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Honors for State's New Hall of Famers



Olympic gold medalist Janet Evans is pictured with her family at the red-carpet event before being honored at the California Hall of Fame 19th Class ceremony on March 19.

Story and photos by George H. Young

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Founded in 2006, the California Hall of Fame is the California Museum's signature annual program. Every year, the governor and first partner select inductees to honor for outstanding achievement in the arts, business and labor, entertainment, food and

wine, literature, music, public service, science and sports.

The program recognizes the leaders and pioneers in California whose dreams and deeds have reached beyond state borders, positively impacting the world.

The museum honored members of its 18th and 19th classes at a red-carpet event and induction ceremony on Thursday,

March 19. The 18th Class included posthumous inductees, honored after death, and marked the first time in California Hall of Fame history that the list of inductees was composed entirely of women.

As introduced by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the 18th Class inductees honored were: Julia Child, the world-renowned French chef; Ina

Coolbrith, California's first poet laureate; Vicki Manalo Draves, the first Asian-American woman to win an Olympic gold medal; Mitsuye Endo, a Sacramento native whose family was placed in a Japanese internment camp and later challenged the incarceration in court, helping to secure the right of Japanese Americans
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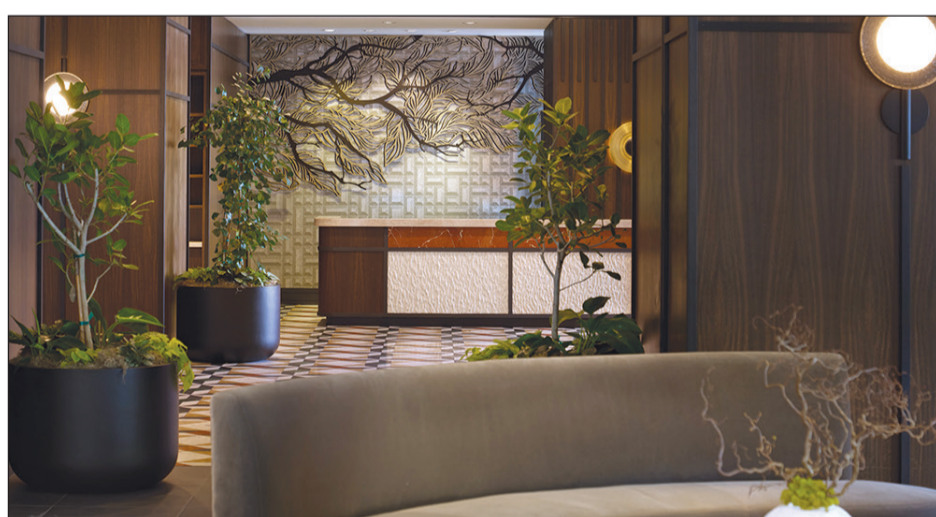
Sheraton Grand Marks 25 Years with Renovation

Sheraton Grand Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Located in the beautifully restored Public Market Building in downtown Sacramento, the Sheraton Grand Sacramento has announced the completion of its multi-year transformation, marking a new era for the iconic downtown hotel as it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

The reintroduction of Sheraton Grand Sacramento reflects Sheraton Hotels & Resorts' global evolution, which is redefining one of hospitality's most recognized brands through purposeful design, intuitive experiences and spaces that foster productivity, connection and community.

As Sheraton continues its mission to become "The World's Gathering Place,"



Following a comprehensive, multi-year renovation, hotel Sheraton Grand Sacramento debuts a renewed Sheraton experience designed to help people work, meet and connect in the heart of downtown Sacramento. Photo courtesy of Sheraton Grand Sacramento

the transformed property brings the brand's next chapter to life in the capital city.

"We are thrilled to introduce the newly renovated Sheraton Grand Sacramento that strikes an amazing balance between fully transformed, inviting guest experiences – rooms,

meeting spaces, social hubs – and historic architectural charm," said Sheraton Grand Sacramento General Manager Jeroen Gerrese. "Our hotel is uniquely positioned as a modern event destination and a coveted hotel filled with locally inspired character in the heart of

downtown Sacramento."

Modernized Guest Rooms and Suites

The hotel's 505 guest rooms and suites have been completely refreshed with Sheraton's updated guest-room design: bright, well-lit spaces featuring
Continued on page 3

Blooming Hope Preludes Brewing Hope 2026



Jennifer Stoddard holds her selection of flowers, generously donated by Trader Joe's East Sacramento, which made the Blooming Hope bouquet-making activity possible.

Story and photos by Stephen B. Clazie

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Blooming Hope was a beautiful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together with open hearts. Greenhaven Neighborhood Church hosted the Sunday afternoon gathering in March.

What started as a simple idea, gathering to make bouquets, became something much more meaningful. Moments like these remind us how powerful community can be, especially for families carrying loss.

The Olivia Chan Foundation is a nonprofit corporation organized by her parents, Reina and Mel, along with their family, to create a safe environment where families and children feel supported and understood while navigating grief.

"We understand that each person experiences grief in their own way, and as a result, families and children often struggle to navigate their loss, feeling alone and isolated," Reina said.

"We want to create a supportive community for individuals on their grief journey through peer-facilitated activities, with the hope that one day they can rediscover small moments of happiness," Mel added.

Brewing Hope and Raising Spirits

Blooming Hope also served as an opportunity to promote the third annual Brewing Hope fundraiser taking place Saturday, April 18 at Movement Brewing.

Reina said, "It is more than just a night out; it's a community-powered celebration of healing, hope
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MAPLE TREE VILLAGE

Sheraton Grand Marks 25 Years with Renovation



Pictured is a meeting space available at the newly renovated Sheraton Grand Sacramento. Photo courtesy of Sheraton Grand Sacramento

Continued from page 1

warm residential finishes, light wood tones and flexible work-friendly layouts. Each room includes height-adjustable worktables, integrated charging, layered lighting and redesigned bathrooms with upgraded amenities.

Transformed Public and Common Spaces

A few of the transformational renovation enhancements have included modernizing public areas, such as the lobby, food and beverage spaces, and ballroom/meeting venues; creating a fresher, more approachable environment for guests and event attendees.

