



**Elks Golf Club Awards  
\$10,000 to Scholars**

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# Pocket News

VOL 35 • ISSUE 12

Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

JUNE 26, 2026

**SEE  
INSIDE**

**STEEPED IN HISTORY,  
ARCHITECTURE,  
INTRIGUE**



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**MINIMUM WAGE HIKES  
HAVE A DOWNSIDE**



PAGE 5

## Judges Pick Top Dogs at Fashion Show



Terry Catron, the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market event coordinator, spread bubbles and was assisted by three-year-old Johnny Bowman in warming up the audience for the Doggie Fashion Show held on Sunday, July 14.

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

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Vic Cima, general manager of the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market (GHP), and Terry Catron, chair of the Doggie Fashion Show held on Sunday, June 14, agreed that the fourth annual contest was a great success.

Don Puliz, a longtime member of Elk Lodge 6, and retired Judge Rudolph "Barry" Loncke returned as judges for the event. Joining them was Carol "Coach" Mitchell, this year's Exalted Ruler.

Jay Riddell, whom vendors call the face and host of the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market, is an invaluable assistant to Cima. On this day,

Riddell had plenty of fun serving as emcee for the fashion show.

After conferring for 10 minutes, the judges selected four winners.

Best of Show went to Emory, a two-and-a-half-year-old Bernedoodle. According to owner Olivia Tafoya, Emory "loves socks."

First place went to Cloud, a  
*Continued on page 3*

## Elks 6's Baldassari Named District Elks Association Organist



Daniel Baldassari said, "I put out a plea for help finding a space to practice. It was answered by Shannon Lewis on Nextdoor, who invited me to join the Elks and became my sponsor." Baldassari is shown taking a break during an Elks 6 Lodge meeting. Courtesy photo

**By Stephen B. Clazie**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Almost a year ago, Pat "Patty" McDaniel, then Elks 6 Second-Year Trustee, reported in the Lodge's weekly bulletin:

"In California's North Central District, only two of nine Elks lodges enjoy live organ music, thanks to Chuck Shumate of Carmichael Lodge #2103 and Dan Baldassari of Sacramento Lodge #6. Shumate, 101, an Army veteran and Elk for 39 years, is likely the oldest organist in Northern California. Baldassari, 50, began as a trumpet player under Hammond Concert Artist Tom Thompson. A recent meeting after Shumate's performance highlighted their shared mastery of the organ; an instrument demanding rare skill, coordination and lifelong dedication. Together, they represent a musical bridge between generations."

At the time, Chuck Shumate had been an Elk for 40 years, while Daniel Baldassari (half Shumate's age) had been an Elk for just two years. The two organists met at Shumate's Carmichael Lodge.

McDaniel added, "Baldassari is an anomaly among younger musicians; it takes years to master the intricate skills required to play the organ."

In addition to serving as lodge organists, Shumate and Baldassari also served as lodge officers. At Elks #6, Baldassari provides  
*Continued on page 3*

## Elks Lodge 6 Honors 'Story Teller' Clazie

**By Noreen Stevenson**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Two California-Hawaii Elks Association (CHEA) Special Citations were presented to Past Exalted Ruler Stephen B. Clazie at a Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 meeting on Tuesday, June 2.

The first citation was for third place in the Best Community Service & Image Brochure category in the CHEA Public Relations Division 4 Contest. Division 4 includes lodges with 701 to 1,100 members.

The brochure included copies of 23 Community Service entry stories that appeared across 15 issues of the Pocket News. Each of those stories mentioned the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market. Two of  
*Continued on page 3*



Elks 6's Exalted Ruler Carol "Coach" Mitchell presents two California-Hawaii Elks Association (CHEA) Special Citations to Past Exalted Ruler Stephen B. Clazie at a Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 meeting on Tuesday, June 2. Photo by Nicole Holton Alvarado

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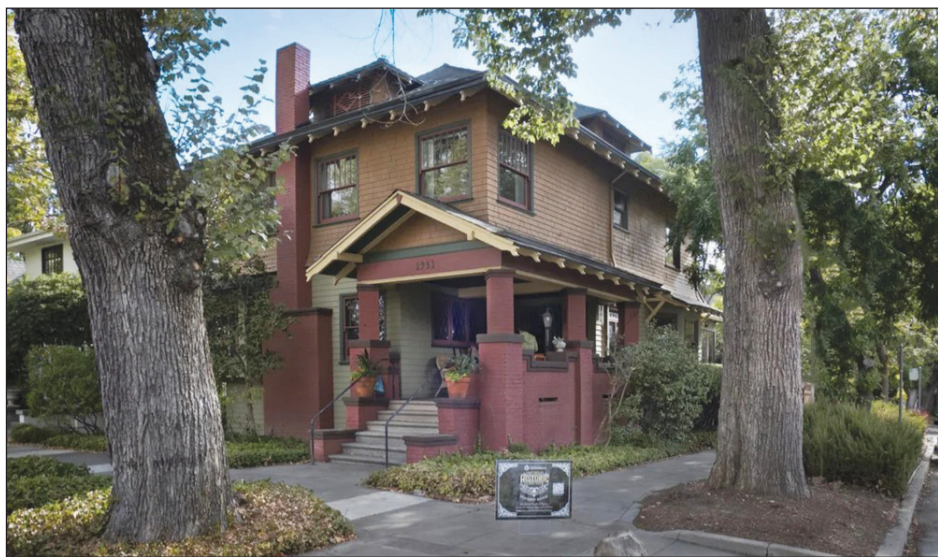
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# Steeped in History, Architecture, Intrigue

Preservation Sacramento Announces 50th Annual Home Tour

Preservation Sacramento News Release



The Remick House, a 1908 Craftsman on 22nd Street, was part of a previous Historic Home Tour. Photo courtesy of Preservation Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Preservation Sacramento is proud and excited to announce the 50th Annual Historic Home Tour is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 20 and advance tickets are available now.

With a mission to showcase historically significant architecture of some of Sacramento's most noteworthy historic homes and buildings, the 2026 Historic Home Tour will showcase six historic properties associated with the Old & New Washington School Historic Districts. Located in the heart of Sacramento's central city and bounded by C, H, 12th and 19th streets, this is one of Sacramento's oldest residential neighborhoods.

