



East Sacramento News

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Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

AUGUST 7, 2026

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NEW CARS' TECH DEVICES CREATE POLITICAL ISSUES



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Book Details Teen's Wartime Survival

By Stephen B. Clazie

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - At the beginning of the summer of 2026, in Sacramento's Greenhaven/Pocket neighborhood, Jane Gallagher began contacting friends by email. Her message was:

"I hope you can help my brother and me launch 'Janina's War: How a Teenager Survived Nazis, the Resistance, and the Most Horrific War on Earth,' written by Jalynn Venis (our cousin).

"Janina was our mother, and a hero, along with my grandparents, aunts and uncles, who survived. I know you'll find her story amazing and inspiring.

"It was our mother's greatest wish that this story would be told! After almost 15 years of compiling our mother's story, Kevin, my brother, and I are happy to send this first notice for the book launch."

Near the end of World War II, Janina met Charles Clark, a United States soldier. Janina and Charles married soon after the war ended in Germany.

Their daughter, Jane, has photographs from their wedding. One photograph shows a mother and



Janina Korzeniewska landed at Ellis Island in New York November 1946. The picture with holes was pinned to her coat for identification into the United States. Photo courtesy of Jane Gallagher

Ordinance Supports Rooster Welfare and Public Safety



The updated ordinance establishes numerical limits for the incidental, non-commercial keeping of roosters based on parcel size while creating a registration process for qualifying properties that may need additional birds for recognized purposes. Photo by Ralphs_Fotos via Pixabay

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County's updated Crowing Fowl Ordinance will provide clearer standards for keeping roosters in unincorporated Sacramento County while strengthening protections for both animals and the community. The ordinance is designed to support responsible rooster ownership, improve animal welfare, reduce nuisance conditions and help deter illegal cock-fighting. For Sacramento County Animal Care Services, the ordinance is also an opportunity to educate the public about the work Animal Control officers perform every day.

More Than a Noise Complaint

When residents hear about rooster-related calls, many assume they're simply responding to complaints about early morning crowing. While noise complaints are one reason officers may be dispatched, Animal Control officers are trained to assess much more than sound. During an investigation, officers evaluate the overall health and welfare of the animals, including whether they have access to adequate food, clean water, appropriate shelter and safe living conditions. They also look for signs of neglect, overcrowding or injuries that may require intervention.

Recognizing When a Situation Needs a Closer Look

Most residents who keep backyard poultry have a small flock and provide

How One Family Changed Lives Through Foster Care



As of July 2026, more than 800 kids and teens were in foster care in Sacramento County. Many of the youth placed in foster care are in supportive homes, but some are still waiting for placement. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - What is home? For many of us, we will say an address or point to a neighborhood on a map. We might say home is someone or something familiar we are fortunate enough to keep returning to. But for hundreds of foster kids in Sacramento County, a home can be much harder to define and belong in – particularly one where they feel like they fit in. More than ten years ago, Britney and Erin Eason decided they would become a home for both children and teens who needed a safe space to feel accepted and loved.

Sitting on their couch one summer afternoon, surrounded by three very talkative tweens, a babbling baby and one quieter child – Britney and Erin shared their journey to becoming

resource parents in Sacramento County.

"People will always say, 'the kids are so lucky to have you,' and that's not it. We are lucky to have these kids. They are going through the hardest time of their lives. They are not lucky. They're picked up, swooped up and they're put in a stranger's home," Erin said.

"Maybe a really cool stranger's home with some really cool pets, but we're still strangers, right?" Britney added, gesturing at their home filled with animals – including an iguana, one cat, several spiders and two very friendly Irish wolfhounds.

Britney and Erin said what many people might not realize is even in a supportive foster home, kids and teens will face challenges many of us may never think about.

"We have different foods, different

rules, different smells. They don't have their favorite blankies or their favorite stuffies. They don't have the clothes that they like to wear. They may have to change schools. We try to keep them as plugged in as possible, but they may have to," Britney said.

"When we moved into this house, a bigger house, our goal was to have more kids in general," Britney, a resource parent said.

While fostering comes with challenges, Britney and Erin say they would not change this incredible journey. The couple became resource parents when there was a need to provide a home to a relative's child – their now-adopted daughter Leilani. Since then, they've helped provide a home for more than 40 children and teens in foster care, and they have

Continued on page 10

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ACC Care Center Earns Prestigious 5-Star Overall Rating from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

ACC Senior Services News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - ACC Senior Services is proud to announce that the ACC Care Center has earned the highest possible 5-Star Overall Rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), a distinction that recognizes excellence in quality of care, staffing and health inspections.

According to the CMS official release, the updated Five-Star Quality Ratings appear on the Medicare Care Compare website on or around July 29. ACC Senior Services is pleased to share this achievement



with its residents, families, employees and the greater Sacramento community.

“This achievement reflects the unwavering dedication, compassion

and professionalism of every member of our Care Center team,” said Interim President & CEO of ACC Senior Services Jill Hays. “This recognition reinforces our commitment to clinical excellence, person-centered care, and continuous improvement.”

“We are incredibly proud of our entire Care Center Team and grateful for the trust our residents and families place in us every day,” said Heidi Wheeler, administrator of ACC Care Center.

The CMS Five-Star Quality Rating System – one of the nation’s most trusted measures of nursing home quality – assists

families to make informed decisions when choosing care for their loved ones. Facilities are evaluated across three key areas: health inspections, staffing levels and quality measures. An overall 5-Star rating signifies that ACC Care Center performs well above average in delivering skilled nursing and rehabilitation services, placing it among the nation’s highest-performing skilled nursing facilities.

“Achieving five stars represents more than a rating. It reflects the trust we build, the lives we touch, and the excellent care we deliver every day,” said Director of Nursing at

ACC Care Center Kristy Moore.

Located in Sacramento’s Pocket neighborhood, ACC Care Center has served the community for 39 years, providing skilled nursing, short-term rehabilitation and long-term custodial care in a culturally welcoming environment.

ACC Senior Services has served older adults and their families throughout the greater Sacramento region for more than 50 years, remaining committed to its mission of enriching lives through compassionate care and innovative programs.

ACC Senior Services remains committed to

continuously enhancing the quality of care and services it provides while fostering a welcoming, compassionate environment where older adults can real and thrive.

ACC Senior Services is a community-based 502(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of older adults through high-quality programs, senior housing, and care services.

Serving the greater Sacramento region for over 53 years, ACC provides a continuum of care that promotes independence, wellness, and community connection.

★

Ordinance Supports Rooster Welfare and Public Safety

Continued from page 1

excellent care for their animals. However, Animal Control officers occasionally respond to properties with unusually large numbers of roosters. Large concentrations of roosters can present animal welfare concerns, including injuries caused by fighting among birds, inadequate housing, sanitation issues and limited access to food and water. In some situations, these conditions may also warrant further investigation into possible illegal activity.

Fighting Animal Cruelty

Cockfighting remains illegal throughout California and is considered a form

of animal cruelty. Animal Control officers work closely with law enforcement partners when investigating suspected cockfighting cases. While no single observation confirms illegal activity, officers are trained to recognize patterns that may indicate birds are being bred, housed or conditioned for fighting. These investigations help protect animals from abuse while supporting safer neighborhoods.

