



Photography Month Returns in April

PAGE 7

New Superior Courthouse to Open in Railyards

PAGE 12



AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 5

Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

MARCH 13, 2026

SEE INSIDE

LEGISLATION TO PROTECT HISTORIC WEST STEPS



PAGE 7

BRAILLE PRODUCTION PROGRAM SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESS



PAGE 5

WHERE GENERATIONS MEET



PAGE 4

Vive la French in the Village



Rose Erickson proudly holds the plaque she recently received for the Best Boutique and Gift Shop in Fair Oaks 2025

Story and photos by Judy Andrews

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Fair Oaks is home to a unique women's boutique that blends European chic and charm. Meet entrepreneur Rose Erickson, owner of French in the Village. Stepping into Erickson's cozy two-story shop is like entering a Parisian boutique filled with one-of-a-kind designer pieces, European antiques, and plenty of accessories to match the clothing she carries.

"I wanted a niche that



Store owner, Rose Erickson, carries European antiques and gifts, as well as clothing and accessories.

no one else had in the area," said Erickson, who opened the store 11 years

ago. "I came up with the name French in the Village because I love traveling to

France. The name caught on, and business evolved from there." It's no surprise that French in the Village was recently named Best Boutique and Gift Shop in Fair Oaks for the eighth year. Erickson's quaint Tudor-style shop sits at the edge of the village at 10351 Fair Oaks Blvd., across from Sunflower Drive-in and the Fair Oaks History Center.

"I buy clothing samples from different manufacturing reps who release their samples to me," Erickson

Continued on page 3

FORPD Board Approves Purchase of Locksmith Tools

By Shaunna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - At the February meeting of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) Board of Directors, the Sacramento County Master Gardeners presented plans for a pathway through the demonstration garden at Fair Oaks Park.

The Master Gardeners operate a Horticulture Center in the park, along with a garden demonstrating water efficient landscape, which helps educate the public about ways to reduce water consumption and encourage sustainable gardening practices. The garden is only easily accessible along the outer edge, so visitors aren't able to view the full variety of plants on display.

The new pathway is estimated to cost \$16,550 and will be made with decomposed granite to ensure longevity. The Master Gardeners have already secured 70 percent of the funds, with fundraising efforts continuing. Once funds are fully secured, the selected contractor can begin the work immediately. They hope for completion before the summer season, so new plants can be established before the weather warms up.

Chair Raymond James Irwin thanked the Master Gardeners for all the work they do: "It looks like a lovely plan."

District Administrator Mike Aho said the FORPD might help with the financial cost, in partnership with the Master Gardeners, if there is a funding shortfall. Aho said that decision would come back to the Board for discussion.

The Board then considered purchasing locksmithing supplies to ensure a full set is available. The district's institutional locksmith is retiring, so Parks and Facility Manager Sean Ventura has been training to take over the work.

Since 2013, the district has purchased materials and equipment for the locksmith's use, but several necessary components need to be purchased to complete the set, such as a key cutting machine and a combining tool. The total cost requested to cover the purchases is \$6,500 from the district's contingency fund.

The board voted 4-0 to approve the purchases, with Director John O'Farrell absent.

Continued on page 2

Magic Show to Benefit Children

By Abbey Wicks

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Carmichael-based magicians Dale and Elaine Lorzo are taking their magic to the Sacramento Scottish Rite, 6151 H St., on April 17 for a Kids Carnival and Magic Show fundraiser benefiting children's communication.

The family-friendly event will offer food, games, community connection and Dale Lorzo's Magic Miracles following a casual dinner. The magician, joined by Miss Elaine, has taken his talents across Sacramento performing for seniors, schools and community events for more than 50 years. The Lorzos' show involves audience participation, humor and good-old fashioned magic.

The duo are members of the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce, with Dale



Dale and Miss Elaine engage with their audience during a magic show. Photo courtesy of Dale Lorzo

previously serving on the board of directors. The Lorzos are also members of the Society of American Magicians, the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Academy of Magical Arts.

"Magic is fun and that's what this whole thing is about, putting a smile on your face and make your day bigger, brighter and happier," said Dale. "The

same thing that the language center does is make kids smile who are maybe shy and because they can't communicate. And then after awhile they can carry a conversation."

The RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program (SRCLP) is dedicated to helping preschool aged children who have difficulty speaking or understanding the spoken

word or school-age children who have difficulty learning to read. By supporting children who may have remained educationally behind, these children can now thrive and lead productive lives alongside their peers. All services are available regardless of race, religion or income.

Suggested donations for the event are

Continued on page 3



Scan our QR Code for a direct link to our online edition!

PRSRD STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CARMICHAEL, CA
PERMIT NO. 350
OR CURRENT
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Musicians Bring 'Lamb of God' to Community for Holy Week, Easter

By Patsy McGavock,
Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints

CITRUS HEIGHTS/ROCKLIN CA (MPG) - Produced annually around the world, Rob Gardner's "Lamb of God" will be presented locally by volunteer musicians from Orangevale and Folsom to Antelope and Rocklin on March 27 at 7 p.m. and March 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 2610 Sierra Meadows Drive in Rocklin.

Performances are free and open to the public. Advance tickets are required due to limited seating and are available through Eventbrite.

"Lamb of God" is a modern oratorio of music and narration recounting the final days of Jesus Christ, beginning with the raising of Lazarus and culminating in the Resurrection. Drawn solely from the Gospels of the New Testament, the story of Christ is told through the perspectives of those who loved and walked with him — Peter, John, Thomas, Mary and Martha of Bethany, Mary Magdalene and his mother, Mary.

Organizers hope the performance will help usher in Holy Week with reverence and thanksgiving and that those who attend will leave with a stronger sense of gratitude for the love of Jesus Christ expressed through his life and mission.

Presented by choirs from the Citrus Heights and Rocklin stakes of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a mixed community orchestra, the production invites audiences to reflect on the deeply personal moments of

Christ's life and ministry.

Co-organizer Bev Bair first encountered the music six years ago.

"It quickly became a favorite as I would look to this oratorio for ways to feel peace and assurance from God," Bair said. "It is my hope that our audience will feel the divinity of Jesus Christ as they experience the events in the last weeks of his life as told through the eyes of those who knew him best."

"Lamb of God" has become an annual tradition in many communities worldwide, with multi-denominational productions presented in concert halls, Catholic cathedrals, Protestant sanctuaries, Evangelical churches, Latter-day Saint chapels and on university campuses.

Musicians volunteer in this local production because they believe it will bring a measure of hope and light into many lives, including their own. Bair said the preparation has been transformative — moving from learning the mechanics of the music to feeling the poignancy of melodies and harmonies that "transport one into the heart of the disciples as well as giving a glimpse into the feelings of His enemies."

"The orchestra brings a richness to the experience," Bair said, noting that the voice of Christ is portrayed through expressive cello melodies that touch the soul.

For a preview, the music is available on Spotify, and a concert performance can be found at robgardnermusic.com/lamb.

Free tickets may be reserved in advance by searching online for "Eventbrite Lamb of God Rocklin 2026." ★

Trade School Scholarships Now Open



With demand for electricians, plumbers, welders, HVAC technicians, construction workers and other skilled professionals continuing to grow, Helping Hands OV leaders say the program is designed to strengthen the local workforce while supporting careers that directly serve the community. Photo courtesy of Helping Hands OV

Helping Hands OV News Release

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Helping Hands OV is investing in the future of the skilled trades, announcing that applications are now open for its Blue-Collar Trade School Scholarship Program. The deadline to apply is May 1.

The scholarship is available exclusively to residents of Orangevale, Fair Oaks, Folsom and Citrus Heights. Whether a recent high school graduate ready to step into the trades, a newcomer pursuing hands-on training or a current tradesperson completing required continuing education, eligible residents are encouraged to apply.

With demand for electricians, plumbers, welders, HVAC technicians, construction workers and other skilled professionals continuing to grow, Helping Hands OV leaders say the program is designed to strengthen the local workforce while supporting careers that directly serve the community.

"These are the careers that keep our homes safe, our lights on and our neighborhoods running," said Helping Hands OV President and Founder, Sydnie Anderson. "We're proud to stand behind residents willing to roll up their sleeves and build something meaningful."

Applicants must submit an essay outlining why they chose their trade, how their skills will positively impact the

community and how they plan to succeed in their industry. References and attending school are also required. Scholarship awards, if granted, are paid directly to the school the recipient attends.

Beyond financial support, the program emphasizes service. Scholarship recipients are expected to volunteer with Helping Hands OV during the calendar year, assisting with small home-repair jobs, community projects and events benefiting seniors, veterans and families in need.

Complete eligibility guidelines and application details are available at helpinghandsov.org. All materials must be submitted by May 1.

Helping Hands OV is also calling on local teens to get involved through its Green Teen Project. Open to youth ages 13 to 17, the program invites teens to complete yardwork at no charge for neighbors in need. Participants may also serve at the Orangevale Grange if they prefer. Teens earn awards for every 10 yard work projects completed, and all Green Teens are invited to the organization's summer bash celebration.

Both programs reflect the nonprofit's mission to connect the community through service while preparing the next generation of skilled workers.

For scholarship information or to register for the Green Teen Project, visit helpinghandsov.org before May 1. ★

The Friends of California Archives Celebrates Women's History Month

The Friends of California Archives News Release

CALIFORNIA (MPG) - The Friends of California Archives joins in the March celebration of Women's History Month, paying tribute to the contributions of California women — from the famous to the forgotten.

According to the 1850 U.S. Census, at the height of the Gold Rush, 6927 "white" women and 90 "free colored" women were living in California.

