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Celebrate Local
Volunteers**

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Gold River Messenger

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 6

Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

JUNE 2026

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MATTERS**



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**★ CALIFORNIA ★
POLICY
AND
ETHICS**

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Aquatic Center Hosts Rowing Champs



Harvard University men nail a light-weight division championship. The race is among final events in the Intercollegiate Rowing Association regatta at Lake Natoma (Gold River)

**Story and photos
by Susan Maxwell Skinner**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Lake Natoma's normally placid waters last weekend echoed with cheers and college chants during the Intercollegiate Rowing Association's National Championship Regatta.

Biceps felt the burn and noses reddened in spring sunshine.

The American River lake provides ideal conditions for the contest, confirmed Sacramento Aquatic Center Director Brian Dular. "Weather seldom comes into play in determining winners, here," he said. "It's about the best athletes winning. We have one of the fairest courses

in the nation."

The ornate Varsity Challenge trophy was up for grabs in Sunday's thrilling final race. Favored teams were from Washington, Princeton, California and Harvard universities.

Despite a strong start by Berkeley's Golden Bears, the Washington Huskies beat the Californians by one second. Princeton took bronze. A Harvard eights team finished first in the light-weight men's division. Princeton students claimed the women's eights championship.

The regatta drew more than 500 athletes and many more fans to the Sacramento State Aquatic Center in Gold River.

Top collegiate rowers upheld a century of sports tradition. Muscle and technology ruled as shells streaked through 2000-meter courses with the barest sound of blades. Onboard noise came from grunting athletes. Coxes with bull horns yelled "stay strong! Dig deep!"

Hundreds of spectators crowded the finish line, many wading knee-deep in icy water to welcome winners to shore. The weekend marked the fourth time the Aquatic Center has welcomed the championships since 2009, and first time since the pandemic.

"Only a few facilities in the nation can host this regatta," explained

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ZipPass Mobile Fare App Ending June 15

**SacRT Urges Riders
to Transition to
Transit Connect
Sacramento Regional
Transit News Release**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is reminding riders that the ZipPass mobile fare-payment app will officially be discontinued on Monday, June 15. Riders who currently use ZipPass should transition to Transit Connect, SacRT's new mobile ticketing app that will serve as the region's standard fare-payment platform.

Transit Connect offers an easier, more secure experience for purchasing, storing, and activating SacRT tickets and passes. Riders can download Transit Connect today on both Apple and Android devices.

SacRT encourages all riders to download the Transit Connect app as soon as possible to avoid any service disruptions.

More Enhancements Coming This Fall

Transit Connect will continue to grow with new features arriving in fall 2026, including: contactless Tap2Ride validation; fare capping (never pay more than the daily maximum); and the ability to load cash onto your Transit Connect account at SacRT vending machines and participating retail locations.

Connect Card Users Will Start Transition in Fall 2026

Riders who currently use the Connect Card will continue using it as usual. The transition for Connect Card customers to Transit Connect is scheduled to start in fall 2026.

Until then, the Connect Card continues to be valid for fare payment system-wide, and no action is required from Connect Card riders at this time.

Discount Fare Riders: Fast and Easy Setup

Seniors, students, veterans and riders with disabilities can activate their discount fare

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KP Market Shares Korean Culture Festival Sacramentans Gather to Celebrate Korean Culture

**Story and photos
by Khushi Salgia**

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - What better way to bring people together than over a shared love of food, dance and music?

The Sacramento Korean Culture Festival Committee hosted their annual Korean Culture Festival at KP International Market on May 30, which falls within AAPI month. California houses the nation's largest Korean population, with over 570,000 residents as of 2024. Hundreds of people came out to this event of many diverse backgrounds



The performers of the Kpop dance contest get together for a picture after the event. The first place winners, NEWKIDZ, are seated in the front row in the red jerseys.

showcasing a rich appreciation for Korean culture in Sacramento.

Unique to this year's

festival was that it was in memoriam of independence fighter Hajeon Lee. Last year's festival

honored Lee, who at the time, was 104 years old and the oldest surviving

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KP Market Shares Korean Culture Festival

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member of Korea's independence movement living abroad. A resident of Sacramento, Lee passed away February of this year at the age of 105.

