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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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Day Program for Seniors Opens



The Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at Daycation for Seniors Fair Oaks on April 23.

Story and photos by Judy Andrews

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Fair Oaks business owner Amanda Thomas understands the difficult realities of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease. After her father was diagnosed in 2020, Thomas faced the ongoing challenges and emotional toll of watching his health decline. Her father succumbed to the disease three years later at age 78. The loss transformed Thomas' life and continues to motivate her commitment to helping loved ones and their families who are facing similar challenges. In March of this year, Thomas opened Daycation



A portrait of Amanda Thomas' father, Lee, hangs in the entry hallway at Daycation for Seniors Fair Oaks.

for Seniors Fair Oaks in memory of her father, Lee. Located at 9807 Fair Oaks Blvd., Daycation for Seniors Fair Oaks serves individuals living with Alzheimer's or dementia who can no longer live safely alone at home and would benefit from

structured, supervised activities throughout the day. Operating days and hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. "The reality is that dementia affects a larger share of the population than most people realize," said Thomas. "Caring for a loved one with the disease is one of the hardest journeys anyone can undertake. It may take a village to raise a child, but most caregivers of people with dementia are on their own. When it falls on one person, the caregiver is likely to burn out." Thomas was a new mom living in Lincoln when her dad was diagnosed. *Continued on page 2*

State Water Project Allocation Increases Heading into Summer

California Department of Water Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - May 15, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an increase to the State Water Project (SWP) allocation for 2026. The allocation is now 45% of requested supplies, up from the previous allocation of 30% announced on Jan. 29. The allocation establishes how much water the State plans to deliver to the 29 public water agencies served by the SWP, which provides water to 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland. In the spring, SWP allocations are based on current hydrological conditions, existing reservoir storage, and remaining snowpack. While California saw record heat in March and early snowmelt, consistent rainstorms in April provided critical runoff through the system that allowed DWR to capture more water and meet environmental regulations without using stored water. Currently, the SWP's largest reservoir, Lake Oroville, is at 99% of capacity. Statewide, reservoirs are 117% of average for this time of year. The challenge remains that California's snowpack, the state's frozen reservoir, is essentially gone. As of today, the statewide snowpack is just 12% of average. The snowpack peaked in mid-Feb. and has since melted off. "California's reservoirs are full, but most snowpack melted off weeks ago. We must use this stored water carefully because there's no backfill until next season," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. The SWP utilized real-time operational flexibility to benefit water users and the environment despite the fact that so much of this year's precipitation came as rain instead of snow. Water managers at Lake Oroville coordinated closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to capture as much water as possible while still providing flood protection to downstream communities. These flexible operations, coupled with the improved runoff in the system resulted in an additional 400,000 acre-feet of storage in Lake Oroville. This puts the SWP in a better *Continued on page 7*

Helping Hands OV Awards First-Ever Trade School Scholarship

Helping Hands OV News Release

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Helping Hands OV has awarded its first-ever \$1,000 Blue Collar Trade School Scholarship to Preston Schweiger, recognizing his commitment to the skilled trades and his dedication to serving the community through his work as an electrician. Schweiger, a graduate of Casa Roble High School, currently works for Irish Electric and is continuing his education through required state apprenticeship schooling while pursuing his journeyman certification. The scholarship marks a major milestone for Helping Hands OV, which created the program to support local students entering trade careers as well as



Helping Hands OV has awarded its first-ever \$1,000 Blue Collar Trade School Scholarship to Preston Schweiger, recognizing his commitment to the skilled trades and his dedication to serving the community through his work as an electrician. Photo courtesy of Helping Hands OV

those already in the trades and continuing or expanding their education, and to address the growing need for skilled tradesmen and women in the region. "Tradespeople are the backbone of our communities," said Helping Hands OV Treasurer, Vanessa Jacobsen. "Electricians, plumbers, mechanics, welders and other skilled workers keep our homes, businesses and

infrastructure functioning every day. This scholarship was created because we believe these careers deserve more recognition, support and investment." Schweiger's application *Continued on page 2*

Day Program for Seniors Opens

Continued from page 1

She recalled driving back and forth between her dad's home in Walnut Creek and Lincoln three to five times a week to give her brother a break while managing the everyday responsibilities of raising a baby.

Following her dad's neurologist's advice, Thomas and her brother searched for a senior group program near their dad's home that offered cognitive stimulation and social activities. But the only program they found was 40 minutes away and open only four hours a day.

"We signed Dad up and noticed a big difference. Although he responded well to the program, it still did not give us the break we needed as caregivers," said Thomas.

Inspired by her dad's progress and recognizing the need for more senior care programs, Thomas began exploring ways to fill the gap and concluded that the only way to make a difference was to become part of the solution.

The search led to Paul Kelly and Yvonne Mitchell, owners of Daycation for Seniors in Rocklin, who were just opening their business to franchisees. After gaining the required experience and



Led by Amanda and staff, program participants enjoy the music and dance hour, which often includes entertainment by a musician.

training at the Rocklin facility and attaining her license, Thomas opened the Fair Oaks franchise on March 9.

Today, Thomas and her staff care for 15 participants at the Fair Oaks facility, which can accommodate up to 60. They accept seniors in all stages of dementia and seniors experiencing loneliness and isolation from social interaction.

"I have one staff member for every six participants, which allows us to provide more one-on-one time with individuals as needed," Thomas explained. "It's not uncommon for newcomers

to withdraw when they first arrive. They can be confused and scared. Eventually, 95% of the participants we see adjust to the environment. It's a joy to watch them open up and have fun."

Robin Riswold, Thomas' activity director, creates the daily rotating schedules, which always include music, arts and crafts, cognitive and therapeutic games, mental and physical stimulation activities and ample time for socializing.

Lunch is prepared on-site by the staff. The facility has a kitchen with a few appliances, including a microwave, refrigerator and

dishwasher. Because there is no stove or oven, the staff gets creative with meals using a hot plate and a crockpot. All participants are served a full, nutritious meal on nice dishes with silverware.

Theresa McClure's "Aunt Barbara" regularly participates in Daycation for Seniors Fair Oaks and is fondly known among staff as "The Dancing Queen." Because McClure and her mother run a home-based business, they needed a place where Barbara would feel comfortable and cared for during the day.

"At first, my aunt was reluctant to go and only participated twice

a week," McClure said. "Once she decided she was having fun, she asked to go every day. She tells us she is making friends, having fun and getting exercise. We are so thankful to Amanda and her staff, who feel like family to us."

Thomas claims that the cost of sending a loved one to her care facility is only a fraction of the cost of in-home care.

"We'll sit down with families to determine their needs and if we are the right fit for them. I always suggest a four-hour minimum to get the most out of their loved one's time with us," she said.

As an incentive, Thomas currently offers a free four-hour Daycation experience for families and caregivers to try out the program.

Although her journey has been long, Thomas believes that her parents would be proud of who she has become. By honoring her father's legacy, she is giving back in the only way she knows how — by creating a safe, meaningful space that truly helps others.

For more information about Daycation for Seniors Fair Oaks, visit their website at www.daycationfair Oaks.com or email Amanda Thomas at amanda@daycationfair Oaks.com. ★

Helping Hands OV Awards First-Ever Trade School Scholarship

Continued from page 1

essay stood out for its honesty, passion and understanding of the importance of skilled labor.

