



**Girl Scouts
Kicks off
Cookie Season**

PAGE 3

**Open Call for River
Cats National
Anthem Auditions**

PAGE 11



THE NEWS

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VOLUME 45 • ISSUE 4

Serving Rio Linda, Elverta and Sacramento County

JANUARY 23, 2026

**SEE
INSIDE**

**LOCAL CASINO
JANUARY EVENTS
CALENDAR**



PAGE 12

**CAL MUSEUM
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR SET
TO RETIRE**



PAGE 12

**CELEBRATION
TIME**



PAGE 6



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A Valentine's Tradition

RLE Parks Brings Back Popular Valentine's Day Bingo



This Valentine's-themed bingo night will take place Friday, Feb. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the RLE Community Center. Photo courtesy of the Rio Linda Elverta Recreation and Park District

By Omella Rossi

RIO LINDA, CA (MPG) - Forget roses and chocolates, bingo cards and daubers are the real stars this Valentine's season as families are invited to shout "Bingo!" at the Rio Linda Elverta Recreation and Park District's popular Valentine's Day Bingo night, a family-friendly event that has quickly become a local favorite.

This Valentine's-themed bingo night will take place Friday, Feb. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the RLE Community Center, 810 Oak Lane. Open to ages 5 and up, the event invites families to enjoy an evening of games, prizes and sweet community vibes for \$5 per person. "This event actually started back in February 2023," said Yanni Lagge, recreation supervisor for the Rio

Linda Elverta Recreation and Park District. "We originally hosted a Valentine's Day dance, but over time we noticed it wasn't as popular as it used to be. Bingo is something the whole community can enjoy, and it quickly became a favorite." Lagge said the shift paid off. The past two years have sold out, and this year is shaping up to do the same. *Continued on page 3*

**Rob Kerth
Elected SMUD
Board Vice
President**



Rob Kerth. Photo courtesy SMUD

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - SMUD's Board of Directors elected Rob Kerth as Vice President of the Board, effective Jan. 1, 2026, through December of 2026. Vice President Kerth was first elected to the SMUD Board of Directors in November 2008 and served a four-year term. He was re-elected in 2014 and is serving his fourth term. He represents Ward 5, which includes midtown, downtown, North Sacramento, Natomas, Rio Linda and Elverta.

Rob is a third-generation Sacramentan and former two-term city councilman who got his start in public service as a neighborhood activist for the historic Woodlake district of North Sacramento. While on the Sacramento City Council, he was recognized as a major force for revitalization efforts not only in his district but also in other long-established neighborhoods.

During his time with the city of Sacramento, Rob also specialized in regional problem-solving. His assignments included the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento Regional Transit District and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. Rob developed notable expertise on infrastructure issues throughout the six-county Sacramento region.

Rob founded Ice Unlimited, which brought Sacramento and Folsom their original holiday ice rinks. He is also responsible for the design of ice rinks in Sacramento's Arco Arena and at Squaw Valley U.S.A.

A graduate of Stanford University, Rob holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering with an emphasis in controls and systems. He and his family still live in Woodlake, less than three blocks from his childhood home.

As the nation's sixth-largest, community-owned, not-for-profit electric service provider, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity to Sacramento County

Continued on page 3

Pasta Bar, Salads and Chocolate

By MPG Staff

RIO LINDA, CA (MPG) - Residents of Rio Linda and Elverta are invited to enjoy a warm evening of good food and good company while supporting a vital local cause. On Saturday, Feb. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m., the Calvary Lutheran Church Social Hall, located at the corner of 5th Avenue and L Street in Rio Linda, will host a Pasta Bar, Salad and Chocolate Dinner to benefit the Rio Linda/Elverta Food Closet.

The family-friendly fundraiser offers a hearty pasta bar, fresh salads and sweet chocolate treats for just \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. In addition to the meal, attendees can participate in a raffle, including a special quilt raffle, adding to the evening's excitement and opportunities to give back.

The event is designed not only to raise funds, but also to bring neighbors together. Organizers emphasize the importance



The family-friendly fundraiser offers a hearty pasta bar, fresh salads and sweet chocolate treats for just \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Photo by cottonbro studio via Pexels

of community connection, chance to meet fellow residents while supporting

families in need.

The impact of the Rio Linda/Elverta Food Closet is significant. In 2025 alone, the food closet helped feed more than 21,000 people in the local area, addressing food insecurity for families, seniors and individuals throughout the community.

The fundraiser is being hosted by the Rio Linda/Elverta Chamber of Commerce, an organization dedicated to advancing the commercial, industrial, civic and general interests of the Rio Linda and Elverta communities. Through events like this, the chamber continues to support programs that strengthen the area and care for its most vulnerable residents.

Those who are unable to attend but still wish to contribute can make a donation by sending a check to Rio Linda Food Closet Services, P.O. Box 366, Rio Linda, CA 95673, or by donating online via [PayPal.me/rlefoodcloset](https://www.paypal.com/rlefoodcloset). ★

Board of Supervisors Chair and Vice Chair Elected

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The annual vote to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, Jan. 13. This year’s elected Chair is Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez of District 4, and Supervisor Pat Hume of District 5 was elected Vice Chair.

“It is an honor to serve as Chair of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in 2026,” said Supervisor Rodriguez. “I step into this role with a clear focus on results, respect and responsibility. Many of our residents are struggling, and they deserve a County government that acts with urgency and delivers measurable outcomes. As Chair, I will run disciplined, productive meetings and demand results, accountability and follow-through on every commitment we make.”

“Respect begins with listening to the people and the communities we serve and



Rosario Rodriguez, District 4 Supervisor will serve as Chair on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

ensuring their voices are reflected in our decisions. Responsibility means turning those voices into action. Working with my fellow Supervisors, County staff, and community partners, I will advance solutions



Pat Hume, District 5 Supervisor will serve as Vice Chair on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

that strengthen neighborhoods and ensure Sacramento County operates transparently, effectively, and with real impact for the public.”

Board Chair responsibilities include

presiding over the Board meetings; the Vice Chair assumes the role in the Chair’s absence or inability to act. If the Chair and Vice Chair are absent or unable to preside, the members present will select a member present to act as temporary Chairperson.

Additionally, the Board Chair acts on procedural matters or questions, recognizes a member of the board desiring to speak on an item, is entitled to vote on all matters before the Board, participate in discussion relating to any matter, make motions without relinquishing the Chair, and second any motion without relinquishing the Chair.

The Board Chair sits on other boards/commissions as a representative of the County of Sacramento and is the point of contact for questions from the public regarding the meetings (i.e., coordination of resolutions/presentations and general questions not specific to a district, etc.).

The Chair and Vice Chair serve annual terms. ★

Most Americans Support Impaired Driving Countermeasures in Cars

AAA Northern California News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With impaired driving still a persistent, and deadly, threat on American roads, a majority of people support a range of impaired driving countermeasures that could significantly reduce fatalities, according to a new AAA survey.

The annual AAA Traffic Safety Culture Index (TSCI) examines changes in driving patterns and concerns people have about driving in general. The results from last year’s study highlight a clear pattern: most Americans want stronger safeguards that prevent impaired driving, including advanced vehicle technologies and stronger legal standards even though some drivers admitted to taking dangerous risks themselves.

The study found strong public support for tougher measures to address impaired driving. Nearly two-thirds of respondents, 67 percent, said they support requiring all new vehicles to be equipped with alcohol impairment prevention technology. A slim majority, 51 percent, also favor lowering the legal blood alcohol concentration limit from 0.08 to 0.05.

While many participants acknowledged that impaired driving was unacceptable, some admitted to doing so anyway. That follows other AAA research that found a



Majority of people support a range of impaired driving countermeasures that could significantly reduce fatalities, according to a new AAA survey. Photo courtesy Freepik

recent rise in other unsafe behaviors like speeding, distracted driving and even road rage.

An overwhelming 93 percent said driving after drinking is very or extremely dangerous, yet 7 percent admitted they had done so within the past 30 days. Similarly, 70 percent of respondents said driving within an hour of using marijuana is very or extremely dangerous, but 6 percent reported engaging in that behavior anyway.

“The reality is impaired driving has negatively impacted everyone in some way,” AAA Mountain West Group Spokesperson Doug Johnson said. “While it’s encouraging to see widespread support for new safety measures, there’s no replacement for a common sense approach to saying no to drinking and driving.”

The survey also found that risky behavior persists in several other areas, particularly distracted and aggressive driving. When

it comes to distraction, an overwhelming majority of respondents acknowledged the danger. Nearly all participants said scrolling through social media on a hand-held phone is extremely or very dangerous, while 94 percent said the same about texting or emailing and 90 percent about reading on a hand-held device. Despite this widespread awareness, many drivers admitted to engaging in these behaviors anyway. About 28

percent said they texted while driving, 37 percent reported reading messages, and 36 percent said they talked on a hand-held phone behind the wheel.

Public opinion on enforcement measures was more divided. While 79 percent of respondents supported a ban on hand-held phone use while driving, support dropped sharply when it came to hands-free use, with only 40 percent favoring limits on those systems.

The survey also highlighted concerns around aggressive driving and speeding. Nine in 10 respondents viewed aggressive driving as extremely or very dangerous, and 80 percent said the same about running red lights. Speeding, however, was perceived as less dangerous than other risky behaviors, even though it remains a major contributor to crashes. Although 58 percent of drivers believed they would be caught if they drove 15 miles per hour over the speed limit, about half admitted they had done so within the past month. Support for automated enforcement was limited as well, with only 46 percent backing the use of speed cameras on residential streets.