The 2026 tour will highlight the neighborhood's longtime and celebrated history with the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF), an internationally recognized collective of artists and activists that originated in Sacramento in the late 1960s.

Four Historic Homes On Tour

The four residential properties on the 50th

Annual Historic Home Tour, three of which are located on F Street, date from the 1890s. The homes offer a sampling of housing types commonly found in Sacramento during this time period, ranging from very modest single-story cottages to large homes of two or three stories. As demand for affordable housing grew in this neighborhood, many of the single-family homes were divided into two or more apartments, and some became boarding houses, with furnished rooms for rent. These multi-occupant residences provided inexpensive housing for employees of local businesses and industries, such as the canneries and the railroad shops.

One of the homes on the 2026 tour is known as the "F Street Boarding House" and has an infamous past due to a former occupant,

Dorothea Puente, who leased the property for about seven years until she was convicted of murdering nine of the lodgers in 1989. The current owners are generously opening their home while underscoring that "The House is Innocent," a phrase that is on the exterior gate of the home and is the name of an award-winning documentary that was released in 2015.

### Washington Neighborhood Center Part of Historic Home Tour

Located at 16th and D streets, the Washington Neighborhood Center is also an important stop on the home tour. Built in 1927, this former tire store was repurposed as a youth center 30 years later and has recently been renovated. Tour participants will have the opportunity

to see the impressive mural painted by RCAF artist Esteban Villa and his students, Emergence of the Chicano Social Struggle in a Bi-Cultural Society (or simply, Emergence). Painted between 1969 and 1970, it is the oldest surviving RCAF mural painting in Sacramento. With the inclusion of the Washington Neighborhood Center, the historic home tour also is linked to the ongoing regional celebration of the RCAF called InFormation that has shown a light on the RCAF's legacy of art, activism and community.

"This year's Historic Home Tour highlights how history never stops, even in historic districts," said President of Preservation Sacramento William Burg.

"Historic events including demographic and social changes, cultural and artistic groups, activism and



Logo courtesy of Preservation Sacramento

resistance, triumph and tragedy, all shape our city, and our neighborhoods. After more than a half century of celebrating and protecting neighborhoods, Preservation Sacramento is proud to announce its 50th annual tour, highlighting history old and new in the historic districts around Midtown's Washington Elementary School and Washington Neighborhood Center," Burg said.

### Additional Tour Details

To add to the home tour experience, eye-catching and period-appropriate vehicles will be parked near the residences and buildings on the tour. The tour is designed to be both walkable and bikeable, and complimentary bicycle parking is available in a monitored bike corral provided by Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA).

While touring the prized historic homes is the highlight of the annual event, an always-popular Street Fair will include vendors, food trucks, nonprofits, community organizations, local

crafters and artists, live musical entertainment and more. This year, the Street Fair will be located on the Washington Elementary School grounds (1631 F St.) and is the starting point for the tour where attendees pick up wristbands (that serve as tour tickets), tour brochures (for more details about the homes and featured sites), and for day-of ticket sales if still available.

Proudly supported by initial sponsors Paloma Begin, Realtor (DRE01254423) and Michael Triglia, Realtor (LIC#0493778), advance tickets to the 2026 Historic Home Tour are on sale now and cost \$30 per person for Preservation Sacramento members, \$40 for the general public in advance or day of the event.

To purchase advance tickets to Preservation Sacramento's 50th Annual Historic Home Tour, visit [preservation-sacramento-44.wildapricot.org/event-6731534](http://preservation-sacramento-44.wildapricot.org/event-6731534).

For more information about the tour, visit [preservationsacramento.org/hometour](http://preservationsacramento.org/hometour). ★

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# Judges Pick Top Dogs at Fashion Show



Jacquelyn Lucchesi's two-and-a-half-year-old Miniature Schnauzer mix, Potato, took second place dressed as a Beach Boy.



First place went to Cloud, a Standard Poodle. Owner and Elks Lodge 6 soloist Audra Jefferson said, "Cloud is a service dog." Audra communicates with Cloud using sign language because Cloud is deaf.



Best of Show went to Emory, a two-and-a-half-year-old Bernedoodle. According to owner Olivia Tafoya, Emory "loves socks."

Continued from page 1

Standard Poodle. Owner and Elks 6 soloist Audra Jefferson said, "Cloud is an attention hog." Cloud is a service dog, and Audra communicates with sign language because Cloud is deaf.

Jacquelyn Lucchesi's two-and-a-half-year-old Miniature Schnauzer mix, Potato, took second place while dressed as a Beach Boy. The entry form claimed Potato was the "fastest Schnauzer in the world." Interested readers can follow Potato the Powerful on Instagram and TikTok.

Pika Chu, a one-year-old Yorkshire Terrier who takes the job of neighborhood squirrel patrol very seriously, took third place while dressed as a Minion. Owners Steve and Caitlin Chu proudly watched Pika Chu earn the honor. ★



Exalted Ruler Carol "Coach" Mitchell enjoys her special coffee at the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market Doggie Fashion Show.

# Elks Lodge 6 Honors 'Story Teller' Clazie

Continued from page 1

the 15 issues also contained an additional story about Elks 6 that was unrelated to the market. Those stories remained attached because they were part of the original page layout.

The citations were presented by Exalted Ruler Carol "Coach" Mitchell. In presenting the Special Citations, she referred to Clazie as the Lodge's "Story Teller."

Clazie also received a second Special Third Place Citation for Best Event Brochure.

Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6's Single Best Event Brochure entry appeared in the Sept. 12, 2025, issue of the Pocket News. The story, titled "Teen Collecting Signatures for Crosswalk Safety," appeared on pages 1 and 7. The publisher also printed the same story in the Sept. 26, 2025, issue of the Carmichael Times on page 7.

Clazie later wrote a follow-up story after

Eric Norem met with City Councilmember Rick Jennings. It appeared on page 4 of the Dec. 19, 2025, issue of the Pocket News under the title "Teen Collecting Signatures Online for Crosswalk Safety."

These stories focused on teenager Eric Norem, his petition drive for pedestrian safety, and his campaign to install a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at a dangerous intersection.