With a downtown social hub feel, the transformation extends across all public areas, with the lobby and communal spaces redesigned to be more open, intuitive and energizing. The renovated lobby and community spaces now feel like a “public square” with inviting seating and work-friendly areas that include community tables, booths and studios, ideal for collaboration, relaxation and informal gatherings

As part of Sheraton’s modern experience vision, the property is also

introducing: The Community Table, a purpose-built, communal workspace offering built-in lighting, power access and an inviting setting to work, dine or connect; The Studios, flexible, glass-enclosed meeting rooms available to book for small groups or collaborative sessions; and The Booths, sound-reducing, semi-private nooks for quick calls or focused work.

New and Refreshed Dining

Sheraton Grand Sacramento’s renewed culinary approach reflects the brand’s global Food and Beverage philosophy; flexible, locally inspired and designed to meet guests where they are in their day. The hotel’s signature dining destination, Merchant25, blends the preserved charm of the historic Public Market Building with modern sensibilities.

Guests can enjoy farm-fresh, regionally inspired fare, a curated wine selection and local craft beverages across breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner and a lively weekday happy hour. The lobby also introduces &More by Sheraton, an expanded grab-and-go market with Starbucks offerings, complementing Sheraton’s day-to-night approach to food and beverage. ★

Photography Month Underway with Special Receptions, Workshops, Activations

Viewpoint Photographic Art Center News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Led by Viewpoint Photographic Art Center in Midtown, Photography Month Sacramento is officially underway.

The annual grassroots arts collaboration takes place each April and is made possible with support provided by involved leaders, businesses and organizations, including Inside Publications, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Office of Phil Serna (District 1) and Visit Sacramento/Sacramento365.com, along with many other key partners.

First launched in 2018, the month-long event is highlighted by a variety of diverse and eclectic events that include exhibits, receptions, photo shoot meetups, 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.

In addition to month-long exhibitions and art activations, listed below is a sampling of some of the not-to-be-missed special receptions and events offered by Photography Month Sacramento presenters and partners.

Upcoming Special



Photography Month Sacramento, led by Viewpoint Photographic Art Center, is in progress with various receptions and special activations happening throughout April. Photo courtesy of Viewpoint Photographic Art Center

Receptions And Events

Every Tuesday in April: from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a Behind-the-Scenes at the Museum of Medical History special photograph opportunity (5380 Elvas Avenue in Sacramento). At 1:30 p.m., there will be a Polaroid Picture Workshop for Kids (ticketed event) at the Sacramento Children’s Museum (2701 Prospect Park Drive in Rancho Cordova).

Friday, April 10: from 4 to 7 p.m., there will be an Aperture Art Show artist reception at General Gomez (808 Lincoln Way in Auburn).

Second Saturday, April 11: from 1 to 2 p.m., there will be a Print Sharing & Presentation at 422 Framing & Gallery (316 Colfax Avenue in Grass Valley).

From 4 to 7 p.m., De Natura Libris opening reception and Open Call Exhibit: Seeing America reception will be presented by Viewpoint Photographic Art Center (2015 J St.).

Sunday, April 12: from 1 to 4 p.m., there will be an Artists’ Reception for Open Call Exhibit: Seeing America presented by Viewpoint Photographic

Art Center (2015 J St.).

Saturday, April 18: Charlie Osborn, owner of Charlie Osborn Studio, will be a guest speaker from 1 to 2 p.m. at 422 Framing & Gallery (316 Colfax Ave. in Grass Valley).

Saturday, April 25: All day anniversary celebration at 422 Fine Framing & Gallery (316 Colfax Avenue in Grass Valley).

Sunday, April 26: from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., there will be a Hands-On Cyanotype Photographs with Debra Small workshop presented by Viewpoint Photographic Art Center (2015 J St.).

Thursday, April 30: there will be a Photography Month Sacramento finale reception and Historic Photo Gallery presentation from 4 to 6 p.m. in Morgan’s at the historic transformed Public Market Building at Sheraton Grand Sacramento (1230 J St.).

Participants continue to join the effort, and a continually updated listing of events (with additional details) is available at photomonth-sacramento.org/events.

For more detailed information about Photography Month Sacramento 2026 in general, visit photomonth-sacramento.org. ★

Allergy season is in full bloom.

Find relief with same-day care.

It’s that time of year. Runny nose, sore eyes, and—bless you. If you’re experiencing the effects of seasonal allergies, we can help. Dignity Health offers convenient same-day care options throughout Greater Sacramento to get you through the season—including Express Primary Care in Elk Grove and Roseville, and Urgent Care in Midtown Sacramento and Woodland. Get in, get seen, and get on with your day. Visit dignityhealth.org/get-care-today to schedule an appointment.



Get Inspired by California Native Plants at Free Tour

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The City of Sacramento's Department of Utilities is inviting residents to tour its water-efficient demonstration garden on April 18 and learn how California native plants can create a beautiful, low-water landscape.

The free event will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1395 35th Ave. as part of the California Native Plant Society's Gardens Got Natives Tour.

"California native plants are well-suited to our climate, which means they typically need less water and less maintenance," said William Granger, the city's water conservation coordinator. "This garden shows how people can create a landscape that's both attractive and water-wise."

Attendees can explore the garden at their own pace and view

nearly 30 varieties of California native plants, each selected for their ability to thrive in Sacramento's hot, dry summers.

Utilities staff will be on site throughout the day to answer questions and share practical tips on plant selection, irrigation and available rebates to help residents get started with a water-wise yard.

"This is a great opportunity for anyone thinking about making changes to their yard to see what's possible," Granger said. "Whether you're starting small or planning a full conversion, we want people to leave with ideas and the confidence to take the next step."

Attendees are encouraged to register in advance for the event at sacvalleycnps.org/gardens-gone-native-tour. Registration includes a map and brochure, which will be sent a week before the tour begins. ★



The City of Sacramento's Department of Utilities invites residents to tour its water-efficient demonstration garden on April 18 and learn how California native plants can create a beautiful, low-water landscape. Photo courtesy of City of Sacramento

Honors for State's New Hall of Famers



The family of former state legislator John L. Burton, an inductee into the California Hall of Fame 19th Class, is pictured at the red-carpet event prior to the March 19 induction ceremony at the California Museum.

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to return home; Dian Fossey, author of "Gorillas in the Mist"; Alice Piper, a Native American pioneer; and Tina Turner, a legendary rock icon.

Jennifer Siebel Newsom then introduced the 19th Class. Her first introduction was of legendary legislator John L. Burton, represented by his daughter, Komiko Burton.

