



Bandleader Recalled in Mother's Day Shows

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MAY 8, 2026

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Zoo Expansion Proposal Moves Forward



The Sacramento Zoo, located at 3930 W. Land Park Drive, is moving forward with a potential expansion at its existing site after earlier plans to relocate to Elk Grove were abandoned in 2025.

Story and photos by Idaly Valencia

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On April 28, the City Council approved an agreement with the Sacramento Zoological Society to explore a potential 5.8-acre expansion of the Sacramento Zoo in William Land Park.

The action comes as the zoo marks its 100th anniversary and would be its first major expansion since the

1960s.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets terms to study the expansion proposal, with any land or funding decisions requiring further City Council approval. The agreement expires Sept. 1, when staff are expected to return to request an extension and outline their next steps.

Under the agreement, the Sacramento Zoological Society will

develop conceptual designs showing potential uses for the additional space and conduct community outreach to help ensure the project aligns with the surrounding neighborhood.

The MOU also includes plans for the society to identify potential funding sources, assess impacts to historic features, trees, utilities, traffic and parking, and determine the need and timing of an environmental

Continued on page 3

City Releases Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27



City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The City of Sacramento has released its proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27, outlining a balanced plan that closes a \$66.2 million General Fund gap while maintaining core services and advancing City Council priorities.

The proposed budget totals \$1.7 billion across all funds, including an \$898.3 million General Fund, and supports approximately 4,822 full-time equivalent positions.

City officials continue to address a structural budget deficit, where ongoing expenses are growing faster than revenues. This imbalance is not the result of an economic downturn but reflects increased service demands, inflation and reduced state funding for homelessness programs.

To close the gap, the proposed budget uses a combination of ongoing and one-time strategies, including expenditure reductions, revenue adjustments and funding shifts. Approximately 75% of the budget balancing solutions are ongoing, aimed at improving long-term financial stability.

"This proposed budget reflects months of work to address a structural deficit that cannot be solved with one-time fixes," said City Manager Maraskeshia Smith. "It makes difficult but necessary decisions to align our ongoing costs with available revenues, while continuing to deliver core services and strengthen the city's long-term financial stability."

The budget builds on *Continued on page 4*

Vintage Baseball Stars in New Exhibit

Sacramento History Museum News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Coinciding with a new season of baseball now underway in the Capital City, the Sacramento History Museum is excited to present an all-new Play Ball! Sacramento in the National Pastime, open as of May 1.

Located in the R. Burnett & Mimi Glide Miller Gallery in the museum, the exhibition is filled with historical baseball uniforms, bats, balls and gloves from different time periods, along with programs, tickets, awards and trophies, an Edmonds field base, home plate and ticket box, along with scrapbooks, news articles, photos and more.

"Play Ball!" tells the fascinating and fun story of Sacramento's 175-year



The Sacramento History Museum has announced that its Play Ball! Sacramento in the National Pastime exhibit is currently on display at the museum's R. Burnett & Mimi Glide Miller Gallery, filled with historical baseball memorabilia. Photo courtesy of Sacramento History Museum

baseball history, stretching from the early days of the Gold Rush to the latest inning at Sutter Health Park just across the Sacramento River.

Showcased in the exhibit are unique chapters such

as the Cincinnati Red Stockings that arrived via the new Transcontinental Railroad to trounce the local nine, baseball under the lights years before the Major Leagues electrified their stadiums,

and a stadium named for a young sports editor who died after rallying to keep baseball in town.

The exhibit demonstrates Sacramento's past and present as a

Continued on page 4

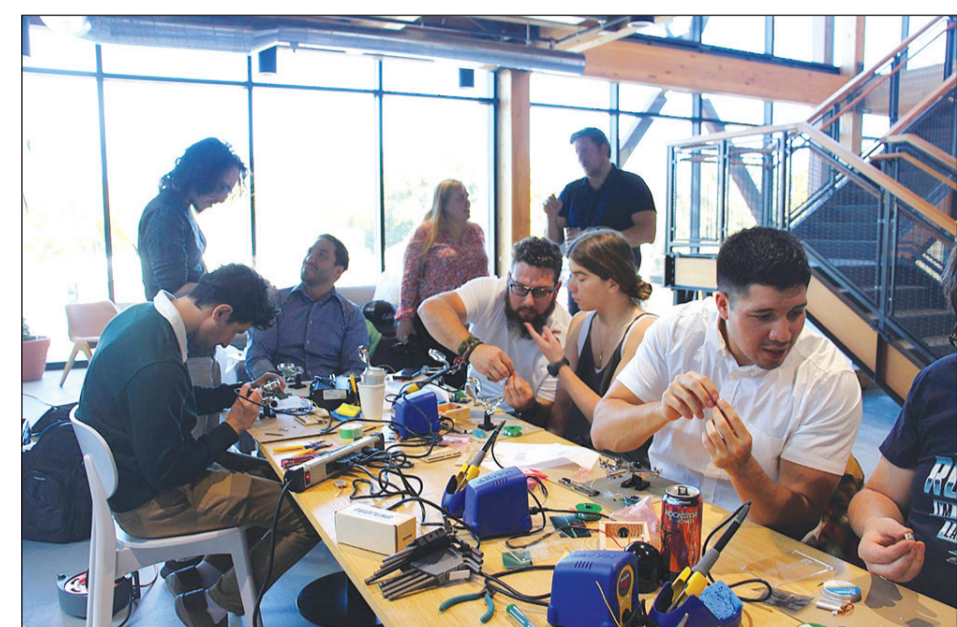
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City Awards \$1 Million in Grants to Support Local Entrepreneurs



The city-funded Sacramento Innovation Grant Program, established in 2016 as RAILS, was designed to support entrepreneurs at different stages of development by offering services that help businesses start and grow.