"Our new state constitution was a mixed bag for women," said Caren Daniels Lagomarsino, president of The Friends of California Archives. "It prohibited women from voting, but it allowed them to retain property acquired prior to marriage as well as property acquired independently after marriage. For many years, certain occupations, such as the practice of law, were off-limits to women. In the subsequent 175 years, and facing long odds, California women have shattered gender barriers in every phase of life — from politics and the workplace to popular culture."

Notable Figures

In 1866, Mary Ellen Pleasant, an African American, sued a San Francisco transportation company after she was refused admittance on a streetcar, prompting the company to change its policy.

In 1878, Clara Foltz, a single mother with five small children, wrote and successfully lobbied the State Legislature to allow women to practice law in California. She became the state's first female attorney and forced the Hastings College of Law to admit women.

In the early 20th century, activist women's clubs ran successful campaigns to save large groves of ancient redwoods in the North Coast, Sierra foothills and Santa Cruz Mountains. In 1911, after an intense and innovative statewide campaign, California women won the right to vote — narrowly prevailing

by a scant 3,587 votes. The first four women were elected to the State Assembly in 1918.

In 1976, the first woman — Rose Ann Vuich — was elected to the State Senate. After the 2024 elections, females represented a majority of the upper house, although California remains one of 17 states that has never elected a woman governor.

The nation's first Women's History celebration was a week-long local event in Santa Rosa in 1978, sponsored by Sonoma County's Commission on the Status of Women. The event gained national attention, and in 1987 Congress passed a law designating March as Women's History Month.

We invite you to visit the following California State Library research guide on California women's history and voting rights: www.library.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/WomenResearch.pdf

An online exhibit about women's suffrage from the California State Archives can be found at: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/women-get-right-vote/history-womens-suffrage-california>

We also invite you to visit <https://thefriendsofcaarchives.org/> for stories on California trailblazers, links to oral histories, and information about our book on pioneering women in politics and public policy (The Time Travelers), which is designed for middle school students and has been honored as recommended reading by the California State Library.

The Friends of California Archives is a 501 (c) (3) organization that promotes the Golden State's history by encouraging the preservation of archival materials and supporting their use through publications, lectures, grants, scholarships, exhibits, oral histories and research. For the first time, this year The Friends of California Archives will be part of the Big Day of Giving on May 7 at bigdayofgiving.org/organization/The-Friends-Of-California-Archives. ★

FORPD Board Approves Purchase of Locksmith Tools

Continued from page 1

Arts and Entertainment Manager Jen Schuler presented a recommendation to reclassify the Arts and Entertainment Associate position from part time to full time.

Since the Performing Arts Center is now open, the roles and responsibilities of the position have expanded to include program and class administration, artist and patron coordination, marketing and communications support and event logistics.

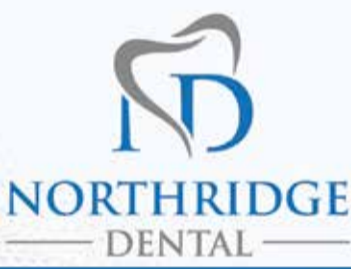
The launch of the new Arts and Entertainment program has been very successful, generating new revenue for the district. Just in the first months of opening the expanded facilities, from October

2025 through December 2025, the Arts and Entertainment division generated \$87,537.90 in ticket sales. The revenue from art classes increased from \$9,659 in 2024 to \$29,336 in 2025.


The recommended salary and benefit increase to full time for the remainder of the 2025-26 fiscal year is \$6,100, which Schuler said is more than offset by earned revenues.

Director Ralph Carhart said that program attendance and revenue have "exceeded our expectations." The board voted 4-0 to reclassify the position to full time.

The next meeting of the FORPD Board is scheduled for March 18. ★









NORTHBRIDGE DENTAL



DENTAL IMPLANTS - THE BEST OPTIONS FOR MISSING TEETH

— ALL TREATMENT PERFORMED IN ONE LOCATION FROM START TO FINISH —

 <p>DENTURE TO IMPLANT Removable</p>	 <p>FULL ARCH BRIDGE TO IMPLANT Fixed</p>
 <p>SINGLE IMPLANT Fixed</p>	 <p>ALL ON FOUR Fixed</p>
 <p>IMPLANT BRIDGE Fixed</p>	<p>Call today to schedule your Free Consultation with an Xray</p>  <p>6600 Madison Ave Suite 4B, Carmichael, CA 95608 (916) 944-1197 www.nrd916.com</p>

916-944-1197

Vive la French in the Village

Magic Show to Benefit Children

Continued from page 1
explained. “I always advise my customers not to wait when they see something they like because it will be gone tomorrow.”

As a world traveler, Erickson also buys clothes and antiques for the store during her trips abroad. Her “regulars” visit often and enjoy sitting and chatting while soaking up the boutique’s welcoming atmosphere.

“Shopping at French in the Village is like visiting Rose in her home,” shared Jeanette Woodward, a long-time friend and customer. “I love dropping in just to say hi and to see what’s new. Rose is always so friendly to her customers and can always find something perfect for me.”

From Teacher to Fashionista

Erickson didn’t enter the retail world until 1990, when she bought The Moth Hole consignment shop in Fair Oaks, a move that seemed destined to happen.

Recalled Erickson, “Growing up in a small Montana town, we didn’t have any clothing stores. Other than a K-Mart, you had to drive 200 miles to shop.”

She earned a teaching degree from Montana State University. Her husband, Jim, was a pilot in the Air Force and was stationed at a base in Kokomo, Indiana. It wasn’t until Rose Erickson started her first teaching job at their new location that she realized she had nothing nice to wear to school.

“My stylish girlfriends took me shopping and gave me basic fashion advice,” she said. “After that, I became a clothes maniac.”

Eventually, the couple arrived in the Sacramento



Rose Erickson opened French in the Village, a unique clothing and antiques boutique, in 2015.

area, where Erickson continued her career in education. She has served as a principal, vice principal and teacher in the San Juan Unified School District.

With the dream of following her true passion and putting her creative skills to work, Erickson purchased the Moth Hole while working as a principal at an alternative education school. “I gave myself a year to learn everything about retail and running the store, while still working my school job,” she shared.

Erickson established lasting connections with her merchandisers and loved working with customers, helping them coordinate outfits for every occasion.

After growing tired of managing employees and pouring her school paychecks into the store, Erickson sold the Moth Hole and took some time off, but she became miserable at home. A neighboring business owner told her about an older vacant building for sale on Fair Oaks Boulevard that looked like a small cottage.

Even though the building’s landlord insisted that a store in that location would

never succeed, Erickson quickly proved him wrong after opening French in the Village.

Giving Back

Rose and Jim Erickson have called the Fair Oaks community home for 43 years and enjoy spending time with their two children and four grandchildren who live nearby.

As a dedicated member of the Fair Oaks Chamber since 2010, Erickson has held several leadership roles, including president, and values the support and friendships she has built. She often organizes fundraisers at French in the Village and donates beautiful French-themed gift baskets for raffle drawings at various functions. Last year, she hosted a French-themed dinner for 12 guests at her home to support the chamber’s Honorary Mayor’s campaign.

“Rose Erickson’s strength lies in her connections and her unwavering support for others,” affirmed Kimberley Pitillo, Fair Oaks Chamber CEO and president. “She truly stands out through her engagement and commitment to this community.” ★

Continued from page 1
\$25 for adults and \$15 for children. Net proceeds benefit the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Sacramento. To secure tickets, visit: www.casrf.org/event-details/ritecare-childhood-language-center-of-sacramento-kids-carnival-magic-show.

For more information on the Sacramento RiteCare Language Center or to donate, visit www.casrf.org/sacramento.

To learn more about Lorzo’s Magical Mysteries, visit www.dalelorzomagic.com or call 916-481-2595. ★



Dale Lorzo pulling a rabbit out of a top hat. Photo courtesy of Dale Lorzo



The Gardens Got Natives tour is a free self-guided event featuring forty plus California native plant gardens in the Sacramento Area. Photo courtesy of the California Native Plant Society

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 forty 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 comprised 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 mix 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: <https://www.sacvalleycnps.org/gardens-gone-native-tour/> or contact gardensgonenative@gmail.com. Follow the Gardens Got Natives on Facebook and Instagram @gardensgotnatives.

For more information, visit: <https://www.sacvalleycnps.org/gardens-gone-native-tour/>. ★



Same-day care for same-day needs.

When life moves fast, your health care should keep up. Dignity Health offers convenient same-day care throughout Greater Sacramento—including Express Primary Care in Elk Grove and Roseville, and Urgent Care in Midtown Sacramento and Woodland. Whether you need relief from minor illness, a routine checkup, symptom management, or a flu shot, our providers are here to help you feel better, faster.



Visit Express Primary Care



Go to Urgent Care

Get in, get seen, and get on with your busy day.

Visit dignityhealth.org/get-care-today to schedule an appointment. Same-day care facilities are a service of Dignity Health Medical Foundation.



By Patsy McGavock
JustServe.org

In Part 1 of this series, we explored how different generations often carry different stresses — and how those stresses can transform into strength when the generations connect. But if those connections are so powerful, why are they uncommon in everyday life?

Part of the answer lies not in people (which we'll cover in Part 3), but in systems.

Across the United States, we organize by age. Programs and policy often run along demographic lines. Recreation centers post schedules that unintentionally tell the story: toddler tumbling at 10 a.m., teen basketball at 4 p.m., senior aerobics at 9 a.m. Sports and schools organize by age, with separate calendars and even locations. We've even built our homes around age separation — retirement communities and single-family neighborhoods where zoning, school boundaries and pricing tend to concentrate families with children.

