



St. Mary's Defeats McClatchy for Section Title

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Pocket News

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MARCH 13, 2026

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A Bird of Courage at Station 13



According to Sacramento City's Southland Park Station 13 firefighter Eric Pohl, the turkey known as Frank had a flair for presentation. More than once, the puffed-up bird was spotted admiring his reflection in the station's gleaming red fire engines, as if checking his feathers before stepping into the spotlight.

Story and photos by Stephen B. Clazie

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On most days, drivers at the corner of Gloria Drive and 43rd Avenue can rely on a fully functioning traffic light to keep things moving. But for a while, that job belonged to a turkey named Frank.

Joseph Reichmuth Park, once

known as Munger Lake, still behaves like one during rainy winters, when its low-lying soccer fields fill with water and attract flocks of wildlife. Last year, a group of wild turkeys took up residence. When the flock eventually moved on, one bird decided he preferred the city life.

He chose Sacramento's Southland Park Fire Station 13.

The lone turkey began roosting on

the roof of the station at 6135 Gloria Drive. Fire crews on different shifts offered various names, Fred and Tony, but the name "Frank" stuck.

Frank quickly established his territory at the nearby intersection. Despite the presence of a perfectly good traffic signal, he appointed himself traffic controller. Firefighters inside the station would hear an

Continued on Page 3

City Opens Budget Work Sessions on \$66.2M Deficit



City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento City Council on March 3 began Early Budget Work Sessions for the fiscal year 2026-27 budget, launching a month of public discussions focused on closing a projected \$66.2 million deficit.

"These are not easy conversations," City Manager Maraskeshia Smith said. "The options in front of the council carry real impacts to services and to our employees. We must be transparent about the challenge and align our spending with ongoing revenues."

City officials explained during the presentations that the shortfall reflects a structural imbalance with ongoing expenses growing faster than revenues. The deficit is not caused by a recession but by a combination of rising costs, increased investments in priorities such as homelessness services and voter-approved reallocation of General Fund resources outpacing revenue growth.

The March 3 meeting provided an overview of the city's budget context and several balancing scenarios. Staff also presented a comprehensive menu of potential budget-balancing strategies, including both expenditure reductions and ongoing revenue enhancements. The options were developed to exceed the projected deficit, giving the City Council flexibility as it weighs priorities.

During the presentation, Finance Director Pete Colletto said closing the gap will require a combination of strategies, not just cuts. Options under discussion include expense reductions, potential fee adjustments and other ongoing revenue increases that would require additional public review.

"It's early in the budget

Continued on Page 7

Easter Bunny to Arrive Early at Elks Lodge 6

Story and photos by Stephen B. Clazie

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Elks Lodge 6's brand-new Exalted Ruler, Carol "Coach" Mitchell, is proud to announce that, for the second year in a row, the Easter Bunny will make a special appearance a week before Easter at Elks Lodge 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. The event is open to the public.

"This Sunday, March 29, we will feature a special Elks Lodge 6 Easter Breakfast with Easter Bunny photos and an outdoor egg hunt," Mitchell said.

Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

The Elks Easter egg hunt begins at 11 a.m. Glen Smith, who is in charge of the Elks breakfast, said the hunt will take place outdoors, weather permitting.

"If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll move it indoors," Smith said. "The egg hunt is open to the public, and breakfast participation is not necessary."

The special Elks Lodge 6 Easter

Continued on Page 2



Pictured are Bob Luttrell's son-in-law Dustin Finch, Luttrell, his wife Kathy and daughter Shelby, overlooking the large collection of eggs gathered by Holland and Sofia Finch. Luttrell said last year's event was a great Easter celebration.



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Hop, Skip, Jump at Spring Eggstravaganza



Fairytale Town at 3901 Land Park Drive will host its Spring Eggstravaganza from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5 featuring a wide variety of activities including all-day egg hunts for children. Photo courtesy of Fairytale Town

Fairytale Town News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Families are invited to hop into Spring at Fairytale Town’s Spring Eggstravaganza, happening 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5.

Eagerly anticipated and beloved by many in the region, this event promises joy, laughter and magical experiences for all ages. Spring Eggstravaganza offers a wide variety of activities including all-day egg hunts on the Mother Goose Lawn, egg-finding games, creative crafts, engaging scavenger hunts and exciting prizes. Meet Peter Cottontail for photos and fun interactive moments and catch the Puppet Art Theater

Company performing Bunny Boot Camp in the Children’s Theater. Advance tickets for Spring Eggstravaganza are \$12 for Fairytale Town members and \$15 for non-members. Note that online advance ticket sales end at 11:59 p.m. Friday, April 3 with prices increasing starting Saturday, April 4 to \$18 per person. Children ages 1 and under enter for free. There are no member discounts for day-of tickets. Spring Eggstravaganza is sponsored by PeopleFinders. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March through October, and Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through

February, weather permitting, and unless otherwise noted. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call 916-808-7462. *Fairytale Town is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit children's park and educational center in Land Park whose mission is to promote the imagination, creativity, and education of children. Established in 1959, Fairytale Town is home to more than 25 three-dimensional play sets based on favorite fairytales and nursery rhymes, a family of 22 rare and miniature breed animals, three interactive learning gardens and two performing arts stages. Fairytale Town remains one of the only literacy-based parks that continues to serve children in the Sacramento region.* ★

Native Garden Tour Blooms Across Sacramento

California Native Plant Society News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Taking place from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 18 and 19, the Gardens Got Natives tour is a free-self guided event featuring 40-plus California native plant home, business and school gardens in the Sacramento region. Not only does the event have a new name this year but the tour has been increased to two days. The tour brochure will be color coded to help navigate the new two-day format. The tour gardens are composed predominantly of California native plants in the urban landscape. These gardens feature a variety of ways in which native plants can flourish in a garden. Some are professionally designed while others are more functional and are a mixed use of natives, food production and living spaces. You will find delightful and sustainable gardens that harness water, create habitats and add a sense of place. All native plants in the gardens will be labeled with a plant list available in the tour brochure. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask garden hosts about their choices and challenges. This event is open and free to all. After registration you will receive the map



and tour brochure information the week before the tour begins. California Native Plant Society Sacramento Chapter will again have several vendors out at the gardens selling plants including Mother Natives, Find Out Farms, Miridae Mobile Nursery and a discount available at The Plant Foundry. Details of locations will be posted as that information becomes available. To register, visit sacvalleycnps.org/gardens-gone-native-tour or contact gardensgonenative@gmail.com. Follow the Gardens Got Natives on Facebook and Instagram @gardensgotnatives. ★

Easter Bunny to Arrive Early at Elks Lodge 6

Continued from Page 1 Breakfast will feature a ham carving station, cinnamon rolls and an egg casserole. Pancakes or waffles, coffee and juice will also be served. “We will not have our regular breakfast menu,

and there will be no omelets,” Smith said. He added that scrambled eggs will likely be prepared to order for children. Breakfast is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 10. Children under 5 eat free. Large family groups

are encouraged to make reservations by calling 916-422-6666. Bob Luttrell is looking forward to bringing his family to the special Elks Lodge 6 Easter Breakfast, which will include photos with the Easter Bunny and an egg hunt. ★

REVERE COURT

MEMORY CARE

Monthly Caregiver Educational Seminar

Tuesday, March 24 at 2 p.m.