For more information on survey methodology, data considerations, and results refer to the full Traffic Safety Culture Index report. Visit newsroom.aaa.com/asset/2024-traffic-safety-culture-index-technical-report/ ★

Head Start Families Receiving Local Produce Deliveries

Sacramento County Office of Education News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Despite being surrounded by fertile farmland, many families in Sacramento County face significant food insecurity, with the Sacramento Food Bank reporting that more than one in four residents struggle to access nutritious food. The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), through its Early Head Start Home Visiting Program, is taking a bold step toward improving family health and school readiness by launching a Farm to Family Project that provides monthly boxes of fresh, locally grown produce to families enrolled in Early Head Start (EHS) programs, along with healthy cooking and nutrition experiences.

The Sacramento County Office of Education has partnered with two local agencies to launch the new project. Sacramento’s Goodful farm-fresh food delivery service is helping to distribute the produce boxes. The Alchemist Community Development Corporation is hosting community meals where families create healthy lunches and learn about recipes they can make with the food they receive. Children



Twice each month, Alchemist (shown with Early Head Start staff at an information table at Stanston Park) is hosting a community meal where families learn to use the produce they receive to make healthy lunches. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Office of Education

are encouraged to help prepare the meals. A \$200,000 farm-to-school grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) funds the project.

As part of Sacramento County Office of Education’s Sacramento County READS Literacy Initiative to empower all learners to reach their age- and grade-appropriate reading and literacy milestones, the Farm to Family Project has integrated early literacy development into its nutrition education efforts. Families receive a children’s book each month, centered on themes of farming, healthy eating, or sustainability.

Along with the book,

families get a comprehensive activity guide, designed to spark curiosity and learning at home. It features playful, age-appropriate activities, things like cooking projects, discussion prompts and ideas for sensory play activities. Families are encouraged to read the story together and engage in the activities, creating meaningful connections between food, learning and family time.

To make the experience even more engaging, links are provided to allow children to watch the authors themselves read their stories, ensuring families can enjoy the stories in multiple formats.

To learn more about this initiative visit scoe.net/ ★

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Sacramento County is highlighting a major milestone in community-driven early childhood investment following the approval of \$4,172,410 in funding by the First 5 Sacramento Commission for 35 community-based organizations. All awarded organizations are first-time recipients of First 5 funding, marking a significant expansion of support to historically under-resourced communities.

The funding was awarded through First 5 Sacramento’s Racial Equity funding pathway and reflects a transformative shift in how early childhood investments are designed and distributed across the county for programs located in historically underfunded communities.

This historic funding decision was led by First 5 Sacramento’s Equity in Action Committee, a 15-member body made up of parents, caregivers and community leaders who live in the neighborhoods where the grants will be implemented. Through this committee, First 5 Sacramento implemented a Participatory Grantmaking Model that intentionally



The funded programs are culturally responsive and community-driven, addressing long-standing inequities in early childhood development. Photo courtesy of First 5 Sacramento

places decision-making power in the hands of community members rather than institutions.

As a result of this process, funding will support organizations serving children and families in 27 high-priority ZIP codes throughout Sacramento County. The funded programs are culturally responsive and community-driven, addressing long-standing inequities in early childhood development.

“This bold new grantmaking process is rooted in trust — recognizing that community members closest to the challenges often have the most effective solutions, yet are rarely asked to lead,” said Phil Serna, Chair of First 5 Sacramento and County Supervisor representing the First District. “By prioritizing equity, lived experience

and local expertise in funding decisions, and through the thoughtful leadership of the Equity in Action Committee, First 5 Sacramento is reaching more families in the neighborhoods where resources are needed most.”

The participatory approach ensures that early childhood programs supported through this funding are grounded in lived experience, cultural knowledge and strong community relationships — key elements for effective and sustainable outcomes.

More information about the funded organizations and their programs, the Equity in Action Committee, and First 5 Sacramento’s participatory grantmaking model is available on the <https://first-5sacramento.saccounty.gov/About-Us/Pages/History-Equity-in-Action.aspx>. ★

Girl Scouts of Northern California Kicks off Cookie Season

Welcomed Exploremores to Cookie Lineup, Bay Area's Adobe a National Sponsor

***Girl Scouts of Northern
California News Release***

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA (MPG) - Girl Scouts of Northern California kicked off their 2026 Girl Scout Cookie season on Jan. 12. Girl Scouts throughout all 19 counties from Gilroy to the Oregon Border will embark on the highly anticipated cookie season, exploring more possibilities through the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world.

From Jan. 12, consumers can support their local girl entrepreneurs by ordering from the iconic cookie lineup online at ilovecookies.org. Local shoppers can also locate cookie booths starting Feb. 4 for in-person cookie sales. The 2026 Girl Scouts of Northern California cookie season runs through March 15, and all cookie flavors are \$7 a box (shipping fees additional).

“Exploremores”, a rocky road ice cream-inspired sandwich cookie, will join the legendary lineup for the 2026 cookie season. Filled with delicious flavors of chocolate, marshmallow and toasted almond-flavored crème, Exploremores reflect the spirit of exploration at the heart of every Girl Scout.

The new flavor will be the 9th cookie flavor to join Northern California customer favorites such as Thin Mints, Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties, and Trefoils. Exploremores will be available for purchase online and in-person during booth sales. Visit www.ilovecookies.org for more information.

“What better way to kick off the new year than with a new cookie for the 2026 cookie season,” said Mary-Jane Strom, CEO of Girl Scouts of Northern California. “Behind every cookie sale is a Girl Scout learning essential life skills far beyond just selling cookies. Buying or donating cookies is a delicious and easy way to help cultivate

future leaders, innovators, and change-makers. It is a win-win for all.”

The Girl Scout Cookie Program provides invaluable entrepreneurial skills for Girl Scouts across the country and funds a variety of experiences. Each cookie season, Girl Scouts develop important life skills like goal-setting, decision-making, money management, people skills and business ethics through the Cookie Program.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the cookie program are used locally and provide critical funds for girls' access to affordable programming, the outdoors, camp and program centers, STEM, financial aid and volunteer support services. Girl Scouts and their troops depend on these funds to support their community service efforts.

This year, over 14,000 Girl Scouts in Northern California will

A photograph of two young girls, likely of African descent, smiling and holding chocolate cookies. In front of them is a box of 'Exploremores' cookies, which features a picture of a group of children. The box is pink and white with the brand name 'Exploremores' visible. The girls are sitting at a dark table, and the background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or community center setting.

inspired sandwich cookie, will join the
n. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts of Northern California

goals this cookie season. Through a national educational video featured on the Digital Cookie platform, Adobe will equip Girl Scouts with essential skills in online communication and responsible digital design. By sharing these creative tools, Adobe is supporting Girl Scouts to become confident digital

creators and entrepreneurs.

Girl Scouts of Northern California serves over 46,000 youth and adult volunteers across 19 counties from Gilroy to the Oregon border. Girl Scouts bring their dreams to life and work together to build a better world. Through programs from coast to coast, Girl Scouts of all backgrounds and abilities can be unapologetically themselves as they discover their strengths and rise to meet new challenges — whether they want to climb to the top of a tree or the top of their class, lace up their boots for a hike, advocate for climate justice, or make their first best friends.

Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and create change on the issues that matter most to them. To learn more about Girl Scouts of Northern California, visit www.gsnorcal.org.

★

A Valentine's Tradition



This Valentine's season families are invited to shout "Bingo!" at the Rio Linda Elverta Recreation and Park District's popular Valentine's Day Bingo night. Photo courtesy of the Rio Linda Elverta Recreation and Park District

Continued from page 1

“We wanted to offer a Valentine’s Day event that families with children 5 and up could participate in together,” Lagge said. “Bingo was a great choice because it creates an upbeat atmosphere and gives everyone a chance to win prizes.”

Attendees can expect multiple bingo games throughout the evening, along with plenty of laughs and opportunities to win family-friendly prizes. Among the prizes up for grabs are tickets to Fairytale Town, mini golf passes, Laugh Unlimited tickets and other donated items, with more prizes still being added.

For event veterans, there's a familiar voice returning to the microphone. The event will once again feature the same bingo caller from previous years, a local community member who volunteers her time and has become a beloved part of the experience.

“Attendees can expect a fun night full of bingo games, laughs and chances to win prizes,” Lagge said. “It’s a great way to celebrate Valentine’s Day with families and friends, and it’s one of those events where everyone can be involved from start to finish. Plus, it’s an awesome community night out that’s affordable and local.”

The event is designed to be kid-friendly and family-oriented. Families are welcome to bring their own snacks and drinks, though alcohol is not permitted.



Attendees can expect multiple bingo games throughout the evening, along with plenty of laughs and opportunities to win family-friendly prizes. Photo courtesy of the Rio Linda Elverta Recreation and Park District

Organizers note that no walk-up registrations will be accepted, and online registration is required for each family member attending.

Tickets are already moving fast. “Tickets are selling quickly this year,” Lagge said. “We’re already at the halfway point on ticket sales, so we definitely encourage families to register soon.”

Registration is available online at www.rleparks.com ★

CCA Opens Applications for 2026 Aviation and STEM Scholarship Program

**California Capital
Airshow
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Capital Airshow (CCA) is proud to announce that applications for its annual Aviation and STEM Scholarship Program opened Jan. 13, continuing the organization's long-standing commitment to inspiring and empowering the next generation of innovators, aviators and community leaders.

Each year, the Airshow awards scholarships to outstanding students pursuing education to support careers in aviation, aeronautics, aerospace and related fields. The 2026 program will provide financial support to help students achieve their dreams while fueling the future workforce of these critical industries.

Applications will remain

open until May 1, and are available at californiacapitalairshow.com/scholarships. Applicants must reside in Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, Solano, Yolo or Yuba counties to be considered.

