

# AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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## Rotary Club of Fair Oaks Turns 80



Senator Roger Niello and Natalya Sachuk presented a Legislative Resolution to the Fair Oaks club. From left are Dennis Dunbar, Josh Gumacal, Sachuk, Senator Niello, Betsy Alberts, Debbie Kesselring, Diana Cralle, Victoria Porter, Pam Smith.

*Story and photos by Judy Andrews*

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks recently celebrated its 80th anniversary, highlighting its history and significant contributions to the community and beyond. More than 150 members, community leaders, and distinguished guests gathered at the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse on June 1 for a catered event to mark the occasion and reconnect with old friends.

Club President Betsy Alberts opened with a welcome speech, thanked the club's community partners and sponsors, and introduced Rotary dignitaries from nearby clubs.

"The timing for this celebration couldn't be better," said Alberts. "We didn't get to celebrate our



Cathy (Beard) Smallhouse became the first female member in 1992. Roberta Pickett (right) was the first female president of the Fair Oaks club.

75th anniversary because of the pandemic. Now that the park has reopened and we are holding our

force, with new members."

Local government officials and representatives in attendance included Senator Roger Niello, Josh Gumacal from the office of Congressman Ami Bera, and Natalya Sachuk from the office of Assemblymember Josh Hoover.

Senator Niello and Sachuk jointly presented a Legislative Resolution commending the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks for the "vital role it has played in improving the quality of life in the local community and beyond."

Additionally, Rotary District Governor Megan Ellinghouse presented a Certificate of Recognition in honor of the club's 80 years of service, fellowship, leadership and community impact.

*Continued on page 2*

## Sacramento County Expands Residential Fee Deferral Program to Support Housing Development

*Sacramento County News Release*

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - At its June 16 meeting, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution expanding the County's Residential Development Impact Fee Deferral Program to all residential projects, including eligible mixed-use developments that incorporate housing. The change is intended to reduce upfront development costs and support the construction of new housing throughout the County.

The expansion of the fee deferral program is part of Sacramento County's broader effort to create a more predictable, efficient and competitive development environment. By shifting the timing of fee payments, developers' upfront costs are reduced and access to capital during construction is improved, which provides developers with additional tools to advance projects, attract investment, and deliver housing more quickly, while continuing to ensure that new development contributes to the infrastructure and services growing communities depend on. The action reflects Sacramento County's commitment to supporting responsible growth.

The expanded program also broadens eligibility to include certain mixed-use developments, supporting projects that combine residential housing with commercial, retail or other compatible uses that contribute to vibrant, walkable communities.

The action aligns the County's program with Senate Bill 937, a state law intended to support housing development by allowing local governments to defer certain development impact fees.

In addition to approving the resolution, the Board introduced an ordinance that would amend portions of Sacramento County Code to formally implement and support the expanded program. The ordinance would establish the necessary code changes to align County regulations with the updated fee deferral program and state law requirements.

The ordinance is *Continued on page 4*

## Positive Altitude STEM Event Inspires Next Generation

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

*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 *Continued on page 3*



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

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# Rotary Club of Fair Oaks Turns 80

Continued from page 1

"The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks is a wonderful example of what happens when Rotary's values are consistently and visibly lived out," Ellinghouse said. "Through service projects, youth programs, scholarships, community partnerships and countless acts of kindness, the members of this club have embodied our motto: Service Above Self."

President Alberts also acknowledged the event's planning committee, led by Debbie Kesseling, for organizing the evening's program. The committee spent months creating evening room displays featuring a slideshow of community projects, club photos, trading banners and flags from around the world, newsletters, historical documents, numerous awards and memorabilia, including the club's first gavel from 1946.

Other featured speakers included Vic Porter, Diana Cralle, Ryan Palmer, Tom Freeman and Joe Scheimer, who presented on the organization's historical evolution and activities that have impacted the community both locally and internationally.

For the occasion, guests took home a complimentary copy of "Looking Back on 80 Years," a booklet on the club's history by longtime Rotary member Ralph Carhart.

According to Carhart, the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks was founded in 1946 with 29 charter members. No more than two members of any profession or honorable occupation were permitted to join. Membership was by invitation only, and only men were allowed to join.

In her presentation, Cralle highlighted a pivotal 1985 milestone that forever changed club membership. That year, the Supreme Court ruled that women could join the organization. Cathy (Beard) Smallhouse was the first woman to join the Fair Oaks club



More than 150 Rotary Club members, community partners and distinguished guests showed up to support the Fair Oaks Club's 80th anniversary.



Rotary 5180 District Governor Megan Ellinghouse presented the Fair Oaks club with a Certificate of Recognition.

in 1992. It wasn't until 2006 that Roberta Pickett became the club's first female president.

Today, the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks has over 100 members, with an equal split between men and women.

"The main requirement to join is the desire to serve, which aligns with our motto," Cralle said. "An added benefit is that many members become lifelong friends and enjoy spending time together socially."

The organization has a long history of completing numerous



Through one of its youth service projects, the Fair Oaks Club has donated hundreds of shoes to Northridge and Coyle Elementary Schools.

large and small service projects and collaborating with its community partners, including the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank and the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District.

Since 2021, the Fair Oaks club has contributed more than \$50,000 to support food drives and projects at the food bank and its adjacent farm. Club members have also volunteered thousands of hours to support these efforts.

