



**Ribbon Cutting Marks
Opening of Farmers
Market's Fifth Season**

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Pocket News

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MAY 8, 2026

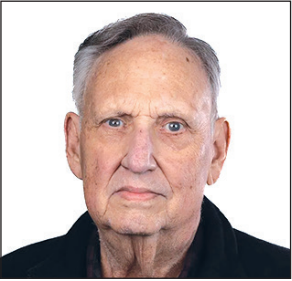
**SEE
INSIDE**

**SACRAMENTO HONORS
PRODUCERS AT AG DAY**



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**RULING COULD AFFECT
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Buried Jewels and a Missing Photograph

By Stephen B. Clazie

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Grayce E. Lancaster passed away on May 12, 2008, and was buried on May 16 at St. Mary's Cemetery at 65th Avenue and 21st Street. Her obituary noted that "she was the first woman elected as Exalted Ruler (ER) of Sacramento Elks Lodge #6, where she served two terms." The obituary did not mention - nor was it widely known - that there was a controversy surrounding her burial.

Grayce served as ER in 2004-2005. In 2007, the sitting ER resigned in August, and Grayce was elected in October to finish the term. She loved the Elks and even purchased her own set of Exalted Ruler's jewels. She arranged to be photographed wearing them, and it was decided that when she passed away she would be buried wearing them.

The obituary listed all of her children and also mentioned "...her dance partner, George Stan...." George was a member of Elks Lodge #6.

After Grayce's passing, George asked to borrow the Lodge's Exalted Ruler's jewels because the family could not locate Grayce's own set.

The Lodge lent the jewels to George for the memorial service. At the

Continued on Page 2



Grayce E. Lancaster served two terms as Exalted Ruler of Sacramento Elks Lodge 6. Courtesy photo

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 work that began earlier this year, including Early Budget Work Sessions held in March. During those sessions, departments

Continued on page 4

'Brewing Hope' Fundraiser Supports the Grieving



Brewing Hope used a 52-card deck for a 50/50 cash raffle, which was won by Dennis Devenport. Accepting the \$520 prize from Reina and Mel Chan, Devenport, right, announced he wanted to donate the whole prize to the Olivia Chan Foundation.

**Story and photos
by Stephen B. Clazie**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Olivia Chan Foundation hosted its Third Annual Brewing Hope at Movement Brewing on Saturday, April 18 in Rancho Cordova, bringing together a powerful community united by one

mission: to support grieving children and families.

Reina and Mel Chan, Olivia's parents, told the attendees, "Last year, we were honored to receive the Nonprofit of Distinction Award from Mayor Kevin McCarty. To be seen and recognized like that is something we don't take for granted. It

was humbling, and a reminder that this work matters, and that people are starting to notice the need for more grief support in our community."

"Out of more than 15,000 eligible nonprofits, OCF was chosen as one of just 30 organizations making a profound difference in the lives of

Continued on page 2

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MAPLE TREE VILLAGE

‘Brewing Hope’ Fundraiser Supports the Grieving

Continued from page 1

others across our region. This recognition reflected the collective love, dedication and support from our board, volunteers, donors, community partners and every family we’ve served,” Reina Chan said.

She added, “This award is more than recognition; it’s a validation of the mission we’ve been building since the heartbreaking loss of Olivia.”

Mel Chan emphasized, “Every dollar raised supports the Olivia Chan Foundation’s mission to provide safe, peer-based support spaces for children, teens and families navigating grief.”

“Brewing Hope,” according to the Chans, “is more than an event; it’s a reminder that healing happens in community.” Because of this incredible support, families navigating loss are finding connection, healing and hope.

The evening featured inspiring speakers, live performances, dinner and a lively silent auction and raffle supported by generous local donors and businesses.

There were 40 donors, 14 raffle prizes and 18 silent auction items. Brewing Hope used a 52-card deck for a 50/50 cash raffle, which was won by Dennis Devenport. Accepting the \$520 prize, Devenport announced he wanted to donate the whole prize to the Olivia Chan Foundation.