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Seventeen organizations were selected to receive a combined \$1 million through the 2026 Sacramento Innovation Grant Program to support programs for local entrepreneurs.

The grant program, whose funding was approved recently by the Sacramento City Council, is administered by the City's Office of Innovation and Economic Development through the Innovation and Growth Fund.

Originally established in 2016 as RAILS, the Sacramento Innovation Grant

Program is designed to support entrepreneurs at different stages of development. Funded projects have included incubator and accelerator programs, training initiatives and other services that help businesses start and grow.

"Supporting local entrepreneurs means investing in the long-term economic health of Sacramento and creating more opportunities for businesses to grow here," said deputy director of the Office of Innovation and Economic Development Denise Malvetti.

The 2026 program includes three funding categories: entrepreneur access



The city recently awarded \$1 million to 17 organizations through its Sacramento Innovation Grant Program, an initiative meant to support local entrepreneurs. Photos courtesy of City of Sacramento

and education for early and established entrepreneurs; incubator and accelerator support for idea-stage and growing businesses; and innovation and investment readiness focused on commercialization, as well as customer and funding acquisition.

Grant awards range from \$15,000 to \$100,000, with each category designed to help participants build skills, refine business ideas and connect to funding opportunities.

"Sacramento's innovation grant will help us expand Momentum's ASCEND program to support a diverse audience of advanced transportation and mobility sector startups and founders," said Matthew Hart, chief executive officer of Momentum, a 2026 Innovation Grant recipient. "Sacramento ASCENDS will provide the tools to effectively leverage non-dilutive funding to advance demonstration pilots, bring growth capital to the

region and establish critical commercial partnerships."

The city received 105 applications requesting more than \$7 million in funding.

Applications were evaluated by city staff and subject matter experts based on program design, expected outcomes, organizational capacity and impact on underserved entrepreneurs.

Projects are expected to begin in the second quarter of 2026 and be complete within one year.

The grant program aligns with the city's ScaleUp inclusive economic development strategy, which focuses on expanding economic mobility and opportunity and increasing access to entrepreneurship resources for underserved communities.

More information is available at cityofsacramento.gov/city-manager/oied/business/innovation-and-entrepreneurship/innovation-grants. ★

Free Mulch Giveaway Returns May 16 to Help Residents Save Water

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento residents are invited to pick up free water-saving mulch on May 16 during the city's annual Mulch Mayhem giveaway.

The free event will take place at the City's South Area Corporation Yard (5730 24th St.) from 8 a.m. to noon, or while supplies last.

"Mulch is one of the easiest and most effective ways to help your landscape use less water," said William Granger, the

city's water conservation coordinator. "It helps soil retain moisture, reduces evaporation and keeps plants healthier during Sacramento's hot summers."

Attendees can bring a truck or trailer for staff to fill or shovel their own mulch at a self-service station on site. There is a limit

of one cubic yard of mulch per household.

"If you plan to load your own mulch, be sure to bring a shovel and a container," Granger said.

"We also recommend bringing a tarp to help cover and secure your load before leaving the site." ★

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Bandleader Recalled in Mother's Day Shows

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Carmichael singer Susan Skinner has assembled alumni musicians of the John Skinner Band to celebrate Mother's Day on May 10.

The seven-piece ensemble will recreate Skinner's 1997 dance CD at Twin Lotus Thai jazz restaurant in Sacramento.

"Mom's Day is a great theme for the occasion," said the bandleader's widow, Susan Skinner. "John absolutely adored his mother. She showed up proudly whenever the band played."

Widowed schoolteacher Pat Skinner raised her trumpeter son in Orland, California. The child prodigy turned professional and began to lead bands from the age of 15. His military – then commercial – pilot career did not limit Skinner's musicianship.

"After his Air Force service, John was able to schedule his civilian flying around band gigs," recalled his widow.

Skinner's "Complete Ballroom Dance" was recorded in 1997 at Paradise Studios in Sacramento.

"The idea was to give dancers a variety of tempos, all on one CD," noted Susan Skinner. "John and I danced, so we knew how couples hated

to leave the floor to change recordings. We thought carefully about song lengths and the order of tempos, so dancers would not exhaust themselves. Our album became a hit all over the USA and sold out several reprints."

For the Mom's Day re-creation, Susan Skinner found three veteran band members (including herself) who were on the original recording.

"Sadly, others had died or moved away" she said. "But everyone in our alumni septet has played with the band. We're excited to honor John this way. We'll also have Paradise Studios co-owner Craig Long in the audience, plus dozens of fans who danced to Skinner music over the years. Sadly, there's no dance floor at the venue. But toe-tapping is definitely encouraged."

Mothers in attendance will be honored with a free copy of the CD.

"I've still got some left," noted Skinner. "I know John would love to see them shared with moms on this special day."

May 10 performances of the Skinner Alumni Band are at 5 and 7 pm. Reservations are required. Visit twinlotusthai.com to reserve. Twin Lotus Thai is located at 8345 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento. ★



Popular figures in Northern California dance culture, Carmichael bandleader John Skinner and his wife Susan made recordings with their Skinner Band in the 1990s. Skinner's widow reunites seven alumni musicians for Mother's Day performances on May 10. Photo courtesy of Susan Skinner

Zoo Expansion Proposal Moves Forward

Continued from page 1
CEQA review.

City staff emphasized that the approval does not permit construction and does not commit the city to an expansion, but instead sets a framework for further review.