This marks the third consecutive year that Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 and Clazie have received Special Public Relations Citations from the California-Hawaii Elks Association.

During the previous two years, Elks 6 earned first place in both categories of the CHEA Public Relations Division 3 Contest. Division 3 includes lodges with 501 to 700 members.

This past year, the Lodge experienced significant membership growth and moved up to Division 4. ★

# Elks 6's Baldassari Named District Elks Association Organist

Continued from page 1

musical selections from the Ritual of Special Services booklet, first published in 1925.

McDaniel noted, "This includes music for Elk celebrations such as Mother's Day, various veterans' occasions and even mortgage-burning ceremonies."

Charles Shumate passed away on May 14, 2026, at the age of 102. Born on Nov. 11, 1923, he lived in Citrus Heights. Shumate was known for his resilience and devotion to family, raising four children and remaining active in the lives of his 20 grandchildren and more than 20 great-grandchildren.

Shortly before Shumate's passing, Bryan Arthur "Smurf" Feldpouch, the California-Hawaii Elks Association (CHEA) organist for more than seven years, passed away at the end of April 2025 just prior to the CHEA Convention.

The Association requested that all 19 districts forward potential candidates for the state position. During the North Central District (NCD) District Deputy caucus, Robert Brotherton, who was a Grand Lodge Special Representative for Elks 6, suggested forwarding Baldassari's name for consideration. Brotherton contacted Baldassari to confirm his interest.

"He was excited to be considered." Those 19 districts had 162 Lodges who could each have an organist.

The district submitted his name to CHEA and later notified him to submit a biography for review.

Baldassari submitted the following music biography:

As a member and organist for Elks Lodge 6, I am proud to be part of a wonderful family and organization and thrilled to carry on the tradition of filling hearts and souls with music.

When the Lord gifted me with the ability to make music, He gave me just enough skill to remain humble and appreciate what hard work can accomplish. He also gave me a heart for charity and a desire to share my passion for music wherever I go.

My musical journey began in 1985 at age 12 while attending fifth grade at Brookside Elementary in San Anselmo, California. During a school assembly featuring instrument demonstrations, I was immediately drawn to the trumpet and signed up for



Chuck Shumate had been an Elk for 40 years, while Elks 6's Dan Baldassari, at 51 years old, was half Shumate's age and had been an Elk for just two years. The two organists met at Shumate's Carmichael Lodge. Shumate was likely the oldest organist in all of California, and perhaps in all of Elkdom. Courtesy photo

lessons.

I later played in the junior high band at White Hill Middle School in Fairfax and then in the jazz and concert bands at Sir Francis Drake High School in San Anselmo. During my senior year, our jazz band competed in Santa Cruz and, after winning, performed in an evening concert at the Coconut Grove Ballroom alongside other winners, where we received a standing ovation.

After moving to Sacramento in 2001, I met pipe organist Tom Thompson, who was looking for a trumpet player for a special concert performance. Our collaboration began in 2005 at Grant Union High School for the Class of 1955 reunion, where we performed Jackie Gleason's "The Honeymooners" theme song, "Melancholy Serenade."

After that, we performed monthly at Stockton's Bob Hope Fox Theatre for classic movie nights; playing before the audience arrived and again during the credits as guests departed.

Tom became my mentor and organ teacher, generously sharing his knowledge and years of experience.

I also volunteered at the Sacramento Habitat for Humanity ReStore. One day, I noticed a Hammond organ on the sales floor and began experimenting with it. To my delight, management and customers enjoyed the music.

Eventually, this evolved into a regular volunteer role entertaining shoppers. I met many people who became both fans and friends and who would purposely shop on the days I volunteered.

One of my most meaningful performances was for my parents' 50th wedding anniversary in 2016 at the Marin Art and Garden Center. During the

performance, I watched my father approach and stand beside me. A few minutes later, his cousin Carla joined him. Within a year or two, she had passed away. Having that moment captured by the event photographer remains something I deeply cherish.

After my time at Habitat for Humanity ended, I searched for another opportunity to share music. Through social media, I posted a request seeking a place to practice. Shannon Lewis responded on Nextdoor, invited me to join the Elks, and became my sponsor.

My journey as an Elks Lodge organist has only just begun, and already it has multiplied with love, acceptance, joy, and many unexpected but meaningful discoveries. I look forward to continuing this lifelong musical pilgrimage with my fellow Elks family.

After submitting his biography, Dan was contacted directly by CHEA Director Tim Martin and informed of the requirements for the position. He was then selected to become the new CHEA organist.

Nicole Holton Alvarado, Elks 6 Esteemed Leading Knight, said, "It is especially inspiring to see a younger member embrace a role so deeply rooted in our history. Dan's commitment demonstrates that our traditions remain meaningful and that the future of our Lodge is bright when members of all generations step forward to serve."

Elks 6's Exalted Ruler Carol "Coach" Mitchell said, "The Sacramento six officers core is proud of our Lodge organist Dan Baldassari for being selected as the California Hawaii Elks Association organist."

She added, "We are excited to see what his journey will hold for him representing our Lodge at the State level." ★

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# Elks Golf Club Awards \$10,000 to Scholars



Pictured is Michael Chargin with his \$1,000 scholarship award that will go toward studying Environmental Science at California State University, San Marcos. Photos by Antonio Azevedo



Pictured is Justin Nguyen with his \$2,000 scholarship award that will go toward attending Cosumnes River College to major in Music.



Pictured is Emily Tu, who was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship and will attend the University of California, Irvine, majoring in Civil Engineering.



Pictured is Vicki Phan, who received the Elks Golf Club's highest scholarship award of \$4,000 and will attend the University of California, Los Angeles, majoring in Psychobiology. Photo by Antonio Azevedo

By Stephen B. Clazie

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)**

The Elks Golf Club proudly presented four scholarship awards totaling \$10,000 to graduating high school seniors who participated in their school golf programs and will continue their education in college.

The scholarship recipients were selected for demonstrating outstanding achievement in academics, leadership, community service, extra-curricular involvement and golf. Applications were evaluated based on academic performance, volunteer and community service, honors and awards, leadership positions, participation in organizations, an essay, and letters of recommendation from both a faculty member and coach.

