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The Official Newspaper of Record for the City of West Sacramento

West Sacramento News Ledger

VOLUME 62 • ISSUE 6

Serving the West Sacramento Region Since 1964

FEBRUARY 6, 2026

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West Sac Chamber Celebrates Community and Leadership



Sarah Barkawi (center) was named Volunteer of the Year at the 79th Annual Installation & Awards Dinner. Photo courtesy of Tia Gemmell

By MPG Staff

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce celebrated an evening of community and leadership at their 79th Annual Installation & Awards Dinner held at West Sacramento City Hall, 1110 W Capitol Ave. on Jan. 15. Approximately 215 local leaders and members of the business community gathered to honor award recipients and welcome new board members. Several significant community

awards were presented at the chamber event including the Art Savage Entrepreneur of the Year award which went to Kurt Swanson, owner of West Sacramento Midas, and the Mike McGowan West Sacramento Achievement Award which went to Jaelyn Powell, Smith, McDowell & Powell, A Law Corporation. Amrik Singh, president/CEO of Twins Hospitality was awarded Businessperson of the Year, The BLVD! was awarded Business of the Year and Sarah Barkawi was named

Volunteer of the Year. Jessica Culp, Herc Rentals was awarded West Sacramento Chamber Connector of the Year.

The event also welcomed the 2026 West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and officers, with the new board chair Damon Moreno giving an acceptance speech at the event. Joe Cadelago is First Vice Chair (2027), Danielle Bettencourt is Second Vice Chair (2008) and Dustin Dumas is

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WSPD Swears in New Members

By MPG Staff

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The West Sacramento Police Department (WSPD) recently hosted its Annual Awards Ceremony, celebrating the dedication and commitment of staff alongside family, friends and community.

Among the award recipients were Andy Alvarez and Summer Moore who received the Community Recognition Citation and Sgt. Avagyan and Property & Evidence Technicians Kimberly Brandt & Chad Baptiste who received the Commanding Officer's Citation. Officer McCune, Detective

Silvermaster and Sgt. Schmidt were awarded the Exceptional Performance Citation. Elizabeth Willis was named Employee of the Year, and Sgt. Watson received the Distinguished Leadership Award. Motor Officer Williams received the Meritorious Service Ribbon. Lt. Winger received the Police Chief's Citation. Sgt. Brazier was named Supervisor of the Year.

The WSPD Traffic Unit was named Team of the Year. Officer (now Sergeant) Torres was named Officer of the Year. In addition, Chief Strange had the honor of swearing in



Officer (now Sergeant) Torres was named Officer of the Year at the West Sacramento Police Department Annual Awards Ceremony. Photo courtesy of West Sacramento Police Department

two new team members, Officer Andrew Becker and Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) Jillian Miller to the West Sacramento Police Department. Officer Becker is a

recent graduate of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Academy and will now begin his Field Training Officer (FTO) program as he prepares to serve the West Sacramento

community. CSI Miller will be joining West Sacramento Police Department's CSI unit in support of the investigative work that officers and detectives do daily. ★

Free Home Energy Score Assessments Countywide

Yolo County News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Funded through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), the Yolo County Sustainability Division is now offering the Home Energy Score (HES) Pilot Program countywide, providing free home energy assessments to help eligible homeowners understand their home's energy efficiency, identify opportunities to reduce energy consumption, and explore recommended upgrades. Building on existing pilot programs in Unincorporated Yolo County and the City of Davis, the expanded Home Energy Score Program is now accepting applications from residents in the cities of Woodland, Winters and West Sacramento.

Eligible homeowners will receive a free Home Energy Score Assessment that includes a customized report with recommended energy improvements and potential savings, guidance on available rebates and incentives that may help lower upgrade costs, and a Home Energy Score rating from one to 10, with 10 representing the most energy-efficient homes.

The Home Energy Score Pilot Program is offered in partnership with Earth Advantage and Archon Energy Solutions, along with community outreach partners De Colores Resource Center and Cool Davis. Homeowners can apply online by visiting www.YoloCounty.gov/HomeEnergyScore.

To qualify, applicants must be homeowners in Unincorporated Yolo County or the cities of Woodland, Winters, or West Sacramento. Residents must live in a detached single-family home, side-by-side attached home such as a town house, or a side-by-side duplex. Stacked duplexes, mobile homes and multifamily properties are not eligible at this time. Homes must be 2,500 square feet or smaller. City of Davis residents should apply through the City of Davis program at www.CityofDavis.org/city-hall/city-manager-s-office/

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'Kokoro' Explores Lost Japantown



Pictured is the formal dance kimono worn by Japanese singer Agnes Yoshiko Miyakawa. Photo courtesy of the California Museum

By Abbey Wicks

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - When you think of downtown Sacramento today, you might think of DoCo or the Capitol Mall. But did you know that downtown Sacramento was once home to a thriving Japantown?

"Kokoro: The Story of Sacramento's Lost Japantown" is now on display at the California Museum located at 1020 O St. in Sacramento, through March 29. The exhibit first appeared at the California Museum in 2017 and has remained one of the museum's "most beloved and impactful", according to the museum's website.

The exhibition takes museum visitors on a journey through the rise and downfall of the once bustling neighborhood which offered nearly 200 businesses serving the needs of its residents with grocery stores, sporting events, religious services and more. At one point in time, the neighborhood was the

fourth-largest Japantown in the U.S.

Various craft tables allow visitors to interact with the exhibit by creating a paper cherry blossom to add to a cherry blossom tree, or by helping stock the fictional "Hamamoto's Mini Mart" with paper carp or hanami dango, a traditional Japanese sweet made of rice flour.

Sweet treats were an important part of the neighborhood, connecting residents with their culture and the taste of home.

Fish is another staple of Japanese culture. Grocery stores in Japantown sold fresh and preserved fish, often salmon and steelhead caught in the American and Sacramento rivers.

The exhibit's visual timeline educates visitors on the impact of World War II, which displaced thousands of Japanese residents due to racial hysteria. By the time residents were able to return to their homes, the area had evolved into a mosaic of Mexican,



Japantown was once a thriving residential and business district, with businesses such as Sun Rise Laundry pictured. Photo courtesy of the California Museum

Korean, Portuguese, Chinese and other cultures.

Museum visuals include photos of businesses that were once located just five blocks from the downtown museum, wartime regalia, and symbols of the success of business owners including a vintage record player that belonged to the owner of the Asahi Garage at 5th and N Streets.

The exhibit also highlights notable figures and even music stars who came out of Japantown, including opera singer Agnes Yoshiko Miyakawa, displaying one of her formal dance kimonos.

The historic Japantown was restored for a period of time in the 1950s. During this time, people came from across the region

to visit Japantown, traveling to visit doctors and dentists or just to dine and shop.

Things took a turn in 1954 when the City of Sacramento unveiled the Capitol Mall Project, which was billed as a clean, modern downtown and a gateway to the Capitol. This project ultimately destroyed Japantown and the surrounding multiethnic areas.

Since then, Japantown has been entirely wiped from Sacramento's urban landscape.

"Kokoro" takes visitors back in time to an entirely different downtown Sacramento to the one we know today, honoring an important, yet often forgotten part of Sacramento history.

"Kokoro: The Story of

Sacramento's Lost Japantown" was developed in partnership with former residents of Sacramento's Japantown, the author of "Sacramento's Historic Japantown: Legacy of a Lost Neighborhood" Kevin Wildie and others. The exhibit runs through March 29.

The California Museum is located at 1020 O St. in Sacramento. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday and is closed on Monday. General admission tickets are \$10, with discounts for students, seniors, military and youth. Children aged 5 and under are free.

To purchase tickets, visit: californiamuseum.org/visit/admission-hours-tickets/. ★



The "Kokoro" exhibit includes an interactive, fictional grocery store display selling fresh fish and hanami dango, a traditional Japanese sweet made of rice flour. Photo by Abbey Wicks

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Free Home Energy Score Assessments Countywide

Continued from page 1
climate-action-and-resilience/.

Up to 50 households will receive a free assessment. Priority will be given to low-income households, farm workers, seniors aged 65 and over, households with children and individuals with disabilities.

The Home Energy Score Pilot Program is part of the

Yolo Energy Partnership (YEP), a county initiative that connects residents to energy-saving resources, and support. Additional Yolo Energy Partnership programs include the Weatherization Program, Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program and Valley Clean Energy's Electric Advisors.

For more information

about the Yolo Energy Partnership, including eligibility criteria and applications, visit www.YoloCounty.gov/YoloEnergyPartnership. Stay connected by emailing Sustainability@YoloCounty.gov and signing up for the Yolo County Sustainability E-Newsletter at Yolo County Sustainability Newsletter. ★

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Chamber Celebrates Community and Leadership

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Treasurer.

The 2026 Board of Directors are Rohit Nayar, Chris White, Daniel Corvig, Don Bosley, Amy Day, Clay

Merrill, Jeremiah Z. Smith, Ryan Maguire, Chip Maxson, Jaclyn Powell, Amit Skah, M.D., and Phil Hinkel.