Burton dove into local politics after earning his law degree at San Francisco University. He served in the California State Assembly and went on to become Senate president pro tempore, moving on to the U.S. Congress.

Burton was a champion for the poor, the overlooked and the underserved. He advocated for housing and education for former foster youths and expanded their opportunities for care.

Komiko Burton felt honored to speak for her dad, who had passed only six months ago. She spoke about how proud she and her family were of being Northern Californians. Komiko Burton also shared stories about how Burton had befriended and worked closely with many California governors, especially Arnold Schwarzenegger and Gavin Newsom.

The first partner then honored Olympic gold medalist Janet Evans.

Evans, who grew up in Fullerton, won three gold medals at the Seoul Summer Olympics at age 16, including a record for the 400-meter freestyle. In 1992, Evans made Olympic history again by becoming the first woman to defend her 800-meter freestyle title. She is currently the chief athlete officer of the 2028 Summer Olympics, preparing young American athletes for the return of the games to California.

Evans, who attended the event, spoke during the ceremony and said how amazed she was to be recognized among fellow inductees celebrating our state. Evans remarked that she attended the University of Southern California, where she trained by swimming and running and often passed the colosseum, where the Olympic Games are traditionally held.

Drawing on that connection, Evans noted the significance of bringing the games back for the third time.

"There is no better place for the Olympic Games than the state of California," Evans said.

Jennifer Siebel Newsom then introduced inductee Terry McMillan, an inspirational author.

McMillan moved from Michigan to Los Angeles, where she attended high school and Los Angeles City College. She began her writing at Greer and later transferred to UC Berkeley. A regular contributor to The Daily Californian, the school newspaper, she was encouraged to "tell the truth" and tell stories that African American readers could relate to.

McMillan's third novel, "Waiting to Exhale," remained on the New York Times bestseller list for many months and contributed to a shift away from the stereotypes of black women professionals. That novel, and her next book, "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," were made into popular films, earning Grammys, MTV Movie Awards and popular acclaim.

The first partner then honored Riane Eisler, a groundbreaking systems scientist, cultural historian and futurist.

Eisler and her parents escaped Nazi tyranny in 1939, losing many members of her extended family during the Holocaust. She has made a life-long commitment to understanding the roots of violence and inequity.

Eisler's work has offered new perspectives and practical tools for building a more equitable gender balance and sustainable society. She has addressed the United Nations and inspired countless leaders worldwide.

At the age of 94 (almost 95), Eisler addressed the audience and remarked that surviving the Nazis and seeing her mother's courage and ingenuity is what saved their lives, as well as inspired her. She said that the central question of her life's work is whether humanity is either innately violent and selfish or capable of much better. She has pushed for constructive partnerships between groups and individuals, countries and earth.

Eisler added that she sees California as a "wonderful place where bold ideas can take root and grow."

Jennifer Siebel Newsom next introduced nine-time Olympic gold medal winner Carl Lewis.

Trained at an early age by his parents, two track and field stars, Lewis grew up under their keen professional tutelage, winning NCAA championship titles. In 1984, he debuted at the Los Angeles Olympics, winning the long jump, 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash and the 4 by 100-meter relay. Lewis ended up winning nine Olympic gold medals across four Olympic Games, along with eight world championship titles and multiple world



California native and Hollywood actor Jamie Lee Curtis is pictured at the California Hall of Fame 19th Class red carpet event ahead of the ceremony, where she was honored as an inductee.

records.

Lewis spoke at the ceremony of growing up in Birmingham, Alabama, watching his parents work actively in the Civil Rights movement. He said that his mother knew both Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King.

After moving to California at age 14, Lewis noted how California provided so many opportunities for him to grow as an athlete.

"California will always be a very, very special part of my life; the most important times of life happened in this state... so this is such an honor," Lewis said.

The First Partner next introduced Nobu Matsuhisa, known around the world as Chef Nobu.

Chef Nobu's culinary journey began in Tokyo, Japan, then continued to Peru, Argentina, back to Japan, Alaska, and finally Los Angeles. It was there that he developed the unique culinary styles known as Nobu style, blending elements from all the places he worked to gather inspiration. He formed a lasting partnership with actor and activist Robert De Niro and currently has 69 restaurants and locations across five continents.

Among other awards, Nobu has won Michelin stars, James Beard honors and international awards from Japan to Peru.

Nobu expressed that he was deeply honored to be inducted into the California Hall of Fame. He noted that he came to California from Japan over 40 years ago, and he found people who believed in him, opportunities and a place to call home.

Jennifer Siebel Newsom then introduced Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles, America's first all-women mariachi ensemble.

Mariachi Reyna made history as the first all-woman mariachi group signed to a major record label. It was nominated for both Grammy and Latin Grammys, and has expanded what excellence in the genre looks and sounds like.

Mariachi Reyna's work has reached a vast audience from school classrooms to Disney soundtracks to the Smithsonian. The first partner honored the group for helping to redefine who leads and who belongs, especially in the arts.

Mariachi Reyna thanked the governor and first partner for the amazing recognition. They also spoke about what an honor it was to be there, representing women all around the world, especially women in mariachi music. They were proud to be representing their culture and Los Angeles, where the dream and the group originated.

The first partner then introduced Jamie Lee Curtis, Academy Award-winning actor and humanitarian. Born in Los Angeles to Hollywood legends Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh, she attended the University of the Pacific in Stockton (following in her mother's footsteps) and has become a role model for generations.



Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis poses at the California Hall of Fame 19th Class red-carpet event before being honored as an inductee at the ceremony.

Curtis has been honored with an Academy Award, a SAG Award, a British Academy Film Award (BAFTA), an Emmy and multiple Golden Globe nominations. She's starred in and been forever memorable in films ranging from horror films including "Halloween" to comedies like "A Fish Called Wanda" to action dramas such as "True Lies."

Beyond her influence on the screen, Curtis has been an advocate and philanthropist who created the charitable organization My Hand Is Yours that has raised more than \$2,000,000 to benefit children's hospitals in Los Angeles. She's also a New York Times best-selling children's author with 13 titles.

Curtis spoke emotionally about the California Dream during the induction ceremony, noting how this state gave both her parents and her the opportunity to change their lives and change the world with their art.

"I'm a Cali girl. I love California. I love my family. I love the life that we get. I love the diversity of our state. I love the creativity of our state," Curtis said.