Supporting Responsible Rooster Ownership

The updated ordinance establishes numerical limits for the incidental, non-commercial keeping of roosters based

on parcel size while creating a registration process for qualifying properties that may need additional birds for recognized purposes.

It also establishes animal care standards, prohibits tethering and strengthens enforcement tools available to County staff. For many responsible poultry owners, the ordinance simply provides clearer expectations for keeping healthy birds while being considerate of neighbors.

Protecting Animals Through Education

Animal Control officers do much more than respond to stray dogs and lost pets. Each day they investigate reports of

animal neglect and cruelty, educate pet and livestock owners, enforce local animal ordinances and work alongside law enforcement to protect both animals and the public.

The new Crowing Fowl Ordinance provides another tool to help officers address concerns before they become larger animal welfare issues while continuing to support responsible animal ownership throughout Sacramento County. Residents can learn more about the Crowing Fowl Ordinance, including frequently asked questions and registration information, on Sacramento County’s Crowing Fowl webpage: bit.ly/4wRWnQ9 (case-sensitive).

Residents who have concerns about roosters in their neighborhood are encouraged to report them by calling 311.

★

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Beautiful Colonial Heights Home

This home has been meticulously maintained, upgraded and lovingly cared for. Beautiful original hardwood floors, original moldings and built-ins.

The living room has lots of light and a gorgeous fireplace with a gas insert. Formal dining room has original built-ins and a small parlor sitting area.

The bedroom off the dining and kitchen was once used as the original owner, judge's office, so there is an entrance off 51st Street. Custom built-in shelves make it a perfect office/den. It also has a half bathroom great for a guest-room too.

The kitchen has been updated with new cabinets and quartz counter tops. The original Wedgewood stove is impeccable.

Modern upgrades include dishwasher, disposal and modern retro refrigerator

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Thank

A Veteran TODAY

Continued from page 1

two children. The mother loaned Janina her wedding dress for the ceremony. The children served as the flower girl and ring bearer. Janina and Charles spent several months in Europe before moving to Summitville, Indiana. Charles' mother, Dora, was determined to teach Janina everything she needed to know to live in the United States, and the two became very close.

Jane said, "My mother stood hard to become a U.S. citizen."

Jane also said, "Mom was pregnant with me on the ship coming to America. I think she arrived in November of 1946, and I was born in 1947."

"Janina's War: How a Teenager Survived Nazis, the Resistance, and the Most Horrific War on Earth" is based on the true story of Janina Korzeniewska and was written by Jalynn Venis. The premise of the book is: "WHEN EVIL APPEARS, HEROES RISE."

Heroic girls grow into courageous women.

It is Warsaw, Poland, 1939.

As bombs fall, Janina runs from her school into a city filled with terror. People scream and hit the ground with each

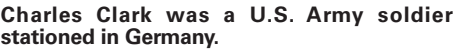


explosion. She ducks into the Polonia Hotel and is immediately captured by the Germans.

Captain Schafer is put in charge of the Officers' Club in Warsaw and quickly becomes infatuated with Janina. He forces her to deliver stolen valuables from hotel guests to German headquarters by train.

But the bags of jewels, money and furs never arrive at their destination.

Janina's War is the



other prisoners escape from German soldiers as they struggle to break away from their violent oppressors.

Inspired by a family of true heroes, “Janina’s War” illustrates what one young woman can do when guided by her wit, courage and undaunted spirit to survive captivity, labor camps, and the horrors of an evil dictator and his brutal war machine.

Janina wanted to get a job as an interpreter with the Germans so she could obtain information for the Resistance.

But as she left the restroom, she heard Captain Schafer over the stage microphone say,

"And now, ladies and gentlemen, put your hands together for the lovely Janina, the song chanteuse of the Officers' Club!"

"The lights dimmed as Janina walked up the steps to the stage. A spotlight hit Hans' fingers as they played the intro to Cole Porter's "Night and Day." A second light illuminated Janina as she stepped up to the microphone and sang Porter's most famous song. Janina was the closest thing to a diva these military men had seen in months. From the moment she opened her mouth to sing, she grew stronger and more self-assured with every word. Hans played as if he'd been

accompanying Janina for years, and his joy rang out in each chord.”

Eighty-seven years later, Janina’s daughter Jane is still a “chanteuse,” or cabaret performer, in Sacramento’s nightlife. She is especially proud to sing Cole Porter’s classic songs.

Charles and Janina lived long and contented lives in Indiana and raised two children. Janina was born on Jan. 3, 1922, and passed away on Oct. 5, 2019, at age 97.

“*Janina’s War: How a Teenager Survived Nazis, the Resistance, and the Most Horrific War on Earth,*” by Jalyynn Venis, is available on Amazon. ★

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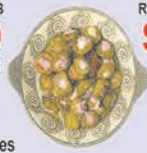
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A banner image featuring a close-up of a police light bar with blue and red lights. To the right of the light bar, the text "WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS" is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. Further to the right is the MPG logo, which consists of the letters "MPG" in a bold, italicized font, with a red and blue swoosh and a star above the "P".

River Park Resident Named to Local United Way Board

United Way California Capital Region News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Dr. Kristen Tudor of River Park has been named to the board of directors for United Way California Capital Region. With more than 25 years of experience in higher education, Tudor brings a rare combination of faculty expertise and executive leadership as chief of staff at Sacramento State University, where she also serves as interim vice president for university advancement and as a member of the President’s Cabinet. Through these roles, she oversees strategic operations, governance, institutional planning and cabinet-level administration on behalf of Dr. Luke Wood, president of Sacramento State.

Before serving in her current role, Tudor spent 18 years as faculty in the university’s communication studies department where she taught courses and coached the competitive speech and debate team to regional and national recognition. She is coauthor of “Critical Thinking and Communication: The Use of Reason in Argument (7th ed.).”

Tudor has received the Outstanding University Service Award for her contributions to programs improving graduation rates for underserved students,



Dr. Kristen Tudor is chief of staff and interim vice president for university advancement at Sacramento State University. Photo courtesy of United Way California Capital Region

and she has served as a consultant to the Solís Policy Institute, training grassroots social justice activists to communicate effectively in policy contexts. She holds a bachelor’s degree in American studies from Mills College, a master’s degree in public communication from Sacramento State and a doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies where she was named a graduate with distinction.

Tudor is one of five community leaders across the region joining United Way’s board of directors this month.

“Strong communities depend on leaders who are willing to use their experience, influence and passion for service to create opportunities for others,” said

Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. “We are honored to welcome these accomplished leaders to our board of directors and look forward to the collective impact we can make together as we work to help every individual and family in our region thrive.”

United Way California Capital Region has been a driving force across the region for more than 100 years, listening, responding and taking comprehensive action to meet local needs. From advancing youth opportunities and helping kids excel in school, to strengthening local communities and investing in families’ financial security and health, United Way mobilizes communities to build a future where everyone can reach their full potential and thrive. Working across Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties, the local United Way provides books and literacy tutoring, addresses housing and food security, leads the region’s largest tax preparation initiative, works with foster youth across school districts, launched the region’s first guaranteed income program and leads the Community Schools initiative in West Sacramento. To make a donation: YourLocalUnitedWay.org.



