

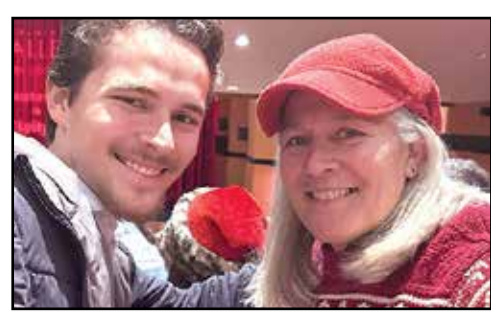


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The Official Newspaper of Record for the City of West Sacramento

# West Sacramento News Ledger

VOLUME 62 • ISSUE 2

Serving the West Sacramento Region Since 1964

JANUARY 9, 2026

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**CA STUDENTS STRUGGLE MOST WITH MATH**

$$x + y = 67$$



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## Benefit Concert to Celebrate Local Music, Uplift Seniors



Dave Nachmanoff & The Usual Culprits will perform a benefit concert for Meals on Wheels Yolo on Jan. 24 at the Winter Opera House. Photo courtesy of Meals on Wheels Yolo

**Meals on Wheels Yolo County News Release**

**YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Tunes lyrically capturing unique local places, people and events set the theme for "The Local Angle," a concert benefiting local nonprofit Meals on Wheels Yolo County (MOW Yolo) by Davis-based musician and recording artist Dave Nachmanoff and The Usual

Culprits at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Winters Opera House, 13 Main Street, Winters. The event is sponsored by Davis residents Sarah and Tom Pattison for a second year in a row.

"It's an evening of songs inspired by our corner of the world, from the Pope Valley to George's Corner," Nachmanoff shared. "Celebrating these spots musically is meaningful

to me. However, paired with the potential to raise funds critical to nourishing struggling older adults in my community at a challenging time, it really elevates the motivation for the band and me to offer an engaging and entertaining show."

Although Nachmanoff tours internationally, both with the legendary Al Stewart and on his own, *Continued on page 2*

## Making Your Electric Bill More Transparent

**Pacific Gas and Electric Company News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Starting in March 2026, PG&E will restructure your energy bill. Your new bill will separate some costs of services from the price per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity usage.

The implementation of the Base Services Charge will restructure how customers are charged for some services and electricity. It is not a new fee. The Base Services Charge will cover approved infrastructure and maintenance costs for connecting your home to the grid, energy programs, call center services and billing. These costs are currently included in your electricity usage cost.

Starting in March 2026, the Base Services Charge will be separated from your electric use charges. The price per kWh for electricity will also be lowered (compared to the otherwise applicable price), so you will be paying less for the electricity you use. Each customer's usage varies so lower electricity prices may or may not lead to a lower total bill.

Lowering the price of electricity will make it more affordable to transition to more clean-powered electric appliances in the home.

**How much will the Base Services Charge be?**

Most customers will pay a charge of around \$24 per month. Customers on low-income programs, including CARE and FERA, will pay a discounted charge of around \$6 and \$12 per month, respectively. Customers in CARE get up to 35% off their electricity usage, and FERA customers get up to 18% off. Enrolled CARE and FERA customers will keep getting their discounts, which will be applied to the lower kWh prices.

Customers enrolled in the CARE or FERA program or who have certified they live in Affordable Housing (Deed Restricted) will be automatically billed at a discounted Base Services Charge level.

To verify if you qualify for a discounted Base Services Charge visit [pge.com/en/account/billing-and-assistance/financial-assistance.html](http://pge.com/en/account/billing-and-assistance/financial-assistance.html).

For more information visit [pge.com/en/account/billing-and-assistance/base-services-charge.html](http://pge.com/en/account/billing-and-assistance/base-services-charge.html). ★

## Storms Deliver Much-Needed Water



Department of Water Resources staff check snow levels at the January 2020 snow survey. Courtesy photo

**California Department of Water Resources News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently conducted the first snow survey of the season at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded

24 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 5 inches, which is 50 percent of average for this location.

The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of the Department of Water Resource's water supply

forecast. Statewide, the snowpack is 71 percent of average for this date.

Today's results are welcome news for water managers who rely on the statewide snow surveys to make water supply decisions for the year ahead. California's statewide *Continued on page 2*

**WE SUPPORT OUR MILITARY**

# Benefit Concert to Celebrate Local Music, Uplift Seniors

*Continued from page 1*  
 singer-songwriter has lived in Yolo County for more than 30 years. He and his wife, ceramicist Jennifer Nachmanoff, raised their two children and continue to pursue their careers in Davis in an artistic compound they whimsically call "Nashville."

A sell-out in January 2025 highlighting selections from Nachmanoff's "Spinoza's Dream" album, this year, concert admission is available by advance donation only at the Meals on Wheels Yolo website at <https://mowyolo.org/the-local-angle/>, with 100 percent of proceeds remaining with Meals on Wheels Yolo.

The \$40 contribution includes admission for one, a 5:30 p.m. pre-show reception offering savory appetizers crafted in Meals on Wheels Yolo's Winters meal production facility, the 6 p.m. concert, and Meals on Wheels Yolo dessert creations at intermission. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be available for purchase, benefiting Winters Theatre Company.

While Nachmanoff's musical style ranges from folk to rock to jazz, The Usual Culprits complement with a mix of rock and Americana influences that provide a dynamic backdrop to Nachmanoff's talents. Featuring mainstays Nick Carvajal on bass and vocals, and Ryan Davis on drums, the Meals on Wheels Yolo benefit performance also will welcome Woodlander

Max Hart – a multi-instrumentalist who tours with Melissa Etheridge – on keyboards/pedal steel and guitar, and Davisites Brendan Del Favero and Heidi Bekebrede presenting material specifically focused upon the town.

More information is available at <https://davenach.com/the-usual-culprits>. "As grateful as we were last year for the generosity of the Pattisons, Dave and his musicians, and Winters Theatre Company for the successful concert, the appreciation is magnified this January by the depth of the community need to provide dependable nutrition for food insecure, isolated seniors in Yolo County," explained Joy Cohan, Meals on Wheels Yolo Executive Director.

"Reduced and uncertain government funding for Meals on Wheels programs, interruptions to food assistance programs, and the ongoing 'epidemic of loneliness' identified by the Surgeon General all are hitting the senior population so hard," Cohan added. "Meanwhile, the demographic is swelling as the Baby Boom generation ages. Providing entertainment that encourages community members to come together socially is such an appropriate and uplifting way to support the Meals on Wheels Yolo mission to nourish and engage seniors."

Built in 1876 and having served as a live music venue for nearly two decades during the Palms Playhouse's residency,

Winters Opera House now is home to the Winters Theatre Company (WTC) and performances of their full season of plays. The musical performance tradition continues, however, featuring a variety of genres to complement the frequent stage productions.

"Showcasing local performing arts and artists to advance local causes is central to Winters Theatre Company's purpose," stated Linda Glick, a founder of the theatre group. "The Pattisons' fervent vision to connect the community in a multi-sphered way to benefit Meals on Wheels is so appealing, and it's our continued honor to host Dave and his band to elevate 'the local angle' of our community on so many levels."

Sarah Pattison equally is honored to make the event possible again for a second consecutive year, along with her husband, Tom.

"As aging adults ourselves, Tom and I feel incredibly fortunate to be able to initiate and now perpetuate this sponsorship, especially this year focused upon "The Local Angle," Pattison commented. "Working with Dave, Joy, and Linda and their teams to marry music with meeting basic needs for local seniors is rewarding and relevant in the times in which we all live."

For more concert details, or to learn further about donating, volunteering, or connecting with Meals on Wheels Yolo's nutrition services, visit [www.mowyolo.org](http://www.mowyolo.org) or call 530-662-7035. ★

# Storms Deliver Much-Needed Water



An aerial view in the morning of fog partially covering the San Joaquin River and Webb Tract Island (Left) in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, located in San Joaquin County, California. Photo taken Oct. 30, 2025. Courtesy photo

*Continued from page 1*  
 snowpack had been lacking in early December with above-average temperatures and very little storm activity. Recent storms have turned that around and provided a significant boost to the snowpack and the state's water supply.

"The dry conditions and warmer temperatures in early December delayed our snow-building season, but the return of storm activity, especially in the last week, helped to build a solid base for this year's snowpack," said Angelique Fabbiani-Leon, State Hydrometeorologist for the Department of Water Resources.

"Thankfully, the recent storms that reached the state were cold enough to provide necessary benefits for the snowpack and our water supply. While California is in a better position now, it is still early in the season and our state's water supply for this year will ultimately depend on a continued cadence of storms throughout winter and early spring."

The Department of Water Resource's

electronic readings from 130 stations placed throughout the Sierra Nevada indicate that the statewide snowpack's snow water equivalent is 6.5 inches, or 71 percent of average for this date, compared to 115 percent on this date last year.

On average, the largest snow-producing months in the Sierra Nevada are January, February and March. Drought and flood always marked the California climate, but extreme whiplash between wet and dry is becoming more pronounced, not just year to year but often within the same season or month.

"It's great to see so much fresh snow in the Sierra following a relatively dry December," said Department of Water Resources director Karla Nemeth.

"More than any other factor, the rain and snow that falls in these critical winter months dictates how much water can be delivered to Californians and farmland statewide. We make the most of what Mother Nature delivers with advance planning that enables Forecast Informed

Reservoir Operations and groundwater recharge."

Major reservoirs statewide are currently 123 percent of average thanks to recent precipitation on top of three consecutive years of above-average snowpack conditions.

On average, the Sierra snowpack supplies about 30 percent of California's water needs. Its natural ability to store water is why the Sierra snowpack is often referred to as California's "frozen reservoir." Data from these snow surveys and forecasts produced by the Department of Water Resource's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit are key factors in determining how the Department of Water Resources manages the state's water resources.

The Department of Water Resources conducts four media-oriented snow surveys at Phillips Station each winter near the first of each month, January through April and, if necessary, May. The next survey is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 3.

For California's current hydrological conditions, visit <https://cww.water.ca.gov>. ★

MEMORIAL

**MANUEL JACINTO BUSTILLOS • 09/11/1929 – 12/15/2025**

Manuel Bustillos, 96, of West Sacramento, passed away peacefully on Dec 15, 2025. He was reunited with his beloved wife, Angelina "Angie" Bustillos, who preceded him in death on January 14, 2020, his son Paul Bustillos Sr, and his grandson Kirk King.

Born in El Paso, Texas, Manuel moved to California as a child, working the fields around Clarksburg before building his career as Head Saw Filer at State Box Co and Supervisor at Teacon Pacific. He also served as a Yolo County Sheriff's Reserve Officer. Manuel and Angie raised five children on Joan Street in West Sacramento. In retirement, he served as President of a social club for Mexican retirees, rode with Bike for Sight, donated blood regularly, and never missed a chance to cheer on the 49ers and Giants, or take a gambling trip to Reno with Angie and friends.