Last year, the club completed

a \$10,000 grant-funded project to purchase and install a new greenhouse and equipment for the farm. Past food bank projects have included upgrading the solar and refrigeration systems, funding a new drive-through distribution barn, and improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

Through its youth service projects, the club has awarded \$11,000 in scholarships each year to college-bound high school seniors from Bella Vista, Del



As part of Rotary's tradition, club members from around the world exchange flags when visiting other clubs and attending Rotary business.

Campo and Meraki. Last year, the club provided new shoes to children at Northridge Elementary School, and this year it is doing the same for students at Coyle Elementary School.

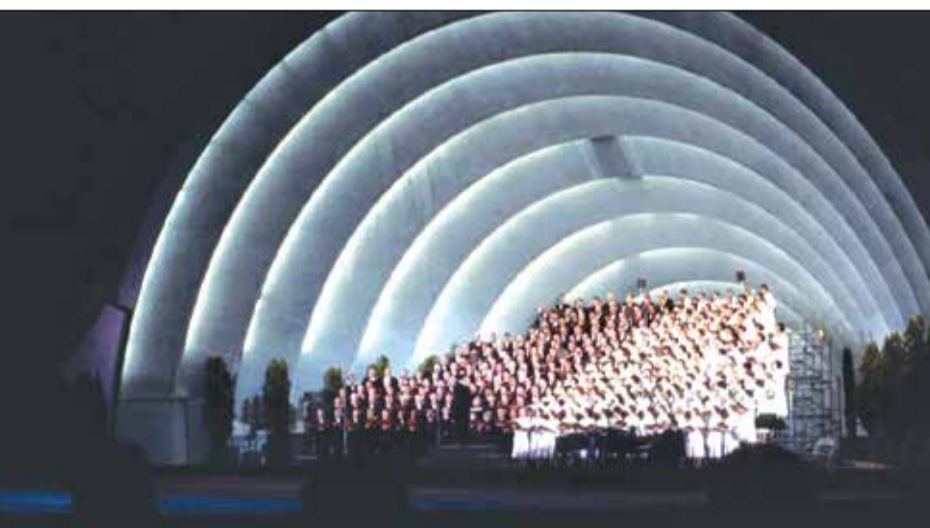
Each year, the club president selects a project to submit to the district for matching funds. This year, President Alberts's major project was to build a wheelchair-accessible Community Teaching Garden for Infinite Friends, a local nonprofit that teaches social and life skills to neurodiverse individuals. Rotary also upgraded the nonprofit's softball field. With the match, the club contributed \$10,000 to these projects.

To support its many projects, the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks hosts two annual fundraisers: the Beer Garden at the Chicken Festival in September and the popular Mardi Gras Crab Feed in February. Proceeds from these events benefit the club's community and international initiatives as well as its local youth programs.

The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks meets Monday evenings at the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse at 7997 California Ave., Fair Oaks. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information, visit [www.rotaryfairoaks.org](http://www.rotaryfairoaks.org). ★

## Tabernacle Choir's Hollywood Bowl Centennial Concert Comes to Local Watch Parties

*'A Century of Song. Heard Together.'*



The Tabernacle Choir performs at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, California on May 23, 1962. Photo courtesy of the LDS Church Newsroom

By Patsy McGavock

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - On June 26 and 27, residents can experience the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square's Songs of Hope Benefit Concert without traveling to Los Angeles. Celebrating 100 years since the choir's first performance at the Hollywood Bowl, the choir invites communities nationwide to gather for a shared evening of music, fellowship and service through local watch parties.

Admission is free, though advance registration is requested so hosts can plan seating and refreshments. Some locations will also include service projects as part of the evening.

Watch parties will be hosted June 26 at local meetinghouses of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Specific locations and times can be found at the registration website [tcwatchparty.com](http://tcwatchparty.com). An additional event will be held June 27 at the church building located at 3621 Elverta Road in Antelope.

The performance will not be publicly streamed elsewhere, making local watch parties the exclusive way for many to participate.

"If you've ever attended a performance of the Tabernacle Choir, you know what a thrilling experience it can be," said Cynthia Cates, communications director

for the Citrus Heights Stake, which is hosting the Antelope event. "This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, neighbors and family members to enjoy an evening of music, fellowship and hope together."

Bringing together community and service, the Antelope event will include light refreshments and a service project benefiting mothers and at-risk children. Attendees are invited to bring backpacks, school supplies, makeup items or hair care products, Cates said.

The concert itself also supports humanitarian causes. Proceeds from the live performance will be matched dollar for dollar and directed to international organizations serving women and children, including I CARE, Helen Keller International and The Hunger Project.

Guest artists Donny Osmond, David Foster, Katharine McPhee, Stephanie J. Block and Sebastian Arcelus will perform alongside the Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square.

"Whether you're a longtime fan of the Tabernacle Choir or discovering their music for the first time, you'll find a warm welcome and an evening filled with beautiful music that speaks to the heart," Cates said.

Find a local watch party and reserve free tickets at [tcwatchparty.com](http://tcwatchparty.com). ★

## The Marinelli Bros Circus Brings a New Experience



Under the signature Big Top, audiences will experience a nearly two-hour celebration of live performances from fearless aerialists and acrobats to world-class comedy and illusion. Photo courtesy of Marinelli Bros Circus

**The Marinelli Brothers Circus News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Get ready Sacramento — the circus is in town! Circus Vargas is proud to present its brand-new sister unit, The Marinelli Brothers Circus, coming to the region with an all-new engagement in Florin, bringing its signature mix of magic, heart-pounding excitement and family-fun to Florin Town Center June 25-July 6.

