



A Push of a Button, A Gift of Hope

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Operations Launch at Big Notch Project Expands Critical Salmon Habitat



Speakers at the ribbon-cutting event included Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth; Bureau of Reclamation Acting Regional Director Adam Nickels and California Department of Fish and Wildlife Deputy Director of Public Affairs Katie Talbot. Photo courtesy of the California Department of Water Resources

California Department of Water Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Operations have officially begun for the Big Notch Project, one of the largest floodplain salmon-rearing habitat projects in California history. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) held a ribbon cutting ceremony Nov. 21 in Yolo County to kick off the first operational season of the Big Notch Project.

The project includes three

seasonally operated gates at the Fremont Weir, making it easier for juvenile salmon and sturgeon to move into the Yolo Bypass, a critical floodplain habitat that plays a key role in the recovery of these threatened and endangered species.

The Big Notch Project is one of the key actions highlighted in Governor Newsom's California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future which aims to restore populations of salmon as the state experiences increased temperatures as a result

of a changing climate. The project was designed with cutting-edge science and a highly public process that incorporated decades of fisheries research and land-use knowledge. Big Notch will be operated to benefit fish in a way that protects existing land-uses such as agriculture, recreation and flood protection.

"With temperatures warming in California, salmon need rivers that give them more room to roam so they can rest and eat as they migrate to the

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Council Approves Bryte Park Land Purchase Agreement

By John McCallum

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - West Sacramento's long - proposed renovations to its "most heavily used and programmed park" took another step toward realization at the Nov. 19 City Council meeting.

City Council unanimously approved authorizing staff to execute an agreement with the Washington Unified School District to purchase the 24.62-acre Bryte Park in north West Sacramento for \$5.42 million.

The agreement also includes the purchase of 4.076 acres of adjacent roadway, including portions of Riverbank Road deemed "of limited use and restricted value" for the price of \$1.

According to the city staff report, Washington Unified School District owns the property while West Sacramento maintains and improves it. The city is proposing to use part of a conditionally-awarded \$15-million grant from the Outdoor Recreation and Legacy Program, funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, to purchase the property and aid in the proposed more than \$64.36-million park improvements and upgrades.

West Sacramento would use the grant to pay for half, \$2.71 million, of the purchase price with the balance coming from about \$12.5 million that the city has set aside for park improvement funding.

Parks and Recreation Director Kate Smith told council that city staff anticipates finalization of the purchase agreement with the school district by the end of the year. It is still pending Washington Unified School District Board of Trustees approval, and once completed, would lead to a target of February for the construction bidding process to commence, with a potential groundbreaking in spring.

"We hope to have the shovels in the ground by May '26," Smith said.

Bryte Park improvements include renovations to existing features, along with new amenities, the biggest of which is an aquatic center with a six-lane lap pool, zero entry wading pool, shaded spectator areas and a building with rooms that can be rented to the public.

Also in the plan is a 75-seat terraced amphitheater, splash pad with a river theme, picnic shelter, outdoor classroom, concessions building, additional basketball courts, handball court, ball fields

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'Passion For PAWS' Feeds Furry Friends

Meals on Wheels Yolo County News Release

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The "Passion For PAWS" pet food and supplies drive is ongoing across Yolo County through Dec. 31, supporting local food insecure seniors and their furry companions, as part of Meals on Wheels Yolo County's (MOW Yolo's) ongoing Meals on Wheels Pets and Well Seniors Program (PAWS).

"Pet food, like everything else, is expensive but Chiquita is my baby," said Meals on Wheels Yolo meal recipient Frank Valenzuela, a widower from Woodland. "Even though the food is expensive, I will do anything for my baby Chiquita."

A part of Meals on Wheels Yolo's annual "Season For Seniors" campaign, the "Passion For PAWS" drive is intended to advance Meals on Wheels PAWS' year-round impact, recognizing the important role that a pet often plays in relieving isolation for mobility-limited, home-bound seniors, as well as the fiscal burdens that can be incurred by these older adults to care for their pets. If pressed to choose, Meals



Meals on Wheels Yolo recipient Frank Valenzuela and his dog, Chiquita. Courtesy photo

on Wheels Yolo has discovered that many seniors will prioritize their pets'

nutrition ahead of their own. "More than 50 local

seniors, such as Frank, and their 90-plus pets, such as

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Operation Vigilance Finds 95% of Registered Sex Offenders in Compliance



"Operation Vigilance" is a program that started 16 years ago with the goal to protect Yolo County citizens by ensuring that those who must register as sex offenders, who live in the County, are complying with all laws and applicable parole or probation directives. Photo courtesy of Yolo County District Attorney

Yolo County District Attorney News Release

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On Nov. 18 and 19, Yolo County law enforcement conducted compliance checks and address verifications on more than 300 registered sex offenders.

"Operation Vigilance" is a program that started 16 years ago with the goal to protect Yolo County citizens by ensuring that those who must register as sex offenders, who live in the county, are complying with all laws and applicable parole or probation directives.

More than 60 law enforcement personnel from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Davis Police, Yolo County Probation, Woodland Parole Unit, California Department of Justice, Yolo County District Attorney's Office, Yolo County Sheriff's Office, West Sacramento Police, Winters Police, and the Woodland Police participated in this joint operation. Additionally, the Yolo County IT GIS Division provided key support to the operation.

Many of the individuals who are required to register were previously convicted of rape, child molestation or possession of child pornography. During the operation, law enforcement personnel attempt to visit and verify the address of every registered sex offender with a physical address in Yolo County.

One unique aspect of "Operation Vigilance" is that while officers are making the home visits, forensic examiners search the computers, smart phones and other digital storage devices for potential violations. Computer forensic investigators

from the Yolo County District Attorney's Office High Technology Unit and examiners from other participating agencies worked together to conduct these specialized searches.

Additionally, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation provided five agents with canines trained specifically to detect electronics to enhance these searches. During the operation, 58 electronic devices were searched and an additional four electronic items were seized for further forensic examination.

Approximately 5% of registered sex offenders within Yolo County were found to be out of compliance with their sex offender registration requirements, which will result in additional investigation by law enforcement. Five offenders on parole/probation were arrested for various violations by officers participating in this operation.

"Operation Vigilance demonstrates how Yolo County agencies work together to protect the public. I am grateful for the skilled, committed professionals who executed this operation to keep our neighborhoods safe," said Yolo County Sheriff Tom Lopez.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig praised the ongoing commitment of Yolo County law enforcement agencies that oversee and monitor registered offenders.

"We successfully checked 100% of sex offenders with permanent addresses and I'm pleased to report that 95% were in compliance," Reisig said. "Operation Vigilance provides an added layer of deterrence for individuals who are required to register and may be at risk of re-offending." ★

'Passion For PAWS' Feeds Furry Friends

Continued from page 1
Chiquita, currently depend upon the Meals on Wheels PAWS program for pet food and supplies," said Meals on Wheels Yolo programs manager Kathy Tuel. "These deliveries are crucial not only for the pets' well-being, but also for maintaining the human-animal bond, which is essential for the social health and emotional support of these seniors."

Now available to Meals on Wheels Yolo home-delivered meals recipients in Woodland, Davis, West Sacramento and Winters, expansion of the Meals on Wheels PAWS program to

serve isolated seniors and pets in rural Yolo County is planned for early 2026, according to Tuel, and will be possible with a successful "Passion For PAWS" food and supplies drive.

Donations of unopened dog and cat food and treats, leashes, collars and other essential supplies are needed, with drop-off locations available through year's end in Woodland, Davis, Winters and West Sacramento. Details, as well as the opportunity to offer monetary gifts to accelerate "Passion For PAWS," are available at <https://mow-yolo.org/s4s>; scroll to the

second half of the web page.

Additionally, if you operate a local business and are inspired to host a "Passion For PAWS" donation bin, contact Tuel at ktuel@mowyolo.org or 530-662-7035.

Meals on Wheels PAWS initiated last February, thanks to founding sponsor Cat Tales Feline Health Center in Davis, with further support from Meals on Wheels America. To learn more about Meals on Wheels PAWS, visit <https://mowyolo.org/nutrition-access/pets-and-seniors/> or call 530-662-7035. ★

Operations Launch at Big Notch Project

Continued from page 1

ocean," said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth. "This new infrastructure allows us to better manage how and when river water inundates the Yolo Bypass. This innovative infrastructure helps salmon, protects people from flooding and enables farmers to continue to grow our food in the region."

The Big Notch Project is built into the Fremont Weir, which is part of the Fremont Weir State Wildlife Area in Yolo County. The construction of the massive project included the removal of a section of the Fremont Weir, the installation of three gates, the excavation of 180,000 cubic yards of material to carve new channels for the salmon, and the construction of a control building and a pedestrian bridge.

With construction now complete, the gated passages will be opened when the Sacramento River is high enough to use the Yolo Bypass as a floodplain. The water will enter the bypass through the notch at Fremont Weir and create a shallow water floodplain for fish to easily migrate through the area. This also means that juvenile salmon will have a food-rich habitat to feed in for a longer time. This creates juveniles that are

conversationally called "floodplain fatties," since studies show the juvenile salmon that feed in floodplains grow rapidly in size, compared to juveniles that only feed in rivers. Floodplain migration also improves their chances of survival as they travel to the Pacific Ocean.

Adult salmon and sturgeon will also benefit from the new openings created from Big Notch's gates, which will reduce stranding and migratory delays due to passage barriers. Sonar cameras installed at the gates will monitor which species of fish are passing through the Big Notch Project.

The project cost \$58 million for construction, oversight and environmental monitoring. Department of Water Resources was able to complete construction of the Big Notch Project, thanks to \$41 million in funds provided by project partner and federal lead agency, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

"The Big Notch Project serves as a cornerstone example of how multi-benefit programs can support species recovery and, in turn, ensure a reliable water supply for farms and communities," said Reclamation Acting Regional Director Adam Nickels. "Reclamation is pleased to partner with the Department of Water

Resources in bringing this project from design to operation in support of our shared water interests."

Said Nemeth, "We are so grateful to all our partners involved in the Big Notch Project, including Reclamation, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and National Marine Fisheries Service, as well as Yolo County and the local landowners."

The Big Notch Project fulfills state and federal regulatory requirements to support endangered species for continued operation of the State Water Project and federal Central Valley Project. The State Water Project provides water to 27 million Californians, 750,000 acres of farmland, and businesses throughout the state. The Central Valley Project provides an annual average of 7 million acre-feet of water for farms, 600,000 acre-feet of water for municipal and industrial uses, water for wildlife refuges, maintains water quality in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and reduces flood risk for the Central Valley.

Following the ribbon-cutting event, attendees had an opportunity to watch Gate 1 of Big Notch open and water flow through as well as take a walking tour to the new pedestrian bridge and control building. ★

Council Approves Bryte Park Land Purchase Agreement

Continued from page 1

that accommodate youth through adult baseball and softball, natural and synthetic turf sports fields, and improved lighting and parking.

Park upgrades have been a vision for the city since the Bryte Park Master Plan creation in 2013, as well as a source of frustration for north West Sacramento residents. Over the years, some upgrades have been made, including a new playground in 2015 and on-site parking, lighting, landscaping, new restrooms, play area shade structure and crossing improvements on Carrie Street in 2016.