Those who knew Manuel describe him simply: a great man. A family man. A precise craftsman. A model citizen. He didn't need fanfare, he showed up early, did right by everyone, and expected nothing in return.

He is survived by his four children, Theresa Bustillos, Vince Bustillos, Rachel Palmer, and Lorraine Moreno; three siblings; six grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be held Wed, Jan 14, 2026, at 11am at River Cities Funeral Chapel in West Sacramento, with a reception to follow at the VFW Hall across the street.

# Students in California Struggling Most with Math

## Find a Super Tutor News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - While the Christmas break is upon us, many students will be studying at home over the festive period and may be wondering how to receive a little extra support for the subject they find the hardest.

With this in mind, education recruitment agency Find a Super Tutor investigated the subjects that students in the US are struggling with the most.

The research analyzed the total number of Google searches for 118 subjects, applying 13 different search combinations for each, such as "help with mathematics" and "chemistry tutoring". Then, the ranking was calculated based on the subjects with the most to least average Google searches per month across the nation and in each state.

Mathematics was revealed to be the subject that California was struggling with the most, with a monthly average of 18,256 Google searches inquiring about help with the subject. Ranking as the subject with second-highest number of inquiries was Programming, with an average of 7,473 searches per month.

Following in third was Spanish, with an average monthly search count of 7,228, whereas English Language followed in fourth with an average of 7,083 searches per month. Rounding out the top five was Calculus, with a monthly average of 1,995 searches.

Mathematics was revealed to be the subject that students were struggling with the most across the US, with a monthly average of 125,929 Google searches inquiring about help with the subject.

Other subjects that students struggled with were SAT Prep, with an average of 7,552 monthly searches, and Calculus, with an average of 6,857 monthly searches, whereas Japanese completed the top 10, averaging 6,718 monthly searches.

Commenting on the findings, Joshua James, director of Find a Super Tutor, said,

"There are strong patterns among the subjects that students are struggling with the most. Most of the subjects fall under either the STEM or languages category. Some of the hardest school subjects to

learn include mathematics and other scientific disciplines such as programming, information technology, chemistry and calculus. These subjects can be challenging for students because they involve abstract concepts, logical reasoning, and require learners to memorize large amounts of information.

"For instance, calculus requires a solid foundation in algebra and trigonometry, and without this, students can quickly fall behind. Similarly, programming and IT demand not only technical knowledge but also the ability to think algorithmically and troubleshoot complex problems. Students who struggle in STEM often benefit from interactive tools like coding simulators, virtual labs, and personalized tutoring platforms, which allow for a more hands-on and tailored learning experience.

"Language subjects also pose challenges, but of a different nature. English and foreign languages such as Spanish, Japanese, and American Sign Language require mastery of vocabulary, grammar, and cultural context, all of which can vary widely from a student's native language."

"Japanese, for example, has multiple writing systems and a syntax that significantly differs from English, while ASL relies on spatial reasoning and visual cues that are not intuitive for everyone. Even English, often assumed to be straightforward for native speakers, contains complex grammar rules and idiomatic expressions that can confuse learners.

"Online support for language learning has become highly sophisticated, with resources like language exchange communities, and AI-powered apps such as Duolingo offering real-time feedback and personalized practice routines. These tools can significantly enhance engagement and retention, helping students overcome the hurdles these subjects often present.

"Regardless of what subject you or your child is struggling with, there is always support available. If you need help beyond what online resources may be able to offer, hiring a part-time tutor can be the perfect solution. Tutors are typically experts in their chosen area and can provide specialized, high-quality support to improve grades and understanding of the subject." ★

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# 'Bigs and Littles' Treated to VIP Nutcracker Experience

## SAFE Credit Union News Release

### WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- For the second year, matches from Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Sacramento Area were treated like VIPs at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center to experience the magic of the 'Nutcracker'.

The "Littles" and their "Bigs" attended a special reception and ballet together upon the invitation of SAFE Credit Union and Sacramento Ballet. A not-for-profit credit union, SAFE supports nonprofits through grants, volunteerism, direct giving and sponsorships.

Twenty Bigs and Littles and their families enjoyed a reception with treats and gifts before meeting exclusively with Sacramento Ballet Second Company ballet dancer Logan Betts.

"We know experiencing unique moments like these not only add to our matches' special bonds but can also impact the trajectory of a young person's life," said Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Sacramento Area President and Chief Executive Officer Jacob Peterson.

Both self-described introverts, Julia Mendoza, 17, of Orangevale went to the reception and ballet with her Big Sister of two years, Inderpreet Chaggar, also of Orangevale.

Chaggar says the event was a great way for them to "create memories" together while being a part of a crowd.

"Other times when we go out it will just be us two but this, we can share it with other people," she said. "I feel like this could be really formative for somebody her age."

Mendoza described having Chaggar as a Big Sister as being like taking a "big deep breath" when she needs one. "It means a

lot to always have someone to talk to."

Meeting dancer Betts "was cool," Mendoza added. "It was interesting to hear about her experiences, and I thought her eyes were really pretty," she said.

SAFE Credit Union Community Impact Manager Lauren LeBov says SAFE's hope is that the unique ballet experience "not only brightens their holiday season but also creates memories they'll cherish for years to come."

Sacramento Ballet Development Director Thomas McLaughlin said, "We hope access to live dance – especially the magic of the Nutcracker – inspires both Bigs and Littles to see the world with a little more wonder, express themselves, and discover the joy of shared experiences through the arts."

Other philanthropic initiatives led by SAFE Credit Union include no-cost financial education for everyone from students to retirees, as well as scholarships to college-bound high school seniors and community college students.

In 2019, SAFE Credit Union announced its 25-year, \$23 million commitment and investment into Sacramento's SAFE Credit Union Convention & Performing Arts District.

#### About SAFE

SAFE Credit Union has made members an integral part of its vision since 1940. Over the years the credit union has kept the focus on what really matters, putting members first, a formula that has seen SAFE grow into a leading financial institution in Northern California with \$4.4 billion in assets and about 244,000 members. SAFE crafts every cutting-edge product and sterling service with members' needs foremost in mind. In addition to banking services conveniently available through online, chat, mobile, or phone options, SAFE offers in-person



Zackary Strickley, 16, and Kathy Strickley of West Sacramento attend the Nutcracker at SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center. Courtesy photo

services for members and small businesses at service centers across the Greater Sacramento region. SAFE is a not-for-profit, state-chartered credit union with membership open to businesses and individuals living or working in Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Sutter, Butte, Nevada, Solano, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Yuba, Amador, and Alameda counties. Insured by NCUA. Visit [www.safecu.org](http://www.safecu.org) for more information.

#### About Sacramento Ballet

Since 1954, Sacramento Ballet has been a beacon of artistic excellence in the California Capital Region, delivering world-class dance performances, education, and community outreach programs. A cornerstone of Sacramento's cultural community, its mission is to enhance the human condition through dance and to make it accessible to everyone. As the region's only dance company to maintain a roster of professional dance artists, Sacramento Ballet captivates

thousands of patrons each year with its enthralling performances and community outreach events. Unique among local arts organizations, Sacramento Ballet welcomes internationally renowned dancers and choreographers to live and create groundbreaking artistic works right here in our beautiful city and serves as a representative of California's thriving cultural scene on national and international stages. Sacramento Ballet is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, funded by ticket sales and individual donations, as well as contributions from corporate, foundation, and government entities. This vital support enables the company to present unparalleled, world-class programming that inspires and uplifts, while expanding the reach of the artform through educational and outreach initiatives.

#### About Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Sacramento Area

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Sacramento area operates

under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life, and we work to develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people. Our one-to-one mentoring program primarily benefits children, ages 7-18, who are being raised by single parents, grandparents or other extended family, and foster families. Our mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships with trusted adults which ignite the independence and creativity of youth. By partnering with parents/guardians, volunteers, and community members we are accountable for ensuring every child in our program has the opportunity to set high aspirations; gain greater confidence, and experience being involved in healthy relationships; build skills and tools to help avoid risky situations and behaviors; and receive resources and support to reach their educational goals. Visit <https://www.bbbs-sac.org/> for more information. ★



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# Food & Farm NEWS

## New state Laws Affecting Farms Take Effect Jan. 1

Several new state laws set to take effect this week will impact agriculture in California. Beginning Jan. 1, the cost of agricultural labor will rise as California's minimum wage increases in 2026 from \$16.50 to \$16.90 an hour. A new state law will affect the way counties in California address abandoned orchards and vineyards, which have increased pest pressures in neighboring farms in recent years as lower prices for winegrapes and tree nuts resulted in a surge in abandoned acreage. A pair of new laws will give California farmers and ranchers more options for disposal of organic waste. A different new state law will provide more opportunities for agritourism operators by reducing regulatory barriers to hosting overnight campers on working lands. And while immigration law is federal, a new California law bans the use of face coverings by law enforcement officers, possibly affecting immigration enforcement operations in the state.

## Winegrape growers Continue Removing Vines Amid 'Challenging Times'

California winegrape growers continued this year to remove vineyards as the sector contends with an oversupply of grapes due to a global downturn in wine sales. Sonoma County grower Andrew Forchini said his 2025 crop turned out well, but like many winegrape growers, he struggled to sell the fruit. "It was hard to find a buyer. If you're lucky and have your crops sold,

you're doing well. But if you don't have your crops sold or have half your crops sold, it's very challenging times," Forchini told Ag Alert® in a field report, adding he had reduced his acreage in response to the winegrape market. "We removed a percentage of acreage this growing season that we couldn't sell. We're going to remove a little more."

## Marin County Ranch Honored With Top Conservation Prize

Stemple Creek Ranch of Marin County is the 2025 California Leopold Conservation Award recipient. The \$10,000 award honors farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who go above and beyond in their management of soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on working land. Loren and Lisa Poncia, owners of Stemple Creek Ranch in Tomales, were presented with the award during the California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Dec. 8. The ranch raises organic, grass-finished beef and lamb and pastured pork, which it sells directly to consumers, grocery stores, restaurants and butcher shops. The 650 acres they own and much of what they lease has Marin Agricultural Land Trust agricultural conservation easements on them. This ensures that the land will be conserved as open space and in productive agricultural use in perpetuity. "We're trying to dance with Mother Nature within our fence-lines," Loren Poncia said of his family's approach to conservation. ★

# Crime Reports WEST SACRAMENTO



## ARREST REPORTS

Michael Bryan Trainer, 40, was cited Friday, Nov. 14 at F Street and Jefferson Boulevard by West Sacramento Police for possession of burglary tools.

Lapri Dominique Sears, 39, was arrested Wednesday, Dec. 10 on Savannah Lane by West Sacramento Police for an outstanding felony warrant. Officer was dispatched to the location regarding a suspicious subject, who was on property trying vehicle door handles. The subject was reported to be associated with a minivan. Officer arrived on the scene and observed a minivan with a passenger matching the description provided by the reporting party. Officer conducted an investigative stop and identified the passenger as Sears, who was revealed to have the active warrant. She was booked into Yolo County Jail without incident.