Scholarship awards were presented to Michael Chargin of Christian Brothers High School and Justin Nguyen, Emily Tu and Vicki Phan of Monterey Trail High School.

Family members and guests attended the presentation to recognize the accomplishments of each recipient.

Elks Golf Club President John Facio and Elks Vice President Joe Ignoffo presented certificates to all scholarship awardees.

**Michael Chargin – \$1,000 Scholarship**

Michael Chargin received a \$1,000 scholarship and plans to study Environmental Science at California State University, San Marcos.

Michael was selected based on his academic success, leadership and dedication to serving others. He mentored and encouraged youth golfers through PAL and Angels for Hearts and volunteered with three additional community service organizations. He was also recognized as his school's Most Improved Varsity Men's Golfer.

Notably, Michael began playing golf at Christian Brothers only during his junior year and ultimately became captain of the varsity boys golf team.

**Justin Nguyen – \$2,000 Scholarship**

Justin Nguyen received a \$2,000 scholarship and will attend Cosumnes River College to major in Music.

Justin completed three

Advanced Placement classes while earning A grades and achieved a 4.19 GPA. He volunteered 58 hours across five community service organizations and maintained honor roll status with perfect attendance.

He contributed his talents to both concert and marching bands while serving as varsity boys golf team captain and orchestra concertmaster. Justin also participated in five organizations over multiple years and earned a scholarship application score of 152.

**Emily Tu – \$3,000 Scholarship**

Emily Tu received a \$3,000 scholarship and will attend the University of California, Irvine, majoring in Civil Engineering.

Emily completed two Advanced Placement classes with A+ grades and earned a 4.16 GPA. She volunteered 232 hours with six community service organizations.

Her accomplishments included recognition on the California Honor Roll, Women's Varsity Golf Most Valuable Player, Women's Varsity Wrestling Mustang Award recipient and Morton's Golf Scholarship recipient.

Emily demonstrated extensive leadership by serving as freshman, junior and senior class president and participating in organizations including MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) and Robotics Club. She also served as captain of both the varsity golf and wrestling teams.

**Vicki Phan – \$4,000 Scholarship**

Vicki Phan received the Elks Golf Club's highest scholarship award of

\$4,000 and will attend the University of California, Los Angeles, majoring in Psychobiology.

Vicki began taking Advanced Placement classes in 10th grade and continued through graduation, earning nearly all A grades across 11 AP courses and achieving a 4.47 GPA.

She completed 450 hours of volunteer service and earned seven honors and awards, including Honor Roll with Distinction for four years, first place in Crime Scene Science, first

place in Electric Vehicle Presentation and Key Club Distinguished Treasurer.

Vicki served as varsity golf co-captain, president of the Vietnamese Student Association, and held multiple leadership roles in Robotics Club while remaining active in MESA throughout high school.

The Elks Golf Club congratulates Vicki, Michael, Emily and Justin and wishes them continued success in their academic pursuits and future endeavors, both in the classroom and on the golf course. ★

# City Appoints Katie Dignan as Assistant City Manager



Pictured is newly appointed Assistant City Manager Katie Dignan, who will officially step into her role July 13. Photo courtesy of City of Sacramento

**City of Sacramento News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The City of Sacramento has appointed Katie Dignan as assistant city manager, effective July 13.

In her new role, Dignan will oversee the Community Development Department, Economic Development Department and Convention and Cultural Services. She will also help lead implementation of key initiatives advanced by City Manager Maraskeshia Smith and the City Council focused on organizational improvement and community impact.

Dignan has more than a decade of executive leadership experience in local government, infrastructure

projects, finance, economic development and organizational transformation.

"Katie brings a unique combination of public sector leadership, financial expertise and economic development experience that will help advance Sacramento's priorities," Smith said. "She has a strong track record of leading complex organizations, driving innovation and delivering results. I am excited to welcome her to the city's executive leadership team and look forward to the impact she will have on our organization and community."

Most recently, she served as acting assistant general manager of finance and management services and chief financial officer for the East Bay Regional Park District,

where she provided executive leadership for accounting, budget, capital finance, procurement, payroll and information technology operations. She also helped to launch the district's Facilities and Infrastructure Division and oversaw capital finance, grants and business services functions.

Prior to that role, Dignan served as assistant director of planning and building for the City of Oakland, where she led financial and administrative operations and helped to streamline development review and permitting processes. She also served as chief of staff to the CEO of Kairos Power, supporting major economic development projects, site selection efforts and federal funding initiatives.

Earlier in her career, Dignan

managed large-scale Hurricane Katrina recovery and resilience programs for the City of New Orleans.

Dignan said she is eager to join the city and help advance its goals.

"Sacramento is a city with tremendous momentum, opportunity and vision," Dignan said. "I am honored to join the city's leadership team and look forward to working with employees, community partners and city leaders to strengthen services, support economic growth and help deliver results for residents."

Dignan holds a Master of Business Administration from Tulane University and a bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University. ★

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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



## Draft Night is Here

By V.G. Harris

While the wild celebrations go on in the city of New York, and Jalen Brunson has been given the key to the city, NBA fans all over America wait like a four-year-old at Christmas for the NBA draft to take place.

The long-awaited draft will finally bring into focus what G.M. Scott Perry is all about. No more inaction and waiting to see what other teams will do, it's time to show up and let the Sacramento Kings fans get a glimpse into who they really have.

Much discussion has taken place with so many mock drafts, and most pundits are reciting names in their sleep.

While sharpshooter Darius Acuff Jr. remains a longshot possibility, a likely candidate that will still be available as the Kings pick at No. 7 is none other than Kingston Flemings, and that is not a bad thing.

For the Houston Cougars last season, Kingston scored 16 points per game with four rebounds and five assists, and while those numbers aren't gawdy, they are certainly respectable.

Listed at six-foot-four with an average wingspan, it's his on-court presence and basketball I.Q. that have teams interested in taking a closer look.

Without a doubt Kingston has competition, and names like Mikel Brown and Braydon Burries top the list that Kingston will have to contend with. Still, Kingston has the intangibles that matter, and among them is a strong family presence that continues to support his journey. Raised in a tight-knit Texas home, Kingston understands the team concept, and although I don't pretend to know the mind of Scott Perry, Kingston Flemings passes the litmus test.

