



## Girl Scouts Earn Highest Honors

PAGE 7



**Rosie Day Spa**  
 7600 Greenhaven Dr. #6  
 Sacramento 95831  
 RosieDaySpa.com

Sacramento Skin & Body  
 Wellness Retreat Spa Since 1995 916-393-4299

# Pocket News

VOL 35 • ISSUE 11

Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

JUNE 12, 2026

**SEE INSIDE**

**STATE POPULATION STAGNATES AS BIRTHS, IMMIGRATION DECLINE**



PAGE 5

**THE FINALS ARE REVEALING**



PAGE 5

**AVORIO DENTAL**  
 Upen J. Patel, DDS, MAGD  
**NO INSURANCE? NO PROBLEM!**  
**\$108 New Patient Visit!**  
 (Call for details)  
 • Cosmetic  
 • Implant  
 • Snoring & Sleep Apnea  
 • Emergency



We Accept all Medical Insurance Plans for Sleep Appliances. Helping you maximize your benefits for sleep apnea treatment.

**916 483 5566**  
 www.avoriodental.com  
 @doctorupenpatel



Scan our QR Code for a direct link to our online edition!

PRSRTD STD.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 CARMICHAEL, CA  
 PERMIT NO. 350  
 OR CURRENT  
 POSTAL CUSTOMER

## Student Aims for National Spelling Bee

By MPG Staff

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - It is no surprise that a young student who actually likes to read the dictionary for fun came within a single word of advancing to this year's National Spelling Bee. Meet Mickayla Brown, a sixth grader from Matsuyama Elementary School. She is a 2x School Champion and has been a finalist in her school's spelling bee program since her first try, as a second grader.

Mickayla is the youngest of three siblings, and has always been ahead of her peers academically, though her mom, Michele, says she was slower to read than her sister Ava and brother Lucas. When schools were shut down during the pandemic, Mickayla buried herself in books from the library, and her reading skills skyrocketed. She also benefited from listening in on Ava and Lucas' classes and trying to do their school work, too. "She's always challenged herself to learn stuff above her grade level," says Michele. "Spelling comes

*Continued on Page 2*



Mickayla Brown, two-time Spelling Bee champion, whose winning word was "claustrophobia." Photo courtesy of Matsuyama Elementary School

## Realtor Builds Career on Decades of Sales Success and Service



More than 50 years ago, Ron Nakano was a student at JFK, and Stephen B. Clazie was an English teacher. They recently got together for this interview.

Story and photos by Stephen B. Clazie

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - For more than 50 years, helping people achieve their goals has been the foundation of Sacramento-area real estate agent Ron Nakano's professional career.

That foundation was established when he moved with his single mother and four sisters from the Hilltop neighborhood of Richmond to the Meadowview neighborhood of Sacramento. His parents were Sumao Nakano and Fusako Yamamoto. They met at Camp Amache, also known as the Granada Relocation Center, near Granada, Colorado. Amache was one of 10 incarceration sites established by the War Relocation Authority during World War II to unjustly incarcerate Japanese Americans.

More than 10,000 people, most of them American citizens, were incarcerated at Amache from 1942 to 1945.

Sumao wanted to prove he was a loyal American, so he joined the U.S. Army while at Camp Amache and served in Texas training soldiers in anti-aircraft operations. He is buried in the veterans cemetery in Daly City.

His five children were struggling financially when they arrived in Sacramento in 1970. Their mother, Fusako, was able to obtain government assistance to attend nursing school, and Ron entered John F. Kennedy High School as a sophomore. He and his older sister were sad

*Continued on page 3*

## Report on Elk 6's PM Crew by Chair Ray Nielsen



The current chair of Elks 6's Preventive Maintenance (PM) Crew, a position he has held for the past 17 years, Ray Nielsen stopped by the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market on Sunday to have the JFK High School Pacific Islanders Club wash his truck. Photo by Stephen B. Clazie

Edited by Stephen B. Clazie

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) of the United States of America, Lodge 6, relocated from its historic location to a new building in Greenhaven in October 1977: its current address at 6446 Riverside Blvd.

The BPOE requested that the City of Sacramento assign the street address 6666 to the new lodge. That did not happen, but the lodge did receive a phone number ending in 6666.

Over time, lights burned out, repairs became necessary and maintenance costs grew increasingly expensive. In response, a small group of members formed a volunteer team known as the Preventive Maintenance (PM) Crew to handle repairs and upkeep.

The founder and first chair was James Harris, who served from 1980 to 1994, retiring after 14 years. The second chair was John Dougherty, who served for 15 years until 2009.

*Continued on page 8*



**SENIOR LIVING**  
 OFFERING ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE SUPPORT  
 18 Kado Court, Sacramento, Ca 95831  
**(916) 395-7579 | accmtv.org**




# Student Aims for National Spelling Bee

*Continued from page 1*

easily for her, since she loves reading and discovering new words.”

All students entered in the Matsuyama school bee were given a study list of about 600 words and Mickayla devoted a lot of her recess and lunch time to having her friends quiz her on words from the list. “Mickayla is already so smart and a really hard worker, but I still tried to help her,” said her friend Jaanvi Raj. “But honestly, she doesn’t even need to study, she already knew, like every word!”

Mickayla did admit to prioritizing her Bee preparation over schoolwork last year, as a fifth grader. “I spent so much time studying my word list that I forgot about an entire 5-paragraph essay that was due. I wrote it in one night, but it wasn’t my best work,” she said.

Fortunately for Mickayla, she still achieved top grades, and the Bee has taught her to manage her time better, which she will need for middle school. She’ll be attending Miwok Middle School in the fall, where she hopes to place first in their school bee and advance to nationals.

This year, the Terrell Christopher Gladney (TCG) Memorial Academy Foundation hosted the Capital Spelling Bee and District Bee that supported 3 individual spellers to advance to the national level competition in Washington DC. They also sponsored the enrollment of over 20 area schools into the Scripps Spelling Bee program, which is about \$200 per school. “It was a pleasant surprise to have our school’s enrollment fee paid for this year,” said Matsuyama spelling bee coordinator Sue Ping Jiang. “Mr. Gladney and his team see the value and importance of hosting a spelling bee and want to share it with other schools. It gives students a chance to compete in something other than sports and it really supports the school’s goals of fostering literacy, language and love of reading.”

Mickayla did admit to prioritizing her Bee preparation over school work last year, as a fifth grader. “I spent so much time studying my word list that I forgot about an entire 5-paragraph essay that was due. I wrote it in one night, but it wasn’t my best work,” she said. Fortunately for Mickayla, she still achieved top grades and the Bee has taught her to manage her time better, which she will need for middle school. She’ll be attending Miwok Middle School in the fall, where she



The top seven finalists of the Matsuyama School Spelling Bee compete in a tie-breaker to determine the 2026 School Champion, who advances to the District Spelling Bee. They are, from left, Jaxon Gimpl, Brandon Kang, Lilah Walters (runner up), Mickayla Brown (champion), Karissa Yee, Alec Sullivan and Avni Singh. Photos courtesy of Matsuyama Elementary School

hopes to place first in their school bee and advance to nationals. This year, the Terrell Christopher Gladney (TCG) Memorial Academy Foundation hosted the Capital Spelling Bee and District Bee that supported 3 individual spellers to advance to the national level competition in Washington DC. They also sponsored the enrollment of over 20 area schools into the Scripps Spelling Bee program, which is about \$200 per school. “It was a pleasant surprise to have our school’s enrollment fee paid for this year,” said Matsuyama spelling bee coordinator Sue Ping Jiang. “Mr. Gladney and his team see the value and importance of hosting a spelling bee and want to share it with other schools. It gives students a chance to compete in something other than sports and it really supports the school’s goals of fostering literacy, language and love of reading.”

Jiang brought the Spelling Bee program to Matsuyama in 2018 and has seen it grow year after year. “It’s an old-school tradition that the students, their parents and all the teachers just really love.” She remembers young Mickayla competing

in the Bee as a second grader, one of the youngest and smallest students there, tagging alongside her older sister Ava. “She was so nervous and so serious but she did extremely well. Now she is much more confident in herself, and she’s one of the brightest, most well-rounded students I’ve ever met.”

Mickayla’s teacher, Ms. Rachele Gray, echoed those sentiments. “She has great study habits and is such a hard worker, always going above and beyond what an assignment calls for. Some classmates would find that kind of overachievement to be unbearable, but in Mickayla’s case, she is so well-liked that her drive and perseverance really inspires everyone around her.” This year, Mickayla’s winning word at the School finals was “claustrophobia,” which came in the 9th round of competition. The school runner-up was Lilah Walters, a 4th grader, who is already busy preparing for next year’s Bee. A special award was given to Tegan Kayatta, a 3rd grader, who was the youngest finalist in the School Bee. While Mickayla had the support of the entire school behind her as



Marley Roberts, a 2nd grader, won a Spelling Bee plush as part of one of Matsuyama Elementary School’s top spellers in the primary grades.



Tegan Kayatta, a 3rd grader, is the youngest speller to advance to finals.

she competed at the next level, they will be relieved that Mickayla is moving on to middle school, as she has dominated the school spelling bee for the past 3 years. Next year, Matsuyama will finally have a new school c-h-a-m-p-i-o-n. We wish Mickayla and all the young spellers good luck as they advance towards their goal of making it to the National Spelling Bee in W-a-s-h-i-n-g-t-o-n D.C!

## Experience Counts!

Nearly 45 years of representing our Greenhaven/Pocket friends and neighbors with Professionalism and Integrity!



**Nick LaPlaca**  
916-764-7500  
Nick@NickLaPlaca.com



**Gina LaPlaca**  
916-548-1628  
GinaSellsSac@gmail.com  
CalDRE #01259236



## REVERE COURT

MEMORY CARE

Monthly Caregiver Educational Seminar  
Tuesday, June 23 at 2 p.m.