“Depression in Seniors”
Presented by:
Shellie Young, Community Educator for Sanctuary Home Health & Hospice &
Luis Avila-Cruz, NAMI Board President
Light refreshments will be provided

Please join us!

At Revere Court Memory Care, we believe that **support and education** are essential for every caregiver. Together, we can build understanding, resilience, and a stronger community of care.

This presentation is designed to help participants recognize the common signs and symptoms of depression within the senior population, increase understanding of how mental health can impact overall well-being, and provide practical guidance on when and how to seek support.

Attendees will also learn about available community resources, such as The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Sacramento that offer education, support groups, and assistance for individuals and families navigating mental health concerns.

Please RSVP By March 20th
At 916-392-3510

Revere Court Day Club offers socialization, supervision, assistance, and activities from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday in our clubhouse. We offer families the opportunity to “recharge” for the day while your loved one enjoys themselves.

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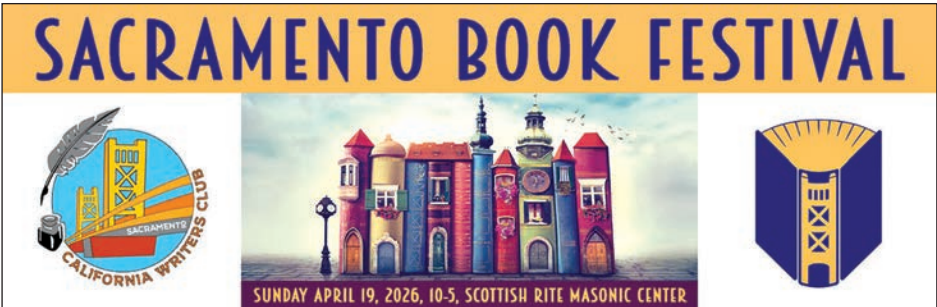
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Sacramento Book Festival Returns in April

Sacramento Book Festival News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On April 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the California Writers Club Sacramento Branch will launch the third annual Sacramento Book Festival at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in River Park, just north of the Sacramento State University campus.

The festival will feature over 200 local authors, selling books for people of all ages, performing readings, participating in panels and introducing themselves to Sacramento readers. The roster includes many literary luminaries, including



Kim Stanley Robinson, Wendelin Van Draanen, Gail Carriger, James Rollins and Allison Brennan, plus many others whom Sacramento readers will recognize and

enjoy.

As part of the festival’s focus on literacy, the Sacramento Book Festival is

running a book drive for activity books for the Mustard Seed School (a program of Loaves & Fishes), a free private school for children ages 3-15 years old who are currently homeless.

Sacramento Book Festival will welcome the Sacramento Literacy Foundation to the event. Its mission is to help all children in our community read at grade level.

There will be activities for children, author readings, food trucks and coffee vendors on site, and a passport stamp hunt with prizes. And best of all, the event is free to the public.

For more information, visit sacramento-bookfestival.com. ★

A Bird of Courage at Station 13

Continued from page 1

eruption of honking horns. When they stepped outside, they often found Frank planted squarely in the roadway, cars frozen in every direction.

He had strong opinions about vehicles. Brown UPS trucks and the neighborhood mail carrier ranked high on his list of offenders.

No one ever clocked his speed, but Frank could match the posted limit while charging down the center of the street, wings flapping, feathers flying and drivers retreating.

According to firefighter Eric Pohl, Frank also had a flair for presentation. He was caught more than once admiring his reflection in the station’s bright red fire engines. When trucks returned from calls, Frank was there to greet them, occasionally even hopping on for a short ride up the driveway.

He tried entering the station once. The firefighters escorted him out. He never attempted that again.



Firefighter Eric Pohl at Station 13 captured Frank, the celebrity turkey, in a short video clip on Facebook.

In January, Frank was struck by a car and broke his left wing, ending his rooftop flights. The Station 13 crew made him a bed near the rear door and kept an eye on him. He continued to forage in Reichmuth Park, supplemented by breadcrumbs

from firefighters and birdseed from a neighborhood resident who stopped by regularly.

Near the end of February, Frank was attacked by a dog. The last sighting of the now-grounded traffic officer was of him running at full speed away from the



Despite the presence of a perfectly good traffic signal, Frank – the Southland Park and Greenhaven/Pocket neighborhoods’ celebrity turkey – appointed himself traffic controller at the intersection of Gloria Drive and 43rd Avenue.

station.

Frank had become more than a familiar face; he was a neighborhood legend. At Station 13, his memory will linger long after the bay doors close each night. And in Southland Park, the children and families who came to visit him will not soon forget the warmth, laughter and quiet joy he brought to their lives.

All firefighters know that on December 7, 1736, Benjamin Franklin didn’t just help fight fires; he helped reinvent how communities protect themselves.

That day, he co-founded the Union Fire Company, better known as the

“Bucket Brigade,” the first formally organized all-volunteer fire company in the American colonies. Modeled after Boston’s Mutual Fire Societies, it borrowed their structure but not their limitations. While Boston's groups protected only their dues-paying members, Franklin's brigade showed up for everyone. In doing so, it ignited something even more enduring than a fire: the American tradition of neighbors helping neighbors.

Firefighters also know that the story about Benjamin Franklin wanting the national bird to be a turkey is a myth. In a

famous letter criticizing the eagle on the Great Seal, Franklin called the bald eagle “a bird of bad moral character” and described the turkey as “a much more respectable bird... though a little vain and silly, a bird of courage.”

Frank never ran for national office, but he certainly knew how to work a crowd. He posed for more than a few photo opportunities, and firefighter Pohl even captured the celebrity bird in a short video clip on Facebook.

But at Fire Station 13, he was exactly that; a little vain, a little silly and unquestionably a bird of courage. ★



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**Story and photos
by Tony Chen**

No. 2 Mikayla Reyes of the Lady Lions shoots a three-pointer during the game against the Lady Rams.



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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

A Win Over Chicago

Well Kings fans, with a 15-50 record and a paltry 17 games to go, is there reason to celebrate the Kings?

If your name is Russell Westbrook there is! Helping the Kings to a 126-110 win over the Chicago Bulls Sunday night at Golden One Arena, Westbrook put on a show with his record setting 208th triple double of his NBA career.