Now is the time for the Sacramento franchise to come home with a sold pick and not something that brings up nightmares from the past. No more Marvin Bagley's or Thomas Robinson's. Now is the time to not get cute or to try and show the league that you know better than they do.

I'm not wanting to see an overseas candidate come out of nowhere. Staring this franchise in the face are solid players that can

make a difference on a team that is in rebuilding mode.

Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither will the Sacramento Kings build a team overnight.

The No. 7 pick in this year's draft needs to be a player that will make an impact, but he doesn't have to be a franchise player to make a difference.

No Luka Doncic or Cooper Flagg waiting this time around, but just as Jalen Brunson was selected 33rd overall in the second round, anything can happen if you don't try and get too creative.

I've said before and I'll say again, the foundation of this team is Domantas Sabonis, and there's a reason why so many teams have an interest in trading for him. Domantas is a game changer, a consummate team player that never takes a night off, and a true leader that young players can aspire to.

Tuesday night is finally here, and it needs to be Christmas time for the Sacramento Kings. Make a sensible selection and feel good that you've just made your team better.

Go back to work and help Keegan Murray to find his shot again. In particular, the past two seasons Keegan looks like the player who's lost his confidence, and it's up to Doug Christie and staff to build his confidence back and remind him that he's the guy that led the entire nation in scoring while playing for the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Russell Westbrook, who last season exceeded everyone's expectations, is eager to return for one more season with the Sacramento Kings, and this year with a healthy team he can make an even bigger difference than he did last year.

It's time to celebrate Kings fans because having a top ten pick in the draft is not something to be taken lightly.

If the experts are to be believed, this is one of the deepest drafts in decades, and the Kings enjoy not only a first-round pick, but two second-round picks as well.

Tuesday night will reveal how well Scott Perry and staff have done their homework, but don't be too surprised if you hear the name Kingston Flemings!

*All the best Kings fans because a better season is just around the corner!* ★

## Minimum Wage Hikes to Offset High Living Costs. There's a Downside



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

There are three immutable aspects of economic life in California today.

No. 1, Californians face the nation's highest cost of living. It is 11% higher than the national average, according to the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis, including rents 53% higher than average and utilities 63% higher. It's why California also has the nation's highest poverty rate.

No. 2, the high cost of living, especially for housing, is the most important factor in the out-migration of Californians to other states. It has led to a net loss of 900,000 people since 2015, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

No. 3, California's unemployment rate, currently 5.3% of its labor force, has been among the highest of any state for the last half-decade, with more than a million jobless workers. It rises to 10.1% when it's broadened to discouraged job seekers and those who work part-time but want full employment. This alternative measure is also the nation's highest.

The response to these economic conditions from the state's mostly Democratic politicians has been an amalgam of high concept policy changes, one-time or short-term allocations of relief money and micro-managing wages.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature, for example, have enacted dozens of laws and administrative directives aimed at making it easier to build new housing, especially for low- and moderate-income families and, in theory, tempering housing costs.

However, the actual rate of new housing construction of all kinds has been stuck at about 100,000 units a year. Newsom's latest state budget projects only fractional gains, to about 115,000 units, through 2030.

When the budget's revenues allow — or at least appear to allow — the state has appropriated funds for direct relief to Californians mired in poverty, such as an earned income tax credit or even cash distributions.

Increasingly, state and local officials also have responded to ever-increasing costs of living by increasing minimum wages.

A new report from the Virginia-based Employment Policies Institute reveals that California is the most active state in setting new and higher wages for specific economic sectors. It has 8 of the nation's 10 largest local minimum wage increases taking in effect in July.

When California, after much political angst, decreed a \$20 minimum wage for fast food workers three years ago and created an agency to oversee that industry's employment conditions, it ignited a debate over impact that's still raging.

Proponents have ginned up studies that purport to prove that the higher wages had little or no negative effects on employment and consumer prices. Critics have countered with studies saying that \$20 wages forced fast food

operators to raise prices and reduce their staffs.

Newsom and the Legislature also set higher wages for healthcare industry employees. Local city and county officials have decreed new wage levels for particular economic segments, such as the hotel industry in Los Angeles and amusement parks in San Diego.

The Los Angeles City Council set a \$30 minimum wage for hotel and airport workers on the theory that travelers from elsewhere would bear the costs, but last month postponed implementation until after the 2028 Olympics. In return, the business community canceled a ballot measure to eliminate the city's gross receipts tax, a major city revenue source.

The tactic of raising minimum wages to offset rising living costs shows no signs of abating. Currently, for example, the Service Employees International Union is sponsoring legislation, Senate Bill 1203, that would increase the training requirements for private security guards but also empower the state Industrial Welfare Commission to set new and presumably higher minimum wages for such guards.

This may be a circular economic firing squad. Higher wages can lead to higher consumer costs, which increases pressure for higher wages and pushes those caught in the middle, trying to survive, to lower-cost states.

*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 Don't They Just Create Individual Social Security Accounts?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** Regarding Social Security's financial issues, three people contributing to Social Security for every one beneficiary sounds to me like a surplus. If they had given workers their own accounts, similar to a 401k, where they could manage their own money, it would have worked out more favorably for retirees. President George W Bush suggested these changes, but it was shot down by Congress.

The average worker now pays a 6.2% Social Security tax. If the government had bumped it up to say 7%, I don't believe that me or anyone else would have cried too hard. There are ways of correcting this before the SS reserves are depleted and, hopefully, Congress will address Social Security's financing soon. **Signed: Skeptical Senior**

**Dear Skeptical:** Believe it or not, putting SS contributions (from payroll taxes) into separate

individual accounts is not really a good idea. For information, most people get back all payroll taxes they contributed to Social Security within about 5 years of receiving SS benefits. Even with decent public market returns, some individual separate accounts would eventually run out of money, causing some to lose Social Security benefits before they die, meaning they would likely live in poverty. People are now collecting benefits (on average) for decades, and the current SS format means that even those who contribute only a small amount will collect benefits no matter how long they live. Remember, the primary purpose of the SS program is to reduce poverty in America.

