



Raley's Appoints Carol Barsotti as Chief Communications Officer

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SEE INSIDE

Pleas Made on Cannabis Funding



Richard Miller, co-owner of STASH medical marijuana dispensary, addresses the West Sacramento City Council at their Jan. 21 meeting. Miller requested the city restore grant funding it had awarded him then rescinded for no disclosed reasons under the state Department of Cannabis Control's Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant program for siting a medical marijuana dispensary in the city. Photo courtesy of City of West Sacramento

By John McCallum

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Proponents of a medical marijuana dispensary in West Sacramento may be hoping they have the same luck lobbying the City Council as proponents of a new lease for a food non-profit seem to have had.

Both groups addressed the council at their Jan. 21 meeting. Richard Miller, co-owner of the Sacramento-based medical marijuana dispensary business STASH asked council to reconsider a decision made by the city to rescind grant funding that

would have enabled the business to open a dispensary in West Sacramento.

Miller said his business participated in the city's request for proposal to site such a business after West Sacramento received state funding from the Department of Cannabis Control's Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant program.

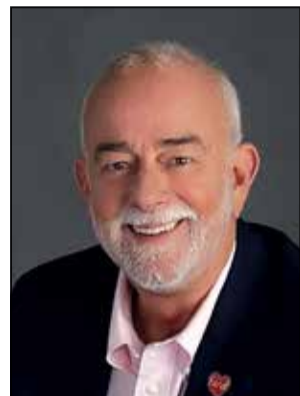
According to a Jan. 13, 2026, article on the California chapter of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) website, West Sacramento received grant funding to assist it in implementing

a "social equity cannabis" program. The funding was started in 2023 to support local programs aimed at combating the negative effects felt by individuals from illegalization of marijuana, something that changed when California voters legalized medical marijuana in 1996 and recreational marijuana in 2016.

West Sacramento was approved to receive \$175,000 from the grant program based on its population. It was also awarded another \$60,000 from the program in "equity bonus funds" because it was implementing a social

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California State Fair Announces New Chief Wine Judge



Tim McDonald, California State Fair chief wine judge. Photo courtesy of California State Fair

California State Fair News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California State Fair appointed Tim McDonald of Napa as the new Chief Judge of the California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition. The competition opens to California winemakers on Feb. 1, with entries due by April 24.

McDonald brings more than 40 years of distinguished experience in the wine and spirits industry, with expertise spanning public relations, trade relations, marketing and sales, event management and beverage education. A highly respected judge, he has participated in more than 200 competitions throughout North America. He currently serves as the Director of Wine Judging for both the California Craft Spirits and Central Coast Wine Competitions, Chairman of Pacific Rim International Wine Competition and former Head Judge at the San Francisco International and Las Vegas Global Awards. He is the founder of Wine & Spirits Spoken Here, a Napa-based company dedicated to sharing the unique stories behind wines and spirits.

McDonald's career also includes senior leadership roles with several prominent beverage companies, including E. & J. Gallo Winery, where he served as Marketing Director of Fine Wine Communications; Jim Beam (Peak Wines) as Vice President of Marketing and Communications; Trincherro Family Estates as Director of Trade Relations; and Heublein Spirits & Wines as Director of Trade and Public Relations. He also held sales positions with Seagram Distillers and

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CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR



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RYAN DAVIS ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY



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SACRAMENTO FANS NEVER GIVE UP



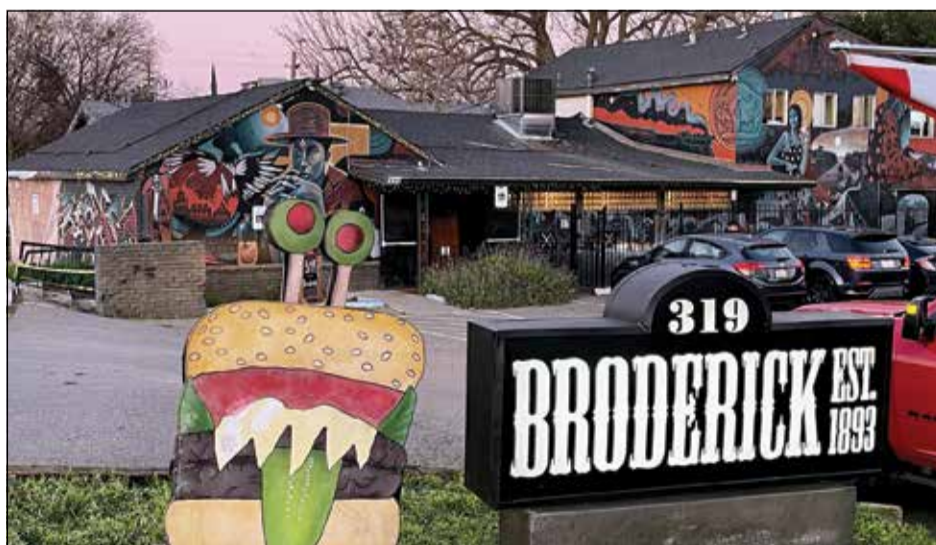
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319 Broderick Reopens After Vehicle Crash

319 Broderick News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A vehicle crash late on the night of Dec. 26 caused significant structural damage to 319 Broderick, a West Sacramento restaurant, but a coordinated response by the City of West Sacramento, its Building Division, PG&E, the property owner, and the owner's contractor allowed the business to reopen just seven days later.

According to Gordon J. Duff, general manager of 319 Broderick, the crash occurred on a Friday night between approximately 11:30 p.m. and midnight, after the restaurant had closed for the evening.



A portion of the exterior wall at 319 Broderick in West Sacramento was temporarily secured following a late-night vehicle crash. The restaurant reopened seven days later after a coordinated response by the City of West Sacramento, PG&E, and Kustom Disaster Restoration. Photo courtesy of Gordon J. Duff.

A vehicle involved in an attempted traffic stop by the California Highway Patrol left the roadway

and struck the front wall of the building, causing damage to a significant portion of that wall as well

as an adjacent side wall and knocking out gas service. No one was inside the

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Grant Awarded for Affordable Housing in Woodland

City of Woodland News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - A Yolo County partnership has been awarded a \$27,999,100 grant from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program to transform a 2.4-acre underutilized site in Woodland into a vibrant mid-rise affordable housing community with 73 units across a diverse mix of unit sizes.

This transit-oriented development, currently referred to as Tupelo, represents a longstanding collaboration between the City of Woodland, Yolo County Housing and Yolo Transportation District -- alongside development partners Brinshore and Operative Office -- to address critical housing needs while providing affordable and accessible transportation options.