Since its inception, the California Capital Airshow has awarded more than \$600,000 in scholarships to over 280 students from across the Sacramento region. Each scholarship represents a student whose passion and perseverance are shaping the future of aviation and STEM.

“The California Capital Airshow is so much more than a weekend of thrilling performances,” said Darcy Brewer, Executive Director of the California Capital Airshow. “Our scholarship program is at the heart of what we do year-round, building pathways for students to explore careers that strengthen our region and our nation’s future.”

Scholarship winners will be announced in early June, with recipients honored as part of the Airshow's 2026 show taking place Oct. 10-11, at Mather Airport.

For more information about the program, eligibility requirements, and how to apply, visit californiacapitalairshow.com/scholarships.

Established in 2004, the California Capital Airshow is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring the past, inspiring the future, and showcasing the strength and innovation of aviation. In addition to hosting one of the nation's largest air shows, featuring military and civilian performers like the United States Air Force Thunderbirds, CCA invests year-round in youth programs, scholarships and community partnerships that inspire the next generation of leaders. ★

Rob Kerth Elected SMUD Board Vice President

Continued from page 1

for more than 75 years. SMUD is a recognized industry leader for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. In 2024, SMUD's power supply was about 62% carbon free, which is largely influenced by the weather and amount

of hydroelectricity produced. SMUD's goal is to completely eliminate carbon in its electricity production by 2030 while maintaining reliability and keeping rates among the lowest in California — on average, 50% lower than its neighboring investor-owned utility. For more information on SMUD's Zero Carbon Plan and its customer programs, visit smud.org. ★

LEGAL ADS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY?



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Small Business Comment on Optimism Index

Improved National Outlook Runs Up Against Golden State Realities

National Federation of Independent Business News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A recent release of the latest National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) Small Business Optimism Index shows a rise of 0.5 points in December to 99.5, remaining above its 52-year average of 98. An increase in those expecting better business conditions primarily drove the rise in the Optimism Index. The Uncertainty Index fell seven points from November to 84, the lowest reading since June 2024.

“Nice to see small business owners across the nation registering a slightly improved outlook even though it’s doubtful that sentiment is shared by many Main Street entrepreneurs here,” said John Kabateck, state director for the National Federation of Independent Business in California.

“For instance, the day before the release of the National Federation of Independent Business’s latest Optimism Index, the U.S. Department of Labor announced in the Federal Register that California has had outstanding advances on its unemployment insurance loans for five consecutive years and as a result, employers here will be paying more in Unemployment Insurance (UI) taxes this year. To cope with the pandemic-caused strain on their unemployment trust funds, 22 states needed to borrow from the federal government in order to keep their Unemployment Insurance trust funds solvent and



An increase in those expecting better business conditions primarily drove the rise in the Optimism Index. Photo courtesy of Freepik

unemployment benefits going to those in need of them. All but one state, guess which one, has paid Uncle Sam back. Only a territory, the U.S. Virgin Islands, has a worse record. Wow. What economic company.”

Said National Federation of Independent Business chief economist Bill Dunkelberg, “2025 ended with a further increase in small business optimism. While Main Street business owners remain concerned about taxes, they anticipate favorable economic conditions in 2026 due to waning cost pressures, easing labor challenges, and an increase in capital investments.”

According to the recent Optimism Index, the net

percentage of owners expecting better business conditions rose nine points from November to a net 24 percent (seasonally adjusted), contributing the most to the rise in the Optimism Index. This was the first increase since July.

When asked to evaluate the overall health of their business, 9 percent rated it excellent (down 2 points), 54 percent rated it good (up 1 point), 34 percent rated it fair (up 4 points), and 3 percent rated it poor (down 2 points).

Twenty percent of small business owners reported taxes as their single most important problem, up 6 points from November and ranking as the top problem. This is the highest reading since May 2021.

In conjunction with the December report, the National Federation of Independent Business also released a new episode of the “Small Business by the Numbers” podcast. This is the National Federation of Independent Business Research Center’s new podcast where Holly Wade, the executive director of the National Federation of Independent Business Research Center, and Peter Hansen, director of research and policy analysis, discuss the data, stories, and economic conditions affecting small businesses nationwide.

National Federation of Independent Business’s monthly Small Business Optimism Index is the gold standard measurement of America’s small

business economy. Used by the Federal Reserve, Congressional leaders, administration officials, and state legislatures across the nation, it’s regarded as the bellwether on the health and welfare of the Main Street enterprises that employ half of all workers, generate more net new jobs than large corporations, and gave most of us the first start in our working life. The Optimism Index (aka Small Business Economic Trends report) is a national snapshot of National Federation of Independent Business-member, small-business owners not broken down by state. National Federation of Independent Business members span the complete spectrum of small and independent businesses -- from sole proprietorships to firms with hundreds of employees -- across all industries and sectors.

Keep up with the latest California small-business news at www.nfib.com or follow them on X @NFIB_CA and on Facebook @NFIB.CA.

For over 80 years, National Federation of Independent Business has been advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. National Federation of Independent Business is a nonprofit, non-partisan, and member-driven association. Since our founding in 1943, National Federation of Independent Business has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, visit nfib.com. ★

California’s Budget Underscores Agriculture’s Role

California Farm Bureau News Release

CALIFORNIA (MPG) - Gov. Gavin Newsom’s proposed budget highlights California’s continued focus on wildfire response, climate resilience and water infrastructure but leaves gaps in direct support and regulatory alignment for agriculture and rural communities, according to California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass. She said:

“The budget invests heavily in wildfire response, but funding for proactive strategies on working lands remains limited. California farmers and ranchers are part of the solution. Grazing, vegetation management and stewardship reduce fuel loads and protect rural communities. Expanding



California farmers and ranchers are part of the solution. Grazing, vegetation management and stewardship reduce fuel loads and protect rural communities. Photo courtesy of Freepik

these strategies statewide would strengthen long-term resilience.

“Water reliability is foundational to agriculture. Investments in

flood protection, ground-water recharge and drought resilience are critical, but infrastructure alone is not enough. Projects must be paired with regulatory efficiency so they

can move forward and deliver real, on-the-ground benefits for farms and ranches.

“Agriculture is increasingly relied upon for wildfire mitigation, water resilience

and climate solutions, yet it is not recognized as critical infrastructure. Aligning investments, regulations and expectations will enable farmers and ranchers to continue producing food, protecting the environment and supporting rural communities.

“Farmers and ranchers stand ready to partner with the state. With the right funding and regulatory support, we can continue producing food, safeguard the environment and strengthen California’s rural economy.”

California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches as part of a nationwide network representing more than 5 million Farm Bureau members. Learn more at www.cfbf.com or follow @cafarmbureau on Instagram, LinkedIn, X or Facebook. ★

Home Sales Return to Pre-Pandemic Levels

North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - New home sales in the greater Sacramento region returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2025, signaling that the pandemic-era housing boom has ended, the North State Building Industry Association reported today.

Building Industry Association members reported selling 5,747 homes in the eight-county region during the year, down 18 percent from 2024 but still 8 percent higher than 2019. Sales surged during the pandemic era as remote work expanded, migration into the region increased and mortgage interest rates fell to historic lows, at times dipping to below 3 percent.

Building Industry Association President and CEO Tim Murphy said despite generous builder incentives, many prospective buyers have been holding off until mortgage rates dip below 6 percent.

“Interest rates have been trending downward and fell to an average of 6.19 percent in early January. As financing costs continue to decline, we expect more households to reenter the housing market in 2026,” Murphy said.

“A recent analysis by the National



Despite generous builder incentives, many prospective buyers have been holding off until mortgage rates dip below 6 percent. Photo courtesy Freepik

Association of Home Builders shows that a 25-basis-point reduction from 6.25 percent to 6 percent could bring approximately 1.1 million additional households back into the buyer pool nationwide, so downward-trending rates are encouraging.”

In 2025, Roseville saw the most new home sales with 447, followed by Rancho Cordova (386), Elk Grove (280), Sacramento (262), Plumas Lake (159) and Lincoln (150).

As typical in the region, December sales dropped to a low point, with 338

sales reported by members. That’s down 17 percent from November and 15 percent lower than December 2024. For the month, Rancho Cordova was the sales leader with 74, followed by Roseville (59), Sacramento (41), Elk Grove (34) and Plumas Lake (28).

Murphy noted that housing experts at the Building Industry Association’s recent housing forecast event predicted the worst of the slump was behind us and that sales will gradually pick up during the next three years.

He added that new homes remain a great option for buyers because of incentives existing homeowners can’t offer, and because the supply of existing homes is still well below normal as homeowners with low mortgage rates remain reluctant to sell.

“In addition, buying a new home gives buyers the opportunity to customize many features to meet their family’s needs and provides peace of mind since problems are much less likely and any that occur are covered by warranties,” Murphy said.

“We are also continuing to improve affordability by working with local governments to streamline procedures and reduce fees that currently average \$109,000 per new home.”

Building Industry Association statistics covered 191 new home communities in Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties.

(Note: The annual sales total has been trued up by including figures from Building Industry Association members who do not report on a monthly basis. Thus, the annual figure is larger than the sum of annual sales by county and by submarket.)

For more information, visit www.northstatebia.org ★

CHURCH DIRECTORY

LIFEPOINTE

FAMILY OF CHURCHES

7200 Rio Linda Blvd.

lifepointenaz.com

(916) 991.4624

SUNDAY

9:30AM

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP

10AM

ALL AGE CONNECTION GROUPS

11AM

WORSHIP SERVICE

NURSERY (0-3YRS)

KIDZ CLUBHOUSE

(4YRS - 6TH GRADE)

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

(LCMS)

3644 Bolivar Ave.

North Highlands

(916) 332-4001

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 9:30 AM

Bible Hour for All Ages

at 11:00 AM

ZionLutheranNH.org

Calvary

Lutheran Church

5th and L Streets

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Rio Linda

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you say...