The event offered networking opportunities,

community civic engagement, professional recognition and economic stimulation for the West Sacramento region as we enter a new year. ★



The West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce 2026 Board of Directors pose for a group photo at the 79th Annual Installation & Awards Dinner. Photo courtesy of Tia Gemmill



Amrik Singh, president/CEO of Twins Hospitality (center) was named Businessperson of the Year. Photo courtesy of Tia Gemmill

Bee Contest Winner Receives Prize Cup



Lesley Hamamoto (right) receives her prize for winning the 2026 Robbin Thorp Memorial First-Bumble-Bee-of-the-Year Contest. With her are UC Davis Distinguished Professor Emerita Lynn Kimsey (center), who directed the Bohart Museum for 34 years, and Tabatha Yang, the Bohart Museum's education and outreach coordinator. Photo by Kathy Keatley Garvey

By Kathy Keatley Garvey,
UC Davis Department of
Entomology and Nematology

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Bumble bee enthusiast Lesley Hamamoto of Sacramento, who won the 2026 Robbin Thorp Memorial First-Bumble-Bee-of-the-Year Contest, received her prize – a Bohart Museum of Entomology coffee cup designed with the bumble bee that Thorp studied – on a recent visit to the Bohart Museum.

Presenting the award were UC Davis Distinguished Professor Emerita Lynn Kimsey, who directed the Bohart Museum for 34 years, and Tabatha Yang, the Bohart Museum's education and outreach coordinator.

Hamamoto won the prize by being the first to photograph and submit the first bumble bee of the year in the contest. She photographed a black-tailed bumble bee, *Bombus melanopygus*, nectaring on manzanita at 9:59 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2 in the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden.

The contest rules specify that the first person to photograph or video a bumble bee in the two-county area of Yolo and Solano – and emails the image to the Bohart Museum – wins.

Hamamoto, a biologist/botanist with the Department of Water Resources, State

of California since 2008, is a UC Davis alumna, and a former seven-year UC Davis employee.

A bumble bee enthusiast and a native plant enthusiast, she's a volunteer with the California Bumble Bee Atlas and serves as the president of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

The coffee cup is illustrated with the endangered Franklin's bumble bee, *Bombus franklini*, that Thorp studied. He monitored the population in its California-Oregon border range for two decades, last seeing it in 2006. It is now feared extinct.

Hamamoto, as a freshman at UC Davis in 1998, completed a course, in ENT 10, "Natural History of Insects," taught by Thorp. She also took a class from Kimsey.

The bumble bee contest, launched in 2021, memorializes Professor Thorp (1933-2019), a tireless advocate of pollinator species protection and conservation and co-author of "Bumble Bees of North America: An Identification Guide" (Princeton University) and "California Bees and Blooms: A Guide for Gardeners and Naturalists" (Heyday). Although he retired from the faculty in 1994 after 30 years of service, he continued his bee research until a week before he died, at age 85. Every January, he looked forward to seeing the first bumble bee of the year. ★

Youth Art Contest Inspires Civic Engagement

The League of Women Voters of Yolo County News Release

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The League of Women Voters of Yolo County, in partnership with the Yolo County Libraries and with the support of the Yolo County Office of Education and the Yolo County Elections Office, announces the launch of a youth art contest. The countywide contest invites high school students to express their voices through art while exploring the importance of voting and civic participation.

The contest, which begins on Feb. 13, encourages students to create original artwork that reflects what voting, democracy or positive civic engagement means to them. Artwork can be in the form of drawings or paintings. In addition to being awarded cash gift cards, the images of winning entries will be replicated as stickers, posters and bumper stickers to be distributed at League events. Selected artwork will also be showcased in Yolo County libraries, and the items or images will be shared with community

leaders, educators and elected officials to highlight young people's perspectives on civic life.

"Our goal is to empower young people by giving them a platform to share their voices," said a representative from the Yolo County League. "Art is a powerful way for students to reflect on their role in our democracy and to engage with the voting process as they become eligible voters."

The Student Voter Empowerment Design Contest aligns with the League's long-standing mission to encourage informed and active participation in government and to increase understanding of major public policy issues. By partnering with Yolo County libraries and high schools, the campaign ensures broad community access and visibility for student voices.

The Yolo County League invites schools, educators, community organizations and local leaders to support the contest by helping to share information about the contest, encourage student participation and find new opportunities for student artwork to be displayed.

Entries will be judged by a blind panel for relevance to the student's theme, creativity, visual impact and originality. The accompanying entry form will require parental permission and that the theme, art and accompanying text be nonpartisan with no trademarked, AI-created/generated or copyrighted elements.

The contest begins Feb. 13, with a final submission deadline of Mar. 27, 2026. Applications and submission guidelines will be available at the high schools or by email at lwvyolo@gmail.com. Submission Drop boxes will be available at all libraries in Yolo County or can be mailed to the League of Women Voters of Yolo County, P.O. Box 2463, Woodland CA 95776.

More information about the contest is available at the League's website, lwvyolo.org. The League is committed to informing voters on local politics and increasing access to voting and information. They are a non-partisan organization dedicated to voter education and empowering citizens to shape better communities. ★

Sierra Donor Heroes Save More Than 400 Lives

Sierra Donor Services celebrates a year of lifesaving impact across the state

Sierra Donor Services News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sierra Donor Services (SDS) honored the extraordinary generosity of Northern California and Nevada donor heroes whose gifts made 422 lifesaving organ transplants possible in 2025, saving and improving lives across the state and beyond.

In 2025, 170 generous organ donor heroes said yes to donation, giving hope to patients waiting for a second chance at life. In addition, Sierra Donor Services facilitated 855 tissue donations and provided support to over 1,200 donor hero family members, honoring their loved ones' legacies through compassionate care and ongoing bereavement support.

"I am deeply grateful to the Californians who chose to register as organ donors and, in doing so, gave the extraordinary gift of life. Their generosity and selflessness ripple through the communities we serve, making our work possible and transforming countless lives. They are the true heroes among us," says Sean Van Slyck, chief executive officer of Sierra Donor Services.

Every lifesaving gift is made possible by the compassion of donor heroes and their families, the dedication of Sierra Donor Services team members, and the commitment of community partners who raise awareness and encourage Californians to register as donors.

Sierra Donor Services is one of California's federally designated organ procurement organizations (OPOs) responsible for the 24/7 coordination of organ and tissue donation for over 2.8 million people in Northern California and Nevada. This work includes supporting families during moments of profound grief, caring for donor heroes, coordinating recovery surgeries, ensuring the safe and timely transport of organs to transplant hospitals, and providing long-term support for donor families.

"I watch in awe as our team continues to overcome significant obstacles while working around the clock to make every lifesaving gift possible for our donor heroes and patients awaiting transplants," says Van Slyck. "I am so incredibly proud of our staff, and we will continue our lifesaving mission in 2026."

Across the nation, the

United States continues to lead the world in organ donation and transplantation, surpassing 49,000 organ transplants in 2025 – an average of more than 130 transplants each day.

Despite this progress, the need remains urgent. More than 100,000 people nationwide, including nearly 20,000 Californians, are still waiting for a lifesaving transplant.

Sierra Donor Services encourages everyone to #BeTheGift that saves lives by registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor at sierradonor.org.

About Sierra Donor Services

Founded in 1985, Sierra Donor Services is a federally designated, mission-driven nonprofit organ procurement organization (OPO) dedicated to saving and improving lives through organ and tissue donation. Serving over 2.8 million people across 13 counties in Northern California and Nevada, SDS is part of a national network supporting donation efforts in Tennessee and New Mexico. For more information, or to register as a donor, visit SierraDonor.org. ★



Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



In the land of the Sacramento Kings there is good news and bad news.

The bad news is the Sac Town boys lost to the lowly Washington Wizards Sunday night by a score of 116-112 to not only extend their current losing streak to nine games, but to also take over solo position as the team with the worst record in the NBA this season.

The good news is, as bad as that sounds, the Kings played a high-tempo competitive game against the Wizards, and more importantly, have just finalized a trade that has the potential to breathe life into a team that's on the ropes.

The Kings landed DeAndre Hunter from the Cleveland Cavaliers, while trading Dennis Schroder, Keon Ellis and little-used Dario Saric. Once again, the Chicago Bulls were involved, acquiring Dario Saric and two second round picks, one coming from the Kings in 2029.

What this trade accomplishes is finally getting a true NBA forward that can play the 4 and allow Keegan Murray to move to the 3 where he is more comfortable and more suited.

The Kings are hoping that Hunter's six seasons in the NBA will fit nicely into a lineup with both youth and veterans, and his 14.7 scoring average during his career will be a welcome addition to a team that has been recently struggling to reach 100 points per night.

In addition to scoring Hunter will be bringing a defensive presence as well, and in 2019 while playing for the Virginia Wildcats he was given the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) award for the most outstanding defensive player in division 1 basketball.

While not a big forward at 6'7" DeAndre has an impressive wingspan of 7'2" and will fill a need the Sacramento Kings have longed for.

With Dennis Schoder and Keon Ellis gone, so is the logjam coach Christie has been talking about, so look for rookie Nique Clifford to get all the playing time he wants.

After years of being guard heavy, will Sacramento finally have solved the conundrum at the forward position.

At 28 DeAndre's best years may be still

ahead, and the Kings are banking on the same when it comes to Keegan Murray.

Will the 12-39 Sacramento Kings end the 9-game drought and look like a winning franchise?

More likely is that Scott Perry has more in store, and Sacramento fans want to know if heralded big man Domantas Sabonis is in any way a part of his thinking.

Without question, Sacramento has a post presence. Rebounding and double-double champion Domantas Sabonis is the reason why.

