



## Early Support, Strong Readers

PAGE 3

## Sacramento Honors its Agriculture at Ag Day

PAGE 7



# AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 9

Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

MAY 8, 2026

**SEE  
INSIDE**

**LEADERS SHOULD  
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PAGE 7

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PAGE 10

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## Fashion Show Raises Scholarship Funds



The Woman's Thursday Club Annual Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show planning committee included (left to right, front row): Judy Faught, Trude Vasquez, Patricia Speere, Sheba Jackson, Marty Holmes. Back row: Lynn Steen, Valerie Lubinsky, Phyllis Williams, Ann Snyder, Rosemary Lamb, Terrie O'Donnell.

Story and photos  
by Judy Andrews

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - The Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks recently held its Annual Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show on April 16 at Northridge Country Club. The event raises funds to help local high school seniors attend college and has been a community tradition for more than 50 years.

This year, the fundraiser's scholarship committee, led by Carol Buck, selected 12 students from 30 applicants to receive a \$1,200



The Firehouse Boutique in Folsom clothed the models. Owners Renate Cunningham and daughter, Diana Appel, pose together.

scholarship for the 2026-27 school year. The recipients attend Bella Vista, Casa Robles, Mesa Verde and San Juan High Schools.

"Many of our club members are retired teachers or have professional backgrounds," said Woman's Thursday Club President Terrie O'Donnell. "The fundraiser gives our members the opportunity to support and promote higher education for local students."

Proceeds from the event's ticket and raffle-drawing sales, along with a live auction, help

*Continued on page 2*

## County Selects Inspector General

Sacramento County  
News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve a one-year agreement appointing Eric Kane as Inspector General, ensuring continuity of independent oversight of the Sheriff's Office while the County evaluates long-term options for the position. The contract begins May 1 and extends through April 30, 2027.

The Office of Inspector General operates independently from the Sheriff's Office and plays a critical role in providing impartial intake and review of community complaints.

The most recent Inspector General, Kevin Gardner, elected not to continue beyond the term of his contract, which ended March 31.

Kane brings more than 25 years of law enforcement experience, with a background in complex investigations, personnel management and program development. He is currently serving as Associate Director/Police Lieutenant for the University of the Pacific, where he oversees operations within the Department of Public Safety.

Prior to that role, Mr. Kane spent the majority of his career with the Stockton Police Department, where he began as a police officer in 1996 and rose through the ranks to retire as Deputy Chief in 2022. Throughout his tenure, he held several key assignments directly relevant to the responsibilities of the Inspector General, including: conducting internal affairs investigations into alleged misconduct, leading officer-involved critical incident investigations in coordination with external partners, overseeing all criminal investigations, including those involving department personnel, serving as liaison to a Community Advisory Board and participating in national initiatives focused on building community trust and justice. ★

## Sweet Haven Bakery Relocates

Story and photos  
by Thomas J. Sullivan

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - Life's too short for bad cake. That's the motto of Sweet Haven Bakery, best known for the past two years for its unique creations of cookies, cupcakes and specialty wedding cakes in Citrus Heights, and now relocated to Fair Oaks, marking a new chapter for the family-run business.

On April 4, the family-owned Sweet Haven Bakery moved from the Marketplace at Birdcage in Citrus Heights to its new suite in the Sunrise Center at 5346 Sunrise Blvd., at the corner of Sunrise Boulevard and Madison in Fair Oaks.

Trina and Colin Claycomb, and their son Haven said the move to Fair Oaks will allow the bakery to better serve its customers and make way for future expansion within



Trina and Colin Claycomb pose with their son Haven (middle) who bakes all the treats for their bakery, Sweet Haven Bakery in Fair Oaks.

the space with the addition of a commercial kitchen on the premises. Currently, its baked goods are produced in an off-site commercial kitchen, said Trina Claycomb.

Haven has been baking since age 14, and as a young adult is balancing commercial baking duties, producing specialty cakes to order with college classes, she said.

"Our regular customers have followed us and we're looking to build recognition here on the corner," she said.

The family moved interior furnishings and décor to the new space and painted the walls with a familiar pink color which customers had come to know. A second counter was added where coffee is now served.

Popular bakery items from a rotating menu include cupcakes, cookie sandwiches and brownies. The bakery is fully vegan and takes custom cake orders.

The Claycombs sought to find a permanent location and began looking for a new retail space two months ago. Their new location is in a high-traffic area, and they look forward to attracting first-time drive-by customers not yet familiar with Sweet Haven to stop in and

*Continued on page 3*



# Fashion Show Raises Scholarship Funds

*Continued from page 1*

fund the scholarships. A special luncheon for the finalists and their families will be held on May 14 at The Old Spaghetti Factory.

More than 250 ticket holders, including Woman's Thursday Club members, their guests and family members came out to support the fundraiser, socialize and have a good time.

Each year, committee chairs select a new event theme to mark the occasion. This year's theme was "Mariposa Magic."

"Mariposa is the Spanish word for butterfly," explained event chair Trude Vasquez. "When you think of butterflies, you think of spring."

Many attendees came dressed for the occasion, wearing butterfly-patterned clothing and floral prints or simple yet elegant butterfly pins and accessories.

The Firehouse Boutique, located on historic Sutter Street in Folsom, provided the models' outfits. Established in 1987 by Renate Cunningham, the boutique is now run by Renate's daughter, Diana Appel, who served as the emcee and introduced the models during the fashion show portion of the program.

"The Firehouse Boutique was recommended by several club members who shop there," said the event's Fashion House Chair, Marty Holmes. "It's a delightful store with beautiful, chic clothing in sizes from XS to XXL, which is important to our members. It was a true joy to work with Renate and Diana and to give their small business some visibility, too."