The proposed housing project is all-electric, net-zero energy, and features thoughtful climate adaptation strategies to mitigate extreme heat risks. Located on Lemen Avenue near Yolano Drive, Tupelo is within walking distance to key destinations including the Woodland Public Library, Woodland City Hall, the Post Office, North

Valley Indian Health's Mobile Medical Clinic, YMCA Yolano Recreation Center, and Head Start of Yolo County's childcare facility.

Resident amenities will include a community room which can also serve as a place to cool down and clean air refuge during extreme weather events, secure bicycle storage, playground, and outdoor gathering areas. On-site services will focus on health education, financial literacy and housing stability.

"This project truly represents the 'Yolo Way,' where partners step up to address needs collaboratively," says Ian Evans, Executive Director of Yolo County Housing and President/CEO of New Hope CDC. "The City, YoloTD, our development partners, and multiple partners throughout the County all coming together to advance a fantastic project in such a deserving neighborhood that will bring additional affordable housing online and make walking, biking, and public transit not only safer, but more accessible is truly wonderful. The first housing in this community was built 75 years ago. We promised the community we would invest in

this neighborhood and this is a great first step towards realizing that promise and preparing this community for the next 75 years."

"A great project for the City of Woodland and Yolo County Housing as they celebrate their 75th anniversary. In time Tupelo will be transformative for YCH residents with improvements to green-space, transportation opportunities, and a beautiful environment. So very proud to be a member of the team to bring this project to life," says Woodland City Councilmember and Housing Authority board member Rich Lansburgh.

Transportation improvements funded under the grant include new electric buses and bus shelters in the vicinity. This will enhance public transit service for Yolo County, helping increase the frequency of Yolobus Routes 42A and 42B to 30 minutes all day between Woodland, Davis, West Sacramento, downtown Sacramento, Sacramento International Airport, and more. The project will provide residents with free membership to the Yolo Commute program, as well as unlimited transit passes for 15 years. Additionally, new sidewalks and bike lanes will provide safe

paths throughout the neighborhood.

"Not only will this project help provide much needed affordable housing for so many deserving households and transform this neighborhood, it will assist the County in reaching its climate goals by helping purchase twelve zero emission buses for YoloTD, adding bike lanes and sidewalks, and providing free transit passes for the residents making alternative modes of transportation much more accessible for them," says Mary Vixie-Sandy, Yolo County Housing Chair and Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair.

"This grant will enhance mobility for everyone who lives, works, and shops in central Woodland," says Woodland City Councilmember and YoloTD Board Member Mayra Vega. "From making our streets safer for pedestrians and bicyclists to providing new, state-of-the-art buses and bus shelters, I couldn't be more thrilled for the transportation improvements this grant will support."

This project builds on the work of the Armfield/Lemen Neighborhood Framework Plan which began in 2022 thanks to a Regional Early Action

Planning grant from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments. Robust community engagement including surveys and public workshops has shaped every aspect of the project to ensure that Tupelo addresses local priorities while advancing the neighborhood transformation envisioned by residents. The project also builds on the community engagement and contributions of valued local partners including the Yolo County Office of Sustainability and their work on the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), Davis Community Action Network's Community Voices Series, and the Yolo County Office of Education's Roadmap to the Future engagement. The partners are grateful to Northern California Construction Training and the Yolo County Workforce Innovation Board for their commitment to local workforce development strategies. Development is anticipated to begin as early as 2027.

"Providing clean, affordable and well-maintained housing should be a goal of any healthy, responsible community," says Woodland Mayor Tom Stallard. "The City of Woodland is proud to

collaborate with Yolo Housing Authority and others to replace very old and tired public housing with brand new units. We are grateful for the substantial funding provided by this grant."

This is the first time in ten years that a Yolo County jurisdiction has been awarded Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities funding -- and this round, two Yolo County projects are receiving awards, with the City of West Sacramento also among the awardees. The program began in 2015, and in that inaugural year the City of West Sacramento was awarded \$6,730,888 for the West Gateway Place Affordable Housing Project.

The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program is administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development and implemented by the Strategic Growth Council. The program aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by funding projects that integrate affordable housing, sustainable public transit, and active transportation improvements. For more information visit <https://sgc.ca.gov/grant-programs/ahsc/>. ★

California State Fair Announces New Chief Wine Judge

Continued from page 1

Heublein. "We are honored to have a leader of Tim's caliber guiding the California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition," said Tom Martinez, CEO of the California Exposition and State Fair. "For generations, this competition has celebrated the excellence of California's wine industry, and his expertise will ensure that tradition continues."

As Chief Judge, McDonald will oversee the annual review of competition procedures, recommend enhancements, select the final panel of judges and preside over the three-day judging process taking place May 6 to 8.

The upcoming California

State Fair runs from July 17 through Aug. 2. Details about exhibits, concerts and tickets will be updated regularly on the website at castatefair.com.

About the California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition

Dating back to 1854, during the Gold Rush Era, the California State Fair Wine Competition is the oldest wine competition in the country and ranks among the most respected in the nation. It is widely recognized for its integrity, commitment to excellence, fairness and professionalism. Only wines made with fruit grown and produced in the eleven growing regions across

the state may be judged in the competition in order to recognize the best wines produced in the state.

About the California State Fair

Cal Expo is home of the California State Fair, an international award-winning fair, receiving top honors at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions out of more than 1,100 fairs worldwide. For the past two years, the Fair was ranked the best State Fair in the nation. Established in 1854, the California State Fair is dedicated as a place to celebrate the best the state has to offer in agriculture, technology and the diversity of its people, traditions and trends that shape the Golden State's future. ★

319 Broderick Reopens After Vehicle Crash

Continued from page 1

restaurant at the time. Duff said the vehicle continued through a neighboring property, causing additional damage, before coming to rest. The driver fled the scene and was not apprehended that night.

Guillermo Delgadillo, the Building Inspector on call the night of the incident, responded immediately and was on site while it was still dark, Duff said.

According to Duff, city officials including Mayor Martha Guerrero and additional Building Division personnel were on site later that Saturday, along with the property owner and representatives of Kustom Disaster Restoration to assess the damage and begin determining the safest and fastest path forward.

On the following Monday, Duff said Building Division officials, Kustom, and the property owner met on site to establish a coordinated plan of action. During that meeting, Duff said he emphasized that returning employees to work as quickly and safely as possible was a top priority.

He said the response that followed demonstrated that the city, the property owner, the contractor, and utility partners were aligned around that same goal.