Jesus says...

I can't figure this out

I will direct you

I'm not enough

You are more than enough

I can't keep going

I will carry you

I'm not strong enough

I am

I'm too tired

I will give you rest

I can't forgive myself

I forgive you

I hate myself

I love you

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

What a difference a week makes!

Losers of seven straight games and looking like cellar dwellers, the Kings went to a youth movement that saw the hometown boys win four consecutive games and nearly made it five straight as they fell to the Portland Trailblazers for the third time this season.

The mini winning streak had a cold water in the face effect for many pundits and fans, as the Kings easily handled the Rockets, Lakers, Knicks and the Washington Wizards.

Even more surprising was the way the Kings put away the competition, as they won by double digits in each of the 4 wins.

A shot in the arm? You bet it was, and it should give the organization a moment of pause as they reassess what they have regarding talent that resides on this team.

Right in the middle of this euphoric 4-game run was none other than 6’11” big man Dylan Cardwell, that has come out of nowhere to become a fan favorite. Just 24 years old, the Kings have stumbled onto a diamond in the rough, and no one on this team plays with greater enthusiasm than Cardwell. Comparisons are being made of Dennis Rodman, as Cardwell bounces down the court with arms uplifted, energizing the crowd and getting fans on their feet.

Not known for his scoring, Cardwell went undrafted a year ago, and the Kings signed him to a 2-way contract for this season. Smart move and one that’s already paying off.

Cardwell might not get 20 points per game, but his affection for blocking shots and playing ferocious defense is just what the Kings needed to get them back.

The question will be as the trade deadline approaches, will the Kings realize what they have in Cardwell and value him to the point of not including him in a trade. Don’t do it! And by the same token, do not trade Precious Achiuwa!

For the first time in many years the Kings can put a big lineup on the floor and it’s showing results.

As the center piece of the Kings Domantas Sabonis was sidelined with a knee injury, coach Christie had no choice but to use both Achiuwa and Cardwell side

by side, and the results were astounding.

Not to be forgotten is rookie Maxime Raynaud who although not as impressive, is coming along, and I’m hopeful the Kings hang onto Raynaud as well.

The idea of blowing up this team in my opinion was never a good one, and I am in favor of the Kings either finding a trade that will add a topflight scorer, or worst case scenario, hold down the fort, work with the existing squad, and make your move in the next draft.

OKC and others have proven that the draft can be your friend. If the Kings can begin to assess talent, there is a real possibility that the upcoming draft, that is predicted to be a talent laden one, can produce another player of DeAaron Fox quality.

Every reason to start getting excited Kings fans.

Domantas Sabonis is back, and will Christie have the wherewithal to play Cardwell and Sabonis at the same time. Is it just a pipe dream to have Achiuwa, Cardwell, and Sabonis all playing on the court at the same time? Wow, what a rebounding trio, and with scorers like Murray, DeRozan, and Lavine to compliment the big men, what might this team look like.

Say your prayers for coach Christie that the talent fairy will tap him on the shoulder and give him good common sense to see what he has right before him.

As I have said many times before, look no further than your bench to find talent, and stop sending quality players away where they make teams better.

The Sacramento Kings really are better than their 12-31 record reports, and the second half of the season really does matter.

Scott Perry, don’t make hasty decisions, and let this team continue to gel while giving the youth of the team a chance to show what they’re made of.

If you haven’t gotten out to a game there is no better time than right now. These guys will get you on your feet over and over again!

Go Kings and let’s tweak things and by all means not blow it up!

All the best! ★

Homelessness Crisis Remains One of Newsom’s Biggest Political Liabilities



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

While delivering his final State of the State address and proposing his final state budget last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom clearly sought to neutralize an issue that has haunted his political career for more than two decades and could torpedo his hopes of becoming president: homelessness.

First, a bit of history.

Just months after being elected mayor of San Francisco in 2004, Newsom unveiled a plan he said would clear city streets of homeless people in 10 years. Fourteen years later, while running for governor, Newsom declared that homelessness in San Francisco had “never been worse.”

He said eradicating homelessness would be a high priority and promised to appoint a homeless “czar” who could cut through red tape and intergovernmental friction to get the job done. Later, when pressed by reporters over the czar pledge, he snapped, “You want to know who’s the homeless czar? I’m the homeless czar in the state of California.”

Despite that self-appointment and devoting almost all of his 2020 State of the State address to homelessness, the number of unhoused Californians continued to rise to record levels. As it did, Newsom began blaming local governments for not spending

state homelessness grants effectively and threatened to withhold annual funding.

However, in 2024 State Auditor Grant Parks excoriated Newsom’s own California Interagency Council on Homelessness for failing to effectively monitor and coordinate homelessness programs — even though the state had spent more than \$20 billion during Newsom’s governorship.

He later reorganized the council and last year it issued a glossy “Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness.” Newsom hailed it as “not just a report of our investments, but a directive for continued accountability and action towards specific quantifiable goals.”

It listed multiple things that should be done to alleviate the homelessness crisis, but never mentioned how its lofty goals should be achieved nor said anything about how the state’s deficit-ridden budget would pay for them.

In last week’s State of the State address, Newsom sang the political version of the World War II tune, “Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive,” cataloguing his accomplishments during the last seven years, including progress toward eliminating homelessness.

“When I began as governor, there was no homeless plan, no mental health plan and certainly no housing plan,” Newsom told legislators. “There was no accountability and little investment. The responsibility fell to cities and counties, with little interest from Sacramento.”

Newsom ticked off the efforts he had made and bragged that, “Early data, just compiled, shows that the number of unsheltered

homeless people in California dropped 9% in 2025,” while “the nation saw an 18.1% overall increase in homelessness. Our investments are paying off.”

He could not, however, resist another jab at local officials, saying he is “providing counties what they’ve been asking for: the predictable funding for housing and substance abuse treatment. No more excuses — it’s time to bring people off the streets, out of encampments, into housing, into treatment. Counties need to do their job.”

County officials took umbrage. The California State Association of Counties, in a statement, complained that Newsom’s budget shifts the financial burden for several health and welfare programs to county governments and fails to protect them from federal reductions.

The organization also cited the new budget’s omission of an annual bloc grant for homeless programs, and the administration’s stalling the delivery of cash from a past allocation, “which was approved by the Legislature 18 months ago.”

While Newsom cites a 9% drop in homelessness, if true it would be from a base of nearly 200,000 Californians without homes. There are still plenty of squalid encampments to be videotaped and featured on ads attacking a potential presidential candidate named Newsom two years hence.

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

I’m Divorced; Can I Get Benefits from my Ex-husband?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: After 16 years of marriage, we were divorced. I have never remarried, but he has. When he starts collecting Social Security (he is 64 now and still working), is it true that I can claim ex-spousal benefits or does that go to the current wife? How would I find this info? **Signed: A Divorced Spouse**

Dear Divorced Spouse: The fact that your ex-husband has remarried has no influence on your ability to collect benefits based on his record. If you are eligible for ex-spouse benefits (because you did not remarry), you can get those benefits regardless of whether his current wife collects benefits on his record. In other words, both you and his current wife can both collect spousal benefits from your ex-husband’s earnings record.

Your eligibility for an ex-spouse benefit is determined by comparing your own SS retirement benefit amount at full retirement age (FRA) to his – if your

own SS benefit at your FRA is less than 50% of your ex’s FRA benefit entitlement, and you were married to your ex for more than 10 years, are not currently married and are at least 62 years old, then you can get a “spousal boost” (an amount added to your own Social Security retirement amount). In fact, if you have been divorced for over two years, you can get an ex-spouse benefit even though he is not yet receiving his own SS retirement benefit.

Be aware, however, if you claim any Social Security benefit (both your own SS retirement amount and your ex-spouse “spousal boost”) before you reach your full retirement age, the monthly amount you get will be reduced according to how much before your full retirement age you claim. Spouse and ex-spouse benefits reach maximum at your full retirement age but are reduced if claimed earlier than your full retirement age. Claiming your benefits as an ex-spouse will also result in you receiving your own SS retirement benefit (reduced if you haven’t yet reached FRA).

I suggest you contact Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 to make a telephone appointment to evaluate whether you are entitled benefits as an ex-spouse. If your own SS retirement benefit at your FRA is less

than half of your ex’s FRA entitlement, you will be. To apply for those benefits you will need a copy of your divorce decree (and perhaps your marriage certificate), and your ex-husband’s Social Security number (if you do not have his SSN, you can provide his date and place of birth and his parents’ names, and SSA will likely be able to locate your ex’s SS record).

SSA will be able to tell you what your total monthly benefit as an ex-spouse will be when you meet with them, at which point you can decide whether to claim your benefits early or wait until your FRA to achieve your maximum amount as an ex-spouse.

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Yes, We Need a \$1.5 Trillion Defense Budget

ly match the total annual spending of all non-U.S. NATO countries. The percentage increase would be the highest since the Korean War and double the biggest annual increases of the Reagan years.

“We still talk about the Reagan buildup,” Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said in a speech last month, “and my kids and yours will someday talk about the Trump buildup.”

The Trump proposal would not just be a down payment on that promise, but a big step toward fulfilling it.

If our military is highly proficient --as demonstrated in the Venezuela raid -- it also doesn’t have the materiel to wage a protracted major war.

Defense analyst Mackenzie Eaglin of the American Enterprise Institute has long been ringing the alarm. She recently noted that during the short Israel-Iran war, we fired 150, or one-quarter, of our THAAD missiles, exceeding our annual purchase rate by three times. In the Red Sea, the Navy fired more Tomahawks in January 2024 than it bought in all of 2023.