But several residents commenting at the Nov. 19 meeting and also at an Aug. 6 meeting to discuss potential financing expressed frustration with the pace and focus of the city regarding the park. Residents noted that other, lesser-used parks in West Sacramento have received more extensive upgrades while Bryte Park improvements kept being put off. One woman said that they were not told in public park meetings that the city did not own the land and that groundbreaking would take place this month.

"Now, this is like a slap in our face," she said of the

May date.

"We need to get it together," a second woman said of the city's efforts.

Council members agreed with residents' frustrations. Councilwoman Dawnté Early said they had been working diligently "as humanly possible" on bringing improvements to Bryte Park to reality. Early said she believed the school district board would approve the sale of the park land to the city.

Councilwoman Norma Alcalá said she had spoke to several board trustees about the park and agreed with Early.

"This is going to happen," Alcalá added.

At the Aug. 6 meeting, City Manager Aaron Laurel said, a November 2025 target date for purchase of the property had been discussed. Laurel added that the school district has been "great partners" in that process.

"The schedule is on track," he added.

In response to a question from Mayor Martha Guerrero about park usage during construction, Smith said that the Bryte Park would be available for use by girls' softball and boys' Little League programs this spring, as well as for residents surrounding the park.

"Once fences go up May '26, the park will be off line," Smith added. "We are working very closely with Washington Unified as well as some of our other community partners such as Holy Cross to relocation field space so that our goal is we are not having to cancel or decrease any sort of programming both with our organized sports leagues as well as our recreation programming."

To fill the gap between the park's estimated \$64.36-million price tag and current resources of \$27.5 million, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant, the city is proposing to borrow \$40 million from the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank's (IBank) tax-exempt bond infrastructure funding program.

At today's interest rates, the loan would require an estimated annual repayment of \$2.6 million over 30 years, an amount proposed to be covered by pausing the \$1 million in Measure N funds used for the Small Business Accelerator program and \$1.6 million in Measure O funds previously proposed for public safety costs. ★

LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

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Thank

A Veteran TODAY

Jingle All the Way to Santa's Village

New Holiday Experience on River Fox Train Unveiled

By Seth Henderson

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The River Fox Train's Magical Christmas Train has been entirely transformed, providing guests an opportunity to visit Santa's Village, sing songs and celebrate the holidays along the way from Nov. 28 until Dec. 28.

The River Fox's 10-mile-long track, originally opening in 1911, features more than a train ride, as guests deboard from the train into a "snowy" holiday scene with opportunities to buy gifts, meet Santa and take memorable photos.

"The Magical Christmas Train is one of the most enchanting times of the year," said Robert Jason Pinoli, president and CEO of Mendocino Railway, parent company of the River Fox Train. "For decades, this experience has brought families and friends together to pause the hustle and bustle of everyday life and share a moment of wonder. It is a cherished tradition that continues to grow, offering a place where guests can reconnect, laugh and create lasting memories."

The journey to Santa's village takes about an hour to complete and hot chocolate is provided in keep-sake mugs. Each train car is decorated with a theme, corresponding with a ticket. River Fox Train team members dress as Santa's elves energetically chorale through the car, encouraging guests to sing along in various Christmas carols.

Children on board can write letters to Santa while on board and Mrs. Claus makes an



As the train departs, Santa's elves spring into action, filling each car with laughter, song and pure holiday fun. Photo courtesy of the River Fox Train

appearance through each car, greeting guests throughout the journey.

"We would love to have people come and make it a tradition in their families and

recognize them every single year when they come back," public relations manager Kim Preciado said. "Just leaving a magical impression on them."

The Magical Christmas Train

is for guests of all ages, featuring a bar car on the train, serving alcohol to attendees 21 or older. Smoking and vaping is not permitted on the train and at the boarding

station. Guests are encouraged to arrive 30 minutes prior to departure and parking is free. Standard tickets for ages three and up are \$74.15 and infants with lap seating only are \$12.

The River Fox Train is located at 18095 County Road 117 in West Sacramento. To learn more about the Magical Christmas Train or other events from the River Fox Train, visit riverfoxtrain.com/experiences/magical-christmas-train. Follow the River Fox Train on social media at facebook.com/RiverFoxTrain and instagram.com/sacramentoriverfoxtrain.

Built in 1911 by the Northern Electric Company, the River Fox Train's 10-mile track originally transported passengers throughout the Sacramento area. While electric passenger service ended in 1941, the line continued operating with diesel freight, linking the fertile farmlands of the Sacramento Valley with markets across California.

In 2003, Sierra Railroad merged with the Yolo Shortline, maintaining freight service and reviving passenger excursions under the name Sacramento River Train.

Today, the line operates as the River Fox Train under Mendocino Railway, a Class III common carrier, and the line continues to be used in interstate commerce.

A sister line to the world-famous Skunk Train built in 1885, the River Fox Train offers a blend of history and experience with scenic rail-bike rides, relaxing beer and wine trains, and festive holiday adventures that celebrate the nostalgic charm of California rail travel. ★

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Yolo County Board of Education Appoints New Trustee

Yolo County Office
of Education
News Release

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - During its regular Nov. 18 meeting, the Yolo County Board of Education filled a vacancy on its five-member board by appointing Julián Muñoz to the open seat for Trustee Area 5. Once the appointment becomes final, Muñoz will serve until the term expires in December 2026.

Muñoz replaces former trustee Armando Salud-Ambriz, who resigned in October after being appointed Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters for Nevada County. Salud-Ambriz was in a first term on the board of education after being elected in November 2022.

Trustee Area 5 includes north Woodland, Knights Landing, Yolo, Madison, Esparto and the Capay Valley.

Muñoz is a longtime Woodland resident and small-business owner specializing in business development, compliance review and marketing. Muñoz said that his professional experience has prepared him with strong planning and problem-solving skills that will support the board's governance responsibilities.

He has also built strong community connections in Woodland. From 2008 to 2010, Muñoz served as an assistant football coach at Woodland High School and he later co-founded the Concha Run Club, which has since grown into a well-attended community organization.



New Trustee Julián Muñoz is administered the oath of office by County Superintendent Garth Lewis at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting in Woodland. Photo courtesy of Julián Muñoz

Although he relocated to Woodland in 2007, Muñoz emphasized that his family has long-standing, multigenerational ties to Yolo County. His maternal great-grandparents came to the United States through the Bracero Program.

Muñoz is also a first-generation college student and student-athlete, having attended the University of Houston on an athletic scholarship.

After being sworn into office, Muñoz said, "Serving this community has been important to me for many years and I am grateful for the opportunity to extend that service to the entire county, not just the city of Woodland. This opportunity means a great deal to me and I thank you so much for the opportunity."

During the board meeting, two candidates were interviewed for the open seat. Following the interviews, Trustee Maria Olmedo moved to appoint Muñoz. Trustees Elizabeth Esquivel, Olmedo and Shelton Yip voted in favor, with Vice President Melissa Moreno abstaining.

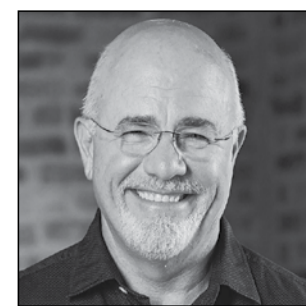
Muñoz was administered the oath of office by county Superintendent Garth Lewis.

Following a provisional appointment, the board must notify the community within 10 days. The appointment becomes final after 30 days unless a petition is filed with the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools requesting a special election.

The Yolo County Board of Education governs the Yolo County Office of Education, approves the county office's annual budget, and serves as the appeals board for student expulsions, inter-district transfers and charter school petitions. The board also promotes community engagement and serves as a public link to Yolo County Office of Education programs and services.

Board members include President Esquivel representing Area 1; Vice President Moreno representing Area 2; Olmedo representing Area 3; and Yip representing Area 4.

For more information about the trustee vacancy and application process, visit www.ycoe.org. ★



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says All of Your Brain Means Both of You

and it comes to making decisions, you should use all of your brain. That means both of you. Two heads are better than one, right? Back when I made all my mistakes with money and we went broke, I didn't listen to anyone about anything. I thought I knew it all. We had investments and owned pieces of property my wife never knew about or laid eyes on.

When it came to our finances, she always trusted me and told me to do what I thought was best. Well, it turns out, I was an idiot. If I'd had an ounce of sense or humility back then, I'd have gone to her with my all my bright ideas. Knowing her thoughts or hearing her say, "I don't know about that, honey. I've got a bad feeling about it" might've saved us a lot of pain and heartache — if I'd listened. But now, I understand like never before the meaning of Proverbs 31:10-12. "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is above rubies. The heart of her hus-

band safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain" (NKJV).

I'm sure your husband is lot smarter about things than I was. And he's obviously open to talking with you about all this and showing you things. That's a really good sign. But if I were him, and something were to happen, I'd want you to understand everything. I'd want you to know exactly what you have going on and how it all works.

Great question, Anna!

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

Dear Dave,

My husband and I live in India. I'm from the States, and he was born here. When it comes to our finances, I manage our American investments, and he manages our Indian investments. Every month, we sit down with spreadsheets and go over our finances. I trust him completely, but I'd like to better understand our investments here and how they work. Should I just defer to his judgment, or should I learn to understand things a little better?

— Anna

Dear Anna,

I always tell folks to make sure they completely understand their investments and how they work. So, there's absolutely nothing wrong with learning more about the side of your investments he manages.

I learned a long time ago that when you're married



California Peach Growers File Half-Billion-Dollar Claim

California cling peach growers face an uncertain future after long-term contracts worth more than a half-billion dollars in total were voided by Del Monte Foods, which filed for bankruptcy in July. In August, the major canned foods company exercised its right under federal bankruptcy law to reject its contracts with members of the California Canning Peach Association, which represents about 70% of the state's cling peach growers. Del Monte's rejection of peach contracts has left several dozen growers without a future buyer for their fruit, exposing some to steep losses should they fail to recoup the upfront cost—typically several thousand dollars per acre—of developing their orchards. "We have lots of anxious peach growers not sure what the future holds for them," said Rich Hudgins, president and CEO of the peach association. This month, the association filed a claim seeking \$555 million in damages.

State Proposal to Require Reporting on Treated Seeds

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation plans to add pesticide-treated seeds to the monthly use reports growers already must file with county agricultural commissioners. As part of the proposal, the state would also limit seed treatments to those products registered both federally and by the state. Under a lawsuit settlement between DPR and

environmental groups, the state must develop and finalize a rule to label and track pesticide-treated seed use by Jan. 1, 2027. Paul Sanguinetti, who farms tree and row crops with his sons near Stockton, has for years relied on pesticide treatments on corn seed to control soil-borne pests such as wireworms. Should the proposal be adopted as written, Sanguinetti said it would add more recordkeeping at times to an already cumbersome task. "It's another reporting job when you're trying to plant," Sanguinetti said.