A perfect outing for families, the Marinelli Bros Circus is not your average night under the Big Top. Blending classic circus tradition with fresh, modern energy, this show offers a breathtaking experience filled with jaw-dropping acts, death-defying stunts and laugh-out-loud comedy for all ages.

A New Circus Experience: Bigger, Bolder, and Built for Family Fun

Under the signature Big Top, audiences will experience a nearly two-hour celebration of live performances from fearless aerialists and acrobats to world-class comedy and illusion.

At the heart of the show are the Marinelli Brothers themselves, famous for their athleticism, artistry and charm. Their

performances on the trampoline wall and Wheel of Danger have captivated crowds throughout California at Circus Vargas over the years and now they're bringing even more daring feats to their very own production.

Also returning is the lovable Matti the Clown, whose comedic timing and crowd interaction have made him a favorite with kids and adults alike. Each act is designed to ignite the imagination, spark laughter and deliver the kind of joy that only live performance can bring.

Circus attendees can expect: a full Big Top experience with classic circus atmosphere; high-flying aerial acts, trapeze and aerial straps; edge-of-your-seat stunts including the Wheel of Danger; interactive comedy from Matti the Clown; dazzling costumes, immersive lighting and festive music; concessions, souvenirs and pre-show activities for kids. Whether you're reliving the magic of your childhood or sharing the excitement of the circus with your little ones for the first time, the Marinelli Bros Circus is designed to entertain and inspire.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: <https://marinellibroscircus.com/>. ★

# Positive Altitude STEM Event Inspires Next Generation



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



The event opened with a lunchtime conversation and keynote addresses. Photo courtesy of Braden Loper Photography

Continued from page 1

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 hypersonic 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.

"Every person you admire has 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



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

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 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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# Sacramento County Expands Residential Fee Deferral Program

*Continued from page 1*  
scheduled to come back to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and final approval on July 14.

County staff will monitor implementation of the program and return to the Board within one year with an evaluation of its effectiveness, including any impacts to housing production and infrastructure funding timelines. ★

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Informing, Empowering & Engaging Readers With Their Community



**By Patsy McGavock,**  
**JustServe.org**

As school gives way to summer, questions of time often change. Assignments fade, schedules loosen and choices become more visible.

What will hold in your hand this summer?

My recent literacy series unexpectedly intersected with school district discussions on cell phone use, prompting thoughtful questions from Bella Vista freshman Lili Boyer, a reader of this column. Her questions sparked the following reflections and gratefully reminded me that conversations across generations may be just as important as the answers they inspire.

Lili offered a perspective many adults may not expect.

“Frankly, cell phones aren’t the crisis we should be navigating,” she wrote. “They are only one piece of a generational dilemma we’ve postponed confronting for too many years.”

Lili pointed me to an argument made by educator and former New York City senior education adviser Brandon Cardet-Hernandez. Writing in Education Week in 2024, he observed, “The real crisis isn’t in your kid’s hand. It’s in their reading scores. We’re allowing the cellular device to take the blame.”

I hope we never have to choose between literacy and digital awareness. They are deeply connected.

The technology itself is not the crisis. Our ability to direct and sustain attention is — to read deeply, communicate well, regulate emotions and build healthy relationships. How we use the technology. Literacy remains vital to independence and success, including our ability to reason together, collaborate

and have civil discourse.

Which led to perhaps the most practical question: If less screen time creates empty space, what fills it?

When Lili asked for good alternatives for teenagers with overbearing amounts of screen time, my answer was simple: Engage with something physical, tangible or face-to-face with people.

There will be unease at first, an urge to fill the space with whatever activity our brains have learned to default to. Intentionally choosing something else when that feeling comes is important.

Walking with a friend instead of texting. A physical board game instead of a digital one. Learning a skill you love. Making something with your hands. Or, as young people say, “touching grass.” Engaging physical senses through movement, touch and sound brings people into the present.

Lili suggested a brilliant connection: Can literature serve as an antidote to a society increasingly dependent on devices for stimulation?

I realized that reading books practices the very skills digital environments interfere with.

Scrolling conditions us toward rapid reward cycles, fragmented attention, constant novelty and passive consumption. Task-switching increases cognitive load and stress, making it harder to process deeply or respond thoughtfully rather than simply react emotionally.

Literature slows us down enough to encounter complexity and reflect with it. To imagine scenes. To interpret meaning. To reflect emotionally. To connect cause and effect. To tolerate ambiguity.

It becomes a form of

cognitive and emotional training.

Perhaps most importantly, literature provides solitude without loneliness. It does not fill the space with stimulation from the outside. It fills the space inside a person — productively — to think, to question, to imagine and to cultivate inner life.

Lili added another observation from her own experience.

As a child, it felt like all her books centered on fantasy — magic, dragons and fairies. Reading often felt like an obligation because she had to read for points in school.

“It wasn’t until now, in high school, that reading doesn’t feel required. Without the burden of reading being a chore and switching genres slightly, I have never found more joy in reading than I do now.”

So, as summer begins, what will hold in your hand?

A phone? A library book? A fishing pole? A paintbrush? Or a friend’s hand?