All the models were members of the Woman's Thursday Club, including Susan Goss, Judy Jennings, Dana Kleinsasser, Laurie Parker and Liz Thayer. Bud Beebe and Don Neufeld served as the models' escorts.

More than 100 raffle prizes were awarded at the event. Thanks to Trude Vasquez of Ships and Trips Travel, one



The five models are members of the Woman's Thursday Club, including (from left): Liz Thayer, Laurie Parker, Judy Jennings, Rosemary Lamb (fashion house co-chair), Susan Goss, Marty Holmes (fashion house chair), Dana Kleinsasser, and Bud Beebe (escort).



Terrie O'Donnell (second from the left) won a beautiful, handcrafted quilt at the live auction. Terrie is pictured here with the quiltmakers (left to right): Janet Benson, Phyllis Williams, and Pat Hertema.

lucky winner took home a \$500 Southwest Airlines gift certificate.

A highlight of the day was a live auction, during which a beautiful handmade quilt was sold to the highest bidder in the room for \$1,100. Special thanks to quiltmakers Janet Benson, Pat

Hertema and Phyllis Williams, who spent more than 300 hours creating the quilt from a Pearl Perreira design.

"This is one of the largest volunteer-organized events in the community," Vasquez said. "It's always a pleasure to chair alongside my co-chair, Judy Faught,



Model Dana Kleinsasser gets ready to walk the runway with escort Bud Beebe.



Marty Holmes was a hopeful raffle prize winner.

club members' support."

The Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks has been active since 1902, supporting charities and events that benefit the community and beyond. The club's Annual Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show is its largest fundraiser of the year. For more information about the organization, please visit the website at [www.fairoakshistory.org/wtcf](http://www.fairoakshistory.org/wtcf). ★

especially when you have the best volunteers in town! It takes more than 50 volunteers in a variety of roles to make this event happen, and we couldn't do it without our

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# Sweet Haven Bakery Relocates



Popular bakery items from a rotating menu include cupcakes, cookie sandwiches and brownies. The bakery is fully vegan and takes custom cake orders.

The Sweet Haven Bakery is located in Sunrise Center at 5346 Sunrise Blvd., at the corner of Sunrise Boulevard and Madison in Fair Oaks.



Grace Claycomb works behind the counter at the Ka Pua coffeeshop inside Sweet Haven Bakery.



Customers stand in line for treats at the grand opening of Sweet Haven Bakery's Fair Oaks location.



The Claycombs relocated their shop, Sweet Haven Bakery, from Citrus Heights to Fair Oaks in early April.

*Continued from page 1*  
give them a try.

Each bakery treat at Sweet Haven is made with love and a personal touch, Trina said. At the front counter a display case full of “crave worthy” seasonal rotating flavors easily invites customers to come back for more.

Haven wasn't readily available for an interview, busy attending to

custom wedding cake orders and attending school, she said. Proud mom Trina was happy to oblige, describing the passion and creativity Haven brings to his work.

The store is decidedly a family affair with husband and wife Rane and Grace Claycomb offering their signature drinks at the Ka Pua shop within the store named in celebration of the beauty of island flowers

and nature.

Customers are also invited to enjoy their sweet cupcakes and cookies with a selection of fresh Hawaiian-themed coffees, including an Island Latte flavored with macadamia nut and coconut, Melia Matcha with homemade strawberry puree and Poni Ala, a delicious honey lavender latte.

Classic coffee drinks are also

served and sparkling momonas, non-caffeinated refreshers are featured.

The Sweet Haven Bakery is located in Sunrise Center at 5346 Sunrise Blvd., at the corner of Sunrise Boulevard and Madison in Fair Oaks.

Store hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. The Sweet Haven Bakery

is closed on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

For more information visit: [sweethaven916.com](http://sweethaven916.com) or call: 916-809-0552. To order cakes and other custom desserts or inquire about desserts' availability in-store, customers can request orders on the company's website, or message Haven Claycomb directly on Instagram. ★

# Early Support, Strong Readers

## How The K-2 Reading Difficulties Screener Guides Student Success

### San Juan Unified School District News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Learning to read starts early, and so does the support at San Juan Unified School District.

This year, as part of a new state requirement, San Juan Unified introduced a reading difficulties screener for students in kindergarten through second grade.

Designed to identify early signs of reading difficulties, including risk factors for dyslexia, the screener helps teachers better understand how to support students' literacy. With early support, students can build the foundational skills that help them work toward reading proficiency by third grade.

#### A Closer Look At The Reading Difficulties Screener

While the reading difficulties screener is not a test that will affect the student's grades, determine reclassification or provide placement for special education services, it is a tool to support students and provide insight that helps teachers respond to those needs early.

During the screening process, students work with staff to identify letters, sounds, or words and may also read aloud or answer questions about what they hear.

Heather Brandt, a program specialist with San Juan Unified who supports staff across the district with the reading difficulties screener, said the results are used to guide teaching.

“It does not necessarily mean that a student has a learning disability or will have difficulty reading in the future,” said Brandt. “The things that happen next are small group instruction in the classroom or maybe outside of the classroom, to teach those skills.”

Once students complete the screener, teachers use the results to guide their lessons and decide if a student may need additional support.

Families are also an important part of the process. After the screener, a letter is sent home in their home language with a summary of the results and suggestions to help their child with reading.