Report Maps Impact of Wine Market Woes on Vineyard Acreage

California winegrape growers removed nearly 40,000 acres of vineyards—roughly 7% of the state's winegrape acreage—between October 2024 and August 2025, according to a new report commissioned by the California Association of Winegrape Growers. The 2025 Standing Winegrape Acreage report, which was conducted by Land IQ and released earlier this month, provided the most detailed view yet on the location and amount of acreage growers have pulled out in response to a global downturn in wine sales. "We have a lot of information now about the acreage in the state, and we have a good basis and foundation to go forward now in having more accurate numbers and being able to make better predictions about where we're going in the future," said Jeff Bitter, president of the grower-owned marketing group Allied Grape Growers. ★

Crime Reports WEST SACRAMENTO



ARREST REPORTS

Serena Mercedes Lopez-Rivas, 25, was arrested Tuesday, Oct. 14 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police. Officer was dispatched to a retail store for report of shoplifting. Officer arrived on scene and was advised by the reporting person that two suspects were observed via surveillance footage consuming store perishables, then discarding the remains within the store. They were then observed removing tags from store merchandise and leaving them inside the store. The two suspects did this for approximately 16 items worth \$140.00, then leaving the store without paying. One suspect was cited for petty theft of retail merchandise and released from the scene; the other, Lopez-Rivas, was found to have an outstanding warrant, and was detained on the scene and transported to Yolo County Jail, charged with the warrant, petty theft of retail merchandise, and conspiracy to commit crime.

Bailey Stancombe, 28, was cited Monday, Oct. 20 at Town Center Plaza by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a citizen's arrest citation.

Amanda Lopez Castanon, 65, was cited Wednesday, Oct. 22 at Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Kristina Liliana Rubal Cabameza, 38, was cited Wednesday, Oct. 22 at Town Center Plaza by West Sacramento Police for shoplifting. She was also trespassed from the location. All items were recovered by loss prevention staff.

Julio Alberto Sandoval Ramirez, 26, was cited Saturday, Oct. 25 at Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Karl Dane Clements, Jr., 51, was cited Tuesday, Oct. 28 at Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

William David Meek, 58, was cited Saturday, Nov. 1 at Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Lisa Loretta Joy Sorg, 46, was cited Sunday, Nov. 2 at Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

John Fredrick Morris, 33, was cited Sunday, Nov. 2 at Town Center Plaza by West Sacramento Police for possessing unlawful paraphernalia. Officer responded to a report of a robbery, and loss prevention personal on scene reported the suspect who stole the items had left the scene. However, a male subject who was seen with the initial suspect was still inside, and loss prevention asked that this second subject be trespassed from the property. Officer contacted the male, later identified as Morris, as he exited the business and detained him without incident. A records check revealed Morris is on searchable probation until 2029. A search revealed a glass stem with a bulbous end containing black burnt residue that later tested presumptive positive as methamphetamine. Morris was issued a notice to appear citation and released from the scene.

Erika Sharante Gordon, 41, was cited Friday, Nov. 7 at Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Michael Jesse Garcia, 45, was cited Friday, Nov. 7 at Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Jacob Matthew Jamieson, 45, was arrested Thursday, Nov. 13 on Lake Washington Boulevard by West Sacramento Police for burglary. Officers were dispatched to the location regarding a commercial burglary in progress. The owner of the business viewed live video footage of the suspect, later identified as Jamieson, inside the business. The owner told officers she did not know Jamieson but had seen him staying in a vehicle in the parking lot. On the video, Jamieson was seen taking a bottle of alcohol and two cans of Red Bull. The owner wanted to press charges and provided video footage of Jamieson to the officers. Officers contacted Jamieson in a nearby vehicle, confirmed he matched the video footage, and was in possession of the described items. Jamieson was read his Miranda rights and admitted to opening a door and going inside a business. He said he was thirsty. He was transported to Yolo County Jail.

Edward David Cline, 54, was arrested Thursday, Nov. 13 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police. Officer conducted a bicycle

stop at the location for a bicycle riding on the wrong side of the road. A records check of the rider, identified as Cline, found him to have an outstanding felony warrant. He was placed under arrest and a search incident to arrest revealed a hypodermic needle containing a clear fluid that later tested presumptive positive for fentanyl. Cline was transported to Yolo County Jail, charged with the warrant, possessing a controlled substance and possessing unlawful paraphernalia.

Isael Minjarez Carrasco, 20, was arrested Thursday, Nov. 13 at Cabaldon Parkway and 7th Street by West Sacramento Police. Officer observed a vehicle turn in front of the police vehicle after failing to stop at the stop sign at Douglas Street and Sacramento Avenue. Officer activated lights and attempted to conduct a traffic stop but the driver, later identified as Carrasco, failed to stop and continued eastbound on Sacramento Avenue. Carrasco continued for some distance, running a red light, before finally pulling over for officers. Carrasco initially refused to exit his vehicle and appeared to be on the phone with someone. Officers were finally able to detain him in handcuffs without further incident. Carrasco stated he had never had a California identification or driver's license issued to him and had no other confirmed identification. He was transported to Yolo County Jail, charged with driving without a license, failing to stop at a stop sign, failing to stop at a red light, and evading a peace officer.

Eric Jerome Tate, 25, was arrested Friday, Nov. 14 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police for an outstanding felony warrant, giving false identification to a police officer and possessing a controlled substance. He was transported to Yolo County Jail.

Bhuchung Tsering, 43, was cited Friday, Nov. 14 at Town Center Plaza by West Sacramento Police for shoplifting. He was provided a notice to appear.

Staci Renee Cooksey, 50, was arrested Friday, Nov. 14 at Village Parkway and Locks Drive by West Sacramento Police. Officer on patrol observed Cooksey talking to Yolo County Animal Services. Officer had prior knowledge that Cooksey had an outstanding felony warrant, so made contact and confirmed her identity. Officer detained Cooksey without incident and transported her to Yolo County Jail.

Robert Leonard Navarro, 48, was arrested Saturday, Nov. 15 at Evergreen Avenue and Coke Street by West Sacramento Police for DUI. Officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle driven by Navarro and observed objective signs of intoxication. Officer conducted field sobriety tests, which Navarro performed poorly. Navarro was transported to Yolo County Jail. Chemical blood test found blood alcohol concentration >.08.

Ruth Jessica Garcia-Belmontes, 32, was transported Saturday, Nov. 15 from the Sacramento Main Jail to Yolo County Jail by West Sacramento Police on an outstanding felony warrant.

Incidents / Crime Reports

Sunday, Oct. 26 — retail store on Riverpoint Court reports an unknown suspect took \$400 worth of groceries without paying.

Friday, Oct. 31 — business victim reports unknown suspect siphoned gas from their vehicle and started a fire. Two vehicles were damaged at a loss value of \$122,401.

Sunday, Nov. 2 — business victim reports a suspect took items of value by force from a business in Town Center Plaza. Items taken include hygiene and clothing items valued at \$133.22.

Wednesday, Nov. 5 — victim reports a male suspect broke her car rear window with a baseball bat in a parking lot on West Capitol Avenue. Secondhand information from passerby indicates the suspect was an employee of the victim. Damage estimated at \$500.

Thursday, Nov. 6 — victim reports unknown suspect(s) broke windows in the victim's vehicles in a residential driveway on Cedar Street. Suspect(s) also poured oil over the vehicles. Victims wish to press charges and have a lead on potential suspect. Four vehicles were damaged, loss estimated at \$14,230.

Tuesday, Nov. 11 — victim reports mail theft from a community mailbox at a residential facility. Items valued at \$200 were taken, including an Invicta watch.



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[Facebook.com/CommunityLutheranWestSacramento](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityLutheranWestSacramento)

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Sun. School - 9:30 a.m.
 Sun. Worship - 11 a.m.
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 2124 Michigan Blvd.
 (916) 371-2111

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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www.TrinityWestSac.org
info@trinitywestsac.org
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West Sacramento News Ledger

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last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE POST-SALE**

OVER BIDDERS: For post-sale information in accordance with Section 2924m(e) of the California Civil Code, use file number CA-25-1015815-CL and call (866) 645-7711 or login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>. The above statutorily mandated notices to Tenant, Prospective Owner-Occupant, and Prospective Post-Sale Over Bidders are brief summaries of what may be required under Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. Compli-

ance with all relevant provisions will be required. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside

for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of

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Community Calendar

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Turner Library, located at 1212 Merkley Ave. has the following events this week:

Friday, Nov. 28: Library closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

Saturday, Nov. 29: Russian story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Super movie matinee, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Join us for a showing of the 2025 film "Superman" (rated PG-13) on our big screen with a kid-friendly Krypto the Superdog craft.

Monday, Dec. 1: Family story time, 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Drop-in tutoring for grades 1 through 8, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Kids are invited to drop in after school for homework help in math, science, and more with a high school volunteer. Spots are first come, first served, and are limited to 20 minutes if other students are waiting.

Tuesday, Dec. 2: Hug-a-Bye Baby, 11 a.m. to noon. Teen advisory board, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Young people are invited to serve their community by sharing their ideas to make the library a better place, planning events, and more. Enjoy snacks and free book giveaways too.

Wednesday, Dec. 3: Wiggle Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. to noon. **English conversation group**, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 4: Yoga at the library, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 5: English conversation group, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Family friends story time, "Clifford", 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. We'll celebrate "Clifford the Big Red Dog" with story time and crafts.

Saturday, Dec. 6: Russian story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sacramento Philharmonic Winter Concert, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for an unforgettable, free concert of classical music.

Clarksburg Branch Library, located at 52915 Netherlands Road, Clarksburg has the following events this week.

Wednesday, Dec. 3: Anime club, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Join us for anime screenings, fun anime/manga activities, snacks, and more. Registration is required on the library website.

Thursday, Dec. 4: Arctic cold craft, 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Join us for a fun winter craft.

Call 530.666.8005 for more information on any of these events at any Yolo County Library branch.

Continuing through Sunday, Nov. 30: Advance tickets to the Woodland Wonderland of Lights, coming Dec. 6 through 14. Pre-sale tickets are just \$10 per car through Nov. 30 (\$20/car starting Dec.1). Tickets and more information at www.yolocountyfair.net/p/tickets

Continuing through Friday, Dec. 5: West Sacramento Police Department Toy Drive, drop-off bins located at Lenise's Café, City Donut and Starbucks at Town Center Plaza. Feeling generous this holiday season? You can help make a local child's holiday brighter by donating an unwrapped gift. Or donate through the "WSPD Annual Toy Drive Wish List" on Amazon.com.

Continuing through Sunday, Dec. 14: Claude Monet – the Immersive Experience, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily except Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This exhibit features Exhibition Hub's award-winning, 4K digital mapping techniques through which guests are fully enveloped in Monet's brilliant and contemplative works. Tickets and more information at www.monetexpo.com/sacramento

Continuing through Wednesday,

Dec. 24: Pence Gallery Holiday Market, 212 D St., Davis, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except for Dec. 24 (closes at 3 p.m.). Enjoy this treasure trove of handcrafted items made by regional artists and artisans, perfect for holiday gift giving. Purchases can be wrapped in a gift bag upon request. Pence members receive 10% off Holiday Market purchases.

Continuing through Sunday, Dec. 29: Magical Christmas Train at 18095 County Road 117. Step into a dazzling holiday wonderland aboard the newly reimagined train. Santa's elves fill each car with laughter and song, leading joyful carols, playing elvish games, and helping little ones craft their letters to Santa. Then, step off the train in Santa's Village – a storybook scene of snow-dusted streets, a glittering tree farm, and Santa himself waiting to greet everyone. For more information, or to schedule this one-hour trip, contact www.riverfox-train.com/experiences

Continuing through Dec. 31: Yolo County Animal Services Countywide Pet Food Donation Drive, find donation bins at participating businesses throughout Yolo County, including PetSmart in Davis and Pet Supplies Plus in Woodland. Residents may also drop off donations directly at YCAS, 2640 E. Gibson Rd., Woodland.