“Caring for Yourself While Caring for Others”

Presented by:  
Dena Jimena & Vitas Healthcare Team

Light refreshments will be provided

Please join us for this presentation on caregiver burnout, where we will discuss the signs, causes & impact of burnout on caregivers. This session will also provide helpful resources, support options, and mental health information to help caregivers care for themselves while continuing to care for others.

Please RSVP By June 19th  
At 916-392-3510

Coffee Klatch Support Group  
Every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

in the Conference Room:

This Support Group is for families and friends who have a loved one with Memory Loss.

We will help provide caregiving strategies, education, resource information, and a shoulder to lean on!

At Revere Court Memory Care, we believe that support and education are essential for every caregiver. Together, we can build understanding, resilience, and a stronger community of care.

www.RevereCourt.com  
7707 Rush River Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95831  
LIC #342700005



# Realtor Builds Career on Decades of Sales Success and Service

Continued from page 1

because they had left all of their friends in Richmond.

A year later, he had a motorbike and was working at McDonald's on Freepport Boulevard near C.K. McClatchy High School. By the time he was 17, he was the swing manager, and he kept that job until he earned his Associate of Arts (AA) degree from Sacramento City College. At the end of his shifts, he would take a bag of leftover food and place it closer to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks than to the McDonald's dumpster.

He always assumed homeless people were taking the food. While being interviewed for this story, he realized it might have been students from the Curtis Park area who used the shortcut through the train yard to attend California Middle School.

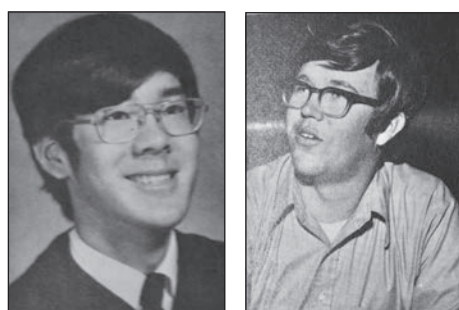
Ron said he was blessed by God to play trumpet in JFK High School's marching band. He believes band director Nicholas A. Angiulo made a real difference and a joy to play in the band.

Angiulo had a difficult life as a teenager and got his start as a trumpeter in Canton, Ohio, at age 14 because his uncle convinced a local bar owner that Nick should be in the band. Nick made high school a fun place to be for a large number of students.

After earning his AA degree, Ron headed to San Jose State University. While there, he received an offer to purchase an ownership interest in a Sambo's Restaurant. Two men, Sam Battistone Sr. and Newell Bohnett, combined portions of their names to form the restaurant chain Sambo's.

Ron said, "It is ironic that two fellows took the first name of one founder and the first two letters of the other founder's last name to name their restaurant, only to discover that many people associated the name with 'The Story of Little Black Sambo.'"

Ron learned he was too young to accept the offer because he was only 18 and investors had to be at least 21. When he turned 21, he acquired a 20% ownership interest in a Sambo's restaurant in Gilroy and began working every day of the year,



While looking through a yearbook, Ron Nakano and Stephen B. Clazie discovered how much has changed over the years. Their 1973 yearbook photos are shown above.

from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., then returning from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

There were no locks on the doors, but one Christmas he locked the restaurant and took all of his employees out for a three-hour celebration without the company's knowledge.

Although he never completed his degree at San Jose State, he learned valuable business lessons. In 1978, he began his sales career at Downtown Ford in Sacramento. During his first year, he was named Rookie of the Year. His success continued as he later earned Salesman of the Year honors and was eventually promoted to assistant sales manager.

In 1980, he obtained his real estate sales license, knowing that one day he wanted to pursue a career in real estate. He earned his real estate license first and then made what he considers his best investment when he obtained his marriage license on Aug. 25, 1982. He and his wife, Jean, have been married for more than four decades.

In 1984, he began a 24-year career with Toyota. Starting at Florin Road Toyota in Sacramento as assistant fleet manager, he later served as fleet manager and finance manager before becoming sales manager. Over the next 14 years, he held sales management positions at Florin Road Toyota, Elk Grove Toyota and Hanlees Toyota in Davis.

Throughout his automotive career, he received numerous honors, including Toyota's Master Sales Manager Award and recognition as one of the Top 10 managers in customer satisfaction in Northern California.

The experience he gained helping customers in the automobile industry became

**RON NAKANO & ASSOCIATES**  
REALTY

**Ron Nakano, Broker**  
DRE# 00793682  
916.396.4430

**Kenny Hoang**  
DRE# 02072253  
916.397.9560

Ron Nakano's daughter, Lindsey, is a senior counsel for the State of California's Fair Political Practices Commission. Her boyfriend, Ben Delarossa, is a professional graphic artist. He designed this logo to capture the character and spirit of Ron's new real estate firm.

the foundation for his success in real estate.

He believes that treating people fairly, competently and honestly is the only way to conduct business. His goal is to create clients for life by consistently exceeding expectations.

During challenging real estate markets and difficult economic times, he has worked with many sellers, including some facing financial hardship, to help them achieve their real estate goals. He has also assisted buyers in taking advantage of favorable market conditions, including low interest rates and affordable home prices.

He became a specialist in short sales. In 2007, his first thought was to "save a home rather than sell a home." Having previously helped people obtain interest-only loans, he found himself doing more saving than selling.

His efforts have earned him the trust of

numerous clients and customers throughout the Sacramento area.

Reflecting on his career, he says he is grateful for the trust his customers and clients have placed in him over the years and looks forward to continuing to earn that trust in the future.

Ron said, "My goal is to create clients for life, and this is only possible through going above and beyond their expectations. Average service is not enough."

On March 24 of this year, a corporation named Ron Nakano & Associates Realty was licensed in the State of California. Ron decided it was time to work for himself.

Kenny Hoang is Ron's associate. In addition to being a real estate agent, he is also a licensed general contractor.

Ron believes, "Through honest hard work and through the grace of God, anything good is possible." ★

**WHY PAY A HIGHER MORTGAGE WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO?**  
COME HOME TO THE EXPERTS

**GREEN HAVEN**  
CAPITAL INC.  
MORTGAGE LOANS

More Lenders = More Competition = Lower Rates and Fees / Multiple options to lower payments / Lower Payments = More Money in your Pocket!

**916.476.6507 info@greenhavencap.com**

**Kevin Oto**  
President/Broker  
DRE Lic# 01721444  
NMLS ID: 62641

**Kyle Garman**  
Mortgage Broker  
DRE Lic# 01886785  
NMLS ID: 354318

**Bryan Tom**  
Mortgage Broker  
DRE Lic# 01960546  
NMLS ID: 1234757

**Lavega Sims**  
Mortgage Broker  
NMLS ID: 447751

Apply Online Here!

5890 S Land Park Drive, Sacramento, CA 95822. Equal housing opportunity lender. We do not conduct business in states where we are not licensed. Interest rates are subject to change. https://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org/ CAL DRE #01842493, NMLS ID: 173082, CAL CFL #60DBO-174459

**Senior Health Fair**  
Resources for The Golden Years

**INFORMATION & ENTERTAINMENT**  
FOR SENIORS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

**Saturday, June 20, 2026**  
10 am to 3 pm

**FREE Parking**

**FREE Admission**

**Wyndham Sacramento Hotel**  
Northeast 5321 Date Avenue  
Off of Highway 80 at Madison, Sacramento, CA 95841

- FREE EXHIBITS!
- FREE ENTERTAINMENT!
- HEALTH SCREENINGS!
- SAMPLES & PRIZES!

**Rock-n-Roll Concert and Classic Car Displays!**

- Senior Care
- Veterans Information
- Medicare Options
- Chiropractors and Massage
- Home & Garden
- Natural Healing
- Sports & Fitness
- Health & Other Insurance
- Anti-aging Programs
- Investment and Retirement
- Mental Health
- And Much More!

**Great Entertainment & Live Music**

Hear old time rock n' roll, cruising songs, surfer songs. It's the music you grew up with!

Sponsored by

**www.SeniorHealthFair.org To Exhibit: 916.910.9499 or info@recovery4all.org**

**Gated, Updated, Quality Parker-built Custom Home**

**982 South Beach Drive, Sacramento 95831**

Spacious kitchen features newer luxury vinyl flooring and baseboards. Newer microwave, dishwasher.

Wonderful functional floorplan with floor-to-ceiling windows.

**3 Beds | 2.5 Baths**  
**\$659,000 | 1,968 Sq. Ft.**

High-quality Mohawk carpet installed in 2024, tile floors in 2025. Updated window by the fireplace.

**MONA GERGEN**  
916-247-9555  
CaDRE# 01270375  
mona@monagergen.com

# Pacific Islander Club Washes Cars at Farmers Market

Story and photo by Stephen B. Clazie

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Jaylen Pabelonia, president of the John F. Kennedy High School Pacific Islanders Club, said, "The major goal of the club is to celebrate and promote the culture and contributions of Pacific Islander students and families."

Jaylen also said, "The club organizes events such as the annual Pacific Islanders Family Night, which showcases cultural performances and community engagement." The club also seeks to educate the broader school community about Pacific Islander heritage.

The club held a car wash at the GreenHaven Pocket (GHP) Farmers Market on Sunday to raise funds for its activities. The car wash took place in the Elks Lodge parking lot at 6446 Riverside Blvd. Club members

plan to hold additional car washes in the future.

The club collaborates with local organizations to support Pacific Islander youth and families. Jaylen said, "We provide a platform for students to connect with one another and celebrate their cultural identity." Students also participate in traditional dances and performances, including the Kiribati dance.

These activities foster pride in Pacific Islander traditions and help to raise awareness of the culture within the school community.

