



Celebrate Community and Support Empower Yolo at Lucas' Party with a Purpose

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The Official Newspaper of Record for the City of West Sacramento

# West Sacramento News Ledger

VOLUME 62 • ISSUE 11

Serving the West Sacramento Region Since 1964

MARCH 13, 2026

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## RCHS Productions Marks 10 Years



River City High School students performing a scene from "Witches! In Salem?!". Photo courtesy of RCHS Productions

**RCHS Productions News Release**

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - RCHS Productions, the student-driven theatre and filmmaking program at River City High School, is celebrating the conclusion of its 10th anniversary season with an ambitious new production of "Carousel," the classic musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Over the past decade, RCHS Productions has grown into one of the most active student performing arts programs in the region, providing hundreds of River City students

with hands-on experience in acting, stagecraft, design, directing, marketing, filmmaking and arts leadership. Built on a mission of student empowerment and collaborative learning, the program places young artists at the center of every production – often placing students in leadership roles that mirror professional theatre and film practices.

Students participate not only as performers, but also as cinematographers, editors, designers, producers, technicians and marketers, creating an interdisciplinary arts program that blends live performance with digital storytelling. This approach gives

students practical experience across multiple creative industries while building collaboration, problem-solving and leadership skills.

The program's 10th anniversary season has highlighted that mission through a wide range of performances and creative projects, including student-directed scenes, musical theatre showcases and original student works. The season has also generated significant student engagement: for the third year in a row, more than 12,000 hours of extracurricular student work are expected to be logged through RCHS Productions activities

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## Cardrooms File Lawsuits Over New Regulations

**The California Gaming Association News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The California Gaming Association, with support from the California Cardroom Alliance (CCA) and the Communities for California Cardrooms (CCC), has filed two lawsuits in San Francisco Superior Court challenging new regulations issued by the California Department of Justice's Bureau of Gambling Control, which would eliminate blackjack-style games and significantly restrict player-dealer games that have been legally operated in California cardrooms for decades. The lawsuits seek to block the regulations from taking effect and asks the court to invalidate the rules as unlawful.

According to the Attorney General's own Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment (SRIA), the regulations would eliminate at least 50 percent of cardroom jobs and revenue, which could force many cardrooms to close. Unless blocked by the court, implementation of the regulations is scheduled to start April 1, with actual changes to cardroom games coming as early as June.

The lawsuit explains that the regulations are an unprecedented power grab by the Attorney General that contradict state law in multiple ways. The rules reverse decades of settled law and practice under which these games were approved as lawful by multiple Attorneys General, including former Governor Jerry Brown and former Vice President Kamala Harris.

The cardroom industry contends the regulations lack any legal or factual basis and were adopted despite overwhelming opposition from cities, workers, and community leaders. The Department of Justice finalized the regulations on Feb. 9, leaving them unchanged despite receiving 1,764 public comments, nearly all of which raised concerns about the regulations' legality and grave economic consequences. Cities, union members

*Continued on page 3*

## Davis Mac Down Winners Announced

**Vegan Outreach News Release**

**DAVIS, CA (MPG)** - The Davis Mac Down took place March 1 at the Davis Community Church, bringing together the community for a fun celebration of vegan mac and cheese.

The Mac Down was a high-energy, two-hour event filled with delicious vegan food, friendly competition and an enthusiastic crowd of voters. Approximately 200 people attended the event to sample six different vegan mac and cheese dishes prepared by local chefs. A total of six local chefs and their team competed at this event: Chef Rachel Dyer, Davis Food Co-Op, Cali Vegan 707,



The Davis Food Co-op gave out free samples to event attendees. Photo courtesy of Vegan Outreach

Vegan Valentine's Cooks, The Caring Kitchen and Sanctuary Mixtape.

The following vendors were also present at this event: PreetiRang Animal

Sanctuary, Purple Tree Cafe, and Dang Vegan.

*Continued on page 2*



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# Community Calendar

## COMMUNITY FOOD RESOURCES

**City of West Sacramento Parking Lot, 1271 West Capitol Ave.,** every Saturday, 8:30 a.m. while supplies last. This is a walk-up distribution. Please bring your own bags or cart.

**Home Church, 108 W. Woodland Ave., Woodland,** every Monday at 3:30 p.m. This is a walk-up food distribution. Please bring your own bags or cart.

**Masjid Aisha, 700 Glide Ave.,** every Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. while supplies last. This is a walk-up food distribution. Please bring your own bags or cart.

**Woodland Community College, 2300 E. Gibson Rd., Woodland,** every Friday at 8:30 p.m. This is a drive-through distribution.

## MARCH

**Turner Library,** located at 1212 Merkley Ave. has the following events this week:

**Friday, March 13: English conversation group,** 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Saturday, March 14: Russian story time,** 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Monday, March 16: Family story time,** 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 17: Hug-a-Bye Baby,** 11 a.m. to noon. Tech help, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Book a 30-minute one-on-one appointment with a library staff member to help you with your computer, phone, and other technology questions. Bring your personal device or use a library computer. To make an appointment, visit the Information Desk or call 916-375-6465.

**Wednesday, March 18: Wiggle Wednesday,** 11:15 a.m. to noon. English conversation group, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 19: Tech help,** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Book a 30-minute one-on-one appointment with a library staff member to help you with your computer, phone, and other technology questions. Bring your personal device or use a library computer. To make an appointment, visit the Information Desk or call (916) 375-6465. Yoga at the library, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Friday, March 20: English**

**conversation group,** 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. LEGO block party, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Saturday, March 21: Russian story time,** 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Clarksburg Branch Library,** located at 52915 Netherlands Road, Clarksburg, has the following events this week:

**Wednesday, March 18: Anime watch,** 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friends of the Clarksburg Library monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Call 530-666-8005 for more information on any of these events or events at any Yolo County Library branch.

**Continuing through Tuesday, March 31: See's Candy Sales** at the West Sacramento Moose Lodge, 3240 Jefferson Blvd. Hop on over to the Moose Lodge for your Easter chocolate gifts. This is a Lodge fundraiser; proceeds support the Lodge general fund. For more information, contact Mauda at 916-440-3790.

**Continuing through Friday, March 27: Student Voter Empowerment Design Contest,** sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Yolo County, Yolo County Library Services and Woodland Public Library. Open to all Yolo County High School Students, this contest supports youth voter registration and voting. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and the winning art pieces will be printed, distributed, and displayed County-wide and during LWVYC events. Submission deadline is Friday, March 27. Rules and more information at lwvyolo.org.

**Friday, March 13: 2nd Friday Art About,** 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in downtown Davis and beyond. Check out art receptions, pop-ups, open studios, live music, and more. This is a great free event to enjoy with friends and family each month. This event is coordinated by the Pence Gallery and sponsored by signature sponsor Willowgrove and the Davis Downtown Business Association. Full list of participating galleries and exhibitions at artsalliancedavis.org/events.

**Saturday, March 14: ARC Guitar Festival 2026,** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hotel Winters, 12 Abbey St., Winters. This free event will feature handcrafted guitars built exclusively by the students of the ARC Guitar Building School. There

will be guitar building demonstrations, mini performances, and lots of guitars to see and play. All ages are welcome. Experience functional art at its highest level.

**Saturday, March 14: Soggy Doggy,** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Recreation Center, 2801 Jefferson Blvd. Bring your well-behaved pooch to the pool. With a beach entry, dogs of all ages and sizes can enter and exit safely. Owners are welcome to stand in the beach entry but are not allowed to swim with their dogs. \$10 per resident dog, \$12 per non-resident dog, human companions are free. Register at www.westsacfun.org.

**Saturday, March 14: Cars & Burgers,** staging starts at 11 a.m., show runs noon to 5 p.m. at 319 Broderick, 319 6th St. This will be an official car show with trophies, die-cast swapping, music, great food and drinks, and awesome cars. Open to anything on wheels including bikes, all makes and models. Admission and parking are free. See the [@carsandcoffeesacramento916] Instagram page for more information.

