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THE NEWS

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Youth Take the Mic

Lions Club Annual Student Speaker Contest Spotlights Mental Health



From left are contest winner Katie Carson and Rio Linda Lions Club Chairperson Lion Debbie at the annual Student Speaker Contest on Jan. 22 at the Grange Hall. Photo courtesy of Rio Linda Lions Club

By MPG Staff

RIO LINDA, CA (MPG) - The Rio Linda Lions Club held its annual Student Speaker Contest on Jan. 22 at the Grange Hall, highlighting youth perspectives on mental health and well-being while recognizing local student achievement.

The contest, held at 7 p.m. at 1315 G St., featured speeches from high school students Maddie Shull and Katie Carson. Both students addressed this year's topic, "Youth Mental Health: Overcoming Barriers to Well-Being," offering thoughtful reflections on the challenges facing today's youth.

After a closely contested competition, Katie Carson was named the club-level winner and will advance to the Wolfskill Zone contest, scheduled

for late February. The next round of competition will take place Feb. 26 at Center High School.

Winners at each level of the Student Speaker Contest advance to the next round of competition, beginning at the club level and progressing through the zone, region, district and area contests before culminating in the final contest.

"We would like to thank them both for outstanding performances," the Lions Club said in a Facebook statement.

Judges and audience members praised the speeches for their insight and relevance, noting that the presentations explored themes of stress, inclusion, hope, support and the stigmas surrounding mental health.

"It was an informative look at today's youth viewpoint," said Gene Kypke with the Lion Club,

emphasizing the importance of giving students a platform to discuss issues affecting their generation.

Carson is an active leader in the Rio Linda Future Farmers of America program and a member of the Leo Club, the youth organization affiliated with Lions Club International.

The Student Speaker Contest is open to students in grades 9 through 12 and progresses through multiple levels of competition. After the club contest, students may advance to zone, region, district, area and final contests, with each level offering opportunities for recognition and scholarships.

The Rio Linda Lions Club hosts the annual event as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting youth leadership, public speaking and community engagement. ★

Mushroom Poisoning Amid Statewide Outbreak

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Recent rain has contributed to widespread growth of Death Cap mushrooms in California. Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH), in alignment with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), is urging residents not to pick or eat wild mushrooms as the risk of potentially deadly amatoxin poisoning is high. Since Death Cap (*Amanita phalloides*) and Western Destroying Angel (*Amanita ocreata*) are easily confused for safe-to-eat lookalike mushrooms, all mushroom foraging should be avoided.

Sacramento County Public Health confirms four cases of amatoxin poisoning in Sacramento County caused by people accidentally picking and eating Death Cap and/or Western Destroying Angel mushrooms.

This comes amidst a continuing statewide outbreak linked to the consumption of wild, foraged mushrooms. There's been reports of severe liver damage in both children and adults, resulting in three adult deaths and three liver transplants statewide to date.

Between Nov. 18, 2025, and Jan. 6, 2026, the California Poison Control System (CPCS) has identified 35 hospitalized cases across Northern California and the Central Coast, spanning regions from Sonoma to San Luis Obispo. Affected individuals range in age from 19 months to 67 years and include family groups and individual cases.

Most cases are in the Monterey and San Francisco Bay Area, though Death Cap mushrooms can be found across the state, particularly adjacent to oaks, other hardwoods and some pines. Information provided by affected individuals indicates that mushrooms were collected from various locations, including county, city and park lands.

Sacramento County Public Health and Sacramento County Regional Parks remind residents that wild mushrooms can be poisonous even if they resemble edible varieties and remain toxic even after cooking, boiling, freezing or drying.

"We understand that people may not realize the risk of mushroom foraging right now, because these

Aerospace Museum Awarding Aviation Scholarships

Aerospace Museum of California News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Thanks to the generosity of its major donors, the Aerospace Museum of California is proud to announce the return of its Private Pilot License (PPL) Scholarship Program. In 2026, the Museum will award three scholarships of \$12,500 each to exceptional and highly motivated students between the ages of 16 and 22 who aspire to become pilots.

Applications for the scholarship program are now open and will close on Feb. 14 at 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time. Interested applicants can find full details and submit their application at <https://www.aerospaceca.org/ppl-scholarship>.

Unlike traditional financial aid programs, the Aerospace Museum of



The Aerospace Museum of California's Private Pilot License Scholarship is designed as a comprehensive pilot development pipeline. Courtesy photo.

California's Private Pilot License Scholarship is designed as a comprehensive pilot development pipeline. In addition to financial support, scholarship recipients benefit from one-on-one mentoring, structured progress tracking, and clear

accountability milestones. Scholars are also actively engaged in museum programs and STEM outreach initiatives, reinforcing the Museum's commitment to education and community impact. The program is built around a

core objective of achieving a 100 percent Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Private Pilot License certification success rate among scholarship recipients.

The ideal candidates for the program are students

Continued on page 3

Single-Family Homes Making an Impact on Homelessness

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - You're a landlord, you need reliable renters. You fear expensive unit damage, late rent payments and turnover, leaving your unit empty and your pocket penniless. You hear about a government back master lease program that guarantees you timely rent, tenant relations and fixes any damage to the unit. Uniquely, this program shelters people experiencing homelessness -- people you see every day while driving around the streets of Sacramento -- people who are shunned, stereotyped and tragically-completely misunderstood. You ask around the pool of other local landlords -- has anyone joined this unique master lease program? You find a few landlords with units in the Sacramento County Scattered-Site Shelter program. This program is funded through the county, but operated by the non-profit City Net.

City Net has a proven track record of successful street outreach, case management and shelter operations up and down California. The more research you do, the more intrigued you are that this program may be the solution you've been looking for. However, you cannot find this shelter model anywhere else in California or the country.

That's because it's, so far, a progressive and unique model Sacramento County started in 2017. The idea of master leasing single family homes was a solution to the lack of funding and space to build new shelters for people experiencing homelessness.

The scattered site model also allowed homeless outreach workers to provide options they never had before, including: the ability to move several people from a single encampment into



Several landlords said they like the program because it's a real solution to addressing homelessness and dependable income for them. A win-win. Photo by Paul Brennan from Pixabay

a shared space, an interim housing solution that allows pets, partners and possessions to all shelter in one location, a step between living on the street and moving into permanent housing.

In 2017 the county didn't have tiny homes to offer as shelter. There were only congregate shelters, all of which were full, and few that were a desirable option for couples or people with adult family members or pets.

A funny thing happened when the county started diversifying shelter notions in ways that accommodated different sets of needs. People started saying "yes" to help. The more people said "yes" to options that met their needs, the more diverse the County's response to homelessness evolved.

The Scattered Site shelter program has seen adversity throughout the years. The previous operator, Sacramento Self Help Housing (SSHH), went bankrupt after a tumultuous year of money issues, including unpaid rent to landlords enrolled



Living in a house, in a neighborhood gives everyone the chance to integrate back into traditional society and learn to be a responsible roommate and a good neighbor. Photo by Rebecca Martinez from Pixabay

in the scattered site program. While the County rapidly hired a replacement operator, it broke yet another box -- direct payment of rent to landlords.

Brothers Karam and Roni have had two homes in the scattered site program since 2022. When Sacramento Self Help Housing stopped paying rent, they went five months without payment. Five months without

income to pay their mortgages. With direct promises from the County for back payment and a more seamless operator coming on board, the brothers stayed in the program. Now, several years later, they're happy they did.

"Yes, we're happy to get rent on time every month. But we also like helping people that feel like they're on the bottom and just need help getting up."

said Karam.

The brothers also have one home in the traditional rental market. Roni speculates, "We're fortunate to have a great renter in that house that has been there a long time. Otherwise, we'd consider moving that house over a well."

A dozen landlords sit together at an appreciation event held by City Net; many of these landlords have been with the program for years, a few are recent recruits by fellow landlords. They intently listen to the purpose and mission of the program and of City Net as an organization. Several raise hands and ask about outcomes and services offered to participants.

The Scattered Site program has a 38 percent positive exit rate to permanent housing -- higher than any other sheltering program the County funds.

But City Net shares the successes of the program that are more than just outcomes; participants learn to live with roommates. In the most successful cases, these matches can move into permanent housing together when ready.

Everyone in the household, including the City Net employee placed as a house monitor, is responsible for shopping, cooking and cleaning.

Living in a house, in a neighborhood gives everyone the chance to integrate back into traditional society and learn to be a responsible roommate and a good neighbor.

When asked, several landlords said they like the program because it's a real solution to addressing homelessness and dependable income for them. A win-win.

Interested in learning how you can place your available house into the scattered Site program? Contact Laura Wolff at laura.wolff@citynet.org or 916-995-3867. ★

SCPH Aligns with CDPH Guidance as Influenza Activity Increases

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Following state public health guidance, Sacramento County Public Health is urging residents to take steps now to protect themselves and their families as influenza cases and hospitalizations rise across California. The following information is pulled directly from a California Department of Public Health (CDPH) news release issued Jan. 13.

Flu cases and hospitalizations are rising with a new strain of influenza A, H3N2 subclade K, circulating in California. California Department of Public Health urges vaccination for everyone 6 months and older, rapid testing of patients with flu symptoms and immediate antiviral treatment for high-risk individuals.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is alerting health care providers and the public that influenza (flu) activity and hospital admissions are increasing across the state. A newly emerged influenza A strain, H3N2 subclade K, is circulating globally and has been detected in California.

"Current seasonal flu vaccines remain effective at reducing severe illness and hospitalization, including the currently circulating viruses," said Dr. Erica Pan, California Department of Public Health Director and State Public Health Officer.