Free Dog Adoptions Through Aug. 23



Whether you're looking for an active walking partner, a family companion or a relaxed couch buddy, Bradshaw Animal Shelter has dogs of all ages, sizes and personalities ready for adoption. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Every dog deserves a birthday and a chance to celebrate it in a loving home. On Aug. 1, animal shelters across the country celebrate DOGust, the universal birthday for shelter dogs whose exact birthdays are unknown.

Since many shelter pets arrive without birth records, DOGust gives them all a special day to be recognized and celebrated.

To mark the occasion, Sacramento County Bradshaw Animal Shelter is waiving adoption fees for all dogs from Aug. 1 through Aug. 23.

Whether you're looking for an active walking partner, a family companion or a relaxed couch buddy, Bradshaw Animal Shelter has dogs of all ages, sizes and personalities ready for adoption.

Every adopted dog goes home spayed or neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and are ready to begin life

with a new family.

Choosing adoption doesn't just change one dog's life. Every adoption creates kennel space for another animal in need and helps the shelter continue serving pets throughout Sacramento County.

Residents are encouraged to visit the shelter between Aug. 1 and Aug. 23 to meet adoptable dogs and take advantage of waived adoptions fees.

To view available dogs, visit the Bradshaw Animal Shelter website. ★

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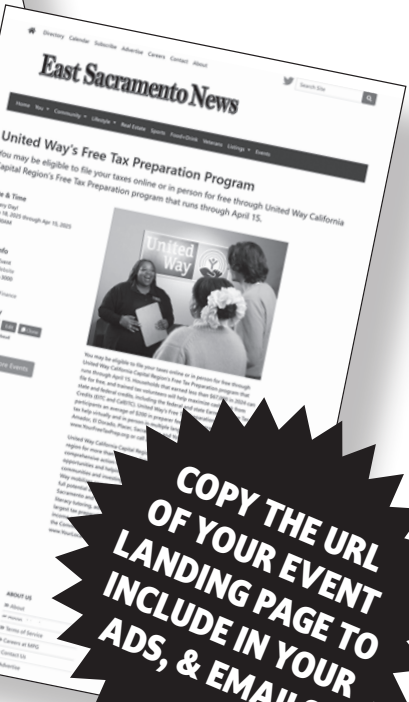
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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Mentorship Counts

By V.G. Harris

How does it feel to score 175 points in an NBA game and lose?! Just ask the L.A. Clippers how it feels.

On Feb. 24, 2023, the Clippers ran into a juggernaut by the name of the Sacramento Kings and lost a double overtime game by the score of 176-175.

The Clippers shot a sterling 31 for 36 from the free throw line that night, but just two more made free throws would have won that game.

I was at that game and will never forget it. Domantas Sabonis held down the paint and contributed 20 points and 10 boards which is basically just a day at the office, but first-time all-star DeAaron Fox went off with 42 points and 12 assists to steal the show.

Well, DeAaron is gone and waiting in the wings is someone everyone is hoping will step in and fill those ever so large shoes. Yes, that would be Darius Acuff Jr., and the only question is, do the Kings have the organizational skills to bring this bright young player along at the right pace so as to give him the confidence needed to succeed at basketball’s highest level.

If we are to believe what we hear and read, Sacramento intends to put this 19-year-old into the starting lineup from the get-go and let the chips fall where they may.

I am not necessarily opposed to the idea of letting Darius run the point from the opening bell, but with conditions and maybe a caveat or two.

Any ball player with one year of college basketball under his belt will have some accelerated courses to take in earnest if success is to be expected.

First and foremost, comes mentorship and where is that going to come from, because the current coaching staff does not fill me with trust and admiration.

Coach Christie still has on his water wings, and for all the bravado of how the Kings are going to play defense, at this date I haven’t seen a blueprint that lends acumen in that direction.

Yes, I want this coaching staff to succeed, but I also want to see something tangible that shows the fans that this staff actually knows *how to coach!*

Just the basics sports fans, like team defense

and maybe a lesson or two in how to shoot free throws.

I am so tired of hearing that Zach Lavine and Domantas Sabonis can’t play defense when they are the two highest paid players on the team.

How did they ever get to be all stars and never play defense?

Of course they can play defense, but what ever happened to the concept of team defense that seems to be an unspoken term?

Back to basics gentlemen and start creating the identity you want. It is achievable and would be if you would stop listening to the collective NBA naysayers that would have you believe that Sacramento Kings have no chance of winning 30 games.

How is a coaching staff supposed to instill positive energy into a squad that has no expectation of winning games?

How about preaching your own version of winning games and then laying out the map as to how you get there.

The Wizard of Westwood and that would be John Wooden won 10 NCAA championships in 12 years and led his club to four 30-0 seasons before he retired.

We won’t be confusing Doug Christie with John Wooden and time soon, but is there something to learn here aside from the fact they both coached basketball teams in the state of California?

Yes, I believe it starts with celebrating the veteran talent you have on the current team today.

Stop with the negative about what you don’t like about Zach Lavine and Domantas Sabonis and start celebrating what they bring to the table.

A lot of youngsters need to immerse themselves in the etiquette of how to compete against other NBA teams, and both Sabonis and Lavine have more than just a tad of experience in that regard.

Double down on that, use their leadership to your advantage, and start preaching the mantra of what home court advantage is supposed to mean. Set the expectation of winning when a visitor enters Golden One Arena and heighten the expectation of *lighting the beam!*

The youngsters need mentors and we have some to celebrate!

All the best! ★

Tech Devices in California’s New Cars Create Thorny Political Issues



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

Automobiles have gradually evolved over the last two decades from mechanical devices into electronic platforms featuring computer screens and numerous other digital capabilities.

A few years ago, the California Air Resources Board began requiring automakers to install devices in vehicles to record and store operational data that the agency could access to determine how well emission reduction programs were working.

It was one aspect of the state’s announced goal of phasing out cars and trucks powered by gasoline and diesel fuel and replacing them with zero-emission vehicles.

The auto industry opposed the data collection mandate, arguing it would violate the privacy of vehicle owners. At one point the industry threatened to stop producing cars for California.

The agency insisted it would not collect data involuntarily. But its regulation fueled — pun intended — suspicions in some quarters that recording how and where cars were being used would allow them to be tracked, much as cellphone usage can be traced.

Or, some said, as gas and diesel use declined and gallonage taxes dropped, the

state could begin charging drivers by miles driven, based on their recorded data.

As the data collection mandate was being implemented, another aspect of the situation surfaced — fears that the tracking software to help motorists obtain help in emergencies, such as General Motors’ OnStar system, could be misused by abusive spouses to find and attack their mates.

Two years ago, the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom enacted a law aimed at countering that potential abuse. Senate Bill 1394 required automakers to provide an internet process by which a “connected vehicle service” could be quickly terminated. Those seeking termination would have to prove they either owned the vehicle or possessed it via a divorce decree or domestic violence restraining order.

That was the relatively easy part of SB 1384.