**Sunday, March 15: Eight-Legged Encounters,** 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bohart Museum of Entomology, Academic Surge, 455 Crocker Ln, Room 1124, Davis. This free, all-ages event will be focusing on arachnids, fascinating eight-legged arthropods. This includes animals such as spiders, scorpions, camel spiders, vinegaroons, tailless whip scorpions, pseudoscorpions, and more. Meet arachnid experts, visit the Bohart research collection, make crafts and have fun learning.

**Thursday, March 19: Meadowdale Park Workshop,** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at West Sacramento City Hall, 1110 West Capitol Ave. Brainstorm ideas, voice community needs, and imagine new possibilities for Meadowdale Park. Your voice can shape what's next. Share your ideas and help support the City's application for grant funding. For more information about the meeting, contact ErinA@cityofwestsacramento.org.

**Friday, March 20 through Saturday, April 4: "The Crucible"** at the Woodland Opera House, 340 Second St. Woodland. Set in 1692 Salem, Massachusetts, the story follows the eruption of mass hysteria in a close-knit town after a group of young girls is discovered dancing

in the woods. To avoid punishment, the girls begin accusing townspeople of witchcraft, igniting a wave of fear that fractures the wider community. For more information, including schedule and tickets, visit woodlandoperahouse.org.

**Saturday, March 21: Spring Skills Share at Three Sisters Gardens,** 5th and C Streets. The event includes a tour of the urban farm, hands-on gardening basics and farm-to-fork food in a community-centered setting. Participants are encouraged to bring a reusable plate, bowl, or utensils as the event aims to be zero waste. Donations are welcome to support the organization's Community Giving program. Registration at Eventbrite.com.

**Saturday, March 21: Tuleyome Spring Thing,** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Woodland Regional Park Preserve, 20179 County Road 102, Woodland. Join us for a free nature day for families and the community. There will be live music, walking tours of the Preserve for kids and adults, crafts and face painting, s'mores, food truck and more. To sign up for this free event, go to tuleyome.org/events.

**Saturday, March 21: Cookbook Release and Open Farm & Kitchen,** 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Full Belly Farm, Guinda. Come celebrate the release of the "Full Belly Farm & Kitchen Cookbook" with us. We will be hosting an open farm and kitchen day. Meet the authors, Amon and Jenna Muller, and explore the farm and kitchen that inspired it all. There will be two tractor tours (weather permitting) to show you around. Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase and we will have a market stand with all our farm kitchen goods, produce, and flowers. RSVP recommended but not required, at fullbellyfarm.com/events.

**Saturday, March 21: "Alice in Steampunk Land" Formal Ball,** doors open at 6:15 p.m. at the Spotlight Ballroom, 2534 Industrial Blvd., Suite 150. Step through the looking glass and into a world of gears, goggles, and grandeur at this formal ballroom dance where Victorian elegance meets whimsical fantasy. Dress to impress in your finest formal attire or go for Wonderland-inspired flair. \$20 for Spotlight members, \$40 non-members. Register at spotlightballroom.com/events.

**Sunday, March 22: Buy Nothing Craft and Art Supplies,** noon to 4 p.m. at Jackrabbit Brewing Company, 1323 Terminal St. Bring what you don't need, take what you love. Bring your clean, gently loved craft and art supplies, place them on a table for others to enjoy, then browse other tables and take home treasures absolutely free. Any unattended items are considered available; bring a bag or box to carry your new treasures home. See "buy nothing" on the jackrabbitbrewingcompany.com website for a suggested list of items to bring.

**Tuesday, March 24: Public Hearing - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG),** 9 a.m. at 625 Court St., Room 206, Woodland. Yolo County is eligible to apply for CDBG funding through the State to support housing, services and infrastructure that benefits low- and moderate-income residents. The Board of Supervisors will review proposed CDBG activities and gather input from residents on housing and community development needs. Community members are encouraged to attend and share comments in person or submit written comments by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 23 to ClerkoftheBoard@YoloCounty.gov. For more information, call 530-666-8157.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

(Current as of publication, please verify schedule with the organization):

**Café Yolo Social Dining** meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the West Sacramento Community Center, 1075 West Capitol Ave. Seniors over age 60 are invited to mingle and dine for free, sponsored by Meals on Wheels. Reservations required 24 hours in advance at 530-662-7035 or email welcome@mowyolo.org.

**Center for Land-Based Learning Mobile Farmers Market** will be popping up every third Tuesday and Wednesday through April to offer seasonal fruits and vegetables, connect with the team, and support local farmers - all at convenient community locations. Shoppers who use their EBT cards can get 50% off their produce purchases. More information and specific locations can be found at www.landbasedlearning.org/followthetomato. Next market dates will be Tuesday, March 17 and Wednesday, March 18.

# Davis Mac Down Winners Announced

*Continued from page 1*  
The Davis Mac Down also gave away food samples from Hodo Foods, Upton's Naturals and Selfish Cow Cheese.

Chef Jackie, Cali Vegan 707 took home first place, Davis Food Co-Op took home second place and Chef Rachel Dyer took home third place in the competition.

The challenge social media pages will be running year-round, featuring more Mac Downs and Vegan Chef Challenges in the region and celebrating the new vegan

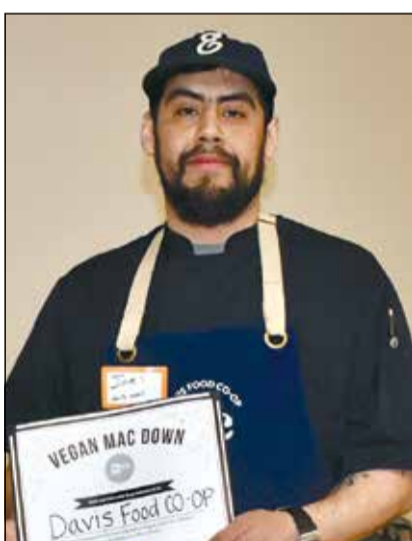
dishes from restaurants in the Davis/Sacramento area. Follow along on social media at @SacVeganChefChallenge.

The website for 2026 Davis Mac Down can be found at [veganchefchallenge.org/macdavis](http://veganchefchallenge.org/macdavis).

The Mac Down invites diners to explore the many benefits of a plant-based diet by signing up for the free 10 Weeks to Vegan program. This guided challenge gives people everything they need to start eating vegan. To learn more, visit [www.10weeksto.vegan.org](http://www.10weeksto.vegan.org). ★



**Chef Jackie, Cali Vegan 707 took home first place in the Davis Mac Down competition.** Photo courtesy of Vegan Outreach



**Davis Food Co-Op took home second place in the Davis Mac Down competition.** Photo courtesy of Vegan Outreach



**Chef Rachel Dyer took home third place in the Davis Mac Down competition.** Photo courtesy of Vegan Outreach

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# Cardrooms File Lawsuits Over New Regulations

*Continued from page 1*  
and community organizations across California have warned that the regulations could create severe fiscal crises.

Cities have formally opposed the regulations, with some cities relying on cardroom revenues for as much as 70 percent of their general fund.

In a recent letter to the Attorney General, the City of San Jose warned that cardroom revenues help fund police, fire and 9-1-1 operations. ★

# Shake Off the Winter Blues with \$8 A's Tickets



The A's are welcoming fans back to the ballpark this season with \$8 tickets for select April and May games at Sutter Health Park, giving families and friends the opportunity to enjoy America's favorite pastime together with some affordable family fun. Photo courtesy of the A's

## Athletics News Release

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The A's are welcoming fans back to the ballpark this season with \$8 tickets for select April and May games at Sutter Health Park, giving families and friends the opportunity to enjoy America's favorite pastime together with some affordable family fun.

"We are thrilled to kick off our second season in Sacramento and can't wait to see families, friends, co-workers and community groups filling Sutter Health Park for a fun experience at the ballpark," said Catherine Aker, senior vice president, marketing and communications, with the A's. "With \$8 tickets available for many games in April and May, fans can plan a family outing, a date night or a group get-together, all while enjoying competitive matchups in Sacramento's beautiful spring weather."