Dance in Kiribati includes several styles unique to the island nation. Unlike many other forms of Pacific Island dance, Kiribati dance emphasizes dancers' outstretched arms and sudden birdlike head movements. The frigatebird (Fregata minor), which appears on the Kiribati flag, symbolizes

this distinctive style of dancing. Most dances are performed either standing or seated, with controlled and deliberate movements.

Besides serving as president of the Pacific Islanders Club, Jaylen was a 5-foot-11, 275-pound guard, center and defensive tackle for Kennedy High's 2025 varsity football team. He was a senior who wore jersey number 52.

According to Yahoo Scout, "Pacific Islanders, especially those of Samoan and Tongan descent, have a strong presence in American football. This is often attributed to cultural values emphasizing strength, teamwork, and resilience."

While watching Jaylen wash cars at the farmers market, Vic Cima, the general manager of the GHP Farmers Market, said, "Jaylen looks like a football player." ★



Jaylen Pabelonia, president of the John F. Kennedy High School Pacific Islanders Club, sprays a car while another unidentified member of the Pacific Islanders Club assists him.




**Live longer, live happier.**  
**Join SIR Branch 93!**  
 Our activities provide social, physical and mental engagement for men over 50 and their partners.  
**We live longer and have more fun!**

Make friends for life! SIR is a nonprofit social club for active, fun-loving men who want to stay engaged, make new friends, and enjoy activities in the Sacramento area.

- Monthly luncheons with great company
- Golf, bowling, walking, and other group outings
- Social events and special interest activities
- A welcoming community of like-minded gentlemen




Go to: [sirinc.org/branch93](http://sirinc.org/branch93)  
 Or scan the QR code to learn more.  
 Email: [membership@sir93.org](mailto:membership@sir93.org)  
 Or call 916-531-2551  
 Brought to you by SIR93 a local Sacramento branch



**Breakfast Lunch Dinner**

**Happy Hour 3pm - 6pm ★ Mon - Fri**

Mon - Fri: 11am - 10pm  
 Sat & Sun: 9am - 10pm  
**Breakfast**  
 Sat & Sun: 9am - 2pm

916.665.1169  
 8259 Freeport Blvd.  
  
 Follow us on Instagram and Facebook  
[freeportbarandgrill.com](http://freeportbarandgrill.com)

Food served all day long. Indoor and covered/heated outdoor seating available



Start planning now - call to schedule your FREE estate planning consultation today!

**WILLS - TRUSTS - PROBATES**

**PRACTICE AREAS:**

- Living Trust
- Advance Health Directive
- Power of Attorney
- Probate
- Conservatorships
- Other Special Planning

UNIQUE TO EACH CLIENT



The incredible team at Yee Law Group's top priority is client satisfaction and serving each client with exceptional professionalism and precision.

Call **916-927-9001** for Free Consultation  
 4010 S. Land Park Drive, Suite B, Sacramento 95822  
[mylawyersllp.com](http://mylawyersllp.com)  
 See our awesome reviews on: 

**MIKE YEE, ESQ.**  
 Leading the way top rated!



**TURN-KEY LENDING & REALTY**  
 TKLendingRealty.com



Michael Lee and the Turn-Key team have the knowledge and expertise to help you and your family with all of your real estate needs. *Broker | Lic. 01726405*

**Real Estate Mike**

888-505-8554  
[MikeLeeLoans@gmail.com](mailto:MikeLeeLoans@gmail.com)

TRUSTED • RELIABLE • PROVEN • EXPERIENCED

**We Moved!**  
**2122 28th Street, Sacramento**

- Complete Funeral, Mortuary and Cremation Services
- Green and Natural Options Available
- Zero Percent Interest for up to 48 Months When Planning in Advance!
- No Credit Checks




**GEORGE L. KLUMPP CHAPEL OF FLOWERS**  
 FD360

916.443.7917  
[www.klumppfuneralhome.org](http://www.klumppfuneralhome.org)



**Jessycab Shoemaker**  
 JSHoemaker@klumppfuneralhome.org  
 Manager of Funeral Services  
 Funeral Director FDR3709



# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



## The Finals Are Revealing

Well, if we listened to the experts and the NBA prognosticating, we would shortly be crowning the Oklahoma City Thunder with their second Larry Obrien trophy in as many years.

By now we all know that coming from a 3-2 deficit, the upstart San Antonio Spurs did what few thought was possible and not only won two games in a row to win the western divisions championship but put the exclamation mark on their final victory by winning on the opposing teams home court. A herculean task accomplished, and once again the experts let us know that you can watch the finals if you wish, but the outcome is all but decided.

Victor Wembanyama had already put on his superman's cape and punished what most pundits believed was an organization that had put together one of the best consummate teams that anyone had seen in years. Yes, and that's not to say that the Oklahoma City Thunder are not every bit of that, but tremendous credit needs to go to the San Antonio Spurs for putting on an epic performance and one of the best playoff series seen in years.

All that said, the well-rested New York Knickerbockers have been waiting in the wings and would like to be heard from.

Heard from they were, doing the unthinkable by defeating the Thunder on Oklahoma City's home court two straight games, and setting the experts back on their heels in amazement.

NBA fans got an up front and personal look at how team basketball is supposed to be played, and without an MVP or a 7-foot-4 center, the Knicks have posted a commanding two-game lead as the two teams convene at Madison Square Garden Monday night for game three.

Surprising? I would have to say yes, but encouraging is a more apt description.

Although the Knick's had a solid regular season record of 53-29, it paled in comparison to the Thunder's 64-18 or that of San Antonio who posted 62-20.

The city of New York is going crazy as their beloved Knicks haven't secured an NBA championship in 53 years.

Not since Willis Reed, Bill Bradley, Dave Debuscherre, Walt Frazier and Earl the pearl Monroe graced the hardwood of Madison

Square Garden have the New York fans tasted the ultimate success.

New York is a long way from Sacramento to be sure, but don't think that Kings fans aren't paying close attention to what has become a true surprise.

The very fact that the Knick's have won 13 consecutive playoff games is nearly record setting, and two more wins would not only secure the championship, but tie them for the most consecutive playoff wins in NBA history.

Those games have yet to be played, and San Antonio may have something to say about the outcome to be sure, but the fact that without a true superstar the Knick's are boat racing through the playoffs, should give Sacramento fans something to ponder.

Some would argue that Karl-Anthony Towns and Jalen Brunson are superstars and they may have a legitimate argument but credit the Knicks with building a team in the real sense of the word.

As the finals will finish shortly and one of these two teams will be crowned the champion, and heads turn to June 23 when the NBA draft takes place.

General Manager Scott Perry has remained somewhat of an enigma, but that is about to change.

The ability to truly judge talent will be on full display, and a trade just before the draft remains a possibility.

Will the Kings shore up the backcourt and give Domantas Sabonis some help, or once again try to find the point guard of the future after they inexplicably let DeAaron Fox slip between their fingers.

Will Ja Morant enter the picture by way of a trade is still a possibility, but can the organization look past his transgressions that have put him in the doghouse of the Memphis Grizzlies.

One of the more interesting NBA drafts is about to begin and never let it be said the Sacramento Kings didn't have a chance to enhance their team, because this draft is deep in talent, and one of these hopefuls is about to don a Kings jersey.

Enjoy the finals Kings fans and dream the dream, because that's what New Yorker's are doing right now!

*All the best!* ★

## California's Population is Stagnating as Immigration and Birth Rates Decline



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California's population exploded during and immediately after World War II, from 6.9 million in 1940 to 19.9 million in 1970, thanks to waves of migrants from other states drawn to California's surging economy and the famous postwar baby boom.

California absorbed its 13 million new residents by expanding its public infrastructure of schools, colleges, highways, parks and water systems and by welcoming immense private investment in new housing, new retail complexes, new factories and new office buildings.

Population growth slowed in the 1970s in the aftermath of the baby boom and as an economic evolution, from manufacturing to technology and services, changed the job market. The leading politician of the decade, Gov. Jerry Brown, declared that California had entered "an era of limits" and major infrastructure expansion was no longer needed.

However, the 1980s saw a new population surge, driven by immigration from other countries and a new baby boom. California's population jumped by 6 million — 5-plus million of them babies — during the decade, a more than 25% gain.

The increase was so large, relative to the nation as a whole, that California was awarded seven new

congressional seats after the 1990 census.

Unlike California's expansive reaction to its postwar population increase, the 1980s boomlet sparked an adverse reaction in the 1990s, including new laws aimed at denying public services to undocumented immigrants and a power struggle within the Sierra Club over immigration's impact on the environment.

Meanwhile, population growth slowed again, and in this decade virtually halted as immigration and birth rates declined and substantial numbers of people left California, thanks largely to the state's sky-high living costs.

A recent study by researchers Hans Johnson, Julien LaFortune and Eric McGhee at the Public Policy Institute of California found that the total fertility rate has dropped from 2.21 children per woman in 2007 to 1.48 in 2023, far below what demographers call the "replacement level of 2.1 necessary to keep a population from declining."

The state lost a congressional seat after the 2020 census and is likely to lose several more after the 2030 census. However, the impacts of California's population plateau extend far beyond politics.

"A smaller population can offer benefits; it reduces pressure on housing and infrastructure needs," the researchers wrote, "easing congestion and reducing the need for expansive public works projects." They also cited potential improvements in the environment and increasing per pupil spending on education as enrollment declines.

"At the same time," they added, "fewer births — and a smaller population — may

bring challenges: they could accelerate K-12 enrollment declines and strain the state's economic and safety net systems as fewer workers support a larger share of older Californians. Labor shortages could also hinder California's economic development."

Those are all valid points and many more potential impacts could be mentioned. But the underlying issue is whether political policies will reflect the new demographic reality.