These shortfalls, as Eaglin points out, are especially disturbing when compared to the building capacity of our adversaries. Whereas the Russians make more than 300,000 artillery shells a month, we make only 40,000 155mm shells. “Beijing builds six naval combatant ships,” she writes, “for every 1.8 ships the U.S. builds.”

Even The New York Times -- not known for

beating the drums for more defense spending -- devoted a splashy editorial last month to the sorry state of our military-industrial base.

In his new book, “War and Power,” scholar Phillips Payson O’Brien relates how wars between great powers are usually not won by brilliant battle plans, or by the commitment or proficiency of the troops. Rather, it is productive capacity -- and the ability to degrade that of the enemy while maintaining or increasing your own -- that makes the difference.

The Nazis weren’t going to win the Battle of Britain when the Brits were producing twice as many aircraft as Hitler.

On top of this, a nation needs to make shrewd choices about what it is building (the Nazis also had the wrong planes for the Battle of Britain -- bombers with payloads that were too small and fighters with limited range).

The U.S. needs to make sure that it is not overinvesting in the weapons systems of the past, although a defense budget on the scale that Trump is discussing would relieve some pressure from these choices. We could very well have our traditional subs and jet fighters, and our cutting-edge drones, too.

Trump’s taste for gilding everything can be over the top. It’d be a national service, though, if he manages to make the U.S. defense budget golden.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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LIGHT 1-30-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-08489
Nicole Pearson, 3525 4th Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95817 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Ai Systems and Strategy Collective" 3525 4th Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95817. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 18, 2025
Publish: January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026
AI 1-30-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09013
Nava Medical P.C., 1565 Exposition Boulevard Suite 120, Sacramento, CA 95815 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Face Body & Soul Wellness & Aesthetics" 1565 Exposition Boulevard Suite 120, Sacramento, CA 95815. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 11, 2025
Publish: January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026
FACE 1-30-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09229
Vincent Andre Garcia, 7506 Farmgate Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95610 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Swan And Sword Tattoo" 5941 San Juan Avenue Suite 13B, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 23, 2025
Publish: January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026
SWAN 1-30-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09442
Honeycomb Construction Services Inc., 6931 Butterball Way, Sacramento, CA 95842 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Honeycomb Renovations Inc." 6931 Butterball Way, Sacramento, CA 95842. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 30, 2025
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
HONEYCOMB 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00008
Yurii Horbonos, 5149 Kovanda Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Car Doctor Y&O" 5149 Kovanda Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 2, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
CAR 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00085
Arnold Sarkisyan, 3301 N Park Drive #3616, Sacramento, CA 95835 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "ATC Express" 3301 N Park Drive #3616, Sacramento, CA 95835. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 5, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
ATC 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00090
Kevin Quintanilla, 7128 Thomas Drive, North Highlands, CA 95660 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Blooming Bazaar" 7128 Thomas Drive, North Highlands, CA 95660. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 6, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
BLOOMING 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09348
Jaime Sanchez Aguirre and Veronica Sanchez, 3081 Marysville Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95815 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Aztec Graphic Designs" 3081 Marysville Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95815. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 29, 2025
Publish: January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026
AZTEC 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-08851
Aileen's Delish LLC, 6841 Sandrock Way, Sacramento, CA 95828 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Aileen's Delish Catering and Event Services" 882 El Camino Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95815. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 8, 2025
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
AILEENS 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09106
Humberto Valdivia, 5831 Rosebud Lane Unit C, Sacramento, CA 95841 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Placer County Handyman" 5831 Rosebud Lane Unit C, Sacramento, CA 95841. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 17, 2025
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
PLACER 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00096
Karen Katzmark, 4005 Manzanita Avenue #6-427, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Demi Equine Services" 9712 Fair Oaks Boulevard A6, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 6, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
DEMI 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00109
Daniel Williams, 237 West Ascot Avenue, Rio Linda, CA 95673 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Daniel Williams Flooring" 237

West Ascot Avenue, Rio Linda, CA 95673. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 6, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
DANIEL 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00048
Anthony Chang and Tiffany Tran, 4197 Borderlands Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Sunridge Nail Spa" 4036 Sunrise Boulevard Suite 130, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 5, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
SUNRIDGE 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00029
Vianey De La Cruz Esparta, 15 W Al Court, Sacramento, CA 95838 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Detailed Cleaning Services" 15 W Al Court, Sacramento, CA 95838. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 5, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
DETAILED 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09295
Jessica Naomy Cuevas Gutierrez, 6250 Florin Road Building 1, Sacramento, CA 95823 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Sac Auto Group" 6250 Florin Road Building 1, Sacramento, CA 95823. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 26, 2025
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
SAC 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09430
Vasyl Ivanov, 3913 Meramonte Way, North Highlands, CA 95660 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Vasyl Ivanov Services Unlimited / ISU" 3913 Meramonte Way, North Highlands, CA 95660. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 30, 2025
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
VASYL 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00195
Michael Donchenko, 7820 Gull Way, Antelope, CA 95843 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Perioperative Consulting" 7820 Gull Way, Antelope, CA 95843. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 7, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
PERIOPERATIVE 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00156
Nicole Allyn Fishman, 4724 Bowerwood Drive, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Glow Shift" 4724 Bowerwood Drive, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 7, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
GLOW 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00003
Shabir Pirzada and Zuhul Sahak, 6224 Watt Avenue, North Highlands, CA 95660 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Max Burger" 6224 Watt Avenue, North Highlands, CA 95660. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 2, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
MAX 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00141
Awan M.D., Inc., 1401 21st Street, Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "MDCareNow" 1401 21st Street, Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 6, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
MD 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09339
A&s Nutrition LLC, 7585 Camp Far West Road, Wheatland, CA 95692 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Nutrishop Downtown Sacramento" 1020 7th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 29, 2025
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
NUTRISHOP 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09432
Brave Soul Therapy, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker Professional Corporation, 2108 N Street #9001, Sacramento, CA 95816 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Brave Soul Therapy" 4441 Rollingrock Way, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 30, 2025
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
BRAVE 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00001
Deanna M Sesso, 8195 Caribbean Way, Sacramento, CA 95826 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Complex Grill" 3450 Longview Drive, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 2, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
COMPLEX 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00049
Andriy Melnykov, 5150 Madison Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95841 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s)

"Silver Mints and Jewelry" 5150 Madison Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95841. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 5, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
SILVER 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00227
Gregory John Fagundes, 4158 Cahakia Place, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "9 Star Bakery" 4158 Cahakia Place, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 8, 2026
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
STAR 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09438
Shiva Ghasemi, 9709 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95827 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Nutriwize" 9709 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95827. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 30, 2025
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
NUTRIWIZE 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09323
Trinity Motors LLC., 6805 Luther Drive Suite E, Sacramento, CA 95823 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Trinity Motors LLC, DBA GGI Investment" 6805 Luther Drive Suite E, Sacramento, CA 95823. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 26, 2025
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
TRINITY 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00300
LC Legacy Group LLC, 2001 Club Center Drive Apt 7110, Sacramento, CA 95835 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Legacy Tax & Wealth Co/EZPrep Pro" 2001 Club Center Drive Apt 7110, Sacramento, CA 95835. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 9, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
LEGACY 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-08202
Rebecca Schumaker, 7 Ferncliff Court, Sacramento, CA 95823 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Leisure Life Consulting" 7 Ferncliff Court, Sacramento, CA 95823. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 4, 2025
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
LEISURE 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09259
Copeland Group USA, LLC, 1203 West Loop 281, Longview, TX 75604 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Modern Insurance Marketing" 1203 West Loop 281, Longview, TX 75604. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 24, 2025
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
COPELAND 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09262
Modern Insurance Marketing LLC 8, The Green, Suite R, Dover, DE 19901 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Copeland Group USA, LLC" 8, The Green, Suite R, Dover, DE 19901. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 24, 2025
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
COPELAND 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00127
G4 Investments, Corp, 1052 Ski Park Court, Rio Linda, CA 95673 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Dutch Bros Coffee" 1052 Ski Park Court, Rio Linda, CA 95673. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 6, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
DUTCH 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00164
Valerie Aiken, 3338 Lerwick Road Apt 4, Sacramento, CA 95821 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Simple Tax Services/Simple Business Consulting Services" 3338 Lerwick Road Apt 4, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 7, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
SIMPLE 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09037
Enrique Lopez, 4849 Manzanita Avenue #73, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Revamp Evolution" 4849 Manzanita Avenue #73, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 12, 2025
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
REVAMP 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09435
Peter Mann MD Inc, 7634 Girard Avenue, La Jolla, CA 92037 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Mole Removal Sacramento" 631 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95825. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 30, 2025
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
MOLE 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00343
AMIZZ Corporation, 3162 Osuna Way, Sacramento, CA 95833 is doing business under the

Fictitious Business Name(s) "Homerun Plumbing" 3162 Osuna Way, Sacramento, CA 95833. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 12, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
HOMERUN 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-09255
Thach Ngo, 9168 Firecrest Court, Sacramento, CA 95829 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "TJ Nail & Spa" 8335 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95826. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 23, 2025
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
TJ 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00205
Cedric D. Word, 3030 Hurley Way #32, Sacramento, CA 95864 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "C.D. Word" 3030 Hurley Way #32, Sacramento, CA 95864. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 7, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
CD 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00129
Sarah Dardick Mental Health & Professional Clinical Counselor, PC, 1401 21st Street, Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Wildman Therapy" 1401 21st Street, Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 6, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
WILDMAN 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00418
Justin Richard Hodnett, 8825 Oak Avenue, Orangeville, CA 95662 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Hodnett Family Therapy" 8825 Oak Avenue, Orangeville, CA 95662. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 13, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
HODNETT 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00124
Maria Pascoal, 9340 Appalachian Drive, Sacramento, CA 95827 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Creative Joy Collective" 9719 Lincoln Village Drive Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95827. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 6, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
CREATIVE 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00144
Jacob Kline, PO Box 22073, Sacramento, CA 95822 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Amicus Investigations" 1415 69th Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95822. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 6, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
AMICUS 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00447
Borhany LLC, 3720 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "NEXI Digital Hub/Arash" 3720 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 13, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
NEXI 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2026-00373
Hashmat