Performers included Peter Kett, who has been playing the guitar for over 56 years; Nic Chan, a high school junior who started playing the guitar four years ago; and Ava Mari Cabatic, a high school freshman who has volunteered with the Olivia Chan Foundation since its inception and sings in the NP3 Choir.

They were followed by Juliette Leong, who has performed in over 200 concerts. The program said, “Juliette Leong is a 9-year-old violinist, artist, athlete, teacher, entrepreneur and philanthropist, who is enrolled in college courses. Juliette is the youngest soloist to perform at Carnegie Hall.”

This fall she will be enrolled in the Davidson Academy, which is a third type of public

school located in Reno, Nevada. It is not a charter school and is called a “university school for profoundly gifted pupils” created by the Nevada State Legislature in 2005.

Speakers Colby Bell, Rachel Cruz and Stephanie Tom shared powerful perspectives on resilience, community and the importance of showing up for one another.

This year marked the introduction of two inaugural awards recognizing outstanding community support.

Hope Builder Award
Stephanie Tom, deputy treasurer for the State Treasurer’s Office, presented Certificates of Acknowledgement in Community Leadership and Dedication to Uplift the Community to Pastor Dan Wallbert and Greenhaven Neighborhood Church for providing a safe, welcoming space for the foundation’s earliest support programs: helping bring families together when it mattered most.

Hope in Action Award
This award was presented to the Optimist Club of Sacramento for its continued support since the

foundation’s earliest days through funding, advocacy and community connection.

In her speech, Reina Chan said, “A heartfelt thank you to our main sponsors: Greenhaven Neighborhood Church, Movement Brewing Co., New York Life, RED Consulting and My Sister’s House.”

She also said, “A special thanks to EJPix Studios for photographing the event.”

In this moving conversation, Reina and Mel Chan spoke candidly about the profound loss of their daughter, Olivia, and how her legacy inspired the founding of the Olivia Chan Foundation.

What began as a response to unimaginable grief has grown into a community-driven effort to support children and families navigating loss through healing programs, support groups and the dream of building Sacramento’s first grief center.

Reina Chan 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



Olivia’s best friend as a two-year-old was Lucky, a unicorn. Enjoying Lucky’s company at the Brewing Hope fundraiser is Giovanni Cruz behind two kids: Julian and Danika.

us.”

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

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.

Reina Chan also reported, “We raised \$25,000 that night, and every dollar goes back into the community, sustaining our programs and bringing us one step closer to opening a grief center.” ★

Buried Jewels and a Missing Photograph

Continued from page 1

end of Grayce’s Mass, the casket was closed. George attempted to retrieve the Lodge’s jewels, but they had already been buried with Grayce.

George later informed Lodge officers what had happened. He also noted that Grayce had previously been photographed wearing her own set of jewels. Although the family had not yet received the photograph, they intended to provide a copy for

display on the Lodge’s Past Exalted Rulers wall. George was never happy with the quality of the photograph and promised to get a better copy.

Meanwhile, the new incoming ER needed to be photographed wearing the jewels. Replacing them would cost more than \$2,000, and the expense had not been included in the budget for the new year. The Lodge had what they referred to as the “traveling jewels.” These were used when Lodge officers performed graveside

services. Looking at the photographs of the Past Exalted Rulers (PERs), it is clear that the 2008-2009 PER’s jewels are not as elaborate; they were the traveling jewels.

Lancaster passed away nearly 16 years ago. The Lodge’s ER jewels were buried and never recovered, and the Lodge eventually purchased a new set. The Lodge also obtained a photograph of Grayce to display on the PER wall.

Recently, PER Stephen Clazie was opening his mail when he noticed an undressed photo envelope mixed in with the stack. Inside was a photograph of Grayce. It is the same portrait already displayed on the wall, but this one is of noticeably

better quality.

After all these years, it seems Grayce’s portrait may yet receive a fitting update. Her dance partner lived to be 100, but we were unable to contact him for comment.