Maxime Raynaud is making noises and has shown promise, but make no mistake about it, Sabonis is the real deal.

Building around this big man makes all kinds of sense, but I simply don't know if Perry and the Kings franchise appreciate what they already have. Trades in the past have shown a total lack in judging NBA talent, and I hope for once, Sacramento gets it right.

Do I like the acquisition of DeAndre Hunter? You bet I do, and it represents a piece in a puzzle that hasn't so far made much sense.

So, let's give Scott Perry an attaboy, and collectively hold our breath, because I don't believe this is over with.

Talent is critical for certain, but leadership and personality cannot be overlooked.

The leadership that Domantas brings with him every night is incalculable, but it's there and difficult to replace. In addition, he is beloved by the fans, so let's remember DeAaron Fox, and build the new iteration of this team around Sabonis.

It's entirely possible to give the rookies and younger players more looks in the second half of the season, but working to develop this team into a winning franchise is what I want to see.

Am I concerned about finishing with a lottery pick in the upcoming draft? I try not to think too much about how the Kings will finish and focus on playing competitive basketball. Develop the youngsters and win games!

Stay together Kings fans, because the second half could be a roller-coaster! Let's all root for a win and bring this losing streak to a halt.

All the best! ★

California Lawmakers Can't Resist Writing Performative Legislation



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California legislators introduce hundreds of bills during their biennial sessions. While some are serious efforts to address real issues, many are performative — offered to please political constituencies that their authors want to cultivate, align themselves with popular trends, or repay political debts.

The easiest species of performative legislation are resolutions that express support for some cause. Many hours of taxpayer-financed time are wasted on hearings and debate, even though such measures have absolutely no impact.

A cousin of the impotent resolution is legislation that purports to impact a situation ripped from the headlines, but is highly unlikely to be enacted, or if passed would probably be voided by the courts.

This week, for example, Democratic legislators are scrambling for measures that would, their authors say, repress or punish federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers who are conducting abusive sweeps in major cities, supposedly seeking undocumented immigrants. The state Senate spent 90 minutes this week debating a bill that would supposedly make it easier for Californians to sue federal agents over civil rights violations, arising out of two fatal

shootings of U.S. citizens by immigration authorities in Minneapolis.

The measure, Senate Bill 747, passed on a party-line vote. If it eventually becomes law, it's doubtful that it would survive due to federal laws shielding federal officers from being prosecuted or sued in state courts, as a legislative staff analysis of the measure pointed out.

Thus, SB 747 and other anti-ICE measures unlikely to be enforceable, and are really just expressions of political opinion, however justified.

The most frustrating performative measures address real problems weakly but allow politicians to claim success. That brings us to Senate Bill 417, which was also passed by the Senate this week.

Carried by Sen. Christopher Cabaldon, a Napa Democrat, and backed by dozens of pro-housing groups and advocates for the poor, SB 417 would place a \$10 billion bond issue on the November ballot for housing low-income families.

"California, over the last several years has enacted landmark housing policies to provide affordable housing developers with tools enabled to enable them to build hundreds of thousands of units across the state," Cabaldon said. "But those homes don't build themselves and it's time to finish the job.

"So to unlock the full promise of these reforms requires cash. It requires sufficient capital, as it always has, to move these affordable housing projects from approval and permitting to construct."

California's housing shortage is real, especially for

low-income families. The state has removed some procedural roadblocks, but the most resilient barrier is very high development costs.

A 2025 Rand Corp. study found that it costs between \$500,000 and \$1 million — and sometimes even more — to build a unit of low-income housing, the highest cost of any state.

Rand's study also determined that it takes 22 months longer to produce housing in California than in Texas, local fees average \$29,000 a unit in California but just \$1,000 in Texas, and "substantially above-market wages and unusually large architectural and engineering fees, likely related to highly prescriptive design requirements" are "key drivers" of California's extraordinarily high costs.

If, as Rand implies, it costs an average of about \$750,000 per unit to build low-income housing in California, the \$10 billion bond issue being proposed would finance about 13,000 apartments. It's not nothing, but it's tiny compared to the 180,000 units the state says we should be building each year.

The researchers argued that, were California to reduce costs to those in Colorado, it could build four times as much housing for the same money. The Legislature should be cutting costs, not just passing token bond issues that will have little real world impact.

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

Am I Entitled to More Social Security as a Veteran?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I served in the U.S. Army from July 1964 to July 1967. Am I eligible for a higher Social Security payment? Thank you. **Signed: Vietnam Era Army Vet**

Dear Army Vet: Please accept my sincere thanks for your military service. I believe you are referring to the "Special Extra Credit for Military Service" which has been the subject of many published articles. That refers to a special Social Security accommodation available only to those who served in the military during specific periods of time - but it does not add to your monthly Social Security payment. Rather, it adds to your military earnings record for the years you served, which may (or may not) result in a higher Social Security benefit when you later claim Social Security.

Here's how it works in your case:

Serving between 1964 and 1967, if you told Social Security of your military service when you applied for Social Security benefits (or gave them a copy of your DD-214), they would have added up to \$1,200 per year to your military

pay record (FYI, those who served after 1966 were automatically given earnings credit for their military service years). However, whether those special extra credits would affect your monthly Social Security benefit depends on your lifetime earnings record when you later claimed Social Security.

When you applied for benefits, Social Security reviewed your lifetime earnings and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) to calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" (or "PIA," which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your Social Security full retirement age). If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than your earnings while serving in the military, Social Security would have used your later higher earning years to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings would not have had an effect on your Social Security benefit. However, if any of your military earnings (including the "special extra credits") were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating your Social Security benefit.

So, whether you would benefit from these "special extra credits for military service" depends largely on your earnings history after you were discharged from active duty. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years

over your lifetime, and you provided SSA with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS benefit already includes consideration of your military service (FYI, Social Security should have asked about your military service when you applied). If you didn't tell SS about your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren't sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800.772.1213 and ask if you were given those "special extra credits for military service" for your 1960s military service years when you applied for Social Security. But if you had at least 35 years of higher earnings after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get any additional /Social Security benefit because of the "special extra credits" for your military service years.

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Does Trump need a portrait of James K. Polk?

rious. It also insisted that its border with Texas was at the Nueces River, two hundred miles north of the Rio Grande.

When Polk sent troops into the area between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande, Mexican cavalry ambushed a party of U.S. dragoons.

We ended up occupying Mexico City and forcing a deal. Mexico conceded to the United States a border at the Rio Grande, running all the way to the Pacific, giving us California, inclusive of San Diego, in exchange for the assumption of Mexico's debts and the price of \$15 million.

There's no doubt that Polk had been spoiling for a fight. The view of the war as simple U.S. plunder is much too simplistic, though. We were within our rights to deal with an independent Texas, which had achieved independence via a just revolution, and Mexico -- in the grips of a foolish war fever -- fired the first shots.

In his book on the war, "A Country of Vast Designs," Robert W. Merry describes the underlying dynamic. Mexico, he notes, "was a dysfunctional, unstable, weak nation whose population was insufficient to control all the lands within its domain." The United States, on the other hand, "was a vibrant, expanding, exuberant experiment in democracy whose burgeoning population thrilled to the notion that it was engaging in something big and historically momentous." This created a drive "toward expansion into largely unpopulated lands that seemed

to beckon with irresistible enticement."

Today, it is Trump personally, rather than the nation at large, tempted by historic acquisitions of territory. He, too, could be a Thomas Jefferson, or a William Seward -- or a Polk, although hopefully without the war.

But there's a difference between a young 19th-century country surging into loosely governed territory around its perimeter -- or buying territory that European nations are eager to sell -- and a mature 21st century world power invested in stable borders and important alliance systems.

Mexico circa 1846 wasn't a treaty ally of the United States, and there were enormous benefits to actually acquiring the Southwest, whereas we can presumably get the military bases and mineral extraction we want out of frozen Greenland without formal ownership.

If Trump is going to look to Polk, a more apt antecedent is his handling of the dispute with the Brits over the Oregon territory. After making maximalist demands, Polk agreed to an equitable compromise at the 49th parallel.

Polk's example is worth marking in another respect. He really did play 3D chess. There's no way he'd let ego or emotion get in the way of pursuing the national interest, which in this case includes not needlessly alienating long-time allies when other means are available to achieve our strategic ends.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Food & Farm NEWS

Farms Find Success in Vertical Integration

Trends in the food supply chain and changes in consumer behavior could incentivize farmers to vertically integrate their businesses, according to experts. For decades, farmers selling raw commodities have seen a declining share of the money consumers spend on food. Since 1950, that figure declined from around 40 cents of every food dollar to around 9 cents, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with the value of farm products increasingly captured by processors, retailers and food service. "Everyone essentially puts their hand in the cookie jar," said Kristin Kiesel, an agricultural and resource economics professor at the University of California, Davis, who added that consolidation in the processing and retail sectors in recent years has further disadvantaged farmers. "The increased concentration further downstream is an incentive for farms to vertically integrate-to capture some of that added value," Kiesel said.

Spread of Invasive Mussels Threatens Irrigation Systems

Since the non-native golden mussel was first discovered in October 2024 in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the potentially pipe-clogging mollusk has spread as far south as Riverside County. Invasive pest management experts acknowledge eradication is likely impossible. They say the goal now should be to protect noninfested water bodies from mussel introductions. But it won't be easy. "Preventing spread to areas that

receive delta water via the California Aqueduct is a large challenge," said Tanya Veldhuizen, program lead for the State Water Project Aquatic Nuisance Species Program. "Currently available technology to prevent the transfer of mussels is very limited and applicable to only very small volumes of water." Already, the golden mussel has disrupted maintenance activities at the Port of Stockton and a handful of water providers, and its impact is only expected to grow.