Duff specifically credited Brandon Lamons, senior building inspector, who first became involved by phone on Saturday and was on site that same Monday to coordinate the city's

response and outline next steps.

"It was more than just a meeting to talk through what everyone would need to do to get the restaurant reopened," Duff said. "He was clearly moving things forward during that meeting, including communicating with staff on site and remotely to jumpstart the process outside of regular business hours."

Duff also praised Permit Services Manager Olivia Nelson, saying her behind-the-scenes efforts, in coordination with other Building Division staff and Sharra Carr of Kustom, allowed emergency demolition, temporary shoring, and plumbing permits to be issued by Tuesday so repairs could begin without delay.

"The coordination between the city and Kustom was exceptional," Duff said.

Duff said Nathan Provencal of Kustom and his team worked closely with Building Division staff to advance repairs efficiently and safely.

Provencal echoed that sentiment.

"From the very beginning, the City of West Sacramento's Building Division worked collaboratively with us to find safe, practical solutions that kept the project moving," Provencal said. "The level of responsiveness and coordination we experienced, especially during a holiday period, was remarkable."

Duff also highlighted the role played by PG&E. He said PG&E crews

responded immediately following the crash to secure the damaged gas line, and Mike Velasquez of PG&E assisted throughout the process by coordinating inspections and the installation of a new gas meter once repairs were completed.

As a result of the collective effort, Duff said inspections were completed by Friday afternoon and the restaurant reopened the very next day; just seven days after the incident.

Duff added that responses of this nature often involve additional city staff and partners whose contributions may not be visible but are nonetheless essential.

"To everyone who played a role in this effort, we are extremely grateful," Duff said.

Duff said the experience demonstrated the City of West Sacramento's commitment to supporting local businesses and responding quickly in challenging circumstances.

"Because of the city's actions and the coordination with the property owner, Kustom, and PG&E, our employees were able to return to work far sooner than anyone would have expected," Duff said. "That matters a great deal to us."

319 Broderick, at 319 6th St. in West Sacramento, has reopened to the public and is operating normally while final repairs are completed on a corner of the building. 319 Broderick is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. ★

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Charges Filed After Incident at Turning Point USA Event

Yolo County District Attorney's Office News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - In November, the Yolo County District Attorney filed charges against 22-year-old Sacramento resident, Joanna Sodke, and 22-year-old Hemet resident, Chloe Peterson, after an incident that occurred on April 3, 2025, during a Turning Point USA event that was being held on the UC Davis Campus.

Sodke and Peterson were charged with one count of Conspiracy to Commit a Riot, and one count of Battery. Sodke was arraigned on Nov. 14, 2025. Peterson was arraigned Jan. 23 at the Yolo County Superior Court. ★



Council Hears Pleas on Cannabis Equity Funding

Continued from page 1
equity cannabis program, bringing the total to \$235,000.

Miller said his organization undertook the year-long Request for Proposal (RFP) process, and after meeting all the requirements and investing time and money to do so, received an award letter from the city on July 17, 2025, along with an invitation to participate in a development agreement to site West Sacramento's first medical cannabis storefront. Seven weeks later, Miller said he received a letter from the city notifying him they were rescinding his funding and canceling the entire equity retail program, providing no reason for the move.

Miller claimed a public records request to the city by him showed the decision was made after receiving a complaint from an "unsuccessful applicant." He also claimed the applicant was "politically connected" and participated despite not meeting criteria and having been twice rejected in

the long Request for Proposal process.

"This is not equity," Miller told the council. "This is not transparency and this is not justice. A true commitment to equity requires honoring the process, the criteria and the outcome when the outcome is reached fairly."

Miller, a marijuana advocate for over 30 years, asked council to reverse the decision and reinstate the award to STASH. While not wishing to pursue litigation, he said he was prepared to sue if needed to restore the award.

Nine individuals addressed council at the meeting, all supporting Miller and the social equity cannabis program. Several of them related personal stories about how using medical marijuana had benefited themselves, family members and their families as a whole.

An email request made to the city of West Sacramento for more information on the social equity cannabis program and

clarification about the Request for Proposal was not returned at press time.

For advocates of the food nonprofit organization Three Sisters Gardens, their appearance at the Jan. 21 meeting was at least the third time in the past six months they had brought the issue of extending their lease of city property at 5th and C streets in the Broderick District to a council meeting — and this time they got some results.

Three Sisters Gardens advocates had asked the council to include discussion of their lease as a meeting agenda item. City Council rules require such a request must first be advanced by a council member, and after a Dec. 3 meeting where over 30 Three Sisters Gardens advocates spoke, Councilwoman Norma Alcalá requested the issue be put on a January meeting schedule.

The city has been in negotiations with Three Sisters Gardens regarding the least since early 2025, with

nonprofit representatives hoping for a long-term agreement that would enable them to more solidify and expand their operations.

According to their website, Three Sisters Garden uses urban agriculture to "engage community members to get involved in creating a food system that is good for us and the environment."

Founded in 2018 by Alfred Melbourne, Three Sisters Gardens now operates four garden plots, three in Sacramento, that distribute over 90% of the vegetables grown to "food-insecure" homes in the community. According to its 2025 Impact Report, the organization distributed 42,534 pounds of food along with 1,654 hot meals, providing enough food to feed 61 families and 246 individuals per day, 22,500 families and over 90,000 individuals annually.

In her request, Alcalá said not only did she wish to discuss Three Sisters Gardens lease but also look at options the city can take to support other non-profits. Melbourne

told the council a long-term lease would help the organization's plans to serve more families and individuals — particularly youth — in the community, through growing food as well as education about sustainable nutrition.

"It would be way more conducive to teach our youth in a space that is going to be out of the elements and have all the different things that we'll need to be able to store our food and preserve our food and create the space that's going to be more open and inviting to our public and guests that we have coming," he added.

"This is one of the most valuable resources we have in West Sacramento," resident Kimberly Cargill said in support of the request.

Council voted 3-0 to put the Three Sisters Gardens lease and nonprofit assistance issue on a future agenda. Council members Quirina Orozco and Dawnté Early were absent. ★

Ryan Davis Announces Candidacy for County Superior Court Judge

Ryan for Yolo News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Court Commissioner Ryan Davis announced today that he is running for Yolo County Superior Court Judge, building on a career dedicated to public service.

"I'm running for judge because I want to serve the community I've called home for more than 40 years. Throughout my career — as both a lawyer and a judicial officer — I've been dedicated to the fair administration of justice. I want to bring that commitment home and help ensure that Yolo County's courts remain worthy of the public's trust."