Perhaps the most important question isn’t how much time we spend on our devices, but how intentionally we put them down and what else we make room for when we do.

Summer eventually ends, but the habits we practice with our attention have a way of shaping the people we become.

*This summer Patsy is going to hold in her hands fewer keyboards and more memories as she takes a summer sabbatical from volunteer writing and this column. Community Connections will return in September. If this work has been meaningful to you, let her know at PatsyMcGavock.JustServe@gmail.com. ★*

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## AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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# 72.2 Million Americans Expected to Travel over July 4th Week Despite Higher Fuel Prices

## AAA Mountain West Group News Release

### SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- AAA projects 72.2 million people will travel at least 50 miles from home for Independence Day between Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, July 5. Of those, more than 8.94 million are expected to travel in California, and more than 1.59 million are expected to travel in Arizona. This year's domestic travel forecast surpasses last year's record of 71.8 million travelers, but the increase is smaller than recent year-over-year gains. The vast majority of travelers (61.4 million) are expected to drive while 5.85 million are expected to fly to their destinations. While there's been little change in those numbers compared to last year, travel by other modes, including cruises, is the category seeing the biggest increase.

"As the United States celebrates its 250th birthday, Americans are prioritizing making memories with family and friends this 4th of July," said Cyndi Zesk, senior vice president of travel for AAA Mountain West Group. "While beaches and theme parks top our list of destinations, AAA Travel is seeing a boost in cruise ship bookings, signaling continued interest in the cruise industry this summer."

### Independence Day Travelers by Mode of Transportation

**By Car:** Driving is the preferred mode of transportation during holiday travel periods



As the United States celebrates its 250th birthday, Americans are prioritizing making memories with family and friends this 4th of July. Photo courtesy Designed Magnific

with 85% of Independence Day travelers choosing to take road trips. AAA is reminding travelers not to delay vehicle maintenance. A breakdown is the fastest way to ruin a holiday weekend. Of the 61.4 million Americans traveling by car, 7.08 million will be in California and 1.2 million will be in Arizona.

**By Air:** Air travelers make up 8% of the share of holiday travelers. Seeking the guidance of a AAA Travel Advisor can help navigate these nuances should they come up during your trip. Of the 5.85 million Americans who are flying, 1.2 million will be flying out of California and 179,000 will be flying out of Arizona.

**By Other Modes:** AAA projects 4.93 million Americans will take buses, trains, and cruises over Independence Day week, a 5.3% increase from last year. This year is also expected to surpass 2019's figure of 4.79 million travelers, due in large part to the post-COVID cruising boom. Approximately 620,000 Californians and 135,000 Arizonans will travel by bus, train or cruises over Independence Day week.

### AAA Encourages Safety on the Road This Summer

Independence Day week can be especially dangerous on the road with more teen drivers behind the wheel and a rise in

impaired driving due to holiday festivities.

According to AAA crash data analysis, nearly one in three summertime traffic deaths involves an impaired driver.

From 2019 to 2023, there were 2,653 traffic crash fatalities during the Fourth of July holiday period.

More than 1,600 of those fatalities were a driver, and about 38% of those drivers were under the influence.

The 21-34 age group had the highest percentage (48%) of drunk drivers.

AAA is urging drivers to commit to 100 Days of Safe Driving this summer and to plan a safe

ride home before going out. AAA also reminds drivers to Slow Down, Move Over when approaching any stopped vehicle on the side of the road. By reducing speed and changing lanes, drivers allow roadside workers to do their jobs safely and help prevent tragedies.

### AAA Shares Best Travel Tips

Hit the road early. Thursday, July 2, Friday, July 3 and Sunday, July 5 are projected to be the busiest travel days with 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. being the most congested hours. Conversely, Saturday, July 4 will see lighter traffic overall, with a spike between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. before tapering off after 3 p.m., barring any unexpected events on the road.

Be road trip ready. AAA anticipates about 350,000 roadside service calls nationwide for the holiday weekend. A pre-trip inspection at a AAA Auto Repair Center can prevent common breakdowns like dead batteries and blown tires. Last year, AAA came to the rescue of hundreds of motorists in these Mountain West Group states: Alaska: 191; Arizona: 7,700; Montana: 710; Northern California: 26,000; Nevada: 4,000; Utah: 1,400; Wyoming: 270.

Flexibility is key to scoring cheaper airfare. Weekdays tend to be the least expensive days to travel. Opting for basic economy fares (while noting restrictions), booking airport parking in advance, and bringing your own meals can help save you money. ★

## Don't Forget Food Safety this Summer



As summer gatherings, picnics and camping trips are underway, Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) and the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) are urging residents to follow safe food handling practices. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

## Sacramento County News Release

### SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) and the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) are urging residents to follow safe food handling practices as summer temperatures, activities and subsequent foodborne illnesses are on the rise.

### Food Safety Best Practices

Thoroughly cook all meats, especially poultry. Poultry should be cooked to reach a minimum internal temperature of 165 degrees. If you are served undercooked poultry in a restaurant, send it back for further cooking.

Wash hands before preparing food and immediately after handling any raw poultry or meat.

Avoid cross-contamination by carefully

cleaning all cutting boards, countertops and utensils with soap and hot water after preparing raw poultry or meat and prevent juices from raw meats from dripping on other foods.