Del Monte Cannery Closure Devastates California Fruit Growers

California farmers who grow fruit for canned products suffered a major setback this month as Del Monte Foods announced plans to close its only remaining cannery in the state. The cannery's closure will reportedly affect roughly 600 employees and 1,200 seasonal workers in Modesto. The closure ends Del Monte's more than 100-year history as a processor of California-grown fruits and vegetables, potentially leaving scores of farmers without a buyer for their produce. "It's difficult," said Ranjit Davit, who grows cling peaches in Sutter County and chairs the California Canning Peach Association's board of directors. "Growers are very upset about the situation." In recent years, Del Monte contracted about 35% of California's cling peaches. Farmers who planted fruit orchards under long-term contracts with Del Monte said they were weighing their options and bracing for steep losses. ★

Crime Reports WEST SACRAMENTO



ARREST REPORTS

Nancy Leanora Carrillo, 39, was cited Thursday, Dec. 4 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police for possession of a narcotic controlled substance.

Elena Onica, 63, was cited Friday, Dec. 5 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Yolanda Ninfereba Zamora, 49, was cited Tuesday, Dec. 9 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

Fernando Baca, 62, was cited Tuesday, Dec. 9 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

William Jay Bissegger, 39, was cited Tuesday, Dec. 16 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police for vandalism. This was a citizen's arrest by a business victim.

Robert Joel Burkett, 26, was arrested Wednesday, Dec. 17 at an undisclosed location by West Sacramento Police for disorderly conduct, loitering on private property. Officer was dispatched to the location for a suspicious subject. The reporting party advised an unknown male jumped the fence into her backyard. Upon arrival, the officer detained the male, identified as Burkett. The reporting party stated she has never seen Burkett before, and he does not live there. She heard a noise coming from the backyard and observed Burkett holding her Kobalt weed whacker, and he tried to take a food processor then broke her fence while trying to flee. A records check revealed Burkett's residence in Woodland, not the dispatched location. He refused to provide a statement under Miranda and was transported to Yolo County Jail without incident.

George Alex Clark, 34, was arrested Wednesday, Dec. 17 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police for multiple outstanding warrants. Officer observed Clark, a known subject with warrants, walking into the parking lot of a business at the location. A records check confirmed the warrants and Clark was detained without incident and transported to Yolo County Jail.

Yuriy Penkov, 47, was arrested Thursday, Dec. 18 on Rice Avenue by West Sacramento Police. Officer was dispatched to a nearby location for report of a commercial burglary in progress at a tow yard not open to the public at the time. Notes on the call advised there was live video feed of a subject on the property attempting to pry open the trunk of a vehicle. Assisting officers arrived on scene and set up a perimeter around the location including the launch of a drone. Officer observed a male subject walking through the yard wearing all grey with a black backpack. The drone pilot observed the same male, who then jumped onto the roof of a neighboring business. Officers on scene activated lights and sirens, and the male subject continued to evade officers through several yards before climbing onto the roof of the arrest location where he was eventually taken into custody by assisting officers who also climbed onto the roof. A records check of the male, now identified as Penkov, found multiple outstanding bench warrants and he was placed under arrest. A search revealed several burglary tools and under Miranda, Penkov admitted to entering the yard to gain access to the vehicle's trunk. Penkov was transported to Yolo County Jail, additionally charged with burglary, possessing burglary tools, resisting a peace officer and

theft with two prior convictions.

John Daniel Ibarra, 35, was arrested Thursday, Dec. 18 at Water Street and Hobson Avenue by West Sacramento Police. Officer was dispatched for report of a stolen vehicle. The reporting party had just seen their own vehicle but with switched license plates. Officer located the vehicle at the arrest location, where a high-risk traffic stop was initiated and the driver and passenger removed from the vehicle and detained without incident. A records check of the driver, identified as Ibarra, found multiple outstanding warrants for his arrest. During a search incident to arrest, officer found a clear glass pipe with a bulbous tip and burnt residue inside. Officer also found a white crystal-like substance in Ibarra's right pants pocket. Under Miranda, Ibarra stated that his friend picked him up in the vehicle the day before and let him drive the vehicle, and he did not know it was stolen. The registered owner of the vehicle confirmed no one had permission to drive it and he wanted to press charges. Ibarra was transported to Yolo County Jail charged with the warrants, possessing a stolen vehicle, possessing unlawful paraphernalia, possessing a controlled substance and driving while license suspended for DUI.

Litzi Estefania Marquez Plascencia, 24, was arrested Friday, Dec. 19 on Jefferson Boulevard by West Sacramento Police. On Dec. 11, officer was assigned a courtesy report from police in Midlothian, Texas regarding identity theft using a social security card. The victim in Texas learned another person had been using her social security number to obtain employment in West Sacramento. The local officer was provided pictures of a social security card with Plascencia's name on it with the Texas victim's social security number, permanent resident card, and I-9 employment eligibility verification form. The officer attempted to contact and interview Plascencia at her workplace and was unable to locate her. On the date of the arrest, Plascencia came to the West Sacramento Police department of her own free will to inquire why police were looking for her. Using an interpreter, officer read her Miranda rights and Plascencia understood. She admitted to not having her own social security number or permanent resident card and obtaining documents that she knew to be false or forged from another person. She stated she did not know it was a crime to do so. Officer confirmed Plascencia signed her I-9 where the penalty of perjury is provided and she was booked into Yolo County Jail on charges of perjury, getting other's identification and knowingly using personal information to commit a violation.

Chelsea Nicole Payne, 36, was transported from Sacramento County Jail to Yolo County Jail by West Sacramento Police on Sunday, Dec. 21 for an outstanding felony warrant.

Frankie Lee Estrada, 28, was arrested Monday, Dec. 22 on Walnut Street by West Sacramento Police. Officer was dispatched to the location for a suspicious subject and found a man urinating behind a trailer. The subject provided a name that dispatch indicated was not accurate. The man, later confirmed as Estrada, was revealed to be on searchable felony probation through Nov. 2027. The property owner identified Estrada as a previously trespassed person and signed a citizen's arrest form. Estrada admitted he was aware he was trespassed from the property. He was arrested for violating probation for being unlawfully on a property from which he had been trespassed and engaging in criminal conduct in giving false identification to the officer.

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Yolo County Seeking Grand Juror Candidates

Yolo Superior Court News Release

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Yolo Superior Court is now accepting applications for the 2026/2027 Yolo County Grand Jury. Each July 1 the Yolo Superior Court impanels 19 grand jurors and 11 alternates who serve as an arm of the judicial system, but act as an entirely independent body.

The primary civil function of the grand jury is to review the operations of city and county government as well as other tax supported agencies and special districts. Based on these reviews, the grand jury publishes its findings and may recommend constructive action to improve

the quality and effectiveness of local government.

Eligibility requirements for grand jury service are: You must be a citizen of the United States. You must be 18 years of age or older. You have been a resident of Yolo County for at least one year before selection. You possess sufficient knowledge of the English language. You are not currently serving as a trial juror in any court of this state. You have not been discharged as a grand juror in any court of this state within one year. You have not been convicted of malfeasance in office or any felony or other high crime. You are not serving as an elected public officer.

Although grand jury service is important work and

a considerable responsibility, it is also an exciting opportunity to serve your community and learn more about local government. It can be an incredibly rewarding and satisfying experience. If selected, the term of service is a period of one year, from July 1 through June 30. Applicants should be committed to serving the entire year. The average time commitment is approximately 30-50 hours per month. Please submit all applications by March 27, 2026.

For a grand jury application, visit www.yolo.courts.ca.gov or call 530 406-6828. Yoo Superior Court is located at 1000 Main Street, Woodland CA. ★

Aggies Excel in Fall Academic Performance



UC Davis student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom, recording a 3.29 cumulative GPA for the quarter and improving on the previous fall quarter's results. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG)

- UC Davis student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom, recording a 3.29 cumulative GPA for the quarter and improving on the previous fall quarter's results.

Aggie women recorded a combined GPA of 3.43, with the men finishing the quarter at 3.06.

Academic success extended across the department, as 80 student-athletes earned a perfect 4.00 quarterly GPA, representing 12.5 percent of all student-athletes. Additionally, 283 Aggies (44.22 percent) posted a GPA of 3.50 or higher, while 455 student-athletes (71.09 percent) finished the quarter with a GPA of 3.00 or better.

Several programs recorded historic marks. Women's golf posted the highest overall team GPA at 3.94, the highest in program history. On the men's side, men's basketball led the way with a 3.34 GPA, ranking among the top men's team GPAs in UC Davis history.

Aggie Notes
Men's baseball tied its second-highest team GPA with a 3.10. Football posted the second-highest team GPA in program history at 3.11. Women's basketball recorded

the program's fifth-highest team GPA with a 3.37. Women's field hockey achieved the highest team GPA in program history with a 3.59.

Women's tennis earned the program's second-highest team GPA at 3.66. Women's volleyball posted the third-highest team GPA in program history with a 3.62. Women's water polo recorded the highest team GPA in program history with a 3.62.