#### Supporting Multilingual Students



During the screening process, students work with staff to identify letters, sounds, or words and may also read aloud or answer questions about what they hear. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified



Designed to identify early signs of reading difficulties, including risk factors for dyslexia, the screener helps teachers better understand how to support students' literacy. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified

The screener is also available in Spanish for students who speak Spanish as their first language. As students complete the Spanish version of the reading difficulties screener, they also must complete the English version.

The results of both screeners help teachers understand whether a student's reading challenges are related to learning English or may be a sign of a reading difficulty.

For newcomer students who have been enrolled in a school in the United States for less than a year, the district uses a different approach to ensure they are supported appropriately.

“It consists of contacting families and conducting a family interview that asks about early language development,” shared Amanda Sandberg, a multilingual program specialist in San Juan Unified. “These students would then take the screener either later that year or the following year.”

Questions asked in the interview may include family history of reading challenges or concerns about speech and language, along with identifying the age at which their child started speaking their primary language

Similar to the English and Spanish screener, the family interview will not determine if a student will be reclassified, assigned a grade or be identified for special education.

#### Working Together For Early Learners

Beyond elevating student support, the screener has also strengthened collaboration among staff.

“It's been something that has created a lot of opportunity for collaborative conversations between teachers and grade levels,” said Sandberg. “It allows teams and practitioners to come together to have really productive and engaging conversations around instruction and how they can support their students.”

By identifying needs early and working together with educators and families alike, the district aims to ensure every student has the opportunity to become a confident reader. ★

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Informing, Empowering and Engaging Readers with Their Community



By Patsy McGavock  
JustServe.org

## Regrowing America's Skills for Success

### Adult Literacy: Take Action, Open the Door

When asked what he most wanted readers to understand, Richard Judge, principal of adult education for San Juan Unified School District, didn't start with programs or numbers. He started with people.

There is a stark, unseen reality we face right now. It's about the people we see every day and may not fully see — those building lives alongside us, with burdens we don't carry. They lack a few foundational skills that would unlock everything else.

"Adult education is an in-your-backyard kind of program," Judge said. "They are your friends, your neighbors, the people who serve you ... when you go to a store or restaurant ... doing the work while you're sleeping."

Adult education, he said, is not a separate system. It's an investment in the community itself.

The costs are human and measurable. National data show 75% of those on public assistance read below sixth grade, 70% of incarcerated adults below fourth grade, and 50% of adults lack literacy for today's workforce. The impact extends to health care, where low literacy is tied to two to three times higher rates of unmanaged chronic conditions. Our text-heavy, digital world becomes a barrier.

Foundational skills of literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and communication — skills adult education focuses on — unlock that.

Enrollment is growing. But ... "we don't have capacity to serve that many students," Judge said. The need for community investment runs deep.

San Juan Adult Education needs part-time teachers, volunteers and space. Sacramento libraries have half as many mentor volunteers as their current waitlist

for mentees. Schedules must align with work and family responsibilities. Transportation remains the most persistent barrier — for K-12 as well as adults — preventing adequate attendance.

These are not abstract challenges. They shape who can participate, who must wait and how far programs can reach.

I am convinced there are enough people among us, if they choose, to lift this load.

Across the region, programs meet adults at different starting points. San Juan Adult Education focuses on functional literacy for career and civic success — small, classroom-based programs where students work at their own pace toward goals like a high school diploma, job training or improved English skills.

Sacramento Public Libraries' adult literacy programs focus on earlier stages, often below a fourth grade reading level, with one-on-one tutoring centered on everyday life skills.

"Reading is a complex skill. People don't realize that," said Cassandra Keitges, adult learning and literacy supervisor for the Sacramento Public Library system. "Difficulty learning is not a lack of intelligence."

Many learners state a goal like earning a GED but are still building foundational reading skills. The program meets them where they are — helping them read emails, communicate with a child's teacher, understand medical forms or prepare to vote.

"This is a hidden need, much larger than people realize," Keitges said. "There aren't many supports for adult learners at the lowest reading levels."

To volunteer — knowing your capacity helps you know where to serve.

In adult education classrooms, after registering with the school district, volunteers support teachers on a regular schedule, working with

students one-on-one or in small groups.

Library tutoring requires more commitment — literacy and learning disability training and flexibility to match weekly one-on-one appointments for at least six months — but not expertise.

"The most important qualities are being humble, empathetic and nonjudgmental," she said.

Mentors often say they receive more than they give. Lasting relationships form.

At a recent San Juan Unified board meeting, trustees described adult education graduations, having witnessed moments not just of completion, but restoration.

"I saw kids so proud of their parents' achievements," Trustee Tanya Kravchuk said. "They reclaimed a piece of themselves ... this victorious, triumphant moment."

Those moments ripple outward. "It's about our community, not just one segment," Trustee Zima Creason said. "It's part of our economic engine."

We often talk about our society's broken systems.

Adult education and literacy programs offer a clear foundation. Everything else is built on those skills. Volunteer. Learn about the programs in your area. Advocate and support the surrounding systems that make access possible.

The need is here — in our neighborhoods, in our daily lives. Great is our opportunity, and our responsibility, to respond.

Ask not what we can receive — but what we can give.

I'll lift thee. You'll lift me. And we'll ascend together.

To learn more about adult tutoring, visit <https://www.saclibrary.org/about-us/volunteer-opportunities> or call 916-264-5032.

To learn more about adult education, visit <https://www.sanjuan.edu/connect/volunteer> or email [adult.education@sanjuan.edu](mailto:adult.education@sanjuan.edu). ★



BY JOSH F.W. COOK

## ★ CALIFORNIA ★ POLICY AND ETHICS

Commentary on Today's Political News

14 years later, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is back. Just as he said he would be.

He was famous for his movie quote, "I'll be back."