Brock Jonathan McKinley, 29, was arrested Thursday, Dec. 11 on Bridge Street by West Sacramento Police for disorderly conduct: under the influence of drugs. Officer was dispatched to the location regarding a reported fight. Officer arrived and observed a male standing in the street wearing gray sweatpants and no shirt. He identified himself as McKinley and a records check revealed him to be on parole. McKinley exhibited objective signs of being under the influence of an unknown substance and unable to care for himself. He was transported to Yolo County Jail.

Jannice Marie Frazier, 43, was arrested Friday, Dec. 12 on 5th Street by West Sacramento Police for disorderly conduct: alcohol. Officers were dispatched to the location regarding a verbal fight. The reporting party stated his ex-girlfriend, later identified as Frazier, was at his house intoxicated and refusing to leave. Upon arrival, officers saw Frazier walking away from the location and away from officers. She was contacted and displayed objective signs of intoxication. She did not have anywhere to go and was far away from her residence. For her safety, she was transported to Yolo County Jail and later released.

Gerray Brown, 22, was arrested Saturday, Dec. 13 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police for an outstanding felony warrant. Officer responded to the location for the report of a verbal argument. Upon arrival, the officer contacted a suspect who identified himself as Brown. A records check revealed the warrant and Brown detained without incident and transported to Yolo County Jail.

Timothy David Logan, 46, was cited Tuesday, Dec. 16 on Beacon Boulevard by West Sacramento Police for possessing burglary tools and possessing unlawful paraphernalia.

Monique Gladys Santiago, 29, was arrested Wednesday, Dec. 17 on Pennsylvania Avenue by West Sacramento Police for DUI alcohol. Officer was dispatched to the location for report of a physical fight and vehicle collision. Upon arrival, officer observed a vehicle that had collided with a parked vehicle in front of a residence. The driver, identified as Santiago, was standing outside the vehicle and displayed objective signs of intoxication. While speaking with the officer, Santiago had difficulty explaining what had occurred and was unable to provide a coherent chronological account of the events. She also admitted to consuming tequila prior to the incident. Officer asked Santiago to perform field sobriety tests, which she was unable to do properly. Santiago consented to a preliminary alcohol screening which reported blood alcohol concentration >.08, and she was transported to Yolo County Jail.

Sofia Flores, 18, was arrested Tuesday, Dec. 23 at South River Road and Locks Boulevard by West Sacramento Police. Officer conducted a traffic enforcement stop at the location and believed the driver, identified as Flores, to be under the influence of cannabis. She consented to field sobriety tests and performed poorly. She admitted to smoking marijuana a few hours prior to driving and was transported to the police department for pre-booking paperwork. There, the officer observed the odor of alcohol coming from Flores. She consented to a preliminary alcohol screening which reported blood alcohol concentration >.08. Flores was transported to Yolo County Jail on multiple charges of DUI alcohol, DUI any drug, and DUI combined alcohol and drug.

Brandon Mitchell Peters, 34, was arrested Wednesday, Dec. 24 at Harbor Boulevard and West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police for DUI alcohol. Officer on an unrelated traffic stop was advised of an individual stumbling in a nearby parking lot. Shortly afterward, officer observed the same male driving an SUV at a nearby intersection. The male immediately pulled into a drive-through. Officer conducted a traffic enforcement stop as soon as the SUV exited the drive-through, and contacted the driver, identified as Peters. Officer observed Peters to have objective signs of intoxication and asked him to perform field sobriety tests, which he did poorly. Peters consented to preliminary alcohol screening which reported blood alcohol concentration >.08. Peters was transported to Yolo County Jail.

Jazmine Cheyan Arrington-Ramirez, 31, was arrested Wednesday, Dec. 24 at Riverwalk under Highway 50 by West Sacramento Police for an outstanding felony warrant.

Nina Cha, 21, was arrested Thursday, Dec. 25 at Jefferson Boulevard and Merkle Avenue by West Sacramento Police for DUI alcohol. Officer on patrol observed a vehicle exit a parking lot without stopping and it nearly collided with a passing vehicle. Officer conducted a traffic enforcement stop and contacted the driver, identified as Cha, who displayed objective symptoms of intoxication. Cha admitted to having a few drinks before driving and consented to field sobriety tests, which she performed poorly. She consented to preliminary alcohol screening, which reported blood alcohol concentration >.08. and Cha was transported to Yolo County Jail.

Byron Josue Centeno-Palacios, 41, was arrested Thursday, Dec. 25 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police for DUI alcohol. Officer on patrol observed a vehicle traveling the wrong direction on West Capitol Avenue. Officer conducted a traffic enforcement stop and contacted the driver, identified as Centeno-Palacios, who displayed objective symptoms of intoxication. A records check revealed he was on DUI court probation until 2027. Centeno-Palacios consented to field sobriety tests, which he performed poorly. He consented to preliminary alcohol screening, which reported blood alcohol concentration >.08. and he was transported to Yolo County Jail.

Jose Juan Diaz-Nava, 32, was arrested Thursday, Dec. 25 on Channel Drive by West Sacramento Police. Officer responded to the area regarding a commercial burglary. While on route, officer observed Diaz-Nava, who matched the suspect description. Officer conducted a stop and detained Diaz-Nava in handcuffs. A records check revealed he was on active, searchable probation until Feb. 2026. A probation search of the backpack Diaz-Nava was wearing revealed a clear glass pipe with a bulbous end with white and burnt residue, as well as a handheld band saw, multiple screwdrivers, and pliers, which the officer recognized as potential burglary instruments. Diaz-Nava was transported to Yolo County Jail,

charged with possessing burglary tools, possessing unlawful paraphernalia, and probation violation.

Adrian Pail Meraz, 33, was arrested Saturday, Dec. 27 at Jefferson Boulevard and Merkle Avenue by West Sacramento Police for DUI alcohol. Officers were dispatched to a West Capitol Avenue location for report of a physical fight. They were provided a description of the subject, who had been seen getting to the back of a truck. As officers were arriving at the location, they located a truck matching the description and initiated a traffic enforcement stop. Officers located a male behind the driver's seat who was later identified as Meraz. He was observed to have objective signs of intoxication and was asked to perform field sobriety tests, which he did poorly. A preliminary alcohol screening reported blood alcohol concentration >.08. He was transported to Yolo County Jail.

Amber Michelle Royal, 50, was arrested Saturday, Dec. 27 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police. Officer was dispatched to the location for reports of a physical fight. Remarks stated that multiple people and dogs were fighting, and that one female had urinated in the bed of a truck. Officers arrived on scene and contacted the involved parties and determined this was a mutual confrontation between multiple subjects, one of whom was Royal. She was said to have come to the location acting belligerent and at one point, pulled down her pants to urinate in the bed of a pickup truck. She showed objective signs of being under the influence of a controlled substance. During a search incident to arrest, officers located a clear glass smoking pipe with a bulbous tip and burnt residue. Royal was transported to Yolo County Jail charged with disorderly conduct: under the influence of drugs. Once at the jail, inside the gates, Royal told officer she may have drugs on her. A search located a small plastic bag inside her front pants pocket containing a crystal-like substance that tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine. A criminal history check revealed she had at least two qualifying drug convictions, which made her eligible for prop 36. This resulted in additional charges: possessing a controlled substance, possessing a hard drug with prior convictions, and smuggling into a jail.

Lovepreet Singh, 24 was arrested Sunday, Dec. 28 at Jefferson Boulevard and Park Boulevard by West Sacramento Police for DUI any drug. Officer was watching the intersection of Merkle Avenue and Poplar Avenue and observed a vehicle run the stop sign. Officer followed the driver, later identified as Singh, and observed him swerving in his lane and driving slower than the speed limit. Singh failed to stop at the limit line of a red light and continued inching forward. When the light turned green Singh continued, swerving in his lane and then running a red light. Officer conducted a traffic stop and observed signs of intoxication. He asked Singh to perform field sobriety tests which indicated he was under the influence of drugs. Singh was transported to Yolo County Jail.

Mia Danielle Hendrix, 25, was arrested Sunday, Dec. 28 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police. A victim reported her vehicle had been stolen from a church on Merkle Avenue. Church staff provided surveillance video that showed a female the officer recognized as Hendrix, looking through the vehicle's windows before opening the driver's door and getting inside. Officers searched the area but were unable to locate the vehicle. Later the same day, the victim called back to advised that her debit card was used at a local gas station. Officers responded and began searching again for the vehicle. Officer observed Hendrix walking on West Capitol Avenue and contacted her, but before she was handcuffed, she threw something behind the building. Under Miranda, Hendrix stated she took the vehicle because the man who was with her told her to and she threw the keys behind the building, where officers later located them. While Hendrix was detained, dispatch advised the registered owner found the vehicle unoccupied in a nearby parking lot. Officers responded to that parking lot and confirmed the keys in Hendrix' possession were the ones for that vehicle. Hendrix was transported to Yolo County Jail, charged with vehicle theft and possessing a stolen vehicle.

Cesar Julian Limon-Gomez, 39, was arrested Monday, Dec. 29 on Jefferson Boulevard by West Sacramento Police. In the video officers reviewed for the vehicle theft on Dec. 28, Hendrix was seen with a male who opens the door of the victim's vehicle, gets into the driver's seat and appears to look through items in the vehicle before getting out and allowing Hendrix to enter the vehicle and drive away. The male and Hendrix are seen talking for several minutes outside the victim's vehicle before it was ultimately stolen by Hendrix. The next day, officers located Limon-Gomez, identified as the male subject in the video. A search of his backpack revealed more than 20 debit and credit cards that did not have his name on them, as well as four completed checks and a California driver's license without his name. He was transported to Yolo County Jail, charged with unlawfully acquiring or possessing another's credit/debit card or card information with intent to defraud, passing completed checks with intent to defraud, and conspiracy to commit crime.

Kevin Leon Rose Jr., 32, and Darrin Lamarr Fortune, 52, were arrested Tuesday, Dec. 30 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police. Officer on patrol identified a vehicle confirmed outstanding as stolen. A high-risk stop was performed and the driver, later identified as Rose, was found to have multiple outstanding misdemeanor warrants. A check of the stolen vehicle hit listed a male suspect in the original theft that matched Rose exactly. Under Miranda, Rose stated he just bought the vehicle for \$125 but could not provide any documentation for the purchase and repeatedly changed his story. He was transported to Yolo County Jail, charged with the warrants and possessing a stolen vehicle. A records check of the passenger, Fortune, also revealed outstanding warrants and he was transported to Yolo County Jail.

## Incidents / Crime Reports

Saturday, Dec. 6 – a residential facility on Bryte Avenue reported the vandalism of their apartment complex cluster mailboxes. Value of loss undetermined.