Springtime promises to be loaded with Major League fun at the ballpark. From must-have collectibles to meaningful celebrations, April and May give fans of all ages the chance to be part of unforgettable moments.

In addition to the \$8 tickets for select

games, fans can also take advantage of several special promotions and celebrations, including: Sacramento Saturdays with a Sacramento focused promotion every Saturday home game throughout the season and giveaways for kids every Sunday home game throughout the season.

Season events also include the Fireworks Show at the home opener vs. Houston Astros on April 3, Sacramento Baseball Jersey Giveaway vs. Houston Astros on April 4, Jackie Robinson Day vs. Texas Rangers on April 15, A's Basketball Jersey Giveaway vs. Cleveland Guardians on May 2 and Postgame Fireworks Show vs. San Francisco Giants on May 15.

"With so many special promotions and celebrations, great ticket prices, and an always exhilarating gameday experience, we couldn't be more excited for A's fans and the Sacramento region this season," Aker added.

Fans can secure their seats and view the full promotional schedule at: [www.mlb.com/athletics/tickets/single-game-tickets?partnerId=it-20260217-16900609-ath-1-A&utm\\_id=it-20260217-16900609-ath-1-A#series=6](http://www.mlb.com/athletics/tickets/single-game-tickets?partnerId=it-20260217-16900609-ath-1-A&utm_id=it-20260217-16900609-ath-1-A#series=6)

## Food & Farm NEWS

### Precision is Key to Reducing Antibiotic Use on Dairies

When cows develop mastitis—inflammation of a cow's udder—dairies often respond with immediate antibiotic treatment. That approach has long protected animal health and milk production. But research suggests treating every case the same way may not always be necessary. Christian Bernal-Córdoba, a veterinarian and graduate researcher at the University of California, Davis, said the discussion around antibiotics should focus less on cutting use and more on improving precision. "Antibiotics themselves are not the problem," he said. "The problem is how we use them." Rather than emphasizing reduction alone, Bernal-Córdoba said producers should focus on optimizing antibiotic use by applying treatment when it provides clear benefit. At the same time, reducing unnecessary treatments lowers drug costs on the farm, decreases discarded milk during withdrawal periods and reduces time spent managing dairy hospital pens.

### How joining FFA has Impacted its Members

Current and former members of FFA, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, from across California shared how the student-led organization has affected their lives in a special Ag Alert® series. "My biggest misconception about agriculture before joining FFA was that only farmers can be involved and have a career in this industry," said Ella Rolland, an FFA member at East Nicholas High School in Sutter County. "Since joining

FFA, I've been exposed to many career paths that allow us to serve others and support the industry that feeds and protects the world every day." Destiny Reyes, a Stanislaus County college student and recent FFA member, said she has the organization to thank for some of her closest friends. Brendan Black, a Tulare County agriculture teacher, said he chose his career path "purely off of my FFA experience." And Timmy Klittich, a Ventura County nursery operator and former FFA member, said his participation in the organization "was where I started to learn real leadership skills."

### FFA President Shares What Leadership Has Taught Her

Lily Vaughan, the 2025-26 California FFA state president, reflected on what it means to lead the youth organization in an Ag Alert® commentary. "I joined FFA my freshman year for a practical reason. While I didn't grow up immersed in agriculture, my family began raising and showing market hogs for the county fair when I was in middle school. I wanted to continue showing market hogs, which meant enrolling in an agriculture biology class and officially joining the Las Plumas FFA chapter," Vaughan said. "Serving as California FFA state president has taught me that leadership is deeply personal. It is not about having the fanciest resume or the most impressive title. On the hardest days, leadership means asking for help and admitting when I cannot give my best. It means leaning on my team, my adviser and the people who reminded me that I was never meant to do this alone." ★



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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" (OB BB) 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 OB BB 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 OB BB 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 OB BB, 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 on the 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. She now 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-

sassinations 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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# Federal Block Grant Funding for Homeless Motels Proposed

By John McCallum

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Refurbishing city-owned emergency homeless transition facilities and updating the Citizen Participation Plan were a couple proposals City Council reviewed at its March 4 meeting as part of updating the city's Community Development Block Grant five-year Consolidated Plan.

The plan is required as a condition of West Sacramento's status under the program as an "entitlement jurisdiction." According to program information, entitlement jurisdictions are cities with populations of 50,000 or more, principal cities within a Metropolitan Statistical Area or qualified urban counties with populations above 200,000.

West Sacramento Economic Development and Housing staff estimate the proposed CDBG funding — based on a formula that considers population, poverty, overcrowding, housing age and growth lag — for the city in 2026 at \$546,333. It's an anticipated amount, associate community investment planner Isaiah Alford told the council, as the city has yet to receive an award letter.

"When we receive the grant award, we will adjust accordingly," he added.

The CDBG program is part of the federal Housing and Urban Development Department and supports efforts to provide affordable housing, homeless services, infrastructure and economic development. At least 70% of CDBG funding must benefit low- and moderate-income households.

Funding can also be used for public services for these households but is capped at 15% of the annual allocation. Administrative and planning costs are capped at 20%.

To be eligible for CDBG funding, activities must either benefit low- and moderate-income households defined as those at 80% of the HUD area median household income (AMI) for Yolo County, eliminate slum and urban blight related to physical structures and/or benefit urgent need or disaster-related emergencies. According to the staff report, Yolo County's AMI

for a household of four is \$135,900 — with 80% of this being \$108,720, barely above the \$100,700 maximum considered low income.

Activities include acquisition or rehabilitation of affordable housing, excluding new construction, or of public facilities serving low-income persons. Also included are funding for services benefiting low-income residents such as programs for youth, the homeless or the elderly and economic development activities creating jobs for low-income persons.

The city has acquired five former motel properties since 2020 as part of its Homeless Emergency Housing Program for interim homeless housing. Two original acquisitions, Rodeway Inn and Flamingo Motel, are scheduled to be terminated this year and program participants transitioned to three other motels — Pick Wick, El Tejon and Westwood.

The city allocated \$482,660 in 2024 CDBG funding for rehabilitation of the three motels but couldn't complete all the work. Staff is proposing \$385,118 of 2026 funding for additional rehabilitation, along with \$81,949 for homeless support services and \$109,266 for general administration and planning — meeting the 15% and 20% maximum respectively.

The Citizen Participation Plan was adopted in 2016 when West Sacramento became an Entitlement Jurisdiction. City staff propose two updates: replacing the Parks, Recreation and Intergenerational Services Commission workshop with a City Council workshop for the plan along with "establishing funding thresholds and budget actions that align with the City's current procurement and budget practices."

As part of the update process, staff have proposed new goals for 2026-2030. Goals set as "high priority" include providing homeless person support services, expanding availability of low-barrier housing, supporting affordable housing opportunities and housing stability support for persons exiting homelessness.

A potential solution to expanding low-barrier housing was suggested

during public comment by resident Robin Davis. Davis advocated for zoning guidelines to allow "tiny homes on wheels" to be considered affordable dwelling options and was successful last year when council unanimously passed an ordinance changing municipal codes to classify them as "legal dwellings."

Davis acknowledged there is a short time frame this year to include these homes as options, with the city facing a May 15 HUD submission deadline. She asked these, as well as accessory dwelling units (ADUs), be considered in the future.

During discussion, Councilwoman Norma Alcalá asked if it were possible to look at tiny homes and ADUs as homeless dwelling options. Economic Development & Housing Department Housing Manager Raul Huerta said some aspects could be covered, but such a project would be large and CDBG uses are very specific.

"The city's allocation of CDBG funds is relatively small," he said. "It could help fund a portion of such a project."

Council was supportive of the proposed updates and funding uses, although Councilwoman Dawnté Early expressed dissatisfaction with the city's online survey that received only 40 responses. Early said such a sample size for a city of West Sacramento's population size was not a good basis to make decisions, adding she would also like to see such efforts for citizen input be in more languages reflective of the city's diverse population than just English and Spanish.