As a Court Commissioner for the Sacramento County Superior Court, Ryan presides over complex family law matters, including divorce, child custody and visitation, child and spousal support, and domestic violence. In that role, he regularly makes difficult, time-sensitive decisions with lasting consequences for individuals and families. Those decisions are guided by the law, the facts, and a commitment to fairness and respect for everyone who appears in the courtroom.

Before joining the bench, Ryan devoted his career to public service. As a Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice, he worked on challenging, high-profile cases involving firearm laws, housing, and environmental regulations. He also spent a decade as a public defender at the county, state and federal levels, representing indigent individuals and ensuring their rights were protected under the law. Ryan's broad experience, spanning civil, criminal, and family law, provides a strong foundation for serving the people of Yolo County through fair and efficient legal process.

In addition to his legal and judicial service, Ryan has taught at UC Davis School of Law (King



Ryan Davis of Yolo County has announced his candidacy for Superior Court Judge, building on a career dedicated to public service. Photo courtesy of Ryan for Yolo

Hall) and at Berkeley Law, helping to train a new generation of service-minded lawyers. He also serves as an advisory member of the Judicial Council of California, the policymaking body of California's judiciary.

Beyond experience and legal knowledge, Ryan emphasizes the importance of judicial temperament: "My entire legal career has been shaped by the conviction that every person is entitled to a level of compassion and respect that is not earned and cannot be forfeited." His campaign focuses on ensuring that access to justice is not limited by language, economic circumstance, or other barriers.

Ryan's connection to Yolo County runs deep. He and his wife both grew up here; his wife now teaches at the elementary school Ryan once attended, and together they are raising their family in the same community they have always considered home.

Ryan is proud to announce the endorsements of over two dozen current and former Yolo County elected officials, including Yolo

County Supervisors Lucas Frerichs, Mary Sandy, Sheila Allen, and Angel Barajas, and city council members from Davis, Winters, Woodland and West Sacramento. To see a full list of his endorsements, visit RyanforYolo.com.

Ryan has served the community as president of the Davis Schools Foundation, a City of Davis human relations commissioner, a member of the Davis Joint Unified School District Parcel Tax Citizens Oversight Committee, and a Community Panelist for the Yolo County Neighborhood Court.

"I'm proud of my public service and the responsibility I've been entrusted with throughout my career," Ryan said. "I'm running to serve Yolo County with fairness, integrity and respect for the people who rely on our courts."

Ryan looks forward to engaging with voters throughout Yolo County during the campaign.

You can learn more about Ryan, his support and his experience by visiting RyanforYolo.com. ★

Celebrating Lunar New Year with Community Performances



Yolo County News Release

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Yolo County Library will celebrate Lunar New Year with a vibrant afternoon of cultural performances on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Davis Veterans Memorial Center located at 203 E. 14th Street in Davis, next door to the Stephens-Davis Branch Library.

The Lunar New Year officially begins on Tuesday, Feb. 17, welcoming the Year of the Fire Horse. In traditional Chinese zodiac, individuals born in a Fire Horse year are often described as energetic, bold, and fiercely independent, with strong leadership qualities, creativity, and a passion for forging their own path.

The celebration will open with dragon and lion dances, followed by folk dances, live music, ballet and martial arts. Each attendee will receive a traditional red envelope containing a free ticket for a chance to win prizes donated by local businesses and organizations.

The event is free and open to the public, and no reservation is required. The program is sponsored and supported by the City of Davis Arts and Cultural Affairs Fund and Friends of the Davis Public Library. For more information, visit the Library's website at www.YoloCountyLibrary.org or connect with the Library on Facebook and Instagram at [@yolocountylibrary](https://www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary). ★

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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 Cousins'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 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. (c) 2026, by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

Food & Farm NEWS

Fall Rains Reduced California Rice Yields

Rainstorms impacted California's rice crop this past fall by delaying harvest, increasing losses and reducing grain quality. Growers initially anticipated a high-yielding crop, but the final numbers are expected to show average production in 2025, according to University of California Cooperative Extension rice specialist Bruce Linquist. "Yields early on looked very good, and there was a lot of optimism," Linquist said. "But as the season progressed and you got later and later harvests, the yields started to drop, and you had pretty low quality and overall low head rice." George Tibbitts, who farms in Colusa County, said October rains made it difficult for farm equipment to navigate his rice fields. "This year for us has been the toughest one I can remember for getting things done during fall harvest," he said.

Lettuce Virus Cases Creep Back Up in Salinas Valley

After two years of lower levels of impatiens necrotic spot virus in the Salinas Valley, researchers have recorded a higher number of cases during the 2025 season. "I think we've been dodging the bullet the past few years, but it looks like whatever guardrails that existed are breaking down," said Richard Smith, a retired University of California Cooperative Extension vegetable crops adviser who has studied

INSV extensively. In 2022, the virus led to substantial yield losses in the Salinas Valley, causing a nationwide shortage of lettuce and record-high prices. Mark Mason, manager of Huntington Farms in Soledad, said his 2025 harvest of more than 4,000 acres of head, romaine and leaf lettuce was decent despite INSV showing up late in the season. "We caught the symptoms at the end of the harvest," Mason said. "We had some fields that were clean and some that were 40% losses."

Alfalfa Growers Face Rising Costs and Lower Returns

Rising input costs and low prices have left U.S. alfalfa growers struggling. Since 2023, most farmers have grown the crop at a loss, according to an analysis by the American Farm Bureau Federation. The organization pointed out that despite alfalfa's status as the fourth most valuable field crop in the nation, generating more than \$8 billion in farmgate value last year, it is not included in most farm safety-net programs such as the Trump administration's Farmer Bridge Assistant Program, which was created to soften economic losses for farmers impacted by international trade policies. AFBF economist Daniel Munch said trade conflicts, especially with China, were partly to blame for low alfalfa prices as U.S. growers have seen a reduction in export markets. As of the most recent Census of Agriculture in 2022, California led the nation in alfalfa production. ★

Crime Reports WEST SACRAMENTO



ARREST REPORTS

Kayla Marie Sheffield, 33, was cited Thursday, Dec. 4 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Josephus Wartson, 56, was cited Monday, Dec. 8 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Giovanni Paolo Lazarra Gaborni, 19, was cited Friday, Dec. 12 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Stella Ilene Gomez, 34, was cited Saturday, Dec. 13 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Jordan Nathaniel Burkes, 29, was cited Monday, Dec. 15 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Theresa Self, 41, was cited Saturday, Jan. 10 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Vladislav Grinyuk, 25, was cited Sunday, Jan. 11 at Town Center Plaza by West Sacramento Police for shoplifting.