Well, he's back. Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger & Lt. Gov Abel Maldonado played a central role in advancing California Proposition 14 in 2010. As governor at the time, he strongly supported the shift to a "top-two" open primary system as part of his broader push for political reform in California.

Schwarzenegger argued that allowing all voters to participate in a single primary would reduce partisan gridlock, empower independent voters, and encourage more moderate candidates. Since 2010, all candidates, regardless of party affiliation, can move on to the November General Election ballot if they make the "top two", and voters may vote for any candidate without party restrictions.

Pre-2010, each Party got its top dog into the final fight, and only party members could vote in their Primary Election. It was meant to weaken the political parties, and it has.

Last week, the two leading Republicans, Steve Hilton and Sheriff Chad Bianco, and four Democrats, U.S. Rep. Katie Porter, billionaire Tom Steyer, San Jose

Mayor Matt Mahan, and former Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, did the traditional televised candidate debate. What the six candidates had to say on issues was not really the topic that got the most attention.

What dominated the messaging of the day was the fact that if all of the Democratic candidates stay in the race (they only let the top four on stage) and split up the vote, there's a 50/50 chance that the two Republican candidates would garner the top two spots, creating a situation in which the incredibly democratic state of California would end up electing a Republican governor in 2026.

If the two Republicans split the 30% of CA Republicans expected to vote 15 and 15, they could well get there. This is not some sort of political fantasy; it is a real possibility.

The Chairman of the Democratic Party, Rusty Hicks, holds a weekly press conference, releasing polling results, explaining the problem, and trying to get the candidates to understand that if some of them don't drop out, none of them will get a chance to move forward.

So far, only one, former State Controller Betty Yee, has done the "right thing" for the party. So maybe, like the time-traveling half robot Schwarzenegger played in the movies, he will finally "blow up all the boxes" 14 years after the fact, which was his most famous quote outside of his time in Hollywood. ★

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## AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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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](https://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](https://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](mailto: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](https://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.

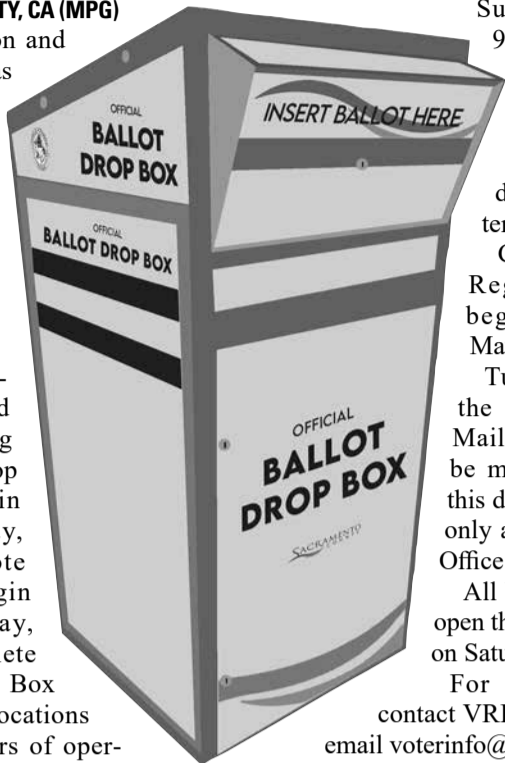
Online voter registration must be completed before midnight on this date at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

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Scan the QR code or visit [myvoterportal.saccounty.gov](https://myvoterportal.saccounty.gov)

# 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](http://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-bullient 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.*

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# Sacramento Honors its Agriculture at Ag Day

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 percent of the U.S. population yet contributes to 17 percent 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



District 1 assemblywoman Heather Hadwick brought her cows to Ag Day to draw attention to important issues concerning farmers. Photo by Khushi Salgia

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 Farmer 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 One Assemblywoman Heather Hadwick brought three cows in from her own farm, two adults and a baby. As a farmer herself, as well as the assemblywoman 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 one. 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 percent in the past two years. Because district one 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 non-profit which 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. ★



## Take Back Control of Your Money

What if I told you that everyday habits can drain your wealth? We worry about big financial mistakes, but maybe it's the little things that really hit home. We are always on the lookout for how we spend our hard-earned money. So I am always on the lookout for experts for some sage advice. **Monique Gagne** is one of those folks I had on my POPPTALK Radio Show. She is the founder of Love Money Academy and best-selling author of "Who Took My Money" and "Alex's Dream with Money." Her journey has been anything but ordinary. She has worked alongside world renowned leaders like Tony Robbins. Today, she is on a mission to transform how people relate to money, especially the next generation, by teaching that true wealth starts with clarity, purpose, and a healthy relationship with money. She wants to empower individuals to move from stress and confusion to freedom and fulfillment. She has developed the successful class... "The Power of Financial Happiness."

**Monique** has a core message. "You don't have to be bad to lose it. You just have to stop paying attention. Money doesn't vanish. It leaks through unnoticed habits and emotional patterns. Once you see the leaks, you can plug them, redirect your money toward your dreams, and grow wealthy with love."

But what about all that emotional drive to spend. She had some advice for that too. "Money is never just about math. It's about meaning." We were all taught emotional lessons about money growing up like fear, guilt, or scarcity. These beliefs shape our

adult choices. When you replace fear with Love Money, that's spending with purpose, saving with joy, and sharing with gratitude, you take back control. Here are her **7 Habits that Quietly Steal Your Wealth and How to Stop Them.**

**1. EMOTIONAL SPENDING.** Buying to feel better instead of to live better. **Monique** told me that even though we know better, we still think we feel better.