Make sure that other foods, such as fruits or vegetables, do not come into contact with cutting boards or knives that have been used with raw poultry or meat.

Always refrigerate meat products. Never leave raw meat at room temperature.

Avoid unpasteurized milk and soft cheeses and untreated (not chlorinated or boiled) surface or stream water.

Wash hands well with soap and water after using the bathroom, changing diapers or handling pets, including animals at petting zoos. Make sure children wash their hands well after going to the bathroom or handling pets.

This reminder follows a recent increase in Campylobacter infections in Sacramento County. Campylobacter is one of the most

common bacterial causes of foodborne illness in the United States. Recent monitoring data shows Campylobacter cases were 1.3 times higher than the previous month and 1.2 times higher than the three-year average.

Campylobacter infections can result from eating undercooked poultry, consuming unpasteurized dairy products, drinking contaminated water or allowing raw meat and poultry juices to contaminate ready-to-eat foods. Symptoms often include diarrhea, stomach cramps, fever, nausea and vomiting.

"Summer is a time for gathering with family and friends, whether that's around a backyard grill, at a picnic in the park or on a camping trip," said Sacramento County Public Health Officer Dr. Phuong Luu. "Recent increases in Campylobacter infections serve as a reminder that food safety matters. No one wants a celebration to end with a trip to the doctor. A few simple food

safety steps can help prevent illness and keep summer memories focused on the people and moments that matter most."

SCPH monitors disease trends, investigates outbreaks and works to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. EMD protects public health through food safety inspections, environmental health programs and education for food facilities and residents. Both departments work together to identify emerging public health concerns and provide residents with information to prevent illness before it occurs.

"Food safety starts long before the first bite," said Jennea Monasterio, director of the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department. "Keeping food at safe temperatures and preventing cross-contamination are small steps that can prevent illness and help people enjoy their summer season." ★

## Local Emergency in Response to Invasive Golden Mussel Threat

## Sacramento County News Release

### SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- On Tuesday, June 16, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local emergency in response to the growing threat posed by the invasive Golden Mussel. These freshwater species have rapidly spread throughout California waterways and threaten regional water infrastructure, the environment and the local economy. This proclamation allows the County to work more closely with regional, state and federal partners to address the threat posed by the Golden Mussel and help safeguard vital water resources.

The Golden Mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*) was first



On Tuesday, June 16, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local emergency in response to the growing threat posed by the invasive Golden Mussel. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

detected in North America in October 2024. Native to Asia, Golden Mussels are highly invasive and reproduce quickly, forming dense colonies on hard surfaces. They can spread through waterways, on boats and on water equipment, making containment

difficult once established. Large clusters of the mussels can clog pipes, pumps and conveyance systems. Golden Mussels can also damage infrastructure and disrupt aquatic ecosystems by competing with native species.

Sacramento County joins a

growing number of jurisdictions throughout California that have taken action to address the threat. Neighboring San Joaquin County also proclaimed an emergency this year. Kern County also recently declared an emergency due to the presence

of golden mussels.

Sacramento County relies on an extensive network of waterways and water infrastructure to support residents, businesses and agriculture. The County will continue working with water agencies, environmental partners and state officials to monitor the species and support efforts to prevent further spread.

You can help prevent the spread of invasive mussels by cleaning off tubes, kayaks, canoes and other watercraft between uses. Visit the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers website to find out how to correctly clean your watercraft to help prevent the spread of all invasive species. If you believe you have sighted golden mussels, you can report it to [Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov). ★



With Mary Jane Popp

## World Big Bang

**Wow!** Can you believe it's 250 years ago that the Declaration of Independence was signed, sealed and delivered and our country was born? I always love to hear the stories with fascinating facts that you didn't know...me too! So, here's my "Did You Know" top ten.

1. **The declaration was actually approved on July 2nd.** The Continental Congress voted on July 2nd, 1776, when twelve of the thirteen colonies approved Richard Henry Lee's resolution for independence.

2. **Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft in just 17 days.** He crafted the initial draft in his Philadelphia boarding house with some input from John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. And Timothy Matlack, a clerk at the Continental Congress actually wrote the beautiful handwritten version displayed at the National Archives. Why? Because he had exceptional penmanship. And, he used the Iron Gall Ink Recipe made from oak tree galls, iron sulfate, gum Arabic, and water which started light brown but darkened to deep purple-black as it oxidized. That created the beautiful rich text that appeared almost magical as the letters darkened after being written. And the parchment was made from animal skin specifically sheepskin or calfskin.

3. **John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, signed it BIG AND BOLD.** He declared he signed his name so large so "King George can read it without his spectacles."

4. **Benjamin Franklin made a crucial edit.** He suggested changing Jefferson's phrase about "sacred and undeniable truths" to "self-evident" truths emphasizing reason and logic rather than religious authority as the basis for natural rights, reflecting Enlightenment thinking that would influence democratic philosophy for centuries.

5. **The Declaration nearly included a Condemnation of Slavery.** Jefferson's original draft contained a passionate condemnation of the slave trade. However, Southern delegates, particularly from South Carolina and Georgia demanded removal of the passage, arguing it would alienate potential allies and complicate their economic interests.

6 **Edward Rutledge was only 26 when he signed. He was from South Carolina and the youngest to sign his name.** Benjamin Franklin was the oldest delegate to sign at age 70.