As of the spring quarter, UC Davis student-athletes are enrolled in: 19 majors in the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences; 8 majors in the College of Biological Sciences; 9 majors in the College of Engineering; 29 majors in the College of Letters & Science; 14 student-athletes declared in the Business major through the Graduate School of Management; 15 student-athletes pursuing double majors; 23 student-athletes enrolled in graduate studies.

The 23 student-athletes currently competing while enrolled in graduate school are pursuing degrees in: Master of Science in Computer Science; Master of Business Administration (Graduate School of Management); Master of Management (Graduate School of Management). ★

Charges Filed after DUI Collision Killed Davis Woman

Yolo County District Attorney's Office News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - The Yolo County District Attorney has filed charges against 28-year-old West Sacramento resident, Kanwal Sahil, after a collision that occurred on Jan. 25, 2026, in West Sacramento, that resulted in the death of a Davis woman.

Sahil has been charged with one

count of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter While Intoxicated, and one count of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Drugs Causing Injury, with enhancements for a high blood alcohol level, infliction of great bodily injury, and engaging in violent conduct that indicates a serious danger to society. Sahil was arraigned Jan. 28 at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. 1 of the Yolo County Superior Court. ★



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

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

Society for the Blind News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Kaiser Permanente has granted \$25,000 to Society for the Blind in Sacramento to expand its programs for youth and working-age adults with vision loss across the region so they have the blindness skills, academic assistance and job-readiness training to be successful and independent.

"People with vision loss have an unemployment rate of nearly 70%, and 80% of our program participants are low-income, so workforce preparedness is essential to ensuring they gain financial stability and independence," said Shari Roeseler, executive director, Society for the Blind. "We are grateful to Kaiser Permanente for recognizing the important gap we can fill by ensuring people with vision loss can find and maintain employment."

Society for the Blind provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship, and access to tools to maintain independence for more than 5,000 youth, working-age adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year.

Kaiser Permanente funding will help Society for the Blind expand its Core Skills program that enrolls 100 to 200 new clients from across



A Society for the Blind instructor helps a client learn assistive technology. The nonprofit recently received a grant from Kaiser Permanente to expand its programs for youth and working-age adults. Courtesy photo

the region each year. The program works with clients ages 17 and up, offering training and assistance in searching for and applying for jobs online, creating a professional cover letter and resume, and mock interview sessions.

Clients learn how to use assistive technologies to perform work functions and to confidently explain their ability to do the job for which they are applying. Youth participants also learn appropriate dress for the workplace, social and

interpersonal skills, budgeting and finance.

"Kaiser Permanente partners with organizations in our community, like the Society for the Blind, to help promote economic opportunity and job readiness for those in need," said Jay Robinson, senior vice president and area manager, Kaiser Permanente Sacramento and South Sacramento. "By investing in workforce development programs and training opportunities that lead to financial stability

we are working to improve the overall health and well-being of the communities we serve."

For more than 70 years, Sacramento-based Society for the Blind has continued to create innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Since 1954, Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers to a nationally recognized agency and

the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of Northern California. Learn more or donate: www.SocietyfortheBlind.org.

Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care and is recognized as one of America's leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans. Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente has a mission to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of its members and the communities it serves. Kaiser Permanente currently serves nearly 12.6 million members in eight states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal Permanente Medical Group physicians, specialists and team of caregivers. Expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery and world-class chronic disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education and the support of community health. For more information: about.kp.org. ★

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California Visitor's Guide Unveiled

Visit California News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The 2026 edition of the California Visitor's Guide featuring cover star Mandy Moore is now available. The comprehensive guide inspires travelers to explore California, complete with an insider's handbook on the state's hidden gems, a Route 66 road map to celebrate the route's centennial, travel tips and more.

"Mandy is a true embodiment of the California dream, a real-life Disney princess, and a wonderful ambassador for the Golden State," said Caroline Beteta, president and CEO of Visit California. "Her connection to California reflects the freedom, creativity and optimism that draw travelers here from around the world. This guide is filled with countless stories and experiences that inspire

unforgettable journeys across the state."

In Moore's profile, she shares how destinations across the state have shaped her sense of home, creativity and community – from her neighborhood roots in Altadena and time spent in Los Angeles County to family road trips along the Pacific Coast Highway and visits to the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

"Anywhere I am in California, I feel at home," said Moore. "I hope that California feels as proud of me as I am of it."

Available in print and online, the visitor's guide is packed with useful information for trip-planning, as well as inspired ideas for exploring lesser-known experiences across the state.

Highlights of the 2026 California Visitor's Guide include an insider's handbook to California's most intriguing and lesser-known experiences including an exploration



Visit California's comprehensive guide inspires travelers to explore California, complete with an insider's handbook on the state's hidden gems, a Route 66 road map to celebrate the route's centennial, travel tips and more. Photo courtesy of Visit California

of Route 66 (celebrating its Centennial in 2026) one of America's most storied highways, which winds through California's deserts, canyons and epic beachside conclusion, with essential stops and historic landmarks along the way

The guide also includes "Five Vacation Vibes,"

featuring five diverse, curated itineraries designed for every type of traveler; a spotlight on the Eastern Sierra's dramatic landscapes and showcasing why the region is a must-visit for nature lovers in 2026; gold medal-worthy snow getaways that traverse California's premier

snow destinations, with athlete-recommended spots; and expert advice on tackling California's multitude of options and offerings, including timing, logistics, seasonal considerations and tips from locals on how to maximize a California vacation.

The 2026 Visitor's

Guide is available at California Welcome Centers, regional tourism offices and online at VisitCalifornia.com/travel-guides. It will also be distributed in March with three People Inc. publications: "Travel + Leisure, Food & Wine and Real Simple." ★

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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 commenced 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.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Jan 30, Feb 6, 13, 20, 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 ALCALA-FLORES, Deputy
1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20/26
CNS-4004973#
NEWS-LEDGER 2-20-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260070
The following person(s) is doing business as: Boler and Associates, 750 F Street B4, Davis, CA 95616. Lake County Food LLC, 5317 Bel Air Drive, Kelseyville, CA 95451. 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 1, 2020. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on January 23, 2026.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
BOLER 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260079
The following person(s) is doing business as: Auto Guys Car Sales, 503 East Street, Woodland, CA 95776. Aneid Akmal, 1131 Garaventa Way, Sacramento, CA 95833. This business is conducted by An Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on January 26, 2026. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on January 26, 2026.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
AUTO 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260078
The following person(s) is doing business as: Legacy Law Solutions, 750 F Street, Suite 2, Davis, CA 95616. Crider Law Group, APC, 750 F Street Suite 2, Davis, CA 95616. This business is conducted by A Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 1, 2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on January 26, 2026.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
LEGACY 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260072
The following person(s) is doing business as: Saddle Ridge Investors, 2525 2nd Street, Davis, CA 95618. Gregory E. McNece, Amy L. McNece, Jackson E. McNece, Lila M. McNece, 2525 2nd Street, Davis, CA 95618. This business is conducted by A Limited Partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on January 1, 2015. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on January 23, 2026.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
SADDLE 2-27-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20260086
The following person(s) is doing business as: Vega's, 1708 Lisbon Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95605. Ricardo Miguel Vega, 1708 Lis-

bon Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95605. This business is conducted by An Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on January 26, 2026. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on January 28, 2026.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026
VEGAS 2-27-26

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 Christine 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

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE 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
#CV2026-0078

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

SUMMONS

SUMMONS (AMENDED) (CITACION NUMERICAL)
CASE NUMBER (NUMERO DEL CASO):
CV2024-2408

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): JEREMY GOODIN, an individual; and DOES 1-10, inclusive YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

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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 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandado. Una carta o una llamada telefónica 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 más información 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 más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Cen-

tro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is (*El nombre y dirección de la corte es*): Superior Court of California, Yolo County
Yolo Superior Court, 1000 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (*El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es*): Kieth M. Gregory (117837); Rachel A. McMains (352954) (213) 929-2500 (213) 929-2525
SNELL & WILMER, LLP, 350 South Grand Avenue, Suite 3100, City National 2CAL Los Angeles, CA 90071
DATE (*Fecha*): 9/23/2024
SHAWN C. LANDRY, Clerk (*Secretario*), by /s/ M. Narvaez, Deputy (*Adjunto*) (SEAL)
2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27/26
CNS-4006756#
NEWS-LEDGER 2-27-26

LIEN SALE

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE
Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to satisfy Extra Space's lien, by selling personal property belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated.

975 F St. West Sacramento, CA 95605 on 2/17/2026 @11:00am: Malakhi Beard; Danny Khamsa; Forrest Gardens; Jameshia Morgan; Louise Marie Evelyn Galdones; Cathleen Siebe; Stephanie Reynolds; Trevor Gerow; Haseebullah Feroz; Dean Price
3280 Jefferson Blvd. West Sacramento, CA 95691 on 2/17/2026 @11:00am: Omar Cortez; arrick blair; Mike Lee; Gregory Arnold; Emily Satrazemis; hineka keomany; Jorge Padilla
1022 Gibson Rd Woodland, CA 95695 on 2/17/2026 @11:00am: Rhianna Cea
19389 County Road 102 Woodland, CA 95776 on 2/17/2026 @2:00pm: Beverly Granda; ILeana Romo De Vivar
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Subscriptions should be mailed to:
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Subscription rate is \$52 per year within West Sacramento and \$72 outside of West Sacramento.