Huerta said organizations working with the homeless and on homelessness issues provided input. The city also conducted focus groups, consultations and received input from the Economic Development & Housing as well as the Parks and Recreation Intergenerational commissions.

There is also a 30-day public review and comment period running March 7 to April 5 and a public hearing before the council on April 15 when the plan is considered for adoption.

"We will continue to receive public input until then," Huerta added. ★

## Crime Reports WEST SACRAMENTO



### ARREST REPORTS

**Francisco Javier de Santiago**, 50, was cited Friday, Jan. 16 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

**Verinder Mann**, 57 was cited Saturday, Feb. 7 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

**Dante Jordan McCowan**, 26, was cited Wednesday, Feb. 11 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

**Felicia Loren Sims**, 32, was cited Wednesday, Feb. 11 on Riverpoint Court by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. This was a merchant detention.

**Michael Dwayne Williams**, 33, was arrested Thursday, Feb. 12 on Harbor Boulevard by West Sacramento Police. Officer observed a vehicle with expired registration and conducted a traffic enforcement stop. A male, later identified as Williams, exited the vehicle and ignored officer commands to get back in the vehicle, then walked into a restaurant at the location. Williams exited the restaurant and walked away from officers when asked for his identification. Officers attempted to detain him when he pulled away and officers were able to take him to the ground and place him in handcuffs. Williams was transported to Yolo County Jail, charged with resisting a peace officer and lack of current vehicle registration.

**Akif Hasan Najmi**, 23, was arrested Saturday, Feb. 14 on 3rd Street by West Sacramento Police. Officers observed a driver, later identified as Najmi, driving at high speeds in a residential zone. Najmi also ran a stop sign. A traffic stop was conducted, and Najmi was observed to be under the influence of something, later confirmed as drugs. Najmi was transported to Yolo County Jail, charged with reckless driving, possessing a controlled substance, and DUI: any drug.

**Jahsaun Elijah Woods**, 24, was arrested Saturday, Feb. 14 on 4th Street by West Sacramento Police for DUI with blood alcohol concentration >.08. Officer was dispatched to the location for report of a suspicious vehicle. The vehicle was facing the wrong way and appeared to have struck a parked vehicle on the other side of the street. Officer contacted a male, later identified as Woods, who was unconscious in the driver seat of the suspicious vehicle. Woods consented to standardized field sobriety tests, which he was unable to perform. He was transported to Yolo County Jail without further incident.

**Joemell Deonte Ladray Goodrum**, 19, was arrested Wednesday, Feb. 18 on Inglewood Drive by West Sacramento Police for multiple outstanding warrants. Officer observed a vehicle associated with Goodrum, a known subject, in a driveway at the location. Officer knocked on the door, and Goodrum's mother answered. Officer observed Goodrum asleep on the couch. Officer advised Goodrum he was under arrest, and he was detained without incident and transported to Yolo County Jail.

**Rafullah Rahmani**, 24, was cited Wednesday, Feb. 11 on Lake Washington Blvd. by West Sacramento Police for obtaining credit by using other's identification and appropriating lost property.

**Roberto Garfio**, 78, was cited Sunday, Feb. 22 at Town Center Plaza by West Sacramento Police for petty theft of retail merchandise. Garfio was observed eating food and then placing a pack of gum in his pocket. He exited the store without making any attempt to pay for the consumed items or the pack of gum. Garfio was detained by a loss prevention employee for the theft and placed under citizen's arrest. Garfio was issued the citation and released with a notice to appear.

**Gracie Freeman**, 48, was cited Monday, Feb. 23 at West Capitol Avenue and Pecan Street by West Sacramento Police for possessing personal identifying information with intent to defraud.

**Jason Demetrius Johnson**, 41, was arrested Monday, Feb. 23 at West Capitol Avenue and Pecan Street by West Sacramento Police for possessing marijuana for sale, transporting marijuana, possessing unlawful paraphernalia and driving while his license was suspended for DUI.

**Jesse Ramon Schoonover-Rodriguez**, 49, was arrested Wednesday, Feb. 25 at West Capitol Avenue and Merkle Avenue for multiple outstanding warrants. Officer contacted Schoonover-Rodriguez, known to have outstanding warrants. During a search, he informed the officer he possessed pepper spray and methamphetamine, which the officer did find. A records check revealed Schoonover-Rodriguez was a convicted felon and not allowed to possess pepper spray. He was booked for his warrants, unlawful possession of tear gas and possessing a controlled substance.

**Vincent Peter Sanini**, 66, was arrested Thursday, Feb. 26 at West Capitol Avenue and Poplar Avenue by West Sacramento Police. Officer conducted a traffic enforcement stop on a vehicle missing a license plate light after dark. A records check of Sanini, the driver, found an outstanding felony warrant and searchable probation until April. Officers conducted a vehicle inventory search and found a white crystalline substance and a glass pipe with a bulbous end containing black and white residue. Sanini was transported to Yolo County Jail, charged with the warrant, possession of a controlled substance and possessing unlawful paraphernalia.

**Guy Matthew Martin**, 62, was arrested Thursday, Feb. 26 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police. Officer was at the location for a report of trespassing, and found the suspect, identified as Martin, nearby. Officer advised Martin he had been trespassed and was not to return to the location. Officer returned to the reporting party and observed Martin return to the trespassed location. Officer ordered Martin to stop, and he turned and ran from the officer. Officer gave several commands to stop, which Martin ignored. Officer chased Martin down and took him into custody. Martin was transported to Yolo County Jail charged with resisting a peace officer.

**Aaron Francisco Mireles-Barajas**, 32, was taken into custody Sunday, March 1 at Westacre Road and Evergreen Avenue by West Sacramento Police for parole violation.

Officer was in the area looking for Mireles-Barajas and observed a tent. Officer gave command for anyone inside to step out and recognized Mireles-Barajas when he stepped out. Mireles-Barajas was transported to Yolo County Jail and his parole officer was notified.

**Argentina Xiong**, 33, was arrested Sunday, March 1 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police for outstanding misdemeanor warrants. Officer was dispatched to the location for a call reporting indecent exposure. Upon arrival, officer contacted the subject matching the description provided, identified as Xiong. A records check revealed the warrants, and he was transported to Yolo County Jail.

**Jayden Lukela Ramsey**, 19, was arrested Sunday, March 1 on Garden Street by West Sacramento Police for an outstanding felony warrant. Officer was dispatched to the location for a report of trespassing. Upon arrival, he contacted Ramsey, who was sitting in front of the residence. A records check revealed the warrant and Ramsey was transported to Yolo County Jail.

**Hugh French**, 27, and Christopher Ryan Jones, 42, were arrested Tuesday, March 3 on Lake Washington Boulevard by West Sacramento Police. Officer on patrol observed a suspicious vehicle parked outside the seasonal fire exit door of a retail store. Officer contacted the driver, identified as Jones, and found he had outstanding warrants. At the same time, officer received a call for service at the same retail store, advising that a male had pushed out through the seasonal fire exit door with a coffee maker, which was found near the dumpster. While on the phone with the store employees, officer learned that Jones was associated with the person who took the coffee maker, later identified as French. The store loss prevention officer wanted to press charges on both and signed a citizen's arrest form. French was found nearby, and loss prevention positively identified him during an in-field show-up. French was also found to have an active misdemeanor warrant. Both were transported to Yolo County Jail, charged with their warrants, petty theft of retail merchandise and conspiracy to commit crime. Additionally, an inventory search of Jones' vehicle found multiple keys not belonging to that vehicle, so Jones was also charged with possession of burglary tools.

**Patrick Stephen Villegas**, 60, was arrested Tuesday, March 3 on West Capitol Avenue by West Sacramento Police for multiple outstanding warrants. Officer observed a bicyclist riding on the wrong side of the street and conducted a traffic enforcement stop. The bicyclist was identified as Villegas, and a records check found the warrants. He was transported to Yolo County Jail.