The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is alerting health care providers and the public that influenza (flu) activity and hospital admissions are increasing across the state. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

"It is important for families to know that flu vaccines, tests, and treatments remain widely available for all Californians and that it is not too late to get a flu vaccine. As a pediatrician, parent, and daughter, I have made sure that my own family is protected with this season's flu vaccine."

California Department of Public Health has also confirmed the second pediatric flu-associated fatality in California this season. Young children and older adults remain at highest risk for severe flu complications, and there are several ways for families to take action to protect their health.

TAKE ACTION

Everyone 6 months and older who has

not yet received the 2025–26 influenza vaccine should get vaccinated as soon as possible. Vaccination is the best defense against severe influenza and hospitalization. To schedule your vaccine appointment, contact your health care provider, local pharmacy, or visit myturn.ca.gov.

Individuals with flu symptoms at risk for serious disease should check with their doctor to see if they should be tested in case they may benefit from treatment. At-home combined influenza/COVID-19 tests can be used when available.

High-risk and hospitalized patients with suspected flu should receive antiviral treatment without delay, even before test results

are confirmed. Recommended treatments include oseltamivir or single-dose baloxavir, which reduce the risk of serious illness and hospitalization.

COVERAGE AND AVAILABILITY

Despite changes in federal recommendations, California Department of Public Health's recommended vaccines will continue to be covered by health care insurers regulated by the State of California and can be received at your local pharmacy, from your health care provider, or through other authorized vaccine providers at no cost. To schedule your vaccine appointment, contact your health care provider, local pharmacy or visit myturn.ca.gov.

RESOURCES

Visit the California Department of Public Health Respiratory Virus Dashboard for updates on influenza and other respiratory viruses. For healthcare providers, clinical guidance and resources is available at the California Department of Public Health Influenza Update webpage. The California Department of Public Health Flu Vaccine Toolkit is also available online and provides educational resources and downloadable materials about the benefits of the flu vaccine. For more information about flu prevention and vaccine eligibility, visit the California Department of Public Health Influenza webpage. ★

Community Efforts Help Prevent Human Trafficking

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - As part of an effort to make our community a safe place for all residents, Sacramento County is raising awareness about human trafficking. January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and each year, the U.S. Department of State recognizes it as a way to raise awareness about this crime that impacts communities across the country.

Several of Sacramento County's community partners are dedicated to

helping victims of human trafficking.

My Sister's House aids Asian and Pacific Islanders and other underserved women and children impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

The Family Justice Center helps victims during legal proceedings.

Other helpful resources and information include:

RTI International provides insight into information about sex trafficking by collecting and sharing data about the issue.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline allows people to report

tips about suspicious activity they believe is connected to the crime.

We can all do our part to keep community members safe from human trafficking. Here are some ways we can all work to make a difference.

Learn the signs of human trafficking, which can include: multiple employees living with their employer, signs of physical abuse, a child living with someone who is not their parent, a relative or their legal assigned guardian, a person not having control of personal identification such as a driver's license

or passport, and a child under the legal working age telling you they are forced to work.

If you are in the United States and believe someone may be a victim of human trafficking, call the 24-hour National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. If there is an immediate emergency, always call 911.

Become a mentor to a teen, young adult or someone in need. Traffickers may target children or adults who are going through a difficult time, do not have stable housing, or do not have a

support system.

Get involved with a local organization that fights human trafficking, like one of the groups listed above.

Take time to learn more about the warning signs and how to report human trafficking by visiting the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Website.

Sacramento County is dedicated to addressing human trafficking through awareness, education and action. We can all work together to prevent human trafficking and provide hope to those recovering from this crime. ★

Mushroom Poisoning Amid Statewide Outbreak

Continued from page 1
mushrooms can closely resemble edible types,” said Dr. Olivia Kasirye, Sacramento County Public Health Officer. “That’s why we’re urging residents to avoid wild mushroom foraging altogether and to seek immediate help if exposure is suspected.”

Sacramento County Public Health is coordinating with the California Department of Public Health and California Poison Control on case investigation, tracking and public outreach.

What Residents Can Do

Avoid picking and eating wild mushrooms during this high-risk season when Death Cap mushrooms are abundant. Death Cap mushrooms are still poisonous even after cooking, boiling, freezing or drying.

Purchase mushrooms from trusted grocery stores and retailers and exercise caution when buying mushrooms from street vendors.

Keep children and pets away from wild mushrooms.

Seek help immediately if you or someone you know has eaten a poisonous mushroom. Contact the CPCS hotline: 1-800-222-1222. Do not wait for symptoms to appear. Treatment is more difficult once symptoms start.

Initial symptoms, such as watery diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and dehydration can occur within 6 to 24 hours following ingestion of these toxic mushrooms and usually go away within a day. However, this brief improvement can be deceptive, as patients may still develop serious to fatal liver damage within 48 to 96 hours after eating the mushrooms. ★



Avoid picking and eating wild mushrooms during this high-risk season when Death Cap mushrooms are abundant. Death Cap mushrooms are still poisonous even after cooking, boiling, freezing or drying. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County



SCPH is urging residents not to pick or eat wild mushrooms as the risk of potentially deadly amatoxin poisoning is high. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Defendant Sentenced for Antelope Shooting Murder

Sacramento District Attorney’s Office News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Honorable James Arguelles sentenced Randall Watanabe to life in prison without the possibility of parole. On Nov. 7, Watanabe was convicted by a jury of first-degree murder with the special circumstance that murder was committed in the commission of an attempted robbery found true.

Watanabe was also convicted of attempted robbery, assault with a semi-automatic firearm

and discharge of a firearm at an inhabited vehicle. The jury also found true allegations that Watanabe personally discharged a firearm causing death and personally used a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Randall Watanabe met with the victim, Antonio Chacon, at a park in Antelope to conduct a drug sale. During the meeting, Watanabe produced a gun and attempted to rob the victim. When the victim tried to drive away, Watanabe shot him in the back causing the victim to crash his car. The victim died at the scene. ★

Aerospace Museum Awarding Aviation Scholarships

Continued from page 1
who demonstrate a strong and sustained desire to pursue a career in aviation. Additional consideration is given to applicants who are already involved in aviation-related organizations or activities, such as Civil Air Patrol, the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), or flight schools. Applicants with prior flight training or those who have already completed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airman Knowledge Test are also strongly encouraged to apply.

To be eligible, applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 22 and able to begin flight training within 30 days of receiving the scholarship award. Recipients must

commit to ongoing mentoring, meet structured progress milestones, and complete a minimum of four hours per month of volunteer service with the Aerospace Museum of California.

The Museum’s motto, “Where Dreams Take Flight,” reflects more than inspiration; it represents a proven pathway into aviation careers. Through this scholarship program, the Aerospace Museum of California continues to transform passion for flight into real-world opportunities, helping the next generation of pilots earn their wings.

For questions or additional information, interested parties may contact the Aerospace Museum

of California Scholarship Coordinator at Scholarship@AerospaceCA.org.

The Aerospace Museum of California encourages educators, parents, aviation mentors, and community members to share this opportunity with aspiring pilots.

About the Aerospace Museum of California

The Aerospace Museum of California is dedicated to preserving the history of aviation and aerospace while inspiring future generations through education, outreach, and hands-on experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). ★

Kindergarten Roundup

Twin Rivers Unified School District News Release

MCCLELLAN, CA (MPG) - Twin Rivers Unified School District invites families of incoming Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten students to its upcoming Kindergarten Roundup event.

This year, events were held on two separate dates, Jan. 29 and Feb. 28. Kindergarten Roundup provides families with important information on Transitional Kindergarten

and Kindergarten programs, assistance with enrollment, and guidance on how to support a smooth transition from home to school for their young learners.

For families who missed the first Kindergarten Roundup on Jan. 29, there’s still another chance to learn about kindergarten enrollment. The second event will take place 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 at Castori Elementary School, 1801 South Ave., Sacramento.

To enroll in Transition

Kindergarten, TK, your child must be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2026. To enroll in kindergarten, your child must be 5 years old on or by Sept. 1, 2026.

For more information, visit: www.trusd.net/Academics/Programs/Early-Childhood-Education-ECE/Kindergarten-Roundup/index.html.

To RSVP, contact Zenobia J. Gerald, director of communications, Twin Rivers Unified School District at zenobia.gerald@trusd.net. ★



California’s Nursing Shortage Will Not Fix Itself

We Need to Build the Pipeline

By Heather Brown, Dean, College of Health Sciences, California Northstate University

California’s nursing shortage is not a future problem. It is here, unevenly distributed, quietly worsening, and increasingly difficult to solve with piecemeal solutions.

Across the state, healthcare leaders have experienced a significant and growing shortage of registered nurses, nurse anesthetists, and nursing faculty for years. While some regions appear adequately staffed on paper, much of the state, particularly rural and Northern California, are heavily impacted by these shortages. By 2033, California is projected to need 61,000 additional registered nurses to meet demand.

What is often missing from this conversation is the question of how we build the workforce, not just for today, but for the next generation of care.

At California Northstate University (CNU), we believe the answer lies in designing healthcare education differently: intentionally, collaboratively, and with community needs at the center.

California Northstate University was founded by clinicians with a simple premise: healthcare education should directly support the communities it serves. Today, our

university brings undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs together under one roof, allowing students and faculty across medicine, pharmacy, psychology, dentistry, nursing, and the sciences to collaborate from the very beginning of their training.

Collaboration matters because healthcare does not happen in silos. Neither should education.