The more contentious portion of the law required new cars to be equipped with a “mechanism that can be used by a driver who is inside a vehicle to immediately disable connected vehicle location access.” The mechanism had to be “prominently located, easy to use, not require access to an online application, not require a password or login information, and only allow re-enabling of the connected vehicle location access by a driver who is located inside the vehicle.”

The deadline for meeting that requirement was last week. The industry has insisted that was, from a practical standpoint, impossible to meet because it is a

complex engineering problem that involves dozens of different auto models, and automakers would have to maintain existing electronic tools, such as GPS navigation, and helpful services, such as OnStar.

Without a change in the mandate, the industry’s lobbyists warned, automakers could be compelled to suspend sales in the state, echoing a threat they made about the Air Resources Board’s data collection mandate earlier.

It was something of a political standoff until Senate Bill 719 emerged from backroom negotiations late last month. Just one day before the deadline, Newsom signed the bill that narrows the application of the requirement, eliminates the hard deadline for it and substitutes a series of deadlines tied to model years and “technological feasibility.”

Thus it is impossible to say for certain when, if ever, cars will be equipped with the ability to disconnect location tracking software.

These two instances imply that the conversion of the automobile from a mechanical device to an electronic one has created a bottomless well of potential issues involving privacy, governmental regulation and the politically heated topic of how California would change the way motorists are taxed once the gallonage taxes on fuels disappear, if they ever do.

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

When Should My Wife File for Spouse Benefits?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My wife is 66 (born February 1960) and started taking Social Security retirement benefits just over one year ago at age 65. She was a stay-at-home Mom for most of her adult life. I turned 62 this past March and received my first SS payment recently for a May 2026 start. We are scheduled to meet with SSA in late July to initiate spousal benefits because my wife’s current benefits are less than 50% of mine. We also have an adult disabled son who receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security benefits (this split in benefit sources happened after my wife filed - that whole process was confusing and we don’t understand it). My question relates to spousal benefits (I was a career finance person but don’t completely understand these rules). We were going to file in July but is there any benefit to waiting until she turns 67? And will her 50% benefit be 50% of my lower benefit due to my filing at 62 or is that based on another amount? Signed: **Confused Finance Guy**

Dear Confused: First, be aware that your wife’s spousal benefit will be based on her age when she claims it, and half of your full retirement

age, or “FRA,” amount (although you claimed at 62, her benefit as your spouse will still be based on your FRA entitlement).

Because she claimed her SS retirement at 65, your wife will not get 50% of your FRA entitlement; rather she will get her own reduced SS retirement benefit (which was reduced by about 13% from her FRA entitlement) plus a “spousal boost.” The amount of that “boost” will be the difference between her own FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement, but that boost amount will also be reduced because she will be claiming in July before her FRA.

Your wife will reach her FRA in February 2027, so by claiming her spousal boost in July her boost amount will be reduced by about 5%, and the “boost” will be added to her already reduced SS retirement about. The result will be your wife’s benefit as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. And, FYI, your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit (she will not be able to defer claiming it).

As your son is now collecting SS benefits based on your wife’s personal SS record, you should ask Social Security to switch him over to payments based on your record (because you have the higher SS benefit). FYI, because your son is now receiving SSI (Supplemental Security Income), the SSDI (SS disability) benefit he receives will offset by his SSI benefit, and the payment amount will consist of two sources - SSI and SSDI. Nevertheless,

he cannot get more than 50% of your SS retirement amount and will likely be affected by the Family Maximum which may further reduce his SSDI entitlement.

Your wife’s benefit as your spouse will also be affected by the “Family Maximum,” which limits how much can be paid on any one person’s SS record (on your SS record). That also means that your wife will not get a full 50% of your FRA entitlement; rather she will get less because the family maximum limits how much all your dependents can receive to somewhere between 50% and 88% of your FRA benefit amount (after subtracting your own SS entitlement). That also means that your son’s SS payment, as well as your wife’s SS payment as your spouse, will be reduced to less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. SSA will be able to guide you through the Family Maximum calculations for both your son and your wife when you meet.

To recap all of this: a) your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit; she cannot delay until her FRA. b) her amount as your spouse will be less than 50% of your SS FRA entitlement. And c) both your wife’s and your son’s SS benefit will likely be also affected by the Family Maximum and, thus, be less than half of your FRA entitlement. Nevertheless, it was likely the right decision to claim as you have, considering that your son and wife have been receiving SS benefits for some time now, and both will continue to receive more as your dependents. ★



Congress has been known to slip indefensible special-interest provisions into large must-pass bills when no one is looking. What it has never done before is use such sleight of hand to hand over control of the U.S. military to a foreign country. But that’s what we’re told is on the verge of happening on Capitol Hill.

The House just passed the National Defense Authorization Act, a sprawling \$1.15 trillion bill that supposedly includes a provision buried in it “merging” the U.S. and Israeli militaries.

This provision, known as Section 219, has united some of the most fervent anti-Israel conspiracy theorists on the right and the left in denouncing the alleged betrayal of America, from Marjorie Taylor Greene to AOC, from Tucker Carlson to Cenk Uygur.

AOC has warned that the provision “is an existential threat to American sovereignty and democracy.” Marjorie Taylor Greene has said anyone who voted for the bill “sold out the American people to a foreign country.” Tucker Carlson wants literal treason trials.

So what is the substance of Section 219? Legislation often has obfuscatory titles, but this provision is deemed, with admirable clarity, the United States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative. It calls for the secretary of defense to designate “an executive agent”

The preposterous case against the new defense bill

to coordinate between the U.S. and Israel on “bilateral defense technology research, development, testing, evaluation, integration and industrial cooperation.” The Pentagon will come up with a plan for such cooperation and report back to Congress.

That’s it. There is nothing about merging the general staffs of the U.S. military and the IDF; nothing about creating a joint office where Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and his Israeli counterpart, Israel Katz, work together; nothing about giving Bibi Netanyahu partial control of CENTCOM.

That the United States would want a close working relationship with Israel on military technology is hardly surprising. Israel is one of the world’s most innovative societies and, given its precarious security environment, has become a leader in advanced defense technologies.

That a nefarious interpretation of the bill has gotten some traction underlines how any preposterous lie, so long as it’s about Israel, gets a hearing these days. Like many conspiracy theories, this one depends on a dark view of American society. We are allegedly so corrupt that we are handing control of our military to a foreign country without any senior military leaders or officials in an “America First” administration lodging a complaint. No wonder Tucker Carlson wants the kind of tribunals that attended the end of World War II.

At the first Nuremberg Trials, Wilhelm Keitel was found guilty of crimes against humanity

and hanged; at the second Nuremberg Trials, Mike Johnson will be found guilty of supporting mutually beneficial technology sharing between allies -- means of execution yet to be determined.

One perversity here is that Netanyahu conceives of the technological cooperation as a substitute for the U.S. military aid that he supports phasing out. In other words, enemies of Israel oppose U.S. military aid, and when a constructive plan is offered for how to go about ending it, they oppose that, too, as an Israeli plot.