"Becoming an electrician means more to me than just a job," Schweiger said. "Keeping lights on, refrigerators running and power flowing when people need it most drives me to pursue a life in this field."

He credited a former woodshop teacher at Casa Roble as

one of the major inspirations behind his career path.

"Without skilled and thoughtful electricians, nobody's houses would have lights at night or heat in the winter," Schweiger said. "This drove me toward a career in the electrical field without a doubt."

Schweiger also shared that pursuing a blue-collar career represents a new direction for his family.

"In my family, stepping into a blue-collar job isn't common," he said. "My career opens a new door for my family tree and generations to come."

Helping Hands OV said the scholarship is about more than financial support. It is also about investing in individuals whose skills directly improve the quality of life within the community.

"Skilled trades create lasting impact," organizers said.

"These careers allow people not only to build successful futures for themselves, but also to use their talents to strengthen and support the community around them."

Since beginning work shortly after graduation, Schweiger said he has already found fulfillment in the field.

"Every time the lights come on for the first time, the smiles on the owners' faces make it

worth the work," he said.

The \$1,000 scholarship will help offset the cost of required schooling associated with a career in the electrical trade.

Helping Hands OV plans to continue growing the scholarship program in future years to support additional students pursuing careers in the trades.

To learn more about Helping Hands OV or support their mission, visit helpinghandsov.org. ★

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COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Informing, Empowering & Encouraging Readers With Their Community



By Patsy McGavock

Over recent months, we've explored how building bridges across difference spreads ripples of connection through a community. Generations can connect like gears turning strain into strength. The literate can lift those learning to read toward the independence literacy unlocks.

As I've interviewed others, one theme repeatedly emerges: people flourish when knowledge, encouragement and opportunity move freely between them.

What other skills can ripple through a community, filling gaps in our collective foundation so more people can lift, grow and share with others? How do we rise together?

Regarding literacy and community involvement, Raj Rai, director of communication at San Juan Unified School District said, "You keep it top of mind. Start small. Show up in small things."

When asked what readers should know about adult education, Richard Judge, principal of the San Juan School of Adults, started with people, not programs.

And speaking about adult literacy mentors, Cassandra Keitges reflected: "We could become a mentoring-minded community."

That phrase stayed with me. A mentoring-minded community. This is not structural, but cultural. A mindset. The skills we share become the communities we build. Where we move beyond transactional networking to cultivate community — helping more people become capable, connected and independent together. Building stronger communities requires more than formal mentoring initiatives.

Communities do need structures that connect people beyond the capacity

Rebuilding America's Skill Set: A Mentoring Mindset

of individuals or small groups. (We'll cover some of those community hubs in June.) But no system can manufacture community on its own. Even the best-designed programs remain empty frameworks without people willing to bring them to life.

For generations, people often learned practical skills simply by being around capable adults in ordinary life. Knowledge moved naturally through conversations, workplaces, churches, garages, libraries, civic groups and neighborhood projects. Young people absorbed work ethic, communication skills and problem-solving by participating in shared community spaces. An offered — and accepted — "Could I help you with that?" can pass along skills, perspective and confidence.

As we explored in November, many of those spaces and rhythms — informal classrooms of skills and leadership — have weakened over time. Increasingly, we move through life in isolated lanes — divided by schedules, distance, technology, specialization and routine.

Much of life now happens privately — at home, online or among narrowly defined groups. Sociologists sometimes describe this loss of "third places," the spaces outside home and work where community relationships naturally form.

The knowledge and goodwill still exist. But the pathways between people have become thinner and intersect less often.

Rebuilding those pathways requires something increasingly rare: social trust. It requires willingness to step outside our comfort zones on both sides — to offer guidance humbly and receive help without shame. It asks whether we see the opportunity at all.

Do we see others and how we might help? Do we know how to help in

ways that are invitational rather than overbearing? As receivers, do we assume goodwill and accept the gift offered? That kind of community culture cannot be manufactured through institutions. It grows through repeated small habits: encouragement, introductions, shared knowledge, invitations, patience and generosity.

There is a well-known biblical phrase: "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Illustrated in the Good Samaritan, the "neighbor" was specifically someone viewed as different, unwanted or outside one's social circle. The larger principle underneath it is striking: upon this kind of love hangs everything else.

And perhaps much of what we hope for in community hangs there too. To care about another person's flourishing as connected to our own. To love their success as part of our success. Their stability as part of our stability. Their independence as part of our shared future. This is more than kindness. It is sustainable civic infrastructure.

As artificial intelligence and automation continue reshaping work and society, communities where people help each other build skills, adaptability and confidence may prove far more socially and economically resilient. That resiliency may be closer than it feels.

Small acts already surround us: someone sharing knowledge, opening a door, offering guidance, teaching a skill, making an introduction or simply noticing another person's potential. The invitation is simple: keep it top of mind.

Start small. Show up in small things. Share what you know. Ask someone what they're learning. Invite someone alongside you. A mentoring-minded community is not built all at once. It is built one lifted person at a time — and by the many who follow their example. ★

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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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You've Voted! What's Next?

**Sacramento County
Voter Registration and
Elections Office
News Release**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Voters can use the My Voter Portal (MVP) to check the status of their voted ballot. Visit: <https://myvoterportal.saccounty.gov/LookupVoter>.

Why Did I Receive a Notice About My Signature?

If we are unable to confirm that your signature on your pink Vote by Mail return envelope matches your signature on file, we will contact you to ensure your ballot is counted.

California law allows you the opportunity to correct your signature on your pink Vote by Mail return envelope up until two days before the election is certified.

To correct your signature, you may: print, complete, and return a Signature Verification Statement at VRE or any Vote Center; resolve your signature using My Voter Portal (MVP); or complete and return the letter we sent you using the postage-paid envelope.

Without your signature, your ballot will not be counted.

Where are the Election Results?

View the Election Results Schedule so you know when to expect the next update. View the schedule: elections.saccounty.gov/content/vre/us/en/election-information/june-2--2026-statewide-direct-primary-election--election-results.html#gsc.tab=0.

Curious about what we still have left? Check out the What's Left to Process page at elections.saccounty.gov/content/vre/us/en/election-information/what-is-



After the polls close at 8 p.m. on Election Day, the work continues as we diligently process, verify and ensure all eligible ballots are counted. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office

left-to-count.html#gsc.tab=0 to see the work that continues.

What Happens After Election Day?

Did you know? Depending on the type of election, we have between 28 and 30 days to certify the election. After the polls close at 8 p.m. on Election Day, the work continues as we diligently process, verify and ensure all eligible ballots are counted. Accuracy takes time.

The Official Canvass: Division 15, Chapter 4.

In this phase we audit and account for all ballots that were issued, voted, and those that were not used. This phase includes, but is not limited to, the following tasks:

Reconcile the number of ballots counted, spoiled, canceled or invalidated due to identifying marks, over-votes, or as

otherwise provided by statute, with the number of votes recorded, including VBM and provisional ballots, by the vote counting system.

Process and count any valid VBM ballots not included in the semi-final election results. These VBM ballots are returned on Election Day to our office, at a Vote Center, to an Official Ballot Drop Box location or timely via USPS.