### INCIDENTS / CRIME REPORTS

**Saturday, Feb. 7** – victim reports an unknown suspect broke the front window to the victim's locked vehicle in a parking lot on Reed Avenue. The suspect took the victim's wallet containing ID, cash and credit cards, then fled the scene. Damage and loss estimated at \$550.

**Thursday, Feb. 12** – victim reports she was at a gas station on West Capitol Avenue and got into a verbal argument. During the argument, the unknown suspect slapped the victim's sunglasses out of her hand. When leaving, a second unknown suspect threw an open soda on the victim. No estimated value of damage.

**Friday, Feb. 13** – a business reports their take-home employee vehicle had a hole drilled in the tank and the gasoline drained on Tobago Street. There is no suspect information. Loss and damage estimated at \$930.

**Monday, Feb. 16** – victim reports an unknown suspect attempted to steal their vehicle near Copper Lane. Items including speakers and amplifiers, valued at \$114,000 were taken.

**Monday, Feb. 16** – victim reports items were stolen from their rental vehicle parked in a lot near Lake Washington Boulevard. An unknown subject took a backpack containing a laptop and a duffel bag containing clothing and other items. Property loss valued at \$1,860.

**Tuesday, Feb. 17** – victim reports an unknown item struck and shattered the front glass door at their single family home. Damage valued at \$1,000.

**Sunday, Feb. 22** – victim reports theft of documents and a garage door opener from an unlocked vehicle by an unknown suspect. Value of loss not reported.

**Sunday, Feb. 22** – a business near Jefferson Boulevard reports their front glass door was vandalized by an unknown suspect. Nothing of value was reported missing; damage valued at \$500.

**Monday, Feb. 23** – a grocery store on Harbor Boulevard reports their pallet jack, valued at \$600, was stolen by an unknown suspect during an unknown time frame.

**Saturday, Feb. 7** – victim reports her ex-boyfriend stole a shotgun valued at \$400 from her storage unit on Lake Washington Boulevard. Suspect information was provided.

**Wednesday, Feb. 18** – City employee was notified via alarm that a door was ajar at a City pump station on Industrial Boulevard. Employees arrived and located an open, damaged door and old electrical hardware was missing. There is no suspect information. Value of damage and loss pending inventory of the property.

**Saturday, Feb. 21** – employee of a business near Stone Boulevard reports they arrived at work and discovered an open warehouse door, and a window was unlocked. There was also damage to an office door inside the business, with attempted forced entry. A subject was observed in the area, but it's unconfirmed whether that was the suspect. Employee's tool bag was missing from inside the building. Value of damage and loss pending inventory of property.

**Monday, Feb. 23** – victim reports an unknown person stole the catalytic converter from her vehicle while it was in a parking lot at Ikea Court. Loss valued at \$2,000.

**Sunday, March 1** – victim reports they were confronted by a suspect at a skatepark on Evergreen Avenue. The suspect and three friends used a handgun to rob the victim of belongings valued at \$4,850. Suspect information was provided.

**Monday, March 2** – victim reports their vehicle was broken into at a residential facility on F Street by an unknown suspect. Nothing was stolen and there is no estimated damage.

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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The West Sacramento City Council will conduct a Proposition 218 public hearing on March 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible on the following. The hearing will be held in the council chambers at the Civic Center, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento. Interested persons are invited to attend, including all persons owning property in the City and customers of record, may appear and be heard as to whether the proposed water and sewer rates and charges are excessive or will not be sufficient under the provisions or covenants of any outstanding revenue bond of the City payable from the revenues of the City. In compliance with the ADA, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the City Clerk at 916-617-4500. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. City hall is handicapped accessible.

**RESOLUTION 26-24**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO DETERMINING THAT THE PROPOSED WATER AND SEWER RATES COMPLY WITH CALIFORNIA'S PROPOSITION 218, THAT THERE WAS NO MAJORITY PROTEST AGAINST THE PROPOSED WATER AND SEWER RATES, AND ADOPTING THE PROPOSED WATER AND SEWER RATES

**WHEREAS**, the City of West Sacramento ("City") imposes water and sewer rates on its customers to cover the cost of providing water services. The City contracted with HF&H Consultants ("Water Consultant") to develop the December 22, 2025 Water and Sewer Cost-of-Service Study ("Rate Study"). The Rate Study includes a comprehensive cost of services review of the City's water and sewer rates that are compliant with all legal requirements, including Article XIII-D, Section 6 of the California Constitution ("Proposition 218"); and

**WHEREAS**, the City took numerous steps at workshops and public meetings throughout this process to ensure public transparency and participation, including:

On October 28, 2025, the City hosted a Utility Rates 101 Informational Webinar for members of the public to learn about City water and sewer services, as well as how customer rates are determined. The Webinar was hosted virtually, via Zoom or phone, and has been available online for viewing since the Webinar was originally hosted.

On November 12, 2025, the City's Environment & Utilities Commission heard an item for a workshop on the water and sewer rate study and the proposed rates. The workshop presented information on the status, costs, projections, and proposed rate structures. The Commission received a presentation from City staff, conducted the workshop, and provided feedback to City staff on the recommended rates for water and sewer utilities.

During the November 19, 2025, City Council meeting, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 25-121, Establishing A Procedure For Ratepayer And Property Owner Objections To Proposed Utility Fees Or Special Assessments, consistent with Government Code sections 53759.1 and 53759.2. These procedures help ensure the public has a clear opportunity to voice any potential concerns about non-compliance with Proposition 218 or any other law, as well as gives the City an opportunity to respond before it considers the proposed rates. The public was given the opportunity to comment on this item.

On December 3, 2025, the City Council heard an item for a workshop on the water and sewer rate study and the proposed rate adjustments. City staff gave a presentation on the proposed rate adjustments. Council gave feedback and direction on the desired scenario, authorized the City Manager or designee to proceed with the Proposition 218 noticing process, and gave approval to begin the Proposition 218 process using the water and sewer rates set forth in Exhibit A to this resolution.

On Friday, January 2, 2026, the City mailed the Proposition 218 Notices (including the water and sewer rates set forth in Exhibit A) to property owners of record and water and sewer customers of record, which is at least 45-days before Public Hearing on March 18, 2026.

On February 3, 2026, the City hosted an informational open house in preparation for the Public Hearing. City staff and financial consultants answered questions from the public one-on-one. This provided an opportunity for members of the public to gain insight into system improvements and understand how proposed rates may impact their bill. Residents also learned more about water and sewer service, proposed rate increases, and the investments needed to ensure reliable service for years to come.

On February 7, 2026, the City hosted a second informational open house in preparation for the Public Hearing. City staff and financial consultants answered questions from the public one-on-one. This provided an opportunity for members of the public to gain insight into system improvements and understand how proposed rates may impact their bill. Residents also learned more about water and sewer service, proposed rate increases, and the investments needed to ensure reliable service for years to come.

During the March 18, 2026 Proposition 218 Public Hearing, City staff presented to the City Council all timely received written objections and City responses, the City Council considered all timely received written objections and City responses before the close of the public hearing, and in exercising its legislative discretion determined to proceed with the Proposition 218 Public Hearing.