Mariano Robert Amaro-Cruz, 39, was cited Tuesday, Jan. 13 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Raquel Noemi Hernandez, 43, was cited Tuesday, Jan. 13 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Mark Gerard Hollon, 62, was arrested Thursday, Jan. 15 at Riverpoint Court and Reed Avenue by West Sacramento Police for multiple outstanding warrants. Officer recognized Hollon from previous contacts. Dispatch confirmed the active warrants and Hollon was transported to Yolo County Jail without incident.

Elijah Haseme Jackson, 30, was arrested Thursday, Jan. 15 at 8th Street and Williams Street by West Sacramento Police for multiple outstanding warrants. Officer on patrol recognized Jackson, confirmed the warrants and transported him to Yolo County Jail.

Charles Anthony Bridges, 33, was arrested Thursday, Jan. 15 at Westacre Road and West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police for an outstanding felony warrant. Officer observed Bridges sitting at a bus stop at the arrest location and had prior knowledge of the warrant. Officer confirmed the warrant and Bridges was transported to Yolo County Jail.

Paul Michael Grigsby, 35, was cited Thursday, Jan. 15 at E Street and 3rd Street by West Sacramento Police. Officer on patrol observed a vehicle with expired registration from Sept. 2025 and conducted a traffic enforcement stop. The driver, identified as Grigsby, was found to be on searchable post release community supervision until 2028. When searching the driver's area under the floor mat, the officer located a clear plastic bag tied in a knot with a white crystalline substance inside that later tested presumptive positive for fentanyl. Officer issued a misdemeanor citation for possession of a narcotic controlled substance and booked the bag as evidence.

David Medina, 50, was arrested Friday, Jan. 16 on Maple Street by West Sacramento Police for multiple outstanding warrants. Officer was dispatched to the location for a vehicle that was parked outside and occupied

by two people. Upon arrival, officer contacted the occupants, one of whom was Medina. A records check revealed the warrants and Medina was transported to Yolo County Jail.

Mario J. Arzola, 46, was arrested Friday, Jan. 16 at West Capitol Avenue and Westacre Road by West Sacramento Police for multiple outstanding warrants. Officer on patrol observed a cyclist traveling against traffic at the location and conducted a traffic enforcement stop. A records check of the cyclist, identified as Arzola, found the warrants and he was detained. A search incident to arrest found Arzola in possession of a small, folded piece of paper containing a white crystalline substance that later tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine, located inside his right front pocket. He was transported to Yolo County Jail, additionally charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Ramon Leonard Dyragos, 55, was cited Friday, Jan. 16 at Town Center Plaza by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. The store requested to press charges because Dyragos has done this before several times. He was provided a notice to appear and trespassed from the location.

Christon Ajay Singh, 39, was arrested Saturday, Jan. 17 by West Sacramento Police for outstanding felony warrants. Office conducted a bike stop for failure to stop at a stop sign. Singh was identified through name and a prior booking photo, and a records check revealed the warrants. He was transported to Yolo County Jail.

Travis Gerard Taylor, 39, was arrested Saturday, Jan. 17 on Halyard Drive by West Sacramento Police for an outstanding felony warrant. Officer observed Taylor, a known subject, confirmed the warrant and transported him to Yolo County Jail.

Incidents / Crime Reports

Saturday, Jan. 10 – a retail store at Town Center Plaza reports petty theft of retail merchandise by an unknown suspect, who was gone when officer arrived. Loss valued at \$189.

Monday, Jan. 12 – victim reports her check was cashed by an unauthorized unknown person in San Francisco. Loss of \$5,018.

Monday, Jan. 12 – victim reports a theft from their storage unit in a commercial facility. Victim reports no damage to the unit, but items valued at \$12,850 were taken, including bicycles, power tools, and vehicle parts.

Tuesday, Jan. 13 – victim reports burglary of their storage unit at a commercial facility by an unknown suspect. Various electronics were taken, including sound gear, a camera, projectors, a printer, and more, valued at \$5,000.

Wednesday, Jan. 14 – victim reports their vehicle was broken into at a single-family home by an unknown suspect. Various power tools valued at \$2,500 were taken.

Thursday, Jan. 15 – a store on West Capitol Avenue reports an unknown subject concealed unpaid store items in her bag. An employee asked the subject to leave, and the subject refused. The subject then pushed and punched the employee before leaving. Officers were unable to locate the subject, and the stolen items were recovered.

Saturday, Jan. 17 – victim reports their vehicle tires were vandalized on Evergreen Avenue by an unknown suspect. Damage estimated at \$400.

Monday, Jan. 19 – victim reports their e-bike, valued at \$5,000, was stolen from a parking lot on Ikea Court by an unknown suspect.

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Decoding the Woolly Bear

A UC Davis entomologist reflects on four decades of research at Bodega

UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - UC Davis Distinguished Professor Emeritus Richard “Rick” Karban of the Department of Entomology and Nematology has studied the population dynamics of the woolly bear caterpillar at the University of California Bodega Marine Reserve for the past 40 years.

Some years, the woolly bear caterpillars, *Arctia virginalis*, are everywhere; other years, they’re almost absent. Why?

In a newly published research article in the journal “BioScience,” Karban and six colleagues attribute precipitation (rain) as being an “important driver of abundance everywhere we looked.”

“In other words, wet winters were associated with many caterpillars,” said Karban, a Fellow of the Ecological Society of America and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. “More caterpillars were found in wet sites compared to drier sites. Almost all of the factors that we considered that affected survival and reproduction interacted with precipitation.”

The article, “Precipitation Drives the Abundance and Distribution of *Arctia virginalis*: A 40-Year Study,” may lead to widespread interest in understanding the processes that govern the abundance and distribution of species, not just woolly caterpillars. (See <https://tinyurl.com/4xn6788f>)

The caterpillar is the larval form of a Ranchman’s tiger moth, family *Erebidae*, first described by Jean Baptiste Boisduval in 1852.

“Unlike other insect populations that have declined over this time period, this population has not appeared to be declining although the pattern of population dynamics was different from 1985 to 2000 compared to what we have seen more recently.”

We also looked at patterns of abundance in various locations in central California, Oregon, and Washington,” Karban said. “We have tried to consider as many potential drivers of the population trends as we possibly could. We looked at weather, the quality and quantity of food, the predators, parasitoids and diseases that they face. Almost all of these factors were found to explain



A woolly bear caterpillar at Bodega Head. Photo courtesy of Kathy Keatley Garvey

some of the pattern at some time and place. However, precipitation was found to be an important driver of abundance everywhere we looked. In other words, wet winters were associated with many caterpillars. More caterpillars were found in wet sites compared to

drier sites. Almost all of the factors that we considered that affected survival and reproduction interacted with precipitation.”