She thanked the governor and first partner for "bringing me home" and expressed how deeply she was moved by this honor.

Gov. Gavin Newsom finally introduced the final inductee, former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who could not attend the ceremony.

Schwarzenegger was the 38th governor of California and a legendary Hollywood icon. Newsom described Schwarzenegger as a "scrawny little kid who came to America with \$20 in his pocket, an interesting accent and big dreams."

"The 38th governor of the state of California is the personification of so many respects, what is defined as California and immigration and entrepreneurialism, five decades of excellence, singular in every way, shape or form. Arnold Schwarzenegger is now one of a million," Newsom said.

"He pursued his dream to be the 'best of the best' body builder that later led to an acting career, becoming the highest-paid actor in the world. After success as an entrepreneur, he then surprised the skeptics by running for and winning the election as governor of California. It was under his leadership that AB32 was passed, allowing California to set its own environmental standards. His life is a 'remarkable career of excellence, singular in every respect,'" the governor added.

Schwarzenegger greeted the induction ceremony audience via a prerecorded segment. He thanked Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom for inducting him into the California Hall of Fame.

The California Hall of Fame exhibit will showcase the 19th Class inductees with a curated selection of personal artifacts, currently on display at the California Museum, 1020 O St. ★

Get Ready for California's 2026 Primary

Your Questions About Voting, Answered

By CalMatters Staff
CalMatters.org

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Where do I vote? Am I registered to vote? Does everyone get a ballot in the mail? Get the answers to your election day questions ahead of California's June 2 primary election.

How do I vote? Does everyone get a ballot in the mail? Yes. Under state law, vote-by-mail ballots are sent to every active registered voter.

When will I receive my mail-in-ballot? Counties will begin mailing ballots May 4.

How do I return my mail-in ballot? Mail it to your county elections office; to be counted, ballots have to be postmarked on or before June 2 and received by election offices by June 9. Drop it off at a ballot drop box, vote center or polling location anywhere in the state. Ask someone you trust to do it for you, but that person can't receive payment for doing it.

Can I vote in person? Where is my polling place or vote center? Yes, although mailing your ballot as soon as possible is the best way to get your vote counted fast. You can find out where to vote in the following ways. Visit <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>, text "VOTE" to GOVOTE (468-8683), call the secretary of state's hotline at (800) 345-VOTE, check your county Voter Information Guide or contact your county elections office.

If you live in one of 30 counties, you'll have increased options, including as many as 10 days of in-person early voting.

How do I register to vote? Am I registered to vote? You can check the secretary of state's website (<https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>). You'll need to enter your name, date of birth and either your California driver license, identification card number or the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you don't have those available, contact your county elections office or the secretary of state via email or phone at 800-345-8683.

If you've changed your name since the last time you voted, or if you moved and didn't notify the Department of Motor Vehicles or U.S. Postal Service, you may have to register again. If you haven't voted in several consecutive general elections, your registration may have been canceled.

How do I register? Visit <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>. You'll need the same information as above.



Where do I vote? Am I registered to vote? Does everyone get a ballot in the mail? Get the answers to your election day questions ahead of California's June 2 primary election. Photo courtesy Freepik

If the DMV has your signature on file, you'll be able to complete the process online. If not, you'll need to print, sign and mail your completed application to your county elections office. You can also pick up a paper application at elections offices, any DMV office and at many post offices, public libraries and government offices. You'll be contacted when your application is approved, or if you need to provide more information.

What happens if I miss the voter registration deadline? The last day to register online for the primary election is May 18. If you are registering or re-registering less than 15 days before May 18, you must complete same-day voter registration and request your ballot in person at your county elections office or polling location.

How do I change my political party if I'm already registered? You'll need to re-register to vote.

What if I need help with voting? What if I need voter information in a language other than English? The secretary of state's office has voter instructions in the following languages: Spanish, Hindi, Chinese, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese. Your county elections office may offer additional languages.

When will I receive my voter guide? The statewide voter

information guide will be available online by April and will be mailed to voters later that month.

What am I voting on? The June primary election is the first opportunity for Californians to choose which candidates will appear on the general election ballot in November. Unlike some other states, California's primaries are nonpartisan, so the top two vote-getters in each race will advance to the November election, regardless of political party.

The ballot is packed with state and federal races, most notably the race to succeed Gov. Gavin Newsom, who is term-limited and cannot run for reelection. In addition to the governor's race, voters will be asked to choose candidates for Congress, the state Legislature and a slate of statewide offices including insurance commissioner and treasurer.

Can I leave work to vote? Yes. California requires time off for voting if employees don't have enough time outside work hours. You can take as much time as you need, but employers are only required to pay for a maximum of two hours. Employers may require advance notice. The time off must be at the beginning or the end of your shift. Employers are required to post a notice about this 10 days before a statewide election.

How can I track my ballot?

Visit california.ballottrax.net/voter/ to register for California's BallotTrax tool, where you can check your ballot status and opt in to receive email or text notifications.

Is my ballot safe? Yes, voting by mail or dropping your ballot in an approved drop box is a safe and efficient way to vote. Fraudulent voting is uncommon and incredibly difficult given California's strict voter verification procedures. Mail-in ballots will only be sent to voters whose address and identity have been verified by county election officials. Their vote will only be counted once those officials verify that the voter's signature on the envelope matches the one on file.

You can find more information about California's election and voting process on the secretary of state's website. The office takes any allegations of election fraud seriously. Anyone can submit a complaint using the following form sos.ca.gov/elections/publications-and-resources/voter-complaint.

What if I have special circumstances? What should I do if I marked my ballot wrong, or otherwise messed it up? If you haven't turned it in yet, you can exchange your mail ballot for a new one at an elections office, ask an election official at the polling place for a new ballot, or

vote using a provisional ballot. If you have mailed or turned in your ballot, there's no way to fix it. Contact your county elections office for a new ballot.

What if the signature on my ballot doesn't match the one on file? County election officials check the signatures on the return envelope against signatures on your voter registration card to make sure no one tries to improperly cast your ballot. It still remains confidential; the ballot is separated from the envelope before it is counted.

Voters with ballots with missing signatures or ones that don't match are notified and given an opportunity to correct the problem before the election is certified.

What happens if I don't receive my ballot? Contact your county elections office.

Help! I dropped off my ballot to a drop box in the wrong county. Don't worry – the county will pass it on to the correct elections office.