In January 2025, California Northstate University launched its Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program specifically to help meet regional workforce demand. In its first year alone, the university has committed more than \$600,000 in nursing scholarships, an average of \$18,000 per qualifying student annually, to help offset the financial barriers many nursing students face.

These barriers have grown in recent years as changes to federal loan programs have treated nursing differently from other professional healthcare degrees; this increases the financial burden on students entering one of the most essential fields in our healthcare system. At a time when California needs nurses more than ever, that dynamic deserves attention, and action.

Increasing the number of nursing students is only part of the solution.

A critical and often overlooked constraint is the shortage of nursing faculty. Across the country,

qualified applicants are turned away from nursing programs each year not because of lack of interest, but because there are not enough educators to teach them. Without faculty, the pipeline narrows, no matter how great the need.

That is why California Northstate University is actively assessing future program growth, including the development of graduate nursing programs focused on education and leadership. A Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) pathway that prepares nurse educators and academic leaders is not just an academic expansion; it is a workforce strategy. The strategy recognizes that the sustainability of nursing depends on those willing and able to teach the next generation.

Our broader approach is equally intentional. With undergraduate pre-med pathways and a BS-MD Honors Track and professional degrees in medicine, pharmacy, psychology, dentistry, and now nursing, California Northstate University is structured to move students from the classroom to the bedside. In a connected, collaborative environment students learn early what it means to work as part of a healthcare team, because that is how care is delivered in the real world.

California’s healthcare challenges are complex, and no single institution can solve them



Dr. Heather Brown. Courtesy pjphoto

alone. But universities have a responsibility to respond, not just by producing graduates, but by building systems that meet real workforce needs, anticipate future gaps, and lower barriers for those willing to serve.

The nursing shortage will

not resolve itself. It will require investment, innovation, and a willingness to rethink how we educate healthcare professionals.

At California Northstate University, that work is already underway. ★

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THE RIO LINDA NEWS to Advertise

DWR Finalizes Best Practices to Address Subsidence

Department of Water Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Local groundwater agencies are getting a new resource to add to their water management toolkit – the Best Management Practices for Land Subsidence document newly released by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Finalized after months of development and a robust public review process, the document will serve as a guide for groundwater managers on the basics of subsidence, how to best manage it and available technical assistance.

Subsidence, or the sinking of land, is caused by various factors including excessive groundwater pumping. It is a long-standing water challenge in California and has caused permanent damage to canals, pipelines, roads and homes across the state. In 2025, Department of Water Resources released two reports concluding that subsidence has restricted the amount of water delivered to communities through California’s primary water storage and delivery systems – the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project.

The reports also cite that the impacts under California’s changing climate are expected to increase if excessive groundwater pumping continues, underlining the need for state and local officials to work together to protect the infrastructure that millions of Californians depend on for a reliable water supply.

“The effects of subsidence are reducing water supply reliability, jeopardizing public safety, and costing Californians hundreds of millions of dollars annually in damage repairs,” said Paul Gosselin, Department of Water Resources Deputy Director of Sustainable Water Management.

“History shows that California’s local groundwater agencies have done a great job implementing strategies from previous best management practices released from the Department and we look forward to achieving the same outcome when it comes to subsidence.”



California Department of Water Resources’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Office installs new equipment to enhance the monitoring and understanding of land subsidence in California. The newly installed GPS station and remote sensing calibration equipment will be firmly anchored into the ground to ensure precise positioning and detect vertical movement of the Earth’s surface. Photo by Andrew Nixon / Department of Water Resources

Today’s document helps meet objectives set by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to avoid or minimize current and future impacts of subsidence. Subsidence has been recorded in California for over 100 years, and its impacts vary across the state. The types of infrastructure that have been damaged as a result of subsidence or are at risk include water conveyance, flood control systems, roads, bridges, utilities and groundwater wells.

Despite some successful mitigation in certain areas, subsidence of 1 to 5 feet or more has been recorded in the Sacramento Valley and primarily the San Joaquin Valley over the past decade. If no action is taken to address subsidence, communities and statewide infrastructure will continue to be at risk.

In addition to this recent release, Department of Water Resources is actively exploring other methods to further



A drone view of newly installed equipment from the California Department of Water Resources’ Sustainable Groundwater Management Office to enhance the monitoring and understanding of land subsidence in California. The newly installed GPS station and remote sensing calibration equipment are firmly anchored into the ground to ensure precise positioning and detect vertical movement of the Earth’s surface. Photo by Nick Shockley / California Department of Water Resources

understand and respond to subsidence. These efforts include installing several subsidence monitoring stations throughout the state to track sinking in the San Joaquin Valley and

areas of Northern California, as well as expanding California’s data collection through a new satellite launched by NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation in 2025.

The new data collected, combined with historical data that Department of Water Resources currently uses, will help water managers and decision makers make better-informed decisions by detecting any shifts caused by subsidence that could impact key infrastructure and jeopardize public safety.

Close management of California’s groundwater resources and subsidence is needed more than ever to protect water infrastructure that communities rely on now and in the future as we adapt to the ongoing challenges caused by climate change and extreme weather events. Department of Water Resources will continue to deliver the latest data, tools, and assistance to ensure that local agencies have the knowledge and resources to manage their groundwater basins for long-term sustainability.

For more information, follow Department of Water Resources on X or Facebook. ★

RCRC Installs 2026 Officers and Recognizes Rural Leadership Award Recipients



Rural County Representatives of California 2026 Board Officers. Photo courtesy of Rural County Representatives of California

Rural County Representatives of California News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Wednesday, Jan. 21, the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) installed its 2026 Officers and presented its Rural Leadership Awards.

During a meeting of the Board of Directors, Assembly Member David Tangipa administered the official Oath of Office for the 2026 Rural County Representatives of California Officers. Mariposa County Supervisor Miles Menetrey was installed as Chair, Santa Barbara County Supervisor Bob Nelson as First Vice Chair, Napa County Supervisor Anne Cottrell as Second Vice Chair, and Modoc County Supervisor Geri Byrne as Immediate Past Chair. The newly installed 2026 Officers will lead the organization in championing policies on behalf of California’s rural counties.

“I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to lead RCRC as Board Chair in 2026,” said Menetrey. “Building on the solid groundwork laid by past leaders, I am eager to join with fellow board members in advancing policies that strengthen rural communities and expand their opportunities. With collaboration, persistence, and a shared vision, we will continue

striving for a prosperous and sustainable future for rural California.”

In the evening, at their annual reception in Sacramento, Rural County Representatives of California celebrated the new officers and presented its annual Rural Leadership Award to two public officials who have demonstrated exemplary leadership in rural issues and the unique challenges that rural communities face.

Assembly Member James Gallagher was honored as one of the two recipients of the Rural Leadership Award. Supervisor Byrne presented the award to the Assembly Member highlighting his steadfast advocacy on issues central to rural communities, including reducing insurance burdens, strengthening wildfire prevention and championing equitable infrastructure investment. His legislative work, such as efforts to support small volunteer fire departments, reflects a consistent commitment to addressing the unique needs and challenges faced by rural Californians.

“I’m truly honored to receive the RCRC Rural Leadership Award,” said Assembly Member James Gallagher. “I’ve been proud to be a voice for rural California in Sacramento, where too often one-size-fits-all policies overlook our unique needs, from dependable water supplies and

wildfire resilience to cutting red tape that burdens our farmers and small businesses. I share this honor with the hardworking families of the Third District and look forward to continuing my partnership with RCRC to ensure rural California is heard and represented where it counts.”

Assembly Member Gregg Hart also received the Rural Leadership Award, presented to him at the event by Supervisor Nelson. Assembly Member Hart was recognized for his consistent accessibility to rural counties and his clear understanding of their needs, informed by his experience as a former county supervisor and his work on key legislative committees. He has championed legislation that strengthens local government capabilities, from emergency remote meetings to waste recycling and enforcement tools, demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting rural communities.

“I’m honored to be recognized by the Rural County Representatives of California,” said Assembly Member Gregg Hart. “As a former Santa Barbara County Supervisor, I understand how decisions made in Sacramento directly impact rural counties. From preserving agricultural land to enhancing public safety, I remain committed to working with local leaders to improve quality of life in rural communities.” ★

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond Announces Literacy Moonshot



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announces literacy moonshot. Photo courtesy of California Department of Education

California Department of Education News Release

CALIFORNIA (MPG) - State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced his literacy moonshot, a five-year plan to close the third-grade literacy gap. The plan contains key strategies that are proven to improve literacy and would represent the most significant investment and the first long-term plan for literacy in recent California history. The plan seeks to support all California students to achieve literacy by third grade.

Superintendent Thurmond’s literacy moonshot includes funding for dyslexia screening; high-impact tutoring, which has been shown by recent research from Stanford University to boost both achievement and attendance; family engagement; and specialized training and coaching

to support those who teach students to read.

The plan also includes legislation sponsored by Superintendent Thurmond to make attending kindergarten mandatory for all five-year-olds across the state. This effort aligns with Superintendent Thurmond’s call to expand funding for the California Community Schools Partnership Program, which helps schools connect students and families to resources for health, mental health, and social services.

Superintendent Thurmond and the California Department of Education (CDE) are pursuing resources to implement the literacy moonshot with the Governor and the Legislature. For several years, California has made investments to improve literacy and has seen modest, steady growth in literacy rates as a result. California has never funded a comprehensive statewide plan as other states have, many of which have seen dramatic boosts in literacy as the result of a statewide, comprehensive approach.