It turns out efficiency can quietly become separation. It's something we've built in — which means it's something we can build differently.

As small towns and cities blurred into long roads of suburbs, culture drifted away from shared spaces. Longtime Orangevale resident Barbara Ayule spent decades working with youth programs in Sacramento, including the city's Workreation and Graffiti Busters initiatives during the 1990s and early 2000s. Those programs hired teenagers to work in their own neighborhoods — maintaining parks,

Where Generations Meet Part 2: Redesigning Systems That Keep Us Apart

on doors to ask neighbors what their community needed.

"When kids got to know the people around them, knocking on doors to see what was needed," Ayule recalled, "they stopped graffiti-ing, they stopped stealing. It became their neighborhood."

Ayule has also watched those shared spaces thin out, such as neighborhood pickup baseball games with lawn-chair spectators, though they are not gone completely.

Ayule pointed to parks like Fair Oaks' Phoenix Park and Orangevale's Almond Park, where walking paths connect directly to surrounding neighborhoods. Residents naturally walk through the shared space, and "interactions naturally follow," she said.

Seemingly small design choices matter. Shared space invites shared life.

In the U.S., one of the most promising reversals is "shared sites" — places, not just programs, where children and older adults regularly interact because services are co-located. Examples include Milwaukee's St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care, where adult day care and childcare operate under one roof and children and seniors share music, reading and art each day, as well as senior centers located in schools or after-school programs hosted at senior centers. Generations United, which tracks these models nationwide, notes that policy and funding structures often separate services by age, making shared sites harder to create.

Researchers tracking the model estimate there are only about 100 to 150 such locations nationwide — compared with thousands of facilities designed to serve generations separately.

Locally, we can leverage

into our own programs or ever advocate for and create our own shared sites.

Programs like AARP's Experience Corps place older adults in elementary school classrooms as tutors and mentors. Libraries across the country — including several Sacramento Public Library branches — host intergenerational story times and teen tech tutoring for seniors. Soil Born Farms in Rancho Cordova brings youth and older volunteers together through garden programs.

Often, we just need to know who to ask — your Recreation and Parks department, library director, garden club president senior center or school principal — and bring the question "How can we make this successful together?"

If ideas connect groups central connectors like the Orangevale or Fair Oaks community councils, chambers of commerce or Sar Juan Unified's Family and Community Engagement team specialize in making those connections.

Cross-generational connection doesn't always require a new program. Collaborating around small structural choices can also reopen the space where generations naturally meet. Often it begins with something simpler: knowing who to ask. Let's bring the question to our community "How can we make this successful together?"

In the final installment of this series, we'll explore how those relationships can become part of everyday life — in families, neighborhoods and communities where generations choose not just to live near one another, but to grow together.

Patsy McGavock is a volunteer community advocate and community writer. Connect with Patsy at PatsyMcGavock

Community College Students Can Claim CalKIDS Scholarships

CalKIDS News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - In a significant step toward strengthening college access and affordability, State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA, announces that CalKIDS, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), and the California Cradle-to-Career Data System (C2C) have launched a coordinated initiative to help eligible community college students access their CalKIDS Scholarships.

Through this partnership, state education leaders are leveraging existing student data systems to help community colleges pinpoint enrolled students who have CalKIDS Scholarships available to claim and use. The effort identified 40,000 community college students with approximately \$20 million in CalKIDS Scholarships available. These insights will strengthen targeted, campus-level outreach to connect students with those funds for qualified educational expenses.

CalKIDS, administered by the ScholarShare Investment Board and chaired by State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA, is a statewide automatic scholarship program created to expand access to college and career training. Eligible California public school students automatically receive up to \$1,500 in CalKIDS Scholarships and must claim their account to use the funds for qualified educational expenses until age 26.

Since CalKIDS launched in 2022, the program has supported nearly 70,000 students with more than \$37 million for expenses at community colleges across the state.

"This partnership reflects California's commitment to ensuring that students can access the opportunities already available to them," said California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA. "Through CalKIDS, we are investing in students long before they arrive on a college campus, and this effort helps ensure those scholarships are actually reaching the students who need them most."

As part of the initiative, CalKIDS participant information is securely matched through the California Cradle-to-Career Data System, which has an existing data-sharing arrangement with the Chancellor's Office. The matched eligibility report is now available to authorized college staff through their Data on

Demand platform. Community college districts can use this information to conduct individualized outreach to enrolled students who have available CalKIDS Scholarships, ensuring students are aware of funds that can immediately support their educational goals.

"This collaboration demonstrates the power of connected systems, with Californians at the heart of our shared goals," said Mary Ann Bates, executive director of the California Cradle-to-Career Data System. "This joint initiative is government efficiency and effectiveness in practice, and the California Cradle-to-Career Data System is eager to continue delivering actionable insights that can directly benefit students in their higher education journeys."

The California Community College system serves more than 2.2 million students annually and plays a central role in advancing economic mobility across the state. By integrating CalKIDS Scholarship data into existing student support systems, campuses can further strengthen affordability efforts and student persistence.

"Imagine what \$1,500 from CalKIDS can mean for a first-generation community college student juggling two part-time jobs. It can be the difference between stopping out and staying enrolled. That is why the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has partnered with the Cradle-to-Career Data System and State Treasurer Fiona Ma. Together, we are building the systems that deliver on this promise. This is what Vision 2030 is about: strong partnerships and modern data systems that ensure every student, in every community, can access the opportunity they have already earned," said California Community Colleges Chancellor, Sonya Christian.

Community college districts are encouraged to use the Data on Demand platform to identify enrolled students with CalKIDS Scholarship indicators and conduct targeted outreach through existing campus communications and student support channels.

Students can visit CalKIDS.org to confirm eligibility and claim their scholarship. To claim funds, students will need their Statewide Student Identifier (SSID), a ten-digit number that can be found on their high school transcript or by contacting their former high school. ★

Area Museums Offer Activations for Homeschoolers

Sacramento Area Museums
News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento area museums are proud to amplify learning by offering education related activations and opportunities all year long. Plus, at various times throughout the year, many museums offer special Homeschool Days with dedicated programming designed to support local students and families.

A sampling of Homeschool Days and related offerings at local museums in 2026 includes the following:

California State Railroad Museum - Always popular among homeschool students and their families, the Railroad Museum presents a Homeschool Day each fall with specially designed programming. Typically held in mid-October, the day features hands-on stations located throughout the museum. While the engaging educational activities are designed for K-6 students, everyone is welcome. Stay tuned for more details to follow at a later date via the museum's website: www.californiarailroadmuseum.org.

Crocker Art Museum - Special Homeschool Days are planned for March 19, April 16 and May 21, from noon to 2 p.m. each day. The drop-in program allows groups to structure their own experience - at their own pace, in the order they choose - while in community with other homeschoolers. Students follow a customized map that highlights gallery and studio spaces where docents, educators and teaching artists are ready with a discussion or activity centered around that day's theme then are welcome to stay after the program to explore more of the museum.

Maidu Museum & Historic Site - Recommended for students K-6, a Homeschool



Sacramento area museums are proud to amplify learning by offering education related activations and opportunities all year long, especially for homeschooled students and their families. Photo courtesy of the Maidu Museum & Historic Site

Open House is scheduled for May 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Homeschool students can explore and connect with the Indigenous history of this region plus enjoy hands-on crafts and activities (like spear throwing and acorn pounding), take a short tour, and enjoy Indigenous stories throughout the event. Additional details and a complete schedule is available via www.roseville.ca.us/government/departments/library/maidu_museum_historic_site/events_exhibits. Advance registration is required: anc.apm.

activecommunities.com/city-of-roseville/activity/search/detail/14269?onlineSiteId=0&from_original_cui=true.

Sacramento History Museum - Following a well-attended event earlier this year, the museum is proud to host another Homeschool Day on from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 4. The museum will offer scheduled programs for homeschool students (Print Shop, Heading West), drop-in programs (Museum Scavenger Hunt, History Mystery, Nisenan, Gold Rush, Gold Panning), and

student Underground Tours. For tickets, schedule and more information, please visit: sachistorymuseum.org/field-trips/home-school-programs-2/.

For more information about Sacramento Area Museums, follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SacMuseums, Instagram and X @SacMuseums or visit www.SacMuseums.org.

About Sacramento Area Museums (SAM)

Comprised of approximately 25 greater Sacramento area

museums, Sacramento Area Museums' mission is to raise awareness of local museums by giving the community the opportunity to discover the region's fine art, history, science and wildlife treasures. Sacramento Area Museums achieves its mission by implementing cooperative promotions, developing strategic marketing alliances and encouraging the sharing of knowledge and resources among its partner institutions. For more information, visit www.SacMuseums.org. ★

Braille Production Program Supports Local Business

**Society for the Blind
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Nonprofit Society for the Blind in Sacramento is encouraging local businesses and organizations to produce materials in braille for their blind and low vision clients through its braille production program. Since acquiring the Sacramento Braille Transcribers' services in late 2022, Society for the Blind's braille production program has taken on a wide range of companies and organizations who want to ensure their clients who are blind and low vision have the same access to information as those who are sighted.

"It's a win-win because more people who are blind and low vision have access to needed materials in real time, and companies see increased business for providing their customers with accessible store and product information," said Shari Roeseler, executive director, Society for the Blind. "As we talk to more potential clients, we're hearing the same thing: We would love to offer braille documents, but where would we get it done? That's where we come in."

Society for the Blind's braille production program produces playbills for the Sacramento Theatre Company, menus for restaurants, newsletters for the Braille and Talking Book Library, and lessons and textbooks for school districts, including math, history, foreign language, science and music.