As a student during Japan's colonization of Korea, Lee organized a secret society supporting the independence movement. While studying in Japan, he was arrested and served time in prison for his activism. After Korea's liberation in 1945, Lee became a professor and author and, in 1990, received South Korea's Order of Merit for National Foundation Patriotic Medal. The festival featured a booth honoring Lee's life and contributions to Korea's independence.

The festival served as a vibrant marketplace showcasing traditional craftsmanship. Among the featured vendors was Christine Cheng of Kong's Jade, a family business she took over from her sister. Cheng said the company sources its jade from Burma and previously had it cut and crafted in China. However, rising tariffs have made that process too costly, and the business is currently selling inventory from earlier shipments while exploring alternative production options.

With each piece personally handcrafted by Cheng herself, Kong's Jade sells a wide array of creations such as bracelets, earrings and decorations. According to Cheng, the bracelets are the most popular item because they have the most detail, especially in the carving of its jade flower. In many countries, such as in Korea and China, jade is considered a symbol of good fortune, and many believe that jade can absorb negative energy.

Beyond celebrating cultural heritage and arts, the festival also highlighted critical health initiatives impacting the community, with a strong focus on wellness and public education. Representatives from the Asian American Cohort Study at UC Davis initiative were present to



The Kpop dance group, Krush, who met while in high school, were contestants in the Kpop dance contest. Now they perform all over California as well as in Las Vegas.



The jade flower bracelets are the bestselling item at Kong's Jade.

advocate for a historic, nationwide cancer prevention and study effort. While the leading cause of death in the United States overall is heart failure, for Asian Americans specifically, the leading cause of death is cancer. This longitudinal study would track the lifestyles of middle-aged Asian Americans to see if any correlations can be drawn between lifestyle and cancer. UC Davis Health Educator Hien Ngo spoke passionately about the unique health disparities affecting Asian Americans.

"Cancer is the leading cause of death for most Asian American groups," Ngo noted, highlighting why a study specifically tailored to this demographic is so crucial.

"We experience the most infectious of the cancers."

Among these are liver, stomach and cervical cancers, to name a few. Many of these cancers are highly treatable when detected early, but stigma surrounding screening and discussion often discourages people from getting tested. According to Nancy Tran, another representative from UC Davis, many Asian cultures tend to be superstitious which can also contribute to a reduction in open conversation.

"The idea is that if you talk about it, you might manifest it," she said.

The festival also emphasized community education, particularly through the work of the

Korean School of Sacramento. Hyejung Bae, the Vice President of the Korean School, shared that the organization is deeply invested in helping the local community learn Korean language and culture. Their efforts include programs tailored for adults as well as after-school programs, a book club and initiatives aimed at helping Korean Americans remain in touch with their culture.

"For second generation Korean Americans, identity is really important," Bae said.

The highlight of the afternoon for many attendees was the festival's entertainment, which centered around a Kpop dance contest. KP International Market President Byongju Yu gave a speech before the main event.

"This is our first Kpop contest," Yu said. "You can feel the energy from the youngsters."

This event's contest was the final of three contests, with the first one last October and the second one in March. All the winners from the previous two rounds competed



This squishy dumpling toy, sold at My Sister's Gifts, is a trendy toy amongst Gen Alpha.

Additionally, the global popularity of Hallyu, or the Korean Wave, has led many Korean American youth to take an interest in learning Korean as K-pop, K-dramas and other aspects of Korean culture have become increasingly mainstream.

This cultural wave was highly visible among the event's vendors, such as Maishoua Vang-Lapa of My Sister's Gifts. Her booth brought a slice of current South Korean trends to Rancho Cordova, specializing in popular items such as merchandise from the popular movie "Kpop Demon Hunters" as well as products from Japan such as Hello Kitty toys. According to Vang-Lapa, the most popular item, which has recently become trendy amongst Gen Alpha is a sensory fidget toy in the shape of a dumpling that comes in a mini dumpling steamer box.

against each other, with judges deciding who would ultimately take home the cash prize. One of these contestants was a group who go by the name Krush and danced to "Dream" and "Whiplash" by the Kpop girl group Aespa. Sienna Johnson, who is one of the four members and the dance leader of Krush joked that if they won, the first thing they would do is, "go to Chili's."