FYI, President Bush's plan had opposition in the 2005 Congress largely because of the cost to transition to that plan, and the fear that investments in the public markets subjected individual retirement savings to unacceptable risk. In any case, few have since advocated investing Social Security funds in the public financial markets because of the risks and the political backlash. And adding a small amount to the FICA/SECA payroll tax rate only somewhat mitigates the problem - it doesn't completely solve it. I'm afraid that

Social Security's financial issues are more complex than that and can't be fully solved by a small increase in SS payroll taxes.

You are right — Congress (and, we are confident, will) address this, and hopefully soon. For its part, AMAC (the Association of Mature American Citizens) and the AMAC Foundation have been evaluating this issue for years and have developed a Social Security reform plan for Congress to consider (see this). And we are actively promoting our reform plan in Washington, D.C. Please know that we share your concerns about the future of Social Security and will continue to work hard to ensure the program is here for many generations.

*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 spirit of Buchenwald lives on, we are supposed to believe, in the Israeli military operation in Gaza. It's nearly mandatory for progressive Democrats to denounce Israel for its alleged genocide, while Tucker Carlson and Hasan Piker -- radical influencers on the right and left, respectively -- say that the moral offense is the same as the Holocaust, even if the scale is less extensive.

Israel's haters surely enjoy the perversity of accusing the Jewish state of the same enormity that contributed to its creation, of comparing the Jews to heinous murderers of Jews. The charge is a grotesque libel.

If Israel wanted to kill everyone in Gaza, it could do it easily. What we have witnessed in the Hamas-controlled territory is not a genocide -- the deliberate destruction of a people -- but an urban battle.

Warfare in urban environments is almost always highly destructive. When the Iraqi army retook Mosul from ISIS in 2016-2017 with our air support, tens of thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed and an estimated 80% of the Old City.

Vietnam gave us the famous (perhaps apocryphal) line, "We had to destroy the city in order to save it." The city in question was Ben Tre, infiltrated by the Viet Cong during the Tet Offensive in 1968. We used airstrikes, heli-

## The Perverse Genocide Charge

copter gunships, artillery and ground troops to extricate the communist forces, and the Mekong Delta town suffered extensive damage, even though the fighting only lasted days.

The old imperial capital of Hue suffered the same fate, but on a larger scale. Communist forces took most of the city and dug in, requiring street-to-street combat over a period of months to take it back. About half the city was damaged or destroyed.

The lesson is that cities never fare well when they are the locus of combat, whether Seoul or Pyongyang during the Korean War, Manila or Stalingrad during World War II, Vicksburg or Charleston during the Civil War.

Civilians inevitably suffer and die. This is true of even the most honored military operations. The Allied invasion of Normandy killed 20,000 French civilians as cities such as Rouen and Le Havre were pulverized by our bombardment. Why would anyone expect Gaza, one of the most densely populated places on Earth, to be different? Hamas spent years and massive resources tunneling and fortifying, making Gaza into a bristling armed camp difficult to subdue.

Sure enough, it has taken a grinding, years-long campaign to substantially reduce Hamas. Israel's detractors profess to detect "genocidal intent" in harsh things that Israeli officials have said about Gaza, but these statements have typically been aimed at Hamas.

If Israel wanted to commit genocide against the Gazans, Prime Minister

Bibi Netanyahu wouldn't have sought to accommodate Hamas for years, in the hopes that a major war could be avoided. The Oct. 7 attack exposed this as a grievous misjudgment. It's hard to believe that any society, having experienced the unspeakable crimes visited on its people that day, would have concluded, "Well, we can't do anything in response -- even recover our hostages -- because combat in Gaza will be too destructive."

Hamas intertwined its military infrastructure with civilian facilities, and made military use of hospitals, mosques and schools. Its fighters posed as medical personnel and journalists. Everything was geared to making it as difficult as possible to target Hamas without collateral damage, creating the predicate for denouncing Israel for war crimes.

As military expert John Spencer points out, Israel takes steps to avoid civilian harm: "It warns before attacks using text messages, phone calls, leaflets and broadcasts. It opens safe corridors and pauses operations so civilians can leave combat areas. It tracks civilian presence down to the building level."

TITLE: None of this matters, though. The ultimate perversity is that Hamas has genocidal intent against the Jews. Yet, it is the war against this cruel terror group that is being used to associate the Jewish state with one of history's worst crimes.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2026 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

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# ABOUT TOWN

## 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 sachistorymuseum.org.

**California Automobile Museum** – 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 firsthand 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 californiarailroadmuseum.org.

**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 crocker-art.org.

**SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity Laser Concert Series** – Beastie Boys (18+ event), July 10-11.; Bad Bunny

(18+ event), Aug. 7-8; Grateful Dead, Sept. 18-19. 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 visitosac.org.

## Elks Lodge 6 Calendar of Events

Classic Car Show, Saturday, July 18.

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

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

Martial Arts, Monday 5 p.m.

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

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

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660 Florin Road • 428-5678  
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**Greenhaven Lutheran Church**  
475 Florin Road (across from Kennedy High School) • 428-8449  
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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.

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

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# Positive Altitude STEM Event Inspires Next Generation

*Hundreds of families from across the region experience aviation and STEM up close at Mather Airport*



Attendees fanned out across dozens of interactive exhibits showcasing the breadth of aviation and aerospace careers. Photo courtesy of the California Capital Airshow



Young visitors got up close with aircraft and equipment. Photo courtesy of the California Capital Airshow



Positive Altitude is one of the free youth STEM programs the California Capital Airshow produces each year. Photo courtesy of the California Capital Airshow

## California Capital Airshow News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -** The California Capital Airshow (CCA) brought the wonder of flight and the excitement of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to hundreds of young people on May 30, through its annual Positive Altitude event at Mather Airport. Families from across the Sacramento region gathered for the half-day program, which introduced youth of all ages to careers and opportunities in aviation and aerospace.

The event opened with a lunchtime conversation and keynote address by Darby Dustman, Director of Strategy & Programs at VELA and a rocket propulsion leader with more than a decade in aerospace and defense. Dustman has worked on hyper-sonic systems, boosters for NASA's Artemis program and next-generation missile technology and brought that real-world experience to life for a room full of curious kids.

a failure story," said Dustman. "You just usually only see the launch."