"The themes of expansion and relocation stretch back more than 40 years. The zoo has faced space challenges for decades," said Dustin Hollingsworth, assistant director of the city's Department of Convention and Cultural Services.

The proposal would increase the zoo's footprint from 14.3 acres to about 20.1 acres, an expansion of roughly 40%. It includes a 4.4-acre parcel across Land Park Drive, formerly home to a pony ride attraction that closed in 2022, and a 1.4-acre parcel directly north of the zoo.

Hollingsworth said expansion talks have been ongoing, driven by efforts to modernize facilities, improve animal care and meet Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) standards. He added the upgrades could also increase attendance and help maintain the zoo's role as a regional attraction.

Earlier efforts to relocate the zoo to Elk Grove were abandoned after several years of planning. The decision, announced in



At its April 28 meeting, the City Council approved a study of a possible Sacramento Zoo expansion in William Land Park to set the framework for a proposed 5.8-acre addition to the site.

April 2025, was made due to economic challenges and rising construction costs. By June 2025, the society shifted its focus to expanding within the existing Land

Park site. Prior to the MOU approval, Land Park News spoke with Kristina Rogers, a 23-year Land Park resident and

president of the Land Park Neighborhood Association, who said the association is not opposed to the expansion but wants a more transparent and collaborative process with the city and the Sacramento Zoological Society moving forward.

"We really want to see it thrive and do well," Rogers said. "But if they're going to expand, it has to be in a thoughtful manner, and we want to get some details and collaborate with them."

At the April 28 meeting, residents voiced concerns about added traffic, limited parking and the need to preserve William Land Park's historic character. Rogers echoed those concerns, saying any plan should address those issues while protecting the neighborhood's identity.

"It's (Land Park) been around for over 100 years; it was not designed for the amount of traffic that we get now," Rogers said. "If the zoo is looking at expanding and bringing in more people, they're going to have to come up with a way to manage that."

She suggested solutions including shuttle service similar to other zoos and said the expansion could be strengthened with sustainability features that better connect the zoo to the park and highlight local wildlife, including a potential bat sanctuary.

Rogers added that ongoing community forums are important to allow residents to provide input as plans develop and help to guide the expansion. ★



Sue Olson
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A Real Cutie! The brick front exterior offers good curb appeal and features newly installed flooring. The spacious living room includes a fireplace with mantle and opens to a formal dining area. The green and white kitchen is adjacent to the spacious gathering room that includes a second fireplace, a wall of cabinets and shelves, plus a convenient desk area for work or study. There are two bedrooms and a bathroom equipped with both a tub and a stall shower for added convenience. Enjoy partial dual pane windows for improved energy efficiency and lowered wood interior doors. The backyard offers mature landscaping, multiple patio areas and raised garden beds ideal for outdoor entertainment or gardening enthusiasts. Close proximity to Del Paso Manor Elementary School. 3917 Kings Way \$495,000



BRICK NORMANDY TUDOR

Located just across from William Land Park, this stunning Brick Normandy Tudor offers a blend of classic elegance and modern amenities. The decorative front wrought iron gate leads into a beautifully manicured formal garden with large fountain which sets the tone for the home's graceful charm. Formal entry leads to a spacious living room with cozy fireplace and French doors opening to a bright solarium room. The dining room has beamed ceiling and is perfect for formal entertaining. A smaller music room/den sits just off the dining room. The spacious remodeled kitchen boasts granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, an island with a sink, a wine refrigerator, and a breakfast bar for casual dining. The solarium room, accessible from both the kitchen and living room, features an artistically painted concrete floor and two sets of French doors that lead to the yard. prime location. 1716 Sutterville Road \$1,599,000



Teresa Olson
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CalBRE# 00784986



City Releases Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27

continuing to deliver core services.

Key investments include the creation of a new Economic Development Department, continued homelessness outreach and shelter expansion, and maintaining sworn police and fire staffing levels. The city is also maintaining its investments in the FUEL Network and RydeFree RT.

The city continues to face economic uncertainty, including inflation, potential recession risks and long-term financial challenges such as unfunded pension liabilities and deferred infrastructure needs.

For more information on the proposed budget, visit at cityofsacramento.gov/finance/budget. ★

Continued from Page 1

work that began earlier this year, including Early Budget Work Sessions held in March. During those sessions, departments presented reduction strategies and potential service impacts as part of a baseline balancing plan.

Based on feedback from the City Council and community, the proposed budget restores several reductions identified in the March baseline. These include the Police Department Magnet Academy, partial restoration of Fire suppression vacancies, park maintenance services, and

programs in Youth, Parks & Community Enrichment.

The proposed budget also reflects changes to previously considered revenue options.

The city is not moving forward with parking meter rate increases and residential parking permit charges. These items appear in the proposed budget document but are not included in the final proposal, as the changes were made after it was sent to print.

Even with the restorations, reductions are still required to close the budget gap.

The proposed budget includes the elimination of 46.1 filled full-time equivalent positions, in addition to vacant positions, as part of the overall balancing strategy.

Not all filled position eliminations will result in an employee being separated from the city as some impacted employees may move into other available positions. No sworn police or fire personnel will be separated from the city as a result of budget balancing.

The budget maintains a focus on City Council priorities, economic development, homelessness and public safety, while

Vintage Baseball Stars in New Exhibit

Waterfront, the Sacramento History Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day).

The Sacramento History Museum is managed by

the Sacramento History Alliance, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

For more information about this and other Sacramento History Museum exhibits, visit sachistorymuseum.org. ★

Continued from Page 1


baseball-crazed region alive with youth leagues of every kind, including

Chinese, Mexican and Japanese-American baseball, Negro League tribute games, high school and

college heroes and Major Leaguers by the dozens.