I forgot to detach the stub from my ballot. Can I open the sealed envelope and reseal it myself? You can, but the secretary of state's office recommends contacting your local county elections office. They'll ultimately be processing your ballot, and they can offer the best guidance on whether you should reopen it or just leave the stub attached. ★



Election Information

June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election

Vote Early and Vote by Mail



May 4 Ballots begin to arrive by mail. Official Ballot Drop Boxes are now open.



May 18 Close of registration. Register today!



May 23 11-Day Vote Centers open through Election Day.



May 30 All Vote Centers open through Election Day.



June 2 Election Day! Last day to turn in your ballot.

Vote Early! Don't wait for Election Day.

Take advantage of early voting and avoid the lines! You can return your ballot in the mail, at any Official Ballot Drop Box, or at any Vote Center. No postage is necessary.

Track your Ballot!

Sign up for "Where's My Ballot?" with BallotTrax, a free ballot-tracking and alert system. It is available to all voters who wish to track the status of their Vote by Mail ballot from printed to accepted. Scan the QR code or visit www.wheresmyballot.com



Vote Early! Vote by Mail.

Blooming Hope Preludes Brewing Hope 2026

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and compassion.”

Featuring local craft beer, live music, a silent auction and inspiring stories, the annual event brings people together to support children and families navigating the pain of grief.

“Every ticket purchased directly funds grief support programs in the Sacramento region,” Mel Chan told guests, inviting the community to come together on April 18 to raise a glass, lift spirits and make a lasting impact.

Reina added, “After discovering the Dougy Center, Mel and I flew to Portland to get trained. They’re an amazing organization and have been a huge support for us.”

The Dougy Center is a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon, that offers support groups and services for grieving children and young adults. Its peer-support model made it the first program of its kind in the United States. The organization serves approximately 400 children and 250 adults from the Portland metropolitan area each month, free of charge.

Founded in 1982 in tribute to Dougy Turno, who died of a brain tumor at age 13, the center has supported more than 20,000 children and their family members since its establishment.

Reina and Mel’s goal is to bring the Dougy Center model to Sacramento by training all team members and volunteers in its approach.

The Olivia Chan

Foundation also aims to establish a grief center.

Mel said it would be “a physical place that children and families can visit, where we can implement all these programs free of charge for the community.”

“We’re excited to invite you to Brewing Hope 2026 on Saturday, April 18. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. at Movement Brewing, 11151 Trade Center Drive, Suite 104/105, Rancho Cordova,” Reina and Mel said.

Tickets are available at oliviachanfoundation.org.

Olivia’s Story

We always wanted a family, but after four years of heartbreak, disappointment and failed IVF attempts, we knew having children naturally wasn’t in the cards. So, we began the adoption process. In 2008, we brought home our son, Nicholas. In 2012, we welcomed his sister, Olivia.

She weighed just 5.5 pounds but made her presence known from day one. We had nine precious years with her before a rare and aggressive cancer took her from us.

“Your daughter is the 1%,” the doctors said.

Olivia was joy in human form. She was fun-loving, spunky and quick to laugh; a girly girl and a tomboy all at once. She loved rainbows, unicorns, mermaids and dresses, but also wrestled with her brother and played tackle football with her dad. She loved dancing, hugging and playing everything, bike riding, soccer, Uno, arts and crafts, and video games with Nic. She even taught herself to



Aubrey Aquino, Matthew, Melody Inglett, Loma Llorera and Morgan Lehman gather flowers for their bouquets at the Olivia Chan Foundation’s Blooming Hope event.

beatbox and was amazing at it.

Olivia loved making people laugh. She wanted every night to be family night, especially if it meant board games where her competitive spirit could shine.

She loved fiercely and deeply, and that love made her a healer, even at nine. She stood up for others, championed the underdog and offered comfort with a hug and a kind word. She never wanted anyone to hurt. She wrote notes to lift people’s spirits, even the mailman’s.

She simply wanted everyone to be happy.

In her spirit, we created this foundation: to help others in their time of need, to lift them when life feels darkest and to guide them when the world no longer makes sense.

Olivia was everything: tender, sweet and full of spunk... just like a sprinkle cookie. ★



Ella and Lauren Madeira, left, thank Reina and Mel Chan for turning a simple bouquet-making gathering into a meaningful day of connection, remembrance and shared hope.

Help the family of a local hero

“Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Marzan. A Husband, Father, brother, Son and most importantly Hero. He lost his life while serving and protecting his country he loved. He was a lifelong member of the military, a family man and loving father. His unexpected and



unfortunate passing left many of his family, friends and fellow service members at a loss. This heartbreaking loss is not something the people Robert has touched and left his mark on will ever forget. He lost his life far too young and leaves behind his wonderful wife, and two

wonderful children.

The hope for this fund is to help relieve some of the travel and housing expenses associated with this unforeseen tragedy. All funds and donations raised will go directly to the Marzan family. Rest in power Robert and may we meet again.”



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ABOUT TOWN

Genealogical Association Meets April 15

The Genealogical Association of Sacramento will have its general meeting on Wednesday April 15. The doors open at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at noon. Our meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the Belle Coolee Library at 5600 S. Land Park Drive, Sacramento 95822.

Our April meeting will feature speaker Lisa Gorrell, who will give us insight on "How to Leave Your Genealogy."

On May 20 for our general meeting, we will host Lisa Vogeles presenting "Travel Your Tree: Walking in your Ancestor's Footsteps" (an in-person meeting with the speaker participating virtually via Zoom).

Questions: call Melanie, 916-383-1221.

Sacramento Book Festival April 19

The California Writers Club Sacramento Branch presents over 200 local authors, selling books for people of all ages, performing readings, participating in panels and introducing themselves to Sacramento readers.

The festival includes activities for children, author readings, food trucks and

coffee vendors on site, and a passport stamp hunt with prizes. Free admission; Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H St. in East Sacramento. Details at sacramento-bookfestival.com.

Area Museum Experiences

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

Aerospace Museum of California – "The Force Takes Flight: Open Cockpit Day," May 2.

Guests will have the rare opportunity to explore select aircraft up close, climb inside, ask questions, and experience what it's like to sit in the cockpit, while interacting with members of the Central California Garrison of the 501st Legion, a nonprofit costuming club known for its screen-accurate recreations inspired by the beloved space saga. Details at aerospaceca.org.