The post-World War II population explosion manifested itself in a bipartisan effort to do what was needed to make the transition relatively painless. We haven't seen such political adjustment to changing demographic trends since.

Meanwhile, the state's population is twice what it was in 1970 and we still depend on what politicians wrought in the post-war era — such things as the State Water Plan and our extensive freeway network.

A stagnant population eases pressure for new infrastructure but we still need to maintain what we have and expand it to meet current needs. However, water projects have languished and we no longer build new highways.

Jerry Brown, who proclaimed the "era of limits" in the 1970s, returned to the governorship in 2011 and declared, "I want to get shit done."

There's still much that should be done.

*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

### Why Can't I get a Lump Sum Death Benefit from my Wife?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** My wife passed away in September 2025 at age 64. We had been married for 43 years and started collecting benefits when I turned 62 and she was 63. She did not have enough work credits to claim her own SS and thus collected on my record. SSA told me that I was not entitled to receive the lousy \$255 death benefit because my wife was collecting on my work record. Is this correct?

**Signed: Grieving Widower**

**Dear Grieving:** We extend our sincere condolences on your wife's passing. But I must tell you that what the SSA (Social Security Administration) told you is correct.

Although we often see assertions that the so-called "one-time lump sum death benefit" is always paid, there are specific rules for when that admittedly small SS benefit is available. And there are also specific rules regarding who is eligible to receive it.

Essentially, the lump sum death benefit is paid when the deceased person

was collecting Social Security retirement benefits (or at least entitled to SS retirement benefits). And that one-time lump sum death benefit usually goes to the deceased person's surviving spouse (more on that later). But for the death benefit to be paid, the deceased person must have been collecting Social Security retirement benefits (or was at least entitled to SS retirement benefits). In your specific case, because your wife was not eligible for her own SS retirement benefit and was, instead, just collecting a spousal benefit from your SS record, you unfortunately are not able to collect the lump-sum death benefit as your wife's surviving spouse. So, what you were told by Social Security about this special survivor benefit is, indeed, correct.

For information, here is a bit more on who can collect the SS death benefit: the one-time lump sum death benefit is normally paid to the eligible surviving spouse of a deceased person who was collecting Social Security. But if there is no surviving spouse to receive the one-time payment, the death benefit may be paid to someone else who was also a dependent of the deceased. That might be a minor surviving child or a surviving adult disabled child who was collecting dependent benefits from the deceased person's SS record. In rare cases, a dependent parent may be

paid if no other surviving dependents are eligible. FYI, ex-spouses are not eligible for a death benefit from a former spouse.

The lump-sum death benefit must be applied for by contacting Social Security and the benefit must be claimed within two years of the person's death. You will need to verify your identity and confirm your eligibility for this survivor benefit, and you will need to provide other information about the deceased also (including a death certificate). There is an SSA form to apply for the lump sum death benefit (SSA-8), but calling your local SS office (or 1.800.772.1213) to make an appointment to apply for the one-time lump-sum death benefit in person is usually all that is needed.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.* ★



The U.K. government banned left-wing influencers Cenk Uygur and Hasan Piker from traveling to the country because they blame everything on the Jews -- and, true to form, Uygur and Piker blamed the Jews.

Uygur and Piker were to speak at a South by Southwest conference in London and participate in an event at the Oxford Union when their visas were canceled. They immediately smelled a rat, and, as usual, one emanating from Jerusalem.

"I've been banned for criticizing Israel," Uygur posted on social media. "Are we free anymore? This is oppression of Western citizens by our own governments on behalf of a different country!"

Piker chimed in, "The U.K. has revoked my visa as well. All at the behest of Israel. The West is betraying 'liberal values' for a genocidal fascist foreign government. Soon we will all become Israel."

Like most everything the duo says -- Piker is Uygur's nephew and got his start on his podcast -- this is poisonous nonsense, although it doesn't make the U.K.'s decision any better.

Britain now conducts itself like a nation that has never heard of John Milton, John Stuart Mill or Bertrand Russell, its storied advocates of free speech down through the centuries.

The U.K. routinely ex-

## The U.K.'s Dumb Exclusion of Left-wing Influencers

cludes controversial figures from traveling to the country from abroad, and actively tries to suppress speech offensive to gays, Muslims, trans people, Jews or others. You can get arrested, as TV writer Graham Linehan found out, for posting pungent opinions about biological males using female locker rooms, or for silently praying outside an abortion clinic.

If we needed a reminder of the wisdom of our Founders writing the First Amendment into the Constitution, the free-floating illiberalism of the British government trying to enforce faddish norms provides it.

The Home Office, which was responsible for revoking the Uygur and Piker visas, says that their presence in the country might not have been "conducive to the public good" -- whatever that means.

Certainly, it would be very bad for Britain if the country were to adopt wholesale the malignant views of Uygur and Piker, but that wasn't going to come about as a result of, say, one of them having a 40-minute speaking slot at a South by Southwest satellite event.

Traditionally, in free societies, people are allowed to say dumb and hateful things. Either they discredit themselves by doing so, or perhaps they eventually win people over to their views. Regardless, free and robust debate has been considered a good in and of itself, something a country run by a raucous, free-wheeling Parliament should readily understand.

Are the Jews behind the

exclusion of Uygur and Piker? Yet, there were Jewish groups who didn't want them to come, but excluding them was a decision entirely in keeping with the government's practice of trying to suppress views that it deems extreme. Just a couple of weeks ago, right-wing figures critical of Islam and supportive of Israel saw their visas revoked.

The British government isn't a tool of the Zionists. It is a left-of-center Labour government. The Home Secretary is a Muslim of Pakistani origin who has attended anti-Israel protests. The government has said it would jail Bibi Netanyahu if he travels to Britain, sanctioned Israeli officials, restricted arms sales to the Jewish state, and recognized a Palestinian state.

If the revocation of the visas is an Israeli op, it's a profoundly counterproductive one. In authoritarian societies, people can truly be suppressed -- if China wants to get rid of a nettlesome figure, it simply disappears him or her. In an open society, in contrast, there are many channels for expression, and official hostility tends to make the targeted voices more famous and interesting, whether it's James Joyce or the Sex Pistols.

Surely, Cenk Uygur and Hasan Piker are better known in the U.K. now than they were a few days ago, and that's not, as they say in Britain, conducive to the public good.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

(c) 2026 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

# ABOUT TOWN

## Concerts in the Park

Free Friday night concerts at Cesar Chavez Park, 910 I St. Lineup: Souls of Mischief; June 12, The Temper Trap; June 19, Kid Ink; June 26, Arden Park Roots.

## Area Museum Experiences

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

**Aerospace Museum of California** – As a proud partner of Blue Star Museums, active military members along with five additional guests can enjoy free admission through Labor Day (Sept. 7). Details at aerospaceca.org.

**Sacramento History Museum** – “Play Ball! Sacramento in the National Pastime.” The exhibition is filled with historical baseball uniforms, bats, balls, and gloves from different time periods, along with programs, tickets, awards and trophies, an Edmonds field base, home plate and ticket box, along with scrapbooks, news articles, photos and more. Through October. Details at sachistory-museum.org.

**California Automobile Museum** – Broadway Cruise: The Homecoming will be a celebration of art, culture,

community, and history. You’ll see every decade cruising down the street ... and you’re welcome to join the cavalcade! Enjoy drinks and eats from local vendors, take part in the Cruise itself, and join us as Broadway transforms into one huge party on June 20.

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

**California State Railroad Museum** – Golden Hour Express Train, Wednesday evenings through Aug. 19. Depart from historic Old Sacramento for a scenic, hour-long round-trip journey along the Sacramento River. Relax in the comfort of our first-class, air-conditioned cars or take in the sunset from an open-air gondola; the choice is yours.

With sweeping riverside views, refreshing beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), and a vibrant social atmosphere, it’s the perfect way to toast the evening. Each ticket includes two drink

tokens to enjoy during the ride.

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

**Crocker Art Museum** – “Rebels with La Causa: Royal Chicano Air Force Art and Activism, 1970-1990,” through June 28, explores the expansive production and creative impact of the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF), one of the Chicano Movement’s most prolific and impactful artist collectives.

Beginning in 1970 at Sacramento State, the group produced individual artworks and group murals, as well as posters for educational, cultural, and political activities. The RCAF’s transformation into a broader collective not only initiated an explosion of Chicano art exhibitions, literary events, performances, and community celebrations, but expanded civic and political engagement.

While RCAF posters served as announcements for these wide-ranging activities, their multicultural aesthetics,

subject matter, and strategic humor redefined Chicana/o art, as well as the history of art and activism in the United States. Details at crockerart.org.

## SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity Laser Concert Series

– Beastie Boys (18+ event), July 10-11. This immersive music experience, paired with spectacular full-dome lasers, is the best way to listen to your favorite artists outside of a live performance. Details at visitmosac.org.

## Elks Lodge 6 Calendar of Events

Sunday Breakfast, Doggie Fashion Show, Flag Day Celebration, Member Engagement Fair, Lodge Town Hall, ALL on Sunday, June 14.

Classic Car Show, Saturday, July 18.

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

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

Martial Arts, Monday 5 p.m.