The Play Ball! Sacramento in the National

Pastime exhibit will remain on display through Oct. 18. Located at 101 I St. at the Old Sacramento



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Office Tours and Election Observation Available

Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center Locations Posted



Observation is an important part of elections. The VRE invites Sacramento County residents to observe these processes anytime they are running. Photo Designed by Magnific

Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Department of Voter Registration and Elections is preparing for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election. For more information, visit: elections.saccounty.gov/#gsc.tab=0.

For those interested in learning more about how the complex processes of elections work, tours and opportunities to observe are offered by the Voter Registration and Elections office.

Tours are available Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Q&A Session are offered those same days at 4 p.m. No appointment is required for the Q&A.

Schedule your tour at: <https://app.acuity-scheduling.com/schedule/3ed1683e/>

Observation is an important part of

elections. The VRE invites Sacramento County residents to observe these processes anytime they are running. You do not need to schedule an appointment for observation.

Those interested are encouraged to review the Election Observer Guidelines Handbook to learn what processes might be of interest to you and to learn of your rights and responsibilities as an election observer.

The handbook is available at: elections.saccounty.gov/content/dam/vre/documents/ELECTION%20OBSERVER%20GUIDELINES%20HANDBOOK.pdf

For more information, contact the Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) office at 916-875-6451, email voterinfo@saccounty.gov or use the toll-free voter assistance hotline at 800-762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone). ★

Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) has posted the list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election on the VRE website at elections.saccounty.gov.

Vote by Mail ballots will be mailed to voters beginning May 4. Ballot Drop Boxes will begin opening Monday, May 4, and Vote Centers will begin opening Saturday, May 23. A complete list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations and days and hours of operation can be found at: <https://elections.saccounty.gov/votecenters/pages/locations.aspx>

Voter registration for the June 2, 2026

Primary Election will close on Monday, May 18. Voter registration forms must be postmarked by this date or delivered to the VRE Office at 7000 65th St., Suite A, Sacramento 95823 by 5:00 p.m.

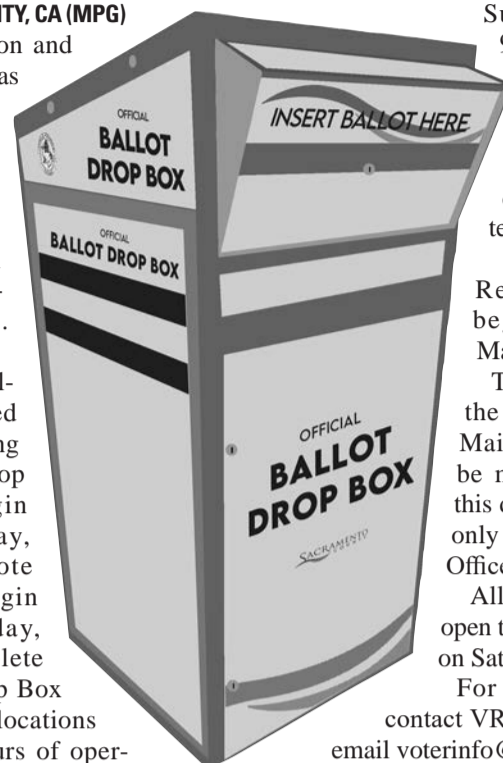
Online voter registration must be completed before midnight on this date at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>.

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) begins on Tuesday, May 19.

Tuesday, May 26 is the last day a Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot can be mailed to you. After this date, VBM ballots are only available at the VRE Office or a Vote Center.

All Vote Centers will be open throughout the County on Saturday, May 30.

For more information, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email voterinfo@saccounty.gov, or by using the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone). ★



Accessing My Voter Portal (MVP)



Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - My Voter Portal (MVP)

is a dynamic online tool that allows voters to access their voter registration history, view ballot status and voting participation history. MVP also allows voters to view their County Voter Information Guide, access accessible election materials, find Vote Center and Official Ballot Drop Box locations nearby, and much more during an election! Voters can access the MVP site on any device that is able to connect to the internet.

Check it out at: <https://myvoterportal.saccounty.gov/LookupVoter>.

If you have questions or need help, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email voterinfo@saccounty.gov, or use the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone). ★



June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election

Vote Early and Vote by Mail

All voters will be mailed a ballot

- Ballots will begin to arrive the week of May 4

You can return your ballot

- By Mail
- At an Official Ballot Drop Box
- At a Vote Center (starting May 23)

You can find a full list of Official Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations in your County Voter Information Guide or online at www.elections.saccounty.gov



Vote Early! Vote by Mail.

My Voter Portal (MVP)

- Check your registration status
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- Track your Vote by Mail status
- Access your Remote Accessible Vote by Mail Ballot
- Locate Official Ballot Drop Boxes or Vote Centers near you
- View your voting history



Scan the QR code or visit myvoterportal.saccounty.gov

Visit www.elections.saccounty.gov or call toll-free (800) 762-8019

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Kings Look to Draft Lottery

If you're watching the NBA playoffs count yourself a true basketball fan, because the Sacramento Kings fans don't have a dog in the fight. That's true today, but it doesn't have to be that way.

Just 4 short years ago this city got a taste of what playoff basketball is all about, and I was amazed at the energy it brought to the capital city. I was at both games hosted by the Kings, and I've never experienced the energy that was present in Golden One Arena when the Golden State Warriors came to town.

The Kings came up a little short ultimately, but it marked a moment in time that said, we've arrived!