Receive, confirm, and process Signature Verification Statements.

Count any valid write-in votes. Duplicate any damaged ballots, if necessary.

Reporting final results to the governing board and the Secretary of State, as required.

Conduct the 1% Manual Tally: Division 15, Chapter 4, Article 5.

The 1% manual tally process

validates the tabulation of ballots generated by the electronic voting equipment before certifying election results. Precincts utilized for the 1% manual tally are selected at random by the elections official. For each contest not included in the 1% manual tally, an additional voting precinct with that contest will be selected and tallied. Coming Soon.

Process Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) ballots: California Code of Regulation. Title 2, Division 7, Chapter 1, Article 3.5.

CVR extends the existing 15-day registration deadline in California to eligible voters, allowing them to register and vote provisionally 14 days prior to an election through Election Day. Voters that are not registered must be processed using CVR.

Certify the Election: Division

15, Chapter 4, Article 6.; Division 17.

Once the Official Canvass is complete, we will sign a certificate to certify the election results.

Election materials shall be sealed and retained for 22 months from the date of the election for federal elections and six months from the date of the election for local elections.

Recounts: California Code of Regulation. Title 2, Division 7, Chapter 8.

After we certify the election results, any voter may request for a recount within five (5) calendar days. For more information about recounts, visit: elections.saccounty.gov/content/vre/us/en/recounts.html#gsc.tab=0.

For more information about the June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election, visit: elections.saccounty.gov/#gsc.tab=0. ★

Remote Accessible Voting Available in Sacramento County

**Sacramento County Voter
Registration and Elections Office
News Release**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Voters can request and receive access to the Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM) system. The County of Sacramento has selected Democracy Live to provide this service. The RAVBM system allows voters to download and mark their correct ballot privately and independently using their own assistive technology, print their marked ballot and mail it to the Elections Office to be counted.

Watch the video on the RAVBM system at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54-Xbg5Nbg4>.

All registered voters in Sacramento County are eligible to use this system

pursuant to California Elections Code section 3016.7.

When

Access the service anytime, day or night, starting 29 days before an election.

How

Go online and enter your information in My Voter Portal to obtain your correct ballot. Visit: myvoterportal.saccounty.gov/LookupVoter.

Voters can vote on any computer with internet access and a printer. Email vbm@saccounty.gov or call (916) 875-6155 for help with the RAVBM system.

Practice On Our Demo Site

Voters can now practice using a DEMO version of the RAVBM system. This DEMO site simulates the

RAVBM voting experience, allowing voters to learn how to navigate and use the system in preparation for a real election. Voters can select their language and font size preferences in the top right corner, read and watch instructions on how to mark a ballot, and practice marking and printing a DEMO ballot.

Note: This DEMO version of the RAVBM system is for demonstration purposes only and cannot be used to submit an Official Ballot.

Visit: sites.omniballot.us/06067/demo/app/home?pid=2.

Assistance for Voters with Disabilities

The County of Sacramento Voter Registration and Elections Department has a long-standing commitment to work with voters with

disabilities to help them exercise their right to vote. Voters are encouraged to contact the Voter Registration and Elections Office at 916-875-6451 or voterinfo@saccounty.gov with specific requests for assistance. ★



VOTE EARLY! AVOID LINES



June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election

Vote Early and Vote by Mail

All voters will be mailed a ballot

- Ballots will begin to arrive the week of May 4

You can return your ballot

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

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



Vote Early! Vote by Mail.

My Voter Portal (MVP)

- Check your registration status
- View your political party preference
- Update your language preference if other than English
- Track your Vote by Mail status
- Access your Remote Accessible Vote by Mail Ballot
- Locate Official Ballot Drop Boxes or Vote Centers near you
- View your voting history



Scan the QR code or visit myvoterportal.saccounty.gov

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

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



How About Ja Morant?

As the June 23 NBA draft approaches, what realistic possibilities are the Sacramento Kings franchise confronted with?

Everyone already knows Sacramento dropped to the 7th overall pick, and although that was disappointing it was not the negative that many Kings fans envisioned it to be. At No. 7 this draft class will have a quality player for Sacramento to add to their roster.

The real question is, will it be a guard as everyone seems to believe it will be? Not necessarily and here is why.

For some time now talk throughout the NBA is the disposition of one Ja Morant. A highly talented point guard that can do it all, but in the past has shown flashes of true immaturity, to the point that the Memphis Grizzlies have all but given up on him.

Twice suspended for his penchant of displaying firearms on social media, Ja has had to learn the hard way. First, suspended for eight games and then again when he didn't learn his lesson for 25 games the second time.

Can Memphis problem child become something the Sacramento Kings have long been looking for? The possibility is real, and if that possibility becomes reality, this 2nd overall pick in the 2019 draft could become an instant game changer in the Kings lineup.

The question is, can Sacramento satisfy the appetite of the Grizzlies, and will the Sacramento fan base come to the realization that everyone deserves a second chance. Many will say he's already gotten that chance and blown it, but he's been with only one organization, and every once in a blue moon, the grass is really greener on the other side.

What a Ja Morant would mean to the Sacramento Kings is opening the floor like never before. Trying to stop his drives to the basket is like trying to rope a whirling dervish.

Morant is almost impossible to guard one-on-one, and that means when other teams double team him, someone is wide open.

Players like Zach Lavine, Keegan Murray and DeMar DeRozan should be licking their lips with the possibilities.

We haven't even talked about the future hall-of-famer Russell Westbrook who might

just be the mentor Ja Morant could benefit from.

There are few point guards in the NBA that can give DeAaron Fox a run for his money when it comes to pure speed, but Ja Morant is right there with him.

How would Domantas Sabonis benefit from this speedster one should ask? Another player with excellent mentoring skills, Domantas, is a nightly example of how to play the game, and if anything, I see his scoring average go up if Morant joins this team.

So. Is this pie in the sky or does this troubled 26-year-old stand a chance at joining the Kings organization? It's real if Scott Perry wants it to be real, and as they say, the proofs in the pudding.

Currently, the kings have an abundance of point guards, and with the exception of an aging Russell Westbrook, Sacramento does not have an NBA quality starting point guard.

That is not to disparage Nique Clifford or Devin Carter who have shown flashes, but the Kings need a floor leader now, and not a point guard project.

Ja Morant, if through with his prior nonsense, could be the comeback player of the year, and be a reclamation project for the Kings that says, we finally got it right!

I don't expect every Kings fan to agree with my assessment, but I'm for accelerating what is being called a complete rebuild with a much faster version that doesn't send all of our players to parts unknown.

No question, Domantas Sabonis is high on Scott Perry's list as a candidate for trade options, and I do not want to see that happen.

Look instead to resigning Russell Westbrook for perhaps his last season is a stellar NBA career, and perhaps team him with the bad boy of the NBA in Ja Morant.

I have said many times before that this team is steeped in NBA talent, but questionable coaching and torrid injuries decimated the process last year.

Let's finally assess the talent we have and actually coach it. Maybe teach pros who to shoot free throws.

Like Rosy the Riveter said, we can do it! *All the best Kings fans and keep the faith! All the best!* ★

Newsom's Tightfisted Final Budget Faces a Rough Reception in the Legislature



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Since the turn of the century, California's state budget has been plagued by a boom-and-bust syndrome rooted in its lopsided revenue system and a lack of political discipline.