Jill Guilbeau, manager of Society for the Blind's braille production program, creates a brailled document using the Braillo2 machine in the Sacramento office. Photo courtesy of Society for the Blind

"Most people don't understand how involved it is to create braille documents," Roeseler said. "Transcribers must have a specific certification in Unified English Braille. They also must be certified in specific braille codes to produce

documents related to math, science, music, foreign language and more. Proofreading requires additional years of experience. Fortunately, our program has a full complement of skills and certifications to make this an easy process for our clients."

The program has approximately 15 transcribers on contract with a wide variety of expertise and certification. Program staff reviews each new project and provides a quote to create the electronic braille file and produce the embossed documents.

This year, the organization is reaching out to chambers of commerce and local businesses, including more restaurants who need braille menus for their customers, organizations that produce directories and manuals, construction companies who need braille signage proofread, and museums and art galleries that could provide braille signage for permanent exhibitions.

Society for the Blind provides its clients with a list of local restaurants and businesses that produce braille items, encouraging them to patronize those companies. To request a quote: <https://societyfortheblind.org/programs-services/braille-production/the-braille-production-training-program/>.

For 72 years, Sacramento-based Society for the Blind has continued to create innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Society for the Blind provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship, and access to tools to maintain independence for more than 5,000 youth, working-age adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year. Since 1954, Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers to a nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of Northern California. Learn more or donate: www.SocietyfortheBlind.org. ★

Life Center Launches Community Drives to Support Local Families

**Sacramento Life Center
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Life Center is inviting the community to take part in two upcoming drives designed to support local families and provide essential medical services through the organization's free clinic, Sac Valley Women's Health.

Throughout the spring, the nonprofit is hosting both its Annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser and a Founder's Day Diaper Drive, two community-driven initiatives that help fund critical services for women and families across the Greater Sacramento region.

The annual Baby Bottle Drive encourages schools, churches, organizations and individuals to collect spare change, cash or checks in baby bottles distributed across the region. Donations raised through the drive support Sac Valley Women's Health, which provides free medical services and resources to women and families who may not otherwise have access to care.

Funds from the campaign help provide services including free pregnancy testing and limited ultrasounds, well-woman exams, baby essentials and parenting resources, emotional support and guidance and no-cost medical services for women navigating pregnancy and early parenthood.

The fundraiser runs throughout March, with bottles returned in the weeks leading up to Easter.

In addition to the regional fundraiser, Sacramento Life Center will celebrate its 54th anniversary with a family-friendly

community event, the Founder's Day Diaper Drive.

The event will take place on March 20 from noon to 3 p.m. outside Leatherby's Family Creamery in Arden, 2333 Arden Way, Sacramento. Community members are encouraged to bring a pack of diapers of any size to donate. As a thank-you, participants will receive a free scoop of ice cream.

Organizers say the event offers a fun and simple way for families to give back while helping stock essential supplies for new parents.

"Diapers are one of the most requested items for families with newborns," said Executive Director Marie Leatherby. "This drive helps ensure parents have the supplies they need during an important time in their lives."

Community members who cannot attend the diaper drive can still participate by donating online through Sacramento Life Center's Virtual Baby Bottle Drive at saclife.org/donate

Both initiatives highlight the organization's mission of strengthening families by providing compassionate support, practical resources, and access to free medical care for women and parents throughout the Sacramento area.

About Sacramento Life Center

To compassionately offer judgment-free support, resources, and free medical services to materially and emotionally equip women and families facing an unplanned or unsupported pregnancy, empowering them to make informed choices and build strong futures. You can learn more at saclife.org. ★

We are your neighbors

nextdoor

AMERICAN RIVER
Messenger

Stop by for a visit

nextdoor.com/page/american-river-messenger

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Come and Experience
God's Amazing Grace

Come grow with us at Grace Baptist Church where the Old Time Gospel Message is still preached and God-Honoring music is still sung. Grace Baptist still stands on the Principles, Doctrines and Separation, found and taught in The Bible.

SERVICE SCHEDULES

Sunday Schools (All Ages)... 9:45 am
Sunday Worship..... 11:00 am
Sunday Evening..... 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 pm

6724 Palm Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

(Located one block South of Madison; just East of Dewey)

PASTOR CHARLES CARTER

CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION (916) 967-3915 WWW.GBCFAIROAKS.NET



**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

American River Messenger is a member of Messenger Publishing Group

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: Publisher@mpg8.com.

Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale and Sacramento County since 2006

It is the intent of the *American River Messenger* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

The *American River Messenger* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of the *American River Messenger* are copyrighted. Ownership of all advertising created and/or composed by the *American River Messenger* is with the publishing company and written permission to reproduce the same must be obtained from the publisher.

Subscriptions should be mailed to:
American River Messenger
2508 Garfield Ave., Suite A, Carmichael, CA 95608.

Subscription rate is \$39 per year in Fair Oaks and Orangevale. The *American River Messenger* is published twice-monthly.

Call 916-773-1111 for more information.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.



Protect and Heal your whole family with Affordable Chiropractic Memberships

All-inclusive monthly memberships from \$39-\$69 per visit. CALL or TEXT us today!



We now offer
MASSAGE THERAPY
by experienced practitioners
NEW PATIENT SPECIAL
\$50 FIRST HOUR

- Improves mobility, maintains flexibility
- Family owned and operated
- 25+ years experience serving the community
- Affordable memberships - plan for your health
- All inclusive - services and therapies
- Relieves pain from head/back/neck/sciatica

AMERICAN RIVER CHIROPRACTIC

2280 Vehicle Drive, Suite 110
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

916-776-6362

americanriverchiropractic.com

CALL or TEXT today!

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.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial advice. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-divisor) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★



Joe McCarthy was famously undone by the rhetorical questions at a 1954 congressional hearing: "Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?"

If the same queries were directed to Candace Owens at such a forum, she'd sail on unperturbed -- since she has no idea what "decency" means. The conspiratorial podcaster has embarked on an investigative series on Erika Kirk, the widow of Charlie Kirk. In this context, "investigative series" means a loosely stitched together collection of sewerish falsehoods and innuendo smearing Erika Kirk.

Perhaps Owens can follow up with a franchise devoted to sully the reputations of the widows of assassinated husbands throughout U.S. history. Are we sure that Mary Todd Lincoln was as innocent as she seemed? Didn't Jackie Kennedy act kind of weird in Dallas? What did Ida Saxton McKinley know and when did she know it?

The narrative and commercial logic always suggested that this is where Owens was headed. It didn't make any sense to libel TPUSA as being connected to the murder of its leader and founder -- as Owens has for months now -- without implicating its new leader, Erika Kirk. And, as the shock value of her anti-TPUSA campaign wore off, Owens had to stoke outrage

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.

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



With Mary Jane Popp

Connect With Yourself

Do you feel burnout in your life? Do you seek calm, clarity, and confidence, but it seems like all this slips away and has you baffled as to why it's happening? Great questions, but now we need answers. **Tracy Doyle** to the rescue. She is an emotional wellness advocate and creator of **The Aurora Method**, and also author of **"Life Storms: Finding Your Clear Sky"**. She actually wants you to connect with YOURSELF! You're probably saying WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? She expressed that we may look put together on the outside, but inside we are drowning in self-doubt and even self-pity. She went through all this herself. She was overwhelmed because she was doing it all by herself, and angry because she never said no. Here she was the CEO of a multi-million-dollar medical communications company, and completely burned out. And it didn't happen all at once. It was gradual until the woman she worked so hard to become was barely recognizable. That experience led her to develop a practical, psychology-informed framework. She named it, as I mentioned earlier, **The Aurora Method** after the Greek goddess of dawn, because no matter how dark life seems, a new beginning is always possible. I suspect her degree in Psychology and counseling kicked in to help herself and others to heal. She shared eight of the practices with me on POPPTALK.

1. **BEST ASSESSMENT:** Pause the blame and begin with honest reflection. This practice helps you recognize your patterns—not from shame, but from clarity. It's about looking in the mirror without judgment and seeing where change truly begins.

2. **EMOTIONAL CLARITY:** Learn to name and what you feel, and understand

where it's coming from. The practice moves you from reaction to awareness, so you can stop spiraling and start choosing responses that align with who you want to be.

3. **PATTERN RECOGNITION:** Trace today's reactions back to old, unprocessed experiences. By revealing the "why" behind the "what," helps you break cycles that no longer serve you.

4. **PERSPECTIVE SHIFTING:** Shift out of inherited or habitual negative thinking, and reshape the beliefs that shaped you. This is about rewriting your internal narrative and leaning into what is possible.

5. **MENDING:** Rebuild trust—with yourself first, and then with others. Mending focuses on small, meaningful repairs to the relationships that are important to you.

6. **CONNECTION:** Practice presence, honesty, and openness. This step reframes vulnerability as strength—when it is groomed in truth and self-awareness.

7. **DAILY MINDFULNESS:** A simple five-minute daily practice personalized to you—breath work. Stillness, or intentional focus—designed to help you recenter and return to yourself, even in the chaos of everyday life.

8. **CONSCIOUS ACTION:** Transformation becomes visible here. You don't just think differently—you live differently. This practice supports real-world shifts like healthier boundaries, calmer reactions, and decisions aligned with your values and well-being.

That's just the beginning. The rest of the story is in **"Life Storms."** And you can check out more at www.TracyDoyle.life. What I got out of our talk is **THINK POSITIVE TO THE MAX!** ★

Photography Month Returns in April



Aniko Kiezel

Twisted Track Reception from 2025 of Aniko Kiezel. Photo courtesy of Kyle Jaeger

Sacramento 365 News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Save the date for Photography Month Sacramento happening in April 2026. Led by Viewpoint Photographic Art Center, a non-profit organization located in Midtown Sacramento, Photography Month Sacramento is a grassroots collaboration among many partner organizations, each creating their own photo-related events and activities.