Tuesday, Dec. 9 – City of West Sacramento reports unknown suspects vandalized a city electrical transformer box on Riverfront Street, siphoning power to a nearby encampment. Loss valued at \$468.

Friday, Dec. 12 – a commercial / office building on E Street reports an unknown suspect threw a railroad spike through the window of a vacant business. This may be related to a previously reported incident. Damage to the window valued at \$1,200.

Friday, Dec. 12 – victim reports a vehicle burglary at a residential facility on West Capitol Avenue. Miscellaneous items valued at \$200 were taken.

Monday, Dec. 15 – victim reports unknown suspect(s) took the catalytic converter out of their vehicle. \$3,000 estimated value of loss.

Monday, Dec. 15 – victim reports his father struck him once in the face during a verbal argument in their single-family home. No reported value of damage.

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## CHURCH DIRECTORY

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 info@trinitywestsac.org  
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# Homeowners Could Qualify for Grants for New Roofs and Fire Safety

By Levi Sumagaysay, CAIMatters.org

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Some homeowners in areas of California with high wildfire risk could eventually get money for new roofs or to build fire-resistant zones around their properties under a new state law that went into effect Jan. 1.

The Safe Homes grant program is designed to help low- and middle-income homeowners with fire mitigation. People who qualify could use grants to create 5-foot ember-resistant zones around properties, also known as Zone Zero, as required by law in some areas. The program will also contribute toward costs for fire-safe roofs.

The state's Insurance Department, which is responsible for implementing the program, is working out the details around eligibility, the amount of and the distribution of grants. It is now developing an application

portal that it hopes to have ready by March, said Michael Soller, spokesperson for the department.

The insurance department will be handling all the details of the grants, said Mike Dayton, chief of staff of Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, the Los Angeles-area Democrat and chair of the Assembly Insurance Committee who wrote the law, and has so far secured \$3 million in the state budget to get the program started.

Soller said homeowners who have policies with admitted insurance carriers or the last-resort FAIR Plan and who live in high-risk areas will have to meet income limits set by the state housing department to be eligible for the grants, whose amounts have not been determined. Communities, cities and counties with mitigation projects could also apply for grants.

He also said the insurance department plans to advocate for additional and ongoing funding for

the program.

Another source of funding could be the federal government, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Soller said. But Gov. Gavin Newsom recently tried to meet with FEMA to talk about disaster aid related to the Los Angeles County fires and was unsuccessful.

Also, two Californians in Congress have proposed legislation that would establish a federal grant program and tax credits for mitigation. U.S. Reps. Mike Thompson, a Napa Democrat, and Doug LaMalfa, an Oroville Republican, have introduced their bill for the past two sessions, but it has not made it to a floor vote.

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection recently extended the finalization of rules regarding Zone Zero buffers around properties to the first half of next year. The rules are expected to take effect for existing homes in 2029. ★

# Applications Open for Community Academy

By MPG Staff

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The City of West Sacramento is once again offering a unique opportunity for West Sacramento residents to learn more about their city government. The City of West Sacramento Community Academy is a free, seven-session program taking place from March 5 through April 28.

Participants will learn about the operations of various City Departments through an interactive, behind the scenes learning experience that is designed to be both informative and fun. Academy graduates will be prepared to advocate more effectively for policies and programs they support, to apply for advisory commissions, or to simply be better-informed about how their city operates.

Applications for the 2026 Community Academy will be accepted throughout the month of

January 2026. Residents can apply at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/72CH9P8>.

According to the City, the main goals of the Community Academy are to increase the knowledge of residents about the city, promote civic engagement, prepare future community leaders and provide networking opportunities.

All applicants must reside within the City of West Sacramento and must commit to attending all of the Community Academy sessions and notifying staff immediately if a scheduling conflict arises. The full schedule can be found at [www.cityofwestsacramento.org/government/departments/city-manager-s-office/west-sacramento-community-academy](http://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/government/departments/city-manager-s-office/west-sacramento-community-academy).

All costs are covered by the City of West Sacramento. There are no application fees and all seven sessions will include dinner for participants.

Most of the Community Academy sessions will take place at City Hall, 1110 West Capitol Ave., in the first-floor meeting rooms. Additional tour locations and instructions will be communicated to participants.

Participants may miss one session and still receive a graduation certificate. To get the full benefits of the experience, it is important to be present for all sessions. "Extra Credit" opportunities will be available.

An application process will be used to determine the participants in the Community Academy. Following the close of the application period, City staff will randomly select applications for consideration and will attempt to assemble a group that is geographically and demographically representative of the City's diverse population. Selections and notifications will be sent to all applicants. ★

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### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20250984**  
The following person(s) is doing business as: Camellia City Creations, 2852 Sawbills, Court, West Sacramento, CA 95691. Shariah Jere Ford, 2852 Sawbills Court, West Sacramento, CA 95691. This business is conducted by An Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 1, 2020. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on November 25, 2025. By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy  
Publish: Dec 19, 26, Jan 2, 9, 2026  
CAMELLIA 1-9-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20250858**  
The following person(s) is doing business as: Devine Intermodal, Shoreline Chassis Pool, 3870 Channel Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691. Devine & Son Trucking Co, Inc., 3870 Channel Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691. This business is conducted by A Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on January 1, 1999. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on October 7, 2025. By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy  
Publish: Dec 19, 26, Jan 2, 9, 2026  
DEVINE 1-9-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. F20251001**  
The following person(s) is doing business as:  
1) Waste Management of West Sacramento, 2) Waste Management of Winters, 3) Waste Management of Woodland, 1324 Paddock Place, Woodland, CA 95776, County of YOLO. Mailing Address: 800 Capitol St Ste 3000, Houston, TX 77002 USA Waste of California, Inc., 800 Capitol St Ste 3000, Houston, TX 77002 This business is conducted by Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/15/2001 /s/ Courtney A. Tippy, Vice President and Secretary This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 12/04/2025. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder  
By: Kquam, Deputy  
12/19, 12/26/25, 1/2, 1/9/26  
CNS-3988727#  
NEWS-LEDGER 1-9-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20251028**  
Cara Vita Wines, 2540 Boatman Avenue Suite 180, West Sacramento, CA 95691. Ogilvie Merwin Ventures, LLC, 2540 Boatman Avenue Suite 180, West Sacramento, CA 95691. This business is conducted by A Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on December 9, 2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on December 12, 2025. By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy  
Publish: Dec 26, Jan 2, 9, 16, 2026  
CARA 1-16-26

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20251027**  
The following person(s) is doing business as:  
Living Forward SLS, 129 C St 2,

**Davis, CA 95616**, County of Yolo. Living Forward Supportive Living Services, 1745 Enterprise Dr, Fairfield, CA 94533 This business is conducted by Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/03/2025 /s/ Schiller Philippe-Auguste, President This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 12/12/2025. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder  
By: Kquam, Deputy  
12/26/25, 1/2, 1/9, 1/16/26  
CNS-3996854#  
NEWS-LEDGER 1-16-26

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. F20251034**  
The person(s) or entity listed below are abandoning the use of the following fictitious business name(s): FuyuRain, 38000 County Road 144, Clarksburg, CA 95612. The fictitious business name was originally filed in Yolo County on March 6, 2023, and is being abandoned by the registrant(s) listed below: Kiton Noel Connor, 10005 Lorae Way, Elk Grove, CA 95624 The business was conducted by: An Individual. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on December 15, 2025. By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy  
Publish: Dec 26, Jan 2, 9, 16, 2026  
CONNOR 1-16-26

### ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #CV2025-3693**  
Lilian Ying Chow has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Lilian Ying Chow to Lillian Ying Chow. IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on February 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 11, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted. Dated: December 19, 2025 Timothy L. Fall, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: January 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026  
CHOW 1-23-26

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ANTHONY M. FRANUSICH, JR. CASE NO. PR2025-0319**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors, and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of: ANTHONY M. FRANUSICH, JR. A Petition for Probate has been filed by KATHLEEN BANDERAS in the Superior Court of California, County of YOLO. The Petition for Probate requests that KATHLEEN BANDERAS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of

**Estates Act.** (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court on 2/3/26 at 9:00 AM in Dept. TBD Room located at 1000 MAIN STREET, WOODLAND, CA 95695, PROBATE.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Petitioner/Attorney for Petitioner: BRIAN R. GRANUCCI, 1318 G STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814, Telephone: 916-446-7511 X22  
12/26/25, 1/2, 1/9/26  
CNS-3995922#  
NEWS-LEDGER 1-9-26

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF GARY PEARCY CASE NO. PR2025-0310**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Gary Percy. A Petition for Probate has been filed by Jacqueline McKenzie, in the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, requesting Jacqueline McKenzie be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the

petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: January 21, 2026, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 14. Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, 1000 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Dylan P. Hyatt, The Law Offices of Hassell and Hyatt, P.C. 1555 River Park Drive, Suite 108, Sacramento, CA 95815; 916-292-8009  
Publish: Jan 2, 9, 16, 2026  
PEARCY 2-16-26

### SUMMONS

**IN RE: COMPLAINT AND PETITION OF EFRAIN CAMACHO, as Owner of a Certain Vessel, FOR EXONERATION FROM OR LIMITATION OF LIABILITY U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California Case No. 2:25-cv-03604-WBS-CKD**

Notice is hereby given that EFRAIN CAMACHO ("Petitioner") has filed a Complaint on December 14, 2025 pursuant to 46 U.S.C. §§ 30501, et seq., Supplemental Admiralty Rule F, and the various statutes, rules, regulations, and amendments thereof, claiming the right to exoneration from, or limitation of liability for, all claims arising out of a claimed incident on or about May 10, 2025 on the Sacramento River, near the city of Sacramento, Sacramento and Yolo Counties, involving a 2024 Bayliner VR5 motor vessel, HIN: BLBX1153F324 (the "vessel"). Petitioner was the owner of the Vessel at the time of and after the incident. All persons having such claims must file them as provided by Rule F of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims with the Clerk of this Court, Mr. Keith Holland, United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Robert T. Matsui U.S. Courthouse, 501 I Street, 4th floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 and mail copies to Petitioner's attorneys, B. Otis Felder, Esq., WILSON, ELSEY, MOSKOWITZ,

**EDELMAN & DICKER LLP, 655 Montgomery Street, Suite 900, San Francisco, CA 94111, on or before the 2nd day of March 2026, or be defaulted and forever barred from such a claim. Any claimant desiring to contest Petitioner's right to exoneration from or limitation of liability must file an Answer to Petitioner's original Complaint and/or a claim as required by Rule F(4) – (5) of the Supplemental Rules, and serve or mail a copy to Petitioner's attorney. Hon. William B. Shubb SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30/26 CNS-3999426# NEWS-LEDGER 1-30-26**

**SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER: 23CV008890 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: Grady Boyd, Stefani Boyd, and DOES 1 to 50.**

**YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: Shoab Ahmad. NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.**

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion. TARIOS 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayu-

da de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): Gordon D Schaber, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Liam R. Perry; Perry Law, Inc.; 336 Encinitas Boulevard Suite 240, Encinitas, CA 92024; 760-633-2233 Date: (Fecha) September 21, 2023 Clerk (Secretario) J. Houston, Deputy (Adjunto) Publish: January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026 AHMADI 1-30-26

### STATEMENT OF DAMAGES

(Personal Injury or Wrongful Death)  
CASE # 23CV008890  
To: Grady Boyd and Stefani Boyd Defendant. Plaintiff's name is: Shoab Ahmad  
Seeks damages in the above-entitled action, as follows: Pain suffering, and inconvenience: \$10,000,000.00 Emotional distress: \$10,000,000.00. Special damages: Medical Expenses: \$3,000,000.00. Future medical expenses: 7,000,000.00. Loss of earnings: \$1,000,000.00. Loss of future earning capacity (present value): 7,000,000.00 Aaron M. Sibley, Esq. Attorney for the Plaintiff.  
Dated December 29, 2025  
Publish: January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026  
AHMADI 1-30-26



# Community Calendar

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

Friday, Jan. 9: English conversation group, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10: Russian story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. How to sew a button: hand-sewing for complete beginners, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. No sewing experience necessary.