It will likely not be the last, perhaps not even the last this season, so yes, there is reason to celebrate.

For the faithful that turned out to see a spirited Kings team take the court, you were treated to a combination of young and old, as youngsters like Maxime Renauld put up 26 big points to go with 11 boards, and Daeqwon Plowden got his first start of the season adding 16 points of his own.

Once again, Sunday night’s win proved when inspired this team can not only put up points but play together. Although the Kings allowed far too many layups throughout the game, overall, they played a complete game and never allowed the Bulls to think they had a chance at winning.

It was the kind of win Kings fans have been hungry for, and it bodes well for the future.

Of course, much depends on how this team finishes and how the ping pong balls bounce. Without question, the Sacramento Kings will secure a very high round draft choice. My hope is that Scott Perry has his sights set on A.J. Dybantsa from the Utah Cougars. At age 19 and already at 6’9”, A.J. could very well still be growing, and the Kings are in sore need of players that can play the four and five position.

Dybantsa recently made headlines when he scored 20 or more points for the 24th time this season. Without question he can score, and the Kings need to look no further than A. J. if this talented young man is still available when their first-round selection occurs.

You will hear much debate on this issue, as many pundits and fans have been extolling the virtues of Darryn Peterson from the University of Kansas. At 6’6”

Darryn is unquestionably a great college player and ranked No. 1, but he represents another guard on a team that is in desperate need of front court depth.

The other candidate is 6’9” Carmeron Boozer of Duke University, and it’s hard to find fault in that selection. Cameron is the son of former NBA great Carlos Boozer, and at 6’9” and 250 pounds and only a freshman in college, this young man portends to be a carbon copy of his old man.

So, for this writer’s draft picks in order, it would be A.J. Dybantsa, Cameron Boozer and then probably draft and trade Darryn Peterson.

The real question is will the Kings have the opportunity of drafting in the No. 1, 2, or 3 position?

Anyone’s guess, but with just 17 games to go the interest is heating up, and how these three plays in the upcoming NCAA tournament will likely tell the story of how they will be drafted.

For me, the good news is that the Kings discovered Precious Achiuwa and Dylan Cardwell, and these two big men need to be coveted, not traded. Both big bodies are what Domantas Sabonis has been waiting for and with the likely addition of a high and capable draft choice just around the corner, fans are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

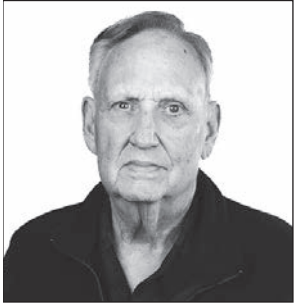
I would be remiss if not to mention the stellar play of one Malik Monk who led the team over the Bulls with 30 points off the bench. This stevedore of the hardwood deserves a chorus of at-a-boys for the professional way he has handled his business this season. A constant topic of trade all season long, Malik has been the bastion of how a pro goes about his business, and I for one hope to Malik in a Kings uniform next season.

Once again, we need to hear talk of third man of the year and look for Monk to be the first player off the bench each game.

Keep the faith Kings fans, because this team is about to undergo a facelift, and with it a team that gives Kings fans playoff tickets every year.

All the best! ★

Democratic Angst and Gerrymandering Threaten California’s Political Reforms



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Turmoil within the California Democratic Party over this year’s election for governor and fallout from the party’s naked grab of congressional seats could have long-term effects, undoing two important political reforms — the top-two primary system and redistricting by an independent commission.

The turmoil is over having nine Democratic candidates for governor, creating the possibility that two Republicans could finish one-two in the June 2 primary, thus resulting in a GOP governor being elected in November.

A recent Public Policy Institute of California poll of voters found that Republicans Steve Hilton (14%) and Chad Bianco (12%) are 1st and 3rd in support, with Katie Porter (13%) the leading Democrat, followed by Eric Swalwell (11%) and Tom Steyer (10%). The other six Democrats are all 5% or less.

Filing for the primary ballot closes this week, and Rusty Hicks, the Democratic state chairman, is publicly pleading for lower tier Democrats to drop out and thus reduce chances of a 1-2 GOP finish.

This week, in a public letter, Hicks said a 1-2 GOP primary outcome may be implausible, but “it is not impossible, and I know we are collectively committed to taking the steps required to avoid that possibility.”

So far, none of the bottom six has volunteered to quit. The angst is likely to fuel efforts to do away with the top-two system and return to closed party primaries, thereby eliminating any possibility of a future backdoor Republican win.

Neither party liked the top-two system when it was proposed during a stalemate on the state budget in 2009. Republican Sen. Abel Maldonado, backed by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, said he’d vote for the budget only if Democrats placed the top-two system on the ballot, arguing that it would reduce polarization.

Democrats caved and Proposition 14, creating the system, was approved by voters in 2010. Given their dislike of the top-two system in the first place and what happened this year, it’s highly likely Democratic leaders will seek to eliminate it.

Leaders of both parties also disliked it when Charles Munger Jr., a wealthy Stanford University scientist, proposed the state shift the redrawing of legislative and congressional districts away from the Legislature to an independent commission. Munger, backed by Schwarzenegger, contended it would end self-serving gerrymanders.

A Munger-financed ballot measure in 2008, Proposition 11, created the commission for legislative districts, and in 2010 Proposition 20 extended the commission to congressional districts. The commission drew new maps after the 2010 and 2020 censuses.

Last year, however, to counter a Texas effort to shift five congressional seats from Democrats to Republicans, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed and voters passed Proposition 50. It

gerrymanders California’s 52 congressional districts to gain at least five Democratic seats this year.

Newsom said the gerrymander was needed to blunt President Donald Trump’s efforts to skew the 2026 congressional election. Newsom promised that the radically revised districts would last for only three election cycles, and the commission system would return after the 2030 census.

But will it?

Let’s assume that the gerrymander gives Democrats five more California seats, creating a 48-4 partisan split. California is destined to lose at least four and perhaps five seats in total after the 2030 census, due to population stagnation. Nationally, blue states such as California and New York will lose congressional seats to faster-growing red states such as Florida and Texas.

Restoring the commission system could reduce Democratic ranks by as many as 10 seats, since the state’s more conservative interior counties are outpacing the liberal coastal region in population growth.

For all of these reasons, California Democratic leaders will be under tremendous pressure from the national party — and the Democrats who won seats in 2026 — to minimize losses. They can only do that by eliminating the commission and returning redistricting power to a Democratic-controlled Legislature.