The budget became increasingly dependent on taxes paid by the state's most affluent residents, whose incomes increasingly came from investments rather than salaries.

Thus state revenues would often spike upwards, only to level off or decline. But governors and legislators would make new spending commitments during the spikes that would become liabilities during the downturns.

It was dubbed "volatility" and it reached an apex four years ago when Gov. Gavin Newsom declared that the state had a \$97.5 billion surplus, having decided that a post-pandemic revenue spike would be permanent.

His administration later acknowledged a \$165 billion error in a four-year revenue projection. But in the meantime he and the Legislature had raised spending, creating deficits that totaled \$125 billion over four years, according to the Legislative Analyst Office. The deficits were papered over with a series of short-term fixes, including loans and accounting gimmicks.

On Thursday, Newsom

unveiled a revised version of his final budget and, without saying so, indicated he had learned a hard lesson about managing volatility.

Although the state is seeing a new tax spike and his budget sees a \$16.5 billion increase in revenues over three years, Newsom's \$349.4 billion 2026-27 budget takes a cautious approach. He says it would not only erase the structural deficit of the past four years, but it would guarantee that his successor would have a balanced first year budget for 2027-28.

"We're cutting deficits but not cutting corners," Newsom said.

The \$246.6 billion general fund portion of the budget relies not only on new revenues, including a \$3.6 billion boost from several relatively minor tax increases, to be balanced, but it is indirectly helped by big reductions in federal aid for healthcare.

Newsom devoted the first minutes of his budget presentation to bragging about California's \$4-trillion-plus economy, saying "we simply have no peers." He also trolled those with "California derangement syndrome" and denounced President Donald Trump as corrupt and incompetent.

However Trump's tightened eligibility for federally subsidized healthcare that could affect hundreds of thousands of Californians also has the effect of reducing the state's healthcare spending, thus helping Newsom draft a balanced budget.

He could have backfilled the lost federal funds, but that probably would have required him to propose a major tax increase of some

kind, which, as a likely 2028 presidential candidate, he is unwilling to do.

However his attitude on healthcare and taxes places Newsom at odds with advocates for poor Californians who would be affected and their allies in the Legislature, many of whom want a tax increase.

Graham Knaus, CEO of the California State Association of Counties, immediately declared that "the governor is proposing to do to counties what he accuses the president of doing to California."

Chris Hoene, of the left-leaning California Budget & Policy Center, which has been beating the drums for tax increases, said, "The governor promoted California's economic dominance while, in the same breath, making it more difficult for Californians with low incomes to access healthcare by reinstating harmful Medi-Cal asset limits, expanding work requirements and increasing Medi-Cal premiums for certain immigrants."

With just a few months remaining in his governorship, Newsom's ability to bend the Legislature to his will is fading, so the question his new budget poses is whether legislators will go along. Or will they insist that the new holes in the state's safety net be plugged and support raising taxes to pay for it?

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

Social Security's "First Year Rule" and Withdrawing from SS



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am 63 years old, and about to apply for my Social Security benefits. I am self-employed but only working part time. I know about Social Security's annual earnings limit but recently I learned I must also be concerned about a monthly earnings limit of \$2,040. My questions are:

1) How do I find out if I will be subject to a monthly earning limit of \$2,040 per month? I thought it was only evaluated annually.

2) If I choose to cancel Social Security within the first year or after, what are the penalties? Would I have to pay them back for the whole amount for the whole time that they paid me? Which makes no sense, since I have been paid into SS since I was 13 years old.

Can you help me understand this? **Signed: Claiming Early and Still Working**

Dear Claiming Early: It can get tricky if you are still working after claiming your Social Security before your SS full retirement age (FRA), especially during your first year collecting. I'm happy to answer your specific questions:

1. There is a special rule which applies during your first year collecting early Social

Security benefits (e.g., before your full retirement age or "FRA," which for you is age 67). What will happen is this: when the IRS provides SSA with your 2026 earnings (in 2027), SSA will review to see if your total 2026 net earnings from self-employment exceeded the 2026 annual limit of \$24,480. If not, no further action is necessary. But if you did exceed the full year 2026 earnings limit, SSA will contact you and ask you to provide them with details about your monthly 2026 net earnings. If you have exceeded the monthly limit in any 2026 month after your SS benefit started, you will not be entitled to SS benefits for that month. Essentially, if you have exceeded the annual limit, you cannot exceed the monthly earnings limit in any remaining month during your first year of collecting. If you exceeded the annual limit, and also any monthly limit, SSA will send you an overpayment notice saying you must repay them for the benefits you were not entitled to receive because you exceeded the monthly earnings limit.

2. You can, within 12 months of applying for Social Security, ask SSA to withdraw your application for SS retirement benefits. They will do that for you, but you will also be required to repay them all SS benefits that they have already paid to (or for) you. This essentially would "wipe the slate clean" and enable your SS benefit to continue growing, allowing you to apply for a larger monthly benefit later. But if you wait longer than 12 months after you first

apply for SS benefits, you can no longer withdraw your application for Social Security. Thereafter, you would be subject to the annual earnings limit (the monthly earnings limit would no longer apply).

FYI, after you reach your FRA, there is no limit on your earnings, and you could choose to suspend your benefit payments and earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) to get a higher monthly benefit. Also at your FRA, if SSA withheld any of your benefits because you exceeded the earnings limit before reaching your FRA, you would get time credit for the number of months your benefits were withheld. Essentially, they would advance your benefit-start month by the number of months your benefits were withheld, yielding a slightly higher monthly amount after your FRA.

Finally, it's important to know that the contributions you made to Social Security from payroll taxes (FICA/SECA) over your lifetime are not what determines your monthly SS benefit amount. Your monthly SS benefit is based on two main factors: a) your average monthly earnings (indexed for inflation) for the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime as reported to the IRS, and b) the age at which you claim your SS benefits. Your contributions to Social Security while working only provide you with eligibility to collect SS benefits; the contributions aren't put into a separate account for you and are not used to calculate your monthly SS benefit. ★

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's Campaign Against the Supreme Court



ly, since time is of the essence. With the state's scheduled May 16 primaries rapidly approaching (now delayed), Louisiana wants to redraw its maps in keeping with the court's decision.

Jackson's dissent quotes a 2019 decision of the court in *Rucho v. Common Cause* for the proposition that courts should not "risk assuming political ... responsibility for a [partisan map-drawing] process that often produces ill will and distrust."

But this was a warning against courts involving themselves in minute questions of partisan gerrymandering. Here, the court has set out a bright-line principle that district lines can't be race-based, but otherwise said that the political authorities are welcome to gerrymander or not.

Jackson also slaps the court for creating "chaos in the State of Louisiana." This is quite rich given the history.

When Louisiana created a congressional map after the 2020 census with just one majority-minority district, it got sued for not sufficiently taking race into account; a judge ordered it to make a second minority district. When Louisiana complied by manufacturing a monstrosity of a district stretching 250 miles to randomly scoop up black voters, it got sued again -- this time, for taking race too much into account -- and the case made it to the Supreme Court.