Monday, Jan. 12: Family story time, 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Drop-in tutoring for grades 1-8, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Students are invited to drop in 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, Jan. 13: Hug-a-Bye Baby, 11 a.m. to noon. Teen Tuesday: pizza and game night, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 14: Wiggle Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. to noon. Evening book club, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 16: English conversation group, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. LEGO block party, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 17: Russian story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Make your own fairy garden, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All ages welcome.

Monday, Jan. 19: All libraries closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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

Wednesday, Jan. 14: Anime club, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is required – see library website.

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

## JANUARY

Continuing through Sunday, JContinuing through Sunday, Jan.

11: Woodland Holiday Ice Rink, at Freeman Park, 1001 Main Street in Historic Woodland. Come see our winter wonderland of lights, festive décor, holiday music, fire pits, and hot cocoa, all near downtown shopping and dining. Half the profits will be donated each week to a different non-profit. Visit [www.woodlandicerink.com](http://www.woodlandicerink.com) for hours, tickets and more information.

Friday, Jan. 9: TriMusica, noon to 1 p.m. at Davis Community Church, 412 C Street, Davis. Part of the “Live@DCC” free noon concert series, TriMusica features clarinetist Sandra McPherson, cellist Susan Lamb Cook, and pianist John Cozza playing clarinet trios from two centuries. More information at 530-753-2894.

Saturday, Jan. 10: Open House at Spotlight Ballroom, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., 2534 Industrial Blvd., Suite 150. Kick off the new year with a fun and friendly introduction to ballroom dancing. No experience or partner required. More information at 916-649-3269 or register at [www.spotlightballroom.com](http://www.spotlightballroom.com)

Saturday, Jan. 10: Holy Rosary Crab Feed, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Woodland Community and Senior Center, 2001 East Street, Woodland. We invited you to be part of our event for adults 21+ supporting Holy Rosary Catholic School. Tickets are \$85 per person or reserve a table of 10 for \$820. Tickets available at the school office, 505 California Street, Woodland.

Sunday, Jan. 11: Buy-Nothing: Kids, noon to 4 p.m. at JackRabbit Brewing Co., 1323 Terminal Street. Bring what you don’t need, take what you love. Bring your gently loved children’s clothing, toys and other items. Place them on a table for others to enjoy, then browse other tables and take home treasures absolutely free. No cribs, car seats, food, or used body products. Before

you leave, please check your area and take home any unclaimed items you brought. Call 916-873-8659 for more information.

Friday, Jan. 16: Wild Creativity group art show opening reception, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Gallery 1075, 1075 West Capitol Ave. Featuring art by Edith LeFebvre, Gregory Smith, Ashley Ragan, Hannah Houston, and more, the exhibit will continue through Friday, January 30. See [www.westsacfun.org](http://www.westsacfun.org) for more information.

## 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](mailto:welcome@mowyolo.org).

Cub Scouts Pack 49 meets monthly from September through May on the first Monday at Our Lady of Grace School, 1990 Linden Road. For more information, contact [westsacramentopack49@gmail.com](mailto:westsacramentopack49@gmail.com)

Davis Craft and Vintage Fair, dates vary monthly, 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. Information and dates at [www.daviscraftandvintage.org](http://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 Feb. 7. Registration required by using the following link: [www.homedepot.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. Registration required by searching “events” at [www.lowes.com](http://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](http://www.rotaryclubofwestsacramento.org) for more information, including how to join the Rotary.

Out of the Box Ministries holds a monthly event for volunteers to pack grocery bags for distribution to community members in need. Join us Sunday, Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. to pack bags at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1500 Park Blvd. for Jan. 15 distribution at the same location. On distribution days, doors open at 6 p.m. for volunteers and 6:30 p.m. for clients. More information at 916-371-5875.

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](mailto:jmbaumbach@ucnar.edu) or call the Yolo County Master Gardeners hotline at 530-666-8736. Next session will be Saturday, Jan. 17.

Washington Unified School District School Board Meeting, Thursday, Jan. 22, 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: <https://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/government/city-council/city-council-meetings-agendas> The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday, Jan. 21.

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, Jan. 18. Registration is required at [www.yolobasin.org](http://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.

# Building Safety and Awareness

## Yolo County Responds to Human Trafficking

By Natalia Baltazar,  
Empower Yolo News

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Human trafficking is not a distant issue – it is present in Yolo County and affects individuals across our cities, towns and rural areas. While trafficking is often associated with large metropolitan regions, smaller counties like ours face unique vulnerabilities. Agricultural labor, seasonal employment, housing instability and limited access to services in rural areas can all increase the risk of exploitation. Because trafficking here often does not match common stereotypes, it can remain hidden in plain sight, making community awareness and local response essential.

Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person through force, fraud, or coercion for labor or commercial sex and frequently relies on manipulation rather than physical restraint. Young people experiencing instability are especially vulnerable. Youth who run away from home, experience family conflict, or lack consistent adult support may be targeted by traffickers who exploit unmet emotional and basic needs. Immigrant and migrant populations may also face increased risk due to language barriers, isolation or fear of retaliation. These vulnerabilities are not individual failures – they are systemic gaps that traffickers exploit.

Empower Yolo provides services for survivors of human trafficking, including 24-hour crisis intervention, advocacy, counseling, safe shelter, housing assistance, accompaniment services and more. The agency’s designated human trafficking advocate provides survivor-centered, trauma-informed and culturally responsive support for survivors.

Empower Yolo’s anti-trafficking work centers on meeting people where they are

and responding with consistency, compassion and advocacy. Last year alone, Empower Yolo supported 35 survivors of human trafficking – 26 who experienced sex trafficking and six who experienced labor trafficking. One example involves a 15-year-old survivor of human trafficking, also referred to as commercial sexual exploitation, who ran away from home and endured significant exploitation and violence. During this traumatic period, Empower Yolo provided consistent emotional support, helping to process her experiences while honoring her autonomy and ability to make decisions about their safety while building trust, supporting stabilization and fostering empowerment.

Jen Vasquez, Empower Yolo’s Anti-Trafficking Advocate, worked closely with the youth throughout her healing journey.

“Being alongside her during the sexual assault exam and interview was about making sure she never felt alone or powerless in spaces that can feel overwhelming. My role was to help her understand what was happening, support her choices, and remind her that she had control over her own story and healing,” said Vasquez. “She showed incredible strength in surviving what no person should ever experience. My role was to stand beside her – to remind her that she mattered, that her voice mattered, and that she deserved safety and care. Watching her begin to rebuild her life has been a powerful reminder of why survivor-centered support is so important.”

This strength-based approach recognizes survivors not by what happened to them, but by their resilience and capacity for healing. Healing is not linear, but with consistent support and trusted relationships, survivors can reclaim stability, hope and self-determination.



Empower Yolo provides services for survivors of human trafficking, including 24-hour crisis intervention, advocacy, counseling, safe shelter, housing assistance, accompaniment services and more. Photo by Olexy @Ohurtsov from Pixabay

Building community awareness and response is a critical part of preventing human trafficking and supporting survivors in Yolo County. In recognition of Anti-Trafficking Awareness Month, Empower Yolo and Soroptimist International of Davis are partnering to host a series of events focused on education, prevention and community connection.

On Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Empower Yolo will host a Trafficking Awareness Forum & Community Event, bringing together advocates, survivors and trusted leaders from across Yolo County to discuss how trafficking occurs locally, who is vulnerable and how community members can help. The forum will include both a youth-focused presentation from 3Strands Global and an adult-focused presentation from Yolo County District Attorney’s investigator Mat Jameson.

“Through these presentations, participants will learn to recognize the signs of trafficking, identify red flags, and understand

how to support friends or family who may be impacted – strengthening awareness and care across Yolo County,” said Jameson.

At the event, community members will also have access to local resources and information on how to support survivors, get involved in prevention efforts and explore volunteer opportunities with organizations working to address trafficking in Yolo County.

“Hosting this anti-trafficking event reflects the strength of our community when we come together with a shared purpose,” said Sonia Jimenez, Associate Director of Empower Yolo. “Each person who engages in these conversations helps expand awareness, reinforce prevention, and strengthen our collective commitment to protecting those most at risk.”

Sunday, Jan. 11, is Wear Blue Day. Wear blue, the color of human trafficking awareness, to show your support; post a photo with #WearBlueDay and tag @empower\_yolo. You can also

support survivors by donating to Empower Yolo’s human trafficking program at any time at [empoweryolo.org](http://empoweryolo.org). Follow our efforts throughout the month on Facebook @empoweryolo, Instagram, and Twitter @empower\_yolo.

Each January, Soroptimist and Empower Yolo host a toiletry drive for human trafficking survivors. Donate new, travel-size toiletries, gift cards, snacks, sweatpants or comfort items. Donations can be dropped off at 175 Walnut St. in Woodland, 441 D St. in Davis, or brought to the Jan. 28 event. Donated items will be made into comfort backpacks for survivors through Empower Yolo.

For more information on human trafficking, contact Jen Vasquez, Anti-Human Trafficking Advocate at [Jen@empoweryolo.org](mailto:Jen@empoweryolo.org), or call our 24-hour crisis line for support at 530662-1133. All services are free, safe, and confidential.

Celina Alveraz is the Executive Director of Empower Yolo. ★

# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



On Dec. 27 the Sacramento Kings treated the hometown fans to a post-Christmas treat with a stirring 113-107 victory over the visiting Dallas Mavericks. It was a reminder that although Dallas is a notable team with playoff intentions, the Kings have the talent to match up nightly with any team in the NBA. They have demonstrated this repeatedly, but the conundrum has been a complete lack of consistency as it relates to game over game results.

Why, you ask? The singular question that begs for an answer.