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

Is There Income Tax on Social Security Benefits?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: The Trump Administration is saying that now there will be no taxes on Social Security benefits. Since we’re getting ready to start our 2025 income tax return, can you explain how this all works? **Signed: Confused Taxpayer**

Dear Confused Taxpayer: You are obviously referring to the so-called “one big, beautiful bill” and how that bill affects income tax on your Social Security benefits. And this is because of the publicity surrounding the so-called “one big, beautiful bill” (OBBB) enacted last year, which claims to “eliminate income tax on Social Security benefits.” Well, that bill did, yet technically didn’t, fully eliminate income tax on benefits.” Allow me to explain.

The OBBB does eliminate income tax on most SS benefits, but it does so in a somewhat unique way – by providing an additional \$6,000 (per person) deduction to your federal taxable income as reported to the IRS. Thus, you will pay less total income tax when you file your taxes with the IRS because of that additional deduction to your taxable income. The extra deduction is available to those over age 65 and is meant to offset the income tax

which will still be levied by the IRS on the SS benefits you received in 2025.

Essentially, the rules governing income tax on Social Security benefits have not changed. The IRS will still levy income tax on your SS benefits if your combined income from all sources (known as your “provisional income”) is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly, or more than \$25,000 if you file as an individual. If your provisional income is below the threshold for your IRS filing status, you will pay no income tax on your received 2025 SS benefits. But if your provisional income exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status, then somewhere between 50% and 85% of your received SS benefits will be taxed (how much SS income to be taxed depends on your combined income in 2025).

By now, you should have received form 1099-SSA which advised of your 2025 Social Security income, including any income tax you had withheld from your SS benefits. This income should be reported when submitting your 2025 income tax return. If your “provisional income” is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly (or over \$25,000 as an individual filer), then your 2025 SS benefits will still be taxed by the IRS. But when completing your 2025 Income Tax Return, you will also be able to claim an additional \$6,000 per person (\$12,000 if you file jointly), which will likely offset any income tax you must pay due to the SS benefits you received in 2025. If you use a tax preparer (or tax preparation software), they will guide

you through this calculation. Note, too, that the \$6,000 per person deduction amount will be less if your combined taxable income is more than \$150,000 as a married couple (or more than \$75,000 as a single filer).

Be aware, though, that the OBBB is temporary tax accommodation which expires after tax year 2028. And that’s because the process used to pass the bill in Congress (a “budget reconciliation” process) didn’t actually change SS law; rather it provided a way around it to offset income tax paid on SS benefits.

So, to recap, the IRS can still levy income tax on your received Social Security benefits but, because of the OBBB, you will likely also (depending on your provisional income level) receive an extra deduction which offsets any taxes calculated on your Social Security benefits.

Finally, be aware that if your first husband also predeceases you, you will then become eligible for a surviving ex-spouse benefit from him, even if he has remarried.

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The Disgraceful Ravings of Candace Owens

and interest anew with something even more perverse. And what is more demented than portraying the wife of the victim of a shocking assassination as a black widow?

Whereas most of have seen in Erika Kirk a Christian woman bearing up under an intolerable burden and stunningly forgiving the alleged murderer of her husband, Owens purports to see Clytemnestra, the mythical Greek figure who betrayed her husband Agamemnon upon his return from the Trojan War.

The title of her series is “Bride of Charlie.” Get it? Like the “Bride of Frankenstein.” As a so-called investigator, Candace Owens is like Perry Mason if the fictional attorney had been a schizophrenic high on crack. Her method is to pile will-o’-the-wisp connections one on top of another, often buttressed by flagrant factual mistakes, and insist that if she’s debunked, it just shows how she must be on the right track.

Her mantra is that “we don’t know-know, but we know” -- in other words, her malicious, irrational intuitions are superior to actual knowledge backed by facts. Shenow says that “Erika Kirk should be dragged into a police precinct for questioning,” and anyone who disagrees is “a full-blown fraud.” According to Owens, “the amount of evidence that is now piling up, I would say, against Erika Kirk, is almost akin to an NBC Dateline episode.”

Usually, conspiracy theories spring up around as-

assinations that are hard to fathom or have some ambiguity about them. It is clear that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing JFK, but it’s understandable that there have been questions about the event. It is the depraved achievement of Candace Owens to make a bonkers true crime drama, with all sorts of mysteries and twists, out of an open-and-shut murder case.

Kirk’s accused killer, Tyler Robinson, had a motive, left a trail of damning evidence and confessed to multiple people. To dismiss all this and call for Erika Kirk to be frogmarched into a police station is so mad it makes Owens’ conviction that both the moon landing and dinosaurs are fake look well-grounded by comparison.

It is a symptom of our time that such malevolent buffoonery is rewarded with a huge audience. It is impossible to discredit Owens because she is not in the credibility business to begin with. In the attention economy, denunciations are just as useful as praise, especially if a media figure is posing as a brave truth-teller -- so brave that, in this case, she’s willing to drag through the mud a mother of two who saw her beloved husband murdered less than six months ago.

It’s not just that decency is not necessary in the Candace Owens business model, it would be an obstacle.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Assemblyman Hoover Introduces Legislation to Protect Historic West Steps

Assemblyman Josh Hoover News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Feb.23, Assemblyman Josh Hoover (R-Folsom) announced the introduction of Assembly Bill 2445, which would prohibit the demolition of the historic State Capitol West Steps and bring much needed transparency to the Capitol Annex Project by voiding existing non-disclosure agreements (NDAs).

“Taxpayers deserve to know the true cost of the Capitol Annex,” Assemblyman Hoover said. “Unfortunately, NDAs have allowed the project to be shrouded in secrecy for far too long. This bill will restore transparency and public trust in taxpayer-funded infrastructure projects.” Under current law, a visitor center is slated to replace the historic West Steps at the California State Capitol. AB 2445 would prohibit the demolition of the West Steps for this purpose and require any

future visitor center to be placed elsewhere on Capitol grounds. The bill would also void existing NDAs involving the Capitol Annex Project and prohibit NDAs for future public infrastructure projects funded by taxpayer dollars. “For generations the West Steps of the State Capitol have been a place where all Californians, regardless of background, have come to petition their government and make their voices heard,” Hoover added. “It’s imperative that we

preserve the historic West Steps for future generations.” In November, Assemblymembers Josh Hoover and Joe Patterson sent a letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom asking for his help in ensuring a full accounting of the \$1.1 billion taxpayer dollars that are allocated to be spent on the Capitol Annex Project. One month later the Joint Assembly Rules Committee released a “State Capitol Annex Project Construction Update,” the first formal public update since 2021. Hoover criticized this update as “insufficient” following investigative reports by KCRA highlighting an ongoing lack of transparency. *Josh Hoover represents Assembly District 7.* ★

ABOUT TOWN

Sakura Chorus Concert March 15

The Sakura Chorus, a women’s choral group of 15, invites the community to a concert at noon Sunday, March 15 at Parkview Presbyterian Church, 727 T St.