**WHEREAS**, the Rate Study and Exhibit A to this resolution sets forth proposed water and sewer rates that do not exceed the City's reasonable cost of service, proportionally allocates those costs to the City's customers, complies with Proposition 218, and includes the written basis for the proposed water and sewer rates; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of Proposition 218, prior to extending, imposing or increasing water and sewer rates, the City must hold a public hearing to consider the rates and must mail written notice of the public hearing ("Proposition 218 Notice") to impacted rate payers and property owners at least 45 days prior to the public hearing to consider such modifications to the water and sewer rates together with an explanation of:

- (1) the amount of the proposed rates
- (2) the basis on which the rates are calculated
- (3) the reason for the rate modifications
- (4) the date, time and place of a public hearing to consider the rate modifications; and

**WHEREAS**, under Proposition 218, ratepayers and owners of property receiving City water and sewer services may protest the proposed rates by submitting a written protest prior to the close of the public hearing. While both ratepayers and property owners may submit protests, pursuant to Government Code section 53755, only one protest per parcel will be counted; and

**WHEREAS**, additionally, the City is choosing to comply with Assembly Bill 2257 (Government Code section 53759.1, et seq.), which requires any property owner or ratepayer that may wish to bring a judicial action challenging the rates compliance with Article XIII D to submit a written objection to the proposed water and sewer rates prior to the deadline established by the Council as part of the ratemaking process. The Council adopted Resolution No. 25-121 on November 19, 2025, adopting and establishing the procedures required by Assembly Bill 2257; and

**WHEREAS**, notice of the proposed water and sewer rates has been published on March 6, 2026 in substantial compliance with Government Code section 54354.5, in the News-Ledger as evidenced by Proof of Publication on file with the City Clerk with the subsequent notice published on March 13, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, during the March 18, 2026, Proposition 218 Public Hearing, City staff presented to the Council all timely received Written Objections and City responses, and the Council, exercising its legislative discretion, found and decided by adopting Resolution No. 26-23 that the City complied with the requirements of Government Code section 53759.1 and to complete the Proposition 218 Public Hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 18, 2026, the City conducted a Proposition 218 Protest Hearing, considered all information related to this matter, including any supporting reports by City staff, any written comments or protests submitted by members of the public, all written objections and responses, all comments provided during the meeting, and at the conclusion of the hearing determined that a majority protest did not exist.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of West Sacramento, as follows:

1. The City Council hereby finds that the facts set forth in the recitals to this Resolution are true and correct, finds that the staff report and attachments are true and correct, incorporates the recitals and staff report and attachments to the staff report herein by reference, and finds the above establishes the factual basis for the City Council's adoption of this Resolution.
2. The City Council hereby finds that this Resolution is not a project as defined by Public Resources Code Section 21065. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4), the Resolution creates government funding mechanisms which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. This Resolution is policy-oriented and would create a funding mechanism for the development of future water facilities. When and if specific water projects are developed and proposed for implementation, the environmental impacts of such facilities would be evaluated in accordance with CEQA and City practice at that time. If found to be a project under CEQA, the resolution is exempt from CEQA as there is no possibility for causing a significant effect on the environment, per CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)(3). Finally, the action is exempt from CEQA Guidelines Section 15273(a) as the resolution is adopting updated water and sewer rates that are necessary to meet the operating, maintenance, and capital project funding needs of the City's water and sewer utilities and to maintain service within the City's existing service area.
3. The City Council hereby determines that the water and sewer rates set forth in Exhibit A to this Resolution are in compliance with the California Constitution Article XIII D and California Government Code sections 53755 and 53759.1.

4. The City Council finds and determines that, based on the entire record before the City Council, including but not limited to the Rate Study and the Staff Report and attachments thereto, which are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein:
  - a. Revenues derived from the proposed water and sewer rates will not exceed the funds required to provide the respective water service.
  - b. Revenues derived from the proposed water and sewer rates will not be used for any purposes other than that for which they were imposed.
  - c. The amount of the water and sewer rates imposed upon any parcel of land or person as an incident of property ownership will not exceed the proportional cost of the service attributable to the parcel. The water and sewer rates imposed for a service or services that are actually used by, or immediately available to, the owner of the property in question.
  - d. The water and sewer rates are not being imposed for general government services.
5. After receiving and considering documentary and oral testimony, the City Council declared the public hearing closed and considered whether written protests were received from property owners or customers of record representing a majority of owners of the identified parcels.
6. There are 17,979 parcels within the City. For a majority protest, 8,991 protests must be received by the City. The City Clerk has counted \_\_\_\_\_ written protests, and based upon this number of written protests, the City Council hereby finds that a majority protest to the water and sewer rates does not exist.
7. The City Council hereby adopts the water and sewer rates set forth in Exhibit A to this Resolution, and finds the rates are not discriminatory or excessive, and will be sufficient under Government Code Section 54515 and will comply with the provisions of Government Code Section 54340 et seq. and will be sufficient under the provisions or covenants of any outstanding revenue bonds of the City payable from the revenues of the enterprise and will be in compliance with law.
8. The City Council hereby directs the City Manager, or his designee, to take all appropriate actions to carry out the purpose and intent of this Resolution.
9. Levy of Charges. Pursuant to Title 5, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 6 of the Government Code, the City's police power, and Sections 8.08.150, 13.04.591, and 13.08.386 of the West Sacramento Municipal Code, the increased rates are hereby approved.
10. Delinquent Charges Constitute a Lien. Delinquent charges and penalties when recorded in accordance with the provisions of the Revenue Bond Law (Government Code Section 54300 et. seq.) and Sections 13.04.710 and 13.08.460 of the West Sacramento Municipal Code shall constitute a lien upon the real property served.
11. If any provision, section, paragraph, sentence or word of this Resolution, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is rendered or declared invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences or words of this Resolution, and their application to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect and, to that end, the provisions of this Resolution are severable.
12. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect on March 18, 2026. The water and sewer rates set forth in Exhibit A to this Resolution will go into effect on April 1, 2026.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 18th day of March, 2026. I, Martha Guerrero, Mayor of the City Council for the City of West Sacramento, hereby certify the foregoing resolution was introduced and passed at a regular meeting of the City of West Sacramento City Council by the following roll call vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Martha Guerrero, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Cusmir, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Mitchell, City Attorney

**EXHIBIT A**

**TABLE 1: Proposed 5-Year Schedule of Monthly Water Fixed Charges**

The fixed charge covers the cost of providing service, including water treatment, system maintenance, meter reading, billing, and customer service. Table 1 shows the current and proposed monthly water service charge by meter size over the next five years. Most city water customers have a 3/4-inch or 1-inch metered connection.

METER SIZE	Current	4/1/2026	1/1/2027	1/1/2028	1/1/2029	1/1/2030
Up to 3/4"	\$24.61	\$35.93	\$41.32	\$43.80	\$45.99	\$48.29
1"	\$40.98	\$58.42	\$67.18	\$71.21	\$74.77	\$78.51
1.5"	\$81.78	\$114.65	\$131.85	\$139.76	\$146.75	\$154.09
2"	\$131.02	\$182.12	\$209.44	\$222.01	\$233.11	\$244.77
3"	\$262.13	\$362.06	\$416.37	\$441.35	\$463.42	\$486.59
4"	\$409.61	\$564.48	\$649.15	\$688.10	\$722.51	\$758.64
6"	\$818.94	\$1,126.78	\$1,295.80	\$1,373.55	\$1,442.23	\$1,514.34
8"	\$1,310.45	\$1,801.53	\$2,071.76	\$2,196.07	\$2,305.87	\$2,421.16
10"	\$1,883.65	\$2,588.74	\$2,977.05	\$3,155.67	\$3,313.45	\$3,479.12

**TABLE 2: Proposed 5-Year Schedule of Monthly Water Consumption (Volumetric) Rates**

Table 2 shows the current and proposed monthly water consumption (volumetric) rate, which is the amount each Residential and Commercial customer pays per hundred cubic feet of water used. NOTE: The consumption water rate is in dollars per hundred cubic feet (\$/hcf). One hundred cubic feet is equal to 748 gallons.

CONSUMPTION RATES	Current	4/1/2026	1/1/2027	1/1/2028	1/1/2029	1/1/2030
<b>All Customers</b>						
\$/HCF (1 HCF = 748 gallons)	\$2.43	\$2.46	\$2.83	\$3.00	\$3.15	\$3.31

**TABLE 3: Proposed 5-Year Schedule of Monthly Water Flat Rates**

Table 3 shows the current and proposed monthly water flat rate over the next five years for customers with a meter that does not measure consumption.