Supporting community organizations include Inside Publications, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Office of Phil Serna (District 1) and Visit Sacramento/Sacramento365.com. First launched in 2018, the month-long event is highlighted by a variety of diverse and eclectic events that include exhibits, receptions, photo shoot meet-ups, workshops, lectures, field trips and more.

Photography Month Sacramento creates a shared platform for galleries, museums, educational institutions, libraries, retail establishments, hotels, photographers and patrons to celebrate and elevate the art of photography. Interested participants are encouraged to create and/or highlight their own activations to help showcase the art of photography.

Thus far, a number of museums, businesses, and educational institutions from throughout the region have already signed up to participate in 2026, including: California Museum, Crocker Art Museum, Casa de Español, Gold Country Photo Society, Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park, Nevada County Camera Club, Open Call Exhibit: Spring Light, Old Sugar Mill, Sierra College,

Rocklin, Viewpoint Photographic Art Center and Yolo Arts' Gallery 625.

Involvement in Photography Month Sacramento for non-profit and for-profit businesses, museums and organizations is free and simple to do. The regional showcase offers a turnkey way to highlight visually enticing photographic programming already in place (possibly by incorporating a fresh visual element or hosting a special artist reception), introduce a concept in the planning stages or create something unique to engage enthusiasts and connect with new audiences throughout the region.

Photography Month Sacramento is open to everyone – professional and amateur photographers alike – and offers wonderful opportunities to launch and/or exhibit photographic work, or to create a grassroots collaborative exhibit with friends interested in the visual arts. Those interested are encouraged to get creative and plan individual activations and/or contact favorite local coffee houses or restaurants to see if they might host an exhibit or reception in April 2026.

Once any photography-related concepts are confirmed by businesses, organizations, museums or individuals, Photography Month Sacramento participants are asked to post information details about any upcoming events at www.photomonthsacramento.org/ events, a community curated calendar that is connected to and supported by Sacramento365.com.

To explore available sponsorship opportunities or find out more detailed (and continually updated) information about Photography Month Sacramento 2025, visit www.photomonthsacramento.org. ★

Step Into Spring



By Judy Andrews, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks recently donated a \$10,000 check to the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank. The donation supports the food bank's larger project to upgrade facilities, including ADA accessibility changes to the restroom, expanded space and furnishings for the new spaces. The presentation took place on March 5 at the 5th annual Orangevale and Fair Oaks Chambers' joint mixer held at the food bank.

The Fair Oaks Historical Society has a new president. Bud Beebe recently took over the leadership role from Claudia Thorn, who stepped down in January. Thorn served as the organization's president for three years and will remain active with the organization as its past president. Beebe and his

wife, Kathryn, joined the Historical Society in 2018. Beebe became a board member in 2023. The Historical Society oversees the Fair Oaks History Center and Museum at 10340 Fair Oaks Blvd. (next to Sunflower Drive-in).

The annual Women in Business Expo will take place at Fair Oaks Park (11549 Fair Oaks Blvd.) on Thursday, April 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. This event is free and organized by local State Farm Agent Katie Yount in partnership with Food Truck Mania. Interested in becoming a vendor? If you own a small business and would like to participate, contact Yount today at www.katieyount.com or 916-966-7111.

March/April Events
March 19 – Fair Oaks Chamber Membership Lunch at Pancho Villa BBQ Restaurant, 6716 Madison Ave., Fair Oaks, 11:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. Join us to network with fellow chamber members and discover how to get more involved in your community. RSVP is required.

April 2 – Women in Business Expo at Fair Oaks Park (11549 Fair Oaks Blvd.), from 5

to 8 p.m. Meet local women-owned small businesses. Come shop and support them or set up your own booth. To participate, see the contact info above.

April 4 – Fair Oaks Eggstravaganza at Fair Oaks Park (11549 Fair Oaks Blvd.), from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Children and their families will have an excellent time with a free children's egg hunt, craft and activity stations, petting zoo and photos with the Bunny! For more information, visit www.forpd.org/255/Fair-Oaks-Eggstravaganza.

April 25 – Kids' Art Festival at Fair Oaks Park (11549 Fair Oaks Blvd.), from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District and the San Juan Unified School District for a free community event focused on creativity, featuring make-and-take art stations, dance and music performances, an art show, food trucks and more. For more information, visit www.forpd.org/257/Kids-Art-Festival. For more details about these events and others, visit www.fairoakschamber.com

See you in Fair Oaks! ★



Representatives from the Fair Oaks Rotary and Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank are shown here for the presentation. From left: Brad Squires, Jim Cralle, Diana Cralle, Doris Fulgham, Nick Broad, Maggie Hoy, Dennis Dunbar, Mike Maddox and Andrea Scollay. Photo by Judy Andrews

Hoover Introduces Legislation to Protect Historic West Steps



Josh Hoover

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 Governor 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. ★



CALL A PROFESSIONAL

SLS Superior Landscape Services
Landscaping and Maintenance

- Sprinkler Repair/Install • Pruning
- Mowing/Trimming • Fertilizing

Insured Lic#794551

Please Call (916) 761-0999
Dave Cochran Owner
dave_SLS@surewest.net

Jose's Landscape Maintenance

- ✓ General Lawn Service
- ✓ One Time Clean Ups
- ✓ Lawn Aerate
- ✓ Dethatch
- ✓ Sprinkler Repair

Call Jose at 916-991-6923

Gen. Bus Lic # 32014-01649 \ Spe Bus Lic # 12016-00134

AFFORDABLE TRENCHLESS & PIPE LINING

Install a Water/Electric line under your existing driveway!

SEWER PROBLEMS? WATCH OUR VIDEO.
www.ydig.com

We're #1 in the #2 business

Off (916) 488-1215 Lic #754886

SMOOT LANDSCAPING

- Drought tolerant landscape
- Low voltage lighting
- Garden renovations
- Concrete and stone
- Consultations available

Celebrating 45 years

916.454.1300

www.SmootLandscaping.com • Contractor License #633224

TRACTOR SERVICE

- Mowing • Rototilling
- Discing • Scraper/Loader

Call
(916) 991-8431

GREENWAY TREE SERVICE

Specializing in Expert Tree Pruning, Tree Removal & Stump Grinding

Free Estimates
Competative Prices

Licensed and Insured

(916) 224-9750

RESTORE YOUR FLOOR HARDWOOD FLOORING

Revive • Restore • Refinish

Hardwood, Laminate, and Vinyl

New Installation & Repairs
Family Tradition Since 1957
Lic. #794448

- Sand & Finish
- Repairs
- New Installations
- Recoating

sacramento hardwood.com
1.800.725.3320 916.342.6596

Rewired To Read Reading & Spelling Specialist

rewiredtoread.com
916-664-6805

LeAna Spletstoesser AA, AS, M.A.
26 Years Experience

FULL RANGE OF FLAT ROOFING SERVICES **RPA FLAT ROOF**

- New Construction • Leak Repairs
- Waterproofing • Top-Grade Materials
- Experienced • Reliable • Honest Pricing
- Excellent Customer Service

We take pride in completing every project on time and to the highest standards.

Call Today! (916) 267-5026

RestoreYourHome.com
Quality, Service and Craftsmanship
John W Rouse III

Kitchen • Bath • Home

kitchens, baths, home renovations, interior home remodeling, windows, doors, floors, cabinets, tile, countertops, electrical, plumbing, finish carpentry

916.342.6596 • johnflooring@aol.com

Shanei Oriental Rug Gallery

Oriental Rugs | Persian Rugs | Navajo | Tapestries

Sell . Buy . Hand Washing . Restoration . Appraisal
916.792.5408 11267 Coloma Road - Gold River

Pick-up & Delivery **www.SHANEI.com** Since 1989

MURIETA CARPET & Stone Care

- ✓ Deep Steam Carpet Cleaning
- ✓ Tile & Grout Restoration
- ✓ Natural Stone Cleaning & Sealing

Carpet • Tile • Grout • Natural Stone

RONNIE CRAVEA 916-502-1531

Proud Rancho Murieta Resident
Licensed & Insured
Lic # GNB32024-01516

Call for a FREE Estimate Today!

PARADISE PONDS

Our family-owned company specializes in building water features and koi ponds. Over 10 years of experience serving Northern California homeowners. We also provide routine maintenance, cleanings, repairs, and remodels. For more details, please visit our website at www.ParadisePonds.net

Contact us for more information!
Call or Text: (916) 399-3953 | Email: info@paradiseponds.net
1875 Diesel Dr, Suite #8 Sacramento, CA, 95825

MORE TIME ON YOUR BUSINESS ...and less time managing payroll

FREE PAYROLL PROCESSING FOR ONE MONTH IF YOU CALL NOW!

Pinnacle Employee Services 916-760-7227
www.pinnaclehr.com

FOLLOW US for Local News and much more!

Messenger Publishing Group

Facebook: @MPG8dotcom

Local Classifieds Advertise in your local community newspaper Call 916-773-1111

Clubs

JOLLY HOOKER FISHING CLUB

Our fishing interests are Trout, Kokanee, Salmon, and Stripers

Monthly Breakfast Meetings
2nd Friday of the Month
Opens 7 am, Breakfast 8 am.

Rancho Cordova
Elk's Lodge
11440 Elks Circle.
Contact Steve Milanovich
(916) 761-6513

Make sure to leave a message.
Join us, we look forward to meeting you.