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

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

**We are your neighbors**  
**nextdoor**  
**Pocket News**

Stop by for a visit  
[nextdoor.com/page/pocket-news](http://nextdoor.com/page/pocket-news)

There are hundreds of  
**LOCAL EVENTS**  
Waiting to be discovered at  
[pocketsacnews.com/calendar](http://pocketsacnews.com/calendar)

Theater Concerts Crafts Fitness Dining Cultural Groups Museums Festivals Expos Clubs Classes Spiritual Support Groups

## CALL A PROFESSIONAL

**LYTLE CONSTRUCTION INC.**  
Award-Winning Design/Build Firm  
Serving Sacramento for more than 25 years  
Remodeling and Design  
LIC# 480492  
Certified Kitchen & Bath Remodeler

- Additions
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Custom Cabinetry

**FREE Consultation**  
**916-422-6639**

[www.lytleconstruction.com](http://www.lytleconstruction.com)

**Spring Yard Clean-up Specials!**

- HAULING & YARD CLEAN-UP
- RAIN GUTTER CLEANING
- CONCRETE REMOVAL
- HEDGE TRIMMING /SHRUB REMOVAL
- PRESSURE WASHING

Pressure wash your driveways clean! Your decks, too!  
Clean out your garage! Replace that old lawn!  
Hard work—not a problem!  
SPECIALS FOR SENIORS/\*SERVING THE AREA SINCE 1996\*

Call **LESTER**  
**(916) 838-1247**  
Lic#128758/Ref

**ADVANCED WINDOWS & GLASS**  
NEW WINDOWS • REPAIRS • GLASS

- GLASS
- DOORS
- MIRRORS
- SCREENS
- SHOWERS
- WINDOWS

GREAT PRICES • FRIENDLY SERVICE  
ALL REPAIRS • GLASS - WINDOWS  
ALL TYPES OF DOORS

**FREE ESTIMATES**  
LIC # 874072

**RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL**  
**(916)459-0430**

**ROONEY’S PLUMBING**  
FULL SERVICE PLUMBING

**916-456-7777**  
[rooneysplumbingco.com](http://rooneysplumbingco.com)

License #683668

**AFFORDABLE TRENCHLESS & PIPE LINING**

Install a Water/Electric line under your existing driveway!

SEWER PROBLEMS? WATCH OUR VIDEO.  
[www.ydig.com](http://www.ydig.com)

**We're #1 in the #2 business**

Off (916) 488-1215 Lic #754886

**CAPITOL ELECTRIC**  
Reasonable Residential & Commercial Work since 1960

Repairs, Trouble Shooting  
Custom Lighting/FREE Est.  
Excellent ref from Angie's List

**(916) 213-3740**  
Neil McIntire — C.S.L.# 394307

**FREEDOM HANDYMAN SERVICE**  
I specialize in all areas of home improvement!  
Quality work the first time, guaranteed!

Co2 & Smoke Alarms - Light Bulb Replacement - Door Bells  
Grab Bar Installations - Security Doors - Sprinkler Repair & New Valves  
Carpentry Electrical - Plumbing - Sheetrock - Ceiling Fan Installation

**Fix leaks of all types**  
Accepts All Major Credit Cards "Senior Discount"

NO JOB TOO SMALL! **Call Eric (916) 470-3488**

**Shanei Oriental Rug Gallery**

Oriental Rugs | Persian Rugs | Navajo | Tapestries

Sell . Buy . Hand Washing . Restoration . Appraisal  
**916.792.5408 11267 Coloma Road - Gold River**

Pick-up & Delivery [www.SHANEI.com](http://www.SHANEI.com) Since 1989

**PROFESSIONAL PET WASTE REMOVAL SERVICE**

**Total clean SCOOP TEAM**

HONEST SERVICE. FAIR PRICING. SPOTLESS RESULTS.

**916-250-2506**  
[WWW.TOTALCLEANSCOOPTeam.COM](http://WWW.TOTALCLEANSCOOPTeam.COM)

**ALL AMERICAN PRO CONSTRUCTION & RESTORATION**

★ FAMILY-OWNED & OPERATED ★ VETERANS & SENIOR DISCOUNTS ★  
★ GREAT CRAFTSMANSHIP & CUSTOMER SERVICE ★

**SPECIALIZING IN KITCHEN & BATH REMODELS, WATER DAMAGE, PLUS MUCH MORE.**

**BIG OR SMALL, WE DO IT ALL. GIVE US A CALL.**  
**916-504-0188**

CSLB# 1089369, Licensed, Bonded & Insured

**FOLLOW US for Local News and much more!**

**Pocket News**  
Facebook: @pocketsacnews

**Call (916) 773-1111 to advertise with us today!**

**MPG** Messenger Publishing Group

**Community Worship**

**River's Edge Church**  
6449 Riverside Blvd. • 391-9845  
Sunday Worship: 10:00am  
[www.recsac.org](http://www.recsac.org)

**Saint Anthony Parish**  
660 Florin Road • 428-5678  
Sunday Masses: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm  
Daily Mass: 8:00 a.m Monday through Friday • [www.stasac.org](http://www.stasac.org)

**Greenhaven Lutheran Church**  
475 Florin Road (across from Kennedy High School) • 428-8449  
Bible Study & Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:15 a.m.  
[www.greenhavenlutheran.org](http://www.greenhavenlutheran.org)

**Pocket News**  
Serving Pocket and Sacramento County since 1993

It is the intent of the *Pocket News* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

The *Pocket News* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of the *Pocket News* are copyrighted. Ownership of all advertising created and/or composed by the MPG is with the publishing company and written permission to reproduce the same must be obtained from the publisher.

Subscriptions should be mailed to *Pocket News*, 2508 Garfield Ave. Suite A, Carmichael, CA 95608.

The *Pocket News* is published twice a month. Call (916) 773-1111 for more information.

**Publisher, Paul V. Scholl**

*Pocket News* is a member of **Messenger Publishing Group**

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email to: [Publisher@mpg8.com](mailto:Publisher@mpg8.com).  
**Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.**

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.

**MPG** **CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL**

# Girl Scouts Earn Highest Honors



Girl Scouts Heart of Central California honored 167 girls during its annual Highest Awards Ceremony at Hiram Johnson High School Auditorium, recognizing recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award, Silver Award and the council's Rose Award. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts Heart of Central California

By **Ornella Rossi**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)**

Before they earned medals, scholarships and standing ovations, many of the Girl Scouts recognized Saturday, May 16, at the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California Highest Awards Ceremony started their award-winning community projects with a simple question: How can I help?

By the end the answers had taken shape as STEM programs for children, deaf awareness curriculums, debate workshops and community initiatives designed to last long after the applause faded.

Girl Scouts Heart of Central California honored 167 girls during its annual Highest Awards Ceremony at Hiram Johnson High School Auditorium, recognizing recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award, Silver Award and the council's Rose Award for projects tackling issues ranging from STEM accessibility and mental health to environmental sustainability and racial justice.

"This ceremony is a powerful reminder of why Girl Scouts matter," said Girl Scouts Heart of Central California Chief

Executive Officer Linda E. Farley. "These girls didn't just complete projects, they identified real challenges in their communities and created meaningful, lasting solutions."

The morning began with a Gold Award Poster Symposium, where attendees explored presentations highlighting projects created by Award recipients. This year's honorees included 36 Gold Award recipients, 83 Silver Award recipients and 48 Rose Award recipients.

The Girl Scout Gold Award, the organization's highest honor, requires at least 80 hours of research, planning and leadership focused on creating sustainable community change.

Among those recognized was Sofia Contreras, who partnered with St. John's women's shelter to create a STEM curriculum for children staying at the facility.

"STEM has always been a really big part of my life," Contreras said. "I wanted those kids to know that it's a place for them too."

Contreras designed hands-on lessons and experiments intended to continue long after her involvement ended, leaving behind supplies and curriculum



Throughout the ceremony, mentors and family members joined recipients on stage during a pinning ceremony celebrating not only the girls' achievements but also the support systems behind them. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts Heart of Central California

materials for future use.

She said the experience taught her confidence and leadership skills she plans to carry into college and a future career in STEM.

Another Gold Award recipient developed a deaf awareness curriculum for the El Dorado Union High School District focused on communication, culture and respect for the deaf community.

"I think raising awareness is important because many students don't know about deaf culture," the Girl Scout said. "This gives them the opportunity to learn how to respect deaf individuals."

Sofia Yee created a debate

awareness program for elementary and middle school students in the Sacramento area after realizing many younger students viewed debate as intimidating.

"It's really a great way to practice your public speaking," Yee said. "I wanted to break people's stereotypes of what debate looks like."

Working with local educators, libraries and the Sacramento Urban Debate League, Yee developed curriculum materials and hosted a summer debate program that will continue beyond her involvement.

Nora Latif focused her project on increasing representation

in STEM by creating a library program highlighting women of color working in science, technology, engineering and math fields.

"For me and a lot of my friends, we didn't always see people like ourselves represented when people talked about women in STEM," Latif said.

Throughout the ceremony, mentors and family members joined recipients on stage during a pinning ceremony celebrating not only the girls' achievements, but also the support systems behind them.

Madison Kosh said the projects reflect the organization's mission of helping girls discover their voice and leadership potential.

"They're learning how to build relationships within their communities, solve problems and create lasting change," Kosh said. "Those are life skills they'll carry with them forever."