Lancaster’s 2008 obituary in The Sacramento Bee said, “Grayce was loved by many and will be missed by all.”

Clazie recently said, “That really is true.”

He added, “It is ironic and symbolic that I am pictured wearing the traveling ER jewels.” Every ER has a pin with their slogan; his depicted the historic C.P. Huntington locomotive with the slogan “All Aboard!” ★



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Ribbon Cutting Marks Opening of Farmers Market’s Fifth Season

Story and photos
by Stephen B. Clazie

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - This past Sunday, May 3, the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market (GHP) marked the beginning of its fifth year with a grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring Councilmember Richard “Rick” Jennings II at 11 a.m.

GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market General Manager Vic Cima first welcomed everyone to the market’s fifth year and then introduced Elk 6’s new president, Carol Mitchell. As emcee, she introduced Chaplain Clayton Hablitz, who offered the following prayer:

“We come together today with grateful hearts as we celebrate the opening of our GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market. Thank you, dear Lord, for the hands that plant, tend and harvest the food that nourishes our bodies and brings us together as a community.

Bless the farmers, the vendors, the volunteers and every person gathered here today, Lord.

May our community be filled with kindness, grace, connection and abundance. Father, let this be a space where neighbors meet, friendships grow and all feel welcome.

Please watch over our market, keep everyone safe and may this season be fruitful and prosper in every way.”

Elk 6 President Mitchell then introduced Esquire John DeArman to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He was joined by three fellow Elk 6 officers. All four are veterans: DeArman



About six years ago, retired Judge Rudolph “Barry” Loncke (right) introduced his friend Vic Cima (left) to City Councilmember Rick Jennings, who has represented both Sacramento’s Pocket and Land Park neighborhoods since 2014. The GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market (GHP) fifth-year grand opening at the Elks Lodge No. 6 parking lot, 6446 Riverside Blvd., saw (left to right) Judge Loncke, Elk 6 Exalted Ruler Carol Mitchell, Councilmember Jennings and GHP’s Cima taking a moment for a photo.

(Army), Inner Guard Robyn Yednock (Marines), Vocalist Audra Jefferson (Navy) and Loyal Knight Aaron “Jeff” Jefferson (Navy and Army).

About six years ago, retired Judge Rudolph “Barry” Loncke, a resident of Sacramento’s Pocket neighborhood, had the idea to introduce his good friend Vic Cima, a Land Park resident, to Richard “Rick” Jennings II, who has represented both neighborhoods since 2014.

It was obvious that Councilmember Jennings was enjoying Mitchell’s introduction. He spoke about how wonderful it was to have such a thriving farmers market in the neighborhood. He also mentioned busy Riverside Boulevard and said he was meeting with a young person’s family about making it safer for everyone to cross.

Looking ahead to the

new season, Cima said he is proud that three local farmers will offer a wide variety of high-quality fresh fruits and vegetables.

The market is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“It will feature fresh produce, live music, food trucks, a face painter and much more,” Cima said.

He also noted, “Terry Catron has been an Elk 6 member since 2007, but this is her first year volunteering as the market’s event coordinator. She is doing a wonderful job.”

Vic also called up Lecturing Knight Pamela Muljat-Zanze to be recognized. She has chaired all Elk 6 craft fairs for the past eight years, and the previous Thursday night on April 30 she was honored as Elk 6’s Officer of the Year for 2025.

She was delighted that “this market and vendors fair featured 29 local

artisans.”

She mentioned it was a lot of work with the artisans, vendors and Councilmember Jennings’ staff to reschedule the rainout opening, and she added, “Our event coordinator, Terry Catron, has done a fabulous job rescheduling everything.”

Jay Riddell, known to vendors and customers as the “Market Host,” was there early Sunday with all of the other volunteers helping to set up for the 60 artisans and vendors. Cima and Catron agreed that Riddell is an outstanding volunteer and an amazing asset.