Chorus members are all from Japan, and its activity has a history of 20 years. Members meet twice a month on Sunday afternoons to sing Japanese songs together.

This 10th concert features a wide variety of musical selections familiar to local Japanese residents, Japanese Americans and fans of Japanese culture and anime. This event is a rare opportunity to experience Japanese culture in Sacramento, so please bring your family and friends for the joyful afternoon.

On the day of the event, the Japanese lyrics and English translations of all the songs will be available for viewing on both the Sakura Chorus and Parkview Presbyterian Church websites via mobile phone. You can also print out the lyrics beforehand and bring them with you.

The concert venue has 150 seats, and tickets are only by advance purchase. Please contact shokichi@yahoo.com or any member of the Sakura Chorus to reserve your tickets.

Area Museum Experiences

A sampling of must-see and must-do experiences and special activations offered by local museums include the following:

California Museum – “Kokoro: The Story of Sacramento’s Lost Japantown,” through March 29.

Featuring rare family photographs drawn from the personal collections of community members, the exhibit documents the memories at the heart of a once-thriving downtown community devastated first by forced removal during World War II and again by redevelopment in the 1950s. Details at californiamuseum.org.

Sacramento History Museum – RCAF in Mictlán: 50th Anniversary of Dia de los Muertos, through April 5. The

exhibit will be highlighted by public programs that document and celebrate the 50-year history of the Dia de los Muertos observance in Sacramento.

The exhibit will demonstrate why the anniversary is a major milestone in our city’s cultural history, as well an example of the enduring impact of the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF), a seminal collective of artists and activists. Details at sachistorymuseum.org.

California Automobile Museum – Sunday Drives. The third Sunday of every month, enjoy a free ride (with paid museum admission) in one of the museum’s many beautiful cars from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There’s no better way to enjoy history than to experience it firsthand down the streets of downtown Sacramento. Details at calautomuseum.org.

California State Railroad Museum – The Chinese Railroad Workers’ Experience offers visitors a view of the Chinese workers who built the western portion of the nation’s first

Transcontinental Railroad. Marginalized by history, the Chinese workers were more than a nameless group of laborers. Details at californiarailroad.museum.

Elks Lodge 6 Calendar of Events

Handball Fun Day, Saturday, April 11, Elks Lodge 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. \$20 buy-in person; open to members and the public. All doubles; lucky draw. Starts 8 a.m. Call or text John, 916-608-5670. or call (916) 442-6666.

Greenhaven Pocket Farmers Market reopens Sunday, April 12.

Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am; \$15 tax included.

Yoga, Monday 12 p.m., Wednesday 3:30 p.m. Lodge members free.

Karaoke Nights, Thursdays and Saturdays, 7 p.m.

Martial Arts, Monday 5 p.m.

Pickleball, Monday, Wednesday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; Thursday, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 4-7 p.m.

Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 p.m. See elks6.net for weekly menu. ★

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Delta Counties Urge Stewardship Council to Reject DWR Delta Tunnel

Delta Counties Coalition News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Pat Hume, member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, recently issued the following statement on behalf of the Delta Counties of Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano and Yolo regarding the Delta Stewardship Council’s hearing on appeals of the Department of Water Resources’ (DWR) consistency certification for the Delta Conveyance Project (Delta Tunnel):

We strongly urge the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) to closely and



impartially examine the evidence presented during the Delta Tunnel consistency appeals hearing and reject any determination that relies on incomplete, unsupported or false conclusions, or interpretations of the Council’s regulations that would undermine the Delta Reform Act’s coequal goals.

There is substantial evidence that the Delta Tunnel, according to the

Department of Water Resources’ administrative record, is not supported by the Delta Reform Act or Delta Plan policies, and there are significant failures to address impacts to Delta communities, agriculture, recreation and cultural resources. Critically, the Delta Tunnel disregards local land uses and does not reduce reliance on the Delta through improved regional

self-reliance, as required by the Legislature and the Council’s Delta Plan.

Appellants demonstrated that key mitigation measures remain undefined and that critical findings are not supported by the best available science – requirements that are central to both the Delta Plan and the Delta Reform Act. Without clear, enforceable mitigation and reliable data, the Council cannot reasonably

conclude that a project of this magnitude would protect the Delta’s cultural heritage, agricultural economy, and recreational resources – all central components of the Delta Reform Act.

The Delta Counties urge Council members to carefully consider the testimony, appeals and supporting evidence presented in this proceeding to make a thorough and independent determination.

When exercising its discretion and interpreting its policies, the Council should be mindful of its central role in protecting the Delta and water supply reliability for water users within and outside of the

Delta.

The Delta Reform Act requires that water supply reliability be pursued in balance with ecosystem restoration and protecting the Delta’s unique cultural, environmental and economic values. A finding of consistency must be supported by substantial evidence that these protections are real, enforceable and grounded in sound science.

Until those standards are clearly met, allowing the Delta Tunnel to move forward risks both the Council’s mission and the long-term sustainability of our communities, which state law intended to be protected by the Delta Reform Act.

The Delta Conveyance Project Delta Plan Consistency Certification Appeals are at: deltacouncil.ca.gov/covered-actions/delta-conveyance-project.

★

City Opens Budget Work Sessions on \$66.2M Deficit

Continued from Page 1

process,” said Mayor Kevin McCarty. “Right now, we’re evaluating all our options. We’re looking to conclude our budget with the fewest detrimental impacts on the city. More importantly, we are zeroing in on economic development to find ways to grow our budget so we can avoid making cuts in the future.”

Throughout March, departments will present proposed strategies during the Early Budget Council Work Sessions. Departments were directed to model reductions of 15 percent of their net General Fund use and to outline impacts on service levels.

These presentations are intended to inform discussion and provide a baseline for future deliberations. No final decisions

have been made.

What Happens Next

Early Budget Council Work Sessions will continue throughout March. The City Manager will release a balanced proposed budget by the end of April.

The City Council will hold formal budget discussions in May, with final adoption scheduled for early June.

Residents are encouraged to attend public meetings, submit e-comments and contact the mayor or their City Council representative to share priorities and feedback.

More information about the budget process, meeting dates and opportunities for public engagement is available at cityof-sacramento.gov/finance/budget.

★



City Council began early budget work sessions March 3, launching a month of public discussions focused on closing the city’s projected \$66.2 million deficit. Photo courtesy of City of Sacramento

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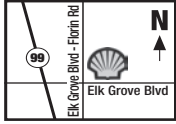
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Snowpack Remains Below Average Despite February Boost

California Department of Water Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently conducted the third snow survey of the season at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded 28 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 11 inches, which is 47 percent of average for this location. The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of the Department of Water Resources’ water supply forecast. Statewide, the snow-pack is 66 percent of average for this date.