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CLUES

ACROSS
1. Pakistani attire
5. Research location
8. Partridge's fruit tree
12. *Grid follower
13. *Upshaw, multiple Super Bowl winner
14. Canada's national tree
15. Like Homer Simpson's head
16. Allege
17. Agenda entries
18. "Adding a rushing player"
20. Aphrodite's lover
21. Not host
22. Tire meas.
23. Composure under strain
26. More distant
30. Thompson of "Some Kind of Wonderful"
31. Ubiquitous deciduous tree
34. Genealogical plant
35. Poetic feet
37. Dream time, acr.
38. The Romanovs, e.g.
39. Song for solo voice
40. Dishevel, as in hair
42. Clever humor
43. *SoFi _____, Super Bowl LXI venue
45. *Last year's Super Bowl winners
47. Web robot
48. Tesla Roadster with Starman location
50. a.k.a. podagra
52. *The only NFL team with perfect season
55. Plant-based laxative
56. Symphony member
57. "No _____ for you!"
59. No gains without them
60. Retired, abbr.
61. Field worker
62. Bohemian
63. Not Miss or Ms
64. Poker amount

DOWN
1. Bro to bro
2. Speedy steed
3. Chuck Berry's "____ Over Beethoven"
4. Rainbow color
5. *Santa Clara's _____ Stadium, Super Bowl LX venue
6. Beside, archaic
7. Titanic's frozen enemy
8. *Team with most Super Bowl appearances
9. Fencing weapon
10. Charitable contributions
11. Hi-_____
13. Garden shelter
14. Unhealthy atmosphere
19. Little hills
22. P in m.p.g.
23. Mark Twain to Samuel Clemens
24. Lively
25. Vampire of Greek mythology
26. *One of two teams to win while hosting Super Bowl
27. Long fishing line
28. Like haunted house
29. What the defense does?
32. High school dressy affair
33. Romanian money
36. *Super Bowl LX halftime show headliner (2 words)
38. Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young: "____ Your Children"
40. Egyptian boy king, for short
41. Long jump
44. I to Greeks, pl.
46. Rob Marshall's 2005 movie "Memoirs of a _____"
48. On the wagon
49. Land parcels
50. *Shoulder pads and cleats
51. "Put a lid _____!"
52. College dwelling
53. High part of day
54. Edible fat
55. Facial site
58. *Charlie Puth and Brandy Carlile, _____ game stars

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DOWN
1. Bro to bro
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13. Garden shelter
14. Unhealthy atmosphere
19. Little hills
22. P in m.p.g.
23. Mark Twain to Samuel Clemens
24. Lively
25. Vampire of Greek mythology
26. *One of two teams to win while hosting Super Bowl
27. Long fishing line
28. Like haunted house
29. What the defense does?
32. High school dressy affair
33. Romanian money
36. *Super Bowl LX halftime show headliner (2 words)
38. Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young: "____ Your Children"
40. Egyptian boy king, for short
41. Long jump
44. I to Greeks, pl.
46. Rob Marshall's 2005 movie "Memoirs of a _____"
48. On the wagon
49. Land parcels
50. *Shoulder pads and cleats
51. "Put a lid _____!"
52. College dwelling
53. High part of day
54. Edible fat
55. Facial site
58. *Charlie Puth and Brandy Carlile, _____ game stars

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Celebrate Financial Wellness Month with CalKIDS

CalKIDS Scholarships
News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Financial Wellness Month is a time for families across California to set goals, build healthier money habits and plan for the year ahead. It’s also the perfect moment for parents and guardians to take one simple step that can make a long-term difference for a child’s future: claim a CalKIDS Scholarship Account that may already be waiting in their name.

CalKIDS is a statewide program that provides automatic scholarship accounts to help California newborns, young children, and eligible public school students pay for college or career training. For many families, the scholarship is already available and just needs to be claimed by visiting CalKIDS.org. Unlike many scholarships, CalKIDS does not require essays, a minimum GPA, or recommendation letters, making it an easy first step for families planning ahead.

Statewide, more than 60 percent of public school students in grades 2 to 12 are eligible to claim a CalKIDS Scholarship worth up to \$1,500. Eligible college-aged students may also have a CalKIDS Scholarship Account and can use funds once they are enrolled in an accredited college or eligible career training program.

Additionally, children born in California on or after July 1, 2022, also have a scholarship account worth up to \$175. This includes an additional \$50 for parents and guardians who link the child’s CalKIDS Scholarship Account to a ScholarShare 529 Account, California’s official education savings plan, where they can continue saving on their own. Linking to ScholarShare 529 Account is one way CalKIDS encourages long-term planning and helps families build savings habits over time. “California is investing in our



As a cradle-to-career program, CalKIDS helps families connect today’s small step to tomorrow’s opportunity.
Photo courtesy of CalKIDS

children because education and career training are the strongest pathways to opportunity,” said State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA, Chair of the ScholarShare Investment Board. “CalKIDS is a \$2 billion public investment that puts scholarship funds within reach for millions of Californians. During Financial Wellness Month, I encourage parents, guardians, and students to visit CalKIDS.org, to see if they have a scholarship account ready to be claimed.”

The program has created more than five million individual CalKIDS Scholarship Accounts, making it the largest child development account program in the nation. For families, claiming a scholarship is a practical step that can make planning for college or career training feel more real and achievable.

Claiming a scholarship is quick, easy, and can be done



Statewide, more than 60 percent of public school students in grades 2 to 12 are eligible to claim a CalKIDS Scholarship worth up to \$1,500.
Photo courtesy of CalKIDS

entirely online: Go to CalKIDS.org and click “Confirm Eligibility”. For newborns and young children born on or after July 1, 2022, enter the child’s Local Registration Number (LRN), a 13-digit number found on the child’s birth certificate.

For students in grades 2 to

12, enter the Statewide Student Identifier (SSID), a 10-digit number found on the student’s school portal, transcript, report card, or by contacting their school directly. College-aged students who no longer have access to their school portal can contact their former high school to request their Statewide Student Identifier.

CalKIDS scholarship funds can help cover qualified education expenses for college or career training, including tuition and fees, required books and supplies, and computer equipment. Scholarship funds can be used once a student is at least 17 and enrolled in an accredited college, university, or career training program.

Mallory R., a student from Evergreen Valley College shared, “CalKIDS provides low income students, such as myself, with additional financial support for

higher education. CalKIDS has been a fundamental resource for my academic career through the provision of additional financial support thus allowing me to completely focus on my academic journey without financial insecurity.”

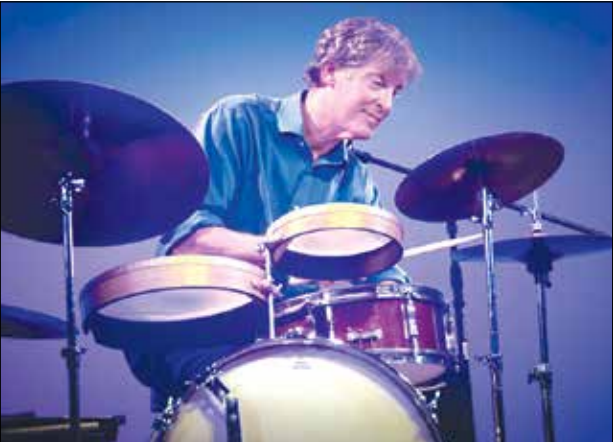
For many students and families, discovering they have scholarship funds through CalKIDS can be more than financial support. It can make planning feel real and achievable, and it can encourage earlier steps toward education and career goals.

“The CalKIDS program has been a catalyst for building a culture around financial wellness,” according to Dora Beyer, Vice President of Community Development at Excite Credit Union. “We have dozens of schools and non-profits collaborating on outreach and education around how CalKIDS supports college readiness. Students and families appreciate the simplicity of the program and are eager to learn about additional ways to prepare financially for education.”

Financial wellness is built through consistent habits and forward-looking choices, and Financial Wellness Month is a reminder that planning ahead does not have to be complicated. Through CalKIDS, California is helping families build assets and expand access to education and career training. For older students, the program provides real financial support to meet immediate education needs. For families with young children, CalKIDS plants the seeds of lifelong financial literacy and savings-minded habits.

As a cradle-to-career program, CalKIDS helps families connect today’s small step to tomorrow’s opportunity. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to visit CalKIDS.org to check eligibility and claim a scholarship account as part of their financial planning for higher education. ★

Teagarden Jazz Festival Features Grammy Wining Artist



Pictured is Grammy winning artist Danny Coots, guest speaker of this year’s Teagarden Jazz Festival for Young Musicians. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Jazz Education Foundation

Sacramento Jazz Education Foundation
News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA - The 19th Teagarden Jazz Festival: for Young Musicians will be held 8 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. Feb. 7 in Capistrano Hall at Sacramento State. The joy of New Orleans-style jazz is at the heart of this

jazz combo festival, which is dedicated to fostering a better appreciation of this classic American art form.

According to director Dr. Steve Roach, “the festival is believed to be the only educational student festival that is strictly dedicated to the performance of traditional jazz music.”