FLAT WATER RATES (\$/month)	Current	4/1/2026	1/1/2027	1/1/2028	1/1/2029	1/1/2030
<b>Residential (1, 2, or 3 dwelling units)</b>						
Up to 3/4"	\$59.23	\$71.08	\$81.74	\$86.64	\$90.97	\$95.52
1"	\$58.26	\$69.91	\$80.40	\$85.22	\$89.48	\$93.95
Additional Dwelling Units	\$33.61	\$40.33	\$46.38	\$49.16	\$51.62	\$54.20

**TABLE 4: Proposed 5-Year Schedule of Monthly Sewer Fixed Charges and Volumetric Rates for All Customers**  
Table 4 shows the current and proposed monthly sewer service charges and volumetric rates over the next five years. The volumetric sewer rate is in dollars per hundred cubic feet (\$/hcf). NOTE: These rates and charges do not include Sacramento Area Sewer District treatment costs that are included as a pass-through on customer bills.

Customers with a Fixed Charge and a Flat or Volumetric Rate	Current	4/1/2026	1/1/2027	1/1/2028	1/1/2029	1/1/2030
<b>Residential</b>						
Single-Family Fixed Charge	\$10.88	\$19.85	\$25.81	\$32.26	\$35.49	\$38.33
Multi-Family Fixed Charge (per dwelling unit)	\$8.16	\$13.53	\$17.59	\$21.99	\$24.19	\$26.13
<b>Commercial</b>						
Fixed Charge per Account	\$5.40	\$3.19	\$4.15	\$5.19	\$5.71	\$6.17
Metered Rate per HCF	\$3.16	\$2.41	\$3.14	\$3.93	\$4.32	\$4.67
<b>Other Non-Residential (Non-Metered)</b>						
Fixed Charge per ESD*	\$10.88	\$19.85	\$25.81	\$32.26	\$35.49	\$38.33

\*ESD = 1 Equivalent Single-Family Dwelling as defined by Sacramento Area Sewer District in the Treatment and Resource Recovery Ordinance

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## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

## Amber Waves



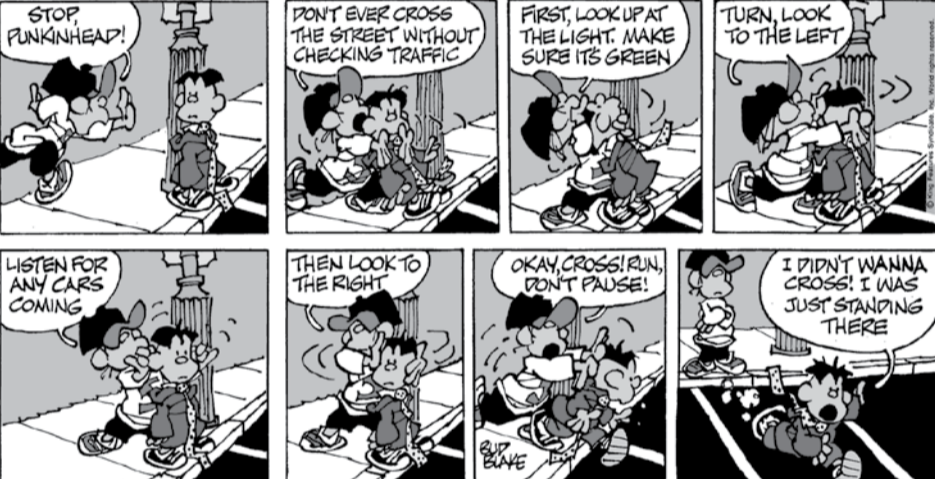
by Dave T. Phipps

## Out on a Limb

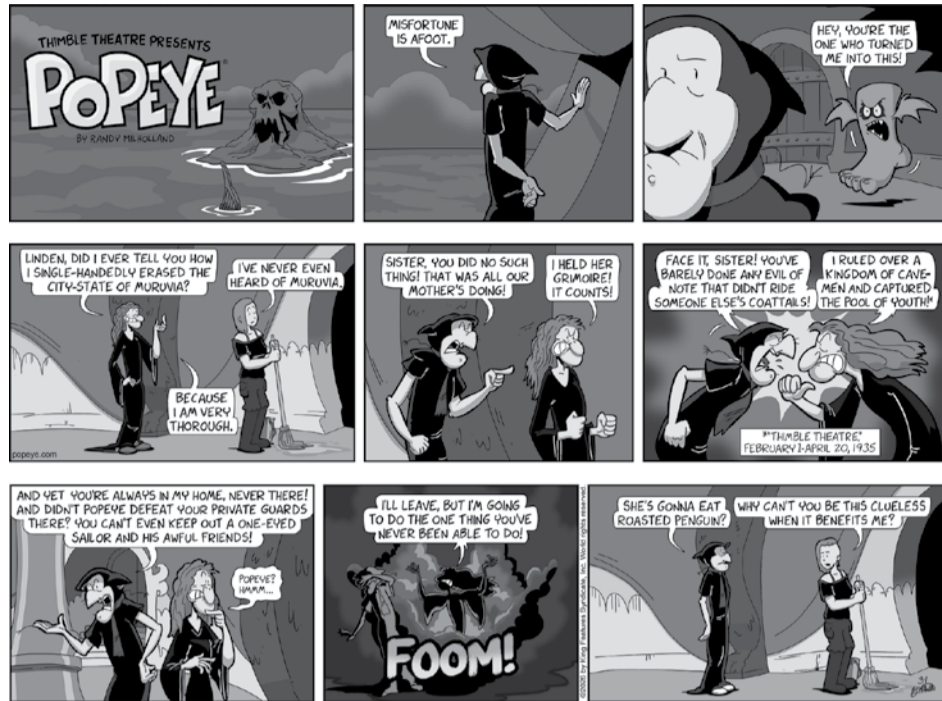


by Gary Kopervas

## TIGER



by Bud Blake



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hat is larger, 2. Bottom of lamp is not showing, 3. Ear is different, 4. Book cover is different, 5. Glasses are missing, 6. Ribbon is moved.

## GRIN & BEAR IT



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



A	B	B	R			C	A	W			A	L	G	A						
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- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Abbreviation, abbr.
  - Corvine bird's sound
  - Aquarium dweller
  - Sandwich shop
  - Half human, half cobra in Hinduism
  - Blatant
  - Don't go
  - \*Tony Stark, a.k.a. \_\_\_ Man
  - High-quality black tea
  - \*Leader of Guardians of the Galaxy
  - Research facil.
  - Words to live by
  - Leo month
  - \_\_\_ Tree National Park
  - Period between linked activities (2 words)
  - Not safe in baseball
  - Drunk's speech?
  - Sitar music
  - Doughy snack of Jewish origin
  - Rage
  - Seize a throne
  - Common hosiery shade
  - Nom de guerre
  - "Wow!"
  - What emergency workers do
  - Choice word
  - Young nevt
  - Passport stamps
  - Vomit
  - \*Doctor Doom's frequent ally (2 words)
  - Deserved consequence
  - One of Great Lakes
  - Iranian money
  - Like Vitruvian Man, e.g.
  - Prima donnas' problems
  - Author Murdoch
  - Like Regina George
  - \_\_\_ My People Go
  - \*Sandman can transform his body into this
- DOWN**
- Pop-ups, e.g.
  - Risky business, pl.
  - Cry plaintively
  - Capital of Saudi Arabia
  - Billiards bounce
  - Ancient Greek marketplace
  - Diagon Alley purchase
  - \*Captain America's team
  - Albanian monetary units
  - Small cave
  - What Pac-Man did to strawberry
  - Largest Asian antelope
  - Poppy seed derivative
  - Just outside a fairway
  - Inflation matter
  - \*Batman's arch-nemesis
  - 1/16th of a pound
  - Not shakes, as in bartender
  - \*\_\_\_ Titans, cyborgs' team
  - L in LOL
  - Acquiesce
  - Rubbernecker
  - Tough spot
  - \*Leonardo to Michelangelo

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	5			8	9			
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# RCHS Productions Marks 10 Years



The cast and crew of River City High School's student production of "Witches!? In Salem?!". Photo courtesy of RCHS Productions

Continued from page 1 during this school year alone.