7. **The Declaration of Independence was hidden in Fort Knox during World War II.** So were the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

8. **There's actually writing on the back of the Declaration.** And no, not a map like was depicted in the movie "National Treasure" but just the date 4 July 1776, likely as a filing label.

9. **Nine signers died before Independence was won.**

10. **Actress Reese Witherspoon descended from a signer.** It was John Witherspoon, the only clergyman to sign.

The importance of the Declaration influenced revolutions around the world like the French Declaration of Rights of Man, Latin American independence movements and democratic revolutions throughout the 19th and 20th centuries! As you celebrate, PLEASE remember how important this day really is, and bless those who fought and died for us to enjoy our freedoms!

Hope you'll join me on POPPTALK on FM-104.5 & AM-950 KAH1 SAT 5-7 AM, Sun 9-11 PM, Mon-Fri 7 PM, 24/7 AT WWW.KAHL.COM for my search for truth! Have a wonderful July 4th celebration and GOD BLESS THE USA! ★



Dave Ramsey

## Dave Ramsey Says

### Pursue Your Dreams, But Do It Wisely

Dear Dave,

My husband and I are debt-free, including our home. My husband is a great guy, and a talented man, but he's also a bit of a dreamer sometimes. He has written three or four novels that haven't been accepted by publishers. He feels he's close to a breakthrough, and he asked me the other day about my thoughts on selling our home and living on the money we make so he can really concentrate, and work on the new book full-time. I want him to pursue his dream, but this idea scares me. What do you think about it?

– Emily

Dear Emily,

First of all, congratulations on being completely debt-free! That's a huge accomplishment, and I'm really happy for you two.

Now, about your hus-

band's idea. It sounds to me like he's a good man. And he obviously has drive, focus and discipline if he's been able to write that many novels in his spare time and be part of you reaching such a great financial point in your lives. But I think it would be a huge mistake for you guys to sell your home, especially when he hasn't proven he can sell anything he writes.

I understand where his head is right now, believe me. He wants to write and be a successful, full-time novelist. That's a great dream to have. It's one I sincerely hope he can achieve one day. But my advice right now would be for him to keep his day job, and continue working his tail off nights and weekends to try and make his dream a reality.

As part of that, I'd suggest drawing up a strategy to get some exposure for the books he has already written. Develop a website highlighting his work. Maybe he could self-publish a few dozen

copies, then contact local libraries and civic groups for an opportunity to speak. In the process, he might sell a few books and get his name out there.

It may take longer than he'd like, but that's honestly a much better idea than the one he has now. It will allow him to pursue his passion, work toward a goal and not run the risk of putting his family in financial danger.

– Dave

*Dave Ramsey is a nine-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.* ★

## California State Senate Celebrates the Familial Adenomatous Polyposis Awareness Week



From left are Senator Roger Niello, Joyce Moss (Former Nurse and FAP Advocate), and Dan Shockley (FAP Advocate). Photo courtesy of the Office of Senator Roger Niello

### Office of Senator Roger Niello News Release

**CALIFORNIA (MPG)** - Senator Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks) introduced Senate Resolution 112 to declare the week of June 14 through June 20, 2026, as Familial Adenomatous Polyposis Awareness Week in California. Familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) is a hereditary condition that results in a high number of polyps developing within the colon and rectum.

"By declaring this week as FAP awareness week, we acknowledge a commitment to encouraging Californians to gather their family health history and share this information with their healthcare provider for early screening and prevention of cancers associated with these conditions," said Niello. "Understanding your risk for FAP can help healthcare providers determine appropriate treatment and screening protocol for prevention and early detection."

Dan Shockley, who has been an active advocate of FAP awareness, lives in Galt, CA. Shockley is a constituent of Senator Roger Niello, and said, "Genetic testing

and early detection are paramount. I'm living proof. As a 14-year attenuated FAP warrior, my mantra is a positive spin on a bleak diagnosis: Always Forge Ahead with a Purpose!"

Since 2012, Life's a Polyp Foundation has been in action raising awareness and supporting FAP patients online worldwide. Its Founder and President, Jenny Jones, stated, "FAP Awareness Week highlights the care FAP requires, ultimately helping save lives. When patients are fighting the lack of awareness in the medical field about FAP, it results in difficulty to obtain diagnostic testing upon known FAP risk, and they are unable to obtain proper surveillance after diagnosis. Then, their lives are put at risk for multiple cancers and other health issues." Jones continued, "Recognizing this week tells medical providers there's something they need to learn more about and tells every FAP patient out there that they are seen and they are not alone. There's a whole community of us out here with welcoming arms."

More information and resources regarding Familial Adenomatous Polyposis can be found on [lifesapolyp.org](http://lifesapolyp.org). ★

## Valley Broadcast Legends Scholarship Opportunity

### Valley Broadcast Legends News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The Valley Broadcast Legends (VBL), an organization comprised primarily of retired broadcasters, photographers and engineers, is pleased to offer two \$500 scholarships to individuals pursuing careers in digital media.

The Jim Drennan Scholarship is awarded to students or early-career individuals interested in media content production or related fields, including website development, podcasting, and social media. The scholarship supports those developing the skills needed to create and deliver compelling digital content.

Eligibility is open to 2026 high school and college graduates, as well as individuals currently working in a related field.

VBL is committed to a simple and accessible application process. Applicants are asked to submit responses (one page or

less) addressing the following.