The snow survey results show an increase from last month’s measurements following a series of cold, major snow-producing storms that ended a five-week dry period. Unfortunately, the recent storms were not enough to get the state back to average conditions for this time of year. Warmer storms early this week also caused snowmelt at lower elevations.

“Although the storms we saw in mid-February were some of the coldest and best snow-producing storms we have seen since 2023, they were not enough to get us back to average conditions,” said Andy Reising, manager of DWR’s Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit.

“The snowpack is in better shape than it was one month



The Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently conducted the third snow survey of the season at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded 28 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 11 inches, which is 47 percent of average for this location. Photo courtesy of Department of Water Resources

ago, but we only have a month left of our snow-accumulation season and time is rapidly running out to catch up. Statewide, we are only about 57 percent of where we hope to be by April 1.”

Storms this season have also been unevenly distributed across the Sierra Nevada. While the Southern Sierra Nevada is 90 percent average for today’s date, the Northern Sierra Nevada, where several of the largest major water supply reservoirs are located, is only 46 percent normal for this date.

“Water supply in California increasingly depends on a small

number of big storms,” said DWR director Karla Nemeth. “We face higher drought risk when they don’t arrive and greater urgency to modernize infrastructure to capture water when they do. The dramatic wet-dry swings this winter remind us again that ever-warmer average temperatures have reshaped the California water cycle. We must adapt.”

On average, the largest snow-producing months in the Sierra Nevada are December, January, February and March. Historically, the snow-pack peaks on or near April 1, after which the snowpack

transitions to generating run-off into California’s rivers and reservoirs.

While the snowpack remains below average, major reservoirs statewide are currently 122 percent of average. State water managers, including the State Water Project, continue to focus on efforts to capture and store as much water as possible. The monthly snow surveys play a critical role in how the State Water Project allocates water each year.

On average, the Sierra snow-pack supplies about 30 percent of California’s water needs. Its natural ability to store water

is why the Sierra snowpack is often referred to as California’s “frozen reservoir.” Data from these snow surveys and forecasts produced by DWR’s Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit are key factors in determining how DWR manages the state’s water resources.

DWR conducts four media-oriented snow surveys at Phillips Station each winter near the first of each month, January through April and, if necessary, May. The next survey is tentatively scheduled for April 1.

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

California Comment on NFIB’s Latest Jobs Report

National numbers not reflective of state’s below national average on optimism

National Federation of Independent Business News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), monthly Jobs Report released March 5 showed that the Small Business Employment Index ticked up nearly 1 point to 103.5, a 2.3-point increase above the 2025 average of 101.2, and 3.5 points above the historical average of 100.

“Glad to see the positive national numbers holding. Although our Jobs Report is not broken down by state, our new state-specific Small Business Economic Trends report is, and it shows optimism among small business owners here below the national average. This has to change. We recommended some policy changes the Legislature can take to get California back on track and this week released a poll of our California small-business-owning members,” said NFIB California State Director John Kabateck.

NFIB’s Jobs Report is a national survey of NFIB-member small-business owners, not broken down by state. The NFIB Small Business Employment Index is a new measure of the current state of the small business labor market. The Index integrates actual and planned changes in employment and employee compensation into a singular data



While the overall market remains in balance, employers need more skilled workers to fill open positions. Photo courtesy Freepik

point. A higher Index reflects an overall tighter labor market; a lower Index reflects an overall weaker labor market.

“February’s numbers show a growing tightness in the small business labor market. While the overall market remains in balance, employers need more skilled workers to fill open positions,” said NFIB Chief Economist

Bill Dunkelberg.

Highlights from the Latest NFIB Jobs Report include the following.

A seasonally adjusted net 12% of owners plan to create new jobs in the next three months, down 4 points from January and the lowest level since May 2025. Despite the decrease, hiring plans are close to their

average of a net 11%.

In February, 15% of small business owners cited labor quality as their single most important problem, down 1 point from January and the fourth consecutive monthly decline. The last time labor quality, reported as the single most important problem, was this low was in April 2020. Labor costs, reported as the single most important problem by small business owners, remained at 9%.

Seasonally adjusted, a net 34% of small business owners reported raising compensation in February, up 2 points from January and the highest level since March 2025. A net 22% (seasonally adjusted) plan to raise compensation in the next three months, unchanged from January.

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

CalHR Named Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award Winner

California Department of Human Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) has been named a 2026 Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award (GEWA) winner for strengths development. The award recognizes organizations that create workplace cultures that help people do their best work.

"As we work to modernize and streamline state government operations, prioritizing employee engagement is not just good practice, it is essential for delivering better services efficiently," said CalHR Director Monica Erickson. "Winning this award affirms our commitment to treating employee engagement as a strategic priority. Our success with strengths development sets a powerful example for how investing in people drives effectiveness across California’s government. By helping people work from their strengths, we

improve how CalHR serves state departments and ultimately how the state serves Californians."

CalHR launched its Getting Started With Strengths roll-out in 2025 and embedded CliftonStrengths into onboarding, leadership forums and internal communications. To date, 85 percent of CalHR employees have completed the CliftonStrengths assessment, reflecting strong internal participation. The CliftonStrengths assessment is an online tool from Gallup that helps people discover their natural talents and how they think, feel and act. Based on decades of research, it shows 34 common talent themes.

CliftonStrengths gives individuals and teams a simple way to understand and use their strengths. This supports leadership and professional growth by focusing on what people do best. CalHR has reported measurable gains in employee engagement scores since the program’s launch, including: supporting recruitment efforts

with over 150 statewide recruiters providing job information and guidance to more than 3,400 participants across 36 events; enhancing employee benefits customer service through a redesigned website with over 871,000 views and an innovative chatbot that provided timely answers to over 4,500 benefit-related questions, helping employees and their families make informed decisions about their health and financial wellbeing; and delivering 2.5 million hours of training through 225,000 course enrollments to over 100,000 active users, empowering state employees to develop skills and advance their careers

In a public sector environment where employee engagement is often overlooked, CalHR’s recognition stands out. Previous Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award Winners for strengths include Charles Schwab, Mercedes-Benz and Mercedes-AMG, Southwest Airlines, U.S. Bank and other multinational companies.

CalHR delivers critical services

that impact the lives and careers of more than 227,000 public employees and 237,000 retirees across California, represented by over 150 state departments. By leading this approach, CalHR is paving the way for other state agencies to harness employee engagement as a driver for improved service delivery statewide.

The initiative was piloted within CalHR and is only available to only CalHR staff. CalHR intends to expand the model to support other state departments in the future and is designing the program to be scalable across the broader state workforce. State of California department leaders who are interested in employee engagement can visit the Employee Engagement webpage for more information at: benefits.calhr.ca.gov/state-employees/engagement-resources/employee-engagement/public-service-recognition-week/.