It is a sign of how weak the Jackson dissent is that the other progressives haven't joined it, not even Sonia Sotomayor. It certainly would have been

much better if this case had been decided sooner, but Alito drops a suggestive footnote in his rejoinder to Jackson. He notes that the constitutional question was "argued and conferenced nearly seven months ago." This implies that the case was effectively decided right after oral arguments in October of last year, and that the dissenters slow-walked it.

Now, Jackson wants more delay -- it serves the partisan interests of Democrats to preserve unconstitutional race-based congressional districts as long as possible.

The reaction to Louisiana v. Callais has been so incandescent on the Left because it believes that unless black voters have black representatives, they are disenfranchised. But this is not how representative democracy works. Were white voters in Georgia disenfranchised in the 2022 Senate race when two African-American candidates, Democrat Raphael Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker, ran against each other? Were the voting rights of Christians in New York City crimped in 2025 because a Muslim man won the mayoral election?

All indications are that a commitment to some version of court-packing will be orthodoxy among 2028 Democratic presidential candidates. They will seek to make the highly isolated and wholly unpersuasive Justice Jackson part of a new court majority imposed by political fiat.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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With Mary Jane Popp

Remember

It's a special day we all need to remember. It's Memorial Day, a day that gives us pause to honor those men and women who have given their lives for us so that we can have the freedoms that we sometimes take for granted. It was a great price to pay and one we should never forget. It is for military personnel who died serving the United States, and is celebrated on the last Monday of May. It was initially known as Decoration Day. The name refers to the tradition of adding ornaments to the final resting place of fallen soldiers like flags and flower in national cemeteries. People sometimes confuse this day with Veteran's Day which celebrates everyone, including survivors.

Honoring soldiers who died in battle is an ancient practice. Thousands of years ago, Greeks remembered the fallen in annual festivals and decorated graves with flowers. It was 1882 when the term **Memorial Day** first came about. This name became more common than Decoration Day after the Second World War. Federal law made it official in 1967. Actually, the end of May is not a random choice. Historians think it is a strategic date that ensures flowers across the country are in full bloom.

According to estimates, about 655,000 Americans died throughout the Civil War. The 4-year war claimed the lives of almost 700,000 soldiers. It is by far the highest casualty count for any war in American history, even surpassing the death tolls of World War I or World War II. National cemeteries

became the resting place of Union soldiers, and other cemeteries sprung up across the country. It was a grieving nation who wanted to remember the ones they lost. The first celebration was in Boalsburg Pennsylvania. They decorated their cemetery as early as October of 1864. Carbonate Illinois and Petersburg Virginia were also pioneers in this endeavor. In 1866, it was four women who honored the fallen of the Union and Confederate in Columbus Mississippi. After the deadliest battle of the Civil War President Lincoln praised the sacrifices made in the name of equality. Commemoration became even more widespread following his assassination.

The National Moment of Remembrance was created in the year 2000 after a survey revealed that only 28% of Americans knew the essence of **Memorial Day**. Even more, the younger generation mostly believed it was the reopening of parks and swimming pools. That fact really disturbed me. Please take a moment on this important day to share with your family and friends what this day really means and how important it is that we remember. And I urge all Americans to observe a moment of silence, local time 3 PM, on Memorial Day. This one minute pause aims to honor those who have died to give us the parades, picnics and celebration we can enjoy every day. Perhaps sharing this story will help those younger to understand what an important day it is for us all! **GOD BLESS ALL THOSE SOULS FOR THEIR SACRIFICES.** ★



Image designed by Magnific

State Water Project Allocation Increases Heading into Summer

Continued from page 1

position to provide water supply to contractors this year while maintaining robust carryover storage to meet water supply and environmental needs should next year be dry.

Each year, DWR provides an initial SWP allocation in December based on available water storage, projected water supply and water demands. Allocations are updated monthly as snowpack, rainfall and runoff data is analyzed, with a

final allocation typically determined near the end of the season in May or June. This season, the initial allocation was 10% on Dec. 1, updated to 30% percent on Jan. 29, and increased to 45% today.

Learn more about how snowmelt impacts State Water Project allocations: <https://youtu.be/vXdP6s8Kq0E.d>

Historical data on SWP allocations is available at <https://water.ca.gov/programs/state-water-project/management/swp-water-contractors>. ★

Helix Electric Joins \$390 Million Sacramento Airport Project

Helix Electric News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Helix Electric (Helix), a leading electrical contractor with over 3,000 employees and over \$1 billion in annual revenue, joins in the construction of a new six-story, 5,500-space parking garage at Sacramento International Airport (SMF), located west of Terminal B.

The project, part of the airport's \$1.3 billion SMForward capital improvement program, is on track to open in late 2026 and will significantly expand parking capacity for the region's fastest-growing airport. Helix serves as the managing electrical contractor on the project, working in coordination with general contractor Otto Construction.

"Projects like this don't happen without the right people and the right partners," said Casey Long, chief operating officer for Helix Electric. "We are grateful to Otto Construction for bringing their best to this job every single day, and we are confident the workers on this site are building something Sacramento families will rely on for generations of travel ahead."

The new garage replaces the existing Hourly B Lot and adds 5,500 close-in parking spaces for passengers and visitors at SMF. The structure features a parking guidance system, electric vehicle charging

stations on every level, solar panel readiness and public art integrated into its perforated metal panels.

"When Sacramento residents head to the airport, this garage will be part of their experience for decades to come, and that matters to us," said Matt Liefer, operations manager for Helix Electric. "This project expands what Helix Electric can offer in Northern California and reinforces our commitment to delivering work that leaves a lasting, positive mark on the communities we build in."

The Terminal B Parking Garage 2 is one of six projects under the SMForward program subject to the county's CWTA. Otto Construction, a Sacramento-based, woman-owned firm, serves as the design-build general contractor and previously constructed SMF's Terminal A parking garage in 2004. The total project budget is \$390 million.

About Helix Electric, Inc.

Helix Electric, Inc. (Helix) specializes in design-build and highly complex electrical projects as an award-winning electrical contractor. With decades of experience and expertise in nearly every construction field, Helix Electric has established itself as an industry leader. Founded in 1985, Helix ranks as one of the largest and most successful electrical contracting companies in the nation. For more information visit <https://www.helixelectric.com/>. ★

Concerts in the Park Returns June 11



By Judy Andrews, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Kick off summer with Concerts in the Park beginning Thursday, June 11, at Village Park, 7997 California Ave., Fair Oaks. The first live concert features classic rock from United Brothers Petty & Friends. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair. The event is free to attend. Food trucks will be on site for food and snack purchases. Other concert dates include June 25, July 9, July 23 and Aug. 6. Bands perform from 7 to 9 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Concerts in the Park is presented by the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District in partnership with the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce. To review the complete concert lineup and event rules, please visit: www.forpd.org/261/Concerts-in-the-Park.

Join the **Fair Oaks Rotary Club for its 80th Anniversary Celebration** on Monday, June 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, 7997 California Ave., Fair Oaks. Highlights include a look back at the club's 80 years of contributions to the Fair Oaks community, with visual presentations in an open-house format. Join in the fun by dressing in attire from the past 80 years through the present. Tickets cost \$35 per person and include heavy appetizers, a hosted bar with wine and beer and non-alcoholic beverages. To purchase tickets, visit: www.tickettailor.com/events/rotaryclubof-fairoaks2/2157834.