Another perversity is that the U.S. should want a very close relationship with Israel on missile defense, an area where Israel excels and that, as we’ve seen in the Ukraine and Iran wars, is crucial to modern warfare. And yet, the same people who portray themselves as zealously protective of the U.S. national interest want us to turn our back on a source of technological advance.

Israel naturally fits in the Western alliance, but nations ultimately pursue their selfish interests. If we spurn the Jewish state out of irrational animus, it will inevitably look elsewhere and perhaps build a stronger relationship with China. Then we will surely be told by the critics now obsessed with ending the U.S.-Israel relationship that Israel has shown its true colors and deserves even more of our scorn.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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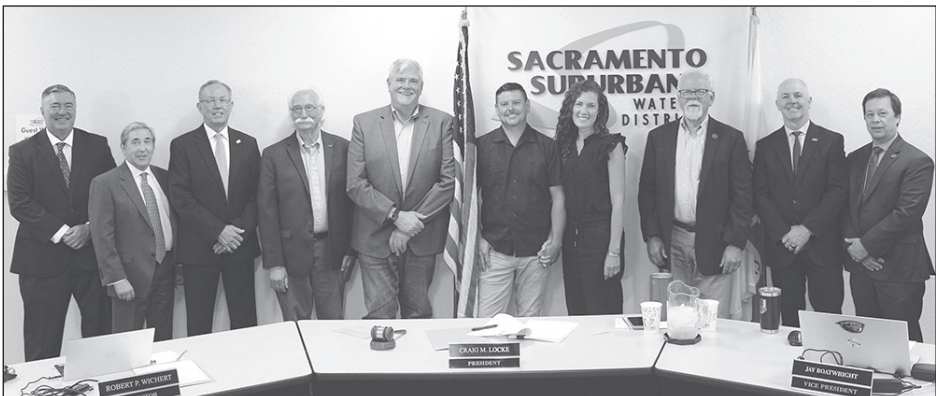
Sacramento Suburban Water District Purchases Groundwater Well Contractor to Secure Scarce Expertise

Sacramento Suburban Water District News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) announced it has purchased Kirby's Pump and Mechanical (KPM), a California Class A General Contractor that specializes in mechanical work on groundwater well pump systems. Licensed groundwater well contractors are in short supply in California. Adding KPM's expertise allows the district to

maintain pumping capacity and respond quickly to repairs, both reactively and proactively. SSWD entered into an exclusive agreement with KPM in 2023 to maintain and repair the district's 70-plus groundwater wells for the next five years. SSWD relies on groundwater, and having exclusive access to their services was critical to avoiding prolonged well outages. "During the three years that KPM worked exclusively with SSWD, they've made a significant difference in strengthening the

reliability of our water system," said SSWD General Manager, Dan York. "Their work has restored approximately 100,000 GPM of pumping capacity. They have also rehabilitated 19 wells, upgraded and repaired motor and electrical service and made numerous other improvements that made our operations more efficient." SSWD staff evaluated KPM's performance over the initial years of the contract. It was determined that KPM could not only undertake standard well maintenance



SSWD Board of Directors and KPM owners group picture. From left to right: Attorney, Adam Brown; Attorney, Josh Horowitz; SSWD General Manager, Dan York; SSWD Director, Robert Wichert; SSWD Board President Craig Locke; KPM Owner, J. Hannum; KPM Owner, Kristin Hannum; SSWD Director, Jay Boatwright; SSWD Assistant General Manager, Matt Underwood; SSWD Director of Finance, Jeff Ott. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Suburban Water District

and rehabilitation but also perform a wide range of additional tasks. They also found that SSWD has the facilities to house KPM staff and equipment. A Board of Directors committee reviewed KPM's performance and commissioned an independent cost-benefit analysis.

The independent analysis found that SSWD would recoup the KPM purchase in under 3.5 years and achieve approximately \$7 million in cost savings over a ten-year period compared with maintaining the current contract. "Today's purchase of KPM marks another important moment in

SSWD's commitment to water reliability and infrastructure improvement," said President, SSWD Board of Directors, Craig Locke. "It's a fiscally responsible decision that strengthens our water system for our ratepayers and the community at large." For more information, visit sswd.org. ★

Unsecured Property Tax Due Aug. 31

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Annual bills for Sacramento County unsecured personal property taxes for fiscal year 2026-27 were mailed on July 17 and are payable without delinquent penalties through Aug. 31.

Unsecured property tax bills are mailed to all owners of unsecured property in July of each year. If you owned unsecured property in Sacramento County, such as a boat or aircraft, or if you leased or owned fixtures and equipment related to a business on Jan. 1 and do not receive a tax bill by Aug. 8, contact

the Sacramento County Tax Collector's Unsecured Property Tax Unit at 916-874-7833, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Nonreceipt of a tax bill does not excuse delinquency or allow the tax collector to cancel penalties or collection costs.

Tax bills become delinquent if not paid in the Tax Collector's Office by 5 p.m. on Aug. 31, or received by mail bearing a postmark of Aug. 31. If the tax bill is not paid by the delinquency date, a 10% penalty and collection cost will be added. DMV registration may be withheld on watercraft if unsecured

property taxes are reported delinquent. If a tax bill remains unpaid after Oct. 31, collection costs and monthly penalties of 1.5% will be added to the base tax. Payments may be made by mail or in person at the County Tax Collector's Office, 700 H St., Room 1710, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, holidays excluded. For credit/debit or eCheck payments, visit county-taxes.net/sacramento/property-tax. ★

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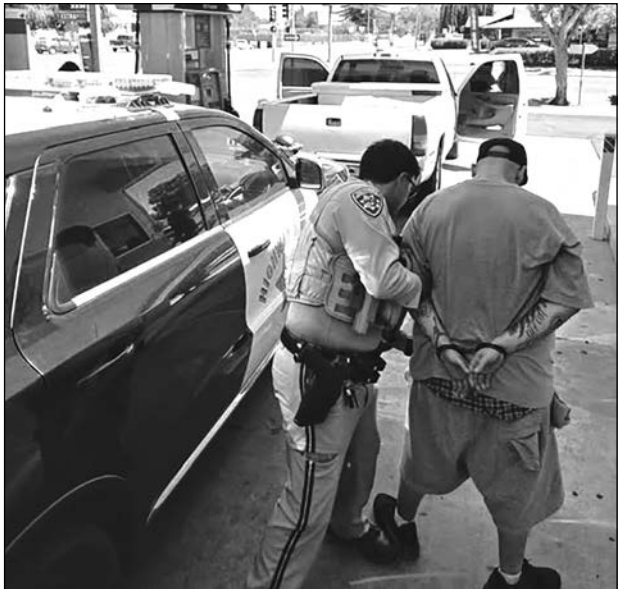
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Second Straight Year of Vehicle Theft Declines



CHP officers arrested a suspect after locating and recovering a stolen vehicle. Photo courtesy of CHP Modesto



Officers intercepted a stolen vehicle before it was shipped overseas. Photo courtesy of CHP Modesto



CHP officers recovered a stolen vehicle during an enforcement stop after suspects used an online marketplace to fraudulently sell it to unsuspecting buyers. Photo courtesy of CHP Merced

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - July is National Vehicle Theft Prevention Month, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is reminding Californians to protect their vehicles while highlighting encouraging statewide trends. California recorded its second consecutive year of declining vehicle thefts in 2025, as the CHP continued working with local law enforcement agencies to combat organized vehicle theft through targeted enforcement and public awareness.