Friday, Nov. 28 through Sunday, Nov. 30: Black Friday Weekend Sip and Shop, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at the Old Sugar Mill, 35265 Willow Ave., Clarksburg. Enjoy local vendors set up for shopping, food trucks, live music and wine available from our 12 wineries on site.

Saturday, Nov. 29: Thanksgiving Turkey Gobble Trot, 5k/10k/half marathon, 7:30 a.m. registration begins, River Walk Park, 651 2nd St. No timing chips: this is a stress-free run to support you in achieving your goals. Scan QR Code for more information

Saturday, Nov. 29: Holiday Pop-Up Market, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at He Brews Coffee & Tea House, 1540 Jefferson Blvd. She Makes Market is hosting this event in partnership with He Brews – shoppers will find local artists, crafters and small businesses at this festive event. Let's come together to celebrate local creativity, support small businesses, and spread holiday cheer right here in West Sac.

Saturday, Nov. 29: Crafts & Drafts, noon to 4 p.m. at Drakes: The Barn, 985 Riverfront St. Come get a cold one and meet your local makers in one convenient and fun spot. Hosted by River City Marketplace, dog- and kid-friendly.

Saturday, Nov. 29: Crab Feed at Moose Lodge #1762, 3240 Jefferson Blvd. Prepared by Lodge volunteers, the meal will include appetizers, fresh crab, home-made rigatoni, green salad and French bread, \$60 single or \$110 pair. The evening will include a gift raffle, opportunity drawing and auction. For more information call 916-440-3790.

Sunday, Nov. 30: Buy Nothing, noon to 4 p.m. at Jackrabbit Brewing Company, 1323 Terminal Street. Join us at the taproom for a community swap. The concept is simple: bring what you don't need, take what you love. Reduces waste, support your community and find joy in sharing and discovering. Bring gently used home goods, sports equipment, kitchenware, toys, crafts supplies, etc. No clothing or shoes, food or used body products. See www.jackrabbitbrewingcompany.com/events for more information.

Wednesday, Dec. 3: Cocoa with Santa Paws, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Come to Woodland Dog Park, 2001 East Street, Woodland, to get a jump on holiday cheer with your dog this season. This dog- and people-friendly event spreads holiday spirit with photos with Santa, Christmas Crafting with the pups, and snacks. All activities and snacks are dog- and human-friendly. Dress up for the "Festive Fido" contest: prizes for the most festive or creatively attired Fidos or families. Registration is required at <https://bit.ly/CocoaSanta>

Thursday, Dec. 4: Candlelight Parade & Winter Wonderland, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Davis. The parade will kick off from the Davis Food Co-op parking lot (620 G Street) and proceed to G Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets. There will be a countdown there, led by the Davis City Council, including winter lights and other celebratory decorations. For more information, see www.visitolo.com/event

Friday, Dec. 5: Woodland Holiday Tree Lighting, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Enjoy an "Elf on the Shelf" scavenger hunt at 427 Main Street, and live music in Heritage Plaza, 701 Main Street. While you're searching for those mischievous elves, bring non-perishable food items to donate when you drop off your completed map at Elf headquarters. More information at www.visitwoodland.com

Friday, Dec. 5: West Sacramento Tree Lighting, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Civic Center District, 1110 West Capitol Ave. Join the City of West Sacramento and the West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce as we kick off the holiday season with a celebration proudly sponsored by Yolo Federal Credit Union. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for an evening filled with festive fun. Enjoy live local performances, free photos with Santa, hot cocoa, cookies, and more.

Saturday, Dec. 6: Southport Santa Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. inside the Southport Elementary School Cafeteria, 2747 Linden Rd. Start of the holiday season with our annual breakfast with the big guy himself. Enjoy the holiday art exhibit, our delicious cocoa bar, fresh baked cookies, and plenty of Southport Sunrise Blend coffee. Breakfast tickets can be purchased for \$5 per plate or \$15 for four at the link on the Southport Elementary PTO Facebook page.

Saturday, Dec. 6: Orchard Stewardship Volunteer Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sycamore Trail Community Orchard. Participants will learn about the key elements of a thriving orchard and take part in hands-on projects that enhance the health and resilience of the orchard ecosystem. Recommended parking at Michigan Boulevard and Maple Street. Registration required at www.landbasedlearning.org

Saturday, Dec. 6: First Annual Badge of Giving Toy Drive, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) Headquarters, 755 Riverpoint Dr. This is a drive-through drop-off event, where you can donate new, unwrapped toys for kids of all ages from your car. Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, hang out with Jingles & Jangles the Christmas Elves, and meet "Tuff Teddy". Share this wonderful opportunity to make a big impact on the lives of others.

Saturday, Dec. 6: Dickens in the Valley 2025 Holiday Home Tour, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Presented by Friends of Meals on Wheels Yolo County, this docent-led

tour features five beautiful homes dressed in holiday splendor. Tickets available in advance at Corner Drug Co., 602 Main Street, Woodland, or Embellish Home Décor & Gifts, 540 Main Street, Woodland. More information at www.mowyolo.org

Saturday, Dec. 6: Keep it Local Art Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1338 Notre Dame Drive, Davis. Five long-time Davis residents and artisans will host this pop-up art sale of their work. If you're looking for something beyond the usual gift, or for yourself, be sure to visit this sale.

Saturday, Dec. 6: Winters Tractor Parade & Festival, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Downtown Winters. Enjoy a holiday marketplace all afternoon, with the tractor parade starting at Main & 4th at 6 p.m. Santa will visit from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the gazebo at Rotary Park, 201 E. Main Street, Winters.

Saturday, Dec. 6: Gingerbread Workshop, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Emile's Café, 1300 Lake Washington Blvd. Join us for a workshop designed for children, families, friends, and neighbors of all ages. We'll provide everything you need to bring your gingerbread vision to life, from icing to structure supports to colorful candy details. Emile's Café will have drink specials (grown-up ones too) along with small bites for purchase. Register in advance at www.thewondergrove.org

Saturday, Dec. 6: Davis Choral performs "What Sweeter Music" at the Davis Community Church, 412 C Street, Davis. Concerts at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. will celebrate songs of joy, winter, and holiday featuring music from the Renaissance to modern day. Full program information at www.davischorale.org

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

(Current as of publication, please verify schedule with the organization):

Café Yolo Social Dining meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the West Sacramento Community Center, 1075 West Capitol Ave. Seniors over age 60 are invited to mingle and dine for free, sponsored by Meals on Wheels. Reservations required 24 hours in advance at 530-662-7035 or email welcome@mowyolo.org.

Cars and Coffee Woodland, a monthly car meetup for enthusiasts. Join us every first Saturday, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 1332 E. Main St., Woodland. This free, family-friendly event is designed for car enthusiasts who enjoy a relaxed, casual meet without the commitment of an all-day show. Next show, Dec. 6. More information at www.woodlandcarsandcoffee.com

Davis Craft and Vintage Fair, twice each month, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Central Park, 5th and B St., Davis. Expect to see friendly vendors with local handmade and original art, crafts, quality vintage items, upcycled treasures, earth-friendly creations, good food and more. Next fair is Sunday, Dec. 7. Information and other dates at www.daviscraftandvintage.org

Home Depot Kids Workshops are free in-person at 690 Riverpoint Court on the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon, while supplies last. The next class will be Dec. 6, making a holiday cocoa mug. Registration required by using the following link: www.homedepot.com/workshops/

[com/workshops/](http://www.homedepot.com/workshops/)

Lowe's Kids Workshops are free in-person each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2250 Lake Washington Blvd. The next workshop will be creating a sleigh ride on Saturday, Dec. 20. Registration required by searching "events" at www.lowes.com

Mighty Rotary Club of West Sacramento meets on Fridays at noon at Streets of London, 2200 Lake Washington Blvd. See www.rotaryclubofwestsacramento.org for more information, including how to join the Rotary.

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners will be available to answer your gardening questions at their West Sacramento Gardening Q&A Desk. It will be open from 10 a.m. to noon at Lowe's, 2250 Lake Washington Blvd. This desk is held on the first and third Saturdays of every month, free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Jennifer Baumbach at jmbaumbach@ucnar.edu or call the Yolo County Master Gardeners hotline at 530-666-8736. Next session will be Saturday, Dec. 6.

Washington Unified School District School Board Meeting, Thursday, Dec. 18, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1110 West Capitol Ave.

West Sacramento City Council meets at 7 p.m. generally on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at City Hall, 1110 West Capitol Ave., second floor, also viewable on Astound Cable channel 20 and AT&T channel 99. More information, including how to participate and Committee meeting schedules, can be found at: www.cityofwestsacramento.org/government/city-council/city-council-meetings-agendas The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

West Sacramento Moose Lodge 1762 Toiletry Drive – collecting to support those in need in the community. Drop off your new, unopened items now through December during business hours at 3240 Jefferson Blvd. in the red box by the back door. A list of suggested items is on the Lodge Facebook page; call 916-371-9684 after 4 p.m. for more information.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Tours run rain or shine on the third Sunday of each month, unless there is flooding. View seasonal and permanent wetlands, native grasslands and young riparian forests. Meet at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters, 45211 County Road 32B. Next tour will be Sunday, Dec. 21. Registration is required at www.yolobasin.org

COMMUNITY FOOD RESOURCES

City of West Sacramento Parking Lot, 1271 West Capitol Ave., every Saturday, 8:30 a.m. while supplies last. This is a walk-up distribution. Please bring your own bags or cart.

Masjid Aisha, 700 Glide Ave., every Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. while supplies last. This is a walk-up food distribution. Please bring your own bags or cart.

Sutter Health Park, 400 Ballpark Dr., every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. while supplies last. For more information, call 530-668-0690.

Yolo County Fairgrounds, 1250 Gum Ave., Woodland on Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. while supplies last. This is a drive-through. Food will be pre-packed. Stay in your car and follow volunteers' directions.

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



There are over 19,000 incorporated cities in the United States, but only 30 of those cities can make claim to having an NBA franchise. One of those cities is California's capital, Sacramento.

Troubled times have suddenly unfolded in the city of trees, as our beloved basketball team recently went on an extended losing streak that reached 8 games.

Vitriol abounded and it seemed like Chicken Little had taken up residence in river city.

Radio stations that typically would posture with the glass half full were going the other way, with endless ideas of how quickly this franchise can blow up the current team.

When a steady hand at the wheel was needed, not much was coming from the owner, GM, or the new coach of the team.

Not a recipe for success, so imagine after 8 disappointing defeats in a row that the Sactown boys would fly into Denver and stand off the mighty Nuggets. No imagination needed because that's exactly what the Kings did. While no one had an answer for the daunting center of the Nuggets, Nikola Jovic, who put up 44 points and 13 rebounds, the Kings controlled the rest of the lineup while playing perhaps their best 4th quarter of the young season.

No win could have come at a better time for a team that was getting zero respect from NBA pundits and hometown fans alike.

Much has been said about the pure talent on this team, with future hall of famers like Russell Westbrook, DeMar DeRozan, and Zach Lavine likely candidates for the Naismith Hall in Springfield Massachusetts, but the real conundrum is finding a way to get these accomplished ballers to play seamlessly together. That's exactly what happened last Saturday night and I think it took the Nuggets by surprise.