Other Events

May 23 - The public is welcome to attend the **27th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony** on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. at the Fair Oaks Cemetery District, 7780 Olive St. This year's theme celebrates the USO's 85th Anniversary. The American Legion Riders - Chapter 521, Rio Linda, will kick off the parade at 10 a.m. sharp. The event is free and concludes with

refreshments. **May 30** - Looking for used treasures? Shop more than 50 sellers for some great finds on Saturday at the **Community Garage Sale** from 8 a.m. to noon at Fair Oaks Park, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. Registration is currently closed to sellers.

June 4,5,6 - The Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District is presenting **Shakespeare in the Park** featuring Taming of the Shrew for three nights at the Village Park Bandshell, 7997 California Ave., Fair Oaks. The event is free and runs from 7:30 to 10 p.m. For more information and to review the park rules, visit: www.forpd.org/536/Shakespeare-in-the-Park.

June 6 - Join the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District for the 4th annual 5K and 10K **Lake Natoma Trail Run** along Lake Natoma's north shore. The race starts at the Main Avenue Trailhead at 9500 Sunset Ave., Fair Oaks. Proceeds benefit the Rachel Anne Gray Memorial Scholarship. For more information and to register, visit: www.forpd.org/422/Lake-Natoma-Trail-Run. *See you in Fair Oaks!* ★

Sacramento's Own Lawsuit Machine Shows Why SB 84 Can't Wait

By Victor Gomez and Sen. Roger Niello

If you want to understand why California's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) lawsuit crisis has gone on so long without a fix, look no further than your own backyard. For years, one of the state's most prolific serial lawsuit filers operated his litigation empire out of a home office right here in Carmichael.

Scott Johnson, a quadriplegic attorney who eventually pleaded guilty to federal tax evasion, filed thousands of ADA lawsuits across the state - naming himself as the plaintiff and collecting over \$1.3 million in 2013 lawsuit settlements alone. Johnson's targeting of Fair Oaks Boulevard and the Sacramento corridor became so aggressive that a local Carmichael attorney felt compelled to issue a public warning to businesses in the area.

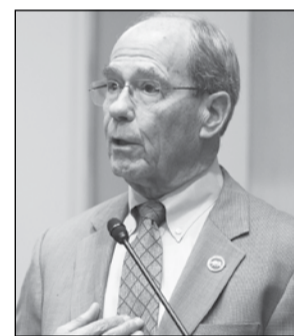
Johnson is a known name now, but the business model he pioneered is still being utilized daily in Carmichael the Sacramento region and across the state.

Serial ADA litigation has morphed from a few nefarious actors focused on lawsuit profiteering to what has now become a multi-million-dollar litigation mechanism in California. Sacramento-area small businesses remain prime targets.

California small businesses have no recourse when it comes to battling ADA suits. That's why Senator Roger Niello's Senate Bill 84 is our best answer and is long overdue.

Senate Bill 84 will give small businesses 120 days to fix the problem after receiving notice before a lawsuit can proceed. If the business fails to act, full legal recourse remains available. The only thing SB 84 eliminates is the financial incentive to sue before a business has a chance to comply.

Recently, it was reported that a single plaintiff has filed 47 lawsuits against Sacramento businesses in three years. These lawsuits targeted restaurants, local cafes, and neighborhood



Senator Roger Niello



Victor Gomez

shops for minor technical violations that could have been fixed and resolved quickly had anyone simply notified the owners of these issues. The pattern is always the same: file first, notify never, settle for thousands.

California filed the most ADA lawsuits in the country for the second consecutive year in 2025 - with cases targeting bathroom mirrors hung ¼ inch too high, wrongly shaped handicap signs, and websites image descriptions. The average ADA settlement runs \$14,000, and litigation costs can reach into the hundreds of thousands.

This is a tax on every neighborhood in California. The Perryman Group's economic analysis for Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse found that lawsuit abuse costs every Californian \$2,567 per year through higher prices and reduced wages and contributes to the loss of more than 850,000 jobs statewide. When a family restaurant in Carmichael our neighborhood settles a shakedown suit for \$12,000 rather than risk \$100,000 in legal fees, that money doesn't come back. And many times, the restaurant doesn't either.

ADA lawsuit reform legislation, like SB 84, is not about limiting protections for individuals with disabilities. SB 84 is a bill that would ensure the law works as intended for all Californians. SB 84 would give businesses a chance to come into compliance while preserving full legal recourse for those who need accessibility standards in place.

In 2025, SB 84 cleared the Senate floor with a resounding 34-2 vote. This outcome is a very rare display of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle coming together to work

towards a solution. However, the bill sits idle, waiting for a hearing to be scheduled in the Assembly Judiciary Committee. In a state that ranked dead last in Chief Executive Magazine's Best and Worst States for Business 2025, that's not neutrality. It is a choice to protect a broken system that only benefits plaintiffs' lawyers.

Californians are not the only Americans plagued with the pitfalls of lawsuit abuse. Others across the country are faced with the same ADA abuse challenges. Missouri is another prime example, like California, of bearing the brunt of this legal abuse. The main difference between our state and the Show-Me state: Missouri lawmakers just took action. The House recently voted unanimously to pass their own ADA reform bill and send it to the governor's desk for signature. Missouri lawmakers are working to protect their constituents from lawsuit abuse while preserving meaningful disability access. We need to make sure we're doing the same in California.

Carmichael Sacramento-area small business owners and Sacramento families pay the hidden costs of lawsuit abuse on every receipt. We are asking the Assembly Judiciary Committee to hear this bill and asking our neighbors to make that demand heard.

The ADA was written to open doors. It's time to stop letting trial lawyers use it to close them.

Senator Roger Niello represents California's 6th Senate District, covering portions of Placer and Sacramento counties. Victor Gomez is Executive Director of California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse. ★