From students who perform for fun to professional musicians, there was a diverse array of people. Third place went to Liam, who danced to KATSEYE's "Gnarly" and won \$500. The group Yeoboseyo took second place with a mashup that included BTS's "Boy In Luv," earning \$1,000. First place went to NEWKIDZ, whose routine featured a mashup including "New Things," taking home the competition's \$2,000 top prize. ★

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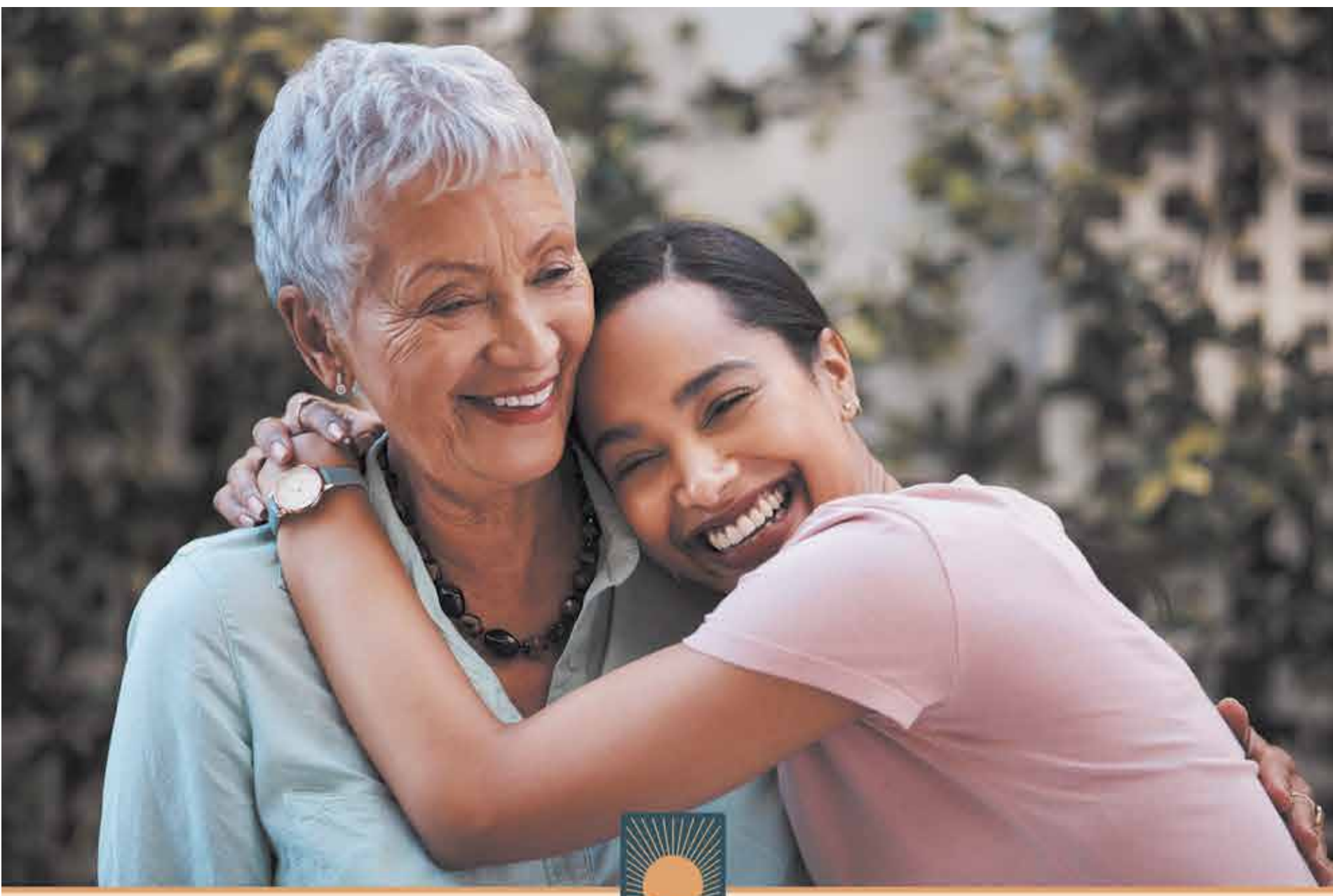
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Aquatic Center Hosts Rowing Champs



Crowds waded into Lake Natoma (Gold River) to cheer the victorious Washington Huskies as they claim the Varsity Challenge trophy.