Superintendent Thurmond and the California Department of Education intend to work with schools, community-based organizations, advocacy groups and parent organizations to carry out and measure impacts of the plan. ★

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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



For forty years the city of Sacramento has had a love affair with the Sacramento Kings basketball team, and a 12-35 record halfway through the 2025-26 season is not likely to change that. The fans in Sacramento truly know the definition of loyalty, and although there is much to be concerned about, faithfulness seems to be ubiquitous in River City.

A recent 4-game winning streak left me somewhat amazed at the euphoria it created despite nearly the worst record in the NBA this season.

The checker at the supermarket smiled from ear to ear when he saw my Kings jacket and couldn't stop talking about the multiple wins in a row. The same thing occurred in my local bank, and even the person at the Starbucks drive through had an encouraging word for the hometown club.

Yes, the Kings are a part of the fabric that makes up a smorgasbord of people in the capitol city and win or lose these fans are here to stay.

As the Kings have embarked on a 7-game road trip, the losing ways have once again surfaced, and the 139-116 loss to the Detroit Pistons brought back the grim reminder that there is much to be corrected with the current team.

The Kings were led in scoring by none other than Malik Monk with 19 points and a surprising 3 blocks to lead the team in that category as well. Not long ago demoted to the bench inexplicably for 3 games, coach Christie has been awakened by chants from the hometown fans calling for Monk to play, and many are asking the question, why was he on the bench to start with? Well, that is not the only conundrum, as Domantas Sabonis has been asked to come off the bench in lieu of rookie Maxime Raynaud, ostensibly as they continue to monitor his knee that kept him sidelined for 13 consecutive games.

The question most asked is why are the rotations so frenetic, and is there any method to this madness?

There is plenty of talent on this team to go around but finding the right amount of playing time for each player and having a core group on the court that can find

a rhythm has been seemingly absent this entire season.

I believe fans are hungry for some consistency, and quite likely the players are probably there as well.

Without question, anything resembling the playoffs seems to be a pipe dream this season, but when I hear fans talk about the aspect of tanking for the sake of a better draft choice, I draw the line.

If the coaching staff and ownership wants to focus on playing the younger players this year, I'm fine with that, but the idea that moves are intentionally being made to lose games is contrary to anything I believe the city of Sacramento wants to see.

I'm convinced every fan wants to see 100% effort, and it's entirely possible we'll see another winning streak if that's the case.

Not lost in all of this is the question of 2-time all star and rebounding champ Domantas Sabonis. Word out of the Kings camp is that Sabonis is on the trade market, and I have to question the logic in that.

When Sabonis arrived, the Kings had not had a real center since the departure of Demarcus Cousin's, and no one has exemplified the spirit of basketball more than the effervescent Domantas Sabonis. Add to that his production on the court, leading the NBA in both rebounding and double-doubles year over year, and it begs the question, why would you want to trade one of the best centers in basketball.

I have heard the flip side that says, look what we can get for him, but have you looked at the result of trades the Kings have been involved with? Remember just one year ago the Kings sent one of the premier point guards in the NBA to San Antonio so that we could suit up Zach Lavine.

There is a lot to like about Zach Lavine, but losing DeAaron Fox immediately changed the face of the franchise and not in a good way.

So, stay tuned Kings fans because there is still much to root about, and I for one have not lost faith!

All the best! ★

Newsom Wants to Overhaul State Oversight of California Schools



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Gov. Gavin Newsom dropped a brief and vaguely worded section into his State of the State address earlier this month, suggesting an overhaul of how California's vast public education system is managed.

"It's long overdue that we modernize the management of our educational system," Newsom said, "and so in the budget I'll be submitting tomorrow, I'm proposing that we unify the policymaking by the State Board of Education and the Department of Education, allowing the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to align our education policies from early childhood through college."

The budget's passage on this was longer, but still failed to explicitly say what Newsom had in mind.

The proposal cited two reports that bemoaned the multiple, often overlapping and sometimes competitive, state and local entities that govern the schools. One was California's so-called Master Plan for Education, published in 2002, and the other was from Policy Analysis for California Education, or PACE, a multi-university think tank, that had been issued just weeks earlier.

The budget proposed to "move oversight authority of the management of" the state Department of Education and local districts under the California Board of Education.

Thus, without saying so directly, Newsom would strip the elected state superintendent of schools of managerial authority over the state Department of Education, relegating the officeholder to an ombudsman or advisor. Management would be vested in the Board of Education, which is appointed by the governor, and an appointed executive director.

"These changes will strengthen governance of California's education system to provide coherence and meaningful accountability to address the needs of students, parents, teachers, school staff, and administrators," the budget proposal declared.

The current superintendent, former state legislator Tony Thurmond, complained that he was not consulted about what would be a major overhaul of responsibility for a system that serves nearly 6 million students and is the largest single portion of the state budget.

"This governance proposal doesn't establish any structures proven to move the needle on student outcomes," Thurmond, who is running for governor, said, "and instead shifts authority to implement TK-12 education programs away from the official who California voters have elected to lead our state's public schools."

It's apparent that Newsom's administration had been laying the groundwork for the power shift — or power grab — long before the State of the State address. The PACE report issued in December was part of the process. It called for exactly what Newsom proposes.

"California's education governance system is a complex network of agencies and entities designed to serve the most diverse and expansive TK-12 population in the United States," the PACE report declared. "This system incorporates state, regional, and local levels of authority, each tasked with specific responsibilities and oversight. At its core, the structure seeks to balance statewide education goals with local control and accountability."

"However, its complexity often results in overlapping responsibilities, fragmented authority, and challenges in ensuring streamlined decision-making."

PACE issued a statement backing the change from Michael Kirst, the state's foremost academic authority on education and architect of the school finance overhaul, the Local Control Funding Formula enacted in 2012 under then-Gov. Jerry Brown.

Kirst called it "a new vision and a dramatic overhaul" that would address a 19th century governance structure.

"The lack of fundamental change since then has hindered education progress," he said.

Politics aside, Newsom's proposal would streamline governance that is now opaque and fragmented, and shields the system's many points of authority from accountability. However, by vesting almost total authority in the governor and his or her appointees, it will be more difficult for a governor to escape accountability if educational achievement, which now languishes, doesn't markedly improve.

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

About Claiming Social Security Early and Investing It



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am a 63-year-old single lady, and I have questions regarding Social Security "early retirement," though I will still be working full time.

I know there is a maximum allowable income limit and, if I exceed that, I will need to return probably 2/3 of my received Social Security benefit. I'm thinking about taking those early SS benefits (about \$1,400 per month) and putting them in my high yield savings or CD where I can gain the interest on it and have it stay "liquid" so I can return what I need to. My current interest rate is 3.65% on the savings, and over 4.25% on CD, with options for 3,6,9 mos. or longer- but I want to be able to access the money to pay Social Security back at the end of the year. Can you advise me on this? **Signed: Still Working but Wondering**

Dear Still Working: I commend you, for investigating your options before claiming early Social Security benefits while still working. FYI, the 2026 annual earnings limit for those collecting early SS benefits is \$24,480 (changes annually). If your 2026 work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. The annual earnings limit lasts until

you reach your full retirement age (FRA), and the limit is about 2.5 times higher during the year you attain FRA.

FYI, when you apply for benefits, Social Security will ask if you are working and, if so, how much you make. Using that info, they will evaluate whether you can take benefits now and, if so, how many months they can actually pay your benefits. For example, if your projected 2026 earnings are, say, \$100,000, you would be about \$75,000 over the annual limit which means that half of that (\$37,500) would need to be paid back to SS. Since your monthly SS benefit at your current age would be about \$1,400 per month, Social Security will say that you are temporarily ineligible to collect early benefits because you cannot pay back within one year what you would owe for exceeding the limit. In other words, they won't pay your SS benefits just yet because your earnings are too high and they do not want to overpay benefits which you will only need to return.

For additional perspective, if your expected 2026 earnings are less (say about \$50,000) — that means you would be about \$25,000 over the limit — about half of that (about \$12,500) would need to be paid back to SS. In that event, SSA would tell you they will withhold 9 months of your SS payments in advance and pay your benefits for only 3 months. This because the overpayment, with your current benefit of about \$1,400, could be recovered by withholding your SS payments for 9 months. They do not want to intentionally overpay your SS benefits.

So, despite your best repayment intentions, Social

Security will not favor intentionally overpaying your benefits. Historically, overpayment of benefits due to exceeding the annual earnings limit has been a notoriously difficult issue for the Social Security Administration. So, to get your early SS benefits while you are working full time, you would likely need to lie about your anticipated 2026 earnings on your application for SS benefits, which we strongly discourage. Keep in mind that this all changes when you reach your FRA (67), because the earning limit goes away entirely when you reach FRA (and the limit goes up by about 2.5 times in the year you attain full retirement age). So, depending on your earnings level, you may wish to either wait until your full retirement age, or until you stop working full time, to claim SS.

Now, as for the general idea of taking early benefits and investing them, many have said they wish to do that, and we understand that logic. Our caution is that it requires religious discipline to put the SS money into a higher yield investment vehicle to accomplish the goal of beating the SS increase realized when you wait to claim. Many who try it succumb to the temptation to use the invested funds for emergency needs (and sometimes non-emergency needs). I offer this only as something to be aware of, as some have shared that they failed in their investment objectives with their Social Security money.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★



Minnesota Officials Should Call Off The Mob

occupation." This mindset is why the elected leadership in the state has justified and encouraged a low-grade anti-ICE insurgency. It doesn't involve guns or bombs, but other tools of coercion and intimidation meant to make it impossible for the federal government to enforce the nation's immigration laws in the state.