According to the CHP’s 2025

Vehicle Theft Fact Sheet, thieves stole more than 133,000 vehicles statewide in 2025—about 25% fewer than the 176,230 stolen in 2024.

“Vehicle theft is not a victimless crime. It fuels organized criminal activity and creates hardship for families across California. The CHP remains committed to holding offenders accountable, recovering stolen vehicles and working with our law enforcement partners to make our communities safer,” Commissioner Sean Duryee said.

On average, a vehicle was stolen in California about every four minutes in 2025.

Of the 133,372 vehicles stolen statewide last year, 84% were recovered, for a total of 111,661 vehicles. More than half of the recovered vehicles were returned to their owners in drivable condition.

The decline continues a positive trend that began in 2024, when California recorded its first year-over-year decrease in vehicle thefts since 2019. That year, Governor Gavin Newsom deployed CHP officers to work alongside local law enforcement agencies in regional crime suppression operations. Targeted enforcement in Bakersfield, San Bernardino and Oakland helped contribute to reductions

in vehicle thefts and other crime in those communities.

Building on those results, Governor Newsom expanded CHP crime-suppression operations in August 2025 by deploying additional teams to high-crime areas across California.

Several counties where CHP crime suppression teams were deployed also experienced significant declines in vehicle thefts last year. Sacramento county experienced 5,061 vehicle thefts, down 23% from 2024.

Although vehicle thefts continue to decline, motorists remain the first line of defense. The CHP encourages

Californians to reduce their risk by following a few simple safety tips. CHP advises Californians to park in well-lit areas and remove valuables or keep them out of sight. Lock your vehicle every time you leave it, use an alarm system or other anti-theft device. Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running and report suspicious activity to law enforcement.

Through strategic enforcement, strong partnerships and public awareness, the CHP remains committed to reducing vehicle theft, disrupting organized criminal networks and keeping California’s communities safe. ★

Water Forum Awarded Funding for Lower American River Habitat Enhancement

Federal grants will improve habitat while expanding the science that informs future river management

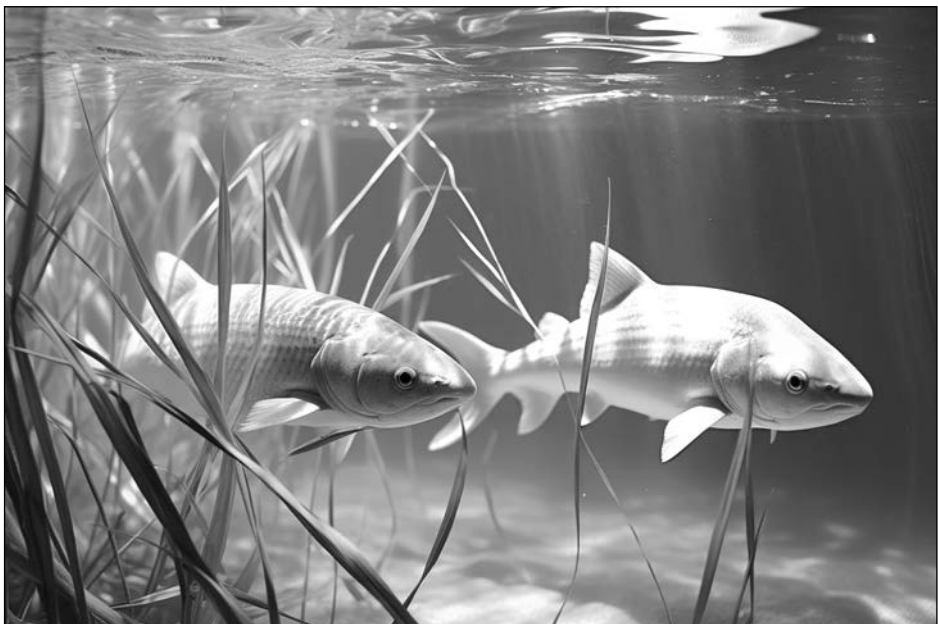
The Water Forum News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Water Forum has been awarded more than \$10.6 million in competitive federal funding to enhance habitat for salmon and steelhead in the lower American River while expanding the scientific research and monitoring that help inform future river management decisions.

“The lower American River is one of our region’s greatest natural resources,” Executive Director of the Water Forum, Ashlee Casey said. “This funding allows us to continue enhancing habitat for salmon and steelhead while using science to better understand what these fish need to survive and thrive. That knowledge helps us make better decisions that benefit the river, the fish that depend on it and the communities that rely on the river.”

The largest award—\$10 million—will support the long-term maintenance, monitoring and enhancement of habitat enhancement sites that the Water Forum has implemented along the lower American River over the past two decades.

“River habitat isn’t static,” Water Forum Habitat and Science Program Manager, Erica Bishop said. “High flows, shifting gravel, vegetation growth and other natural processes continually reshape the lower American River. What makes the Water Forum’s program unique is that we continue monitoring these sites over time and



The Water Forum has been awarded more than \$10.6 million in competitive federal funding to enhance habitat for salmon and steelhead in the lower American River while expanding the scientific research and monitoring that help inform future river management decisions. Photo designed by Magnific

use what we learn to make targeted habitat enhancements that provide the greatest benefit for salmon and steelhead.”

The project will also monitor how salmon and steelhead use enhanced habitat. It will also map the river corridor using advanced sonar and LiDAR technology to identify future habitat enhancement opportunities. And conduct scientific studies to better understand how habitat enhancement influences fish survival and reproduction.

The second award—\$627,835—will fund a major new study of Central Valley steelhead in the lower American River.

“Steelhead are much more difficult to study than salmon because their behavior and life cycles vary considerably and they are fewer in number,” Bishop said. “This study will help answer important questions about how steelhead grow, move through the river, survive and return to spawn.”

The findings will help scientists and resource managers make more informed decisions to protect this species that is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Acts. The study will complement similar research on the Stanislaus River, providing valuable comparisons between steelhead populations north and south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The awards build on more than two decades of collaboration under the Water Forum Agreement and support implementation of the Water Forum 2050 Agreement, which strengthens the region’s commitment to habitat enhancement, scientific monitoring and collaborative solutions that protect the lower American River while supporting long-term water supply reliability.

The awards, announced by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, include two of only 10 projects selected statewide through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The Water Forum received one of just four habitat enhancement awards and one of six scientific research awards funded this year.

Funding is provided through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The steelhead study grant will be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, while the habitat enhancement grant will be administered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. ★

MMS Strategies Honored with FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award

FBI Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On July 28, the FBI Sacramento Field Office honored MMS Strategies, LLC, a Sacramento-based consulting firm, with the local FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award (DCLA) for their collaborative partnership in support of the FBI’s mission to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution. Michelle Smira, founder and chief executive officer for MMS Strategies, accepted the award.