Injuries have played a role to be certain, but every NBA club must contend with injuries.

If I had to answer this question as honestly as I could, I would turn to the one player on this year's squad that has the greatest impact and that is none other than Domantas Sabonis. Over the past 3 ½ seasons Domantas hasn't just led the NBA in rebounding and double-doubles, he's been the singular stabilizing influence on a team that needs a leader like none-other. Sabonis' nightly consistent reinforcement of the fundamentals in playing the paint the old-fashioned way, gives every player on the floor a boost of confidence.

Domantas has a motor that just won't quit, and his enthusiasm for the game of basketball is simply contagious. Players want to play with this guy, and former King Jonas Valanciunas was vocal in his admiration for Sabonis and his desire to play alongside the Kings big man.

Unfortunately, the Kings did not value the talent that Valanciunas brought to the floor and allowed him to walk out the back door. Denver did not hesitate to provide their multiple MVP center Nikola Jokic with a resplendent backup, and Valanciunas has thrived this season in his new role.

The number one problem the Kings have had to face this season is not having Domantas on the floor, and their record shows it. 8 wins in 35 contests matches the worst start for an NBA season in the Sacramento Kings franchise history, and this is not a record you want to be a part of. Getting Sabonis back on the floor will be the first step in establishing what this year's team really is, but the Kings face a real dilemma.

GM Scott Perry is making noises that this year's team is about to receive a complete face lift, and Domantas Sabonis name has been mentioned or at least rumored in possible trade rumors. That would be mistake of herculean proportions.

Breaking news, the grass is not always greener on the other side.

Do you not remember what the organization did just one year ago when it inexplicably sent face of the franchise DeAaron Fox to the San Antonio Spurs?

DO NOT trade Domantas Sabonis. Draw a line in the sand, NOW, and build around a player that gets fans on their feet every game!

Stop trading away talent that makes other NBA teams stronger such as Davion Mitchell, DeAaron Fox, Issac Jones, and Boston Celtic starting center Neemias Queta. Yes, Neemias Queta, that the Kings had the good sense to draft 39th overall in the 2021 NBA draft and then send him to the G league where he thrived.

Fans saw something in this raw rookie and gave him more votes than any other King when it came to All-star voting that season.

The front office saw things differently and waived Queta in August 2023, and he was immediately scooped up by the Boston Celtics. Signed to a 2-way contract, Queta went on to help Boston win and NBA championship that same season and has since worked his way up to become this year's starting center. In the recent 120-106 loss to the Celtics, Queta provided the Kings with an up front and personal look at why their decision to let him go should have been reconsidered. Queta held down the paint efficiently all night, while posting 13 points, 5 rebounds, and 3 big blocks.

Simply stated, the Sacramento Kings must stop giving away valuable NBA talent and find someone in the organization that can effectively grade players and determine who is and who is not a viable NBA player.

Stay tuned Kings fans because Domantas will hopefully return soon, and then we can see what this team can do with a true NBA center on the floor.

*Happy New Year Kings fans and by all means do not give up hope!* ★

## New Year May Entertain Political Junkies, but Sluggish Economy Deserves the Spotlight



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

As the new year begins, there's no shortage of political trends to keep Californians preoccupied, entertained or perhaps appalled — particularly the state's transcontinental feud with President Donald Trump.

There is Gov. Gavin Newsom's all-but-announced campaign for president, centered on his self-appointed role of resistor-in-chief to Trump. As Newsom continues to troll Trump this year we may learn whether it continues to advance Newsom as a White House frontrunner or becomes tiresome and off-putting.

As 2025 ended Axios, a news website, reported that Newsom's potential rivals are ratcheting up efforts to undermine his bid, arguing that, as a California progressive, he's unelectable.

Another point of political fixation is Newsom's successful effort to gerrymander California's 52 congressional seats to help Democrats recapture control of the House in 2026. Whether it works is a question hanging over his presidential ambitions.

Still another is the campaign to choose a successor to Newsom. It so far has attracted a large contingent of Democrats without, as yet, a clear leader. There's a theoretical possibility that with as many as a dozen Democrats in the field, the

two Republicans could finish first and second in the June 2 primary and face each other for the governorship in November, despite the GOP's very weak standing among voters.

This year's election cycle also promises to be another showdown of moneyed interests via dueling ballot measures, with those either increasing or decreasing taxes at the top of the heap.

While political junkies can feed their habits this year, the more profound issue that faces California will be its moribund economy.

Newsom often brags that California's \$4 trillion economy, were it a nation, would rank fourth in the world. However, it has seen zero net job growth since the COVID-19 pandemic ended and recently has experienced employment shrinkage.

More than a million Californians in the labor force are jobless and the state's unemployment rate, currently 5.6%, has been the highest or near the highest of any state for several years.

Employment doldrums have affected even the state's hallmark sectors, most obviously Southern California's withering film and TV production industry and the Bay Area's high technology concentration.

The latter has almost single-handedly propped up the state's economy and generated a huge portion of tax revenues, but layoffs have proliferated as artificial intelligence is increasingly employed — a syndrome that also affects Hollywood.

Stubborn, or even increasing, unemployment makes it more difficult for state and local governments to cover their budget deficits — thus underpinning the

thrust for tax increases on state and local ballots. The sluggish economy also hampers efforts to improve two of the state's most pressing socioeconomic issues, its highest-in-the-nation poverty and homelessness levels.

Even Californians who have homes and jobs are feeling the economic pinch. Combining economic data with polling results, the Public Policy Institute of California recently discovered rising economic angst among California residents.

"California is one of the largest economies in the world, but many working Californians do not feel economically secure (and) they struggle to pay their bills, save for the future, and balance the demands of work and daily life," PPIC reported, adding that polling data "indicate that pessimism about future economic opportunity has become even more pervasive amid recent economic volatility."

As he shifts into presidential campaign mode, Newsom has every reason to keep bragging about the state's economy. But those running to replace him and state legislators should make 2026 the year to recognize that California has serious problems, to bore into the underlying causes and to do what they can to once again make California thrive.

History tells us that taking prosperity for granted — think Detroit — is an invitation to economic ruin.

*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 My Wife Believes She Can Get a Spouse Benefit While I'm Still Alive; Can She?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** A friend of my wife told her, and she believes, she could receive a Social Security benefit based on my SS benefit that I'm currently receiving while I'm still alive. I told her she could only receive spouse survivor benefits. Is there any truth to what she now believes? Would you settle this issue for us please? Thank you.

**Signed: Uncertain Husband**

**Dear Uncertain Husband:** Well, surely don't want to get in the middle of your marital discussion, but I'll be happy to explain Social Security's rules about your wife's eligibility for spousal benefits while you are both still living. And just for awareness for both of you, the rules about spousal benefits are one of the most confusing areas of Social Security.

Per Social Security's rules, a spouse (e.g., your wife) can receive a "spousal boost" from you — while you are still living — if the SS retirement

benefit she is personally entitled to at her full retirement age (FRA) is less than 50% of the SS retirement benefit you are (were) entitled to at your FRA (full retirement age amounts are used to calculate living spouse benefits, regardless of when each of you actually claimed your Social Security).

So, if your FRA entitlement benefit amount is more than twice your wife's FRA entitlement benefit amount, she can, indeed, get a "spousal boost" from your record while you are both still living. The spousal boost is added to her own SS retirement amount and will be based on the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement. Thus, in this discussion, your wife may be correct — she may be able to get a spousal boost from you while both of you are living, depending on how your personal FRA retirement amounts compare. The best way for your wife to find out is to contact Social Security on 1.800.772.1213 to inquire, and if she's eligible, also make an appointment to apply for her spousal benefit.

And to clarify your wife's options as your possible widow, a surviving spouse can also get a survivor benefit if their marital partner passes away, but only if the deceased spouse's current benefit (at death) was more than the surviving spouse is already

receiving. The surviving spouse receives the higher amount, instead of their own smaller Social Security retirement benefit.

But here is an important thing to know: Whenever any Social Security benefit (including a spousal or surviving spouse benefit) is claimed before the recipient's full retirement age, the payment amount is permanently reduced (both spousal and survivor benefits do not reach maximum until the recipient's full retirement age). And just to complete the picture for survivor benefits, a surviving spouse is also entitled to a one-time, lump-sum death benefit of \$255 if their marital partner dies, in addition to any other benefit they are entitled to.

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



For elements of the anti-Israel right, it's a time when everything old is becoming new again. So, a half-century-old theory that the Jewish state deliberately attacked the USS Liberty during the Six-Day War has renewed currency.

Conspiratorial-minded influencers hostile to Israel, like Tucker Carlson and Candace Owens, have promoted the notion, and it was a topic of discussion at the recent TPUSA conference. One speaker said that the official explanation "doesn't feel like it's good enough," and floated his own wild speculation (involving the complicity of LBJ).

The fact is that the devastating Israeli attack on the Liberty, killing 34 and wounding 171, was a woeful case of mistaken identification. The series of faulty judgments that led to the incident is so grievous that, taken altogether, it is, indeed, nearly incomprehensible. Yet, when operating with incomplete information in a shooting war, such accidents happen all the time. The Israelis apologized immediately upon realizing their ghastly mistake and offered restitution.

On June 8, 1967, the 6th Fleet was keeping its distance from the hostilities in the Six-Day War, fought between Israel and Egypt, Syria and Jordan. The USS Liberty, a spy ship, had come within 13 nautical miles of the Sinai coast, though. It requested a de-

## No, the USS Liberty Incident Wasn't Israeli Treachery

stroyer escort, which was denied, and orders to the Liberty to withdraw about 100 miles from the front were delayed in a communications tangle.

That morning, an ammunition dump ignited in the coastal city of El-Arish in the Sinai, and the Israelis (wrongly) believed the location had been shelled by Egyptian ships. The Israeli navy spotted the Liberty heading toward Egypt and (wrongly) concluded it had been one of the attackers. Two Israel Mirage jets saw no identifying markings on the Liberty (a later U.S. inquiry speculated that the flag might not have been visible for lack of wind) and strafed the ship. More Israeli jets napalmed the Liberty.

The absence of return fire puzzled the Israelis, who paused to ensure they weren't hitting an Israeli vessel. Assured it wasn't one of their own, they renewed the assault.

Still uneasy, they looked for identifying markers again. They saw no flag, but made out Latin, not Arabic, letters on the hull. That strongly suggested the vessel wasn't Egyptian.

Yet, a squadron of Israeli torpedo boats determined that the Liberty's silhouette matched an Egyptian supply ship. A request for identification from the Liberty received no affirmative reply.

The Liberty's captain ordered his men not to shoot at the torpedo boats, but one gunner briefly fired and there were further discharges from exploding ammunition. Believing

they were taking incoming from an Egyptian ship, the torpedo boats requested permission to fire and got reluctant assent. A torpedo slammed into the Liberty, blowing a hole 24 feet tall by 39 feet wide and killing more than two dozen sailors.