The grand opening featured entertainment by Famallama, a multigenerational family band based in Northern California. The group features three generations of musicians, blending rock, Latin rock, blues, funk and soul into a distinctive sound. ★



GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market General Manager Vic Cima welcomes everyone to the market’s fifth grand opening on Sunday, May 3.



The GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market is known for its dog-friendly environment and annual dog contests. During the grand opening, Hazel Mae showed up with her dog. Hazel is only two and a half years old. Her parents were home sleeping in on Sunday morning. Hazel convinced her grandparents that it would be a great idea to attend the farmers market at Elk 6’s parking lot during their visit.

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Bandleader Recalled in Mother’s Day Shows



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

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. ★

City Releases Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27

Continued from Page 1

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 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.

The city will now enter the public review process, with City Council budget hearings scheduled throughout May and final adoption expected June 9.

Key dates include April 29, Release of the proposed budget; May 5, Budget overview and deliberations; May 12, Continued hearings and Council direction; and June 9, Final budget adoption.

Those interested in participating in the budget development process can attend public meetings, submit e-comments, and contact the mayor or their councilmember. ★

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Office Tours and Election Observation Available



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

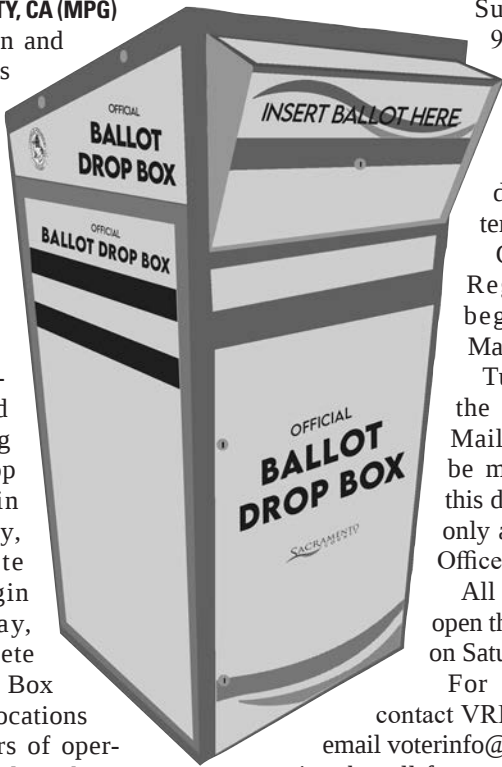
elections. The VRE invites Sacramento County residents to observe these processes anytime they are running. You do not need to schedule an appointment for observation. Those interested are encouraged to review the Election Observer Guidelines Handbook to learn what processes might be of interest to you 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). ★

Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center Locations Posted

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). ★



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June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election

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- Ballots will begin to arrive the week of May 4

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- 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

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Scan the QR code or visit myvoterportal.saccounty.gov

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

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 Mischief; 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 Forced Day (May 16) and ending on Labor Day (Sept. 7). Details at aerospacemuseum.org.

Sacramento History Museum – James Armstead 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 californiarailroad.museum.

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 Dannenfeler.

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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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. ★

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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 Flag, 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).

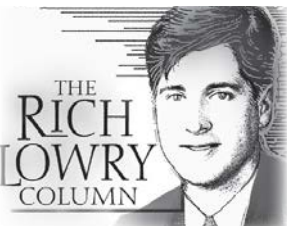
- The benefit reduction for claiming SS early is permanent. After you claim, you will only get increases for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) which occur annually according to inflation. FYI, the average annual COLA adjustment is about 2.5%.
- If you are married, the reduced benefit you get by claiming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

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Andrew Jackson is the only president of the United States who got the better of his attempted assassin.

The aged Jackson was at the Capitol for a congressional funeral when a crazed man named Richard Lawrence aimed a pistol directly at his chest and pulled the trigger. It misfired. Jackson bull-charged his assailant with his cane and, incredibly, Lawrence pulled out another pistol. It, too, misfired.