In addition to the awards, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California also recognized scholarship recipients for continued leadership and academic achievement, including Contreras, Yee and Isabella Passerini. ★

## Local Classifieds Advertise in your local community newspaper Call 916-685-5533

**Concrete**

**Perez Landscaping & Concrete**  
 •Concrete Finishing/Stamping  
 •Landscape installation and Design  
 •Sodding, •Planting  
 •Irrigation •Retaining Walls  
 •Yard maintenance.  
 Free estimates. For more info, call **916-834-2352**  
 email: [Elverperez@att.net](mailto:Elverperez@att.net)  
 Lic #14-00016214

**Landscaping**

**YARD CLEANUP**  
 Sod installation  
 Landscape installation  
 Lawnmowing services  
 Fence repair  
 Call for free estimate  
 916-271-7265

**YARD CLEANUP & DECORATIVE ROCK**

Spring one-time cleanup pruning. Also bark, weed control, sod, seed, hauling, etc.  
 Mobile homes, commercial or residential.  
 Local gardener.  
**916-205-9310 or 916-627-9000**

Visit: [mpg8.com](http://mpg8.com)

**Landscaping**

**CREATE YOUR PARADISE**  
  
 Winter Yard Cleanups, Complete Landscape Design/Installation, Sprinkler System Installs/Repairs, All Types Concrete Work, Fence Installation, Retaining Walls- All Types, Drainage Systems-all types, Landscape Lighting, Residential/commercial  
 American Landscape Design & Installation. Est 1987  
 American Construction & Property Maintenance Company  
 WE ACCEPT VISA & MASTER CARD  
**(916)612-0776**  
 Lic#690968

**Automotive**

**Elk Grove Shell**  
  
**Your Local Full Service Auto Repair Shop Committed to Customer Satisfaction**  
**Specializing In:**  
 • Oil Changes  
 • Smog Repair  
 • Smog Inspection  
 • Safety Inspection  
 • Transmission Service  
 • Brakes  
 • Wheel Alignment  
 • Check Engine Light Diagnosis  
 • Tires  
 • Tune-Up  
 • Batteries  
 • 30, 60, 90K Service  
 • Brake & Lamp Station  
**Mon-Fri, 8-5 • 916-685-7796**  
 8901 Elk Grove Blvd.

**Roofing**

**JIM MOYLEN ROOFING**  
 1981 License # 407605  
 A+ Rating with BBB.  
 Specialize in Re-Roof, Prompt Repairs, Low Slope Roof, Seamless Gutter Installation.  
 Free Estimates! Open Monday-Saturday  
**916-531-2793 Cell**  
**Tile Repairs**

**Landscaping**

**BRILLIANT LANDSCAPE**  
 Artificial Turf  
 Fencing  
 Retaining Wall  
 Concrete  
 Drainage  
 Irrigation  
 Planting  
 Tree Trimming  
 209-251-9387  
 LIC# 1108441

**Painting**

**Shelton Painting, Inc.**  
 • Repaints: Exterior & Interior  
 • Dry Wall Repair  
 Free Estimates  
**(209) 745-7897**  
 3 Generations of Quality Painters  
 #908019  
 We accept Visa & Mastercard

**Roofing**

**PREMIER ROOFING INC.**  
 LIC# 1097848  
 Se Habla Espanol  
 • ROOF REPAIR  
 • ROOF MAINTENANCE  
 • COMPLETE RE-ROOF  
 • NEW ROOFS  
 • GUTTER CLEANING  
 CELL 209.810.6233  
**209.745.7565**  
 1premierroofing@gmail.com

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY ROOFING & GUTTERS INC.**

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**  
 • NEW ROOF INSTALL  
 • TEAR OFF & REROOF  
 • ROOF REPAIR  
 • OVERLAY ROOF INSTALL  
 • DRY ROT REPAIR  
 • SEAMLESS GUTTER INSTALL  
 • GUTTER REMOVAL & INSTALL  
 • GUTTER REPAIR  
 • GUTTER GUARD & INSTALL  
 • DOWNSPOUTS INSTALL  
 • CUSTOM COLORS  
**FREE ESTIMATES!**  
**916-719-8288**  
**RAMON M. FOREMAN/OPERATOR**  
 LIC# 1072137  
**WE ARE BONDED AND INSURED**

**Tractor Work**

**MAC Industries DIRT WORK**  
  
 •Excavations •Utility Trenching •Foundations-All types  
 •Laser Grading & Dozer work •Driveways •Building Pads •Drainage-All Types  
 •Field Mowing / Firebreaks •Flail •Bushog  
 •Septic System Installation •Drilling •Foundations  
 •Post •Tree holes •Trenching •Irrigation  
 •Drainage •Rototilling •Disking  
 License #919198 & Insured  
**Michael- 916-747-9667 Bill- 916-869-1019**

**3DR CONCRETE**

All your concrete needs.  
 Bobcat services, driveway repair.  
 Comm. & Res.  
 Lic. # 968987  
 Insured  
 (209) 570-7304

**Help Wanted**

Dalla Dental Group seeks dentist Elk Grove location. Must have DDS or DMD or rel. or foreign equiv. & valid CA dental license. Salary \$250K-\$260K/yr. Send res: [devandalla@gmail.com](mailto:devandalla@gmail.com)

**Home Improvement**

**ALL PHASE HOME REPAIR**  
 Elk Grove, CA  
 •Electrical •Plumbing  
 •Fencing •Fans •Decks  
 •Doors •Windows •Tile  
 Flooring •Trim base-board •Sheetrock •Dry Rot Texture •Painting  
 •Lighting •Concrete  
 •Sprinkler Repair  
 •Framing and more!  
 All phases of home repair & any construction needed- Big or small.  
 Quality work guaranteed!  
 Low prices- free est. Serving Elk Grove, Rancho Murieta, Galt, Wilton, Herald, Sac. & Surrounding Areas  
 CSLB#1134987  
 Bonded & Insured  
**(916)287-6164**

Visit: [mpg8.com](http://mpg8.com)

**Roofing**

**THE DAVIS ROOFING GROUP**  
  
**Trusted Roofing Experts with Over 30 Years of Experience**  
 • New Roof Installation  
 • Roof Repairs  
 • Roof Maintenance  
 • Roof Leak Repairs  
 • Roof Moss Removal  
 • Commercial Roof Installations  
 • Seamless Gutters and Downspouts  
 • Lifetime Gutter Guard  
 • Screen Installation  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**916-900-ROOF (7663)**  
**TheDavisRoofingGroup.com**  
 LIC# 1039405  
**LICENSED, BONDED & FULLY INSURED**

**Roofing**

**ROUTT ROOFING**  
 Specializing in Res Roofing & Repairs  
 We Hand Nail for Quality!  
 Free Estimates  
**916-423-1288 or 209-748-5588**

**Wilton Apartment**

One bedroom apartment, 1100 ft.². \$1600 rent + \$1600 deposit. Incl. utils., washer/dryer.  
**916-430-8658**

Visit: [mpg8.com](http://mpg8.com)

# City, County Building Framework to Strengthen Regional Collaboration on Housing, Homelessness



The city recently announced that it took action in support of a new partnership that would bring together elected officials from local jurisdictions and the Sacramento Continuum of Care (CoC) to help guide regional housing and homelessness efforts. Photo courtesy of City of Sacramento

## City of Sacramento News Release

### SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

The Sacramento City Council recently took action to support a new partnership that would bring together elected officials from local jurisdictions and the Sacramento Continuum of Care (CoC) to help guide regional housing and homelessness efforts.

The action taken on April 28 directs City staff to pursue a new governance structure to improve collaboration, align funding priorities and support regional decision making. The proposed model is aligned with a similar framework previously approved by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors.

The intention is to create a single forum for setting policy direction, coordinating strategies and sharing information across agencies working

on housing and homelessness. Local jurisdictions would continue to make final decisions on projects and funding within their own communities.

“Too many people continue to languish, and even die – on our streets,” said Mayor Kevin McCarty. “Homelessness has changed dramatically since the Continuum of Care was established in 2010, and we must modernize our systems to better meet today’s challenges. The public demands greater urgency, stronger accountability, and measurable results for every tax dollar spent. We are strengthening our partnership with the County and neighboring jurisdictions because addressing this crisis remains our highest priority.”

The effort continued on May 13, when the CoC Board voted to join the City and County in further developing the proposed model. Under the framework, elected officials

from the City, County and surrounding cities would serve alongside community members on a new CoC governing board focused on housing and homelessness efforts.

Community input would continue through committee participation and broader CoC membership. An independent administrator would help coordinate implementation and day-to-day activities.

The City, County, CoC and interested surrounding cities will now continue discussions to develop additional details for the proposed structure, including board membership, responsibilities and implementation steps, before returning to their governing bodies for future consideration.

Learn more about the City’s comprehensive response to the homelessness crisis city-ofsacramento.gov/city-manager/Homeless-Coordination. ★

# Sacramento Educator Named Teacher of the Year



From left, Desiree Sheppard of ABC10, 2025-26 ABC10 Teacher of the Year Barbara Brooks, Brittney Owens of SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and Mark S. Allen of ABC10 present Brooks with a \$5,000 award during a ceremony May 13 at the Esquire IMAX Theatre. Photo courtesy of SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union

## SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, the largest credit union in California and the largest serving school employees and their families, in partnership with ABC10 Sacramento and Sacramento State’s College of Education, announced that Barbara Brooks, a teacher at Shriners Children’s Hospital in partnership with the Sacramento City Unified School District, has been named the 2025-26 ABC10 Teacher of the Year. The award was presented during a ceremony at the Esquire IMAX Theatre in downtown Sacramento on May 13.

Brooks was selected from a pool of 12 monthly honorees. She has more than 30 years of teaching experience, including her work as a teacher at Shriners Children’s, where she supports students as they continue their education during treatment and recovery. As the Esquire IMAX ABC10 Teacher of the Year, Brooks received a \$5,000 prize from SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union.

“Barbara Brooks exemplifies the profound impact school employees can have, especially in nontraditional settings like a hospital,” said Josh Smith, vice president of school and community relations at

SchoolsFirst FCU. “Her work supporting students as they navigate serious medical challenges speaks to the heart of what this recognition is all about.”

In place for over 20 years, the Teacher of the Month program highlights local teachers making a difference in the lives of their students and families. To nominate a local teacher in the greater Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto area for a future Teacher of the Month, visit ABC10 Teacher of the Month at <https://www.abc10.com/teacher-of-the-month>.

SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union is dedicated to improving the financial lives of its Members. Founded in 1934 by 126 school employees, the Member-owned cooperative provides a full range of financial products and services to more than 1.5 million Members and is the largest financial institution dedicated to serving school employees and their families. SchoolsFirst FCU has been named California’s top credit union by Forbes for seven consecutive years and recognized by J.D. Power as the #1 Credit Union for Member Banking Satisfaction for two years in a row. With more than \$36 billion in assets, SchoolsFirst FCU is the largest credit union in California and the third largest in the United States. For more information, visit [schoolsfirstfcu.org](https://schoolsfirstfcu.org). ★

# Report on Elk 6’s PM Crew by Chair Ray Nielsen

Continued from page 1

Dougherty was the 1997 Elk of the Year and served on the PM Crew for over 20 years. The third and current chair is Ray Nielsen, who began in 2009 and continues to serve as of May 2026, totaling nearly 17 years. Nielsen was Elk of the Year in both 2013 and 2025.

Jim Harris was Elks 6’s Exalted Ruler (President) in 1970-71, when the lodge was still located downtown at J and 11th streets. When the new lodge was about three years old, a light went out in the ballroom, and a contractor with an extra-tall ladder was hired to replace it. The bill came to \$89. Harris then had the idea to recruit volunteers to handle such tasks.

Today, the PM Crew handles virtually all maintenance, repairs

and operational tasks inside and outside the lodge building. The normal workday is Tuesday morning, though responsibilities extend throughout the week. All members are volunteers. On Thursdays, the landscape crew mows lawns, blows and collects leaves, trims trees, tends plants and roses, and applies fertilizer and weed killer.

The pool group maintains the swimming pool, spa, sauna, solar system and heater for the pool. Chemical testing is conducted twice daily, seven days a week.

The crew frequently responds to emergency calls from the office when systems fail, whether heating or air conditioning issues, electrical outages, roof leaks, burned-out lights, plumbing problems,

or pool and spa concerns. The building is aging, and increasing maintenance is required to keep it operating smoothly.

The PM Crew also oversees the RV/boat storage area and provides volunteers each Sunday for the Greenhaven Pocket Farmers Market, assisting with setup in the morning and teardown at closing.

Currently, the crew has 30 volunteers on its roster, including four women. The uniform consists of a blue hat and shirt. While Tuesday mornings are dedicated to routine maintenance, some repairs take several days or longer to complete.

Garbage management from lodge events and rentals is a significant responsibility. Regulations require careful separation of waste into specific

categories, and fines may be imposed for noncompliance. One primary PM Crew member is responsible for sorting garbage and separating recyclable materials for redemption.

The following is a summary of maintenance and repair items based on 360 work orders received in 2025. On average, the crew receives 10 to 12 new requests per week, in addition to ongoing projects: Lighting issues – burned-out bulbs or ballast failures; Divider panels/partition doors – malfunctioning, scraping floors; repairs require a four-person crew, tall ladders, and specialty parts; Bathrooms (main and fitness center) – issues with sinks, toilets, urinals, showers, leaks, and clogs; Roof leaks – various areas; temporary containment using buckets; Doors

(interior and exterior) – do not close properly, will not lock, or drag; Bar – drain line leaks, sink leaks, mirror replacement, refrigerator leaks, marquee updates; Chairs – repairs, new seat covers, wheel replacements; Locks and keys – repair, replacement and distribution; Painting – main ballroom, rental office, fitness center; Event banners – ordering, grommets, and frame construction; Tables – repairs, leveling, wheel replacement; Fitness center – operation, repair, and maintenance of pool, spa, hot tub, solar, and weight room; Farmers Market – setup and teardown each Sunday; and RV/boat storage – facility monitoring, landscaping, and assistance with office operations and contracts.

The crew also manages several ongoing responsibilities: Zamboni – service and repair as needed; Parking lot sales

– typically held twice per year; coordinated and operated by the crew, with all profits going to the general fund (approaching \$2,000 per event); Ice machines – serviced every six months; repaired as needed; Lodge meeting setup; and update/maintain audio visual, facilities, and network (wifi) infrastructure.

The PM Crew includes members with a wide range of talents and handyman skills, as well as those who assist where needed. The PM Crew also includes licensed contractors. No specific skills are required; everyone contributes in their own way.

In 2025, the crew donated new freezers at a cost of \$6,368.34, including electrical installation and a donation sign. That same year, PM Crew members collectively volunteered thousands of hours for the lodge, with estimated savings exceeding \$200,000. ★

# LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

Find out what’s happening in your local area

Arrest Logs updated daily

POCKETNEWS.COM



Need to Advertise? Let Linda help you get the word out

(916) 619.8189(O) (916) 524.9184(C)

[lindapohl2@gmail.com](mailto:lindapohl2@gmail.com)

Arden • Carmichael • East Sacramento Land Park • Pocket

# Pony Express National Re-Ride Departs June 15

## Historic 1,900-Mile Journey to Feature America 250 Celebration

### National Pony Express Association (NPEA) News Release

**POLLOCK PINES, CA (MPG)** - Riders, history enthusiasts and communities along the historic Pony Express Trail are gearing up for the 2026 National Pony Express Re-Ride. This year's event promises to be an extraordinary milestone as it aligns with the nation's semi quincentennial. The Missouri Pony Express President will officially open the event at 2 p.m., and the first rider will depart from the Patee house in St. Joseph, MO at 3:00 p.m. CDT on Monday, June 15.

The grueling, 1,900-plus-mile journey will continue 24/7 on horseback, following the original 1860-1861 mail route across eight states. The non-stop relay will conclude with the final rider arriving in Old Sacramento, CA at 4:30 p.m. PDT on Thursday, June 25. Riders in authentic attire will carry a traditional mochila packed with 1,570 letters, honoring a vital chapter in U.S. communication history.

#### Honoring the Past, Celebrating America 250

Each year, the National Pony Express Association (NPEA) commemorates the legendary Old West mail service by carrying a historical mochila filled with commemorative letters. However, the 2026 Re-Ride holds unique historical significance.

An America 250 highlight of this year's re-ride will take place on Tuesday, June 24 in Carson City, Nevada, where the NPEA will partner with the Carson City Historical Society to present "Saddle-up Carson City". A special Presentation by Chautauquan Kim Harris will be featured - listen to the story of Warren Upson and the important role the Pony Express Played in



Youth Rider near Cold Springs, Nevada. Photo courtesy of Petra Keller

keeping the Union connected: <https://nationalponyexpress.org/celebrating-the-250th-birthday-of-america/>.

"Community support is what keeps this tradition alive, but tying this year's ride into the America 250 celebration adds a profound layer of pride," said Petra Keller, NPEA corresponding secretary. "The Pony Express exemplifies the enduring American spirit of perseverance and connection. We invite everyone to come out to Carson City and all along the trail to celebrate this monumental piece of our collective heritage."

#### Event Details & Public Invitation

The continuous relay will pass through Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and California. The public is highly encouraged



Swearing in Riders in Nebraska. Photo courtesy of Petra Keller

to participate in the festivities:

**Attend Local Events:** Spectators are welcome to witness live mochila exchanges, meet the riders and horses, and engage with trail volunteers.

**Track the Ride Live:** A

real-time GPS tracking map will be active around the clock at: [nationalponyexpress.org/re-ride/follow-the-ride/](https://nationalponyexpress.org/re-ride/follow-the-ride/).

**Join the Conversation:** Share your photos, experiences, and community celebrations on

social media using the hashtags #2026PonyExpressReRide #PonyExpressAmerica250th #PonyExpressReRide2026.

To help raise awareness and support along the trail, the NPEA encourages local businesses, organizations and residents to display the official 2025 Re-Ride Flyer, now available online. The flyer includes key information, and a QR code for live tracking during the Re-Ride.

#### About the National Pony Express Association (NPEA)

The NPEA is a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of the Pony Express (April 1860 - October 1861). Through educational programs, trail preservation, and annual reenactments, the NPEA keeps the spirit of the American West alive for generations to come. ★

# Sixth Year of Resilience Fund Supports Independent Restaurants

## \$1.28 Million Available to Help California's Food and Beverage Businesses Invest in Growth, Stability and Long-term Success

### California Restaurant Foundation News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The California Restaurant Foundation (CRF), a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening California's restaurant community for 45 years, announced the launch of the sixth annual Restaurants Care Resilience Fund with \$1,280,000 in grants to be awarded in 2026 through the continued support of The PG&E Corporation Foundation (PG&E Foundation) and SoCalGas.

Through June 30, eligible independent restaurants and commercial caterers across the state can apply for \$5,000 grants that help operators strengthen their businesses, support their teams and navigate ongoing industry challenges.

"The Resilience Fund has evolved into a powerful engine for growth and stability within California's restaurant community, and each year, we see firsthand how these grants help operators overcome immediate challenges while also investing in their future, whether that's upgrading kitchens, adopting new technology or supporting and retaining their teams," said Alycia Harshfield, president of California Restaurant Foundation. "As the industry continues to navigate new pressures, this fund remains a critical resource for helping independent restaurants adapt, grow and thrive."

Resilience Fund grants support the most critical areas of restaurant operations, from kitchen equipment upgrades and technology improvements to employee



Grants are available to eligible restaurant owners and commercial caterers who are customers of PG&E or SoCalGas, operate in California and meet program requirements, including having one to five locations and annual revenue of up to \$3 million at the location for which they are requesting funding. Designed by Magnific

training, retention and recovery from unforeseen hardships. These investments go beyond day-to-day needs, helping operators run more efficiently, elevate the guest experience and build stronger, more sustainable businesses. At a time when costs remain high and margins are tight, this type of targeted support gives independent restaurants the flexibility to reinvest in their operations and continue serving their communities.