**2. SUBSCRIPTION CREEP.** The \$9.99 trap that quietly drains thousands. She told me we tend to forget about these subscriptions and not keep up with those few dollars that go out every month.

**3. LIFESTYLE INFLATION.** Upgrading everything except your peace of mind. Prices going up and we need balance.

**4. DISORGANIZED FINANCES.** What you don't track, you can't improve. We need to keep receipts.

**5. DEBT "AS NORMAL."** Interest is the true cost of procrastination. **Monique** says debt taxes your future. Those minimum payments do add up if we don't pay attention.

**6. NO CLEAR PLAN.** Without a purpose, money wanders away. Gotta' keep track of where those bucks are going, and a plan can give you a target.

**7. NEGLECTING FUTURE YOU.** How many times have you put off looking to the future. I think we all have at one time or another.

Final thought from **Monique Gagne.** "Once you heal your relationship with money, your wealth begins to grow naturally, and not just in your bank, but in your heart, your health, and your time." ★

## Instead of Raising Taxes, California Leaders Should Address Rampant Waste and Fraud



Josh Hoover

By Assemblyman Josh Hoover

I recently joined a number of my colleagues in calling for a special legislative session dedicated to addressing the rampant waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer resources that has become all too common in our state government. California families are struggling with the nation's highest cost of living, crushing housing prices and exorbitant taxes. They deserve to know that their hard-earned dollars are being spent responsibly and effectively. Unfortunately, too often that is not the case.

The examples of mismanagement are staggering. Our state has spent \$37 billion on homelessness programs, yet the homeless population has increased by 36,000 individuals statewide since the spending began in 2019. During the pandemic, \$32 billion in unemployment insurance benefits were lost to fraud, including checks sent directly to inmates in California prisons. Taxpayers have shelled out \$1.1 billion

for a new building for politicians, the Capitol Annex Project, even as project leaders sign non-disclosure agreements and refuse to share basic cost data with the public. And \$450 million has been poured into a "Next Generation" 911 system that state bureaucrats now admit may never even turn on.

Rather than addressing these failures, the legislative Supermajority has moved in the opposite direction by reducing transparency and accountability. Bills like AB 1608 would halt the release of documents related to California's troubled High-Speed Rail project. AB 1821 would make it more expensive for citizens to file Public Records Act requests. Finally, AB 2624 would effectively criminalize investigative journalism by imposing fines on independent reporters who expose certain types of government fraud.

To make matters worse, after auditors uncovered \$267 million in Medi-Cal fraud involving fake hospice facilities billing the state, the Supermajority's response has been to propose yet another tax increase on corporations to cover rising health-care costs. This approach is tone deaf. The issue isn't a lack of revenue, it's a lack of willingness to respect taxpayers and root out waste, fraud, and abuse. Instead, they would rather increase costs on businesses that will ultimately be paid by

consumers and California families.

We must demand better. A special session focused on waste, fraud, and abuse would allow for thorough investigations, public hearings, and concrete reforms. Californians have a right to transparency in how their money is spent. We should be strengthening public records laws, not weakening them. We should be protecting whistleblowers and journalists who expose wrongdoing, not punishing them.

The people of California work hard and already pay some of the highest taxes in the nation. It is our duty as leaders to ensure every dollar is accounted for and deliver results. Until we address the systemic waste and fraud plaguing state government, we have no business asking taxpayers for more. Instead, Sacramento politicians should get serious about getting their own house in order.

Assemblyman Josh Hoover represents the 7th Assembly District in Sacramento County, which includes the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova and the unincorporated communities of Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms, Gold River, Mather, McClellan Park, North Highlands, Orangevale, and Rosemont. You can follow him on X @joshua\_hoover or contact his office at Assemblymember.Hoover@assembly.ca.gov. ★

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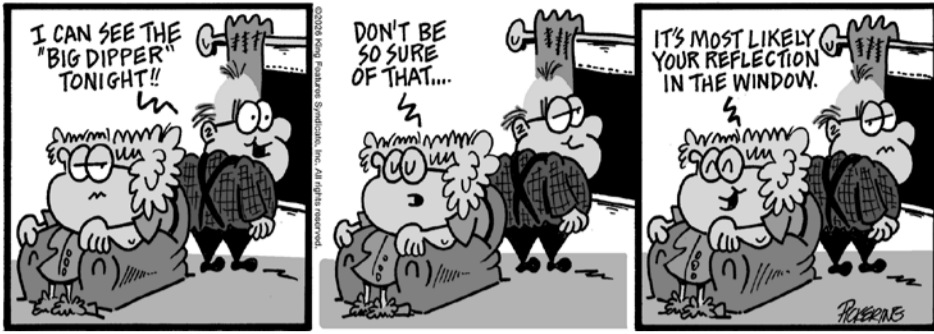
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# COMICS & PUZZLES

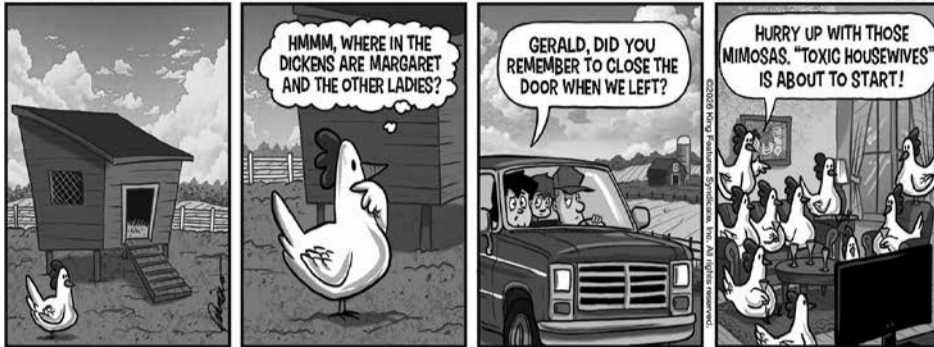
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Teacher's desk is not as wide. 2. Student desk is holding two books. 3. Bookend is larger. 4. Blackboard is wider. 5. Girl is moved. 6. Door opening is wider.