As bystanders intervened, an enraged Jackson supposedly yelled, “Let me alone! Let me alone! I know where this came from.” Lest we think we live in a uniquely inflamed, conspiratorial moment, Jackson’s Whig opponents dubbed him King Andrew, and John C. Calhoun reportedly called him “a Caesar who ought to have a Brutus.” Jackson thought the Whigs had orchestrated the attack, and the Whigs thought he had staged it.

Trump isn’t a former general or wizened old Indian fighter like Jackson, but he partakes of the same spirit of aggressive defiance. By all appearances, the least fearful people in the ballroom of the White House Correspondents’ Dinner were a random older gentleman from New York who kept eating his dinner during the mayhem ... and the presidential target of the attack himself.

Donald Trump is one

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-levered 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.

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Falcons Build Momentum with Gritty Wins on the Sand

Folsom Lake College
Falcons Athletics
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Folsom Lake beach volleyball is peaking at the right time, stringing together a series of hard-fought wins before entering the Big 8 Conference Pairs Championship. The Falcons showcased depth and resilience across multiple matchups, going 4–1 in team competitions over the stretch. Their run began on April 10 with a tightly contested 3–2 victory over Solano in Sacramento. Folsom Lake claimed key wins at the No. 1, No. 3, and No. 4 pairs, with the duo of Lutsiv/Vorster setting the tone in straight sets and Ayers/Pham battling through a three-set win to clinch the match.

Later that day, the Falcons edged Cosumnes River by another 3–2 scoreline. Once again, Lutsiv/Vorster delivered at the top spot, while Quintanar/Triplett and Ayers/Pham added crucial victories to secure the team win.

Folsom Lake's strongest showing came on April 17 against Marin, where the Falcons dominated in a 5–0 sweep. Every pair delivered, highlighted by commanding straight-set wins across the lineup. The momentum carried into a neutral-site matchup against Santa Rosa Junior College, where Folsom Lake pulled out yet another narrow 3–2 victory.

The consistent success across multiple pairs, particularly the reliable performances from Lutsiv/Vorster, Quintanar/Triplett, and Ayers/Pham,



The Falcons showcased depth and resilience across multiple matchups, going 4–1 in team competitions over the stretch. Photo courtesy of Blue Hat Photography

has been key to the Falcons’ late-season surge.

That momentum led into the Big 8 Conference Pairs Championship on April 22. Competing in Sacramento, the

Falcons faced Sacramento City in the opening round but fell in a close contest, 1–0.

Despite the early exit in pairs competition, Folsom Lake's recent body of work

reflects a team competing at a high level heading into the postseason landscape. Their ability to grind out 3–2 wins and deliver a dominant sweep underscores both depth and

competitive toughness. With multiple pairs finding rhythm and confidence, the Falcons have positioned themselves as a formidable group as championship play continues. ★

Men’s Golf Wins Big Sky Title

Sacramento State Athletics
News Release

LITCHFIELD PARK, AZ (MPG) - The biggest drama of the final round of the Big Sky Men’s Golf Championship was a playoff for the individual title. That proved to be a win-win scenario for Sacramento State as the battle was between Jai Bahl and Gabriel Smith who both finished the three-round tournament at 9-under par.

Smith claimed the individual title to earn his first career victory and the Hornets cruised to the team title behind a tournament record 54-hole total of 841 (23-under). The victory gives Sacramento State an automatic berth to an NCAA Regional. The field will be announced on May 6 (after press time) with regionals hosted by Arizona, Oregon State, Georgia, Texas A&M, Ohio State and Wake Forest.

The Hornets entered the final round with an 11-shot lead and saw Idaho pull within five strokes on a couple of occasions before adding some cushion. The team’s total broke the tournament record by one stroke and was eight shots better than the previous school record at the conference tournament.