"We are proud to partner with the California Restaurant Foundation as it continues to grow its support for our hometown restaurants. The PG&E Foundation has contributed nearly \$5.6 million in charitable funding

to date for CRF's Restaurants Care Resilience Fund. This funding has provided grants of up to \$5,000 each to nearly 900 Northern and Central California restaurants — and we're excited to do it again this year. The success of our local restaurants strengthens our local economies and communities," said Carla Peterman, president of PG&E Corp., and executive vice president of customer and corporate affairs and chair of the board of the PG&E Corporation Foundation.

Since its inception in 2021, the program has delivered more than \$11 million in funding to 2,087 independent restaurant

operators and caterers across 50 counties in California, reinforcing its role as one of the state's most meaningful investments in small business resilience. Over the past five years, the Resilience Fund has supported a wide range of operator needs, with 31% of grants going toward equipment upgrades, 21% toward employee training and retention, and additional funding addressing impacts from COVID-19 (15%), natural disasters including recent Los Angeles fires (12%), technology upgrades (9%), and industry disruptions such as the Hollywood strikes (8%). Notably, 90% of grant recipients are single-unit operators, with an average of 10

years in business, collectively employing more than 26,500 people across the state.

"SoCalGas is proud to continue supporting the California Restaurant Foundation's Restaurants Care Resilience Fund, delivering critical grants that help stabilize local economies, sustain jobs and strengthen independent restaurants across the region. Our collaboration invests in businesses that play a vital role in California's long term economic stability," said Sarita Figueroa, senior manager, Community Affairs & Relations, SoCalGas.

Grants are available to eligible restaurant owners and commercial caterers who are customers of PG&E or SoCalGas, operate in California and meet program requirements, including having one to five locations and annual revenue of up to \$3 million at the location for which they are requesting funding. To qualify for the grant, a restaurant must currently be open and have been in operation for at least one full year. Previous grant recipients may apply again for a different location or concept. Existing food businesses that are expanding into a brick-and-mortar location are also eligible to apply.

Applications for the 2026 Resilience Fund will be accepted until June 30, with grant recipients to be announced the week of August 23. To apply or learn more about eligibility requirements, visit <https://restaurantscare.org/resilience>.

For more information about the California Restaurant Foundation or Restaurants Care, visit [www.calrestfoundation.org](http://www.calrestfoundation.org). ★

# Jordan Fisher Rated Nation's 8th Best Returning Running Back



Hero Sports has ranked UC Davis senior running back Jordan Fisher among the top returning players at his position, placing the Aggies tailback eighth nationally among FCS running backs in its 2026 preseason preview. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

## UC Davis Athletics News Release

**DAVIS, CA (MPG)** - Hero Sports has placed UC Davis football senior running back Jordan Fisher among the country's best backs, rating the Aggie tailback as the eighth-best returning running back in the Football Championship Subdivision as part of their 2026 FCS previews.

Fisher had a breakout year in 2025, breaking the 1,000-yard rushing mark for the first time in his career while earning Big Sky All-Conference honors. The Aggie senior racked up 1,121 rushing yards on 185 touches, adding eight rushing touchdowns on his way to totaling the 13th-most rushing yards in the nation and third most in the conference.

He also snagged 287 yards through the

air on 26 receptions, scoring three receiving touchdowns to end his season with 1,408 all-purpose yards and 11 total touchdowns. In the Hero Sports ranking, Fisher rates as fourth-best Big Sky running back with four-out-of-the-five conference backs sitting inside the top 10.

UC Davis opens 2026 fall camp on July 29 and will kick off the 2026 season on Aug. 29 in a Big Sky showdown at Portland State. The Aggies will open UC Davis Health Stadium on Sept. 19 when Stetson makes the cross-country trip to Davis. And on Oct. 3, ESPN2 visits Davis to showcase the 2026 homecoming game against Eastern Washington on national television.

Season tickets start as low as \$100 for new alumni (2017-26 UC Davis graduates) and \$140 for the general public. And fans can expect a large collection of perks that

include priority access to postseason tickets, select away games and parking. All season ticket holders get a dedicated Aggie Ticket Representative that oversees their account, flexible payment plan options and access to exclusive season ticket holder events. Get your season tickets today at <https://ucdavisaggies.eventue.net/list/FB?path=football>, emailing the Aggie Ticket Office at [aggietickets@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aggietickets@ucdavis.edu) or by calling the ticket office at 530-752-2471.

Football group ticket discounts start at just 10 tickets, and provide a great opportunity for company outings, family gatherings, and parties to enjoy Aggie football together. Create the birthday experience of a lifetime with a player high-five tunnel or enjoy a personal tailgate space prior to the game with your colleagues that's already set up and ready for you!

Give the Aggie Ticket Office a call at 530-752-2471 and we can customize an unforgettable experience for your group! Fans can visit <https://ucdavisaggies.eventue.net/events/FBS> to purchase their group ticket packages.

*UC Davis, the No. 2 ranked public university by the Wall Street Journal, is home to 40,000 undergraduate students and 12,000 employees. Ranked No. 1 in Agriculture and Forestry as well as No. 1 in Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis is located in a true California college town nestled between world-class destinations such as the San Francisco Bay Area, Napa Valley and Lake Tahoe. Over 650 Aggie student-athletes compete in 25 Division I varsity sports, with 16 sports transitioning to the Mountain West Conference beginning in 2026-27.* ★

## Women's Tennis Adds Reigning Horizon League Player of the Year for 2026-27

### Sacramento State Athletics News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Belgium's Nel Van Hout, the reigning Horizon League Player of the Year, has announced that she will continue her academic and athletic career with the Sacramento State women's tennis program, Head Coach Sophie Breault announced June 2.

"We are very excited to welcome Nel to our Hornet family," Breault said. "Her collegiate experience and success at the top of the lineup will be invaluable to our team as we strive to win another championship. Nel has a very solid all-court game and brings a strong work ethic every day. It's exciting because we believe there is still so much room for growth in her game. Nel will thrive in our championship culture and we can't wait to help her reach her full potential and make an impact as a Hornet."

Van Hout becomes the fourth commitment for the Hornets leading up to the 2026-27 campaign, joining South Africa's Jessica Schilz, Italy's



All-Horizon League

first team selection, she became the first Milwaukee player to record 20-or-more wins in both singles and doubles in the same season since 2013-14, while her 21 singles wins stand tied for 10th on the program's single-season list.

After posting an 8-1 record in the fall, Van Hout opened her spring campaign with six consecutive wins splitting time between the No. 1 and No. 2 positions, then won her final four heading into the Horizon League Championship. IN doubles, she won four straight following a slow start, then ended the year by winning four of her last five, including a win in the conference tournament where the Panthers were the No. 2 seed.

Prior to her year at Milwaukee, Van Hout spent her freshman season at Marshall University in West Virginia where she was 5-2 in singles play and 16-4 in doubles — including a 6-2 mark against Sun Belt Conference opponents in the latter. She helped the Thundering Herd to a 20-6 overall team record and a runner-up finish at the conference tournament.

Van Hout attended Atlas College in Genk, Belgium, prior to beginning her collegiate career. ★

**Nel Van Hout becomes the fourth commitment for the Hornets leading up to the 2026-27 campaign.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

## Republic FC Unveils Plans to Celebrate the World's Game This Summer

### Sacramento Republic FC News Release

#### SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

The FIFA World Cup is coming to North America this summer, and Sacramento Republic FC is making sure the region has a front-row seat. From a free Downtown kick-off party to a two-day street festival in the heart of the city, the Indomitable Club is going all-in to celebrate the world's biggest sporting event right here in the Capital City.

To help fans find the action all tournament long, Republic FC is launching the Sac Soccer Guide, a regularly updated hub for World Cup watch parties and soccer events happening across the greater Sacramento region. Whether you're looking for a neighborhood bar showing the early match or a packed outdoor viewing party, the Sac Soccer Guide will have you covered. The guide will be updated weekly throughout the tournament, and restaurants, bars and venues interested in being featured can add their events by visiting [SacSoccerGuide.com](http://SacSoccerGuide.com).

The marquee event of the summer arrives on June 24 and 25, when Republic FC takes over Downtown Plaza Park at 910 I Street for back-to-back Soccer Block Party events presented by Bank of America. On June 24, fans can gather to watch Mexico play its final group match; on June 25, the spotlight shifts to the United States as USMNT

takes the pitch for its own Group Stage finale. Each night will offer a unique experience with a variety of family-friendly activities, food trucks, live music, and special appearances from Republic FC players and coaches. The all-ages block parties are free, but require a ticket for entry. Fans can secure their spot today at [SacSoccerGuide.com](http://SacSoccerGuide.com).

Of course, there's plenty of Republic FC soccer to go along with all the World Cup action. On Saturday, June 20, the club's beloved annual Brewfest returns to Heart Health Park, giving fans a chance to catch World Cup matches at the stadium before Republic FC takes on New Mexico United later in the evening.

Then, on Wednesday, July 8, the first scheduled off-day in the World Cup schedule, Republic FC steps in to keep the soccer going, hosting one of just two matches taking place in American Soccer that night. If there were ever a day to be at Heart Health Park, that's it.

And for fans lucky enough to be attending World Cup matches in person, Republic FC wants to see Sacramento on the world's stage. Fans are encouraged to rep the Indomitable Club in their gear, scarves, kits, or custom signs and share their photos on social media using #WCwithSRFC.

For a full list of World Cup events and to add your venue to the Sac Soccer Guide, visit [SacSoccerGuide.com](http://SacSoccerGuide.com). ★

Francesca De Matteo and Russia's Viktoriia Sedova.

A native of Heusden-Zolder, Belgium, Van Hout put together an impressive season at Milwaukee last season, becoming the first student-athlete to earn Horizon League Player of the Year honors after posting a 21-6 mark in singles and a 20-9 record in doubles at the top two spots in the Panthers' lineup. An