Continued from page 1

Brian Dulgar. "We're proud to be considered among the best locations. Athletes love coming here. Officials appreciate that our races run like a Swiss watch. Our organizing team is fantastically efficient."

The event impacts Folsom, Gold River and Rancho Cordova economies. Hotel and restaurant business swells during competition days. Brian Dulgar

confirms several overseas sports bodies are eyeing Lake Natoma as a training site for 2028 Olympic rowers.

"Our event is watched from all over the world," he said. "The regatta brings international recognition to our facility and to our region."

Sacramento State Aquatic Center offers spring, summer and fall activities. The center is located at 1901 Hazel Avenue, Gold River. ★

ZipPass Mobile Fare App Ending June 15

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eligibility directly in the Transit Connect app. Riders simply select their discount category during setup to unlock reduced pricing on single ride, daily and monthly passes.

Building a Seamless Regional Fare Experience

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Service Above Self

DOVIA Awards Celebrate Local Volunteers

Story and photos by Omella Rossi

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Who are the volunteers quietly shaping programs for seniors, students, disaster survivors and families across the Sacramento region? That question was answered May 20 as Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA) honored 22 nominees during its annual awards reception at Meristem in Fair Oaks.

The event, held at 9200 Fair Oaks Blvd., brought together volunteer leaders and supporters from across Sacramento, Yolo, Sutter, Yuba, El Dorado and Placer counties to recognize service in three categories. The awards included Youth Volunteer of the Year, recognizing volunteers under age 21 with at least 25 hours of service with the winner receiving a \$500 scholarship; Individual Volunteer of the Year, honoring volunteers over 21 with at least 25 hours of service; and Volunteer Manager of the Year, recognizing a paid or unpaid leader for exceptional volunteer program management, with the winner receiving a one-year complimentary DOVIA Sacramento membership.

DOVIA Sacramento, active since the late 1970s, serves as a regional hub for volunteer managers, offering training, peer networking and professional development while promoting volunteerism across nonprofit and public agencies.

“For 48 years, DOVIA Sacramento has celebrated the extraordinary people who uplift our community while also training the volunteer program managers who support Sacramento’s many service driven organizations,” said Leslie Fritz of the DOVIA board. “One of the tenants of good volunteer management is to remember to thank



Individual Volunteer of the Year nominees included Geri Beck; Fred Bustillos; Brittni Cearley and Kerry Connelly; Tyler Heberle; Sarah Goold, Tawney Lambert, Kim LeClaire and Denise Watts; Kelvin Lee; Betty Marchbanks; Tim McCrink; Robin Payne; Roxie and Ernie Rice; and Sandy Valdez.



Youth Volunteer of the Year nominees included Elizabeth Caton, Kendayl Taber and Lily Lower; Kelsie Johnson; Melvin Lam; Dahlia Monso; Angelica Maltese; and Isabella Sandoval, Madison Dailey, Alyla Parks and Kaitlyn Babitz.

and recognize volunteers. Today we will be doing that.”

This year’s program was emceed by Fritz. She noted support from Sacramento Venture Philanthropy as program sponsor, with additional contributions from Big Day of Giving donors.

Top honors went to volunteers whose service ranged from youth-led community building to decades of nonprofit support.

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, including Phil Serna, Patrick Kennedy, Rich Desmond, Rosario Rodriguez and Pat Hume, presented certificates recognizing nominees.

The Youth Volunteer of the

Year award was presented to Angelica Maltese nominated by Blossom Vale Senior Living Center. Maltese, an elementary school student, created an “Adopt a Grandparent” program and has visited her adopted resident weekly since 2024. She also compiled resident recipes into a Blossom Vale cookbook shared with families, which organizers described as a lasting tribute to residents.

Roxie and Ernie Rice of the Firefighters Burn Institute were named Individual Volunteers of the Year. The married couple has volunteered for a combined 37 years, supporting burn survivors

and families, organizing outreach events and helping expand the nonprofit’s reach despite its small staff.

Goya Gutierrez nominated by NorCal Resist was recognized as Volunteer Manager of the Year. Gutierrez was honored for developing programs supporting immigrant communities, including an after-school tutoring program for refugee children and volunteer-led assistance for families navigating local services.

All nominees were recognized during the ceremony.