For a complete list of GEWA winners, visit: www.gallup.com/workplace/702278/announcing-2026-gallup-exceptional-workplace-award-winners.aspx.

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Learn more about the awards at www.gallup.com/workplace/329768/gallup-exceptional-workplace-awards.aspx.

About CalHR

CalHR is responsible for all issues related to employee salaries and benefits, job classifications, civil rights, training, exams, recruitment and retention. For most employees, many of these matters are determined through the collective bargaining process managed by CalHR. For more information about CalHR, visit www.calhr.ca.gov/.

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Hornet Football to Join Mid-American Conference

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Mid-American Conference recently announced the addition of Sacramento State as a football-only member beginning July 1.

“Today's exciting announcement is about strengthening our competitive profile and creating value for the membership,” said MAC commissioner Jon Steinbrecher. “We were presented with an opportunity to add an institution with demonstrated success in football, a record of investment and commitment to the continued growth of the institution and community. Sacramento State is ready and poised for this next step. I welcome the Hornets to the Mid-American Conference and expect they will become a competitive and contributing member to the long history and legacy of one of the oldest Division I conferences.”

The Sacramento State football program has won seven conference titles, including three consecutive Big Sky championships from 2019-2022, and was just one of just 12 FCS programs to win at least seven games in five of the last six seasons. During that time, the Hornets made four NCAA FCS Playoff appearances and held a top 25 ranking for 50 weeks.

“This partnership will immediately strengthen the Mid-American



Sacramento State is joining the Mid-American Conference as a football-only member beginning July 1. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State

Conference's competitiveness, and it will provide flexibility for the future,” said Geoffrey S. Mearns, council of presidents chair and president of Ball State University. “In this period of dynamic transformation, we believe we must be proactive and innovative. This relationship demonstrates the enduring viability of our conference, and it provides our member institutions with additional confidence.”

“I am pleased to welcome Sacramento State to the Mid-American Conference,” said Scott Wetherbee, chair of the MAC council of directors of athletics and vice president/director

of athletics at Eastern Michigan University. “I want to commend Commissioner Steinbrecher for his forward-thinking leadership and creative approach in identifying opportunities that enhance value for our membership. The addition of Sacramento State as a football-only member strengthens our conference and positions us well for continued collective success.”

Sacramento State is the only public university in the capital of California that has the world's fourth-largest economy. Founded in 1947, Sac State has grown into one of the region's leading centers

of research, innovation and community engagement with an enrollment of nearly 31,000. It is an accessible and inclusive place of learning, located on a picturesque campus along the American River.

“This is a historic moment for Sacramento State — a bold leap into the future,” said Dr. Luke Wood, president of Sacramento State. “Our move to the FBS represents more than a change in classification; it is a declaration of who we are and where we're going. We are elevating our university, our student-athletes, and the entire Greater Sacramento

region onto the national stage — committed to competing, leading and winning at the highest level.”

“This is bigger than football. It's about opportunity, visibility and momentum. It's about attracting the next generation of students, fueling enrollment and innovation, and building partnerships that will transform Sacramento State for decades to come. Together, we are proving that belief, vision, and hard work can redefine what's possible.”

“We extend our sincere gratitude to the MAC Commissioner and the MAC university presidents for their leadership, trust, and confidence in our program. The future is bright, the mission is clear and the climb continues.”

“This is a special day for Sacramento State. I am ecstatic for our football student-athletes, coaches, and staff who work so hard to represent our university,” said Sacramento State Director of Athletics Mark Orr. “Our student athletes will now have the opportunity to showcase their talent on the highest level of college football in front of national audiences. I am grateful to Commissioner Steinbrecher, the University Presidents, and all the dedicated staff that played a pivotal role in making this possible. The support for our football program continues to expand, and we are so proud to bring FBS football to Sacramento.”

Republic FC Signs MLS All-Star Mark-Anthony Kaye

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Republic FC announced that the club has signed Canadian international and MLS All-Star midfielder Mark-Anthony Kaye. 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.

“When a player with Mark-Anthony's experience and quality decides that this is where he wants to be, it validates everything we're building,” said Republic FC Head Coach Neill Collins. “He's a proven winner, a leader in the locker room and a competitor who sets the tone every time he steps on the pitch. He elevates those around him and is going to make our entire squad strong as we begin our pursuit of Championship silverware.”

Collins continued, “Our ownership has made it clear that the expectation here is to compete for trophies every season. Their willingness to invest in top talent reflects that ambition, and this signing is another example of that commitment in action.”

“It's clear that this club has its sights set on reaching a new level and I'm excited to be a part of that,” said Kaye. “I want to use my experience and my talent to help the team win, but at the end of the year we want to be able to count the number



Sacramento Republic FC announced that the club has signed Canadian international and MLS All-Star midfielder Mark-Anthony Kaye. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

of trophies we've put in the cabinet. The USL is a competitive league, and I'm here to win.”

Kaye joins the Indomitable Club after a lone season with San Jose Earthquakes. He was acquired by the Bay Area club ahead of the 2025 campaign in a trade with New England Revolution including two other players for \$500,000 in general allocation money. Last year, he featured in 30 of 37 matches for San Jose – and started

one-third of the matches where he was part of the team sheet.

The 31-year-old standout has established himself as one of the most-consistent two-way midfielders in American soccer. After spending the early years of his career in USL, winning the league championship with Louisville City in 2016, Kaye was named to Los Angeles FC's inaugural 2018 roster. As a member of the Black & Gold, Kaye emerged as a starter

and in 2019 was a central figure in a historic campaign that saw LAFC capture the Supporters' Shield with a then-league record 72 points. In 31 league appearances, he scored four goals and added eight assists to earn a selection to the MLS All-Star Team. Kaye continued to be a regular contributor in 2020 as LAFC advanced to the Concacaf Champions League Final. Across four seasons in Los Angeles, he made 89 appearances with nine goals and 17 assists across all competitions, including three consecutive playoff appearances.

He continued his career with stints at Colorado Rapids, Toronto FC and New England Revolution, where he continued to serve as a leader and consistent contributor. Across his entire MLS career, Kaye has made 201 appearances in league and postseason play with 16 goals and 26 assists, as well as a stellar 85% passing accuracy.