Eventually, an Israeli torpedo boat picked up a raft from the Liberty with U.S. naval markings and the Israelis realized their tragic error. They apologized instantly to U.S. naval attaché Ernest Carl Castle, and an Israeli helicopter attempted to take him out to the Liberty (the effort was foiled by darkness). The Israeli torpedo boats offered assistance to the Liberty, which was rebuffed.

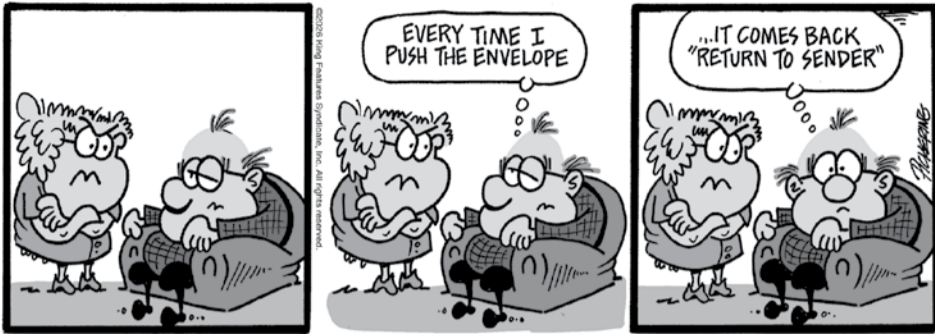
As Michael Oren points out in his history of the Six-Day War, none of the common conspiracy theories makes sense. There was no way that Israel — desperate for U.S. support and wary of Soviet enmity — was going to make an act of war against a friendly superpower. Nor did Israel need, as is sometimes posited, to hide its gains in the Sinai from the U.S., or its plans to hit Syria. It hadn't executed Egyptian POWs, so that didn't justify a murderous cover-up, either.

Both official Israeli and U.S. investigations determined that the attack was a friendly fire incident, but for Israel and the Jews in the current environment, the truth is no defense.

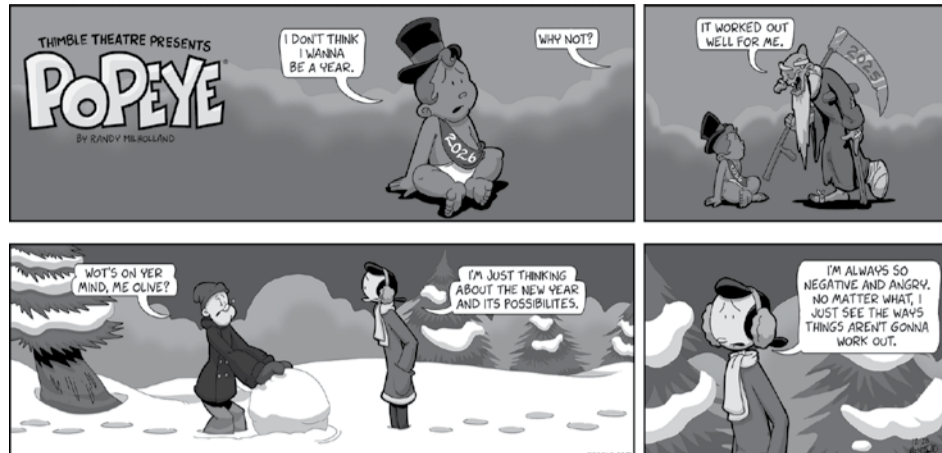
*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*  
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# COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

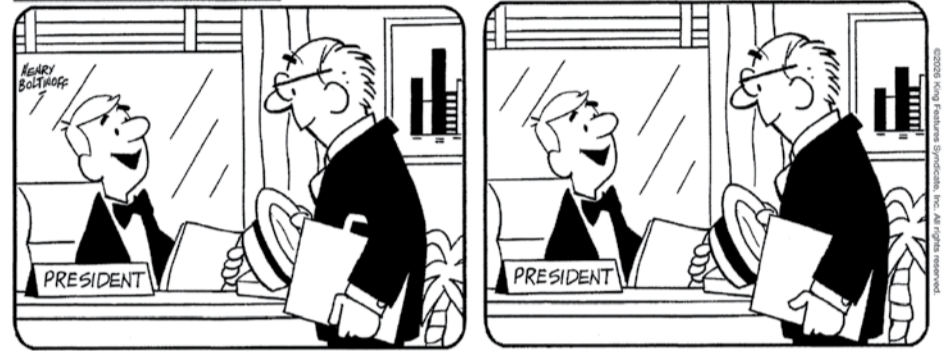


by Dave T. Phipps



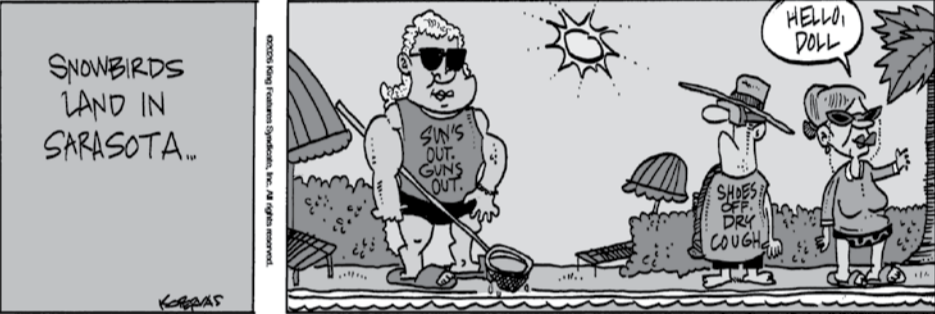
HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



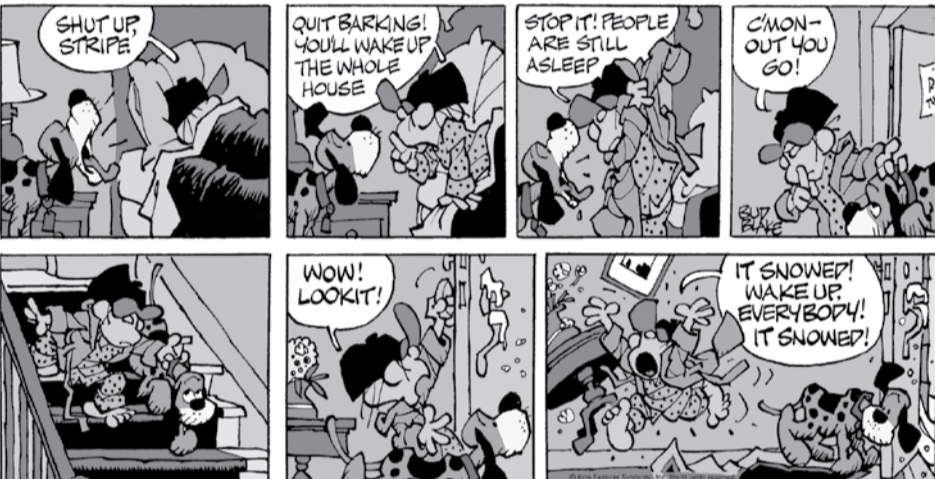
Differences: 1. Band around hat is wider. 2. Blinds are different. 3. Chart is different. 4. Plant is taller. 5. Briefcase handle is missing. 6. Thumb is moved.

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

CRIN the BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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C	R	E	E	P		T	A	N		E	L	E	G	Y					
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N	E	R	O			R	A	N			E	D	I	T	S				

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THE GRAMMYS

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Inundated
  - Word before humbug
  - Jim Carrey's 1994 disguise
  - Rough, as in voice
  - Kimono sash
  - Misrepresent
  - Do like ivy
  - Go for the bronze?
  - Poem of lament
  - \*Grammy nominee Bad Bunny's first language
  - \*KPop Demon Hunters' nominated song
  - Sought at crime scene
  - Lord's worker
  - Rob Manfred's org.
  - Jab, in speech
  - \*...com Arena
  - Rowboat engine, pl.
  - \*... gum, ingredient
  - Cowboy's cry of joy
  - Big attraction
  - Spring holiday honoree
  - Live bait
  - Daytime moth
  - Puerto follower
  - Finger move
  - Colonnade
  - Invitation letters
  - "Zip it!"
  - Trash bag brand
  - Polar helper
  - \*Lady Gaga's nominated album
  - \*Tyler of CHROMA-KOPIA, with The
  - Prejudiced one
  - Busy one
  - Do penance
  - Approves
  - Make a mistake
  - Sans-... font
  - "I, Claudius" role
  - Jack and Jill did this
  - Changes to a manuscript
- DOWN**
- Parentheses, e.g.
  - "Star Trek" speed
  - Away from port
  - Not be frugal
  - What TikTokers are often doing
  - This and that
  - Legal grp.
  - Door holder
  - Mix together
  - Away from wind
  - Leo or Libra, e.g.
  - \*Wonda's "Songs in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Life," Album of Year (1977)
  - Where bats are?
  - Eurasian goat-like antelope
  - Middle-earth dweller
  - Pelican or albatross, e.g.
  - Person in an ad
  - One of Florida Keys
  - Health food pioneer of liquid aminos fame
  - \*Nominated "Drop Dead Years" comedian
  - Swerves
  - Sound units
  - Synagogue scroll
  - Zing or pizzazz
  - \*Justin Bieber's nominated song
  - Fabled fliers

**CROSSWORD**

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# Republic FC Adds Two Local Standouts on USL Academy Contracts