California Museum – "Kokoro: The Story of Sacramento's Lost Japantown," extended through April. Featuring rare family photographs drawn from the personal collections of community members, the exhibit documents the

memories at the heart of a once-thriving downtown community devastated first by forced removal during World War II and again by redevelopment in the 1950s. Details at californiamuseum.org.

Sacramento History Museum – "Meet Theodore Roosevelt," 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, Celebration Arts Center, 2727 B St. Michael Romero portrays President Theodore Roosevelt.

In 1903, Roosevelt embarked on a transformative "Great Western Tour," punctuated by an iconic three-day camping trip in Yosemite alongside naturalist John Muir.

This encounter inspired Roosevelt to lay the groundwork for the National Park Service. Details at sachistorymuseum.org.

California Automobile Museum – "A Little Fellow: The Legend of A.P. Giannini" documentary screening, 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16. Enjoy a screening of the film, a Q&A with Director Davide Fiore, a cash bar and concessions available for purchase. We'll even have Giannini's personal 1933 Lincoln on display! Details at calautmuseum.org.

California State Railroad Museum – California Invention Convention, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18. This is an initiative to bring invention education into California schools and to celebrate the young inventors with a statewide event. Winners from this event will go on to compete at the National Invention Convention at The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan.

The Chinese Railroad Workers' Experience offers visitors a view of the Chinese workers who built the western portion of the nation's first Transcontinental Railroad. Marginalized by history, the Chinese workers were more than a nameless group of laborers. Details

at californiarailroad.museum.

Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park – Photography Month Sacramento - Eadweard Muybridge Tours, every Sunday and select Saturdays in April. See the groundbreaking work of Muybridge, whose innovative techniques revolutionized the art form. Delve into his mesmerizing motion studies and iconic landscapes, while discovering the rich cultural heritage housed within the opulent walls of this historic landmark. Details at parks.ca.gov/?page_id=489.

SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity Laser Concert Series – K-Pop Demon Hunters, 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Saturdays in April. Rage Against the Machine, 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. April 3 and 4. This immersive music experience, paired with spectacular full-dome lasers, is the best way to listen to your favorite artists outside of a live performance. Details at visitmosac.org.

Elks Lodge 6 Calendar of Events

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

Greenhaven /Pocket Farmers Market reopens Sunday, April 12. Also: Spring Fling local crafts event.

CHP Bike Rodeo, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, April 19.

Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am; \$15 tax included. No breakfast April 5.

Mother's Day Brunch/Ritual, 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Sunday, May 10.

Larry's Birthday Bash, with Ophir Prison Band and Dyana & the Cherry Kings, 5:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14. No charge.

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

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RSVP Ensemble Concerts Benefit Bigger Than Us Arts

Reconciliation Singers Voices of Peace News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Reconciliation Singers Voices of Peace (RSVP), a Sacramento-based vocal ensemble known for blending artistic excellence with community impact, will present its Spring 2026 concert series this April and May, benefiting Bigger Than Us Arts: a non-profit expanding access to the arts across disciplines.

Now in its 26th season of "music with a mission," RSVP continues to bring audiences together through a diverse repertoire spanning jazz, pop, and classical traditions.

Since its founding, the ensemble has raised more than \$200,000 for regional nonprofits, including organizations such as Joshua's House Hospice, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services and WEAVE.

Concerts will be held at multiple Sacramento-area venues: at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 24, at Faith Presbyterian Church, 625 Florin Road, Sacramento; at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at Pleasant Grove Community Church, 1730 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville; at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 1, at The Table at Central United Methodist Church, 5265 H St., Sacramento; and at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at the Benvenuti Performing



Reconciliation Singers Voices of Peace (RSVP), a Sacramento-based vocal ensemble known for blending artistic excellence with community impact, will present its Spring 2026 concert series. Photo courtesy of Reconciliation Singers Voices of Peace

Arts Center, 4600 Blackrock Drive, Sacramento.

Bigger Than Us Arts (BTU Arts) is a Sacramento-based organization that brings music, creativity and cultural expression directly into schools and communities.

This spring's program explores the many ways people create, connect and express themselves – through music, movement, poetry and more – inviting audiences to experience art as a shared human language.

The program brings together multiple forms of artistic expression without focusing on any single genre or style, creating a layered and immersive concert experience.

All concerts are free to attend, with voluntary donations benefiting Bigger Than Us Arts. ★

City 4-Ball Championships Return to Bing Maloney



Bill Bunce and Bob Niger win the Fourth City Senior Mens 4-Ball Championship. Photos courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council



Ryan Sloane and Taylor Travis win the 73rd City Mens 4-Ball Golf Championship.

Sacramento Golf Council News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Ryan Sloane and Taylor Travis won the 73rd City Mens 4-Ball Championship on Sunday, March 29 at Bing Maloney Golf Course.

Bob Niger and Bill Bunce won

the Fourth City Mens Senior 4-Ball Championship.

Tom O'Neil was tournament chairman for the Sacramento Golf Council. Eskaton Village Carmichael sponsored the tournament. The tournament was open to men with a GHIN of 5.0, seniors ages 55 above with a GHIN of 9.4. ★

Avoid Risk, Penalties by Clearing Overgrown Weeds

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The recent warmer weather and rain are helping weeds to grow fast in Sacramento, but soon they will dry out, causing them to be a fire hazard. The city is reminding property owners to eliminate tall weeds or face City Code violations.

There are currently over 3,000 weed abatement cases open in the city. If lots become overgrown with dry weeds, it can pose a significant fire hazard. Grass fires can spread quickly from a vacant lot or

property to an adjacent residential neighborhood.

City Code Enforcement will begin inspections of overgrown parcels after the April 15 deadline to comply. All known vacant lot parcels have been mailed a courtesy reminder notice.

"It is a property owner's responsibility to maintain their parcel of land throughout the year, especially during fire season, which is April through October," said Supervising Code Enforcement Officer John Sorrels. "We encourage property owners to be good neighbors and follow suggested maintenance to avoid dangers and

penalty fees."

If you own vacant, undeveloped property, then it is your responsibility to maintain the condition of that property.

The deadline for mowing, disking, and/or clearing vacant lots is April 15. The city requires the same deadline every year.

To avoid penalties and fees, property owners must cut weeds or disk their property. Weeds cannot exceed 12 inches in height.