GOT LOCAL NEWS?
Call (916) 773 1111

Hall Rentals

Event hall for rent. 2,800 sq. ft. Coffee bar. Plenty of parking. Saturday and Sunday. \$500. 5809 Gibbons Dr. (916) 470-7323. (TFN)

Help Wanted

Kp International MARKET

Many Positions are Available.
Please no phone calls. Apply in person.
10971 Olson Dr., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Health/Wellness

XOSIALX - Get Social. Be EXCEPTIONAL XILERATE is redefining energy for everyone. It provides an authentic, jitter-free boost that appeals to both regular energy drink users, and those who may have avoided them due to artificial ingredients or harsh effects. FREE TO JOIN. www.canderson.xosialx.com (TFN)

LEGAL ADS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY?

We Can Do That!

Call to place your legal advertising
916-773-1111

MPG

All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing Group

GOT LOCAL NEWS?
Call (916) 773 1111

Landscaping

CREATE YOUR PARADISE

Winter Yard Cleanups, Complete Landscape Design/Installation, Sprinkler System Installs/Repairs, All Types Concrete Work, Fence Installation, Retaining Walls- All Types, Drainage Systems-all types, Landscape Lighting, Residential/commercial

American Landscape Design & Installation. Est 1987
American Construction & Property Maintenance Company

WE ACCEPT VISA & MASTER CARD
(916)612-0776
Lic#690968

Landscaping

YARD SERVICE ONE-TIME CLEANUP

Mow, Weed, Prune & Haul
NEED: Landscaping bark?
Gutters cleaned?
Light fence work?
CALL 916/205-9310 or 916/627-9000/

Music Lessons

Guitar Lessons
Beginner to Advanced . \$20/ half-hour; \$30 full hour. 916-507-6658, freddiebbalbert@gmail.com (12/31/2026)

Need Help?

Hire A Pro!

Roofing

BERNARDINO ROOFING

Reeroofs, Repairs, Maintenance, Dryrot, Gutters, Family Operated. BBB MEMBER!

FREE ESTIMATES
SENIOR DISCOUNTS
Lic.#817945 43 Years Experience
916.920.0100
www.bernardinoroofing.com

We Support Our Military

Buy and Shop Local!

Room Wanted

Elderly man looking for furnished room to rent. \$600 - \$800. Call Scott (916) 910-4796. (TFN)

Tree Service

BP TREE SERVICES LLC.

TREE & STUMP REMOVAL
TREE TRIMMING/ SHAPING
FREE ESTIMATE
10% OFF WITH THIS AD
Insured. Workman's comp. Arborist
916-722-6321
BPTreeServices.com
VISA / MASTER CARD
California Contractors Lic #1036031

MPG8.COM

FOLLOW US for Local News and much more!

American River Messenger

Facebook: @ARMMPG8

We are your neighbors

nextdoor

AMERICAN RIVER
Messenger

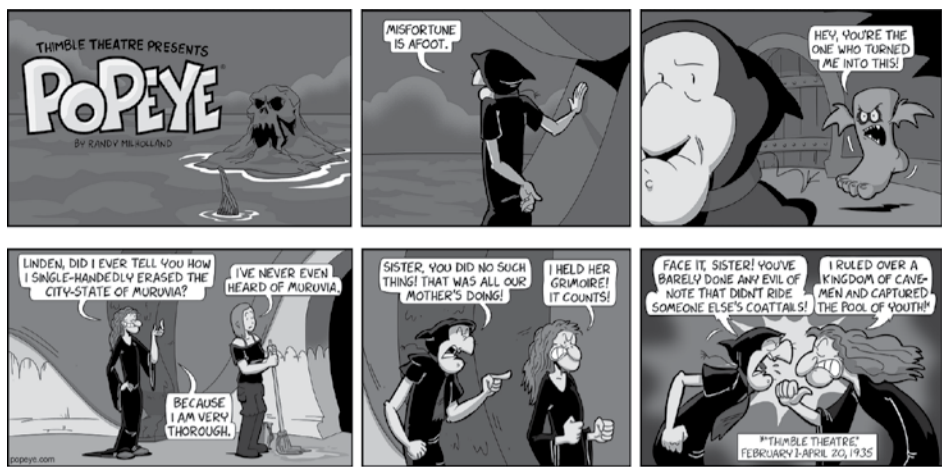
Stop by for a visit
nextdoor.com/page/american-river-messenger

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



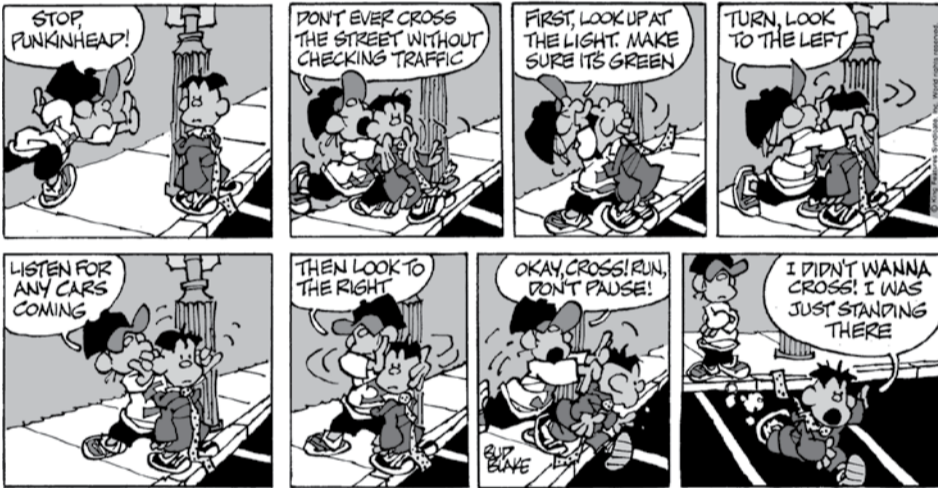
by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb

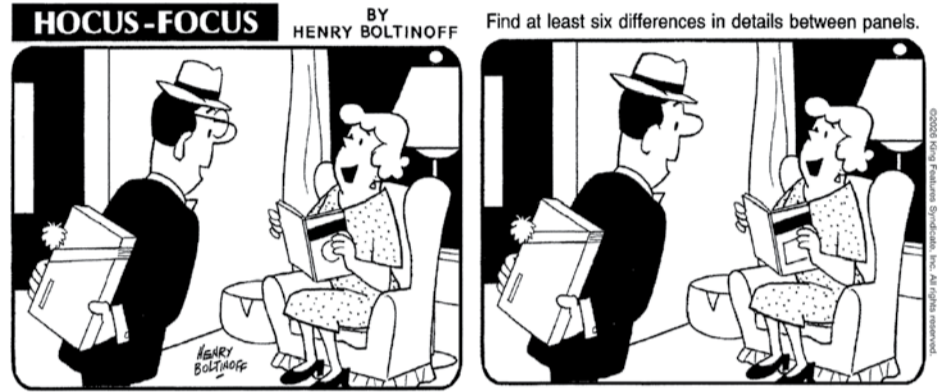


by Gary Kopervas

TIGER



by Bud Blake



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



GRIN AND BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

A	B	B	R		C	A	W		A	L	G	A							
D	E	L	I		N	A	G	A		O	V	E	R	T					
S	T	A	Y		I	R	O	N		P	E	K	O	E					
	S	T	A	R	L	O	R	D		I	N	S	T						
					D	O	G	M	A		A	U	G						
J	O	S	H	U	A					T	I	M	E	L	A	G			
O	U	T			G	I	B	B	E	R		R	A	G	A				
K	N	I	S	H		I	R	E		U	S	U	R	P					
E	C	R	U			A	N	O	N	Y	M		G	E	E				
R	E	S	P	O	N	D				E	I	T	H	E	R				
					E	F	T			V	I	S	A	S					
					B	A	R	F		R	E	D	S	K	U	L	L		
					K	A	R	M	A		E	R	I	E		R	I	A	L
					I	D	E	A	L		E	G	O	S		I	R	I	S
					M	E	A	N			L	E	T			S	A	N	D

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • SUPERHEROES

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 newt
- 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

SWITCH & GET \$25

Off First Month of New Service! USE PROMO CODE: GZ590

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

Classified Advertising

Sell Your Stuff! Reach 1000's of Readers Every Week!

MPG

916.773.1111

1	4	8	9	7	3	2	5	6
6	2	7	5	8	1	3	9	4
9	5	3	6	4	2	7	1	8
5	8	1	2	3	7	4	6	9
4	3	6	1	9	5	8	2	7
2	7	9	8	6	4	1	3	5
3	6	5	7	1	8	9	4	2
8	1	2	4	5	9	6	7	3
7	9	4	3	2	6	5	8	1

SUDOKU

Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

	4		9	7				6
	2							4
		3	6			7		
5				3				
		6	1		5	8		
				6				5
		5			8	9		
8								7
7				2	6			8

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

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

MPG

SacSewer Connects Five Disadvantaged Communities to Public Sewer

219 properties transition from aging septic systems to reliable sewer service, protecting public health and the environment

Sacramento Area Sewer District News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In a major achievement for public health and environmental protection, the Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer) has connected five disadvantaged communities to reliable public sewer service, connecting 219 properties. Failing septic systems have the potential to contaminate drinking water supplies and spread infectious diseases, so the completion of this project delivers long-overdue infrastructure improvements, reduces environmental risks from aging septic systems and strengthens long-term protection of groundwater and water quality.