## GRIN and BEAR IT

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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### CLUES

- ACROSS
- "Louise"
  - Unsolicted email
  - Parentheses, e.g.
  - Not mainstream, as in art
  - Heap
  - Chesterfield, e.g.
  - Not sharp
  - Katy Perry's hit
  - Grammy of sports
  - \*Bachelor of Arts, e.g.
  - Autumn mo.
  - Opposite of outs
  - Muslim ruler, respectfully
  - Retirement safety net (2 words)
  - Completely isolate (2 words)
  - "That feels good!" exclamation
  - Programmer's bane
  - Mozart's "L" del Cairo
  - \*Same as #11 Down
  - #me
  - Paleozoic or Victorian, e.g.
  - Yoda: "Do or do not. There is no \_\_\_"
  - River port in Belgium
  - Not figurative
  - Wavelike patterned silk
  - "For \_\_\_ a jolly..."
  - Bass product
  - \*Student speaker at graduation, usually
  - Regrettably, exclamation
  - Immanuel, German philosopher
  - Fortune teller's props
  - Welcome \_\_\_, pl.
  - "Cogito \_\_\_ sum"
  - Subdivision of an act
  - Olden day "you"
  - Whitetail, e.g.
  - Late actor Kristoferson

CROSSWORD															
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### DOWN

- Type of ape
- Twist together
- Not products, in chemistry
- Dietary mineral
- Spring, \_\_\_, sprung
- Devoutly religious
- Winglike
- F te des M res honoree
- Industrial plastic
- Luxury furniture wood
- \*Part of graduation regalia
- Slovenly abode
- Pilot's estimate, acr.
- Fire starter
- Santa \_\_\_ winds
- Half of NFL
- \*BA alternative
- Same as Dao
- "Friends, Romans, lend me your \_\_\_" sing.
- \*Stand-in teacher
- Self-centered one
- Undergarment
- \*What guest graduation speaker is supposed to do
- Dadaist Jean \_\_\_
- \*A in #27 Down
- Marbled toast
- \*#36 Across for PhD recipient
- Lennon's widow
- Fish family
- Sushi restaurant staple
- \*Professor, technically
- Faultfinder and scoffer
- \*Former students
- Part of eyeglasses, pl.
- Door holder
- Barely got by
- Foolhardy challenge
- Roman goddess of fertility
- Nordstorm's outlet
- Invoice qty.
- Note that follows soh

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WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

# Run for a Cause

Lake Natoma Trail Run Returns to Support Local Youth Scholarships



## Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District News Release

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - Lace up your running shoes and get ready to hit the dirt! The Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) has officially announced the return of the Lake Natoma Trail Run, scheduled for Saturday, June 6.

Formerly known as the Mississippi Bar Trail Run, this annual event invites runners of all skill levels to experience the rugged beauty of the Lake Natoma north shore. Whether you are a seasoned trail veteran or a newcomer looking for a scenic challenge, the race offers a unique opportunity to explore the oak-studded bluffs and historic gold-mining landscapes of Fair Oaks.

### The Course: A Step Back in Time

The race features both 5K and 10K options. Participants will navigate a mix of single and double track trails that wind through wetlands and rolling hills surrounding Lake Natoma.

The 5K takes runners up into the oak-lined bluffs for a bird's-eye view of Lake Natoma and the unique rock dredge trails left behind by 19th-century gold prospectors. The 10K expands on the 5K route, leading runners deeper into the rocky terrain and along the serene shoreline of the lake.

"This race highlights the unique natural features that make our area one of a kind," says Race Director Davey King. "From the evidence of our gold mining past to the beautiful Lake Natoma and American River trails, it's a true gem for outdoor enthusiasts."

### Running for Rachel: A Legacy of Leadership

While the views are a major draw, the heart of the Lake Natoma Trail Run lies in its beneficiary it supports. Funds raised from the run benefit the Rachel Anne

Gray Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship was established to honor the life of Rachel Anne Gray, a dedicated Fair Oaks resident and former member of the Fair Oaks Youth Advisory Board (FOYAB). A graduate of Bella Vista High School and CSU Sacramento, Rachel was known for her vibrant spirit and her commitment to community service before her passing in 2012 at the age of 21. Because Rachel was an avid runner who frequented local races, Recreation Manager Nick Davison established this event in 2020. His goal was to create a legacy and a sustainable source of funding for the scholarship by connecting her passion for running with the community she loved.

By participating in the run, athletes help fund annual awards for local high school seniors who mirror Rachel's dedication to leadership and community service. These scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500, empower the next generation of Fair Oaks leaders to seek positive solutions to the challenges facing today's youth. To date the scholarship has funded over \$45,000 in youth scholarships.

### Registration Details

Early registration is encouraged, with tiered pricing available. Through April 30, it will cost \$44 to register for the 5K and \$49 to register for the 10K.

From May 1 through June 6, it will cost \$49 to register for the 5K and \$54 to register for the 10K.

Active and retired military members receive a \$5 discount.

### Join the Community

Whether you run, walk or volunteer, your involvement ensures that Rachel's legacy continues to make a difference in the lives of local students.