ICE officers are operating among a hostile population, significant elements of which consider them an occupying force and are determined to expel them. This is "Free Palestine" for the anti-ICE crowd.

Apologists for the agitators say, as Ilhan Omar has maintained, that they are only recording ICE officers and holding them accountable. This is nonsense. The activists almost always have cameras, true, but they are obstructing ICE vehicles, yelling at ICE officers and, if the opportunity arises, trying to "de-arrest" people.

The point of all of this is to create an atmosphere of violent intimidation and make every step ICE takes in the city as painful as possible.

If this is the work of "legal observers," as the euphemism has it, the Proud Boys at the Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville in 2017 were just "historic preservationists."

Jacob Frey says that the activists are protecting their city and looking out for their neighbors. In no other context, though, would the mayor make this claim.

If, say, the FBI arrests gangbangers in Minneapolis, it's not an assault on the

Twin Cities -- in fact, the opposite. As for neighbors, anyone arrested for any crime is someone's neighbor. Just because the guy stealing hub caps or dealing drugs lives in a neighborhood doesn't mean he gets legal immunity, or his neighbors get to try to prevent law enforcement from going after him.

Often, the "neighbors" that the activists are supposedly protecting, by the way, are other activists who have interfered with ICE and been detained.

In Trump's first term, "the resistance" was an over-the-top term that applied to the fervent opposition to Trump, including massive street protests that were obnoxious, but lawful. In Minnesota today, "the resistance" is a more apt phrase.

That's why the Insurrection Act is in play. It is an antiquated law with a vague trigger, allowing the president to use active-duty military forces and federalized National Guard troops to quell "unlawful obstructions, combinations or assemblages."

If Trump goes there, it would be a big deal. It would be better, first, to try to provide more protection for ICE officers with other law-enforcement assets and, better still, if Minnesota could turn off the anti-ICE insurgency.

Jacob Frey famously told ICE to "get the f*** out of Minneapolis." Now, he should tell the agitators to get the f*** off the streets.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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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 FBNF2025-09235
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 Zuhail 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) "Nutrizize" 9709 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95827. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 30, 2025
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
NUTRIZIZE 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
MODERN 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
Hashmatullah Nazimi and Qandagha Omarzai, 2740 Fulton Avenue #214, Sacramento, CA 95821 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Brothers Walk" 2740 Fulton Avenue #214, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 12, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
BROTHERS 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-00396
David Lee William Newman, 4120 Douglas Boulevard, Suite 306-145, Granite Bay, CA 95746 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Artifex Customs/Artifex Crafted" 5940 Rosebud Lane Suite 5, Sacramento, CA 95841. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 12, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
ARTIFEX 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-00063
Deanna Garcia, 9401 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95826 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "HomeBotLife" 9401 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95826. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 5, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
HOME 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-00140
Tankersley Construction, Inc.,

11415 Sunrise Gold Circle Unit 1, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Tankersley Build Co" 11415 Sunrise Gold Circle Unit 1, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 6, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
TANKERSLEY 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-00520
Harbans Ranu, 105 Sprig Court, Singh, 6401 Feliciter Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95610 are doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Prestige Senior Care" 6600 Cowboy Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95621. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 15, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
PRESTIGE 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-00504
The Moore Foundation LLC, 836 57th Street Suite 519, Sacramento, CA 95819 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Moore House of Hope" 6811 Bowling Drive, Sacramento, CA 95823. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 14, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
MOORE 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2025-08864
North Valley Power LLC, 4640 Northgate Boulevard Suite 115, Sacramento, CA 95834 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Switch" 4640 Northgate Boulevard Suite 115, Sacramento, CA 95834. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 8, 2025
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
SWITCH 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-00518
Brooke Bowen, 3308 Churchill Road, Sacramento, CA 95864 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Brookie Bee's Childcare & Preschool" 3308 Churchill Road, Sacramento, CA 95864. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 15, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
BROOKE 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-00083
Mohammed Ahmed, 202 Gainsborough Circle, Folsom, CA 95630 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Rebel Hosting" 202 Gainsborough Circle, Folsom, CA 95630. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 5, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
REBEL 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-00335
Peter Lawrence, 6449 Sunnyfield Way, Sacramento, CA 95823 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "PRI Consulting" 6449 Sunnyfield Way, Sacramento, CA 95823. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 12, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
PRI 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-00372
Karla Eriksen Hurd, PO Box 660214, Sacramento, CA 95866 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Key Property/KPS Commercial" 1060 Los Molinos Way, Sacramento, CA 95864. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 12, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
KEY 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-00534
Fakhria Baqizadeh, 5417 Palm Avenue #25, Sacramento, CA 95841 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Beauty Land Makeup" 5417 Palm Avenue #25, Sacramento, CA 95841. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 16, 2026
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
BEAUTY 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2025-09310
Stan M Jennings, PO Box 1296, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Spirit Memory Awakening" 2118 Forest Lake Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 26, 2025
Publish: Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 2026
SPIRIT 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-00551
Rosemarie Martell, 4707 Meyer Way, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Farmers Wife" 5701 Winding Way, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 16, 2026
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026
FARMERS 2-20-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2025-09196
Tawny Marinoble, 1545 El Camino Verde Drive, Lincoln, CA 95648 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Avera" 1545 El Camino Verde Drive, Lincoln, CA 95648. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 22, 2025
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026
AVERA 2-20-26



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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY KIMMY HILGOLD

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

BUCKS??

OF COURSE, BUCKS!

MAW, FOREHEAD KISSES.

I WAS HOPE, SINCE YOU'RE A WITCH, I COULD JUST GIVE YOU MY FIRSTBORN.

FIRST, I'VE RAISED ENOUGH KIDS, SECOND?

IT FEELS LIKE YOU WANNA HURT MY FEELINGS.

AW, HAW, IT'S SO CUTE YOU BELIEVE I THINK YOU HAVE FEELINGS.

I DO NOT WANT ANYTHING THAT'S HALF YOU.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Back of chair is different. 2. Box is different. 3. Collar is missing. 4. Burner is missing. 5. Refrigerator handle is lower. 6. Stove hood is wider.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

GRIN & BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

A	G	A	R		L	S	D		L	O	V	E			
R	I	V	E		P	U	C	E		T	O	D	A	Y	
I	R	I	S		A	N	O	N		O	V	I	N	E	
L	O	V	E	C	R	A	F	T		D	E	N	S		
				W	H	A	R	F		L	O	B			
B	I	N	N	E	D				W	Y	S	I	W	Y	G
R	N	A		R	E	V	E	R	E		T	A	E	L	
A	D	U	L	T		O	D	E		C	E	N	T	O	
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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • LOVE'S IN THE AIR

CLUES

ACROSS

1. Biology lab supply

5. Aldous Huxley's drug of choice

8. *Certain Courtney

12. Tear violently

13. Color of a bruise

14. Al Roker's show

15. Pupil control

16. Any minute, to Shakespeare

17. Sheep-like

18. *H. P. of science fiction fame

20. Hibernation stations

21. Boat station

22. Tennis shot

23. Packed in container

26. User-friendly interface, acr.

30. Genetic info carrier, acr.

31. *Love unquestioningly

34. Equal to 1.3 ounces in Asia

35. Not a minor

37. Poem addressed to certain subject

38. Hundred, in Italian

39. Nothing

40. Relating to clone

42. Division, abbr.

43. Sloughed off skin

45. Fluffy dessert

47. All good things come to this?

48. Between Oct's and Nov's

50. _____ Verde National Park

52. *B-52s' "little old place" (2 words)

56. Singing femme fatale

57. Deed hearing

58. Reverberated sound

59. Blue-Green scum, pl.

60. Misery cause

61. Actress Perlman

62. Scheme

63. Right coast time

64. Made by tailor

DOWN

1. Seed cover

2. Biking helmet manufacturer

3. Tel _____, Israel

4. #64 Across, redone

5. Like 1969 landing

6. Laugh with contempt

7. Fender-bender damage

8. *a.k.a. hickey (2 words)

9. Norse deity

10. "Off The Wall" shoe

11. Needle hole

13. Macy's Thanksgiving offering

14. Commotions

19. Silica variety

22. NaOH

23. Solder together

24. Dewey Decimal Classification, a.k.a. Relative

25. Pleasant Island

26. Small songbird

27. Harry's and Hermione's magic tools

28. Bigfoot's cousins

29. *Hand cover, with love

32. *Lemming relative, or anagram of love

33. Tokyo, formerly

36. *Couch for two

38. Lumps in liquid

40. Knave

41. Unit of electric current

44. Absurd

46. Theater guides

48. Nutritious beans

49. Black tie one

50. Grain grinder

51. "Cogito, _____ sum"