A brief personal introduction including applicant name, email and phone number, an explanation of why they qualify for the scholarship and a description of how the funds will be used to support their career or creative work.

Selected applicants may be invited for an interview. Scholarship recipients are also expected to attend one VBL lunch meeting following the award.

Application deadline is July 15.

Please email application materials to VBL President Bill George at [Nimbusbill@icloud.com](mailto:Nimbusbill@icloud.com)

About the Scholarship

This scholarship honors the memory of Jim Drennan, a Sacramento television news assignment editor and former president and board member of VBL. Jim Drennan was deeply committed to the craft of news gathering and broadcasting, and his legacy continues through this scholarship program. ★

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# Making Every Beat Count

*Metro Fire strengthens the chain of survival with HeartSafe Community initiative*

By Ornella Rossi

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - When every second counts, Sacramento Metro Fire wants more neighbors ready to answer the call.

A 19-year-old heard an alert on his phone, jumped on his e-bike and raced to a nearby park. Someone was in cardiac arrest. Before paramedics arrived, he began CPR.

For Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District officials, that response represents exactly what they hope to build across the region: a community where ordinary residents are prepared to help save a life.

Through its HeartSafe Community initiative and Citizen Responders Project, Sacramento Metro Fire is working to improve survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest by expanding access to automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, increasing CPR training and encouraging residents to use the PulsePoint AED app.

"Before any professional is actually helping, that is when the majority of people are dying," said Capt. James Ellis, who helps lead the initiative. "The biggest bang for our buck, the thing that you can do to save most lives, is that time period from the incident until we get on scene."

The effort officially launched in 2025, but Ellis said the idea began years earlier after his cousin survived a cardiac arrest



In November, the Cordova Recreation & Park District and Sacramento Metro Fire celebrated the installation of the district's first publicly accessible AED cabinet at Hagan Community Park. Photo courtesy of the Cordova Recreation & Park District

while working as a white-water rafting guide on the American River.

"He recognized something was wrong, grabbed an AED from his raft and collapsed moments later. Crew members performed CPR and used the device to restart his heart," said Ellis.

The experience led Ellis to explore why AEDs were often locked inside buildings and unavailable when parks and public spaces were closed. As he researched solutions, he discovered the national HeartSafe Community model and realized Sacramento could benefit from a coordinated approach.

At the same time, Metro Fire data showed cardiac arrest survival rates in the greater Sacramento region were below the national average.

Metro Fire formed a working group that includes Ellis, Community Relations Specialist April West and Director of Government

Affairs Kyle Macdonald. The team presented the concept to the district's board last fall and received strong support.

"We really do view this as an agency priority," Macdonald said. "This is something that we're excited to keep working on."

One major focus is expanding public access to AEDs. In November, the Cordova Recreation & Park District and Sacramento Metro Fire celebrated the installation of the district's first publicly accessible AED cabinet at Hagan Community Park. In May, members of Leadership Citrus Heights class also unveiled an AED at Rusch Park as part of their class project. Additional devices have since been installed at parks throughout the region.

Metro Fire currently knows of nine publicly accessible AED locations, most of them in parks, and expects that number to



Since October, Metro Fire has trained nearly 1,600 people in hands-only CPR, compared with about 100 people annually in previous years. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Metro Fire District

continue growing.

The district is also building an AED registry through the PulsePoint app. Residents can use the app to locate nearby AEDs, while trained users can receive alerts when a cardiac arrest occurs nearby.

"If we can drastically increase the number of people using the app,

we're going to increase the chance that people are going to survive," Ellis said.

Education is another key component.

Without CPR, survival chances decrease by roughly 10% every minute after a cardiac arrest. Metro Fire officials say bystander CPR can significantly

improve outcomes, and combining CPR with an AED can improve survival rates even more.

Since October, Metro Fire has trained nearly 1,600 people in hands-only CPR, compared with about 100 people annually in previous years.

"We can train anybody to do hands-only CPR in 10 minutes or less," Ellis said. Fear is often the biggest barrier, officials said.

"People are not afraid to act. They've never been in that situation. They don't know how they're going to act," Ellis said.

His message to hesitant bystanders is simple: do something.

"If somebody doesn't make that call, that person doesn't have a chance," he said. "Think about it if it's your loved one or yourself. What would you want?"

Looking ahead, Metro Fire hopes to train more residents, expand AED access in schools and neighborhoods, and eventually help communities throughout the district earn HeartSafe Community recognition.

"We know we can't do this alone," Macdonald said. "The more we can create awareness and demystify CPR and AEDs for folks, the better. This is really about helping create a safer community."

For more information and to get involved visit <https://metrofire.ca.gov/citizen-responders>. ★

## RydeFreeRT Cards for 2026-27 School Year Now Available

**Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) announced June 9 that new RydeFreeRT cards, valid June 1, through June 30, 2027, are now available for students and youth across the Sacramento region. RydeFreeRT provides fare-free transit for all youth in grades TK-12, including students experiencing homelessness or participating in foster programs.

Launched in October 2019, RydeFreeRT has grown into one of SacRT's most successful and impactful community programs. In FY 2025 alone, youth took more than 5 million rides using RydeFreeRT, traveling to school, jobs, after-school activities, libraries and essential services.