To register or donate to the scholarship fund scan the QR code or go to [wwww.forpd.org/trailrun](http://wwww.forpd.org/trailrun). ★

# SacRT Launches New Transit Patch Program for Girl Scouts and Scouts of America



The SacRT Transit Patch introduces youth to navigation skills, rider etiquette, the environmental and community benefits of transit and the popular RydeFreeRT program. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Regional Transit

## Sacramento Regional Transit News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) announced April 15, the launch of the SacRT Transit Patch Program, a new educational initiative designed to teach Girl Scouts and Scouts of America how to confidently and safely use the region's bus and light rail system. The program was developed in partnership with Girl Scout Troop 4204, whose members helped shape the patch activities as part of their Journey Take Action Project.

"By introducing Scouts to public transit, we're not just teaching them how to get from point A to point B, we are showing them how transit connects people to places, improves the environment and builds confidence and independence," said Henry Li General Manager/CEO. "Investing in our youth is investing in the future of our region as demonstrated by the success of the RydeFreeRT program."

The SacRT Transit Patch introduces youth to navigation skills, rider etiquette, the environmental and community benefits of transit and the popular RydeFreeRT program, which provides fare-free rides thanks to funding supported by local jurisdictions and school districts for all TK-12th grade students.

"This program began with a simple idea from a local troop: helping youth gain real-world independence through public transit," said Jessica Gonzalez, SacRT Director of Marketing, Communications & Public Information. "Working with Troop 4204 to bring this patch to life has been inspiring. Their leadership and vision helped us create an engaging, meaningful way for young people to learn about riding transit, and about the role it plays in building a stronger, more connected community."

Troop Leader Deana Chan said the

collaboration offered an opportunity for Girl Scouts to make an impact that extends beyond their troop.

"Our girls wanted to create something that would help youth feel confident navigating their city," Chan said. "Partnering with SacRT allowed them to turn that idea into a real program that any scout can participate in."

Her daughter, Girl Scout Sydney Chan, said she hopes the patch encourages more kids to explore transit.

"I didn't realize how easy and fun it could be to ride the bus and light rail," Sydney said. "We wanted other scouts to see that public transit is safe, helpful, and good for the environment. I'm proud that other kids will learn something we helped create."

To earn the patch, Scouts complete five activities, including learning about SacRT services, practicing transit safety and etiquette, planning a trip and taking a bus or light rail ride. After finishing the activities, Scouts can request their official Transit Patch from SacRT's Marketing department.

"The Transit Patch Program reflects SacRT's commitment to education, community engagement and the next generation of riders," said SacRT Board Chair and Elk Grove Mayor Bobbie SinghAllen. "As a parent whose son participated in Boy Scouts, I've seen the impact that meaningful learning experiences can have on young people. This is the type of patch he would have proudly earned, one that builds skills, confidence, and a deeper understanding of how public transit connects our region."

The program's development was inspired in part by the Girl Scouts' Leave No Trace principles and encourages stewardship, responsibility, and respect for shared public spaces.

More information and downloadable activity instructions are available at [sacrt.com/transit-patch-program/](http://sacrt.com/transit-patch-program/). ★

# The HEART of Independence: From Tent to Apartment



Today, Wanda has been living in her own apartment for two months, spending most of her time at home, cooking and resting, something she doesn't take for granted. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - "I never thought I'd be in a tent, but that's better than being on the ground."

Looking at Wanda Donald and her dog Diamond today, you wouldn't guess they once spent years living outdoors. Sitting in her own furnished, cozy apartment, Wanda reflects on what she went through and the "YES" that helped her get to this moment.

After her father passed away, Wanda's family sold his home, leaving her without a place to stay. She spent about a year moving from motel to motel until her savings ran out. Eventually, she and Diamond found themselves

living outside.

It wasn't until her niece visited that the reality of her situation truly set in.

Wanda had done her best to look put together. She visited a nearby gas station to wash up and change her clothes. However, the moment her niece saw her, she broke down crying.

In that moment, Wanda knew something had to change.

She began looking at new housing options, including staying with a friend. But finding stable permanent housing that would allow her to keep Diamond proved difficult, forcing her to turn down opportunities.

That's when Sacramento County's Homeless Engagement

and Response Team, or HEART, entered the story.

In November 2024, HEART clinicians, alongside community partners, began regular outreach along Madison Avenue, where Wanda was staying. At first, Wanda kept her distance and declined services.

Despite hearing "NO" over and over, the team kept showing up week after week offering support.

"Would you like some services?" asked Kandace Seely, LCSW, a senior mental health counselor with HEART.

After months of asking, Wanda said "YES."

That yes opened the door to mental health services and a coordinated effort to help her out

of the situation she felt so stuck in. HEART worked alongside community partners to connect Wanda to intensive support and was eventually connected to a program that helped her qualify for housing, for herself and Diamond.

Today, Wanda has been living in her own apartment for two months, spending most of her time at home, cooking and resting, something she doesn't take for granted.

"I don't really go out," Wanda said with a smile. "I'm just enjoying my space."

Now with her apartment, Wanda is keeping momentum alive and focusing on the future. She hopes to stabilize her income, travel with her niece

and in time, help others who are experiencing homelessness.

"I want to help people that are in the position I used to be in," Wanda said.

For those who may be unsure about accepting help, she offers simple advice: Go through the program. Follow the program and really take HEART seriously.

"We are all so proud of Ms. Donald for her courageous act to trust a bunch of strangers and stick with us during her most difficult circumstances," said Kandace.