52. Stud site

53. Occasional heart condition

54. Prepare to swallow

55. Riddle without solution

56. Tree juice

CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

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

Raley’s Marks 40 Years of Hunger Relief

New grant-funding round supports critical infrastructure needs at food banks

**Raley’s Food for Families
News Release**

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - For 40 years, Raley’s Food For Families has been a steadfast partner in the fight against hunger. Since 1986, the organization has donated more than 81 million dollars and 70 million pounds of wholesome, nutritious food to its existing network of 12 Feeding America food bank partners and their subsequent network of more than 2,400 agencies. Now, as Raley’s Food For Families marks this significant anniversary, the organization is demonstrating its long-term dedication with the launch of its renewed 2026 Infrastructure Grant Program with applications open now through Feb. 2. The grant initiative builds on immediate hunger relief efforts by investing in infrastructure that enables sustained, meaningful impact for years to

come. “For four decades, Food For Families has been privileged to donate millions of pounds of food and to provide support to hungry families across our communities. This milestone is a moment to celebrate that impact and recommit to the long-term work of food security,” said Julie Teel, president of Food For Families Board of Directors. “By focusing on infrastructure, we’re strategically making funds available so these vital community partners can strengthen their ability to get food to those who need it most.” The new grant cycle builds on the success of the inaugural 2025 Infrastructure Grant Program, which distributed just over \$340,000 to support critical needs identified by food banks and their partner agencies. The first funding round made a significant impact, including funds for refrigeration units, box trucks, forklifts,

and pallet jacks, along with many smaller infrastructure items, such as shelving units. “These investments directly translate to increased food access for families by allowing food bank staff and volunteers to work more efficiently, ultimately serving more people with the same resources. For example, a single pallet jack can save 76 manual trips per truckload,” said Teel. “The grant funding is a tangible example of the profound commitment Raley’s has made to the communities it serves.” The 2026 Infrastructure Grant Program will prioritize grants that directly increase food access rather than focus on food education. Eligible applicants include partner agencies, food pantries, and closets affiliated with Raley’s Food For Families’ Feeding America food bank partners including Alameda County Community Food Bank, Central California Food Bank, Food Bank of



Raley’s Food For Families is celebrating 40 years of food bank donations and doubling down on its commitment to helping their community with the renewed 2026 Infrastructure Grant Program opening this month. Photo courtesy of Raley’s Food for Families

Contra Costa & Solano, Food Bank for Monterey County, Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Feeding the Foothills, Redwood Empire Food Bank, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, Second Harvest Silicon Valley, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County, Second Harvest of The Greater Valley and Yolo Food Bank As a way to celebrate and recognize its long-term food bank partner network, Raley’s will also highlight the work of one partner food bank each month throughout 2026. For more information about the 2026 Infrastructure Grant Program, including application deadlines and specific requirements, food bank partners should reach out to their Feeding America food bank partner. “We’re honored to mark 40 years of food security leadership and real-world impact,” said Teel. “Raley’s Food For Families has remained committed in its mission to alleviate hunger by providing nutritious food to those in need. The organization’s longevity reflects a deep-rooted belief that food security is foundational to community health and opportunity.” ★

Superintendent’s Update

**By Steve Martinez, Superintendent,
Twin Rivers Unified**

To Staff and our Twin Rivers Families,

How many times have you heard that learning is a journey? It is, but as all of us know, that journey is rarely smooth. It’s a path of stops, starts, and unexpected turns that each student navigates at their own pace. With National School Counseling Week (Feb. 2–6) approaching, I’ve been thinking about the people who help our students navigate those turns. Our District is supported by 72 dedicated school counselors -- 64 serving at our school sites and 8 at the District Office -- who work every day to turn our students’ challenges into growth. The 2026 National School Counseling Week theme is “School Counselors Amplify Student Success,” focusing on their impact on academic, career, and social-emotional development. We often see progress in a grade or a finished project. But other days, it’s much quieter. It shows up when a student finally speaks up to ask a question they’ve been holding onto. It’s there when they push through the frustration of a task that just isn’t clicking, or when they decide to try one more time after a setback. These are the moments where our counselors truly shine. Their work goes far beyond academics. They help students process moments of feeling overwhelmed and help them regain their footing. Whether they are guiding a

student through a conflict with a friend or giving them the tools to handle pressure, they provide the steady, supportive presence our students need when the world around them starts to feel a little too loud and distracting. Please join me in recognizing our dedicated counselors and the many adults who support our students in countless ways. Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping every student discover what they are truly capable of accomplishing. **#TRUSD Proud Alert!** Congratulations to educator Sarah Lanning! She has been nominated for National Life Group’s 2025-26 LifeChanger of the Year award, which recognizes and rewards the very best K-12 educators and school district employees across the country who are making a meaningful difference in the lives of students. Ms. Lanning is a former Foothill High School math teacher and currently serves as a Content Area Instructional Coach. Since 2011, LifeChanger of the Year has recognized and rewarded more than 8,600 K-12 teachers, administrators, and school employees in more than 2,300 school districts. The program has awarded over \$850,000 in cash prizes to winners and their schools for making a significant difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence, and leadership. **With much appreciation, Steve Martinez, Ed.D. Superintendent, Twin Rivers Unified**

Defendant Sentenced for Felony Insurance Fraud

**Sacramento County
District Attorney’s
Office News Release**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Jordan Roy Lester pled to felony insurance fraud and was sentenced to 270 days county jail, two years formal probation and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$232,829 to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and \$127,791 to the State Compensation Insurance Fund. Lester will also lose his service and pension credit for the years the fraud was committed. Lester was a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer assigned to the Central Division. On July 11, 2021, Lester told his superiors he had been injured on the job. The injury was deemed not significant, and Lester was not placed off duty. During that time, Lester purchased property in the Quincy area. Lester traveled there on his days off and worked

on his property. When Lester did not get the transfer to Quincy he requested, he began communicating with a former California Highway Patrol officer about getting a medical retirement and offered to pay the retired officer for his assistance. A medical retirement would result in 85 percent of his salary for life, tax free. In January 2022, Lester saw a doctor for the injury he claimed to have sustained almost six months earlier. He was placed on medical leave based on his statements to his physician. While on medical leave, Lester told his treating physician that standing, sitting and simple household chores caused significant pain. Lester was placed off duty due to his complaints of pain and his stated limited physical abilities. An investigation by California Highway Patrol’s Internal Affairs revealed that Lester was

far exceeding the limitations he claimed to both the California Highway Patrol and his treating physicians. While collecting workers’ compensation benefits, Lester was working on his property, cutting down trees, stacking firewood, operating heavy machinery and engaging in heavy physical activity. An independent medical examiner saw Lester in February 2024 and opined that Lester was able to perform all work duties and that Lester exaggerated his complaints. Workers’ compensation fraud of this type not only has an immediate financial impact on the employer, but it also causes increases in premiums which impact employers over the long-term. Fraudulent claims clog up the system, delaying medical care and financial assistance that legitimately injured workers deserve. ★

Society for the Blind Receives \$25,000 from Kaiser

Funds will help expand services for youth and working-age adults losing vision

**Society for the Blind
News Release**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Kaiser Permanente has granted \$25,000 to Society for the Blind in Sacramento to expand its programs for youth and working-age adults with vision loss across the region so they have the blindness skills, academic assistance and job-readiness training to be successful and independent. “People with vision loss have an unemployment rate of nearly 70%, and 80% of our program participants are low-income, so workforce preparedness is essential to ensuring they gain financial stability and independence,” said Shari Roeseler, executive director, Society for the Blind. “We are grateful to Kaiser Permanente for recognizing the

important gap we can fill by ensuring people with vision loss can find and maintain employment.” Society for the Blind provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship, and access to tools to maintain independence for more than 5,000 youth, working-age adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year. Kaiser Permanente funding will help Society for the Blind expand its Core Skills program that enrolls 100 to 200 new clients from across the region each year. The program works with clients ages 17 and up, offering training and assistance in searching for and applying for jobs online, creating a professional cover letter and resume, and mock interview sessions. Clients learn how to use assistive technologies to perform

work functions and to confidently explain their ability to do the job for which they are applying. Youth participants also learn appropriate dress for the workplace, social and interpersonal skills, budgeting and finance. “Kaiser Permanente partners with organizations in our community, like the Society for the Blind, to help promote economic opportunity and job readiness for those in need,” said Jay Robinson, senior vice president and area manager, Kaiser Permanente Sacramento and South Sacramento. “By investing in workforce development programs and training opportunities that lead to financial stability we are working to improve the overall health and well-being of the communities we serve.” For more than 70 years, Sacramento-based Society for

the Blind has continued to create innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Since 1954, Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers to a nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of Northern California. Learn more or donate: www.SocietyfortheBlind.org. Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care and is recognized as one of America’s leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans. Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente has a mission to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to

improve the health of its members and the communities it serves. Kaiser Permanente currently serves nearly 12.6 million members in eight states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal Permanente Medical Group physicians, specialists and team of caregivers. Expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery and world-class chronic disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education and the support of community health. For more information: about.kp.org. ★

Republic FC Bolsters Frontline with Striker Kyle Edwards



Kyle Edwards signed a new contract with Republic FC and will be added to the team’s roster pending league and federation approval. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Republic FC announced Jan. 15 that the Club has acquired forward Kyle Edwards from Hartford Athletic via transfer. Edwards has also signed a new contract with Republic FC and will be added to the team’s roster pending league and federation approval.

“Kyle is a proven goalscorer in our league who has shown he can make an impact when he steps on the pitch,” said Republic FC Head Coach Neill Collins. “We’re looking forward to bringing him on board and introducing him to our incredible fanbase.”

Edwards added, “I’m grateful for the opportunity to represent this amazing club and I can’t wait to get started.”

Edwards comes to the Indomitable City following a three-season stint in Hartford. His breakout came in 2025, when he led Athletic with 12 goals – a new club single-season record – while setting a league record with eight goals as a substitute. His strike rate of 0.95 goals per 90 minutes was the best mark by a player with at least 10 goals since 2020, earning him three Team of the Week selections. He also added three assists to help Hartford win its first trophy in the club’s history.