“MMS Strategies recognizes that we are all on the same team, working toward the same goals: Protect the American people and uphold the Constitution of the United States,” Acting Special Agent in Charge, Brian Tosh said. “Their support strengthens our ability to safeguard communities, enhance resilience and ensure that our efforts reflect the needs and priorities of the region.”

MMS Strategies is a Sacramento-based consulting firm that helps its clients think strategically, communicate effectively and find solutions. The firm prides itself

on its thorough understanding of both problems and opportunities in the region. Following participation in the FBI Citizens Academy at FBI Sacramento headquarters, MMS recognized opportunities to foster mutual understanding, improve public safety support resilience. This partnership has enabled the FBI to engage with community leaders to better understand public safety concerns and community challenges, identify potential threats and effectively prepare for significant development and growth in the region.

The FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award was established in 1990 to publicly acknowledge the achievements of those working to make a difference in their communities through the promotion of education



and the prevention of crime and violence. Every year, each of the FBI’s 56 field offices selects a person or organization to receive this prestigious award to honor their achievements, emphasizing the importance of community partnerships in keeping our shared communities safe. This year’s recipients were recognized for a broad range of efforts, including building bridges between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve, combatting human trafficking and providing resources to victims and supporting local youth programs.

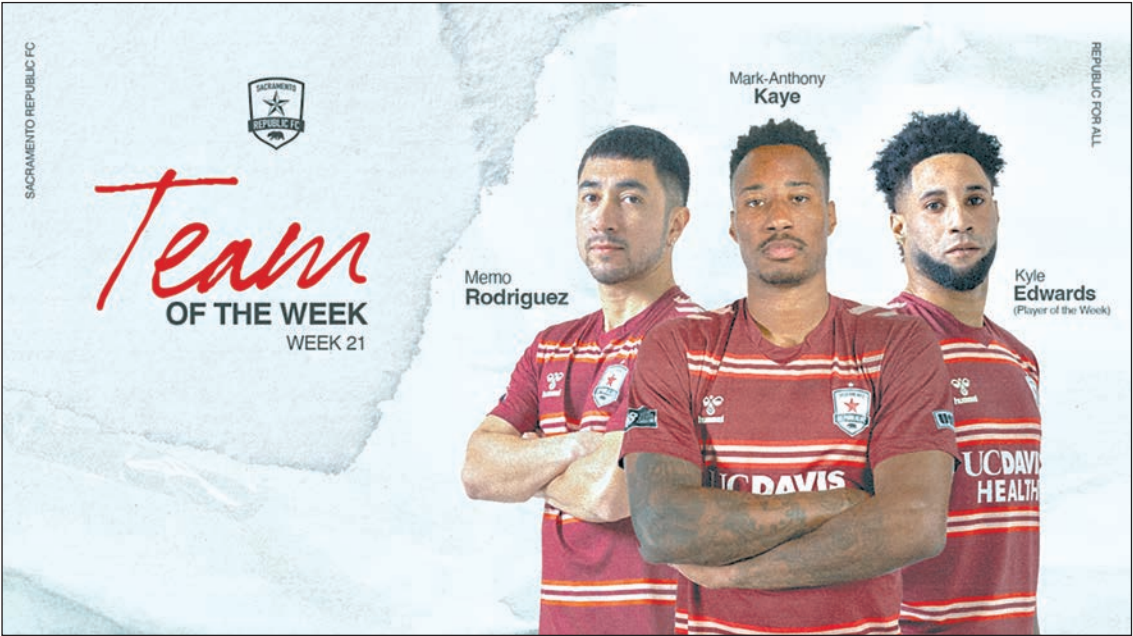
The FBI Sacramento Field Office serves 34 of California’s 58 counties. The FBI Sacramento Field Office community outreach program supports the FBI’s investigative mission by working to address multiple interrelated societal problems—including crime, drugs, gangs, terrorism and violence. Linking community service, prevention and law enforcement is a national trend spurred by grassroots efforts around the country, and FBI employees have joined this movement, volunteering in a wide variety of community-related efforts. ★

Dominant Rivalry Win Earns Three Team of the Week Selections

Republic FC Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On July 28, the USL Championship announced the Week 21 Team of the Week. Among the top players from the week, Republic FC led the way with three selections as Kyle Edwards, Memo Rodriguez and Mark-Anthony Kaye added their names to the club’s growing list of league honors. Edwards was also selected as the Player of the Week, his first time securing the award since 2021.

The three offseason additions each put in a strong performance to lift Sacramento in Saturday’s 3-1 win over Northern California foe Oakland Roots, the team’s fourth consecutive win in Oakland. Memo Rodriguez got Republic FC on the board first in the 19th minute. Jack Gurr delivered a low cross from the left and Rodriguez kept his composure as he was surrounded by two defenders to make a one-touch tap into goal for



The USL Championship announced the Week 21 Team of the Week including Republic FC players Kyle Edwards, Memo Rodriguez and Mark-Anthony. Photo courtesy of Republic FC

his first scoring contribution for Republic FC.

Oakland answered quickly with an equalizer, but that would prove to be their only chance on goal all night. From then on, it

was all Republic as the club put on an unrelenting press that kept the Roots under constant pressure. Mark-Anthony Kaye was a disruptor in the midfield all night with 9 of 10 duels won, six possessions

won and three tackles won. The veteran midfielder has now been selected to back-to-back Team of the Week rosters.

The press paid dividends when Kyle Edwards took the lead for

good in the 75th minute, just six minutes after subbing on. A shot from Blake Willey forced the goalkeeper to make a save, but the rebound only went as far as a wide-open Edwards, who got the jump and volleyed a shot to the back of the net.

Edwards later put the exclamation point on the match in stoppage time. Building on his goal earlier in the night, Memo Rodriguez lofted a cross to Edwards on the far side. The St. Vincent and the Grenadines international opened his hips to control the ball with a touch before firing a low shot to the corner. Edwards now leads Republic FC with five regular season goals and seven across all competitions. Last season, he set a new league record for goals off the bench in a single season and is now just one shy of tying the all-time record for substitute goals.

Republic FC is currently on a three-game undefeated streak, as of press time. Tickets are available at SacRepublicFC.com. ★

Katherine Zhu Wins 56th Sacramento County Women’s Golf Championship at Mather Golf

Sacramento Golf Council News Release

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The 56th Sacramento County Women’s Golf Championship took place July 25 to 26, at Mather Golf Course in Rancho Cordova, drawing top female amateur golfers from around the region.

Katherine Zhu emerged as the 2026 Sacramento County Women’s Champion, capturing the Championship Flight title with

a score of 69/65/134, over Emily Guan with a score of 70/65/135.

Karen Garcia won the Senior Division with a score of 74/71/145. In the Senior Handicap Division, Vivian French with a 13 handicap claimed victory with a gross score of 135.

The Championship Flight featured golfers with a handicap index of 6.6 or less. Senior Flight players age 50 and up.

Tournament chairman was Linda Bigler of the Sacramento Golf Council.