To celebrate that achievement, the program will once again host its annual Thespian Awards, recognizing student contributions across performance, technical theatre, filmmaking, design, leadership and production work.

The anniversary season culminates with "Carousel," one of the most celebrated works of the American musical theatre canon. Known for its sweeping score and emotionally resonant storytelling, the production explores themes of redemption, community responsibility and the enduring impact individuals have on those around them.

"Over the past ten years, RCHS Productions has become a place where students discover their voice, their confidence and their ability to collaborate in meaningful ways," said program director

Christopher Hanks. "This anniversary season has been a celebration of the creativity and dedication of our students, and "Carousel" offers a powerful way to bring that celebration to a close."

Following the run of "Carousel," the program will continue its celebration of student creativity with a red-carpet Raider Studio Film Festival, featuring four student-directed short films premiering on the big screen along with additional student films released online. The festival will include awards recognizing student achievement in directing, editing, cinematography and storytelling.

Together, the stage production, awards celebration and film festival highlight the scope of student work produced through RCHS Productions and the program's commitment to giving students authentic artistic and production experiences.

Performances and events will take place at River

City High School in West Sacramento. Information about show dates, tickets, and upcoming events will be available through the RCHS Productions website: rchsproductions.org.

Community members, families, and local arts supporters are encouraged to attend and celebrate a decade of student creativity, collaboration and storytelling.

### About RCHS Productions

RCHS Productions is the theatre and filmmaking program at River City High School in West Sacramento, dedicated to providing students with meaningful artistic experiences both on stage and behind the scenes. Through productions, film projects, showcases and student-led creative work, the program fosters collaboration, leadership and creative expression while preparing students for future opportunities in the arts and beyond. ★

# Celebrate Community and Support Empower Yolo at Lucas' Party with a Purpose

Yolo County Supervisor Lucas Frerichs News Release

WINTERS, CA (MPG) - Yolo County Supervisor Lucas Frerichs is hosting his annual Party with a Purpose, which this year will benefit the vital Children's Programs at Empower Yolo. On Wednesday, May 27, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., gather at Berryessa Brewing Co. in Winters, for an unforgettable evening of community connection, delicious food, live music and fundraising for an essential cause.

Empower Yolo provides specialized services in Yolo County to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, dating violence, stalking, human trafficking and other forms of abuse. They operate Yolo County's only 24/7 local crisis line and are often called when first responders encounter a family in crisis.

100% of event proceeds from ticket sales, sponsorships and donations will benefit Empower Yolo's Children's Programs. For 49 years, Empower Yolo has stood alongside Yolo County's most vulnerable children, protecting them from abuse and helping them heal when harm has occurred. Last year alone, of the 211 residents at their shelter, half were children seeking safety with their families.

"Domestic violence doesn't just impact adult survivors, but it also harms children in the household," said Yolo County Supervisor Frerichs. "I'm so grateful Empower Yolo provides important services throughout Yolo County for adult and youth survivors of violence and abuse. I look forward to bringing our community together to support Empower Yolo's Children's Programs at this year's Party with a Purpose."

Empower Yolo staff work year-round to transform their shelter into a place of warmth and laughter, where children celebrate birthdays, are recognized for school accomplishments and learn how to relax and simply be kids again. Support for this event ensures that every child who walks

through Empower Yolo's doors is not only protected but celebrated, encouraged and reminded that their future is bright.

Indulge in delectable desserts provided by local businesses, with dinner available for purchase. Each ticket includes one drink ticket to enjoy a refreshing beverage



from Berryessa Brewing Co. or a non-alcoholic option, and additional food and drinks will also be available for purchase from the Buckhorn Food Truck. Enjoy the sounds of a local band as they take the stage and set the tone for a lively evening. Throughout the night, connect and network with fellow community members while supporting the children served by Empower Yolo, helping them feel safe, celebrated

and full of possibility.

"We are incredibly grateful to Supervisor Frerichs and his team, for their leadership and steadfast support of Empower Yolo and the children and families we serve," shared Celina Alveraz, Executive Director of Empower Yolo. "His recognition of child survivors and his commitment to ensuring their voices are heard sends a powerful message to our entire community - that their experiences matter and their futures matter. We are excited and grateful that the 2026 Party with a Purpose will support our Children's Programs, helping ensure every child we serve is not only protected, but celebrated and empowered to look toward a brighter future. Community support makes that possible, and we look forward to gathering together in May to make a meaningful difference."

For tickets and sponsorship visit <https://empoweryolo.org/party-with-a-purpose/>. There will be limited availability at the door.

Empower Yolo provides 24-hour crisis intervention, emergency shelter, confidential counseling, training, legal assistance, and other services for individuals and families affected by violence and abuse. Access their 24/7 crisis line at 530-662-1133 for free, safe and confidential services. ★

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West Sacramento News Ledger is published weekly on Friday.  
\*Subscription rate valid only within Yolo County.

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## What Creates Icebergs?

-Kenton, 8, Washington State

Dear Kenton,

When I think about the Arctic, I picture frigid waters filled with narwhals, polar bears and icebergs.

I asked my friend Von Walden how those icebergs got there. He's a polar scientist at Washington State University.

He told me a glacier is a huge mass of ice on land. But glaciers don't just sit there. They move. A glacier is like a slow-moving river of ice. It's made of heavy, compacted snow. It flows over the land because of its own weight.

An iceberg is a broken-off piece of a glacier.

To be an iceberg, that broken-off chunk must be about twice the size of a house. A mini-iceberg—about the size of a piano—is called a growler. Ice chunks in between those sizes are called bergy bits.

"Imagine you have a glacier that's sitting in a valley—and at the end of that valley is a lake," Walden said. "A piece of the glacier at the end may break off. Then it's no longer held to the glacier, so it can float around in the lake."

Or an iceberg may break off a glacier by the ocean. That iceberg probably falls into the ocean.

Once the iceberg plops off a glacier and into water, it floats around like an ice cube in a drink. The solid iceberg is less dense than the liquid salt water—so it stays on top of the water.

When a chunk of ice breaks off a glacier, that's called calving. That can happen if the glacier gets warm or some other force makes a piece split off. The end of the glacier—where the iceberg slides off—is called the terminus.

Sometimes glaciers move slowly. But sometimes they move super-fast—like half a mile a day. That might happen in the summer when it's a little bit warmer. The bottom of the glacier may melt a little. That makes the ground under the glacier slippery, so the glacier can move quickly. That's called a glacial surge.

"If you have a glacier that's terminating at an ocean, and that glacier surges, it's going to shove all that water out over the ocean," Walden said. "For a while, there will be a big tongue of ice out over the ocean. And then—pfft—it just breaks up. It disintegrates into hundreds of icebergs."

The cool thing about icebergs is that they're always fresh water—even when they're floating in the salty ocean. Both glaciers and icebergs are part of Earth's water cycle. Some of their water will naturally wisp off as water vapor. It will float up into the atmosphere and form clouds. When those clouds slip over the mountains—which are high and cold—some of the water will fall as snow.

It could wind up back on the top of a glacier, adding to its mass and helping it flow n-icely.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Universe

When the sea is calm and clear, you might be able to see the bottom of an iceberg underwater. About 90% of an iceberg is below the water. That's why we say something is "the tip of the iceberg." It means that we're only aware of a little bit of a situation—because there are more details we can't see. AWEITH CC BY-SA 4.0

Scientists like Walden study polar ice by drilling deep into a glacier or other ice. Then they pull out a long, tube-shaped core sample. The ice is full of trapped air. Studying that air helps us understand Earth's past. Walden told me he ate an ice chip from an ice core. It was 750,000 years old! He said those little air pockets made the ice pop in his mouth. Lonnie Thompson, CSIRO CC BY 3.0