Her remarks set the tone for an afternoon of exploration and discovery.

Following the keynote, attendees fanned out across dozens of interactive exhibits showcasing the breadth of aviation and aerospace careers. Young visitors got up close with aircraft and equipment from REACH Air Medical Systems, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Air Unit and Drone team, UPS, FedEx, the U.S. Coast Guard and many more, seeing firsthand the wide range of professionals who keep the equipment and technology in the skies running. Interactive science and STEM demonstrations, including exhibits from Mad Science, rounded out an afternoon designed to spark curiosity across every discipline.

"We want every kid who comes through this event to see someone who looks like them, doing a job they never knew existed," said Darcy Brewer, CEO of the California Capital Airshow. "Aviation is air traffic



Interactive science and STEM demonstrations, including exhibits from Mad Science, rounded out an afternoon designed to spark curiosity across every discipline. Photo courtesy of Markeloper Aviation Photography

controllers, medics, engineers, package delivery, law enforcement, and so much more. Events like this help inspire the future of our industry, so we want these kids to be exposed to the tremendous opportunities ahead of them."

Positive Altitude is one of the free youth STEM programs the California Capital Airshow produces each year, with the ACE Academy and Destination

Aviation events also happening this summer. All are free for participants and designed to reach youth who may not otherwise have access to aviation experiences.

### About California Capital Airshow

Established in 2004, the California Capital Airshow 501(c)3 plans and operates the exciting, family-friendly annual event designed to honor the

Sacramento region's rich aviation heritage and veterans while using the power and magic of flight to inspire young people. CCA gives back to the community through scholarships, charitable group donations and exciting educational youth programming throughout the year. For more information about the airshow, performers, and discount tickets, please visit [www.californiacapitalairshow.com](http://www.californiacapitalairshow.com). ★

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# Declaration of Independence

**W**hen in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.



# Jacob Giribaldi and Peyton Chan Win the 58th County Junior Championship

## Sacramento Golf Council News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The 58th Sacramento County Junior Championship was held June 15-16 at Mather Golf Course.

Jacob Garibaldi claimed the Boys Overall Championship, playing in the 16-18 age group with a score of 68/68/136.

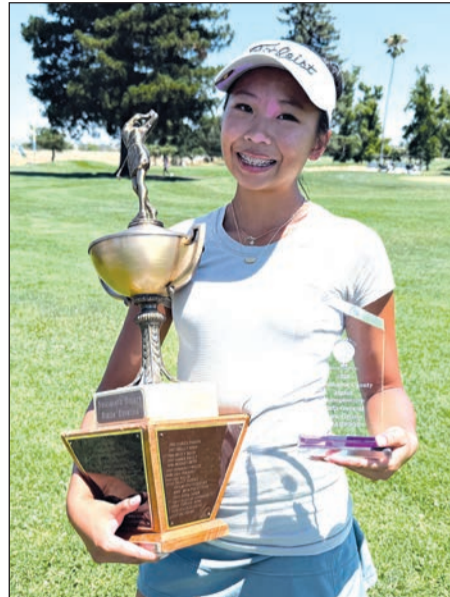
Zac Reidt Barragan captured first, Sudhaamsuram Parvataneni, second and Johnny Thut, third in the boys 16-18 division.

On the girls' side, Peyton Chan, playing in the Girls 14-15 division scored 72/68/140 to win the Overall Girls title. The overall champion comes from the 16-18 and 14-15 age groups.

First place in Girls 16-18 went to Allison Chan with a score of 73/71/144.



**Jacob Garibaldi claims the Boys Overall Championship.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council



**Peyton Chan claims the Overall Girls title.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council

Sakura Watanabe was second and Angelina Santiago, third.

Additional flight winners include Theo Stoop (Boys 14-15 Champion), Cole Vieira (Boys 12-13 Champion), Olivia Lee (Girls 14-15 Champion) and Audrey Nakamura (Girls 12-13 Champion).

The Sacramento County Junior Championship, now in its 58th year, is a premier event hosted by the Sacramento Golf Council, drawing top junior talent from across the region. The tournament is open to boys and girls ages 12-18 and is contested in age-based divisions over 36 holes.

The 2026 event was directed by Tony Paulson of the Sacramento Golf Council.

For more information, contact Vi McNally at mcnally.viola0@gmail.com or call 916-896-7766. ★

# Sacramento State Men's Soccer Announces New Schedule for New-Look 2026

## Sacramento State Athletics News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento State men's soccer program announced a 17-match regular season slate for the upcoming 2026 season, which features a unique partnership for the second half of the schedule once Big West Conference play begins.

With only three soccer playing members on the men's side in the new-look Pac-12 Conference, the league entered into a scheduling agreement designed to strengthen and sustain Division I men's soccer opportunities across the region. As part of the partnership, league newcomer California Baptist, Cal Poly, UC Riverside, and UC San Diego will compete as affiliate members of the Pac-12 alongside Oregon State, San Diego State, and Gonzaga.

The Big West will feature the Hornets, newcomer Utah Valley, Cal State Bakersfield, Cal State Fullerton, CSUN, UC Irvine, and UC Santa Barbara.

Sacramento State will face each of its Big West rivals once along with crossover games against Gonzaga (Oct. 7), UC San Diego (Oct. 14), and Oregon State (Oct. 21). The crossover games will not count toward the league standings



**The first game of the 2026 Sacramento State Men's Soccer Season is Aug. 8 vs. the Broncos at Santa Clara in an exhibition match.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

with four schools qualifying for the Big West Championship at the end of the year.

The Hornets tune-up for the regular season grind with three exhibitions, traveling to both Santa Clara (Aug. 8) and Stanford (Aug. 12) while hosting Menlo College (Aug. 15).

Regular season play begins in earnest with back-to-back home matches, renewing the Causeway rivalry with UC Davis at home in the season opener on Aug. 20,

before hosting Grand Canyon three days later.

The Hornets then hit the road for their next four contests, making trips to Saint Mary's (Aug. 27), Utah Tech (Aug. 31), San Jose State (Sept. 6), and San Diego State (Sept. 11).