No 4th quarter collapse on this night, as Russell Westbrook put up 21 big points, while Dennis Schroder matched Westbrooks total with 21 points of his own, while coming off the bench once again.

In this matchup Denver couldn't focus on any one player, as Sacramento had some of the most even scoring, they have enjoyed all season. While Westbrook

dropped 15 of his 21 points in the 4th quarter, it was the ageless stalwart DeMar DeRozan that Sacramento turned to in the last minute of the game. Making 6 straight points DeMar made a crucial 3-point play the old-fashioned way, banking in a shot and converting the foul on the free throw line with only seconds remaining.

The Kings actually won a game from the free throw line, converting 22 of 23 attempts and demonstrated it is possible to be a good free throw shooting team!

Welcome back Keegan Murray as Keegan added 19 crucial points to the fray in only his second game back from injury, and if this performance is a glimpse of things to come, perhaps some of the hyperbole will subside and cooler heads will prevail.

Sacramento fans had to endure the debacle that was trading away the face of the franchise in DeAaron Fox less than a year ago and going through something similar would not be easy for a team still searching for their identity.

A word of reassurance coming from ownership would be nice at a time like this.

Suspect moves within the game such as sitting defensive specialist Keon Ellis for the first 3 quarters in back-to-back blowout losses simply have to stop. Sitting court-side in Golden One Arena while the crowd chants, "we want Keon, we want Keon," is a bad look at the very least, and Doug Christie must be better than this.

Having Keegan Murray back in the lineup is a shot in the arm, but let's not forget that the Kings accomplished this remarkable win with Domantas Sabonis sidelined with a knee injury.

Fans want to see a return to basics, like making free throws, and getting back on defense. Exerting energy and playing with passion is what Kings fans have become accustomed to, and I believe this team will not let their fan base down.

Coaches, put your players in places where they can succeed and find a rotation that every player can count on. We need good coaching and coaching that makes sense.

All the best!

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

California Sees Revenue Uptick

Not Enough to Erase Its Chronic Budget Deficit



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

In the four months since the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom enacted a new state budget, revenues — primarily from personal income taxes — have outstripped expectations by several billion dollars.

The uptick has buoyed hopes within the Capitol that California's chronic budget deficits might disappear if the revenue surge continues. That would spare Newsom and legislators from having to dream up more accounting gimmicks, deferrals and loans to cover the gap between income and outgo.

However, the Legislature's fiscal advisor, Legislative Analyst Gabe Petek, threw cold water on those rosy scenarios Wednesday. He sees recent revenue gains as a spike driven by an artificial intelligence boomlet in Silicon Valley that's likely to implode, as have previous tech-related bubbles.

"With so much exuberance surrounding AI, it now appears time to take seriously the notion that the stock market has become overheated," Petek says in his annual fiscal overview, which predates the governor's introduction of a new budget. "History suggests that the stock market is prone to overreact to major

technological advances, even if the technology itself turns out to be revolutionary."

Instead of savoring a surge in revenues that would erase what officials are calling a "structural deficit" that is somewhere in the \$10-20 billion range, officials should anticipate a larger gap, Petek says.

"Under our revenue and spending estimates, the Legislature faces an almost \$18 billion budget problem in 2026-27," Petek says. "This is about \$5 billion larger than the budget problem anticipated by the administration in June, despite improvements in revenue."

The analyst notes that California's constitution requires the state put money toward public schools and reserves, which will "almost entirely offset revenue gains," and toward other spending that's running about \$6 billion over the current budget's estimates.

"Starting in 2027-28, we estimate structural deficits to grow to about \$35 billion annually due to spending growth continuing to outstrip revenue growth," Petek says.

It should be noted, not for the first time, that California's chronic deficit is not caused by an economic downturn, which has occurred in the past, but rather by an enormous error by Newsom and his budget advisors three years ago.

In 2022, they projected a permanent increase in revenues, based on a one-time spike, leading Newsom to declare a \$97.5 billion budget surplus, boasting "No other state in

American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this."

Confident that the money would be there, Newsom and lawmakers fattened up the spending side of the budget, only to learn that the supposed surplus was based on what was later acknowledged to be a \$165 billion overstatement of revenues over four years.

Ever since, revenues have failed to cover the elevated spending, and Newsom and lawmakers have covered the gaps with the aforementioned gimmicks. They have incurred more than \$20 billion in internal loans from special funds that must be repaid. They also have drawn down reserves that were supposed to cover genuine emergencies, not political shortsightedness.

Newsom and his staff are now in the final throes of drafting an initial 2026-27 budget that will be his last as governor and will be unveiled in January. The question is whether he will face the fiscal music and finally write a truly balanced budget or employ more short-term fixes and dump the problem on his successor.

That would mean either making real cuts in spending or raising taxes, both of which would take some courage. The past has not been encouraging.

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

If We Both Collect Social Security, will our Benefits be Affected?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I reached full retirement age back in June, but I have not yet filed to collect Social Security. My husband currently collects SS funds, and he waited until he had reached full retirement age a few years ago. I am considering signing up now to receive my funds, but I am a little confused about whether I will receive my full benefit or is there some kind of adjustment made based on both of us collecting?

We are a simple case. We have been married for 46 years, so there are no other exes involved in this equation. He did everything online when he was ready to start receiving his funds, but we didn't consult with any advisor when my husband claimed. Now I think that adding me as a spouse might trigger some other things I should consider. Thank you for your advice.

Signed: Concerned Wife

Dear Concerned: Since you and your husband have both reached your respective SS full retirement age (FRA), you are

both entitled to receive your full benefits without any reduction. And since you haven't yet filed, you are now accumulating Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% additional benefit for each month you continue to delay. You will get your full SS retirement benefit (plus any earned DRCs) when you claim. The only question you need to consider is whether either you or your husband will be entitled to a "spousal boost" (an increase) when you claim.

If the SS retirement benefit you were entitled to at your FRA is less than 50% the amount your husband was entitled to at his FRA, then you will get a "spousal boost" on top of your own SS retirement amount (the "boost" amount would be the difference between your FRA amount and half of his FRA amount). But if your SS amount at your FRA is more than 50% of your husband's FRA entitlement, then you will only get your own SS retirement benefit based on your own lifetime earnings record. Spouse benefits are always determined from each partner's FRA entitlement, and if one partner's FRA amount is less than 50% of the other partner's FRA amount, then a spousal boost will be given. And that also works if your FRA entitlement is higher than your husband's — if your FRA amount is more than twice your husband's FRA amount, then he will get a spousal boost from you. Otherwise, each of you

will get only your personally earned SS retirement amount, and both of you collecting SS will not negatively affect each other's individual SS benefit.

FYI, the spousal boost amount stops growing at full retirement age, so if you are eligible for a spousal boost from your husband then you should claim your SS benefits now and ask for benefits retroactive to June (your FRA month). However, if you will not get a spousal boost from your husband, you have the option of delaying even further and earning more DRCs (thus a higher monthly benefit). You can earn DRCs up to age 70, at which time you will get the maximum possible Social Security benefit (about 127% of your personal FRA amount if you delay that long).

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The debate over affordability is now truly and fully joined. After the off-year elections, Democrats are coalescing around a cost-of-living message that makes more sense than their anti-Trump obsessions (not that we aren't going to hear a lot about those). For its part, the White House has concluded that affordability is a vulnerability, and Trump has thrown out a raft of proposals to address it, from \$2,000 tariff rebates to 50-year mortgages.

Health care will be a major front in this fight, a traditional Democratic policy strength that the party emphasized during the just-concluded government shutdown.

In isolation, the Democratic demand to extend Obamacare subsidies in perpetuity shouldn't be sustainable. The party's position is, in effect, "We passed a sweeping health care reform that we promised would lower costs, and now that it's done the opposite, it is incumbent on Republicans, in the name of all that is right and good, to support additional subsidies for the law."

The GOP is so hopeless on health care that it will have trouble countering this argument. Fifteen years after the passage of Obamacare and after a major attempt to repeal it early in Trump's first term, it still lacks a concrete alternative of its own, even though the policy direction here should be clear enough.

Obamacare imposed

The GOP Can't Punt on Health Care

massive new regulations on the individual insurance market in order to cover the sick and lower costs. The fact is that there are better ways to achieve the former goal, and the latter has been unrealized.

As Avik Roy of the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity points out, Barack Obama ran for president promising that his health-care reform would reduce premiums by as much as \$2,500 per family. That was as misleading as his promise that "if you like your plan, you can keep your plan." Roy notes that premiums for the benchmark "silver" Obamacare plans -- the law created metallic tiers for various insurance plans -- have nearly tripled since 2013. At the same time, deductibles for those same silver plans have more than doubled, outpacing the rate of increase for employer-sponsored plans.

Democrats no longer pretend that Obamacare is going to reduce costs. Instead, they insist that without expanded credits and now that it's done the opposite, it is incumbent on Republicans, in the name of all that is right and good, to support additional subsidies for the law."

The subsidies, though, only cushion consumers from the worst of a poorly designed system. A basic problem of Obamacare is that it charges young and healthy people higher premiums than they would pay otherwise -- making health insurance less attractive to them -- to sub-

sidize the premiums of the old and sick.

As Roy observes, it'd make more sense to have so-called reinsurance programs, either at the federal level or in the states, to pay the cost of care of people with pre-existing conditions. This alone should reduce premiums for everyone else. The "age band" imposed by Obamacare -- mandating that young people can't pay too much less than old people -- should be loosened. Obamacare taxes should be repealed; the law should allow for a genuine bare bones "catastrophic plans" for those who want one; and states should be given as much leeway to innovate as possible.

Republicans would also be smart to build on a Trump administration rule from the first term that allowed employers to fund accounts -- Health Reimbursement Accounts, or HRAs -- for employees to buy their own individual coverage.

TITLE: None of these ideas will make the case for themselves, though. Republicans have to introduce them to the public and explain them, even if they'd prefer to be talking about something else. Failing to do so represents a serious political risk -- of either swallowing Obamacare subsidies that they never supported before, or going to the voters next year empty-handed. If they lose the midterms on the issue of affordability, they can't say that they weren't warned.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Students Show Continued Increase in Academic Achievement

Chronic Absenteeism Continues to Fall

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO COUNTY REGION (MPG) - The California Department of Education on Nov. 13 released the 2025 California School Dashboard and new DataQuest files, reporting improved outcomes across all major indicators of student success.

The state's graduation rate reached 87.5 percent, the highest level since the Dashboard launched in 2017 and an increase of 4.5 percentage points over that period. Officials said the gains were stronger among several student groups, including Pacific Islander students, who saw a 4.1 percentage point increase. African American students improved by 3.5 percentage points. Long-term English learners gained 3.3 percentage points, foster youth improved by 2.8 percentage points and students with disabilities improved by 2.7 percentage points.

College and career readiness also improved. The state reported that 51.7 percent of graduates were prepared for college and career, an increase of 3.1 percentage points. The share of students completing the A-G course requirements rose to 53.9 percent. These requirements represent the minimum set of courses needed for admission to California's public universities.

Chronic absenteeism among students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade continued to fall. The statewide rate declined to 17.1 percent,



Chronic absenteeism among students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade continued to fall. Photo by RDNE Stock project

down more than 10 percentage points from its peak of 30 percent in 2022. The drop from 2024 to 2025 was one percentage point. State officials said the slowdown in the improvement rate shows that more targeted efforts will be needed to reengage families and students who remain chronically absent.