Launched in 2018, SacSewer's nationally recognized Septic-to-Sewer Program (Program) helped disadvantaged communities transition from aging septic systems to safe, reliable public sewer service. SacSewer connected homes to the public sewer system with newly constructed sewer pipes and manholes, and private septic tanks were safely decommissioned. The high-priority communities of Freeport, Hood, Franklin, Linda Manorand Old Florin Town became project areas for the Program. The sewage from these communities is now safely being conveyed to SacSewer's EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility.

For many residents, the



SacSewer connected homes to the public sewer system with newly constructed sewer pipes and manholes, and private septic tanks were safely decommissioned. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Area Sewer District

transition is life changing. Some households previously limited shower time and daily water use due to deteriorating septic systems. In many cases, parcels were too small to meet current requirements for septic system disposal fields, making system replacement infeasible and financially overwhelming. Failing septic systems can pose environmental impacts, including leaks and groundwater contamination, putting these communities at high risk and in need of an

improved sewage system.

"Our Septic-to-Sewer Program demonstrates how targeted infrastructure investments can protect public health and safeguard water quality while bringing long-overdue, dependable service to historically underserved communities. Transitioning from aging septic systems to public sewer service delivers a reliable means of sewage disposal and ensures long-term protection for residents and the environment," said SacSewer's General Manager

Christoph Dobson.

Participation began with public meetings, community outreach and surveys to gauge interest from residents and businesses in the identified communities. After majority support was confirmed, SacSewer worked one-on-one with property owners in each community to design connections, decommission septic systems and complete on-property construction to the public sewer system.

"I worked with my father, Jose

Moreno, in 1969 to install a septic tank at our home during my early childhood, and more than five decades later, this same home is now enjoying public sewer service," said Mario Moreno, a long-time resident and member of the Hood community. "It's a good feeling to improve what my father and I built years ago and see the progressing infrastructure of Hood."

SacSewer's project team secured \$48 million in grant funding, the majority provided by the State of California, along with federal and Sacramento County grants, ensuring the project could move forward at no cost to residents. Additional non-rate and non-fee funding from SacSewer's Confluence Program closed remaining funding gaps, ensuring residents received public sewer service without being subsidized by ratepayers. Property owners now benefit from dependable sewage disposal, improved protection of regional groundwater and waterways and long-lasting infrastructure improvements. Additionally, communities at large are benefiting from newly paved roads delivered through a partnership with the Sacramento County Department of Transportation.

SacSewer continues to pursue future projects to bring safe, reliable sewage service to other communities in need. To learn more, visit sacsewer.com/septic. ★

CARE in Action: One Man's Journey Off the Streets

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Lorenzo Leon remembers what life was like before CARE Court.

"Being on the street is no way to live. So, you know I did what I have to do, straightened up so now I have a place to live," said Lorenzo.

And later this month, he is scheduled to become Sacramento County's first CARE Court graduate, a milestone not only for him and his family but for the county team that stood beside him every step of the way.

CARE Court, short for Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment, is a civil court process designed to connect individuals living with untreated schizophrenia and other severe mental illnesses, such as bipolar I disorder, to community-based treatment, services and housing support. The program creates a structured plan, ordered by the court, that holds systems accountable for delivering care while providing participants with a pathway toward stability.

Michael Nevans, a mental health program coordinator with Sacramento County, says the program represents a shift in how the community responds to its most vulnerable residents.

"CARE Court as a program specifically has really opened up the possibility for the mental health treatment of people with severe mental illness in our community," Nevans said. "Historically we have believed in openness and willingness to



Lorenzo Leon is scheduled to become Sacramento County's first CARE Court graduate, a milestone not only for him and his family but for the county team that stood beside him every step of the way. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

engage for outpatient services. Often, the people with the greatest needs are the most vulnerable and the least likely to seek help. CARE Court allows the County to be responsible for providing mental health services to all people, not just people who can self-advocate."

For Lorenzo and his mother, that accountability made all the difference.

There were times when Lorenzo would leave home, struggling with his illness and unsure where to turn. But County staff didn't give up.

"He kept leaving me but every time he'd leave me, she would go look for him," his mother recalled of a county team member. "And she would find him and bring him back to me. She was really insistent, which I was so happy about because she kept after

him to come back."

Each month, Lorenzo checked in with the court and his care team. He began taking his medications consistently and accessing additional services. Progress wasn't immediate, his mother said, but it was steady.

"It took a while to get started, but eventually now it's been a year and pretty successful," she said. "I think it was a good experience that he had to go to someone and talk to them, make sure that he is doing what he is supposed to be doing."

The Honorable Lawrence Brown of the Sacramento County Superior Court, who has presided over CARE Court cases, said he has seen firsthand the impact of that coordinated approach.

"I can recall that the mom in particular was a bit skeptical whether or not this was

going to be able to make any real difference and I think that she was won over by the commitment of the team and by the provider," said Judge Brown.

Deputy County Counsel Andrew Crouse said Lorenzo's journey reflects what the program was designed to do.

"Happily, he has accepted those services and has really, really benefitted across his journey so far in CARE Court," said Crouse. "He is doing much better according to pretty much everyone's report. His own mother, the psychiatrist, social workers, everyone has seen the difference in how he is living a better life and his symptoms are under control, and he doesn't have his illness getting in the way anymore of being able to be successful in his life."

Today, Lorenzo is housed, taking his medication and focused on his future and preparing for his CARE Court graduation. His journey through CARE Court reflects not only his commitment, but the County's coordinated effort to ensure residents with the most serious mental health needs are not left behind.

For his mother, the outcome speaks for itself. After a year of structure, support and persistence, she sees a difference and a son who is back on track. Lorenzo's life story can be viewed on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRL6DZGUE98

If you or a loved one would like to file a petition to start your own CARE Court journey, visit the Sacramento County website to learn more about eligibility and the process. ★

Applications Open for Sacramento District Attorney's Citizens Academy

Sacramento County District Attorney's Office News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County District Attorney's Office hosts the Citizen Academy in partnership with the Sacramento Police Department, Sacramento County Sheriff's Office and Sacramento County Probation Department. This is a free program for anyone 18 and older who lives or works in Sacramento County.

The 10-week program is designed to engage citizens from all backgrounds and communities in discussion about public safety and criminal justice issues. Participants learn about our local



The 10-week program is designed to engage citizens from all backgrounds and communities in discussion about public safety and criminal justice issues. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

criminal justice system – including the roles of law enforcement, prosecutors and the courts.

Topics include the anatomy of a criminal case; specialized areas of prosecution; CSI and crime lab

analysis; use of force; innovative programs and partnerships; and community-focused public safety

partnerships and initiatives. There is also an opportunity for a field trip to the District Attorney's Crime Lab and Sacramento Police Department's 911 Communications Center.

Representatives from the District Attorney's Office, Probation Department, Public Defender's Office, law enforcement, the judiciary and community organizations will provide information, answer questions and address community concerns.

Visit the Sacramento County District Attorney's website at sacda.org or sacda.org/in-the-community/citizens-academy/ for more information and to apply. ★

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

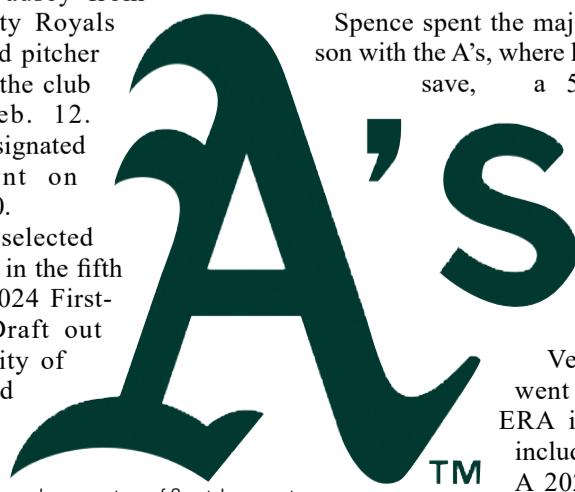
Athletics News Release

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

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. ★



Logo courtesy of SportsLogos.net

Samiya Jenkins Selected to Big 8 All-Conference Team

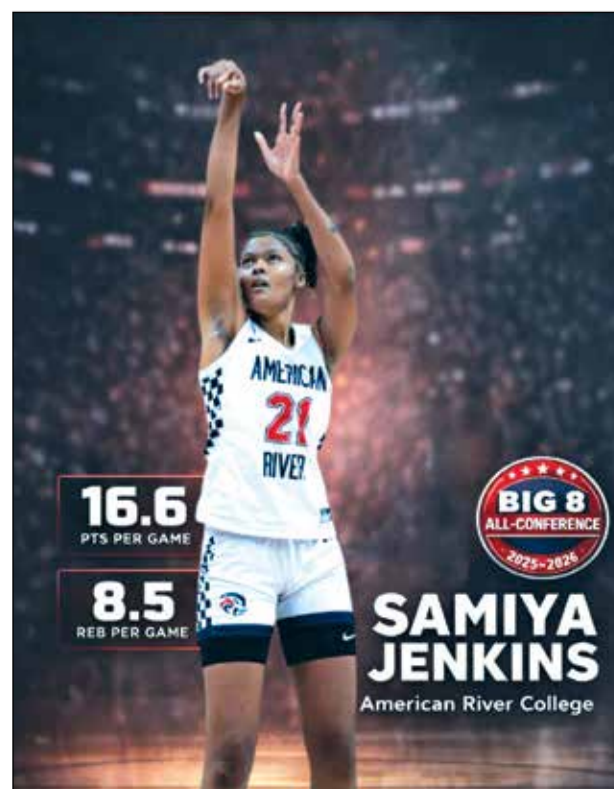


Photo courtesy of American River College Athletics

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 stand-out 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. ★