Sadly, leadership let us down, and what was the most potent offense in the NBA that season, morphed into something else with coaches preaching that the Kings needed to play better defense.

Today's team has a bevy of talent already present, but opportunity was stolen from them when injuries not only occurred but became an epidemic this past season.

So do we give ownership and coaching staff a pass since our best players sat out most of the season? Maybe not a pass, but as knowledgeable fans at least an understanding of what happened.

Time to turn our attention to present day, and what the upcoming season may have in store.

First order of business. Take stock in what you have and don't give it away.

First and foremost, wait on any trades to find out where in the June 23 draft the Sacramento Kings will be drafting.

Don't get the cart before the horse, and by all means don't listen to any offers that would raid this team of valuable talent. That already happened once with the departure of DeAaron Fox, and all Kings fans hope it will never happen again.

So, all eyes turn to May 10 when the ping pong balls will determine the order of the draft, and on that fateful night anything can happen.

Last season it was the Dallas Mavericks that defied the odds and secured the #1 draft choice. All they did was pick Cooper Flagg, who went on to start his NBA career by

being last season's rookie of the year.

Such are the possibilities that the draft can bring, and will it bring fortune for the Sacramento Kings on May 10th?

Well, we are about to see.

I recently watched a documentary called The Logo, which told the life story of the unconquerable Jerry West. Everyone already knew of his prowess as a basketball player, but perhaps not everyone knew that he was equally as talented evaluating talent.

The documentary told how West built the Los Angeles Lakers into a dynasty and then took his talents to Memphis where he helped build the Grizzlies into a perennial playoff team. Just when one would have thought Jerry West's career was winding down, he brought his audacious talent to San Francisco where he helped the franchise build a dynasty around the likes of Steph Curry, Klay Thompson, and Draymond Green.

The ability to judge talent. Often working behind the scenes but men like Jerry West are the real stars of the show, and the Sacramento Kings are in need of such a man right now.

Is that the man sitting in the general managers seat by the name of Scott Perry? We are about to see, and what an opportunity to put your mark on a franchise thirsty for a new direction.

The Memphis Grizzlies haven't yet won a franchise, but they're a perennial playoff team, and what would the Sacramento fan base give to say that.

Yes, I'm preaching hope, but it has more than a realistic possibility of occurring, and it's time to rally around this franchise with renewed vigor.

I was present at a lot of basketball games last season that I didn't enjoy, but I'm happy to say it wasn't because of lack of effort. Our Sactown boys played hard, to the point they were actually receiving criticism for playing too hard down the stretch.

Never let it be said we play too hard.

Put on your lucky sock's Kings fans or buy a rabbit's foot, because May 10 is right around the corner!

All the best!

★

How the Supreme Court's Voting Rights Act Ruling Could Affect California's Gerrymandered Districts



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When California's independent redistricting commissions drew new maps of the state's congressional and legislative districts after the 2010 and 2020 censuses, their members were emphatically told by legal advisors that the federal Voting Rights Act required them to maximize opportunities for ethnic communities to elect officeholders.

The commissions went to great lengths to fold that mandate into the geographic boundaries of the districts, even if it required them to ignore city and county lines.

The effect was to enhance the ranks of Black, Latino and Asian representatives in Congress and the state Capitol. It also helped Democrats achieve overwhelming majorities in the Legislature and the state's congressional delegation, thus leaving Republicans with only token representation.

The commission's redistricting plans were, in effect, gerrymanders, if one defines that term as meaning to seek predetermined outcomes — even though the commission was created, via two ballot measures in 2008 and 2010, in response to gerrymanders the Legislature had decreed in prior decades.

Last year, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature asked voters to set aside the commission's

overwhelmingly pro-Democrat congressional districts and adopt even more lopsided maps, to give Democrats five more seats. It was a response to efforts, backed by President Donald Trump, to gerrymander more Republican districts in Texas and other red states.

Voters agreed by passing Proposition 50. This year's election will test whether the gerrymander has been successful and whether it has enough impact to restore Democratic control of the House of Representatives.

While setting aside the redistricting commission's maps, Prop. 50 promised that the maps would be effective not only this year, but for the 2028 and 2030 election cycles, after which the commission process would be restored using data from the 2030 census.

It's difficult to believe that when the time comes Democrats would truly allow the commission to once again draw the maps. The party's leaders never liked the commission process in the first place, and returning to it could force them to give up some of the seats they are capturing this year.

Additionally, California's congressional delegation, now 52 members, is likely to shrink by four or five seats due to the state's lack of population growth, meaning even fewer positions to distribute.

On Wednesday, the U.S. Supreme Court gave California's Democratic Party leadership another reason to eliminate the redistricting commission by weakening the Voting Rights Act's effect on drawing districts to maximize representation by non-white ethnic groups.

By a 6-3 vote, the court overturned congressional

maps in Louisiana that had, by lower court order, been redrawn to create one more district for the state's Black residents. The split decision declared that a "racial gerrymander" violates the U.S. Constitution's equal rights language.

The revised congressional districts that California created via ballot measure last year will not be immediately affected by Wednesday's ruling, but it could impact states that had been weighing making changes but had not yet done so.

Furthermore, it could affect California's new maps going forward. When they were placed on the ballot, Democratic leaders boasted that they were fully in compliance with the Voting Rights Act's provisions that now have been reinterpreted. Republicans could contend via lawsuit that the maps are unconstitutional under the court's new standard.

The Supreme Court's ruling would also affect how California's redistricting commission approaches its task after the 2030 census by eliminating, or at least weakening, the mandate that guided its actions in the past.