Main Office Address: 2508 Garfield Ave., Suite A, Carmichael, CA, 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information.
 The News-Ledger is published weekly on Friday.

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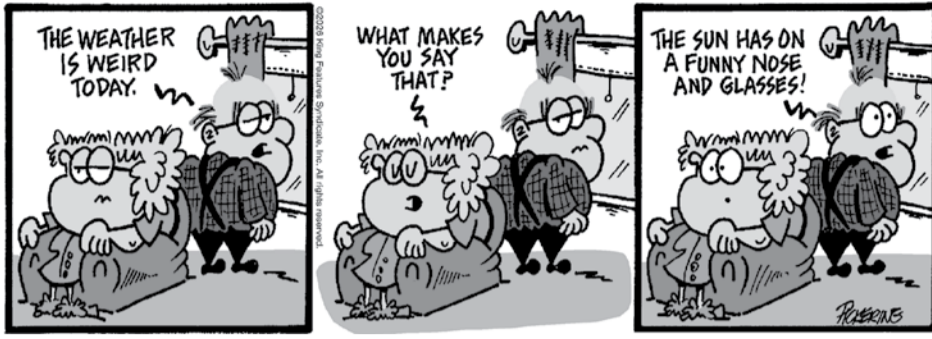
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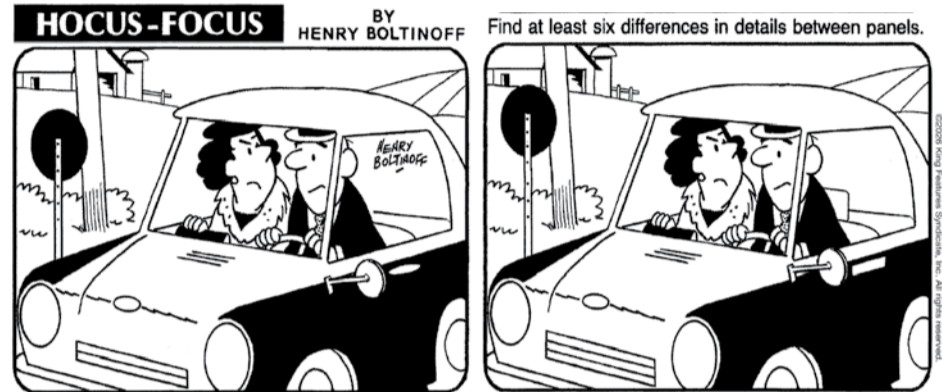
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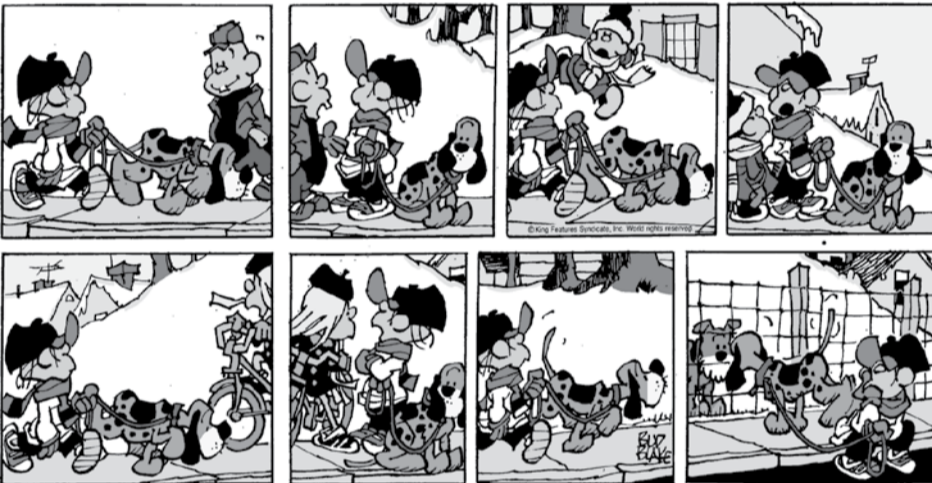
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Water Forum Members Begin Approval Process for 2050 Agreement

Sacramento Water Forum News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Nearly 40 organizations across the Sacramento region are beginning the formal process of approving the Water Forum 2050 Agreement, a major milestone in advancing the next generation of regional water management.

Over the coming weeks and months, cities, counties, water providers, environmental groups, business organizations, and community interests will bring the draft agreement to their elected boards, councils, and governing bodies for consideration. Several organizations have already completed this review and formally approved the Water Forum 2050 Agreement, while others are now beginning their public approval processes. Together, these actions mark the final phase before signatories gather in spring to formally sign the Water Forum 2050 Agreement.

First signed in 2000, the Water Forum Agreement has guided regional efforts to protect the Lower American River while supporting reliable water supplies for the region's communities and economy.

"Twenty-five years ago, the region made a bold decision to move past disagreement and commit to a shared approach for protecting the Lower American River and securing reliable water supplies," said Water Forum executive director Ashlee Casey. "Water Forum 2050 strives for the same level of foresight. Our goal is that 25 years from now, people will view this agreement with the same confidence and appreciation we have for the original."



First signed in 2000, the Water Forum Agreement has guided regional efforts to protect the Lower American River while supporting reliable water supplies for the region's communities and economy. Photo courtesy Sacramento Water Forum

Water Forum 2050 updates the long-standing accord by recognizing new challenges and incorporating new science and opportunities to respond to climate change.

Early approvals by Sacramento Suburban Water District, Sacramento Valley Conservancy, Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange, San Juan Water District, Sacramento Metro Chamber, Placer County Water Agency, Sacramento Association of Realtors, El Dorado Irrigation District, Fair Oaks Water District, and East Bay Municipal Utility District, reflect regional alignment around the updated framework and confidence in its ability to guide water reliability and American River protection through 2050.

"Beginning the public approval process marks the transition from negotiation to action," Casey said. "Each board and council vote moves our region closer to a shared commitment for how we will protect the Lower American River, strengthen water reliability, and adapt to a changing climate over the next 25 years."

Water Forum 2050 maintains the coequal objectives that have guided the Water Forum for more than two decades: 1) provide a reliable and safe water supply for the region's economic health and planned development; and 2) reserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational and aesthetic values of the Lower American River.

The updated agreement

includes five program areas – Flows and Operations, Corridor Health, Regional Water Supply Sustainability, Science and Monitoring, and Governance – paired with a new, forward-looking initiative: the American River Climate Adaptation Program (ARCAP).

American River Climate Adaptation Program aims to enhance regional water management by voluntarily linking agencies, infrastructure, and policies to create a truly regional system – one where water is available when and where it's needed, with a focus on preserving cold water in the American River for fish and future supply.

American River Climate Adaptation Program draws from a variety of sources,

including conservation, ground-water recharge, strategic reservoir operations, and shifts in supply sources according to hydrology, to create measurable volumes of "American River Climate Adaptation Program (ARCAP) water."

This water can be stored in wet periods and used during critically dry conditions to support both river health and community water reliability.

Lastly, the Water Forum 2050 Agreement includes Purveyor Specific Agreements (PSAs) that outline opportunities and commitments for the participating water providers to support the coequal objectives through their water management and operations. Together, the program level commitments for the continued regional work of the Water Forum, combined with the includes Purveyor Specific Agreements, form an integrated approach to regional water management. The draft agreement can be found at <https://waterforum.org/water-forum-2-0-process/>.

Next Steps

Each participating organization will review the draft agreement through its own public approval process. Following these actions, Water Forum members aim to finalize and sign the Water Forum 2050 Agreement in early 2026. Supporting materials – including the draft agreement, executive summary, and fact sheets – are available at waterforum.org/water-forum-2-0-process.

For more information and a full list of participating members, visit: waterforum.org. ★

Small Business Challenges Law Restricting Employer Free Speech

National Federation of Independent Business News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business association, filed an amicus brief in the case California Chamber of Commerce v. Bonta at the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. The case challenges California SB 399, California's law restricting employers' freedom to speak freely in the workplace.

"This law might be the best example of the nationally embarrassing regard California has of itself that what it codifies can supersede federal law and not just on a minor issue but one so foundational as the First Amendment proscribing 'abridging the freedom of speech,'" said John Kabateck, state director for the National Federation

of Independent Business in California. "It's equal parts tragedy and comedy that striking SB 399 down would tell employers that, yes, they can safely communicate with the people they pay a wage to in a building they own or pay rent on."

Beth Milito, Vice President and Executive Director of National Federation of Independent Business' Small Business Legal Center added, "For more than 70 years, employers have had the right under federal law to meet with their employees to discuss labor-related issues that could affect their business and the workplace. California's law not only violates the First Amendment; its vague definitions and arbitrary restrictions will negatively harm well-meaning small business owners. National Federation of Independent Business will continue to fight any attempts to restrict the free speech

of small business owners in their own place of business."

The National Federation of Independent Business' brief argues two main points: 1) California impermissibly regulates speech and any conduct regulated by SB 399 depends entirely on the content of the speech; and 2) the Supreme Court's cases make clear that the government cannot exercise its authority in content- or viewpoint-discriminatory ways.

In 2022, National Federation of Independent Business joined a business coalition in challenging a similar law in Connecticut, and filed another similar lawsuit in Minnesota in 2024.