Not many scientists track a population of insects at the same site for four decades. The authors wrote that “these issues have taken on a new urgency in the context of global change. For example, during the past 30-50 years, many insect populations have declined, experienced range shifts and novel interactions, or even gone extinct.”

“We now have long-term surveys of other species but these are rarely coupled with an understanding of the drivers of abundance,” Karban commented. “If we want to manage insect populations--keeping populations of pests low but encouraging populations of beneficial species--we need to know both the longer-term trends and the factors that are driving those trends. This study suggests that precipitation is an important driver of abundance that causes both direct effects (e.g., reducing mortality of small caterpillars caused by desiccation) and indirect effects (e.g., allowing small caterpillars to escape predation by ants, providing more and better food for caterpillars).”

The Abstract:

“To understand processes that govern the abundance and distribution of species, ecologists typically collect either

long time series without surveying potential drivers or perform short-term experiments which may not scale up. We characterized the annual population dynamics of *Arctia virginalis* for 40 years and conducted experiments to examine the relative roles of abiotic conditions, host plants, predation, parasitoids, and viral infection. Rather than finding a single limiting factor, these factors were all important at some times or places. Annual densities varied by 1000-fold and showed evidence of a regime shift around 2002, coincident with changing precipitation patterns. Wet sites and wet years supported higher densities, and precipitation interacted with most of the factors considered. Population control was context-dependent, but water availability was generally the relevant context. Precipitation seems to be important for other Lepidoptera in western North America. Studies that include experimental tests of population drivers are required to effectively manage insect populations.”

Co-authors include two UC Davis scientists Mikaela Huntzinger of the Department of Entomology and Nematology, and Marcel Holyoak of the Department of Environmental Science and Policy. Others co-authors are Adam Pepi of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Augusta;

Patrick Grof-Tisza of the Department of National Science, Converse University, Spartansburg, S.C.; Vincent Pan of the W. K. Kellogg Biological Field Station, Hickory Corners, Minn.; and Gregory Loeb of Cornell University, Geneva, N.Y.

Karban, a member of UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology faculty since 1982, and who received emeritus status in 2024, currently focuses his research on two main projects: volatile communication between sagebrush plants that affects resistance to herbivory, and factors that control the abundance and spatial distribution of woolly bear caterpillars.

He is an international authority on plant communication and the author of landmark book, “Plant Sensing and Communication.” Karban has researched plant communication in sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) on the east side of the Sierra since 1995. His groundbreaking research on plant communication among kin, published in February 2013 in the “Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences,” drew international attention. In that study, Karban and his co-researchers found that kin have distinct advantages when it comes to plant communication, just as “the ability of many animals to recognize kin has allowed them to evolve diverse cooperative behaviors.” ★



UC Davis Distinguished Professor Emeritus Rick Karban and his postdoctoral scholar, Daan Mertens, at Bodega. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology

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 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 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). ★

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News-Ledger Adjudicated For and By the County of Yolo, Adjudication No. CV PT 09-1432 – September 4, 2009

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260003
The following person(s) is doing business as: Granada Inn, 4751 W. Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691.
Capitol Hotel Ventures Inc, 2638 Macon Drive, Sacramento, CA 95835. This business is conducted by A Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on December 31, 2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on January 2, 2026.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
GRANADA 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260013
The following person(s) is doing business as: Harlan Feed, 37388 Harlan Lane, Woodland, CA 95695.
HF Feed Manufacturing, LLC, 37388 Harlan Lane, Woodland, CA 95695. This business is conducted by A Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on January 1, 2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on January 6, 2026.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2026
HARLAN 2-6-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260028
The following person(s) is doing business as: Charitos Hair Salon, 39 W Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695.
Wendy Lira, 39 W Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695. This business is conducted by An Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on January 1, 2026. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on January 9, 2026.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Jan 23, 30 Feb 6, 13, 2026
CHARITOS 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260019
The following person(s) is doing business as: Fouts Consulting, 400 Avocet Avenue, Davis, CA 95616.
Fouts Consulting LLC, 400 Avocet Avenue, Davis, CA 95616. This business is conducted by A Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 21, 2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on January 8, 2026.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Jan 23, 30 Feb 6, 13, 2026
FOUTS 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20251045
The following person(s) is doing business as: Pro Forklifts, 1540 Valdora Street Unit 106, Davis, CA 95618.
Lin LLC, 1401 21st Street Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811. This business is conducted by A Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 10, 2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on December 18, 2025.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Jan 23, 30 Feb 6, 13, 2026
PRO 2-13-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20251020
The following person(s) is doing business as: Valley Fix and Repair, 25796 Grafton Street, Esparto, CA 95627.
Miguel Hurtado, 25796 Grafton Street, Esparto, CA 95627. This business is conducted by An Individual. The registrant com-

menced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on December 10, 2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on December 11, 2025.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026
VALLEY 2-20-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260020
The following person(s) is doing business as: Greenline Express Inc, 620 Harbor Boulevard, West Sacramento, CA 95691.
Greenline Express Transportation Inc., 620 Harbor Boulevard, West Sacramento, CA 95691. This business is conducted by A Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on January 8, 2026. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on January 8, 2026.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026
GREENLINE 2-20-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260061
The following person(s) is doing business as: Spunkys Flowers, 1936 Park Boulevard, West Sacramento, CA 95691.
Lindi Morgan Houser, 1936 Park Boulevard, West Sacramento, CA 95691. This business is conducted by An Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 21, 2023. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on January 21, 2026.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026
SPUNKYS 2-20-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260012
The following person(s) is doing business as:
MELKO Motorline, 417 Jasmine Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95605, County of Yolo.
Andrii Melokhin, 417 Jasmine Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95605
This business is conducted by Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A /s/ Andrii Melokhin
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 01/06/2026.
Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder
By: kquam, Deputy
1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20/26
CNS-4004988#
NEWS-LEDGER 2-20-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260037
The following person(s) is doing business as:
America's Tire, 75 Iron Point Circle, Suite 180, Folsom, CA 95630, County of SACRAMENTO.
Southern California Discount Tire Co., Inc., 20225 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255
This business is conducted by Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 2/12/2013 /s/ Andrew Haus, Southern California Discount Tire Co., Inc.-Treasurer
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on JAN 14 2026.
Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder
By: MARCOS ALCA-LA-FLORES, Deputy
1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20/26
CNS-4004973#
NEWS-LEDGER 2-20-26