Democratic leaders could minimize the court's decree by persuading voters to eliminate the commission, thus returning redistricting to a Legislature they overwhelmingly control — something they probably would prefer anyway.

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

I Want to do Everything Right When I Claim Social Security



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I will be 62 in two years. I plan on signing up for SS at age 62, but I have heard there are details that are important when signing up. When it comes time, I want to make sure I do everything right. Can you help me understand? **Signed: Claiming Soon**

Dear Claiming Soon: Deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit is a decision you should make only after careful consideration of your personal circumstances. And details are, indeed, important. For example, if you claim at age 62 (when you first become eligible), your monthly SS benefit will be only 70% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. And there are other considerations as well, including:

- If you are still working and claim at 62, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn from working while collecting early SS benefits. The earnings limit changes each year, and for 2026 it is \$24,480. If the annual limit

after you claim early is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, if your work earnings substantially exceed the annual limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible for early SS benefits (until you either stop working full time or reach your SS full retirement age). FYI, the AET lasts until you reach your FRA (age 67).

- The benefit reduction for claiming SS early is permanent. After you claim, you will only get increases for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) which occur annually according to inflation. FYI, the average annual COLA adjustment is about 2.5%.

- If you are married, the reduced benefit you get by claiming early will potentially be the basis of your spouse's survivor benefit if you pass first. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount you are receiving at your death, thus waiting longer for a higher personal benefit may also provide your spouse with a larger survivor benefit as your widow.

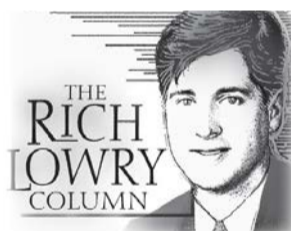
- If you wait longer than age 62, your monthly benefit will continue to increase (by approximately 6% per year) until you reach your FRA, when you get 100% of the amount you are entitled to from a lifetime of working. FYI, you can even wait longer - up to age 70 - to claim an even higher monthly amount (8% more for each year of delay after

FRA). At age 70, your SS benefit would be about 75% more than your age 62 benefit amount.

If you haven't already done so, I suggest setting up your personal online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to see what your SS benefits are estimated to be at various ages. Then, when you are closer to age 62, contact us again to talk about your specific personal circumstances at the time, and we can provide you with everything you need to know about applying for Social Security.

In the end, when claiming your Social Security benefits, you should consider your financial need, your health and life expectancy, your plans for working, and your marital status. We commend you for exploring this well in advance of becoming eligible and we will be here to assist when it is time for you to apply.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. 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 (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-dvisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★



The Indomitable Trump

of the most indomitable figures in the history of our politics. No matter how much he's mocked or hated, no matter how intense the controversy or how impossible the fix, no matter how dramatic the situation, he never breaks or loses his sense of command.

The ever-ebullient Teddy Roosevelt, who once gave a speech from shot-through notes immediately after an assassination attempt, might tip his cap. (TR takes the cake for badassery in the face of a threat to his life, given that he delivered that 1912 campaign speech while bleeding and with the bullet still lodged in his chest.)

A fundamental part of the Trump ethos is, as he said right after the dinner attack, when everything was still confused, "Let the show go on." For him, the show must never stop, and he's always at the center of it.

This is one reason that he had the instinct to pump his fist in the air in Butler, Pennsylvania, after he'd been bloodied and nearly killed by an assassin's bullet, demonstrating fight and lack of fear in an instantly iconic moment.

Anyone inclined to dismiss this trait as that of a mere entertainer should consider how showmanship has always had an outsized role in high-level politics; FDR referred to himself, in a positive way, as one of the top actors in the country.

Trump's belief that he's always going to prevail and that if he doesn't, he'll find a workaround

gives him an invincible self-confidence. It doesn't mean that he won't retreat if necessary, but whether he's being firm or flexible, he's equally upbeat and assured about his position.

He couples this with a hyperactive energy. Just look at Washington, D.C. He's deployed the National Guard to fight crime, cleaned up homeless encampments and public parks, vowed to make the grass look greener and the water in the Reflecting Pool look bluer, hosted a military parade, brought the coming attractions of an IndyCar race and an enormous fair on the National Mall, started construction of a massive new White House ballroom, and stated his intention to build a 250-foot triumphal arch.

His omnipresence, ambition and willingness to exercise power across two presidencies -- spanning 12 years with the Biden interregnum -- are going to make him one of the most dominant figures in American political history, up there with the likes of Reagan, FDR and TR in the modern era.

TITLE: None of this means that he's right or wrong on any given question, and, of course, these characteristics all come with downsides, sometimes considerable ones. But no one can question Trump's resilience, or his preternatural ability to proceed unbowed no matter what the circumstance.

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

ABOUT TOWN

Concerts in the Park

Free Friday night concerts at Cesar Chavez Park, 910 I St. Lineup: May 15, Andrea Bejar; May 22, In Color; May 29, Tarnish; June 5, Souls of Mischievous; June 12, The Temper Trap; June 19, Kid Ink; June 26, Arden Park Roots.

Walk on the Wildside

Saturday, May 16, Beach Lake Park – This exciting event highlights local conservation efforts and the restoration of native habitats, showcasing the incredible diversity of flora and fauna that call the Bufferlands home.

It's a unique opportunity to learn about wildlife protection, engage with experts, and experience firsthand the beauty of the Central Valley's natural treasures. Entry and parking are FREE. Details at sacsewer.com/wow.

