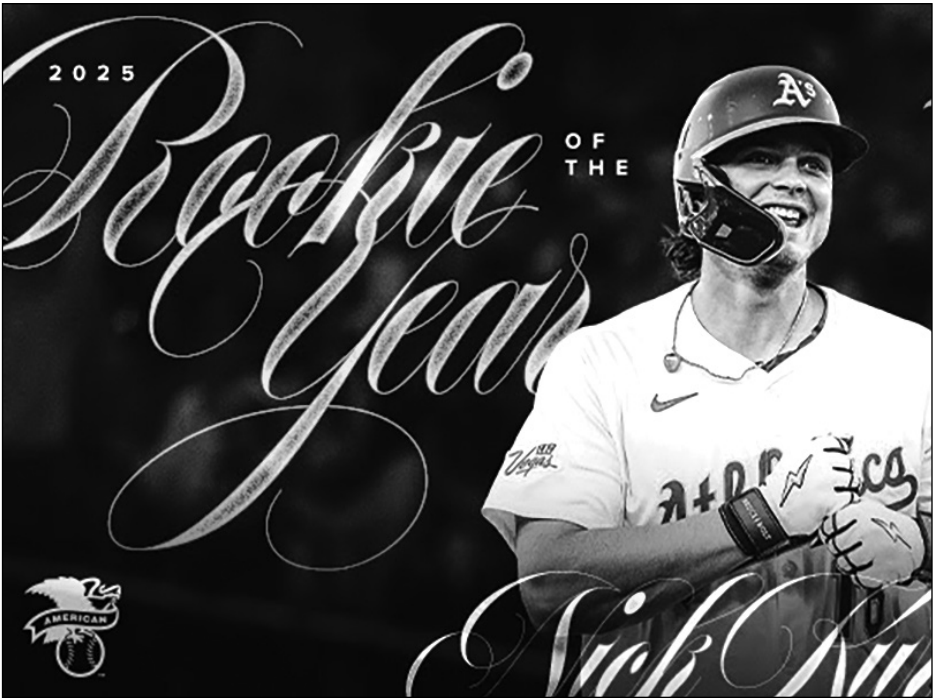
Raiders showcased grit, maturity and tremendous promise for the future. The young squad, featuring only one junior in the

starting lineup, is anchored by a talented core of sophomores and freshmen, including stand-out goalie Elijah Stone-Eisberg, one of the section's top young keepers. Offensively, the Raiders were powered by one of the region's most dangerous scoring tandems, Brendon Bryner and Caleb Eisberg, with defensive leadership from Joshua Diaz, Preston Caldwell, and Shane Castaneda.

The appearance marked another milestone in River City High's continued rise, following the boys' 2024 league championship, and reaffirmed that the foundation for sustained success is firmly in place. The boys now turn their attention to the postseason, opening California Interscholastic Federation play against Rocklin High School.

As both programs prepare for playoff action, River City Water Polo has firmly established itself as one of the most competitive and respected programs in the region, built on hard work, unity and the relentless pursuit of excellence. ★

Big Amish is the 2025 AL Rookie of the Year



A's shortstop Jacob Wilson finished as the runner-up, marking the first time a team has had the first and second place finishers in American League Rookie of the Year Voting since 1984. Photo courtesy of the Athletics

Athletics News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - First baseman Nick Kurtz has been named the 2025 Jackie Robinson American League Rookie of the Year Award winner. Kurtz won the award unanimously with all 30 first-place votes. He is the 14th player to win the AL award by a unanimous vote.

Kurtz slashed .290/.383/.619 with a 1.002 OPS in 117 games played this season after making his MLB debut on April 23. He led American League rookies in home runs (36), RBI (86), runs (90), walks (63), and extra-base hits (64). Kurtz joins Aaron Judge (2017) and Albert Pujols (2001) as the only rookies in MLB history to hit at least 35 home runs, score at least 90 runs, and record an OPS of at least 1.000.

His 36 home runs were the second most in a season by an A's rookie, trailing only Mark McGwire's 49 home runs in 1987.

On July 25 at Houston, Kurtz went a perfect 6-for-6, tying the MLB record for home runs (4), extra-base hits (5), and total bases in a game (19). He won both American League Rookie of the Month as well as American League Player of the Month for July.

Kurtz joins Mark McGwire (1987) as the only A's first basemen to win AL Rookie of the Year. This year, he has already won the Player's Choice Outstanding Rookie Award, Sporting News Rookie of the Year, and the Louisville Slugger Silver Slugger Award for first basemen.

A's shortstop Jacob Wilson finished as the runner-up, marking the first time a team has had the first and second place finishers in American League Rookie of the Year Voting since 1984. Wilson was the starting shortstop for the 2025 All-Star Game and was the first rookie shortstop to be elected by the fans. ★

Aggies Earn Third Rider of the Week Sweep



Chloe Fares, Eliza Plum, Cavan Smith, and Mya Clader were each recognized for their standout performances during the Aggies' doubleheader weekend on Nov. 8 and 9. Courtesy photo

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - For the third time this season, University of California, Davis swept the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Rider of the Week awards following back-to-back victories over Delaware State and UT Martin.