Academic performance also showed modest improvement, consistent with results released in October from statewide assessments.

For the first time in the Dashboard's history, all indicators appeared in the yellow or green categories, which signal

improvement across both current performance and year-over-year progress.

State leaders said the positive trends reflect major investments in TK-12 education, including initiatives such as community schools, expanded learning programs, universal school meals and literacy coaches.

"Seeing modest improvement on every dashboard indicator should encourage us to deepen our investments in every child's progress," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond said in a statement. He said he was encouraged by reduced achievement gaps but added that more

work remains.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said the results show progress but emphasized the need to continue expanding support for students and educators.

"The more we can invest time, energy, and resources into our kids, the better their future can be," Newsom said.

State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond said the outcomes demonstrate continued recovery from the pandemic. She cited rising graduation rates, stronger college and career readiness, and improved academic performance. She added that significant work

remains to sustain and accelerate progress.

The California Department of Education noted that many districts across the state showed substantial gains, which officials said highlight how targeted investments can advance student achievement. The 2024 Budget Act included \$133.8 billion for K-12 education, the highest per-pupil state funding level in California's history.

California has also expanded access to transitional kindergarten for thousands of four-year-olds and added \$215 million to the Literacy Coaches and Reading Specialists Grant Program, which supports early literacy programs and interventions for students who need additional help.

The California School Dashboard is a central component of the state's accountability system and includes data on graduation, suspensions, test scores, English learner progress, college and career readiness, chronic absenteeism and local indicators.

Alongside the Dashboard, the California Department of Education released several DataQuest reports for the 2024-25 school year. These include four- and five-year graduation rates, suspension and expulsion rates, chronic absenteeism data, absenteeism by reason, stability rates, and homeless student enrollment.

More information on the Dashboard is available on the California Department of Education's website at cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp. ★

DA Thien Ho Launches 'The People vs. The Golden State Killer'

Community Foundation Partners with Health Net



Following the remarks at the Nov. 12 "The People vs. the Golden State Killer" book launch, attendees participated in a lively Q&A session and book signing, celebrating both the release of the book and the culmination of decades of investigative work. Photo courtesy of D.A. Thien Ho

Books Forward News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho celebrated the launch of his new book, "The People vs. the Golden State Killer," at the Sacramento Central Library's Tsakopoulos Library Galleria on Nov. 12.

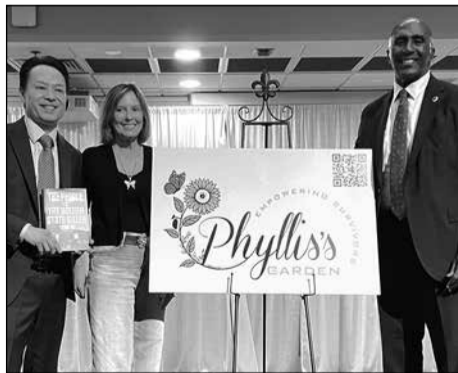
Released on Nov. 11, the book achieved #1 New Release status on Amazon.

The memoir offers an extraordinary look at the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of Joseph James DeAngelo, one of the most notorious serial killers in U.S. history. Unlike most accounts, Ho's book centers on the survivors, investigators and prosecutors, highlighting their courage and perseverance while honoring the resilience of victims' families.

"Too often, the spotlight stays on the monster. I wanted to shift the focus to the heroes: the survivors, the investigators and the prosecutors who never gave up. They are the soul of this case," said Ho.

At the Nov. 12 event, Ho shared behind-the-scenes stories from the case, offering insights into both DeAngelo's criminal mind and the process of seeking justice.

Ho also highlighted the critical use of investigative genetic genealogy, which allowed investigators to trace distant relatives through public DNA databases and identify DeAngelo after decades. This breakthrough not only solved one of California's most infamous cold cases but has transformed how law enforcement



"The People vs. the Golden State Killer" is now available nationwide at major retailers and online. Photo courtesy of D.A. Thien Ho

tackles unsolved crimes nationwide.

"Justice, for me, was not just a sentence; it was a sense of peace for the survivors who carried these scars for decades. I came to this country as a refugee fleeing violence. To now serve as the elected district attorney and bring one of the nation's most brutal serial predators to justice was full circle. It is deeply rewarding to know that the work we did, including the breakthrough use of genetic genealogy, will have a lasting impact."

Following the remarks, attendees participated in a lively Q&A session and book signing, celebrating both the release of the book and the culmination of decades of investigative work.

"The People vs. the Golden State Killer" is now available nationwide at major retailers and online.

For more information, visit <https://www.thienho.org/>. ★

Sacramento Region Community Foundation News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

The Sacramento Region Community Foundation has activated its Sacramento Region Emergency Relief Fund in response to an urgent and immediate community crisis – severely strained food banks that are struggling to serve an increasing number of local families facing serious food insecurity.

With food banks and pantries throughout the region already stretched alarmingly thin, local nonprofits report sharp increases in food requests due to inflation, lingering effects of the pandemic, and the SNAP interruption that created a tipping point for many families already on the edge of financial instability.

What originally started as a \$100,000 grant grew by an additional \$30,000 boost from Health Net, bringing the total to \$130,000, demonstrating the powerful impact that pooled contributions of all sizes can make.

"At Health Net, we know that strong communities start with access to healthy food," said Amber Kemp, vice president of Medi-Cal Strategy, Execution, and Engagement. "This funding allows us to partner with local organizations to ensure families have the resources they need to thrive. Together, we're building healthier neighborhoods and a brighter future for all."

Grants designed to provide immediate relief will support key local food assistance providers throughout the region. These one-time grants will help food assistance providers serving children, seniors and working families across the Sacramento region. The six organizations receiving immediate emergency funding from this grant include Elk Grove Food Bank



In response to an urgent and immediate community crisis – severely strained food banks that are struggling to serve an increasing number of local families facing serious food insecurity. Courtesy photo

Services, Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank, Rancho Cordova Food Locker, River City Food Bank, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services and Twin Lakes Food Bank.

"This is absolutely the right investment to make at this critical moment in time," said Kerry Wood, CEO of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. "With the foundation's focus on health equity and the dire food situation faced by hundreds of thousands of local families, we are committed to standing with our nonprofit partners on the frontlines of hunger relief. Our region's families cannot wait for long-term solutions when the need is this urgent and immediate."

Established by local donors in 2005, the Sacramento Region Emergency Relief Fund is designed to provide swift and strategic response to local emergencies, such as the food crisis happening now. Over the past two decades, the fund has provided emergency support for COVID-19 response, wildfires and other regional crises. The fund is fueled by community donations, allowing philanthropic people and partners across the region to pool resources and respond collectively when emergencies strike. ★

This latest grant continues a legacy of responsiveness, addressing an exceptional situation where immediate action is needed but is just the beginning. The foundation encourages community members to join this critically important effort to keep food on the table of local families by donating online to the Sacramento Region Emergency Relief Fund at sref.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1787.

"While philanthropy alone cannot solve food insecurity, collective generosity can make a world of difference in ensuring that families have food and support during this crisis and beyond," added Wood.

This grant is in alignment with the foundation's continuing efforts to address food insecurity. In fact, the Foundation also recently committed \$1 million over three years to address food insecurity in Yolo County, combining short- and long-term strategies for sustainable food access. Over the past week, foundation fundholders have also increased granting to support food banks and pantries throughout the region.

More information about the Sacramento Region Community Foundation and charitable giving can be found at www.sacregcf.org.

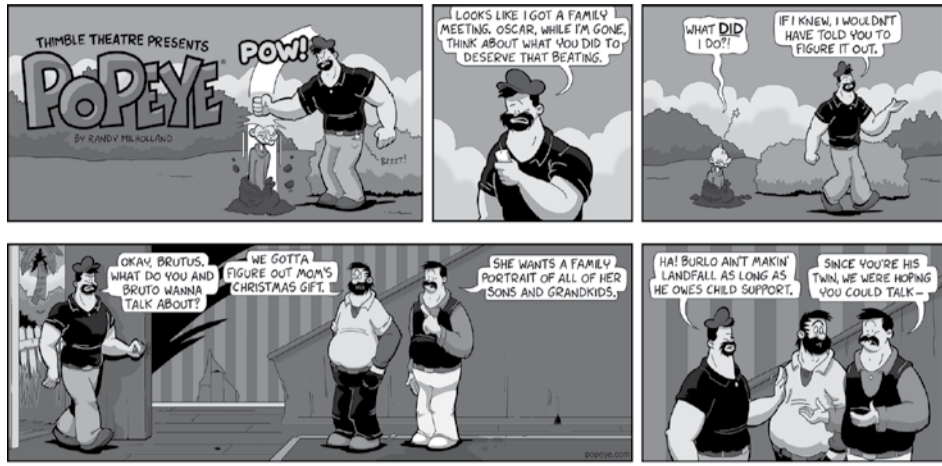
Since 1983, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation has awarded more than \$275 million in grants and scholarships on behalf of local people, families and businesses, and through its flagship program, to grow charitable giving in the capital area Big Day of Giving. The center of philanthropy in the capital area, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's mission is to lead, serve, and inspire enduring philanthropy for a just and vibrant Sacramento region. Learn more at www.sacregcf.org. ★

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



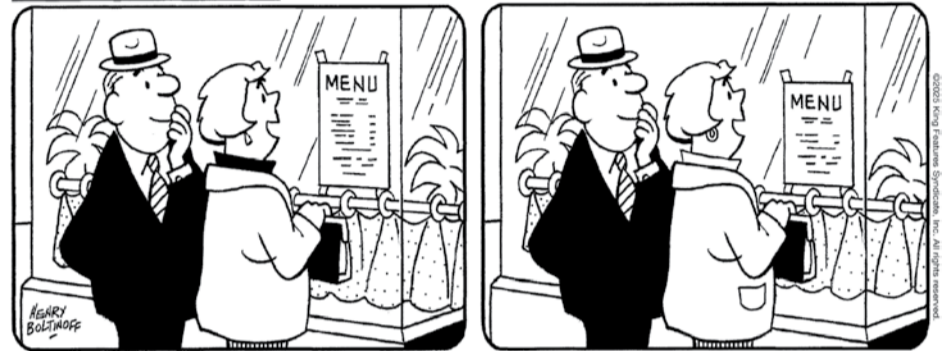
by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



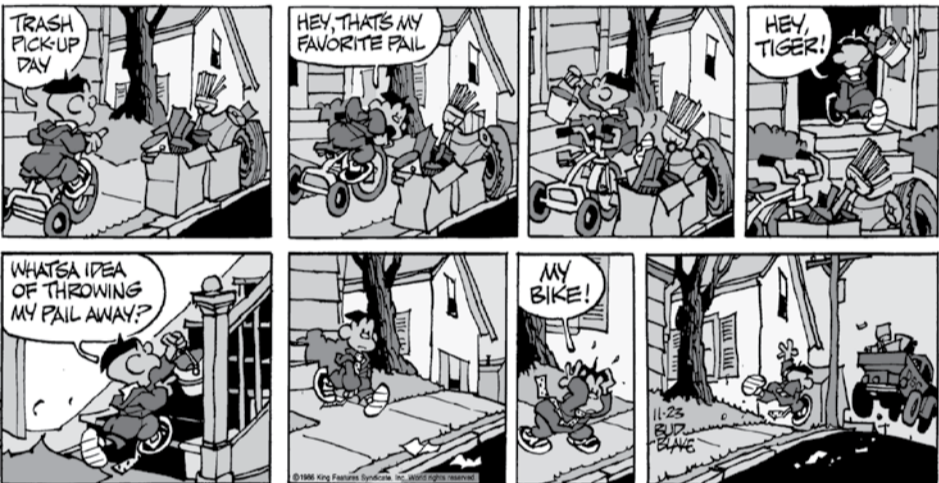
Differences: 1. Curtain is shorter. 2. Menu is smaller. 3. Plant is not as tall. 4. Collar is different. 5. Pocket is added to coat. 6. Earring is different.