"RydeFreeRT continues to be one of the most impactful programs SacRT has ever offered," said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. "By providing access to safe, reliable public transit at no



Students simply show their valid RydeFreeRT card when boarding a bus or upon request from a light rail fare inspector. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Regional Transit District

additional cost to youth in the Sacramento region, we are removing transportation barriers and creating more opportunities across our region."

The SacRT Board of Directors approved continuing the RydeFreeRT pass for another year and authorized SacRT's General Manager to negotiate contracts

needed to secure funding for the program. RydeFreeRT is made possible through funding partnerships with local jurisdictions and school districts, ensuring that cost is never a barrier to mobility for students. SacRT continues to work toward securing a long-term, sustainable funding source to ensure the program's future.

"RydeFreeRT is an investment in our youth and in the future of our communities," said SacRT Board Chair and Elk Grove Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen. "Whether students are traveling to school, a summer job, or important community programs, this initiative ensures they can get where they need to go without cost being a barrier. We encourage families to pick up their new cards and take full advantage of this resource."

Card School districts have received cards for distribution to students at school sites. Youth who still need a card can obtain one at their school office, SacRT's Customer Service and Sales Center at 1225 R St. (next to the 13th Street Station) or Sacramento County public libraries.

Students simply show their valid RydeFreeRT card when boarding a bus or upon request from a light rail fare inspector.

For additional information about RydeFreeRT, including card pickup locations and program FAQs, visit [sacrt.com/RydeFreeRT](http://sacrt.com/RydeFreeRT). ★

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# 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](mailto: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. ★

# 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.

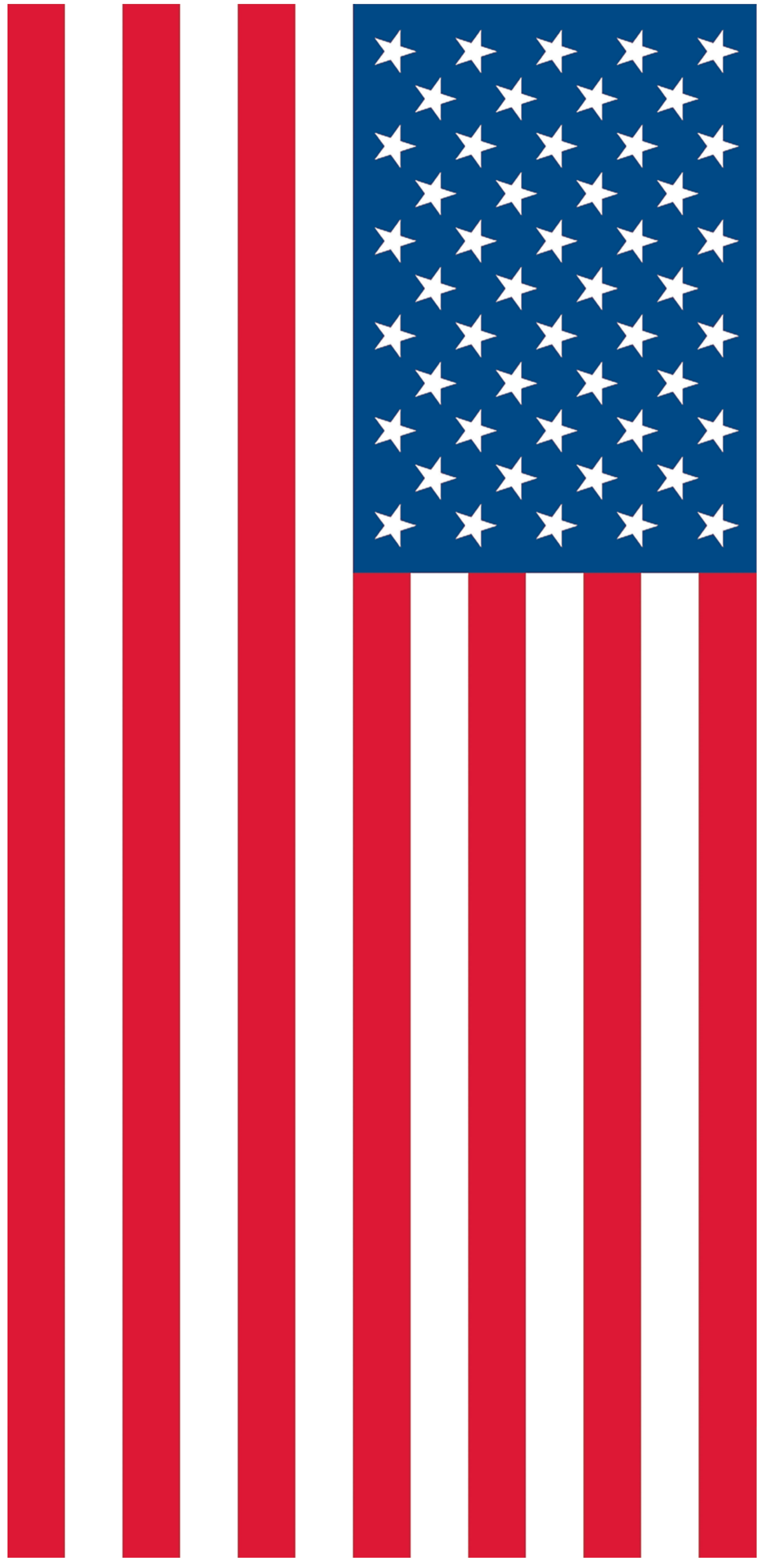
He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.


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.






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