The 28-year-old forward was drafted

86th overall in the 2020 MLS SuperDraft by Houston Dynamo FC and spent his first two seasons with Rio Grande Valley FC, Dynamo’s reserve side in USL Championship. With RGV, he recorded six goals and two assists in 25 appearances. In 2022, he joined MLS NEXT Pro side Houston Dynamo 2 and in 13 appearances scored five goals and two assists. He also previously featured for USL League Two side Brazos Valley Cavalry FC in 2019 when he claimed a share of the Golden Boot with 14 goals.

Edwards’ college career took him to Ranger College and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Across his four seasons, he amassed 51 goals in 57 appearances.

On the international stage, Edwards has been a regular on the roster for the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Football Team, making over 30 appearances and adding six goals.

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. ★

Baron Championship Rings Named Official Partner of UC Davis Athletics

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - UC Davis Athletics has elevated its championship experience with the announcement of a new partnership with Baron Championship Rings as the Official Championship Ring Partner of UC Davis Athletics. The three-year agreement establishes Baron as the exclusive provider of championship rings for UC Davis Athletics, granting the company sole rights to use UC Davis Athletics marks on championship rings, Hall of Fame rings and any varsity ring program.

“Partnering with Baron Championship Rings allows us to celebrate Aggie Pride by honoring the achievements of our student-athletes, coaches and Hall of Fame members in a truly meaningful way,” said Dr. Heather Hunter, Executive Director, Aggie Varsity Club. “This partnership also gives our letterwinners, past and present, the opportunity to commemorate their UC Davis student-athlete experience with a varsity ring that reflects their commitment and legacy.”

As part of the partnership, Baron will collaborate closely with Aggie programs to design and produce custom pieces that reflect the pride and tradition of UC Davis Athletics, while also providing up to five complementary Hall of Fame rings each year to recognize inductees whose achievements have shaped the legacy of Aggie Athletics.

“Baron Championship Rings is incredibly proud to partner with UC Davis Athletics as their Official Championship Ring Provider,” said Kevin Kloostra, Baron Championship Rings Senior Account Executive. “The Aggies have a rich tradition of excellence, and we’re honored to help commemorate the achievements of their student-athletes with rings that celebrate their hard work, dedication and legacy. We look forward to creating meaningful pieces that will be treasured for years to come.”

Baron specializes in producing customized, highly crafted rings for collegiate and professional sports programs, with a process focused on storytelling, precision and the championship journey. Through this partnership, UC Davis student-athletes, coaches and Hall of Fame honorees will have access

to a collaborative design experience that highlights the values and history of Aggie Athletics.

The first programs to work with Baron under the new partnership will be men’s water polo and women’s volleyball, both of which captured Big West titles this fall. The Aggie men’s water polo team earned the Big West Tournament Championship, securing the conference crown with a dominant postseason run. At the same time, the women’s volleyball program claimed the Big West regular season title behind a historic year on the court. Each team will collaborate with Baron to design custom championship rings that reflect the unique identity of their program and celebrate the student-athletes who helped deliver conference titles to Davis. The ring design process will highlight the journey, achievements and traditions that define both championship seasons, setting the standard for future Aggie programs and earning their place in UC Davis Athletics history.

The agreement reflects UC Davis Athletics’ commitment to celebrating student-athlete success and the moments that define the Aggie experience on campus, in competition and throughout the alumni community.

About UC Davis Athletics:

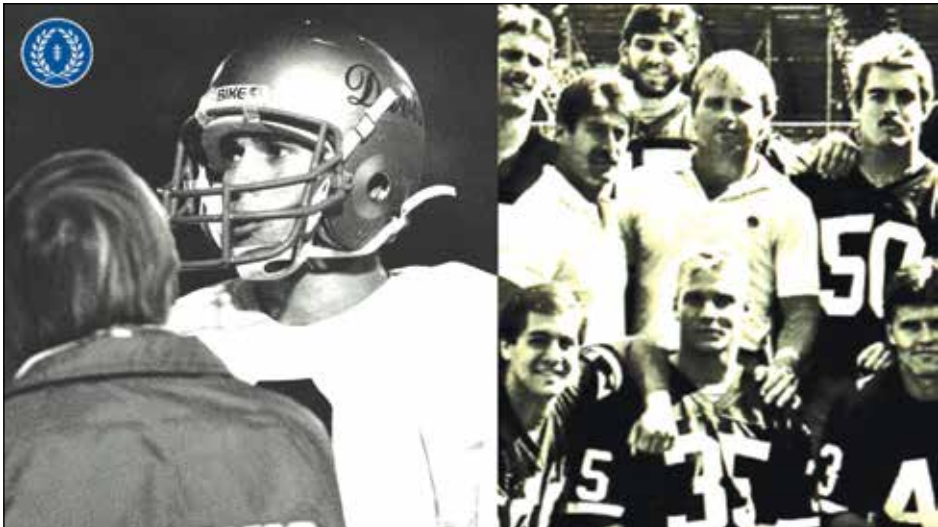
UC Davis, the No. 2 ranked public university by the Wall Street Journal, is home to 40,000 undergraduate students and 12,000 employees. Ranked #1 in Agriculture and Forestry as well as #1 in Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis is located in a true California college town nestled between world-class destinations 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.

About Baron® Championship Rings:

As a Championship-focused brand, Baron® Championship Rings is relentlessly committed to designing and crafting superior, story-driven products. We take pride in creating Championship Rings that are not only visually stunning but also represent the hard work and dedication of the teams and individuals who earn them.

Visit www.baronrings.com for more. ★

Former Aggies Named to Hall of Fame



A pair of former Aggies have joined the ranks of some of the best in the history of college football, with Chris Petersen and Gary Patterson both being named to the College Football Hall of Fame as part of its Class of 2026. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

UC Davis Athletics News Release

IRVING, TX (MPG) - A pair of former Aggies have joined the ranks of some of the best in the history of college football, with Cal Aggie Athletics Hall of Famer Chris Petersen and Gary Patterson both being named to the College Football Hall of Fame as part of its Class of 2026.

“The legacy of coaching and leadership from the UC Davis tree can be seen all over the football world,” said current head coach Tim Plough. “When someone refers to you as a “Davis Guy” you wear that as a badge of honor. You know that it means you’re a part of something bigger than you.”

“I have always had a great deal of respect and admiration for coach Patterson and coach Petersen has been instrumental in mentoring me in my coaching career. I’m excited to see them both recognized for their incredible careers.”

Petersen came to Davis in 1985, spending his final two seasons under center for the Aggies. Once his playing career wrapped up, the eventual multi-Coach of the Year honoree then transitioned to the sideline where he began his coaching career at Davis. From 1987-91, Petersen coached under College Football Hall of Famer Jim Sochor and Cal Aggie Athletics Hall of Famer Bob Foster.

The Aggie quarterback would then go on to have tremendous success at Boise State and Washington, going 147-38 over 14 seasons at those two programs. During that

stretch Petersen won 10 games or more ten times in all but four seasons led teams to seven conference titles, 14 bowl appearances and nine final AP Top 25 finishes, including three top five marks.

Patterson came to Davis early in his career, coaching the linebacker corps under coach Sochor in 1986. The lessons learned in Davis would eventually lead Patterson to Fort Worth, Texas and the TCU Horned Frogs where he would spend 22 years going 181-79 with 18 bowl appearances and a perfect 13-0 2010 season.

The Horned Frogs, led by Patterson, capped off their 2010 undefeated season by winning the 2011 Rose Bowl to go along with 11 bowl game victories that also included the 2010 Fiesta Bowl and 2024 Peach Bowl. Patterson also coached 21 First Team All-Americans and won six conference championships across three different conferences.

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. ★

Women’s Basketball Wins Third Straight

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

FLAGSTAFF, AZ (MPG) -

Sophomore guard Rubi Gray posted her first career double-double with a career-high tying 26 points and 11 rebounds, while Benthe Versteeg and Natalie Picton also finished in double figures, helping lead Sacramento State to its third-straight victory with a 78-59 win at Northern Arizona on Thursday, Jan. 15 in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The Hornets moved above the .500 mark with their ninth victory of the year, improving to 9-8 overall and 3-1 in Big Sky Conference play. The triumph gave Sacramento State its third, three-game winning streak of the season, while the three-straight wins in Big Sky play is the longest such streak since Feb. 8-15, 2024.

In winning three of their first four league games, the Hornets are off to their best conference start since they began the 2022-23 Big Sky campaign with four straight wins. Meanwhile, Sacramento State snapped a four-game skid in the series with the Lumberjacks, winning for only the ninth time in 31 chances in Flagstaff.

Led by a team-high 17 points from Naomi White, Northern Arizona fell to 6-12 overall and 2-3 in conference.

Gray’s 26-point outburst matched her career high set against Cal State Fullerton on Nov. 21, nabbing her fourth 20-point performance of the year while setting new career marks for rebounds and three-pointers made (six). Her 10 field goals for the game fell



The hot-shooting Hornets hit just over 49 percent from the field for the game and finished with a season-high 11 makes from beyond the arc. Photo by Jyanne Bautista, director of creative content, Sacramento State Athletics

just one shy of her career high in the category.

She was joined in double figures by Versteeg, who tied her season highs with 18 points and eight field goals while narrowly missing out on her third double-double of the year, finishing with nine rebounds to go with four assists.

Picton completed the double-digit trio, adding 14 points for her 12th double-digit scoring performance of the year — and her third straight — while adding five rebounds, three assists and swiping four balls to log her 14th game this season with multiple steals.

Freshman Jaety Mandaquit added a career-high six assists to go with three points and four rebounds, while junior Elizabeth Abiara added seven rebounds and a pair of blocks. Following a slow start that saw both teams struggle to find their shooting rhythm, the Hornets erased a four-point deficit with a 6-0 run that gave them their first lead of the night at 11-9 with 1:03 to play. The Lumberjacks drained a three-pointer just before the first quarter buzzer to regain the lead, but the advantage

would be short-lived.