Equestrian team members Chloe Fares, Eliza Plum, Cavan Smith and Mya Clader were each recognized for their standout performances during the Aggies' doubleheader weekend on Nov. 8 and 9.

Fares continued her strong season over in fences with high-scoring, point-winning rides over both meets. She notched an 82 aboard Cici to capture the first of four points for the Aggies against Delaware State. The sophomore then delivered a Most Outstanding Player (MOP)-winning 86 on Salty versus UT Martin, the top score of the event, outscoring her opponent by an outstanding 20 points to help UC Davis secure both weekend events.

Plum was a steady performer for horsemanship, picking up key points in both meets. The sophomore edged her Delaware State opponent with a 66.5 riding Cinch,

then posted a standout 76 on Brady versus UT Martin, earning herself MOP honors and a spot in the UC Davis individual records book. That led the Aggies to a 3-0 sweep in the event.

Smith delivered commanding rides in flat across both meets. She opened the weekend with an 84 aboard Kevin against Delaware State, defeating her opponent by a whopping 21 points to clinch the event's final and fourth point for UC Davis. The freshman then carried that momentum against UT Martin, earning an 86 on Cooper to win by another large margin of 18 points, claiming the MOP honors as the Aggies took the event three to one.

Clader anchored the Aggies' reining team with back-to-back winning rides. She earned the lone reining point against Delaware State with a 65 on Aspen, then turned in the event's top score of 70.5 aboard Delta versus UT Martin to capture MOP honors. The senior now boasts six winning rides this season, continuing to set the tone for the UC Davis Western lineup.

The Aggies are back at home to battle against No. 5 Oklahoma State at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22. ★

Blake Willey and Chibi Ukaegbu to Join U.S. U-19 National Team

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - U.S. Soccer announced that Republic FC midfielder Blake Willey and defender Chibuike "Chibi" Ukaegbu were selected to the U.S. U-19 Men's National Team roster for its training camp in Wrexham, Wales from Nov. 9 to Nov. 19.

They are the only players representing a United Soccer League Championship club on the roster.

The camp included friendlies against Germany on Nov. 12, Wales on Nov. 15 and Japan on Nov. 18.

The 18-year-olds signed their first professional contracts with Republic FC ahead of the 2024 season, following a successful tenure with the club's

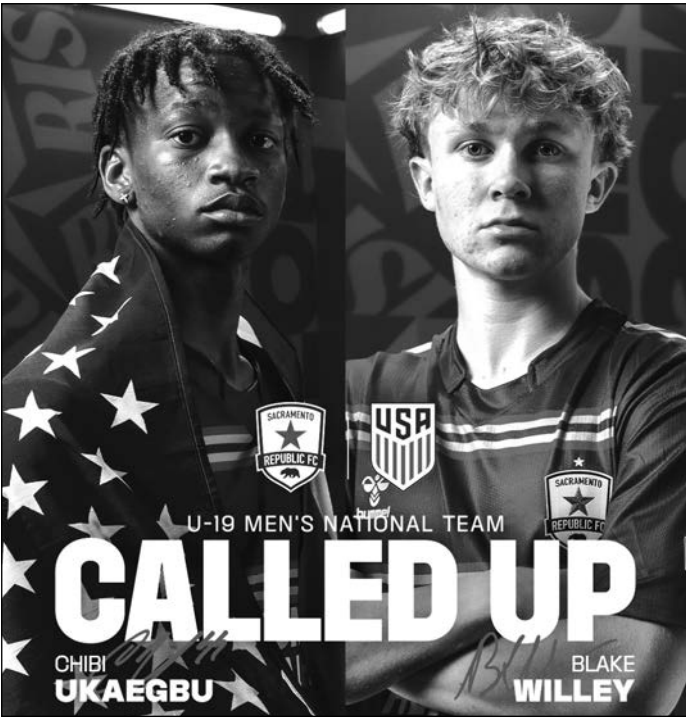
youth academy.

Willey had a breakout year this year. After becoming the second-youngest player to start in a Republic FC season opener, Willey went on to set a new club record for hometown players with 27 appearances, 19 starts and 1,590 minutes in the regular season. Willey's three assists ranked first among the league's top young players, earning him two Team of the Week selections. In May, Willey competed with the U.S. U-18 National Team in the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Friendship Cup and appeared in every game to help the team bring home the championship trophy.

Roseville-native Ukaegbu set a new career high with 19 appearances and

949 minutes played across all competitions this year. In league play, Ukaegbu is among the top five in defenders under age 20 with 36 clearances, 16 interceptions and 49 duels won. Ukaegbu also spent time playing up two age groups with the U-20 Men's National Team, earning training camp call ups in January, September and October.

Season ticket memberships are now on sale for the 2026 season, offering a range of benefits including discounts on merchandise and access to exclusive fan experiences, as well as priority access to seats in the new Republic Stadium at The Railyards. For more information, or to buy a membership today, visit online SacRepublicFC.com/Memberships. ★



Season ticket memberships are now on sale for the 2026 season, offering a range of benefits including discounts on merchandise and access to exclusive fan experiences, as well as priority access to seats in the new Republic Stadium at The Railyards. Photo courtesy of Sac Republic FC