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

CHANGE OF NAME
#CV2025-3730
Leana Kristine Norton has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Leana Kristine Norton to Magdalena Kristine Griffin.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on February 25, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 14, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: December 30, 2025
Samuel T. McAdam, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Jan 23, 30 Feb 6, 13, 2026
NORTON 2-13-26

CHANGE OF NAME
#CV2025-3651
Shobana Anbazhagan-Adkins has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Shobana Anbazhagan-Adkins to Shobana Adkins.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on March 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 11, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: January 5, 2026
David Rosenberg, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026
ADKINS 2-20-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
#CV2025-0078
Mariaelena Reynoso has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Mariaelena Reynoso to Maria Elena Reynoso.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on March 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 14, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: January 12, 2026
Samuel T. McAdam, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 2026
REYNOSO 2-20-26

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SUMMONS
IN RE: COMPLAINT AND PETITION OF EFRAIN CAMACHO, as Owner of a Certain Vessel, FOR EXONERATION FROM OR LIMITATION OF LIABILITY U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California Case No. 2:25-cv-03604-WBS-CKD
Notice is hereby given that EFRAIN CAMACHO ("Petitioner") has filed a Complaint on December 14, 2025 pursuant to 46 U.S.C. §§ 30501, et seq., Supplemental Admiralty Rule F, and the various statutes, rules, regulations, and amendments thereof, claiming the right to exoneration from, or limitation of liability for, all claims arising out of a claimed incident on or about May 10, 2025 on the Sacramento River, near the city of Sacramento, Sacramento and Yolo Counties, involving a 2024 Bayliner VR5 motor vessel, HIN: BLBX1153F324 (the "Vessel"). Petitioner was the owner of the Vessel at the time of and after the incident.
All persons having such claims must file them as provided by Rule F of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims with the Clerk of this Court, Mr. Keith Holland, United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Robert T. Matsui U.S. Courthouse, 501 I Street, 4th floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 and mail copies to Petitioner's attorney, B. Otis Felder, Esq., WILSON, ELSER, MOSKOWITZ, EDELMAN & DICKER LLP, 655 Montgomery Street, Suite 900, San Francisco, CA 94111, on or before the 2nd day of March 2026, or be defaulted and forever barred from such a claim. Any claimant desiring to contest Petitioner's right to exoneration from or limitation of liability must file an Answer to Petitioner's original Complaint and/or a claim as required by Rule F(4) – (5) of the Supplemental Rules, and serve or mail a copy to Petitioner's attorney.
Hon. William B. Shubb
SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30/26
CNS-3999426#
NEWS-LEDGER 1-30-26

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER: 23CV008890
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: Grady Boyd, Stefani Boyd, and DOES 1 to 50.
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: Shoaib Ahmadi.
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.
Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.
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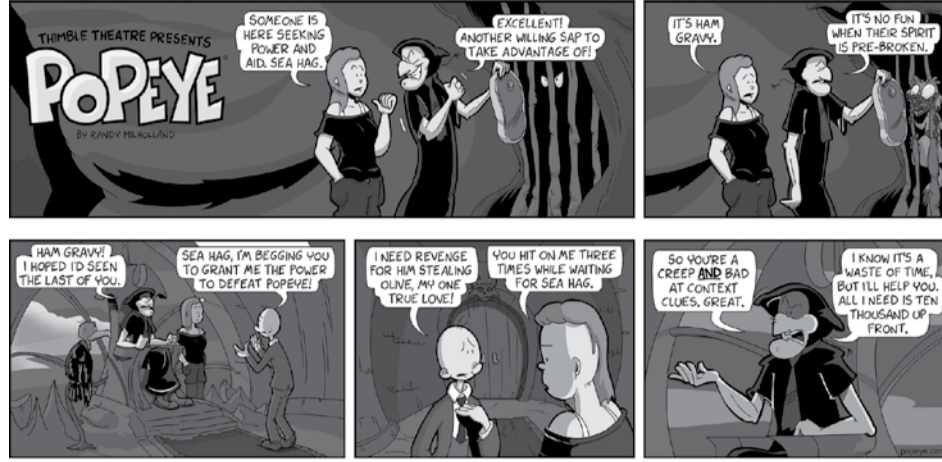
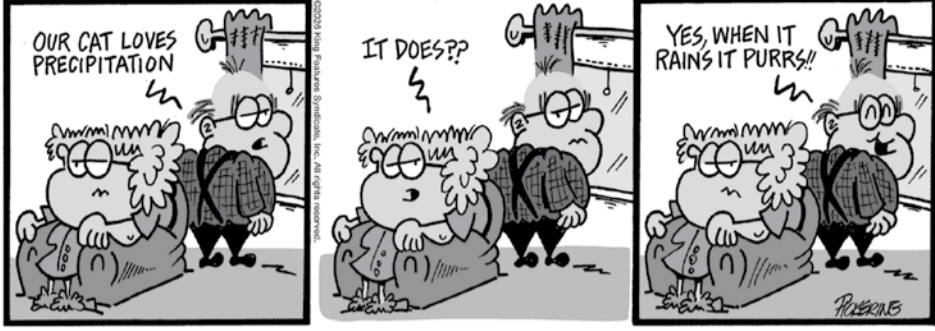
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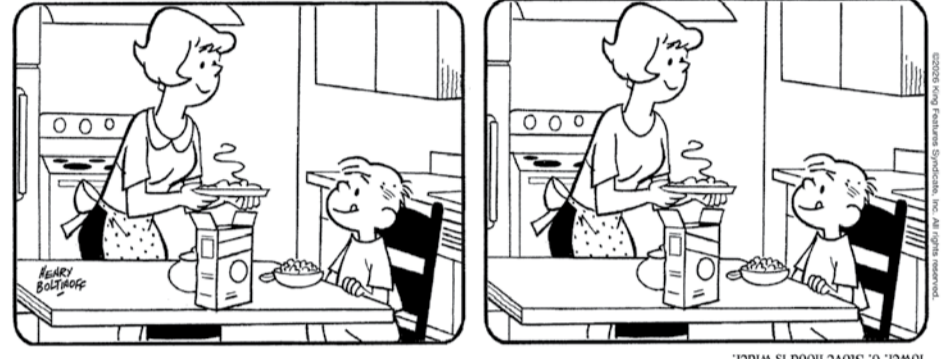
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Differences: 1. Back of chair is different. 2. Box is different. 3. Collar is missing. 4. Burner is missing. 5. Refrigerator handle is lower. 6. Stove hood is wider.