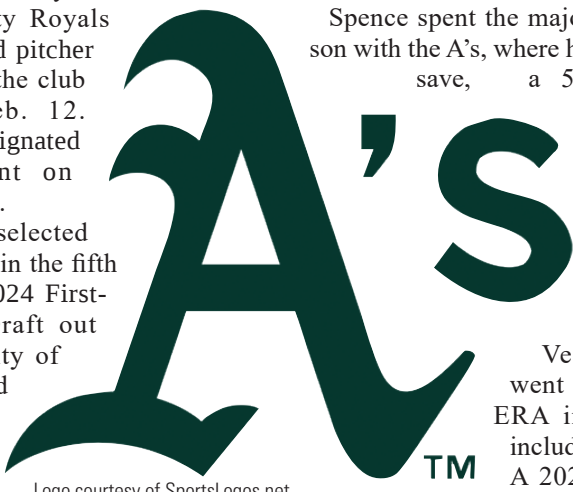
On the international stage, Kaye earned his position in a rising Canadian side. Since his debut in 2017, Canada has climbed the FIFA rankings from 93 up to 26th in the world. During that time, Mark logged 40 senior caps – including 5 goal contributions during qualification to help Canada reach its second ever World Cup berth. In addition to World Cup play, he has represented Canada in the Concacaf Gold Cup, Concacaf Nations League and various international friendlies.

Athletics Acquire A.J. Causey from Royals for Mitch Spence

Athletics News Release

LAS VEGAS, NV (MPG) - The Athletics have acquired minor league right-handed pitcher A.J. Causey from the Kansas City Royals for right-handed pitcher Mitch Spence, the club announced Feb. 12. Spence was designated for assignment on Tuesday Feb. 10.

Causey was selected by Kansas City in the fifth round of the 2024 First-Year Player Draft out of the University of Tennessee and made his professional debut in 2025. He combined for an 11-5 record, nine saves and a 1.72 ERA in 48 relief appearances with High-A Quad Cities and Double-A Northwest Arkansas. The 23-year-old



Logo courtesy of SportsLogos.net

right-hander held the opposition to a .176 batting average and did not allow a home run in 40.1 innings. Causey struck out 44 and walked 11 and will join the A's camp as a non-roster invitee.

Spence spent the majority of last season with the A's, where he was 3-6 with a save, a 5.10 ERA and a .816 opponents OPS in 32 games, including eight starts. He also had a two-month stay at Las Vegas, where he went 0-1 with a 6.21 ERA in eight games, including seven starts. A 2023 Rule-5 Draft selection, Spence made his Major League debut with the A's in 2024 and went 11-16 with a 4.77 ERA in 67 games, 32 starts, in two seasons.

Samiya Jenkins Selected to Big 8 All-Conference Team



Photo courtesy of American River College Athletics

American River College News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - American River College forward Samiya Jenkins has been named to the 2025-26 Big 8 All-Conference Team, recognizing her standout performance and leadership. A key contributor for the Beavers, Jenkins, an Inderkum High School alumna, was highlighted for her defensive presence and consistent offensive impact.

Fool’s Gold?

California has waged a quiet, persistent campaign against the indispensable ingredients of a successful modern economy

By Garvin Walsh, California Globe

California has long been known as the Golden State. In 1968 the Legislature made the nickname official, capturing a a fitting label for a place associated with promise and prosperity. Yet over the past two decades, political choices have fostered habits that are steadily tarnishing that brand.

California entered the United States in 1848 after the Mexican-American War. The Gold Rush brought explosive population growth, and by 1850 California was admitted as the 31st state. What followed was a remarkable modern era marked by sustained population increases and world-leading economic expansion. Natural resources, agriculture, industry, tourism and technological innovation powered the rise. For generations, Californians shared a broad optimism grounded in individual enterprise and upward mobility.

Those days are gone. For years the state has waged a quiet but persistent campaign against the three indispensable ingredients of any successful modern economy: capital, energy, and individual initiative.

The pattern is clear. Capital is treated with hostility rather than respect. Investors and employers operate within an intensifying regulatory thicket – layered mandates, expanding compliance regimes, and punitive taxation. Starting or expanding a business in California requires navigating a complex maze that deters many would-be builders. When companies relocate, shelve projects, or choose not to launch here at all, our California dreams are stifled. Capital is mobile. It flows toward stability and predictability and away from hostility.

Energy policy reflects the same mindset. Affordable, reliable power is the lifeblood of a sophisticated economy. California is rich in energy resources, yet policy has inhibited their development in favor of ideological signaling. The result is paradoxical: a resource-rich state that

imports much of its energy, burdening residents with the highest costs in the nation. Infrastructure projects stall under litigation

and review. Mandates drive costly investments with marginal returns. Industry, agriculture, transportation, and households absorb the burden. The implicit assumption seems to be that markets and physics will yield to aspiration. They do not.

Individual initiative suffers as well. The small contractor delayed by permits. The restaurateur juggling wage mandates, benefit requirements, and inspection rules. The

entrepreneur deciding where to incorporate and hire. The cumulative message is unmistakable: ambition is narrowly constrained by distant regulators. Over time, that message dulls the instinct to build. Families and businesses vote with their feet.

This trajectory is especially short-sighted because California’s expansive public sector depends entirely on private enterprise. Government does not generate wealth; it redistributes what the private sector produces. Tax revenue arises from payrolls, profits, property values, and capital gains.

Schools, infrastructure, social services, and environmental programs rest on taxable economic activity. Even nonprofits and advocacy organizations rely on private wealth. Philanthropy presupposes profit. Grants presuppose tax receipts. Redistribution presupposes production.

Eroding the base while enlarging the superstructure defies economic arithmetic.

For much of the past twenty years, one party has held overwhelming control in Sacramento. The Democratic supermajority has shaped the current policy framework and

therefore owns its outcomes: rising living costs, chronic

housing shortages, business outmigration, and budget volatility tied to a narrow band of high earners.

This is not a claim that Republicans would govern without fault. Concentrated power tempts any party. A Republican supermajority would display its own excesses. The structural problem is dominance itself. When competition fades, correction slows. Insulation breeds certainty and corruption, and invites overreach.

California’s identity was forged not by bureaucratic choreography but by the confidence that individuals, given room to act, would generate prosperity sufficient to support both private ambition and public goods. That confidence has been replaced by suspicion of the very mechanisms that built the state. The opportunity culture of the Golden State has morphed into a system of constraint.

Extending the metaphor, the old fable of the golden goose endures because it captures a timeless truth. A productive economy yields steady returns when allowed to function. Overburden it, squeeze it, or treat it as an adversary, and output declines. Destroy it, and the stream of benefits ends.

California earned its golden reputation because millions mined, farmed, engineered, manufactured, financed, coded, and invented. They converted natural advantage into sustained growth. If leadership continues to treat capital, energy, and initiative as liabilities rather than assets, the shine will continue to fade.

Rotation in power would not solve every problem. It would, however, restore accountability. And accountability – more than rhetoric – is what keeps a golden state from becoming fool’s gold. ★

California has long been known as the Golden State. For generations, Californians shared a broad optimism grounded in individual enterprise and upward mobility. Photo courtesy of Grok/California Globe



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