The National Federation of Independent Business Small Business Legal Center protects the rights of small business owners in the nation's courts. National Federation of

Independent Business is currently active in more than 40 cases in federal and state courts across the country and in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Keep up with the latest California small business news at www.nfib.com. Follow us on X: @NFIB_CA and on Facebook: @NFIB.CA.

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

California Legislators Ignore State Audit Warnings

We need to demand better representatives



Katy Grimes

By Katy Grimes, California Globe

A new CBS News report found what most of us already knew: The Democrat Supermajority Legislature ignores state audits – even audits the Joint Legislative Audit Committee request. The State Auditor is non-partisan, just as with the Legislative Analyst's Office, and is supposed to be the state watchdog to help limit waste, fraud and abuse.

I'M SHOCKED.

CBS reports: "The unresolved warnings span some of California's most expensive and urgent problems, including unemployment fraud, homelessness spending oversight, public safety funding accountability, wildfire risk, and drinking water

safety, just to name a few."

I have covered many of the State Auditor's reports, and most recently, broke their latest report by State Auditor Gabe Petek, who is excellent: "California State Auditor: Governor Newsom And 8 Agencies Named 'High-Risk' which found that Gavin Newsom while in his final year as governor, has upended the state's financial structure, compromised public safety and left the state's infrastructure in far worse condition.

Back in the 2010s, I greatly appreciated reporting on then-State Auditor Elaine Howle's fabulous audits.

Here's just one article from June 2010 warning that State Employees Misuse Taxpayer Money: calwatchdog.com/2010/06/30/state-employees-misuse-taxpayer-money/.

Say it isn't so... some state employees abuse their public service jobs? I'm shocked.

The state Auditor Elaine Howle released another spate of reports on Tuesday that include some damning information.

Several state agencies were caught with employees abusing and stealing from the state. It turns out that management within the agencies knew of

the abuse and misuse of taxpayer money. Which agencies? Corrections, Industrial Relations, Justice, CSU Northridge and CSU Channel Islands, Water Resources, Consumer Affairs, Social Services, Food and Agriculture, Highway Patrol, and the DMV.

It doesn't appear that California has done a good job with federal Recovery Act funds: https://information.auditor.ca.gov/stimulus/interim_reports. Specifically, the California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: "It Is Not Fully Prepared to Award and Monitor Millions in Recovery Act Funds and Lacks Controls to Prevent Their Misuse."

And ... "High-Risk Update – California's System for Administering Federal Recovery Act Funds: State Departments Are Preparing to Administer Aspects of Recovery Act Funding, but Correction of Control Weaknesses and Prompt Federal and State Guidance Are Needed."

This needs to be exposed.

Legislators and state leaders should be required by state law to publicly address state audits, with their implementation plan to make the fixes. ★

Capital Caucus Members Elect Inaugural Leadership Team

Capital Caucus News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Capital Caucus announced Jan. 28 that its members have elected the new Sacramento-based regional caucus's first leadership team. Senate Majority Leader Angelique Ashby (D-Sacramento) will serve as Chair, and Assemblymember Maggy Krell (D-Sacramento) will serve as Vice Chair.

The newly formed Capital Caucus was established to bring together the legislators from the greater capital region to drive progress on shared goals. The Capital Caucus is bicameral and bipartisan.

"The Sacramento region is home to some two million Californians, and yet our shared priorities often get lost in the noise of the Capitol," said Senate Majority Leader Ashby. "I am honored to serve as the inaugural Chair for the Capital Caucus. We will work together as a bipartisan group to be a strong, unified voice for the people and businesses who call this region home."

Assemblymember Krell added, "When legislators put regional needs ahead of party labels, we can achieve real

results. The members of the Capital Caucus are committed to working collaboratively to advance real solutions that reflect the priorities of our residents - from infrastructure and public safety to economic opportunity and quality of life. The Capital Caucus gives our region the coordinated voice it deserves in the Legislature, and I am honored to serve as the first Vice Chair for this important Caucus."

The founding members of the Capital Caucus are senate Majority Leader Angelique Ashby (D-Sacramento), Senator Christopher Cabaldon (D-West Sacramento), Senator Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks), Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters), Assembly Minority Leader Heath Flora (R-Ripon), Assemblymember Josh Hoover (R-Folsom), Assemblymember Maggy Krell (D-Sacramento) and Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen (D-Elk Grove).

The Capital Caucus was formed in 2025 to foster bipartisan collaboration and drive progress on shared regional goals. By uniting leaders from the greater capital region, we strive to amplify the region's collective voice in support of key priorities that enhance its future. ★

River Cats Announce Coaching Staff

Entire 2025 staff to return; Brundage embarks on 10th season as manager

Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA - The Sacramento River Cats have announced their 2026 coaching staff, returning the entire group from 2025.

Manager Dave Brundage, Fundamentals Coach Jolbert Cabrera, Pitching Coach Alain Quijano, Hitting Coach P.J. Pilittere and Assistant Hitting Coach Robert Riggins will once again serve as the Sacramento field staff, joined by fellow returners Brian Reinker (trainer), Chris Walsh (trainer), Chris Harms (strength and conditioning coach) and Nick Solitario (player development associate).

Dave Brundage returns for his 10th year as manager of the River Cats, a position he's held since 2017. In his eight seasons (no season in 2020), Brundage has amassed a 537-608 (.469) record, including a magical 2019 season in which Sacramento won 73 games and were crowned both Pacific Coast League and Triple-A Champions. In 2025, Brundage guided the River Cats to an overall record of 77-73. Currently, he has totaled the second most managerial wins in Sacramento franchise history, trailing only the 578 of Tony DeFrancesco (2003-07, 2009-10).

For his career, Brundage has a managerial record of 1,908-1,923 (.498), with a total of three league championships. 19 consecutive seasons of his 27-year managerial career have come at the Triple-A level. Prior to Sacramento, Brundage guided the Lehigh Valley IronPigs (Philadelphia Phillies, 2014-16) over four seasons, and



Pictured is Sacramento River Cats Manager Dave Brundage who is entering his 10th season as manager. Photo courtesy of Minor League Baseball

spent his first six Triple-A campaigns with the Richmond/Gwinnett Braves (Atlanta Braves, 2007-2012).

Jolbert Cabrera embarks on his 10th season in the Giants' organization, his seventh as fundamentals coach of the River Cats after assuming the role in Sacramento's 2019 championship season. Twice Cabrera has helped the team set franchise records, tying the mark for fewest errors committed in 2021 (103) before rewriting it in 2024 (98), and coaching the River Cats to post their best fielding percentage in franchise history in 2024 (.982).

Alain Quijano returns to Sacramento for his third season, his sixth total in the San Francisco organization after spending his first three as pitching coach with the Eugene Emeralds. While in

Eugene, Quijano's pitching staffs totaled no fewer than 1,286 strikeouts in each of his three seasons, and he helped mentor the Emeralds to an eye-popping 3.42 ERA and .220 opposing batting average during the 2022 campaign in which Eugene was 81-48.

Robert Riggins returns for his third season with the River Cats, his fifth in the San Francisco organization after also serving as the hitting coach/strategist for the Dominican Summer League (DSL) Giants Black from 2022-23. Having spent over a decade as a coach, Riggins has also served at the high school level in New Mexico including stops as a head coach at Los Lunas High School (2010-12),

Pojoaque Valley High School (2013-14, 2019), and Lovington High School (2016-18).

P.J. Pilittere returns for his

second season with the River Cats and as a member of the Giants organization. Prior to joining the Giants, Pilittere served as the assistant hitting coach for the Colorado Rockies from 2022-24. Prior to that, Pilittere was the hitting coach for the New York Yankees from 2018-21, making the playoffs in all four seasons while twice coaching in the American League Championship Series (ALCS).

In the training room, Brian Reinker returns for his fifth season in the San Francisco organization, all with Sacramento, after coming aboard for the 2022 campaign. Prior to joining the Giants, Reinker spent nearly two decades with the Los Angeles Angels organization from 2003-2021 and was named the Pacific Coast League (PCL) Athletic Trainer of the Year in 2015 with the Salt Lake Bees.

Back for his third season is Chris Walsh, who will enter his fifth year in the San Francisco organization. Prior to joining the River Cats in 2024, he spent two seasons with the Richmond Flying Squirrels (Double-A). Walsh has also worked five seasons in the St. Louis Cardinals organization (2017-2021) as a certified athletic trainer.

Chris Harms returns for his second season as strength and conditioning coach for the River Cats and his seventh season in the San Francisco organization. Harms' time with San Francisco began in 2020 with the Dominican Summer League (DSL) Giants (Rookie) and continued with the Arizona League (AZL) Giants (Rookie) in 2021, San Jose (2022) and Eugene (2023-24).

Nick Solitario returns for his second season as player development associate and his fourth season with the Giants organization. Prior to joining the River Cats in 2025, Solitario served as the baseball video and technology associate with the Eugene Emeralds (High-A) in 2023 and then reprised his role in 2024 with the Richmond Flying Squirrels (Double-A).

The 2026 season begins with a preseason exhibition matchup on Sunday, March 22 when the River Cats host the San Francisco Giants at Sutter Health Park. A full season schedule is available online at www.rivercats.com with season memberships, suite and hospitality rentals, and groups tickets on sale now. Fans can purchase tickets by calling a Sutter Health Park ticket representative at (916) 371-HITS (4487), or by visiting www.rivercats.com/tickets. ★

Hornets' Picton Big Sky Pick

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- For the first time in her collegiate career, Sacramento State junior guard Natalie Picton was named the Big Sky Conference Player of the Week following her performances against Idaho and Eastern Washington last week.