To learn more about HEART, their services or how to give your own "YES," visit the <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/Pages/DHS-Home.aspx>. ★

# 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. ★

# River City Chorale Celebrates 50 Years



River City Chorale, the longest standing community chorus in the greater Sacramento region, is celebrating its Golden (50th) Anniversary with two spring concerts, May 15 and 16. Photo courtesy of River City Chorale

## River City Chorale News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - River City Chorale, the longest standing community chorus in the greater Sacramento region, is celebrating its Golden (50th) Anniversary. In its spring concerts, May 15 and 16, entitled "RCC50: A Celebration of the Choral Experience," the chorale will sing music from across the centuries and various countries paying tribute to a wide range of music and traditions for all ages to enjoy.

Our auditioned vocalists are truly multi-generational, ranging in ages from 19-91, and they are already working diligently to prepare this special concert series under the capable direction of David Vanderbout. This is a chance to feature the performing arts in Sacramento and honor this grand

choral tradition.

Founded in 1976, River City Chorale's mission is to inspire and enrich our community through high-quality and diverse choral performances. In addition, the River City Chorale has embarked on over 10 international tours, spreading our love of music with audiences abroad.

## 50th Anniversary Concerts Information

The anniversary concerts will take place Friday, May 15, 7:30 pm at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, 3235 Arden Way, Sacramento and Saturday, May 16, at 4 pm. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 7869 Kingswood Dr. in Citrus Heights. After each concert there will be a reception, please join us! ★

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- For 6 people \$115.00** + Gratuity: 3Hours Karaoke + 2Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 2 Main Dishes (Small Room)
- For 12 people \$210.00** + Gratuity: 3Hours Karaoke + 2Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes (Medium Room)
- For 14 people \$230.00** + Gratuity: 3Hours Karaoke + 2Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes (Family Room)
- For 18 people 295.00** + Gratuity: 3Hours Karaoke + 3Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 6 Main Dishes (Large Room)
- For 28 people \$395.00** + Gratuity: 3Hours Karaoke + 3Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 6 Main Dishes (Large Room)

Dishes To Choose From: Beef, Pork, Chicken, Fish, Vegetarian, etc.

## FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Smoked Salmon Fillet lb REG. \$26.99/LB <b>\$12.99/lb</b>	Oceankist Frozen Smelt 2 lb REG. \$7.99/EA <b>\$4.99/ea</b>
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## WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Rump/Bottom Round Roast Boneless <b>\$5.79/lb</b>	Beef T-Bone Steak <b>\$7.49/lb</b>	Chicken Leg Quarters <b>89¢/lb</b>
Pork Neck Bones <b>\$1.99/lb</b>	Pork Tenderloin Boneless <b>\$3.49/lb</b>	Pork St. Louis Ribs <b>\$3.99/lb</b>

## WEEKLY HALAL SPECIALS

Chicken Leg Quarters <b>99¢/lb</b>	New Zealand Lamb Shoulder Chop Bone-In <b>\$5.99/lb</b>	Beef Rump/Bottom Round Roast Boneless <b>\$5.99/lb</b>
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## FRESH PRODUCE

Avocado 2 lb Bag <b>\$3.69/bag</b>	English Cucumber <b>\$1.69/ea</b>	Rainbow Bellpepper 2 lb Bag <b>\$3.49/bag</b>	American Cucumber <b>79¢/lb</b>
Yellow Onion 3 lb Bag <b>\$1.49/bag</b>	Young Coconut Easy Open 6ct <b>\$12.99/box</b>	Persian Cucumber <b>99¢/lb</b>	Russet Potato 10 lb Bag <b>\$1.99/bag</b>

## AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

Sunny-D Tangy Orange Drink 64 1.0z <b>\$1.99/ea</b>	Baudoucoo Butter Cookies 12 oz <b>\$1.99/ea</b>	Terry Ho's Yum Yum Sauce 16.1oz <b>\$2.99/ea</b>	Olay Beauty Bars 8 Pack 8 x 3.75 oz <b>\$7.99/ea</b>	Pororo Bath Tissue 24 Rolls <b>\$14.99/ea</b>
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## ASIAN GROCERY

Indo Mie Instant Noodles 30 x 80g <b>\$20.99/ea</b>	Lee Kum Kee Choy Sun Oyster Flavored Sauce 20.5 oz <b>\$2.39/ea</b>	Awail Coconut Cream 13.5 1.0z <b>\$1.19/ea</b>	Soy Milk Drink 10.1 1.0z <b>\$0.99/ea</b>	Twin Fish Dried Bean Curd Sticks 12 oz <b>\$3.49/ea</b>
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## EUROPEAN GROCERY

Santa Bremor Herring Fillets in Oil 1 kg <b>\$10.99/ea</b>	Grandma's Chicken Pelmeni 2 lb <b>\$8.99/ea</b>	Stanichny Sunflower Seed 300 gr <b>\$6.99/ea</b>	Korovka Cookies 180 gr <b>\$0.79/ea</b>	Rot Front Korovka Wafel 300 gr <b>\$2.69/ea</b>
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## EUROPEAN DELI

Freybe Herb Salami <b>\$12.99/lb</b>	Freybe Pepper Salami <b>\$12.99/lb</b>	Freybe Parmesano Salami <b>\$12.99/lb</b>	Black Kassel Mailander Salami <b>\$11.99/lb</b>
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## FROZEN & FISH DEPT

REG. \$16.99/EA  
**\$12.99/ea**

Dried Pollack 200 gr

## HOUSEWARE

REG. \$11.99  
**\$8.99/ea**

ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (1.5 QT)

REG. \$16.99  
**\$16.99/ea**

KAIZEN WOK PAN 30 CAT

REG. \$39.99  
**\$39.99/ea**

ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE MAY 06 - MAY 12, 2026.