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

GRIN THE BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

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CLUES

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ACROSS

- Shapeless form
- Hot springs resort
- Not square
- Private theater box
- Relating to ear
- Rome's Colosseum, e.g.
- I ___ you so!
- The opposite of a store the day before Christmas?
- "Auld Lang Syne" poet
- "Partridge's perch (2 words)
- Vegas numbers
- New Zealand's indigenous people
- Fuss
- Tabby's favorite herb
- More so than swell
- Big-headedness
- Resembling an ape
- John Wayne Gacy's ___ the Clown
- Photographer Dorothea of "Migrant Mother" fame
- Type or kind
- Like a sheep after a haircut
- D'Artagnan's weapon of choice
- Superlative of #33 Down
- U.S. central bank
- Wilma and Fred's hometown
- "Latke's main ingredient
- Word of possibility
- Turning token taker
- Exclamation of sorrow
- * ___ Odbody of "It's a Wonderful Life"
- Raspberry drupelets
- Saintly glow
- Letter opener
- Hunts for food
- Banana leftover
- Guessimate phrase
- "Color on a Kwanzaa flag
- Not divisible by two
- Scholarship criterion

DOWN

- Deli acronym
- Chicago's central district, with The
- Gawk at
- Wish harm upon, arch.
- One of The Beatles
- Pileus, pl.
- "The Road Runner" corporation
- Group of cows
- Bed-and-breakfast alternative, pl.
- "The Nutcracker" step
- Certain cephalopod, pl.
- It's sometimes humble
- "Chuck Berry's "Run, ___ Run"
- Reason to strike
- Grass bristle
- Famous one, slangily
- Open-mouthed
- Like a well-defined muscle
- Hot alcoholic beverage
- Washing sponge
- Type of heron
- Rondeau, alt. sp.
- Santa's beverage of choice
- Not well
- *Original home of Christmas tannenbaum
- Fur shawl
- Extremely unfriendly
- Plane trick
- Reprive in a desert
- Muscle to bone connector
- Skidded
- Weighed
- 4,840 square yards
- Told an untruth
- Head of family
- Wrap in waxy cloth
- Open wrapper
- Financing acronym
- Stewart of "Maggie May" fame

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MPG

UC Davis Athletics Unveils 'Aggie Ascent'

A Visionary Facilities Master Plan for the Next Era

By MPG Staff

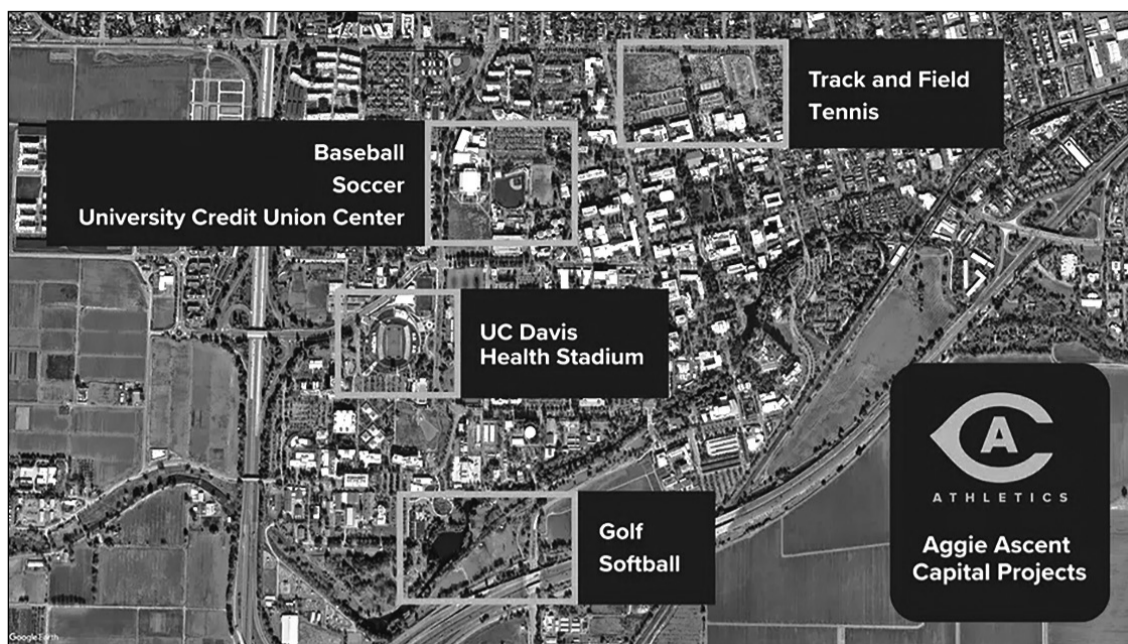
DAVIS, CA (MPG) - The University of California, Davis announced Aggie Ascent, a bold new facilities master plan that defines the next chapter for UC Davis Athletics.

Developed in partnership with ELS Architecture and Urban Design, Aggie Ascent represents the university's first unified vision for athletics infrastructure: one rooted in innovation, connection and long-term impact. The plan envisions dynamic athletics districts designed to enrich the student-athlete experience, enhance the fan journey and strengthen the department's long-term sustainability.

"As we transition into the Mountain West Conference, Aggie Ascent is about more than facilities; it's about aligning with the future of Division I athletics," said Rocko DeLuca, athletics director. "This plan captures the climb ahead of us and the belief that our student-athletes and fans deserve an experience that matches the excellence of UC Davis. Every project, from the stadium district to the golf center, represents a step forward and building something uniquely ours."

Aggie Ascent outlines a \$265-million phased, gift-driven approach that allows UC Davis to advance projects as leadership gifts and partnerships are secured. Early priorities include revenue-generating and high-impact facilities that expand community engagement and elevate game-day atmosphere.

The UC Davis Health Stadium lays out a reimagined fan experience anchored by new premium seating, suites and a hospitality concourse. The \$50-million expansion will include a special



This graphic depicts highlighted areas for the recently-announced "Aggie Ascent," a \$265-million project for the student-athlete experience. Graphic provided by UC Davis Athletics

event space to be used year-round by the university community.

The Woody Wilson Track and Field Complex will see a new NCAA-compliant, eight-lane facility with west-facing spectator seating, integrating all events, including throws, into a single venue with an option to add team spaces and restrooms with a total cost of \$14.5 million.

Also expected is a 350-yard driving range featured at the Golf Training Center, with short game and putting greens that will have dual roles serving the university's golf programs as well as the surrounding communities. The anticipated project cost is \$18.7 million.

Future phases will expand and elevate baseball, soccer and the University Credit Union Center venues. A new softball stadium with locker rooms, team spaces and fan amenities will join the golf training center to transform south campus as LaRue Field has been designated for redevelopment after 2035.

"Our campus has always been defined by progress," said Chancellor Gary S. May. "Aggie Ascent captures that forward momentum by combining thoughtful design, sustainable growth and a commitment to student success. It reflects the same excellence that defines UC Davis across academics, research and innovation."

Head football coach Tim Plough emphasized the importance of facilities in shaping a competitive and holistic student-athlete experience.

"Aggie Ascent is a statement about where this program is headed," said Plough. "We talk all the time about controlling what we can control, preparation, attitude, effort; and this plan is the facilities version of that mindset. It's a commitment to giving our student-athletes every resource they need to be at their best and to providing our fans with a game-day experience that matches the pride they bring to our sporting events."

Said Clarence Mamuyac, chairman of ELS Architecture and Urban Design, "From the outset, our team worked collaboratively with a shared vision: to bring UC Davis Athletics together by organizing its teams, sports and venues across 5,300 acres into two distinct Aggie Districts, East and West. This approach creates a more connected and integrated athletics experience for the entire UC Davis campus community. Aggie Ascent is about uniting athletics and campus life through design that honors place, celebrates sustainability and fosters pride, while positioning UC Davis for success for generations to come."

Aggie Ascent will move forward as private support and strategic partnerships are secured. Each project represents an opportunity for leadership donors to make a lasting impact, from naming opportunities at UC Davis Health Stadium to foundational investments in the Golf Center and South Campus Gateway.

"As we climb together, Aggie Ascent is both a plan and a promise," DeLuca said. "A promise that UC Davis Athletics will continue to rise with facilities that inspire, programs that compete and a community that believes the best is still ahead."

UC Davis, the No. 2 ranked public university by the Wall Street Journal, is home to 40,000 undergraduate students and 12,000 employees. Ranked Number One in agriculture and forestry as well as Number One in veterinary medicine, UC Davis is located in a California college town nestled between world-class destinations such as the San Francisco Bay Area, Napa Valley and Lake Tahoe. More than 650 Aggie student-athletes compete in 25 Division I varsity sports, with 16 sports transitioning to the Mountain West Conference beginning in 2026.

ELS Architecture and Urban Design is a nationally-recognized design firm headquartered in Berkeley, with additional offices in Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Diego. The firm specializes in campus planning and design for campus life, athletics, sports and recreation, as well as performing arts and large assembly spaces. ELS has delivered award-winning projects for leading institutions, including Stanford University, USC, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, along with numerous municipalities across California. Recent honors include an AIA California Design Award for the Canada College project and recognition at Climate Week NYC - 2025 for pioneering all-electric design strategies that advance zero greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information, visit AggieAscent.com. ★

Sacramento State Softball Signs Six Players

2026-27 Recruiting Class

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State softball head coach Lori Perez announced on Nov. 20 that six high school seniors have signed National Letters of Intent and will join the program as freshmen next fall.

The incoming players are left-handed pitcher Jordan Bey, outfielders Choyce Chambers and Taylor Mendoza, catcher Madie Harrison, second baseman/outfielder Deja Montgomery and catcher/utility player Victoria Roman.

Bey, a Houston native, is entering her fourth varsity season at Episcopal High School in Bellaire, Texas. A three-time all-conference selection and finalist for VYPE Private School Player of the Year, Bey posted a 1.52 ERA with 113 strikeouts in 93 1/3 innings as a junior and helped lead Episcopal to three straight Southwest Preparatory Conference state titles.

Bey "will bring an immediate impact to our pitching staff," Perez said, praising Bey's competitiveness and pitch variety.

Chambers arrives from Valley Christian High School in Cerritos, where she has earned three all-Olympic League selections. She hit .425 as a junior with 41 runs, 31



Six high school seniors have signed with Sacramento State softball, bolstering the Hornets' 2025 roster with pitching, power and speed. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

stolen bases and 11 extra-base hits, earning first-team all-CIF and Press Telegram Dream Team honors.

Chambers is a career .396 hitter with 96 runs and 58 stolen bases. Her defense "blew us away," Perez said, noting her ability to track down extra-base hits and impact the game with her speed.