Youth Volunteer of the Year nominees included Elizabeth Caton, Kendayl Taber and Lily Lower nominated by San Juan

Unified School District; Kelsie Johnson nominated by Blossom Vale Senior Living; Melvin Lam nominated by Interim Healthcare Hospice; Dahlia Monson nominated by WEAVE, Inc.; Angelica Maltese nominated by Blossom Vale Senior Living Center; and Isabella Sandoval, Madison Dailey, Alyla Parks and Kaitlyn Babitz nominated by Sacramento County Animal Shelter—Bradshaw.

Individual Volunteer of the Year nominees included Geri Beck nominated by Meristem, Rotary and HART; Fred Bustillos nominated by West Sacramento Community Emergency Response Team; Brittni Cearley and Kerry Connelly nominated by Project R.I.D.E., Inc.; Tyler Heberle nominated by Sacramento LGBT Community Center; Sarah Goold, Tawney Lambert, Kim LeClaire and Denise Watts nominated by Food Literacy Center; Kelvin Lee nominated by SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity; Betty Marchbanks nominated by Keaton’s Child Cancer Alliance; Tim McCrink nominated by Sacramento Valley Conservancy; Robin Payne nominated by Agency on Aging Area 4; Roxie and Ernie Rice nominated by Firefighters Burn Institute; and Sandy Valdez nominated by AARP Foundation Experience Corps—Sacramento.

Volunteer Manager of the Year nominee was Goya Gutierrez nominated by NorCal Resist.

Organizers said judges evaluated nominees independently, noting close competition across categories as they reviewed service completed between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025. Judges included Brad Squires of Sacramento Venture Philanthropy; Mark Cullum, district director for California state Assemblymember Josh Hoover; and Molly Patterson of the Elk Grove Police Department. ★

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 benefits 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.

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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.

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It's A Miracle

Do we take our body for granted? I am sure we do after I got the insider story on what this miraculous body does every day. It came from **Dr Susan Smith Jones** on my POPPTALK Radio Show. **Dr Jones** has made extraordinary contributions in the fields of holistic health, anti-aging and longevity, optimum nutrition and balanced living. So when she said let's talk about the miracle we live in every day...our body, I was intrigued. Get a load of what this miracle does for us every day, and we don't even realize it.

1. Each day your heart pumps approximately 2000 gallons of blood through its chambers. It beats more than 100,000 times a day to achieve this incredible feat.

2. You take around 17,000 breaths a day on average, and don't have to think about a single one.

3. Your brain doesn't stop working. It is estimated that about 50,000 thoughts pass through it each day on average. That is a whopping 35-48 thoughts every minute.

4. The cells in your stomach lining produce an alkaline substance every few milliseconds to neutralize stomach acid. If they didn't do this, your stomach would digest itself because some of the acids are strong enough to dissolve metals.

5. You blink about 28,000 times a every day, with each one lasting just a tenth of a second. This is a voluntary reflex the body uses to keep the eyes clean and moist.

6. Each blood cell lives for about 40 days before being replaced by a younger model. It's no surprise their life span is short,

having made 60,000 trips around the body. They must be exhausted!

7. You shed more than 1 million skin cells every single day but they are constantly replenished automatically you save you from turning transparent and becoming rather exposed.

8. Your hair (if you still have any) grows about half a millimeter a day, and the average adult with a full scalp has around 100,000 hairs on their head, So that's a combined 50 meters of hair growth every single day.

9. You grow 8mm (.31 inches) every night while sleeping before shrinking back down again the next day. Good 'ole gravity. This saves you from some pretty hefty clothing bills and ensures you don't have to raise the door frames every year or two.

10. Your 30+ million body cells are regenerating themselves every single day without any prompting. This means you have an entirely new set of taste buds every 10 days, new nails every 6-10 months, new bones every 10 years, and even a new heart every 20 years.

Dr Jones hit the nail on the head when she said "Next time you think that your body is starting to creak, just think about all the incredible things that are happening inside it every day, because all of us are a miracle. Be thankful for your God-given body and take loving care of it." She is a prolific author with her latest **"A Hug in a Mug"** and **"Uplifted."** Check out her free monthly newsletter and more great information at www.susansmithjones.com. ★

Sacramento Life Center Receives CARES Foundation Grant

Sacramento Life Center News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Life Center is proud to announce it has been selected as a recipient of a 2026 Q1 CARES Foundation grant from The Save Mart Companies CARES Foundation in recognition of the organization's ongoing commitment to supporting healthier, stronger communities throughout the Sacramento region.