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- Biology lab supply
- Aldous Huxley's drug of choice
- *Certain Courtney
- Tear violently
- Color of a bruise
- Al Roker's show
- Pupil control
- Any minute, to Shakespeare
- Sheep-like
- *H. P. of science fiction fame
- Hibernation stations
- Boat station
- Tennis shot
- Packed in container
- User-friendly interface, acr.
- Genetic info carrier, acr.
- *Love unquestioningly
- Equal to 1.3 ounces in Asia
- Not a minor
- Poem addressed to certain subject
- Hundred, in Italian
- Nothing
- Relating to clone
- Division, abbr.
- Sloughed off skin
- Fluffy dessert
- All good things come to this?
- Between Oct's and Nov's
- Verde National Park
- *"B-52s" "little old place" (2 words)
- Singing femme fatale
- Deed hearing
- Reverberated sound
- Blue-Green scum, pl.
- Misery cause
- Actress Perlman
- Scheme
- Right coast time
- Made by tailor

DOWN

- Seed cover
- Biking helmet manufacturer
- Tel _____, Israel
- #64 Across, redone
- Like 1969 landing
- Laugh with contempt
- Fender-bender damage
- *a.k.a. hickey (2 words)
- Norse deity
- "Off The Wall" shoe
- Needle hole
- Macy's Thanksgiving offering
- Commotions
- Silica variety
- NaOH
- Solder together
- Dewey Decimal Classification, a.k.a. Relative
- Pleasant Island
- Small songbird
- Harry's and Hermione's magic tools
- Bigfoot's cousins
- "Hand cover, with love
- *Lemming relative, or anagram of love
- Tokyo, formerly
- Cough for two
- Lumps in liquid
- Unit of electric current

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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. ★

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

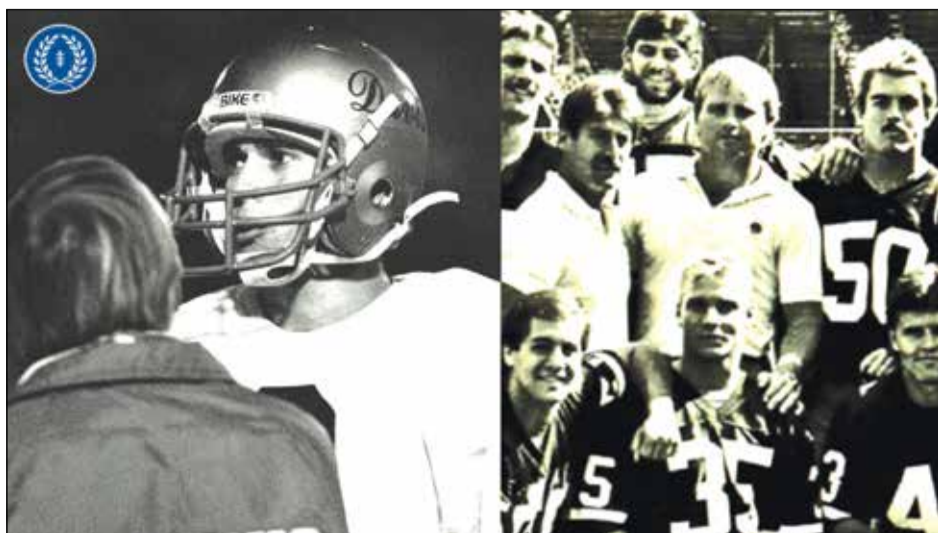
86th overall in the 2020 MLS SuperDraft by Houston Dynamo FC and spent his first two seasons with Rio Grande Valley FC, Dynamo's reserve side in USL Championship. With RGV, he recorded six goals and two assists in 25 appearances. In 2022, he joined MLS NEXT Pro side Houston Dynamo 2 and in 13 appearances 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. ★

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. ★

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 Kloostr, 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. ★

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 outrebounding 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,



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

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 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. ★

Resentencing Denied for Man Convicted for Part in CHP Murder

Yolo County District Attorney's Office News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - On Jan. 21, 2026, the Honorable Daniel M. Wolk denied the resentencing of Gregory Zielesch, 67, that would have reversed his murder conviction for his role in the murder of California Highway Patrol Officer Andrew Stevens on Nov. 17, 2005.

Zielesch was also previously convicted of conspiracy to commit murder; weapons, ammunition, and drug charges; along with an out on bail enhancement. Volarvich was convicted of conspiracy to commit murder and

first-degree murder; along with an enhancement for the use of a firearm. Zielesch was sentenced to 57 years to life in prison and Volarvich was sentenced to death.

As of Jan. 1, 2019, changes were made to the "Felony Murder Law" and the doctrine of "Natural and Probable Consequences" requiring the prosecutor to prove those tried for murder acted with malice. In other words, malice could not be imputed on an individual based upon their participation in a lesser crime, if the individual was not the actual killer. Additionally, convicted murderers could petition

the court to re-examine their convictions to ensure they were convicted under a currently valid theory of liability. Mr. Zielesch argued that he could no longer be guilty of murder because he did not harbor malice against Officer Stevens and that Volarvich, who pulled the trigger, was solely responsible.

During the hearing, the District Attorney argued that the murder of Officer Stevens occurred as the result of an agreement that, in return for Zielesch bailing him out of jail days earlier, Volarvich would murder a local Woodland man due to his involvement with one of Zielesch's

former love interests.

Zielesch provided Volarvich with a firearm and he was on his way to commit that murder when he was pulled over by Officer Stevens. Zielesch acted with malice when he conspired to murder the intended victim. He was very well aware that Volarvich was a convicted felon, that he abused methamphetamine, and that he possessed a "mentality" for murder.

Zielesch also knew that Volarvich was highly resistant to returning to prison. Arming an unstable, drug-using, convicted felon with a firearm poses grave risk to the general public in and of itself.

Providing that same felon with instructions and a monetary incentive to commit murder elevates that risk to critical levels. Zielesch was aware that there was a high probability that his actions would result in the death of another human being. Indeed, he intended that these actions would certainly result in the death of a specific human being. However, this intent to kill a specific victim is not a necessary component of implied malice aforethought. The District Attorney further contended that there is no moral distinction between an individual who unlawfully kills an intended victim

and one who unlawfully kills an unintended victim while failing to kill the intended target.

On Dec. 19, 2025, Judge Wolk found that Zielesch's role in the case demonstrated that he harbored malice and still could be convicted of murder. Zielesch's conspiracy to commit murder conviction remains intact and was not a part of these proceedings.

Despite his sentence of 57 to life, Zielesch is eligible for parole after serving 25 years under California's Elder Parole law. He is tentatively eligible for a parole suitability hearing in May of 2031. Volarvich's conviction is still pending the automatic appeals process. ★

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