'Escape to Neverland Day'

Saturday, May 16 (weather permitting), Fairytale Town, 3901 Land Park Drive: With some faith, trust, and pixie dust, fly away to Fairytale Town for a day of fun! There will be Neverland games, arts & crafts, and plenty of magic – you might

even see a fairy or two! Weekend admission is \$10 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Members and children ages 1 and under are free. Details at fairytale-town.org.

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 – As a proud partner of Blue Star Museums, active military members along with five additional guests can enjoy free admission beginning on Armed Forces Day (May 16) and ending on Labor Day (Sept. 7). Details at aerospacemuseum.org.

Sacramento History Museum – James Armistead portrays William Alexander Leidesdorff Jr., a trailblazer of African descent who rose to prominence in early California. Celebration Arts Theatre, 2727 B St., at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 20. Details at sachistorymuseum.org.

California Automobile Museum

– Veterans' Memorial Day Car Show, May 25. Join us for a day of classic cars, camaraderie, and honoring our veterans and military personnel who died in service to their country.

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

California State Railroad Museum – Purple Silk Youth Orchestra, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 9. This multisensory experience features live musical performances.

Guests of all ages will enjoy traditional Chinese instruments and Chinese folk dances performed by students throughout the museum.

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

Crocker Art Museum – "Rebels with La Causa: Royal Chicano Air Force Art and Activism, 1970-1990," through June, explores the expansive production and creative impact of the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF), one of the Chicano Movement's most prolific and impactful artist collectives.

Beginning in 1970 at Sacramento State, the group produced individual artworks and group murals, as well as posters for educational, cultural, and political activities.

The RCAF's transformation into a

broader collective not only initiated an explosion of Chicano art exhibitions, literary events, performances, and community celebrations, but expanded civic and political engagement.

While RCAF posters served as announcements for these wide-ranging activities, their multicultural aesthetics, subject matter, and strategic humor redefined Chicana/o art, as well as the history of art and activism in the United States. Details at crockerart.org.

SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity Laser Concert Series – K-Pop Demon Hunters, Fridays and Saturdays in May. Pink Floyd, May 8 and 9. 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 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.

Sacramento Historical Society Presentation: "Sacramento's Elks Tower: A Downtown Architectural Landmark." 6:30 pm. Tuesday, May 26. Presented by Peter Dannenfelser.

Classic Car Show, Saturday, July 18.

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

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

Martial Arts, Monday 5 p.m.

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

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

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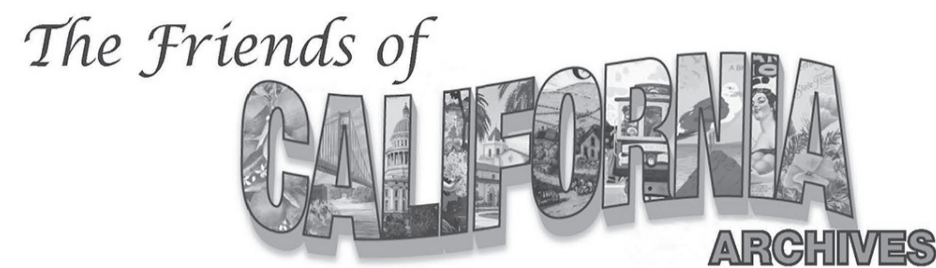
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Celebrating Resilience, Achievements of Asian American, Pacific Islander Community

The Friends of California Archives News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Since California's statehood 175 years ago, members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community have left an indelible mark on California's rich history, overcoming extreme prejudice and discrimination to flourish in all walks of California life. The Friends of California Archives salutes their tenacity and accomplishments during the May celebration of AAPI Heritage Month.

"California's treatment of Chinese and Japanese immigrants, in particular, during the 19th century was abhorrent and



embarrassing," said Caren Daniels Lagomarsino, president of The Friends of California Archives. "They were victims of riots, massacres and nativist racism. But through it all, they endured and contributed so much to the fabric of California life."

During the early wave of immigration after statehood, there was significant anti-Asian sentiment. In 1862, Gov. Leland Stanford referred to Asian

immigrants as an "inferior race." He supported "repression of the immigration of the Asiatic races," although he hired hard-working Chinese immigrants to build his railroad and make him one of the wealthiest persons in California.

In addition, California imposed the Foreign Miners' Tax, which primarily targeted Chinese miners, and local and state laws restricted where

Chinese immigrants could work and live. In 1882, Congress suspended immigration of Chinese laborers.

"What an amazing example of resilience and toughness," Lagomarsino added. "From champion skater Michelle Kwan and civil rights activist Fred Korematsu to Yahoo cofounder Jerry Yang and author Amy Tan, members of California's AAPI community have distinguished

themselves in every walk of life."

One 19th century heroine was immigrant Mary Tape, born in Shanghai, who won a landmark state Supreme Court case that ruled public schools could not refuse to admit her daughter.

Nearly a century later, March Fong became the first Asian American woman to win a seat in the State Assembly. She would also serve 19 years as California's Secretary of State, then known as March Fong Eu. She was the first Asian American woman in U.S. history to be elected to a statewide office. Mary Tape and March Fong Eu are featured in *The Time Travelers*, published by The Friends of California Archives, which is

designed to appeal to children in grades 4 through 6. It is included in the State Library's CA 175 reading list, which celebrates California's 175th anniversary.

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. TFOCA is also participating for the first time in the Big Day of Giving, April 23 through the big day on May 7. See our campaign at bigdayofgiving.org/organization/The-Friends-Of-California-Archives. ★

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Luu Appointed County Health Officer

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, at its April 28 meeting, unanimously concurred with the county executive's appointment of Dr. Phuong Luu as County Health officer, effective June 1.