## Sacramento Republic FC News Release

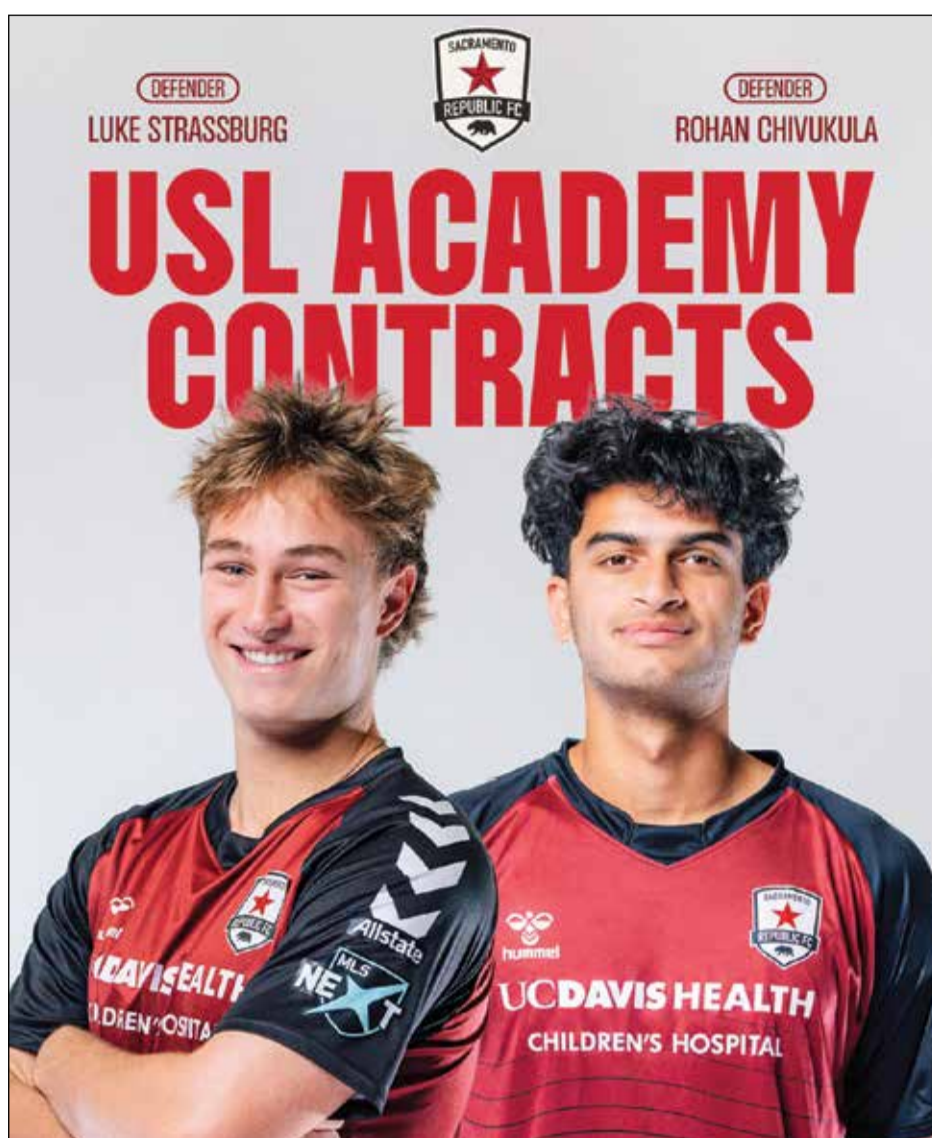
SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Republic FC announced Dec. 19 the addition of academy players Luke Strassburg and Rohan Chivukula to the club's first team roster. The defenders have signed USL Academy contracts, pending league and federation approval and will be eligible to play in first team matches in 2026.

"These signings reflect the strength of our pathway and commitment to developing local talent," said Republic FC Head Coach Neill Collins. "Bringing academy players into the first team environment prepares them for the next level and we have no doubt that Luke and Rohan will continue to represent the academy well during training camp and throughout the season."

Strassburg and Chivukula both currently play for Republic FC's U-19 academy team, which has opened up the 2025-26 campaign with an impressive 9-1-1 record.

Eighteen-year-old Rohan Chivukula joined Republic FC's academy in 2024 to take the next step in his development. He quickly became a key piece of the U-19's backline and in Chivukula's first year, the squad posted an overall record of 16-3-3 and won the Northwest Division of MLS NEXT before advancing to the Round of 32 in the postseason. The Folsom High School graduate previously featured for El Dorado Hills Soccer Club and Sacramento United, and will play at the collegiate level for American University in the fall of 2026.

Strassburg is a longtime member of the Indomitable Club. The Elk Grove native joined at the U-13 level in 2020



Strassburg and Chivukula both currently play for Republic FC's U-19 academy team, which has opened up the 2025-26 campaign with an impressive 9-1-1 record. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

and has since featured in every age group in the last five years. He has been a part of some of the top teams

in club history, reaching MLS NEXT Cup each season. During the 2023-24 season, Strassburg and the U-16

team went undefeated in 29 straight games from September in April, and in 2025 his U-17 team claimed three wins in the MLS NEXT Cup Playoffs to advance to the Semifinals – the best finish by a Republic FC squad since 2022. He has also received multiple invitations to U.S. Soccer ID camps and training camps. Prior to joining Republic FC, Luke played for the San Jose Earthquakes' youth academy and Sacramento United. He has committed to play at San Diego State in the fall of 2026.

USL Academy contracts allow academy players the chance to train and compete with the first team in professional matches while retaining their NCAA eligibility. Since its inception in 2015, Republic FC's Academy has created a strong, local pipeline of youth players ready for professional-level competition, with over 40 players earning the opportunity to join the first team on USL Academy contracts and over 25 going on to sign professional contracts with Republic FC or other clubs. In 2024, players from Sacramento's youth academy combined for 80 gameday roster selections, 56 appearances, and over 3,000 minutes.

Republic FC's 2026 season officially kicks off on March 7 when the club hosts FC Tulsa at Heart Health Park. Season ticket memberships are on sale now, offering a range of benefits including discounts on merchandise and access to exclusive fan experiences, as well as priority seat selection in the new Republic Stadium at The Railyards. For more information, or to purchase a membership today, visit [SacRepublicFC.com/Memberships](http://SacRepublicFC.com/Memberships). ★

# Carter Begins Assembling Staff with Initial Round of Hires

## Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State head coach Alonzo Carter named several assistant coaches and staff personnel to his staff, it was announced Dec. 30. The hirings include offensive coordinator Eric Kiesau, defensive coordinator Adam Clark, associate head coach Angus McClure and general manager Jon Osterhout. Carter also retained Kris Richardson as the offensive line coach/run game coordinator, Bobby Fresques as the quarterbacks coach/pass game coordinator and Josh Brown as the safeties coach. In all, the staff will feature over 300 years of cumulative coaching experience.

Kiesau has served as the offensive coordinator at Fresno State, Boise State and Auburn during his lengthy collegiate career. He spent the past three seasons as an offensive quality control coach at Florida.

His offensive staff will include Richardson and Fresques who return for their eighth year with the program and have seen the team qualify for the NCAA FCS Playoffs four times. Richardson has mentored several FCS All-Americans, including current Tennessee Titan Jackson Slater. This past season, his group paved the way for a rushing attack which ranked third in the FCS with 365.4 rushing yards per game. In his time leading the Sacramento State quarterbacks, Fresques has guided FCS All-Americans Kevin Thomson and Asher O'Hara, as well as Jake Duniway and Carson Conklin.

Former Sacramento State offensive lineman and assistant coach Angus McClure will return to campus as the associate head coach and work with the offensive line. Since leaving Sacramento



Sacramento State head coach Alonzo Carter named several assistant coaches and staff personnel to his staff. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

State, McClure has had stints at Nebraska, Buffalo, UCLA, Nevada and Kansas.

Eric Scott will serve as the team's wide receivers coach. Scott has spent the last two seasons as the head coach at West LA Junior College. Prior to taking that position, Scott was the wide receivers coach and passing game coordinator at San Jose State from 2021-23 where he worked alongside Alonzo Carter.

On defense, Adam Clark will come to Sacramento State after leading the defense at Northern Arizona for the past two seasons. In his first season, NAU ranked second in the Big Sky and 12th in the FCS in interceptions. The unit also led the league in pass defense and was second in total defense.

Brown will shift to coach the safeties in 2026 after leading the team's linebackers this past season. During the year, he overcame several injuries to his position group to have three players rank among the top five on the team in total tackles.

That included Oscar Moore who led the team with 69 total stops. Brown has also coached at McNeese, UTEP, Hawaii, Nevada, Cal Poly, Kansas and Arizona State during his career.

Kenwick Thompson will coach the linebackers and brings experience as an FCS defensive coordinator as well as a position coach at the P4 level. Thompson was the defensive coordinator at Florida A&M in 2025 and was previously on Jeff Tedford's staffs at Cal and Fresno State as well as stints at San Jose State, Vanderbilt, East Carolina, UNLV and UAB.

Dakari Monroe will follow Carter from Arizona to Sacramento State and will coach the Hornet corners. Monroe was a defensive graduate assistant for the Wildcats the past two seasons and helped the team advance to the Trust & Will Holiday Bowl against SMU. He played four seasons at San Jose State where he twice led the team in interceptions before a stint with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Milo Austin will serve as Sacramento State's special teams coordinator. Austin has held the same role at Elon since 2022 where he has coached an FCS All-American kicker, punter and kick returner. He has also been the special teams coordinator at Texas Southern, Delaware State and Morehead State.

The team's personnel efforts will be led by former Sacramento State All-American Jon Osterhout who returns to campus as the general manager following a great career as the head coach at American River JC. With the Beavers, Osterhout led the team to an 88-39 overall record and took the team to seven postseason appearances, including six trips to the state playoffs. Osterhout was a four-year starter for Sacramento State on the offensive line where he garnered All-America honors while leading the way for Charles Roberts' record-setting rushing efforts.

Chris Parry, who has been on staff since 2019, will continue to serve as the assistant general manager. Parry has been a part of player evaluation, roster construction and scholarship management during the program's run of success since his arrival.

Record-setting receiver Otis Amey has been named the director of player development. Amey was an All-American for Sacramento State and still owns nearly all the career receiving records. Following his time as a Hornet, he played with the San Francisco 49ers as well as stops in the Arena League and UFL.

Kenny Macklin will remain at Sacramento State and take the position of Chief of Staff. CJ Pollard will also return as the Director of Recruiting.

The additions are the first to the staff for Carter who became the 14th head coach in school history on Dec. 15. ★

# A's Agree to Terms with LF Tyler Soderstrom

## Athletics News Release

LAS VEGAS, NEV (MPG) - The Athletics have agreed to terms with left fielder Tyler Soderstrom on a seven-year contract through the 2032 season with a club option for 2033, the club announced Dec. 29.

Soderstrom batted .276 with 25 home runs, 93 RBI and an .820 OPS in 158 games last season with the A's after combining

to hit .204 with 12 home runs, 33 RBI and a .636 OPS in 106 games over his first two seasons. He began the season as the A's starting first baseman, moved to left field (where he had not played professionally) when Nick Kurtz was promoted on April 23, moved back to first base while Kurtz was on the injured list from May 25 to June 8, and returned to left field after that. Soderstrom had a team-leading 93 RBI, which were the most

by an A's player 23 years old or younger since Eric Chavez had 114 in 2001. He had 11 outfield assists, which tied for third in the majors, and ranked fourth among left fielders in defensive runs saved (10).

Soderstrom is a .250 career hitter with 37 home runs, 126 RBI and a .754 OPS in 264 games in three seasons in the majors. He was the A's first round selection in the 2020 First-Year Player Draft out of Turlock High School

and was primarily a catcher in his first pro season in 2021. The 24-year-old left-handed hitter split his time between catcher and first base in 2022-23, played mostly first base in 2024 and saw his most action in 2025 as an outfielder.

Soderstrom is one of three players under contract through at least the 2028 season, when the A's are scheduled to open their new ballpark in Las Vegas. He joins Lawrence Butler, who inked

a seven-year deal through the 2031 season with a club option for 2032 on Mar. 10, 2025, and Brent Rooker, who signed a five-year contract through 2029 with a club option for 2030 on Jan. 23, 2025. ★