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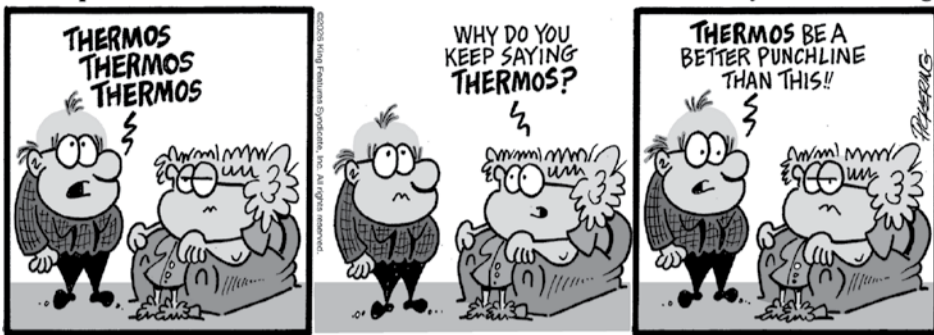
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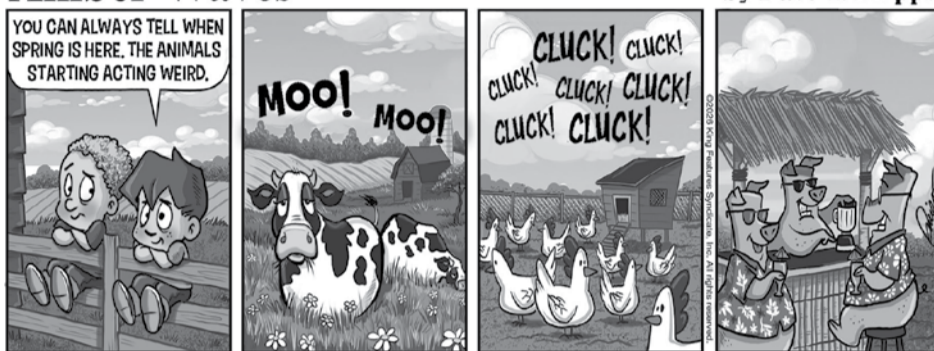
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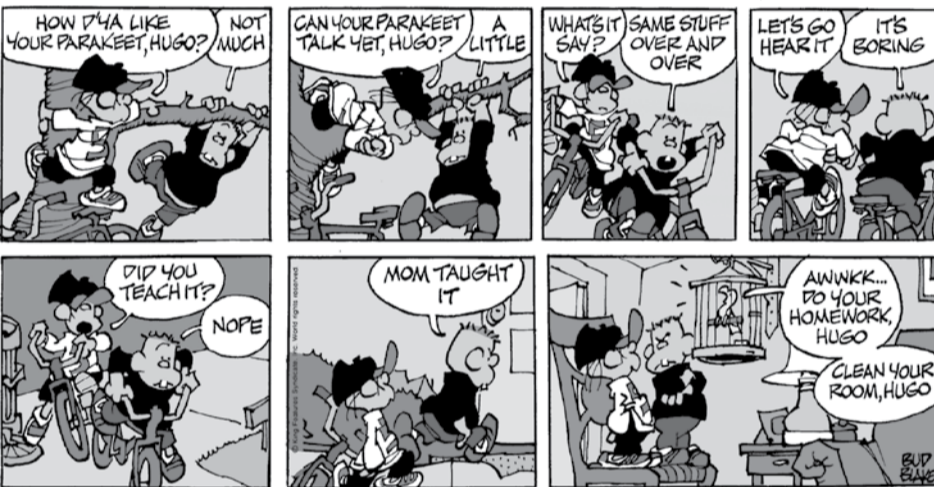
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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURES

CLUES

ACROSS

- Throat-clearing sound
- Like a fiddle?
- Chicago baseballer
- Cyberattack target
- Opposite of pizzicato, in music
- Bullying, e.g.
- Pharmacy ware
- Wedding cake layer
- *Mythological part woman, part bird
- *Part man, part bull
- Means justifiers
- Seize the throne
- Found at the pump
- *Part man, part fish
- Julianne Moore or Lucille Ball, e.g.
- Schiller's address to joy
- Popular pet rodent
- Bono's bandmate, with The
- Chunk of iceberg
- *Pointy-eared humanoid
- Knight's breastplate
- Independent chieftan
- Pay, in casino (2 words)
- Bugling ungulate
- Like sun
- Mother-of-pearl, pl.
- Public health org.
- Manila hemp
- Vegan's protein choice
- *Three-headed dog
- African antelope, pl.
- Not written
- Arch above eye
- Actor's rep
- Sommelier's domain
- *Large and hideous humanoid
- *Giant bird of prey
- Bulb type
- *Abominable humanoid

DOWN

- Tally
- Stay out of its way!
- Small ladies' handbag
- Extra large wine bottle
- Robin Hood's companion
- Tuck
- Frost over (2 words)
- Millimeter of mercury
- Little Miss Muffet's morsel
- Mail carrier, acr.
- Beyonc , a.k.a. Queen
- Adjust
- Beforehand
- *Wailing spirit
- *Killers of the Flower Moon" Oklahoma location
- Hair-raising product
- Lawn trimmer
- Organ swelling
- Made over
- Abundant
- Landscaper's tool
- Like an athlete
- Office stations
- Landlord's due
- Acronym-named sandwich
- *Part lion, part eagle
- Lickety-split
- Nurses' org.
- Incapable
- Sunbaked, archaically speaking
- Demijohn
- Eagle's home
- Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop
- Not for here (2 words)
- Barrel-counting org.
- Type of hood
- Restless desire
- Database command
- Roofing sealant
- Yellow river tributary

CROSSWORD

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'Blue Star Museums' Offer Free Admission to Military and Families

Sacramento Area Museums News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Eight Sacramento area museums are participating in Blue Star Museums to offer free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve, from Armed Forces Day through Labor Day on Sept. 7.

A partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families in collaboration with the Department of Defense and museums across America, the local museums participating in the 2026 Blue Star Museums program include the following: Aerospace Museum of California, California Automobile Museum, California Museum, Crocker Art Museum, Fairytale Town, Sacramento Children's Museum, Sacramento History Museum and SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity (MOSAC).

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military including: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, including Reservists, National Guardsman (regardless of status), U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a Geneva Convention common access card



Eight Sacramento area museums are participating in Blue Star Museums to offer free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve, from Armed Forces Day through Labor Day on Sept. 7. Photo courtesy California Automobile Museum

(CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID) or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card for complimentary entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

Before planning a visit, guests are encouraged to contact the individual museums for hours of operation

and note some are normally closed on Mondays and in observance of holidays such as Labor Day.

For more information or a complete list of participating Blue Star museums, visit <https://www.arts.gov/initiatives/blue-star-museums>. For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, "like" them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SacMuseums, follow them on Instagram @SacMuseums or visit www.SacMuseums.org.

About Blue Star Museums

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and participating museums across America. For a list of participating museums, visit [arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](https://www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).

About Sacramento Area Museums (SAM)

Comprised of approximately 25 greater Sacramento area museums, SAM's mission is to raise awareness of local museums by giving the community the opportunity to discover the region's fine and contemporary arts, history and science treasures. SAM achieves its mission through implementing cooperative promotions and developing strategic marketing alliances, by encouraging sharing of knowledge and resources among its partner institutions. For more information, visit www.SacMuseums.org. ★

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2026 Sacramento Valley Korean Culture Festival Honoring Our Korean War Veterans

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UC Davis Men's Golf Trio Earns All-Big West Recognition

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Three UC Davis men's golfers earned 2025-26 All-Big West recognition, the conference announced May 12. Sophomore Lequan Wang was named to the All-Big West Second Team, while juniors Curtis Da Silva and Ryan Firpo each received Honorable Mention.

Wang, a sophomore from San Mateo, CA, posted the lowest scoring average among the Aggies (71.7) across 32 rounds and closed the regular season ranked No. 362 nationally per Clippd, the highest mark on the UC Davis roster. The Aragon High School graduate recorded two top three individual finishes, taking third at the Bridgestone Collegiate Invitational at 15-under 201 (with 19 birdies, second-most in the tournament) and third at the home El Macero Classic at 4-under 212.

Wang closed fall play with a tie for fourth at the Marquette Intercollegiate after a 3-under second-round 69 and opened The Prestige in a tie for second after a 3-under 68 before the third round was canceled by high winds. He played in all 11 stroke-play events for the Aggies during the regular season after earning All-Big West Honorable Mention as a freshman in 2024-25.