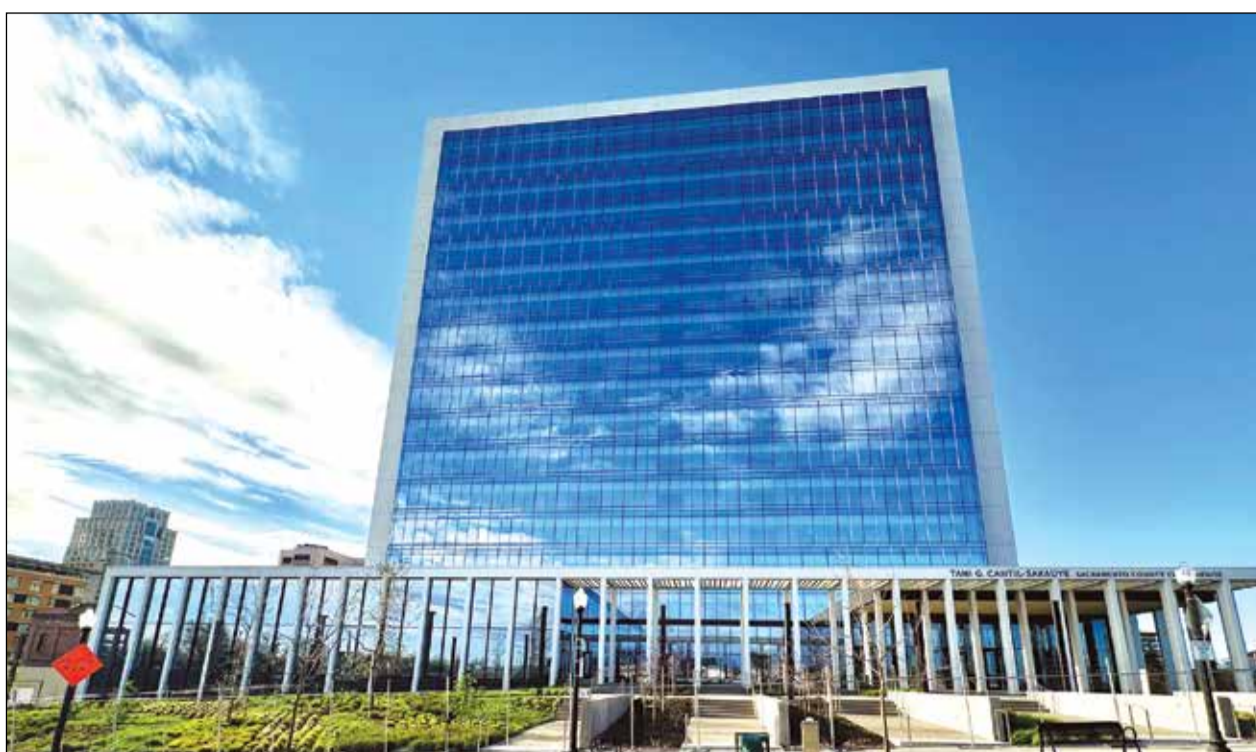
New Superior Courthouse to Open in Sacramento Railyards

Sacramento County Superior Court News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Preparations are underway to open the new Tani G. Cantil-Sakaue Sacramento Superior Courthouse next month in the Sacramento Railyards.

Located at 500 G St., the new courthouse will replace all court operations currently housed in the Gordon D. Schaber Courthouse, 720 9th St., and the Hall of Justice, 813 6th St.

“This new facility not only enhances the court’s ability to serve the public more efficiently, but also strengthens meaningful



The new Tani G. Cantil-Sakaue Sacramento Superior Courthouse located in the Sacramento Railyards is set to open next month. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Superior Court

Designed to Better Serve the Public

The 18-story, 538,000-square-foot courthouse includes 53 courtrooms supporting a broad range of criminal and civil proceedings. The building addresses long-standing space limitations while improving access, security, and efficiency.

Courtroom features include advanced remote hearing technology with videoconferencing capabilities, enhanced digital evidence presentation, including large media files such as body camera and surveillance footage and multi-view video access with strategically placed cameras that preserve juror privacy.

Additional public amenities include civil self-help services, a jury assembly room accommodating up to 500 prospective jurors, food services and a children’s waiting room on the first floor, a dedicated Civil Settlement Conference Center and centralized criminal and civil public counters.

The courthouse features a single public entrance with four security screening stations and eight public elevators to enhance safety and efficiency.

With an estimated project cost of approximately \$514 million, the courthouse represents a long-term investment in Sacramento’s judicial infrastructure. The project was developed and overseen by the Judicial Council of California, designed by NBBJ, and constructed by Clark Construction Group. ★

access to justice,” said Presiding Judge Lawrence G. Brown. “By bringing services together in a modern, accessible, and secure environment, we are better positioned to meet the needs of all who rely on our justice system.”

Phased Transition Timeline

The court will relocate operations through a carefully coordinated, phased move designed to minimize disruption to court users and the public. The move will occur over five consecutive weekends:

Initial relocation of select administrative offices and court functions will take place from March 28 to 30. Continued transfer of courtrooms and support staff will occur April 4 to 6. The completion of

the civil operations move will take place April 11 to 13 and, finally, the final transition of remaining criminal operations from April 18 to 20 and April 25 to 27.

Civil-related services are expected to open to the public at the new courthouse beginning April 13, following the third move weekend. The courthouse is anticipated to be fully operational, including criminal services, by April 27.

“Our phased transition plan has been designed to ensure that we continue serving the public with minimal disruption throughout this process,” said Court Executive Officer Kelly Sullivan. “By moving operations in stages, we are able to maintain continuity of court services while thoughtfully transitioning into the new facility.”

LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1955

E-Bikes Up To 40% Off! | Over 400 bikes In Stock!

9920 FAIR OAKS BLVD. FAIR OAKS, CA 95628 (916) 961-6700 (Corner of Fair Oaks and Sunrise)

378 NORTH SUNRISE AVE. STE 300 ROSEVILLE, CA 95661 (916) 784-2255 (Across from the Auto Mall)

[bobscyclecenter.com](https://www.bobscyclecenter.com)

KP International MARKET

11121314151617
10971 Olson Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
916.853.8000

KP KARAOKE SPECIAL Sun-Thu Come before 6pm (Valid Time)
Fri-Sat Come before 5pm (Valid Time)

For 6 people \$115.00 + Gratuity
3 Hours Karaoke + 2 Pizzas + Pitcher Soda + 2 Main Dishes (Dishes To Choose From)

For 12 people \$210.00 + Gratuity
3 Hours Karaoke + 2 Pizzas + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes (Dishes To Choose From)

For 14 people \$230.00 + Gratuity
3 Hours Karaoke + 2 Pizzas + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes (Dishes To Choose From)

For 18 people \$295.00 + Gratuity
3 Hours Karaoke + 3 Pizzas + Pitcher Soda + 6 Main Dishes (Dishes To Choose From)

For 28 people \$395.00 + Gratuity
3 Hours Karaoke + 3 Pizzas + Pitcher Soda + 6 Main Dishes (Dishes To Choose From)

Dishes To Choose From

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Cooked Clam Meat 340 g REG. \$6.99/EA **\$3.99/lea**

Yellow Croaker Gutted & Scaled 1.5 lb REG. \$6.99/EA **\$4.99/lea**

WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Cross/Rib Shoulder Roast-Bnls **\$5.79/lb**

Beef T-Bone Steak **\$5.59/lb**

Chicken Drumstick **79¢/lb**

Pork Hocks **\$1.99/lb**

Pork Country Style Ribs - Bnls **\$2.99/lb**

Pork Tenderloin **\$3.99/lb**

WEEKLY HALAL SPECIALS

Chicken Drumstick **89¢/lb**

New Zealand Lamb Shoulder Chop Bone-In **\$5.99/lb**

Beef Cross/Rib Shoulder Roast-Bnls **\$5.99/lb**

FRESH PRODUCE

White Potato 10 lb Bag **2/\$3.00**

Garlic 5pc Sleeved **\$2.59/ea**

Assorted Mushroom 400 g **\$2.59/ea**

Spinach **\$1.19/bunch**

Russet Potato 10 lb Bag **\$1.99/bag**

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

Bauducco Panettone 24 oz **\$5.99/lea**

El Mexicano Pinto Beans 29.8 oz **\$1.99/lea**

Gerber Gae Cornl Snacks 2.25-6 oz **\$0.99/lea**

Laffy Taffy Rope Candies 9.81 oz **3/\$1.00**

ASIAN GROCERY

UFC Pancit Canton Noodle 16 oz **\$3.99/lea**

Three Crab Fish Sauce 23.06 fl oz **\$7.99/lea**

Ginger Honey Crystal Beverage Mix 18.3 oz **\$6.99/lea**

Boy's Milk Drink 10.1 fl oz **\$1.29/lea +CRV**

EUROPEAN GROCERY

Bakkhara Sunflower Seed 500 gr **\$4.79/lea**

Rogachey Condensed Milk 380 gr **\$3.29/lea**

Zepit Vegetable Spread Hot Ajvar 18 oz **\$3.69/lea**

Sadaf Plain Salt 737 gr **\$1.29/lea**

EUROPEAN DELI

Hickory Smoked Turkey Breast **\$12.19/lb**

Columbus Appleswood Ham **\$9.19/lb**

Green Olives Stuffed with Almonds **\$6.39/lb**

Green Olives Stuffed with Feta Cheese **\$8.59/lb**

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Duru Duru Dumplings Vegetable and Pork 709 g **\$5.99/lea**

HOUSEWARE

Electric Rice Cooker **\$54.99**

Electric BBQ Grill **\$39.99**

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE MARCH 11 - MARCH 17, 2026.