For more information, call 916-808-2633 or visit the weed abatement web page at bit.ly/4sWVom8 (case sensitive). ★



The city is reminding property owners to clear tall weeds or face code violations, as dry, overgrown vegetation can pose a significant fire hazard and impact neighborhoods. Photo courtesy of City of Sacramento

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



The Season is Almost Over

The time has come to reflect on the 2025-26 season for the Sacramento Kings, and without a doubt it was a season of ups and downs.

Injuries are a part of the game, and every team has their fair share, but the Kings were decimated like never before and never recovered from the ubiquitous effect it had on the entire team and its fan base.

After inexplicably trading away Jonas Valanciunas, the Kings decided to roll the dice with rookie Maxime Rayaud, and gamble that he could capably hold down the fort in the event of an injury to Domantas Sabonis; a gamble that was ill conceived and was nothing more than a cost-saving measure that invariably left the Kings shorthanded.

Yes, Maxime had his bright spots, and if nothing else the organization had the opportunity to allow this 7-foot rookie to get his feet wet in the NBA. Baptism by fire it was, and in my book, Maxime proved himself a capable back-up center. As for a starting NBA center, I don't believe that's what the Kings have in their second-round draft choice of a year ago.

Their first-round draft choice Nique Clifford has been praised by many and certainly was given all the playing time he wanted, but like his counterpart, Nique had some glaring holes in his NBA game.

Appearing in 68 games, Clifford averaged nearly 25 minutes per game while scoring just 7.7 points per game. His 31 percent from 3-point land was one of the reasons the Kings rank dead last in 3-point shooting this year, and although his 41 percent from the field is not impressive, it's his 68 percent from the free throw line that is truly glaring.

I expected more from Clifford, and although I'm not giving up on him, no starting point guard in the NBA can put up such numbers and expect to play on a winning team.

So, what does that say about the role of the point guard as it relates to the Sacramento Kings? Are they still looking? I would hope so, because there is no one talking about Russell Westbrook coming back next season, and without him, that leaves Devin Carter to split time with Nique Clifford.

The Kings find themselves in the same

position they were in a year ago, when they signed Dennis Schroder to be the starting point guard for the team. It wasn't long before he was replaced by Russell Westbrook in the starting lineup and eventually traded as he never seemed to find any rhythm with the team.

So, as the Kings find themselves in a quandary with regards to their point guard, the question begs, what will they go after in what has been lauded as one of the best draft classes in many years?

Both Dylan Cardwell and Precious Achiwa have not only acquitted themselves well this season, they have opened eyes all over the NBA. Resigning these young big men will be a source of focus during the off-season, as well as drafting someone that can give the Kings more front court depth.

Domantas Sabonis remains the foundation piece that barring injury, is the one spot on the team that can be counted on day in and day out. Consistency is his middle name, and no team needs consistency more than the Sacramento Kings.

Daequon Plowden and Killian Hayes have been late season bright spots, but both represent solid bench players and not the starters that the Kings need.

Well, Scott Perry, time to put on that GM hat and show this fan base how you can build a team capable of making the playoffs every year.

Time to become the ossified GM that the Kings need. And that doesn't extend to just the players, as the coaching staff remains a mystery.

Free throw shooting remains a source of embarrassment, and that is a direct result of coaching.

It's time to form new habits and build a culture of winning. Easier said than done and staying away from injuries will be constantly on the watch list.

Three games to go Kings fans, but it's likely your hometown ballers will secure a high round draft choice in the upcoming NBA draft.

Keep the faith Sacramento because even just one player can tip the scales and bring light to a team in real need.

All the best! ★

This isn't a Race for California Governor; It's More Like a Game of Chicken



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Political media habitually use "race" to describe contests for public office. However the word implies movement and therefore would be inaccurate if applied to this year's election of a new governor.

Sixty-one names will be on the June 2 primary ballot, including 10 leaders who profess to be serious about seeking the office.

However, they aren't racing. Rather, the eight top-polling Democrats seem to be in a children's game, sitting in a circle staring at each other, waiting for someone to blink. Meanwhile, the two top Republicans are taking potshots at each other, potentially undermining the GOP's only chance to elect a governor for the first time in two decades.

For weeks voter polls have found that three Democrats are locked in a tie, albeit at a puny level, around 10%, while the other five Democrats are buried in single digits.

California's top-two primary election system has all candidates listed on the same ballot, regardless of party, with the two top finishers then advancing to the November general election.

Given the size of the field, anyone garnering around 20% in June would probably earn a place in the runoff — or about twice what the three

Democrats at the top — Katie Porter, Eric Swalwell and Tom Steyer — currently have.

With mail voting set to begin in a month, the calendar is beginning to be a factor. Every ballot that's mailed removes that voter from having his or her mind changed. One should expect, therefore, that those with even semi-realistic chances of making the cut would be waging all-out campaigns by now.

However, the only highly visible campaign is that of billionaire Steyer, who's not only hopping around the state for personal appearances but shelling out millions of his own bucks for television and internet ads.

Much of Steyer's campaign is aimed at Swalwell, who has obtained substantial union support, most prominently from the California Teachers Association. Swalwell also benefits from the threats of Donald Trump's FBI to release files from its investigation of Swalwell's relationship with a supposed Chinese spy.

Steyer and Swalwell seem to be vying for the most left-leaning bloc of Democratic voters, while Porter is coasting on the name identification gained during her losing campaign for the U.S. Senate two years ago and hoping that being the only woman in the trio will lift her into one of the top two finishes.

Democratic Party leaders are openly worried, though, that the two Republicans — Steve Hilton and Chad Bianco — could finish 1-2, thereby ensuring the election of a GOP governor. They would like the five lower-tier Democratic candidates to

publicly surrender, thereby enhancing chances that a Democrat would make it to November.

However, members of that Democratic quintet show no signs of quitting, and if they continue to soldier on, despite scant support, the possibility of a 1-2 Republican primary finish continues.

The GOP's only chance of achieving such an upset would be for Hilton and Bianco to operate as a team, pushing their support — 16% and 14% respectively in the latest poll — to the magic 20% level. However, they are campaigning against opponents, even though if just one of them makes the November ballot he would almost certainly lose to whichever Democrat survives the primary.

This static, who-will-blink-first scenario does contain one surprising aspect — the failure of San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan to unleash the blitz he needs to climb into contention, despite having apparently unlimited support from wealthy Silicon Valley figures who want a tech- and business-friendly governor.