Sacramento State opened the second quarter on a 10-0 run over the first 94 seconds of the period, building a nine-point lead that it would not relinquish. Northern Arizona got no closer than six points on its next possession following the run, but another burst — this a 12-3 run by the Hornets over the next four minutes — gave them a 15-point lead with 3:05 remaining and they never looked back.

A 13-point lead at half-time ballooned to as many as 20 points on a couple of occasions late in the third quarter and Sacramento State never allowed Northern Arizona to get closer than 13 points the rest of the way.

The hot-shooting Hornets hit just over 49 percent from the field for the game and finished with a season-high 11 makes from beyond the arc. Meanwhile, the defense was stout, holding the Lumberjacks to just under 35 percent for the game, 27 percent from three-point range overall, and outbounding the host side by a 49-24 count. ★

The Raley’s Companies Appoints Carol Barsotti as Chief Communications Officer

The Raley’s Companies News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Raley’s Companies today announced the appointment of Carol Barsotti as Chief Communications Officer, expanding her leadership role within the organization. Barsotti will assume responsibility for public relations, government affairs, and community impact as The Raley’s Companies continue to focus on transformation and sustainable growth.

“We are fortunate to have Carol as an integral part of our executive leadership team,” said Keith Knopf, President and CEO, The Raley’s Companies. “She is purpose-driven, creative, versatile, impactful and proven at developing and leading high-performing teams. Carol is the epitome of a servant leader, always willing to step up to support the needs of the team, company and community.”

Barsotti is also President of fieldTRUE, the nation’s leading farm-box subscription business, and will continue in this role moving forward. She is a member of The Raley’s Companies executive leadership team as well as a board member of Raley’s Food For Families. She will continue to report to Knopf with a strong connection to The Raley’s Companies Owner and Chairman, Mike Teel, and President of Food For Families, Julie Teel.

“Having such an accomplished leader assume these critical responsibilities positions us well for what’s ahead,” said Mike Teel, Owner and Chairman of The



Carol Barsotti, The Raley’s Companies Chief Communications Officer. Photo courtesy of the Raley’s Companies

Raley’s Companies. “As we continue our purpose driven transformation, I look forward to working closely with Carol to drive our mission of changing the way the world eats, one plate at a time.”

Carol brings deep expertise in public service and community impact. She holds a Master of Public Administration and Policy from American University and began her career working for the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. and California. Today, she continues her commitment to community impact as President of the Kathleen Barsotti Non-Profit for Sustainable Agriculture.

“Carol has already been a meaningful partner in growing support for Food For Families,” said Julie Teel, President of Food For Families. “Her partnership with me and the board has been significant in our ability to have an ever-increasing impact on supporting local food banks.”

“It’s a privilege to lead with purpose at the center of our strategy,” Barsotti said. “When we align

communications, policy and community engagement, we create impact that matters for our business and for the people we serve.”

The Raley’s Companies is a private, family-owned and purpose-driven retail company headquartered in West Sacramento, CA. Since our founding in 1935, our store operations have grown to include more than 200 locations across eight states and four Tribal Nations under 10 well-known banners: Raley’s, Bel Air, Nob Hill Foods, Raley’s O-N-E Market, Bashas’, Bashas’ Diné, Food City, AJ’s Fine Foods, Full Circle, and Farm Fresh To You. In addition, The Raley’s Companies bridges the divide between the physical and digital retail experiences through the operation of Fieldera and fieldTRUE. Built on a higher purpose, the organization and our more than 21,000 employees are committed to quality offerings, exceptional service and doing right by our team members, communities, and planet. To learn more, visit theraleyscompanies.com. ★

Bubba’s 33, Jaggers Fundraiser Benefits American Tinnitus Association Restaurants Donate 100% of Profits to Honor Late Founder Kent Taylor

Texas Roadhouse, Bubba’s 33, Jaggers News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Monday, Feb. 2, all Texas Roadhouse, Bubba’s 33 and Jaggers locations invite the public to a fundraiser to support the American Tinnitus Association (ATA). To honor the company’s late founder, Kent Taylor, the restaurants will donate 100% of all profits on Feb. 2 to the organization.

More than 26 million adults in the United States battle tinnitus. While commonly referred to as “ringing in the ears,” tinnitus can manifest many different perceptions of sound, including buzzing, hissing, whistling, swooshing, and clicking. Tinnitus is the perception of sound when no actual external noise is present.

“For many years, Texas Roadhouse and Roadie Nation have been steadfast partners of the American Tinnitus Association, and we are deeply grateful for their continued support,” says CEO Patrick A. Lynch. “This partnership represents the very best of philanthropy, and I am personally thankful for their long-standing commitment to the tinnitus community. Dine-to-Donate, as part of Tinnitus Awareness Week, powerfully amplifies our mission by helping fund research, expanding education, and reminding the millions of people living with tinnitus that they are not alone.”

“Supporting ATA allows the Texas Roadhouse brands to continue the legacy of our founder, Kent Taylor, whose heart was always centered on helping others,” says CEO and President Jerry Morgan. “Our partnership reflects a sincere dedication to shining a light on tinnitus, its prevention, and the meaningful steps individuals can take to manage this debilitating disease.”

The American Tinnitus Association (ATA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to people with tinnitus. The American Tinnitus Association helps individuals and families cope, funds research, advocates for better care, and provides trustworthy information to thousands of people every day. If you or a loved one need information or help managing tinnitus, contact the American Tinnitus Association at (800)

634-8978 or visit ata.org

Based in Louisville, Kentucky, founded by Kent Taylor, Texas Roadhouse opened its doors in 1993 and has more than 721 locations in 49 states and 10 foreign countries. The family-friendly restaurant is famous for Hand-Cut Steaks, Made-From-Scratch Sides, Fresh-Baked Bread, and a lively atmosphere. In 2022, Texas Roadhouse was named one of Fortune Magazine’s Most Admired Companies. In 2024 Texas Roadhouse was also recognized as America’s Customer Service Champions by USA Today and the Brand Icon Award by Nations Restaurant News. In addition to Texas Roadhouse, the company owns and operates Bubba’s 33 and Jaggers, for more information, visit www.texasroadhouse.com.

Bubba’s 33, founded by Kent Taylor, founder of Texas Roadhouse, serves up “Food for All” with options featuring handcrafted pizza, bold burgers, signature pastas, ice-cold beer, and hand-crafted cocktails. The first Bubba’s 33 opened in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in 2013 and has since grown to over 50 locations in 15 states. Bubba’s 33 staff is dedicated to fun and providing the best service in town. On a national level, in 2017, Bubba’s 33 was recognized by Nation’s Restaurant News with the Hot Concept Award. Since, Bubba’s 33 has won a host of local awards including Best Burger, Best Sports Bar, and Best New Business in Texarkana, TX. For more information, visit www.bubbas33.com.

Founded in 2014, by Texas Roadhouse’s founder Kent Taylor, Jaggers serves scratch-made food in a fast-casual setting. Menu offerings include double-stacked burgers; hand-breaded chicken tenders and sandwiches; fresh made-to-order salads; and hand-spun milkshakes. Jaggers is a growing brand with 14 locations including multiple locations in Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Texas and 1 international location. In 2020, Jaggers was named a “Hot Concept” by Technomic as well as ranked #1 Burger in Indianapolis by Indianapolis Monthly. For more information, visit <https://www.eatjaggers.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 airshows, 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. ★

Lawsuit Seeks Habitat Protections for Southern Sierra Nevada Fisher



The fishers of the southern Sierra Nevada are medium-sized furry carnivores. Photo courtesy of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Center for Biological Diversity News Release

FRESNO, CA (MPG) - The Center for Biological Diversity sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Jan. 15 for failing to finalize critical habitat protections for the Southern Sierra Nevada fisher.

“The Fish and Wildlife Service’s delay in protecting the forested lands that Southern Sierra Nevada fishers call home threatens the very survival of these adorable mammals,” said Andrea Zaccardi, carnivore conservation legal director at the Center. “By protecting the places where fishers live we can help them recover while also safeguarding California’s cherished wild landscapes.”

The fishers of the southern Sierra Nevada are medium-sized furry carnivores who are in the same family as weasels, mink, martens and otters. They depend on features found in old-growth forests such as tree cavities and downed wood.

Only found in North America, fishers were once well distributed throughout their historical range. But habitat destruction and climate change have contributed to their range-wide decline. Continued threats related to wildfires and wildfire suppression, increased temperatures resulting from climate change, disease and predation,

exposure to rodenticides, collisions with vehicles and potential effects associated with small population size put the fishers at further risk of decline.

Following years of efforts by the Center and other conservation groups, the Service listed the southern Sierra Nevada population of the fisher as endangered in May 2020. The agency first proposed 554,454 acres of critical habitat in California’s Tulare, Kern, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Tuolumne counties in 2021, and added more than 40,000 acres in late 2022. Despite those proposals, the agency never finalized critical habitat designation and protections for the Southern Sierra Nevada fisher.

The designation of critical habitat is an important step in the fisher’s recovery. A Center study found that plants and animals with federally protected critical habitat are more than twice as likely to move toward recovery than species without it.

Last year the Service denied federal protections to a separate population of fishers found in northern California and southern Oregon, despite significant range loss due to logging, historic trapping, rodenticide poisoning and climate change.

The lawsuit on Jan. 15 was filed in federal court in the District of Columbia. ★

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