Zach Matzke led the team in the third



Sacramento State Men’s Golf team poses with their trophy after winning the Big Sky Championship. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

round with a 4-under par 68. Matzke finished the tournament at 2-under par to move into a tie for ninth place. Matzke parred the first four holes before his only bogey on the day came on the par-5 fifth. Birdies on Nos. 6 and 8 left him 1-under at the midway point of the round before playing the back nine at 3-under. He parred the first four of those holes and then birdied

No. 14, 15 and 17. Max Thomas moved into a tie for 14th place after shooting 70 on April 22. Thomas picked up birdies on No. 1 and 5 and remained 2-under through nine. He returned to even early on the back nine but eagled the 535-yard, par-5 14th. Thomas played the final four holes even with pars surrounding a birdie on the par-3 16th and

a bogey on the par-4 17th. Smith and Bahl traded the lead throughout the round. Smith had a strong start with four birdies and a bogey over the first five holes to leave him 3-under at the midway point. A bogey on No. 11 and a double bogey on No. 15 left him even on the day until a birdie on the par-3 18th forced the playoff. That birdie was one of only two for the team in the tournament. Bahl, who was coming off a school-record 61 on April 21, started the round with a double bogey to snap a streak of 19 holes without a bogey. He was 3-over through 12 holes but responded with birdies on No. 14, 16 and 17 before a bogey on No. 18. The playoff took the pair back to No. 1 where Smith recorded a birdie and Bahl a par. Smith became the eighth individual conference champion in the school’s Div. I era and the pair were the fourth to account for the top two spots at conference championship for the Hornets. Zach Mate added the final score to the team total with an even-par 72. Mate was even on both sides of the course with a birdie on No. 1 and a bogey on No. 3 on the front nine and a pair of birdies and bogeys on the back nine. ★

Republic FC Acquires Tyler Wolff on Loan

Sacramento Republic
FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Republic FC announced April 24, the club has reached an agreement with MLS club Real Salt Lake to acquire forward Tyler Wolff via loan for the remainder of the 2026 season. The transaction is pending league and federation approval.

“Tyler is a dynamic attacking presence with a proven record of creating and scoring goals at the pro level, including in MLS. We are delighted to add another major contributor to strengthen our roster and are grateful to Real Salt Lake for their support,” said Republic FC President & General Manager Tim Holt.

Wolff began his youth career with the Columbus Crew academy before returning to his native Georgia to join Atlanta



Republic FC reached an agreement with MLS club Real Salt Lake to acquire forward Tyler Wolff via loan for the remainder of the 2026 season. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

United’s youth system and in 2019 earned the opportunity

to feature for Atlanta United 2 in USL Championship. The

following year, he signed a home-grown contract for Atlanta and in

five seasons with the club made over 80 appearances with 14 goals and five assists across all competitions. Ahead of the 2025 season, the 23-year-old was transferred to Real Salt Lake for \$50,000 in allocation money. With RSL, he recorded three goals and four assists in 21 appearances in MLS play, Concacaf Champions Cup, and with Real Monarchs in MLS NEXT Pro. Wolff has also previously featured for Belgian Challenger Pro League side SK Beveren from July 2022 to January 2023 and in 2022 made seven appearances for the U.S. Men’s U-20 National Team in the Concacaf Under-20 Championship. He featured in every match for the tournament and added two goals, including the Championship-winning goal against the Dominican Republic. ★

Sacramento Honors Producers at Ag Day

Story and photos
by Khushi Salgia

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) held its Ag Day convention in front of the Capitol building on April 21 following National Ag Day on March 24. Ag Day, established by the Agriculture Council of America in 1973, is meant to increase public awareness of agriculture’s vital role in society as well as honor the contributions of farmers, ranchers and agribusiness in providing safe, abundant food and fiber while highlighting career opportunities in the industry.

California makes up 11% of the U.S. population yet contributes to 17% of its agriculture. Thus, this year’s Ag Day theme was “California Leads,” with the intention of acknowledging and celebrating the richness in California’s variety and innovation in the agriculture sector.

The event began with a welcome address from CDFA Secretary Karen Ross, who highlighted the vital role of agriculture in California and emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge and collaborating on new innovations.