Sacramento State closes out non-conference play with home matches against Pacific (Sept. 17) and UC Riverside (Sept. 23) before opening the Big West slate against UC Santa Barbara on the

road on Sept. 30. The Big West home opener has the Hornets hosting Cal State Bakersfield on Oct. 3, with league home matches against UC Irvine (Oct. 17) and Cal State Fullerton (Oct. 31) to follow.

On the road, Sacramento State faces Utah Valley (Oct. 10) and CSUN (Oct. 24) in league play.

This year's Big West Championship begins on Nov. 7 with the semifinal round, with the championship match to follow on

Nov. 14. NCAA Tournament play begins five days later on Nov. 19.

## 2026 Sacramento State Men's Soccer Schedule:

Aug. 8 - at Santa Clara (exhibition), 7:30 p.m.; Aug. 12 - at Stanford (exhibition), 3 p.m.; Aug. 15 - vs. Menlo College, 5 p.m.; Aug. 20 - vs. UC Davis, 5 p.m.; Aug. 23 - vs. Grand Canyon, 5 p.m.; Aug. 27 - at Saint Mary's, 5 p.m.; Aug. 31 - at Utah Tech, 7 p.m.; Sept. 6 - at San Jose State, 7 p.m.; Sept. 11 - at San Diego State, 7 p.m.; Sept. 17 - vs. Pacific, 4 p.m.; Sept. 23 - vs. UC Riverside (DH), 1 p.m.; Sept. 30 - at UC Santa Barbara, 7 p.m. (Big West Conference match); Oct. 3 - vs. Cal State Bakersfield, 4 p.m. (Big West Conference match); Oct. 7 - vs. Gonzaga, 4 p.m.; Oct. 10 - at Utah Valley, 6 p.m. (Big West Conference match); Oct. 14 - vs. UC San Diego, 4 p.m.; Oct. 17 - vs. UC Irvine (DH), 4 p.m. (Big West Conference match); Oct. 21 - at Oregon State, 7 p.m.; Oct. 24 - at CSUN, 7 p.m. (Big West Conference match); Oct. 31 - vs. Cal State Fullerton, 3 p.m. (Big West Conference match); Nov. 7 - Big West Championship Semifinals; Nov. 14 - Big West Championship Final; Nov. 19-Dec. 14 - NCAA Tournament. ★

# UC Davis Softball Head Coach Erin Thorpe Announces Retirement

## UC Davis Athletics News Release

**DAVIS, CA (MPG)** - After 12 seasons leading the UC Davis softball program and almost three decades in collegiate coaching, UC Davis Softball Head Coach Erin Thorpe has announced her retirement from coaching.

Thorpe leaves behind one of the most successful eras in program history, during which she guided the Aggies to sustained success while helping countless student-athletes grow, on and off the field.

Thorpe finishes her UC Davis tenure as the second-winningest coach in program history with 273 victories and is just the third coach in school history to surpass the 200-win mark. Across a 23-year head coaching career that included stops at UC Davis, Boise State and Whittier College, Thorpe compiled 496 career victories, including 446 at the Division I level.

"After 23 seasons in coaching, including 12 unforgettable years at UC Davis, retiring is both bittersweet and deeply meaningful," said Thorpe. "I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have worked with so many dedicated assistant coaches, remarkable players, and wonderful colleagues throughout my career. We experienced wins, milestones, and accomplishments that I will always be proud of, but the relationships we built, the lessons we shared, and the moments we experienced together are what will always matter to me most. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey. It has truly been one of the great honors of my life."

"Erin's career at UC Davis reflects a remarkable commitment to our university,



**After 12 seasons leading the UC Davis softball program and almost three decades in collegiate coaching, UC Davis Softball Head Coach Erin Thorpe has announced her retirement from coaching.** Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

to our student-athletes and to the sport of softball," said Director of Athletics Rocko DeLuca. "She led the program with dedication and helped guide it through significant moments in its history. We appreciate all that she has contributed to UC Davis Athletics and wish Erin and her family the very best as she begins this next chapter in her journey."

Thorpe's final season at UC Davis was one of the most successful in program history as the Aggies set a new standard in the Big West Conference and positioned themselves for continued success heading into the Mountain West Conference.

The Aggies posted 17 conference victories in 2026, the program's most ever in

the Big West Conference, and earned the program's first appearance in the Big West Championship Tournament. Along the way, UC Davis recorded a signature victory over Cal State Fullerton, which was ranked No. 4 in the national mid-major poll at the time, and completed a historic road sweep of Long Beach State.

Throughout her tenure, Thorpe coached some of the most accomplished student-athletes in program history. Brooke Yanez became the program's first All-American under her leadership in 2019, while Anna Dethlefsen earned Big West Player of the Year honors in 2023. Thorpe also guided Yanez to Big West Pitcher of the Year recognition in 2019 and helped Ashley Sawai

earn Big West Freshman Pitcher of the Year honors in 2024. Since Thorpe took over the program in 2015, Aggies have earned 41 All-Big West selections and seven National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region honors.

Several Aggies also etched their names into the record book during Thorpe's tenure. Anna Dethlefsen became the first player in program history to surpass 100 career stolen bases, finishing with 110 and ranking second in Big West Conference history.

Other Aggies established numerous UC Davis Division I-era records, including Alyse Rojas in career and single-season batting average and on-base percentage, Sarah Starks in career and single-season home runs and career RBIs, Alexa Yanez in single-season wins, ERA and strikeouts, and Kenedi Brown in career wins and strikeouts. During Thorpe's final season, the Aggies set Division I-era program records for hits, doubles and walks while posting the second-highest totals in batting average and RBIs.

The Aggies also enjoyed several landmark seasons under Thorpe's leadership, including a 39-win campaign in 2019, which marks the program's highest win total since 2003.

Prior to arriving at UC Davis, Thorpe became the winningest coach in Boise State softball history. A former All-American student-athlete herself, Thorpe coached the Broncos' Tara Glover to the program's first All-America honor, and six players earned all-region recognition and 18 received all-conference accolades during her tenure in Boise. She was the head coach at Whittier College before taking over at Boise State. ★