The grant will help Sacramento Life Center continue providing vital support services, resources and care to women, children and families, including parenting support, wellness resources, community outreach and access to essential items for families in need.

"We are incredibly grateful to The Save Mart Companies CARES Foundation for investing in the well-being of our community," said Marie Leatherby, executive

director of Sacramento Life Center. "This support allows us to continue serving families with compassion, dignity and hope while expanding access to resources that strengthen lives."

According to the CARES Foundation, Sacramento Life Center's mission aligns with its efforts to support programs that expand access to resources and opportunities that help children and adults thrive.

For years, Sacramento Life Center has remained dedicated to walking alongside families through compassionate support, community partnerships, educational resources and programs designed to empower parents and care for children across the region.

The Sacramento Life Center provides compassionate, life-affirming medical care and resources at no cost to pregnant women, empowering them to make informed choices and build strong families. You can learn more at saclife.org. ★

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POLICY AND ETHICS
BY JOSH F.W. COOK

A Changing Election System

By Josh Cook

Noted political scientist and former Yolo County supervisor Matt Rexroad ruffled some feathers with an opinion piece he wrote for a local Sacramento newspaper expressing his opinion, after having been involved in elections for more than 30 years, that there is not widespread voter fraud happening, like stuffing ballot boxes.

I've been asked if I believe President Trump when he says elections are rigged. I would say both are correct. Matt is right - there is no widespread voter fraud. But the election process has been constantly changing for the last 20 years: 1. California expanded same-day registration so eligible voters could register and vote closer to Election Day. 2. It adopted top-two primaries, which let all voters participate in the same primary ballot for most state and federal offices. 3. It created an independent citizens commission to draw political districts instead of leaving that job to politicians. 4. It moved toward universal vote-by-mail, sending ballots to all registered voters. 5. It added vote centers, ballot drop boxes, and earlier in-person voting options so people could vote in more ways and over a longer period. 6. It also pushed some local elections onto statewide election dates to improve turnout. 7. After we voted for an independent commission to draw districts, we had a statewide election to just draw some districts right before this

election. 8. Previously, it was a crime if you went door-to-door and gathered people's ballots and put them in the mail for them. That is now legal. It's called ballot harvesting.

Wait, there is more. The issue of whether or not county clerks have to count ballots that come in late is at the Supreme Court. If that's not enough, someone just sued the Secretary of State to have more inactive voters purged from the voter rolls. I have worked with Dr. Shirley Weber, the California Secretary of State, and she is a woman of impeccable, unassailable 100% absolute integrity, and she's also a competent administrator. She runs the office properly and legally.

That said, the number of changes that continue to occur to the methods in which we exercise democracy could make somebody feel like they're in a game in which the rules constantly change. Not like "moving the goal post" but putting the goal post in the parking lot on a truck that drives around the stadium.

There will be much discussion of this topic in the next few days because it takes so long to count all the ballots. There used to be an election day and there were election results that night. Election day as a concept no longer exists, and election results will no longer come in on the date we start counting ballots. So I don't hold it against anyone who feels like elections are being manipulated. They have been non-stop for two decades. ★

Go to Policy-Ethics.com

Nominations Open for 2026 Sustainable Business Awards

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Businesses, nonprofits and community members are encouraged to submit nominations now through June 26 for the 2026 Sustainable Business Awards.

To submit a nomination, visit saccounty.gov.

Email economicdevelopment@saccounty.gov with questions or to learn more.

The Sustainable Business Awards recognize businesses and organizations that are making a difference through sustainable practices and environmental leadership in the following categories: Green Design; Environmental Changemaker; Community Impact; and Eco-Innovation.

The Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC), a program of Sacramento

County's Office of Economic Development (OED), will host the annual Sustainability Business Awards event on Sept. 16 where award recipients will be recognized.

"Across Sacramento County, businesses and nonprofits are finding innovative ways to reduce waste, conserve resources and strengthen our communities," said Director of the Office of Economic Development, Crystal Bethke. "These awards recognize organizations that are taking meaningful action and showing that sustainability can be both environmentally responsible and good for business."

Interested in becoming a Sustainable Business? Explore Sacramento County's Sustainable Business Program to learn about eligibility, benefits and tools that can help your organization reduce its environmental impact. ★

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