Da Silva, a junior from Monterey CA, earned Honorable Mention after competing in all 11 stroke-play events and posting a 72.9 scoring average across



Sophomore Lequan Wang and juniors Curtis Da Silva and Ryan Firpo have recently earned All-Big West recognition. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

32 rounds. The Robert Louis Stevenson School graduate opened the season with his first career top 10 by finishing 10th at the Ram Masters Invitational at even-par 210, including a 4-under second-round 66 at Fort Collins Country Club. Da Silva fired 70-68-69 at the Amer Ari Invitational at Mauna Lani Resort to take a tie for 38th at 9-under 207 (the only Aggie under par for the event, with three sub-par rounds) and closed the regular season with a 14th-place finish at 1-under 215 at the 2026 Big West Men's Golf Championship at La Quinta Country Club, one of just

two Aggies under par at the conference event. He also led UC Davis on Day 1 of The Goodwin at Stanford with a 1-under 69.

Firpo, a junior from Davis, CA, received Honorable Mention in his first season at his hometown school. The Davis Senior High School graduate transferred to UC Davis from Fresno State, where he was named the 2023-24 Mountain West Freshman of the Year as a Bulldog. Firpo led the Aggies at the home El Macero Classic with a tie for 30th at 7-over 223, the same event at which he posted a sixth-place finish as a Fresno State freshman in 2024. He paced UC

Davis at the Windon Memorial Classic with a tie for 55th and an even-par 72 in the final round, opened the spring with a 6-under 66 in round one of the Amer Ari Invitational, and closed at a tie for 35th at the R.E. Lamkin Invitational with a final-round 72 across 10 starts and 28 rounds.

Long Beach State's Alejandro de Castro Piera was named the conference's Golfer of the Year and Cal Poly freshman Rafael Bobo-Lloret was tabbed Freshman of the Year. Long Beach State's Rob Murray earned Coach of the Year honors after leading the 49ers

to a record-setting Big West Championship at La Quinta Country Club. Long Beach State placed five golfers on the All-Big West First Team, joined by UC San Diego's Davis McDowell.

The trio of selections capped a 2025-26 campaign that featured the program's first individual victory since 2023, sophomore Louis Grizot's Silver Title at the Gene Miranda Falcon Invitational, and a 3.43 team GPA in the Winter 2026 academic quarter that set a UC Davis men's golf program record and stood as the highest among all UC Davis men's programs. ★

Beavers Run Out of Gas, Fall to Feather River



The 2026 season has come to a close as the American River College baseball team lost in the regional championship game to Feather River 19-8 on May 3 in Quincy. Photo courtesy of American River College

American River College News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The 2026 season has come to a close as the

American River College baseball team lost in the regional championship game to Feather River 19-8 on May 3 in Quincy. After putting a thumping on the Golden Eagles in the first game, then falling 4-2

in the second game, everything was on the line that morning.

The game was moved up to 10 a.m. to try and beat an incoming thunderstorm. After the Beavers failed to score in the top of the first, Feather River wasted no time jumping on freshman RHP Ayden Dringenberg (Oakmont), who had thrown three innings on Friday to secure the win over Monterey Peninsula College. The Golden Eagles got three runs in the first inning, then one in the second.

The Beavers came back with three runs in the third inning, with 2B Lance Sabatke (River City) driving in a run with a single to center. But the ARC pitchers just couldn't keep Feather River off the board, as the Golden Eagles scored in six of their eight innings at bat, with all but the second inning being multiple run innings. After ARC closed the gap to 4-3, FRC scored four in the third and two in the fourth to go up 10-3.

The Beavers answered back with a run thanks to an RBI double by Sabatke. RHP Nathan Gahn (Bear Creek) held Feather River scoreless in the fifth and the Beavers got two runs in the top of the

sixth to make the score 10-6. But Feather River just kept adding on and got the two runs back in the bottom of the sixth. In the seventh ARC clawed back, scoring a pair of runs to make the score 12-8 thanks to a sacrifice fly by 3B Luke Haney (Oak Ridge) and an RBI single by SS Bryce Sabatke (River City). The Beavers threatened in the eighth with runners at first and second with one out but 1B Jose Vega (Highlands) hit into an inning ending double play to squash the threat. It was one of two double plays the Beavers hit into on the day. With the game still within reach going into the bottom of the eighth Feather River put the game away for good, scoring seven runs to make the final score 19-8.

The American River College baseball staff would like to thank everyone who supported the team this season and we are looking forward to January and the start of the 2027 season. And a big congratulations to the players on the 2026 team for a fine season, and to the sophomores who will be moving on...thank you for your dedication and hard work. Once a Beaver, always a Beaver! ★

Murillo Sixth Addition to Men's Soccer Roster

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State head men's soccer coach Michael Linenberger added a sixth commitment for the 2026 campaign, welcoming local product James Murillo to the roster in time for the upcoming campaign.

"We are excited to add James to our roster," Linenberger said. "We worked to keep good local talent at home, and James has had a lot of college success already. We expect him to challenge for a starting role in our back line this coming fall."

A native of Elk Grove, CA, Murillo joins the Hornets' sideline after prepping at Elk Grove HS and spending last season at nearby Folsom Lake

College as a center back for the Falcons. In his first collegiate campaign, he was named the team's Defensive Player of the Year, added Big 8 Conference First Team honors, and was selected to the California Community College Athletic Association's all-regional squad.

He appeared in 21 matches as a sophomore at Folsom Lake, helping lead the Falcons to a conference title with an 8-1-1 record (13-6-2 overall) and adding his first career goal — and game-winning score — in a 1-0 victory over Cosumnes River College on Oct. 7. That helped his case for Big 8 Conference Player of the Month honors.

As a true freshman in 2024, he started 17 matches and appeared in 1,453 minutes at Jessup

University, attempting one shot.

Prior to his time at Jessup, Murillo competed with Sacramento United SC from the U9 all the way up to the U19 level, earning a selection to the MLS NEXT All-Star game. He also competed with the Sacramento Gold semi-pro club in the NPSL and with FC Folsom in the UPSL, helping the latter to a spot in the national finals.

Murillo is the latest addition to the Sacramento State roster for 2026, joining previous commitments from defender Mateus Romualdo (Snow College), midfielder Henry Hedden (Monte Vista HS), goalkeeper AJ Bendgs (UNC Asheville), forward Jakub Kozlowski (Palomar College) and defender Cameron Martino (Clovis East HS). ★

Weiss Takes Home Senior Championship



Senior Champion Jeff Weiss. Courtesy photo



Legends Championship winner Herb Jensen. Courtesy photo



Super Senior Championship winner Mark Morgan. Courtesy photo

Sacramento Golf Council News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Golf Council hosted the 53rd Sacramento County Men's Senior, Super Senior and Legends Championships at Ancil Hoffman Golf Course, Carmichael May 5-6.

The Senior Championship (ages 55-64) was won by Jeff Weiss in a four-hole play-off over Bob Niger. Both scored 141.

The Super Senior Championship (ages 65-74) was won by Mark Morgan with a score of 70-64.

The Legends Championship (ages 75 plus), Herb Jensen won with a consistent score of 72-72.

Jim Shields was the Golf Council Tournament Director. The event showcased the top senior golf talent from across the region and was sponsored by Eskaton Village Carmichael. ★

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