Picton becomes the first Hornet to earn the league's top weekly honor since teammate Benthe Versteeg shared the conference's final regular season award last year.

In helping her team to a split against the second-place Vandals and the Eagles, Picton averaged 18.0 ppg and shot 41 percent from the field for Sacramento State, including draining six of her 13 makes from beyond the arc while also averaging 3.5 rebounds, 2.0 assists, and 2.5 steals per game.

The Welland, Ontario, native opened last week with an 18-point night against Idaho, hitting four of her seven shots from distance in 39 minutes, grabbing four boards, dishing out three assists and swiping a pair of steals. Ten of her 18 points came in the first half as she



The Welland, Ontario, native opened last week with an 18-point night against Idaho, hitting four of her seven shots from distance in 39 minutes, grabbing four boards, dishing out three assists and swiping a pair of steals. Photo courtesy Sacramento State Athletics

helped the Hornets hold Idaho to nearly 20 points under their season average and just 28 percent shooting for the night.

Two days later, Picton poured in 18 more points in a win over Eastern Washington, shooting 55 percent (6-for-11) from the field – including a clutch three-pointer with 2:41 remaining that turned a one-point lead into a four-point advantage for Sacramento State. She then hit 4-of-4 from the line in the final 16 seconds to help ice the win and hold off a further Eagle comeback.

With her pair of 18-point performances, Picton enters this week's contests having reached double figures

in five of her last six contests (15.0 ppg) and 14 of 20 games overall. Her two steals against Idaho, and three more against Eastern Washington University (EWU), gave her multiple steals in a game for the 16th and 17th times in 20 contests overall.

Picton enters the week ranked second on the team in scoring (12.8 ppg) overall and is averaging 13.7 ppg in seven Big Sky games thus far. She ranks among the top 10 in the league in three-pointers made (40) and three's per game (2.0), while standing fourth in steals (53) and steals per game (2.65 spg) as well as second in the league in minutes per contest (34.9 mpg). ★

Riva Lays Claim to Big Sky Honors



The award is the fourth of Riva's career and her first since last claiming the honor on April 23 of last season. Photo courtesy Sacramento State Athletics

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Sacramento State junior Irene Riva was named the Big Sky Conference women's tennis player of the week on Jan. 28 following a strong showing during the Hornets' spring openers in Honolulu.

The award is the fourth of Riva's career and her first since last claiming the honor on April 23

of last season. Her four weekly wins rank her tied for seventh on the school's career chart for player of the week honors.

Splitting time between No. 1 and No. 2 singles, as well as playing at the top spot in the Hornets' doubles lineup, Riva finished the week with a 4-2 overall record, finishing 2-0 at the No. 2 spot in singles and winning two of her three doubles contests alongside

freshman teammate Cami Maldonado Gutierrez.

She opened the week with a straight-set win against Hawai'i Pacific at No. 2, then went three sets to defeat Hawai'i's Makeilah Nepomuceno two days later. In doubles, she posted a win over Hawai'i Pacific's top duo then closed out the weekend with a doubles-point clinching victory at the No. 1 position against the Rainbow Wahine. ★

Kings Announce Kingpin Classic Presented by Raley's

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Republic FC recently announced that the club has signed midfielder José "Pep" Casas. He will be added to the team's roster pending league and federation approval. Per club policy, the terms of the contract were not disclosed.

"Pep fits the mold for the types of talented, up-and-coming players who do well in USL Championship," said Republic FC Head Coach Neill Collins. "We look forward to welcoming him to the Indomitable Club and are excited to be a part of this next step in his career." Casas added, "I'm really

excited to join Sacramento Republic. It's a club with a great culture and passionate fans, and I can't wait to get started and give everything I have for the team."

A native of Barcelona, Spain, Casas got his start in FC Barcelona's famed youth academy, La Masia. He later made the move to English club Ipswich Town before closing out his youth career in Spain with CE Europa. The 25-year-old came to the United States to begin his collegiate career Indiana Tech before transferring to University of North

Carolina Wilmington. With the Seahawks, he appeared in every

recorded two goals and two assists and earned selection to the 2023 Coastal Athletic Association Second Team.

In 2024, Casas was selected 61st overall in the Major League Soccer (MLS) SuperDraft by Inter Miami CF. He made two Major League Soccer appearances for the club before joining Inter Miami CF II. With the Major League Soccer (MLS) NEXT Pro side, he made 25 appearances and added two assists, while maintaining an impressive 86 percent passing accuracy. Last year, he joined Nashville SC's reserve

side Huntsville City FC and played over 2,000 minutes to help the team reach the postseason for the first time. He closed out the season with a stellar 91 percent pass success rate.

Sacramento Republic FC will open the 2026 season at home on March 7 when the Indomitable Club hosts Western Conference Champion FC Tulsa. Kickoff for the 13th season is set for 7 p.m. at Heart Health Park. Fans secure their seat for the entire 2026 season by becoming a member today and lock in the lowest prices of the year. Group tickets are on sale now and single match tickets will be available beginning Feb. 5 at SacRepublicFC.com. ★



game possible and

New Year, New Roadside Safety Protections

California's Expanded "Slow Down, Move Over" Law Now Covers All Stopped Drivers and Passengers Roadside

California Office of Traffic Safety News Release

CALIFORNIA (MPG) - California's expanded "Slow Down, Move Over" law officially took effect Jan. 1, adding lifesaving protections for all stranded drivers and passengers on the roadside. The strengthened requirement compels drivers to move over, or slow down if unsafe to do so, for any stopped vehicle using hazard lights or emergency indicators, including everyday drivers experiencing mechanical trouble or emergencies.

The change, authorized under Assembly Bill 390, legislation sponsored by AAA, comes during a nationwide spike in roadside deaths that safety leaders are calling a crisis.

"Whether you're a stranded driver or a first responder, standing just feet from high speed traffic has become increasingly deadly," said Auto Club Corporate Communications Manager Doug Shupe. "This law equips California drivers with a clear, enforceable rule that can prevent more needless deaths."

With AB 390 now in effect, California joins 28 other states, and the District of Columbia, with expanded Slow Down, Move Over protections to include all stopped vehicles.

Violations in California can result in fines up to \$1,000 and points on a driver's record for unsafe behavior near stopped vehicles.

"Too many Californians are losing their lives simply because passing drivers fail to slow down or move over," said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. "This expanded law makes clear that every person on the roadside, whether a driver or a passenger,



The change, authorized under Assembly Bill 390, legislation sponsored by AAA, comes during a nationwide spike in roadside deaths that safety leaders are calling a crisis. Photo courtesy of California Office of Traffic Safety

deserves the same margin of safety. Obeying 'Slow Down, Move Over' is not just a courtesy; it is a legal responsibility that saves lives."

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, using data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System, reveals roadside fatalities are rising sharply. In California, the number of people killed roadside increased nearly 77% from 2014 to 2023. This alarming trend in people killed roadside is driven by higher speeds, distracted driving and limited shoulder space on modern freeways, data shows.

Additional recent national findings highlight the severity of

the problem. According to the Emergency Responder Safety Institute, 46 emergency responders were killed last year in the U.S. after being struck while assisting at roadside scenes — police officers, firefighters, EMTs and tow truck operators. Tow operators face some of the deadliest conditions on America's roadways. Hundreds of stranded drivers are killed every year while waiting for help or attempting simple fixes like changing a tire.

"Everyone traveling on California's roads and highways deserves to arrive safely at their destination," said Caltrans Director Dina El-Tawansy. "The provisions added to the Move

Over law will help keep more people safe and continue protecting the highway workers and first responders risking their lives to serve others. When we make conscious decisions to benefit the safety of our fellow travelers and dedicated public servants, it creates a safer, more enjoyable travel experience for all."

Daniel Lazaro, a tow truck operator for Preferred Towing, lost his friend at the roadside in October last year. Fifty-seven-year-old Carlos Trejo was struck and killed while helping a stranded Auto Club member on 1-110.

"Carlos was a caring person who would always bring up his family in a joyful and proud

way, especially his grandchildren," said Lazaro. "As he would clock out every day to go home, he would always tell everyone clocking in to be careful and to be safe out there."

Many drivers don't understand the law and it's costing lives. An Oct. 2025 national study from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found the following: 36% of drivers captured on roadside video did not slow down or change lanes — violating the law entirely; drivers were least likely to protect tow operators, with only 58% complying near stopped tow trucks; and two thirds of drivers said they were familiar with "Slow Down, Move Over" laws, yet many could not accurately explain what was required.

The research also found that while some drivers do change lanes, many fail to reduce speed, leaving dangerously little margin if something goes wrong.

As of Jan. 1, drivers must take these simple actions when approaching a stopped vehicle. Change lanes away from the stopped vehicle, if safe to do so. If changing lanes is not possible, slow down to a safe, reasonable speed. The message is clear: See hazards or a stopped vehicle? Slow down. Move over. Save a life.

"As you head out on your next trip, keep in mind that the driver with a flat tire or other roadside car trouble could very well be you," OTS Director Stephanie Dougherty said. "Please move over a lane or slow down for highway workers, first responders, tow truck drivers and other stopped vehicles on the side of the road or shoulder. Make safety the destination we all share by looking out for every vehicle and person on the roadside." ★

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