“Ag education is important,” Ross said. Ross also introduced the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom scholarship recipients and the Leopold Conservation award winners.

According to Sofia Goss, CDFA representative of the Fairs and Expositions branch, the main purpose of organizing an event such as this one is to “promote agriculture.”

“Our state is agriculturally driven,” Goss said.

One of these agriculture initiatives is the California Wheat Commission (CWC), which supports research for wheat plants. They partner with the UC Davis wheat breeding program to test qualities like nitrogen or genetic attributes of wheat.

Essentially, the idea is to create “better economics for wheat,” according to Alejandra Andrade, the CWC lab manager. One of their projects focuses

on making wheat safe for those with celiac disease or gluten intolerances.

Beyond efforts to expand access to wheat products, Ag Day organizers also highlighted milk’s nutritional benefits. A representative for the “Got Milk?” campaign, in place since 1993, said the group promotes milk consumption among all age groups, noting its role in bone health.

In addition to promoting calcium intake, the Dairy Council was present as a nutrition education organization. They are funded by dairy farmers and one of their initiatives is to conduct research to forecast agricultural trends as well as bring a live cow to elementary schools to teach kids where milk comes from.

“We are so disconnected from our food nowadays,” said Amy Delisio, executive director of Dairy Council. “Most kids in urban areas have never really been to a farm.”

District 1 Assembly Member Heather Hadwick brought three cows in from her own farm, two adults and a baby.

As a farmer herself, as well as the assembly member for most of Sacramento’s rural districts, her mission at Ag Day is “bringing the district to Sacramento” as many in the urban areas are not aware of the issues facing farms today. One of the biggest concerns is wolves, which tend to be the biggest predators for farm animals.

“We’re in the middle of a crisis,” she said.

According to Hadwick, there have been a hundred kills in the past year alone in District 1. Because wolves are an endangered species and therefore protected by the government, there is nothing anyone can do currently to mitigate the killings.

While wolves are the biggest issue facing cattle ranchers specifically, water is the main concern of farmers.

“They never have enough,” Hadwick said.

The final top concern in agriculture is inflation. According to Hadwick, costs have increased 55% in the past two years.



Assembly Member Heather Hadwick brought her cows to Ag Day to draw attention to important issues concerning farmers.



California’s Ag Day took place on a rainy April 21 in front of the Capitol building.

Because District 1 is a low-income county, they cannot raise prices without it drastically affecting people’s livelihoods.

In addition to resources surrounding farming, crops and agriculture, there were also booths sharing technological innovations that can improve efficiency and sustainability.

One of these is a company called Sunzaun, a vertical solar company.

“We pride ourselves on our dual life systems,” said Tia Hanes, business developer at Sunzaun.

The dual life system called agrivoltaics – the integration of solar panels and agriculture on the same land – allows for simultaneous food and renewable energy production. It increases land-use efficiency, reduces water consumption and provides shade for crops

and livestock. It leads to diversified farmer income, reduced electricity costs and potential for increased crop yields, while overcoming land-use competition.

Another ag tech organization, F3i, is a nonprofit that acts as a bridge between university research (UC Merced, Fresno State and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources) and practical

field applications to strengthen food security, supporting ag-based industries with new technology, workforce development and economic growth.

“Our mission is to build Sacramento into an ag tech system,” said Ryan Dinubilo, director of innovation at F3i.

Women-led initiatives such as Miss Rodeo California and California Women for Agriculture (CWA) were also present at the Ag Day event; 2026 was declared the “International Year of the Woman Farmer” by the United Nations. The initiative focuses on improving women’s access to land, financing and technical training to strengthen global food security.

“Rodeo is part of our history as ranchers,” said Rachel Lancaster, Miss California Rodeo Salinas 2025 winner.

Despite rainy weather, Ag Day drew agriculture leaders from across California, underscoring the event’s statewide reach and impact. ★

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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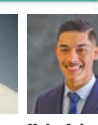


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