Harrison, a catcher from Central Catholic High School in Modesto, was named

Valley Oak League offensive MVP and second-team all-state as a junior after hitting .461 with eight home runs and 47 RBIs. A three-time all-league selection, Harrison owns career marks of .405 with 94 RBIs in 95 games. Harrison "has the ability to hit the ball out of the park in every at-bat," Perez said, and praised her leadership behind the plate.

Mendoza, from Honolulu, will join the

Hornets after playing at James Campbell High School. A two-time all-state selection, Mendoza hit .553 as a sophomore at Roosevelt High School and served as team captain that season. She batted .300 last year for a Campbell squad that finished third in the state. Perez called Mendoza "strong, athletic and a hard worker," and noted she is the program's first recruit from Hawaii.

Montgomery, a Vallejo native, has starred at American Canyon High School, earning first-team all-Vine Valley Athletic League honors each of her first three seasons. She has hit at least .435 every year and owns a career .469 average with 61 stolen bases, averaging nearly one steal per game. Perez praised her athleticism and versatility, saying that Montgomery "can get to balls most players cannot run down."

Roman, a catcher and utility player from South Hills High School in West Covina, hit .407 as a junior and was an all-league selection as a freshman at Northview High School, where she batted .420. Perez described Roman as "the ultimate competitor" with a strong arm and the defensive versatility to play multiple positions.

All six signees will enroll at Sacramento State ahead of the 2025-26 academic year. ★

Vitiello Earns Third Consecutive Nomination for Goalkeeper of the Year

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - USL (United Soccer League) Championship announced the finalists for the 2025 individual league awards on Nov. 14. On the heels of an All-League Second Team selection, Republic FC's Danny Vitiello has been nominated for Goalkeeper of the Year for the third consecutive year.

Already Sacramento's all-time clean sheets leader heading into the 2025 campaign, Vitiello continued to add to his decorated career and cement himself as one of the top goalkeepers in league history.

For the second consecutive year, Vitiello led the league in clean sheets (12) and was tied for the league lead with just 18 goals conceded. Vitiello's 0.9 goals-against average mark extended a perfect record of never conceding an average of one goal per game in his seven-season career.

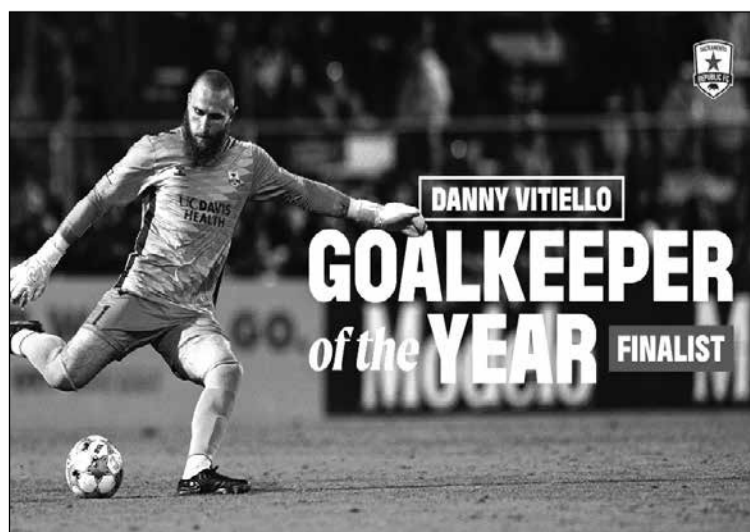
The 2023 Goalkeeper of the Year and two-time Golden Glove winner was Sacramento's ironman, featuring for all 2,700 regular season minutes. Vitiello was the only goalkeeper to reach the milestone and the first Republic FC player to do so since 2017.

Vitiello's performance gained recognition throughout the year.

Vitiello earned two Team of the Week selections and was a two-time Player of the Month finalist, claiming the honor for the first time in his career in July. Vitiello wrapped up the season tied for the USL Championship's all-time record in regular season clean sheets (58).

The United Soccer League will announce the winners of its annual end of season awards leading up to the 2025 USL Championship Final after press time.

Season ticket memberships are now on sale for the 2026 season. For more information or to buy a membership, visit SacRepublicFC.com/Memberships. ★



Danny Vitiello was nominated for the United Soccer League's Goalkeeper of the Year for the third consecutive year. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

A Push of a Button, A Gift of Hope

By Omella Rossi

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - With holiday shoppers looking on, community leaders and non-profit representatives gathered Nov. 21 at the Westfield Galleria at Roseville to cut the ribbon on the annual Light the World Giving Machines, vending-style kiosks that allow visitors to purchase symbolic gifts for people in need.

Installed Nov. 17 and available through Dec. 8, the machines offer items such as hygiene kits, meals, school supplies and even baby goats, with 100% of every purchase going to designated charities. Each nonprofit participates for one year only, rotating annually.

"It's my pleasure to host this again," said Jeff Richardson, senior general manager of the Galleria. "Our community keeps growing, our center keeps growing and we are significantly up in traffic this year, and I think the Giving Machine has something to do with that."

Shoppers choose gifts by tapping a touchscreen and paying by card or mobile wallet. A card representing the selected item drops into the display box, symbolizing the purchase.

Santa J. Claus made a festive entrance, handing out baby-goat plush toys to children who gathered near the machines.

"Isn't it just wonderful when we can listen to our heart and that little voice that says we should think of others in need?" Claus said. "The secret to being on the nice list is kindness. Choosing kindness toward others and toward ourselves."

Five local nonprofits are featured in this year's Roseville machines, along with two global organizations.

Jake's Journey Home focuses on veterans and community members facing homelessness. Founder Jeanne Shuman said the organization was established in



Santa J. Claus made a festive entrance, handing out baby-goat plush toys to children who gathered near the machines. Photo by Omella Rossi

2019 after the death of her son, Jake, a Seabee veteran.

"We're finding a way to honor and remember his legacy," Shuman said. "This initiative collaborates with a lot of nonprofits, which is amazing, but it also allows us to keep doing our mission. We are small, we are mighty and we are all volunteers."

Stand Up Placer, which supports survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking, is offering donors the chance to fund therapy sessions, children's crisis support and emergency food.

"Our partnership with the church and their community is a blessing," said executive director Gary McDonnell.

Sunrise Christian Food Ministry, serving families throughout Sacramento County, gives shoppers the option to purchase meals, hygiene kits and student food packs.

"We are so blessed to be a part of this amazing experience," said President April Jacek.

Volunteer Allia Adams made the season's first purchase, a pantry pack, hygiene kit and pajamas. "It's exciting," Adams said.



Attendees at the ribbon-cutting browse the donation cards, each representing a gift they can give through the Giving Machines. Photo by Omella Rossi

"It doesn't take a lot of effort to shine a light on what people can do."

The Salvation Army's offerings include summer camp, Christmas dinner and job training.

Major Osei Stewart said the partnership is "an opportunity to bring light into the darkness" and "serve those who need it the most."

Sacramento Children's Home, serving children and families for nearly 160 years, offers donors the chance to purchase baby food,

pajamas or parenting classes. CEO David Becker said their mission aligns with the event's spirit.

"A community of people coming together and saying, 'we are going to make a difference,'" Becker said. "We are going to be a light in the world."

Global nonprofits United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Mentors International provide international gift options such as school kits, malnutrition treatment

and supplies for small family businesses.

"These gifts remind us that generosity here can ripple outwards across the globe," said "Thank you for helping lift lives not only in our local communities and neighborhoods but also in communities far beyond our own."

Retired Sacramento County Sheriff John McGinness, who served as emcee, highlighted the program's impact and efficiency.

"Everything that is given to the Giving Machine goes to the intended recipient," McGinness said Nancy Pinney, a Giving Machine committee member. "Some of the things that are requested, most of us view as the most basic essentials."

Local officials echoed the spirit of unity.

"We are very proud of our mall," said Roseville Vice Mayor Karen Alvord. "It gives us an opportunity to focus on the true meaning of the season, to give hope, care and comfort."

Karen Wilkes, a Giving Machine committee member, noted that the program has grown from 26 locations to 126 worldwide in four years.

"It's such a blessing to us and to the people who will receive donations," Wilkes said.

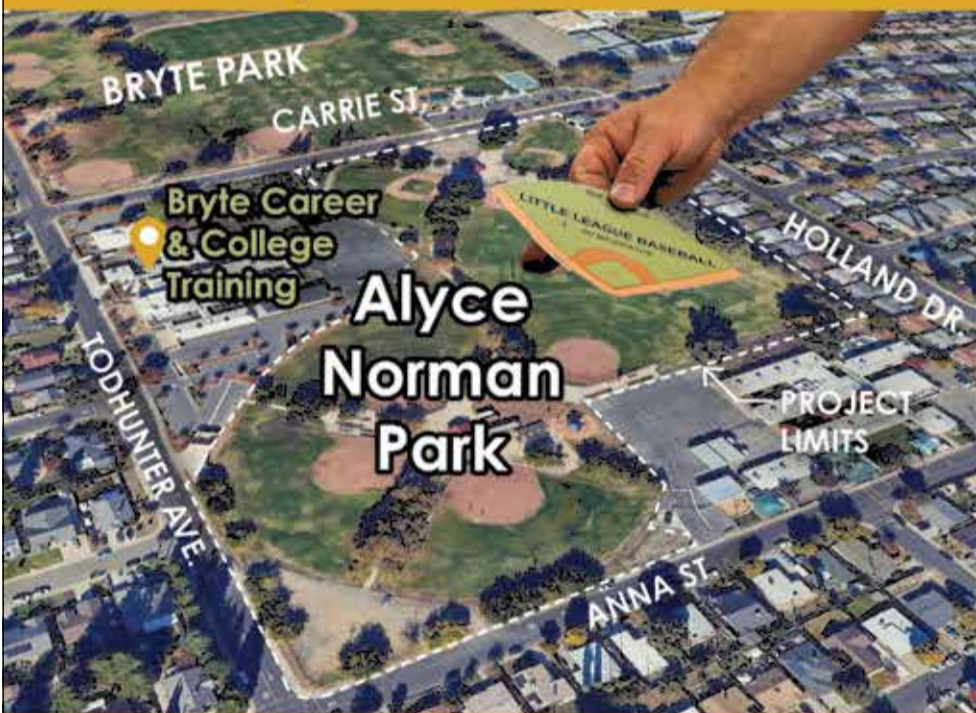
Wilkes also noted one "secret feature" of the giving machines.

"If you punch in 777, it will purchase every single gift. Thirty cards will drop, and it comes to about \$1,800. So come out, bring your friends, coworkers and families," Wilkes said.

The Light the World initiative, sponsored globally by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, encourages giving during the holiday season. This is the fourth year the Roseville Galleria has hosted the machines.

"They connect our community," McGinness said, "not only to our neighbors here in the Sacramento area but also to families around the world." ★

Shape the Future of Alyce Norman Park



Public Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
6pm - 8pm

AT: Bryte Career and College Training
 637 Todhunter Ave
 West Sacramento, CA 95605

Join us for a community workshop focused on the future of Alyce Norman Park. Stop in, share your input, and explore the design options. Residents are encouraged to ask questions, offer feedback, and take part in interactive activities that will help guide the park's next phase of improvements. Free snacks will be available.



Learn more about the Alyce Norman Park Master Plan at CityOfWestSacramento.org

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