This year, scores

of young musicians gather for performances, clinics and the opportunity to join a hosted Jam Session to take their skills to a new level.

The festival features Danny Coots as its guest artist. Coots is not only a Grammy winning drummer, but he is also the first drummer to be a guest artist at the festival. Danny has been

drumming since he was 6 years old and recorded extensively in Nashville, New York and L.A.

While in Nashville, Danny joined the Jack Daniel’s Silver Cornet Band for five years and helped found the Titan Hot Seven. He and other clinicians will work with student bands onstage. Coot’s

Jazz Workshop begins at 4:15 p.m. and his Guest Artist Closing Concert with the festival clinicians begins at 6 p.m. General admission to the entire festival is \$15 (students admitted at no charge) and tickets are sold at the door. Free parking will be available in the adjacent parking structure. ★

PG&E Donates \$1 Million to Local Food Banks to Feed Families

Pacific Gas and Electric Company News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is contributing \$1 million to help local food banks replenish stocks after the holidays and help feed the growing number of individuals and families struggling to put food on the table.

The PG&E funding will provide the equivalent of approximately 3 million meals for individuals and families. It will support 38 food banks representing 47 counties in PG&E’s Northern and Central California service area.

Nine of these food banks are located in the greater Sacramento area and are collectively receiving \$168,000 in funding. In Amador County, the Interfaith Council of Amador will receive \$5,000. El Dorado County’s Food Bank of El Dorado County is allocated \$12,830, while the

Food Bank of Nevada County will receive \$5,000. Placer Food Bank in Placer County is set to receive \$17,300. In Sacramento County, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services will receive \$40,000. San Joaquin County includes two recipients: the Emergency Food Bank of Stockton and Second Harvest Food Bank of the Greater Valley, each receiving \$26,660. In Yolo County, Yolo Food Bank is awarded \$19,170.

It is the third contribution to food banks since September from PG&E or the PG&E Corporation Foundation (the PG&E Foundation). Funding for these charitable contributions comes from PG&E shareholders, not PG&E customers.

Officials with the California Association of Food Banks said that food banks are facing record-breaking demand, the highest since the pandemic.

“California food banks experienced an unexpected surge



with the [federal government] shutdown this fall. So, we reached out for help on their behalf and PG&E responded,” said Stacia Levenfeld, Chief Executive Officer of California Association of Food Banks. “Their \$1 million gift to food banks throughout Northern and Central California will have a meaningful impact on the lives of millions of people this holiday season and help food banks continue their critical work in our communities.”

Joe Wilson, vice president, PG&E’s North Valley & Sierra Region added, “We are grateful to help local food banks fulfill their mission during this time of increasing demand, especially as more families and seniors are struggling through the holiday season. Our longstanding partnership with the California Association of Food Banks supports the safety net that is our local food banks.”

2025 Support for Food Banks

In September, the PG&E Foundation awarded \$1.12 million to support local food banks, tribal food banks and senior meal programs. In November, the PG&E Foundation donated \$250,000 to the California Association of Food Banks’ Emergency Response Fund.

According to the California Association of Food Banks, while California produces nearly half of the nation’s fruits and vegetables, more than one in five residents do not know where

their next meal will come from. Communities of color face even higher levels of food insecurity.

Grant amounts that will be awarded to local organizations account for county poverty and unemployment levels, using the California Department of Social Services’ formula, to promote equity among counties with higher need.

About The PG&E Corporation Foundation

The PG&E Corporation Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, separate from PG&E and sponsored by PG&E Corporation.

About PG&E

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is a combined natural gas and electric utility serving more than 16 million people across 70,000 square miles in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit pge.com and pge.com/news. ★

Republic FC Acquires Forward Mayele Malango from Monterey Bay FC

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Republic FC announced Jan. 8 that the Club has acquired forward Mayele Malango (MY-el Muh-LAWN-go) from Monterey Bay FC via transfer. Malango has also signed a new contract with Republic FC. Per club policy, the terms of the transfer and contract will not be disclosed. Malango will be available pending league and federation approval and is expected to wear No. 7 for Republic FC.

“Mayele is a dynamic attacker with a diverse and impressive journey through multiple levels of U.S. soccer,” said Republic FC Head Coach Neill Collins. “His pace, strength and finishing ability give us more options in the final third, and we’re excited to integrate him into our system.”

Malango, 28, featured



Malango will be available pending league and federation approval and is expected to wear No. 7 for Republic FC. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

prominently for Monterey Bay FC during the 2025 USL Championship season, making 29 appearances across league and USL Cup play with five goals and two assists. His contributions included scoring the club’s first goal of the

season and earning a USL Championship Team of the Week honor early in the campaign for a stand-out performance against Oakland Roots SC.

“I would like to thank God for this opportunity, and also thanks to all the coaching staff and front

office members for believing in me, and for making this transfer to happen. I'm super excited to join the team and can't wait to contribute to the team's success on and off the field,” said Malango. “I can’t wait to meet all the fans and play in front of you all. I will give everything I have for the team. Let’s make memories together as we fight for another championship.”

Prior to joining Monterey Bay FC, Malango built a varied and productive professional career in the United States. He began his pro journey with New England Revolution II in 2020, where he appeared in 14 matches. In 2021, he signed with New

Amsterdam FC of the National Independent Soccer Association, scoring an impressive nine goals in 14 appearances to earn an All-League First Team selection. In 2022, he continued his development with Albion San Diego in NISA, finding the net three times in 20 matches, helping the team reach the NISA Championship Final. From 2023 to 2024, Malango starred for Chattanooga Red Wolves SC in USL League One, where he recorded 12 goals and five assists in 68 total appearances.

A native of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malango and his family spent 10 years in Malawi as

refugees before coming to the U.S. and settling in Massachusetts. He made a name for himself on the local soccer scene before moving on to the collegiate level. He began at Salem State University, where he scored 17 goals in 19 appearances and earned both MASCAC Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year honors on the way to a conference title. He then transferred to UMass Lowell, competing at the Division I level before turning professional.

Mayele earned his first call up to the Malawi National Team for World Cup Qualifiers in September 2025 and recorded an assist in his debut. He later joined The Flames for two international friendlies in November, scoring his first goal against Lesotho on Nov. 18.

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. ★

Open Call for River Cats National Anthem Auditions

Demos for Potential Performers Must be Submitted Prior to Jan. 30

Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - If you have ever dreamed of getting a baseball game underway by singing the National Anthem, now is your chance as the Sacramento River Cats have announced their National Anthem auditions for the 2026 baseball season will take place at Sutter Health Park on the evening of Feb. 17.

Auditions are open to all soloists and instrumentalists, and those interested in performing prior to a River Cats game must submit an audition demo by Friday, Jan. 30. Demos received past this date will not be considered.

All demos submitted must be an A capella version or original performance of the Star-Spangled Banner, sung in full with clear, consistent and correct lyrics. The full performance must not exceed 90 seconds.

To submit a demo, email a mp3 or

YouTube link to marketing@rivercats.com.

The subject line should read “2026 National Anthem Demo” and include a name, phone number and email address in the body of the email.

Submissions that do not meet this requirement will be automatically rejected.

The River Cats will invite the top demos submitted to Sutter Health Park for a live audition on Feb. 17.

Due to the volume of applicants, performers will only be contacted if they are selected to audition in person. Selected performers will be contacted the week of Feb. 9 with further instructions.

Sutter Health Park is the West Sacramento home of the three-time Triple-A Champion Sacramento River Cats, proud affiliate of the three-time World Series Champion San Francisco Giants. Memberships, mini-plans, and suites and hospitality spaces for the 2026 season may be purchased now by calling the River Cats Ticket Office at (916) 371-HITS (4487), emailing tickets@rivercats.com, or visiting www.rivercats.com. For information on other events at Sutter Health Park, visit www.sutterhealthpark.com. ★



Former Hornet Abigail Lopez Makes Pro Debut with Club Puebla

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Former Sacramento State women’s soccer standout Abigail Lopez has joined the professional ranks, signing with Club Puebla in Mexico’s top women’s division and making her debut on Jan. 4 against the Rayados de Monterrey in the LIGA BBVA MX Femenil closing tournament.

Lopez joined the club back in December of 2025, just in time to make her debut in early January. She played all 90 minutes of her club’s 4-0 loss to Monterrey in the opening match for both clubs.

A four-time All-Big Sky Conference honoree during her career with the Hornets, Lopez earned first-team all-league laurels in each of her final two collegiate campaigns and was named to the second team as a freshman and sophomore. She is one of only



Lopez joined the club back in December of 2025, just in time to make her debut in early January. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

four former Sacramento State players to win four All-Big Sky honors in a career, joining Katie McCoy (first-team honors in 2005-07 and a second-team award in 2004), Kara Taylor (first-team honors in 2005, 2007-08 and an honorable mention award in 2006), and Aubrey Goodwill (first-team honors in 2021-22, a second-team award in 2020, and an honorable mention selection in 2019).

Lopez is also one of only 11 Hornets to earn multiple All-Big Sky first-team awards.

Starting all 21 matches for Sacramento State as a senior in 2024, she led the team in scoring with four goals, three assists, and 11 points on the year, helping the Hornets capture the Big Sky Tournament title and a berth in the NCAA Tournament against USC.

She finished her career ranked tied for eighth in all-time points with 37 and tied for seventh in career goals with 15. Her 134 shot attempts are seventh on the school’s all-time list.