On Wednesday, Politico reported there was a shakeup in the Mahan campaign due to what were termed differences over strategy. Maybe that explains why his campaign has been so anemic after his much-ballyhooed late entry. He hasn't been racing much either.

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. ★

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It's not just Israel.

One of the least convincing arguments of opponents of the Iran war is that it is a conflict initiated by the Jewish state for its own benefit -- the U.S. is just along for the ride.

This view not only discounts the U.S. interest in defanging Iran but also neglects that there are other countries in the region besides Israel and Iran and that they, too, have a stake in the outcome of this war.

If there's anything that Iran has succeeded in doing over the first month of battle, it is further demonstrating the intolerable threat that it represents to the region.

The so-called Gulf Cooperation Council states -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- have the misfortune of being located just across the Persian Gulf from Iran, putting them on the front line of the war.

A key element of Iran's strategy has been to impose economic pain on these states to force them to press the United States into staying its hand.

While the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz is indirectly harming the United States by driving up the global price of crude and other materials, it is a direct blow to the Gulf states, since the Saudis, Kuwaitis and Emiratis send the majority of their oil

through the waterway.

The Iranians have struck the Gulf states with missiles and drones by the thousands. The ongoing blitz is damaging energy infrastructure and destroying the reputation of the Gulf states as an oasis of calm and economic development in an otherwise turbulent region.

There's no insurance policy against having a fanatic millenarian state as a neighbor, while nothing quite concentrates the mind like an unprovoked drone attack on one of your luxury hotels -- or your airports, oil fields and data centers.

Iran likes to pretend that it is only striking at military infrastructure, but that's absurd.

As long as Iran is run on its current basis, it is a grave danger to these countries, which, prior to the war, tried to keep their heads down or even get closer to Iran as a way to mitigate the threat.

This is the approach that the Saudis tried after an Iran-backed attack hampered the country's oil production in 2019.

That experiment is now done. According to published reports, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman, privately urged Trump to launch the war even as the Saudis talked up diplomacy in public, and now MBS has been telling Trump to go all the way and topple the Iranian government.

The New York Times relates that the Saudi

leader "is concerned that if Mr. Trump pulls back now, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Middle East will be left to confront an emboldened and furious Iran on their own."

The UAE has been a particular Iranian target. Its ambassador to the U.S. wrote in The Wall Street Journal recently, "We need a conclusive outcome that addresses Iran's full range of threats: nuclear capabilities, missiles, drones, terror proxies and blockades of international sea lanes."

One is tempted to conclude that the Gulf states are "all neocons now." That would be overstating it, though. Despite getting hit by Iran, Oman is maintaining its traditional posture as a mediator and Qatar is always a bad actor.

Much depends on how the war ultimately turns out, but it is easy to see the Gulf states looking to the United States for greater security guarantees and warming up further to Israel, which is demonstrating the military might to confront an Iran that has no compunction about lashing out at states that are doing it no harm.

It may be easy for hostile U.S. observers to portray the Iran war as about Israel and only Israel, but the Gulf states unfortunately know better -- and have the battle damage to prove it.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2026 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I will be 65 in October and I am working full-time. My goal is to work until age 67, which is my full retirement age, or until age 70. I heard I have to apply for Medicare Part A only. Is this true or will I be penalized? And do I have to go to the Social Security office to do this, or can I do it online? And then will they be still giving me my Medicare through the next five years of working, or do I have to pay for something? I will have my own healthcare insurance. Thank you for your help. Signed: Confused

Dear Confused: There are two things you should be aware of:

1. You do not need to claim Social Security benefits when you enroll in Medicare

2. You do not need to enroll in Medicare at age 65 if you have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants)

Thus, it is perfectly okay for you to delay taking your Social Security benefits until age 67 (your SS full retirement age), or even until age 70 when you will get the maximum SS benefit you are entitled to. And if you now have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer,

you can delay enrolling in Medicare until such time as your employer's healthcare coverage ends. When you stop working, you will enter a Medicare Special Enrollment Period (SEP), during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Whenever you decide to enroll in Medicare (or Social Security), you will not need to visit your local SSA office to do so. You can enroll in Medicare either online at www.ssa.gov/medicare/ sign-up or you can call SSA at 1.800.772.1213 to make an appointment to enroll in Medicare on the telephone. Similarly, when you are ready to claim Social Security, you can do so online at www.ssa.gov/apply or you can call 1.800.772.1213 to make an appointment to apply for SS over the phone. To apply online, however, you should first create your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Creating your online SS account now (at age 65) will facilitate later online enrollment and will also provide you with an estimate of your SS benefit amounts at various ages -- e.g., now at age 65, at your FRA of 67, or at age 70. And that should help you decide when it is best for you to claim Social Security.

A few final points:

- You should verify with your employer's health insurance provider that they don't require you to enroll in Medicare at age 65. Most employer plans don't, but some do.

- You don't need to enroll in Medicare Part A or Part B now as long as your employer's coverage is creditable. And it's

okay to enroll in Medicare a couple of months prior to your employer's creditable healthcare coverage ending (when you stop working), requesting that your Medicare coverage starts when your employer's healthcare ends. This will ensure that there is no gap in your healthcare coverage. If your employer coverage is creditable, you will not suffer a Medicare Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling after age 65.

- If you claim Social Security benefits at any time prior to your full retirement age (FRA) and are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET), which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The AET lasts until you reach your FRA (67), after which you can earn as much as you like without your SS benefits being affected.

- Whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be required to take Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Medicare Part A is free because you are also eligible for Social Security. But you don't need to enroll in Part A at age 65 unless you also claim Social Security.

- Medicare Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is optional if you have creditable employer coverage as explained above. You do not need to enroll in Medicare Part B (for which there is a monthly premium of \$202.90 in 2026) until your employer's creditable healthcare coverage ends, even if you claim Social Security earlier. ★



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Denise Davis, Program Coordinator, Alzheimer's Association & Michael DePhilippis, Barrier Reef Private Wealth Management
Light refreshments will be provided

Please join us!
Alzheimer's Association:
A person living with dementia often wants to stay independent for as long as possible. Caregivers can learn how to balance safety and manage expectations to support independence at every stage of the disease.
Topics include:

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- Tips to make activities meaningful
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Barrier Reef Wealth Management:
For families coping with Dementia, this informative presentation will address the financial needs and challenges.
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