"Dr. Luu's extensive experience, ranging from leading pandemic response efforts to driving major public health system improvements across multiple counties, makes this appointment an exceptional gain for Sacramento County," said County Executive David Villanueva. "Her leadership, expertise and commitment to community health will greatly strengthen our public health division as we move forward."

Dr. Luu brings more than a decade of experience in public health, all of it within the governmental public health sector.

For the past six years, she has served as the Bi-County Health officer for Sutter County and Yuba County. In that role, Dr. Luu is the medical executive providing overall public health clinical guidance, community health planning and emergency preparedness for both counties. She also serves as the medical/health branch lead for all disaster responses and actively engages in the planning and response to all disasters within both counties.

Prior to her current position, Dr. Luu was the medical director of Public Health for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) in



Newly appointed Sacramento County Health Officer Dr. Phuong Luu, pictured, will assume her role starting June 1. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, where she concurrently served as an internal medicine physician, practicing primary care at the top of her medical license. Prior to that, she was a General Internal Medicine fellow at Johns Hopkins University for two years.

Dr. Luu's notable work includes serving as the medical lead for the COVID-19 pandemic response in Sutter County and Yuba County, the key executive lead in the completion of the community health assessment and community health improvement plans for both Sutter County and Yuba County, and led the efforts of 10 Northern California counties to successfully pass ordinances to transition from a Regional Medi-Cal Managed Care Model to a County-Organized Health System Model with Partnership HealthPlan.

Dr. Luu's professional work includes being a board commissioner with Partnership HealthPlan for the last two years, an elected delegate for the Government-Employed

Physician Forum Delegation with the California Medical Association for almost three years and is serving as president-elect of the California Conference of Local Health Officers and will assume the presidency this fall.

In addition to her professional experience, Dr. Luu has a Master of Health Science in Clinical Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, a medical degree with honors from the University of Washington School of Medicine, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Seattle University. She completed her internal medicine residency with George Washington University. Dr. Luu is board-certified in internal medicine and is a fellow with the American College of Physicians.

Dr. Luu earned the Circle of Service Award from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) in December 2025. She was recognized as a 2020 Woman of the Year by Congressman John Garamendi with the U.S. House of Representatives California 3rd Congressional District in November 2020. She received the Andy Miller, MD, Public Health Excellence Award from Healthy Rural California in September 2020, was the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans fellow in 2007, a Harry S Truman scholar for Washington State in 2004, and a Gates Millennium scholar for Washington State in 2001.

Bike Safety and Awareness Grant Applications Open

Sacramento Region Community Foundation News Release



SACRAMENTO REGION COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
INSPIRING PHILANTHROPY

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Coinciding with National Bike Month, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation is pleased to announce that applications for the annual Bike Safety and Awareness Grant are open now through Friday, May 29.

The Foundation encourages nonprofit organizations that provide education about bike safety and bike/vehicle coexistence to apply.

Last year, a Field of Interest Fund was initiated when a generous local individual partnered with the Sacramento Region Community Foundation to open a grant in memory of his late wife who was a bicycling enthusiast and committed to bicycle safety. The first Maggie O'Mara Bicycle Safety Award of \$8,500 was to Safetyville USA, which provides life-saving skills and awareness education to children and their caregivers through interactive tours, programs and events.

Safetyville USA used the funds to plan a family-focused event called Maggie's Ride to deliver hands-on, interactive education designed to teach children and families safe cycling practices while promoting mutual respect and coexistence between bicyclists and vehicles.

The inaugural Maggie's Ride is scheduled for May 16 (rescheduled date due to rain). Participants will explore Safetyville USA's miniature city in a self-guided ride that allows children and families to move at their own pace while practicing essential cycling skills such as helmet use, proper signaling, navigating intersections and sharing the road responsibly. Trained staff and volunteers will be stationed throughout the course to offer instruction, answer questions and reinforce positive riding habits.

The event will also feature interactive learning stations and workshops focused on topics such as traffic awareness, visibility and understanding road signs. Families will receive printed and digital safety resources to extend learning beyond the event day. To reduce barriers to participation, 200 helmets will be distributed to attendees at no cost, and a bike giveaway will provide bicycles to children and families who may not have the means to purchase one. Safetyville USA will also host a free Bike/Trike-A-Thon for one Title I school or local nonprofit serving children.

Nonprofit organizations committed to the cause can apply for the 2026 Maggie O'Mara Bicycle Safety Award on the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's website at sacregcf.org/nonprofits/#apply on or before May 29.

Community members, businesses and/or organizations interested in establishing funds in partnership with the Sacramento Region Community Foundation can learn more at sacregcf.org/donors. For more information about the center of philanthropy in the greater Capital City region, visit sacregcf.org.

Since 1983, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation has awarded over \$275 million in grants and scholarships on behalf of local people, families, and businesses, and through its flagship program to grow charitable giving in the capital area, Big Day of Giving. The center of philanthropy in the capital area, the Foundation's mission is to lead, serve, and inspire enduring philanthropy for a just and vibrant Sacramento region. Learn more at sacregcf.org. ★

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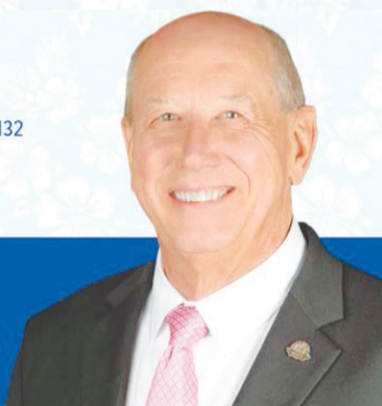
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