Lopez scored at least four goals in three of her four seasons with the Hornets, while her 11 points as a senior were a career high, surpassing the 10 she accounted for as a freshman in 2021. Overall, she appeared in 72 matches for Sacramento State, making the starting lineup in 63 of those — including 38 consecutive starts to close out her career. ★

Softball Sets Schedule



The Aggies will host 28 games in Davis, while hitting the road for their other 25 games. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - UC Davis softball has set in place its 2026 schedule, with the season opener set for Feb. 5 at home against Sacramento State and the Big West Conference opener against Hawai’I scheduled at La Rue Field over the weekend of March 6-7.

The Aggies will host 28 games in Davis, while hitting the road for their other 25 games. UC Davis will take part in four tournaments, performing hosting duties for two, while playing in five games at neutral sites along the with host schools at two other tournaments.

2026 begins with the NorCal Kickoff where UC Davis will open against Sacramento State on Feb. 5 before playing San Diego, Colorado State and Saint Mary’s in the yearly tournament that runs from Feb. 5-8.

UC Davis then plays its first of seven midweek games, traveling to Pacific on Feb. 11. The Aggies will also make midweek trips to Santa Clara (Feb. 17), Sacramento State (Mar. 24) and Saint Mary’s (Apr. 14). Pacific will make the return trip on Mar. 3, joining Utah Valley (Mar. 9) and Stanford (Apr. 7) in making midweek trips to La Rue Field.

UNLV hosts the next tournament the Aggies visit, and running from Feb. 13-15 the Aggies will face Seattle, Quinnipiac and hosting UNLV. UC Davis will twice see Seattle and UNLV during the Las Vegas, Nev., tournament. Over Feb. 20-21 the Aggies will also head to St. George, Utah where they will face Weber State and Utah Tech in back-to-back days for a total of four games over the 48 hours spent in the high desert.

As the calendar rolls into March, the Ags host their final tournament of the season when over the stretch of Feb. 27-Mar. 1 UC Davis will see Nevada (twice), Santa Clara, Sacred

Heart and San Jose State.

The Aggies open Big West play by hosting Hawai’I over the weekend of Mar. 6-7. The Ags will go on to host CSU Bakersfield (Mar. 21-22), Cal State Fullerton (Mar. 28-29), CSUN (Apr. 11-12) and UC Santa Barbara (Apr. 25-26). On the road in conference, the Aggies will visit UC San Diego (Mar. 13-14), Long Beach State (Apr. 3-4), UC Riverside (Apr. 18-19) and Cal Poly (May 1-2). The Big West Championships are set to get going at Cal State Fullerton from May 6-9.

UC Davis returns All-Big West honorees Ashley Sawai, Alyssa Dethlefsen, Caroline Grimes and Sydney Polli. Last season Sawai finished top 10 in the Big West in innings pitched (eighth), batters struck out (ninth), wins (ninth) and saves (second). The Aggie right-hander also tossed a career-high 15 complete games, placing her fourth in the conference and 38th in the nation.

Dethlefsen also found her name inside the top 10 of a pair of Big West statistical categories. She led the conference in triples (five), and her 19 stolen bases placed her fourth in the league. During the season, Dethlefsen was not caught once and along with Grand Canyon’s Savannah Groshong-Kirk she is one of two student-athletes in the country to have not been caught stealing this season with at least 19 stolen bases.

UC Davis, the No. 2 ranked public university by the Wall Street Journal, is home to 40,000 undergraduate students and 12,000 employees. Ranked #1 in Agriculture and Forestry as well as #1 in Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis is located in a true California college town nestled between world-class destinations such as the San Francisco Bay Area, Napa Valley and Lake Tahoe. Over 650 Aggie student-athletes compete in 25 Division I varsity sports, with 16 sports transitioning to the Mountain West Conference beginning in 2026–27. ★

Deal Me In

Local Casino January Events Calendar

**By MPG Staff,
Compiled from Hard Rock
Sacramento,
Thunder Rock Casino Resort
and Sky River Casino**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Fight fans, music lovers and nightlife enthusiasts have an action-packed lineup to look forward to as Hard Rock Live, Thunder Valley Casino Resort, and Sky River Casino present a series of must-see events featuring legendary athletes, chart-topping artists and unforgettable nightlife experiences.

HARD ROCK
On Saturday, Jan. 24 at 8 p.m., Xavi will take the Hard Rock Live Sacramento stage with his X-Tour featuring special guest Fabio Capri. Xavi is the leading voice of Música Mexicana’s new generation, with over 4.8 billion career streams. Born in Phoenix and raised between the U.S. and Nogales, Sonora, the singer-songwriter blends traditional corridos with R&B, pop, and urban influences. He rose to global prominence in 2024 with “La Diabla,” which topped Spotify’s Global 200 and became the longest-running #1 Latin solo song in the chart’s history.

Hard Rock Live inside Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain will host A1 Combat 33: Legends Collide on Friday, Jan. 30.

The event is headlined by a highly anticipated Combat Jiu-Jitsu Superfight between MMA legend Urijah Faber and Cisco Rivera, alongside 17 total bouts in the cage. Doors open at 4 p.m. with the main card taking place at 7 p.m.



Hard Rock Casino is starting the year strong with a lineup of concerts, UFC fights and more. Photo by Shamaya Sutton



Sky River Casino is located on 1 Sky River Pkwy, Elk Grove and has a full calendar of events. Photo by Idaly Valencia

The event will be broadcast live on YouTube and UFC FIGHT PASS. For the full

bout card, visit A1COMBAT.COM. All bouts subject to change or cancellation.

No refunds.
THUNDER VALLEY
A country music icon, ★

Brad Paisley his the Thunder Valley stage Friday, Jan. 30 to celebrate over 25 years of chart-topping success. A Grand Ole Opry member since 2001, Paisley has written 21 of his 25 No. 1 hits and amassed nearly 5 billion career streams, with classics like “He Didn’t Have to Be,” “She’s Everything,” and “We Danced.”

This is a show country fans won’t want to miss.

Grammy Award-winning artist Gary Clark Jr. brings his genre-blending sound of blues, rock, soul, and hip-hop to The Venue, featuring hits such as “This Land,” “Pearl Cadillac,” and “Don’t Owe You a Thang.”

Joining him is the Marcus King Band, adding even more high-energy, soulful performances to the night.

Tickets for Thunder Valley Events are available on TicketMaster.

SKY RIVER
Ladies Night will take place Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 5 p.m. Grab your friends to enjoy cigar specials, a curated drink menu and entertainment

Come out Thursday, Jan. 29 for High Stakes, Slow Smoke. This event brings together the bold character of High West Whiskeys and the craftsmanship of My Father Cigars for a curated pairing experience designed for true connoisseurs. Admission is \$75. Reserve your tickets now on Open Table.

Party @ 32 Brews Street returns each Friday 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Come alive at 32 Brews Street with DJs spinning the latest hits! Feel the beat and dance the night away with all your favorites playing. ★

Museum Executive Director Amanda Meeker Set to Retire

**California Museum
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Museum Executive Director Amanda Meeker announced that she will retire in the summer of 2026, after more than a decade in the role and 28 years of service to the Museum. A respected cultural leader, Meeker has dedicated her career to advancing the Museum’s mission to educate people about California’s rich history, diversity and culture.

During her tenure, Meeker has played a central role in solidifying the California Museum’s position as a trusted civic institution, expanding its reach, modernizing its exhibitions, strengthening its public-facing programs and deepening its commitment to inclusive, community-centered storytelling. Under her leadership, the Museum has become known for elevating underrepresented histories and tackling contemporary issues shaping California today.

“Amanda has been pivotal in establishing the Museum’s identity as a center of storytelling representative of the diverse people and cultures that make up the Golden State,” said Anne Marie Petrie, Chair of the California Museum Board of Trustees. “Her passion for public education and her steady leadership has advanced the Museum’s ability to share knowledge, spark dialogue, and inspire civic engagement.”

Meeker joined the then-Golden State Museum as its first official employee ahead of its opening in 1998, after having supported its development as a student intern. From the start, she helped shape the Museum’s vision, developing exhibitions and programs that reflected California’s complex



California Museum Executive Director Amanda Meeker announced that she will retire in the summer of 2026. Photo courtesy of the California Museum

social, political and cultural history. Since being appointed executive director in 2015, she has guided the Museum through a period of unprecedented growth and change, increasing its relevance to the communities it serves.

Throughout her career, Meeker has been known for her collaborative leadership style, fostering strong partnerships with educators, community organizations, artists, scholars and civic leaders across the state. Her work has reinforced the Museum’s role as a place of historical storytelling and as a dynamic forum for public engagement.

“It has been a privilege

to steward the California Museum’s mission over the years, working alongside dedicated staff, board members, educators and community partners who believe in the power of history to inform and inspire positive change,” Meeker reflected. “The Museum’s strength comes from the people whose stories it uplifts, and I’m confident it will continue to grow as a space where Californians see themselves reflected for generations to come.”

The California Museum Board of Trustees has engaged executive search partner Isaacson Miller to help identify Meeker’s successor, someone

who will build on her legacy while leading the institution into its next chapter.

“Amanda’s retirement marks the close of a remarkable career. The Board expresses its deep appreciation for her vision and integrity that helped define who we are today,” Petrie remarked. “Her legacy of leadership will continue to inspire those who follow her footsteps in maintaining the museum’s mission. But most of all she will be missed for her kindness and incredible capacity to care for all of us here and her community.”

As she prepares for retirement, Meeker looks forward to traveling and pursuing personal

projects, while remaining an advocate for museums and public history.

The California Museum - home of the California Hall of Fame—focuses on the state’s rich history, its diversity and its unique influence on the world of ideas, innovation, art and culture. Through interactive experiences, the Museum inspires visitors to make a mark on history. Located at 1020 O Street in the March Fong Eu Secretary of State complex, the Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is \$8-\$10. Plan a visit at californiamuseum.org ★