★ Katherine Zhu emerges as the 2026 Sacramento County Women’s Champion at the Women’s Golf Championship. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council



Karen Garcia won the senior division at the Sacramento County Women’s Golf Championship. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council



Vivian French wins the Senior Handicap Division in Sacramento County Women’s Golf Championship. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council

Men’s Soccer Welcomes Magaña to the Roster for 2026



Washington native Jesus Magaña comes to Northern California after spending his true freshman season at Western Oregon in 2025. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento State men’s soccer team made another addition to its roster for 2026, welcoming Washington native Jesus Magaña to the fold, Interim Head Coach Matt McDougall announced on Monday, July 27.

“We are extremely excited to have Jesus join our Sacramento State men’s soccer family,” McDougall said. “Jesus is a hardworking forward that will push to make an immediate impact with his work rate and ability to be dynamic in the final third of the field. He had a very successful club career, winning two ENCL National Championships with the Crossfire Premier Soccer Club in Washington and we look forward to him bringing that winning experience to our program this fall.”

Fans of the Hornets’ men’s soccer program may recognize the last name as Jesus’ older brother, Francisco, was a four-year letter winner at Sacramento State from 2019-23, earning All-Big West Conference honors as a junior in 2022 and

finishing his Hornet career with nine goals and five assists.

Magaña comes to Northern California after spending his true freshman season at Western Oregon in 2025, appearing in five matches and making one start as the Wolves finished 11-5-4 overall en route to a Great Northwest Athletic Conference tournament title and a NCAA Division II Tournament berth. He put two of his four shot attempts on frame, eventually netting his first collegiate goal against St. Martin's while playing 26 minutes.

That followed a senior season at Auburn Senior HS that saw him pick up All-North Puget Sound League first team honors after scoring 10 goals in 2024 and a decorated club career with the Crossfire Premier ECNL squad.

In five years with Crossfire, Magaña helped the club to a pair of ECNL Northwest championships and back-to-back ECNL National Championships in 2024-25. He finished with five assists during the run to the 2024 championship and added a goal and two assists en route to the crown in 2025. ★

Mountain West Announces Credit Union 1 Basketball Championships Brackets

UC Davis Athletics News Release

LAS VEGAS, CA (MPG) - The Mountain West announced the 2027 Credit Union 1 Mountain West Basketball Championships presented by Palms Casino Resort brackets on Thursday, featuring all 10 men’s and women’s teams competing at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas from Sunday, March 7, to Saturday, March 13.

“We look forward to two premier championships at the Thomas & Mack Center in 2027,” said MW Commissioner Gloria Nevarez. “In evaluating our men’s and women’s championship formats, we considered the NCAA tournament’s expanded field in addition to maximizing postseason opportunities for Mountain West teams and providing our student-athletes with meaningful postseason competition. This format enhances the championship experience by creating additional opportunities to compete, extend seasons, and be part of the excitement and visibility that comes with postseason basketball in Las Vegas. As we do every year, we will continue to study the behavior of both the men’s and women’s NCAA basketball selection committees



“We look forward to two premier championships at the Thomas & Mack Center in 2027,” said MW Commissioner Gloria Nevarez. Photo designed by Magnific

to ensure that our championship format gives the Mountain West the best opportunity to secure multiple NCAA bids at the highest seeds possible.”

As MW basketball enters a new era with three new members, the 2027 basketball championship formats maximize national television exposure for the Mountain West, while also providing a format that prioritizes travel planning for its loyal fans who attend annually.

The women’s tournament begins on Sunday, March 7, and concludes on Wednesday, March 10, with the championship game. The men’s tournament will begin on Wednesday, March 10, and conclude with the champion crowned on Saturday, March 13.

Seeding for the post-season championship is determined by the regular

season with the top six seeds receiving a bye into the quarterfinals on the second day of competition.

The updated bracket will begin the Conference tournament with the No. 7 seed playing the No. 10 seed and the No. 8 seed matching up with the No. 9 seed in the first-round games. The quarterfinals feature the No. 1 seed against the winner of game one, the No. 4 seed versus the No. 5 seed, the No. 3 seed playing the No. 6 seed and the No. 2 seed facing off with the winner of game two.

The semifinals will feature the winners from the day before with the winners of each semifinal squaring off for the championship title and the league’s automatic berth to the NCAA tournament.

The Mountain West basketball championships will air on a combination of CBS, CBS Sports Network and MW+. Tip times and network designations will be released at a later date.

Mountain West basketball is Built Bold. Six MW women’s basketball programs have appeared in the postseason over the last two seasons, while MW men’s basketball has sent four or more teams to the NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship each of the last five years, including a league record six in 2024. ★

How One Family Changed Lives Through Foster Care

Continued from page 1

dopted five of the kids who came into their care.

“I like that both of my moms are very passionate about what you love and, like, the activities that you’re into,” Leilani said.

Once Britney and Erin became licensed resource parents through Sacramento County, they felt called to continue helping kids, even eventually moving to a larger home so they could foster additional children.

“When we had our license, our initial goal, moving from the smaller house into this house, was to be able to have more kids in general. But once we got here, we realized there was a big need for sibling sets. So that was kind of how we started, was getting, like, sibling sets of, like, two to five,” Erin said.

Erin’s reference to “sibling sets” refers to Sacramento County’s efforts to keep siblings who are removed to be placed in the same home as often as possible. It can be challenging to find resource homes for sibling sets, as some licensed parents may not have enough space or may already be fostering other children.

“When I met Erin, that kind of changed my life,” Jalen, a former foster youth who lived with Britney and Erin said.

“We left our license open from zero to 18, so we eventually started getting calls for teenagers,” Britney said.

When Britney and Erin began fostering, they wanted to stick with children because of fears over safety issues since Leilani was young at the time. That mindset stuck – until Erin went to meet 15-year-old Jelan.

“I had something going on, and so I wasn’t there, but she came back [from meeting Jelan], and she was like ‘yep, that’s my kid,’” Britney said.

Jelan is now in his 20s, and he keeps in touch with Britney and Erin through video calls and comes over for dinner.

“I think I was 15 going on 16, so around 2015. It was around that time that I met Erin. I was at the receiving home at that time, and I was going in and out of the receiving home,” Jelan said.

The Children’s Receiving Home provides temporary congregate placement for foster youth who are waiting on a resource parent or relative placement. Many of the youth they serve are teens. And for Jelan, a gay teenager – finding an understanding

home over a decade ago was challenging.

“I was very persistent in advocating for myself to get a home because I didn’t want to stay in the dorm for too long,” Jelan said.

Jelan represents a large number of foster kids in Sacramento County. According to data, more than a third of children in foster care identify as LGBTQ+. But Jelan said that shouldn’t matter – resource parents should accept children no matter what. Jelan says he will never forget meeting “mama Erin” for the first time and how she immediately accepted him for who he is.

“When I met Erin, that kind of changed my life.” Jelan felt so happy in his new home – that he wanted to share that love.

He met foster teen Lottie at school – he said he could tell she was going through a difficult time and approached her.

“I was going to a new school. We had class together, and I was quiet. I was just kind of, like, living day by day, just trying to figure out what I’m doing the next day, how I’m surviving, all the things. And so, he came up to me and kind of burst my bubble,” Lottie said.

The teens started talking about their pasts and living situations – quickly becoming friends.

“So, one day I was just like, ‘Can I meet your moms? Like, I want to know,’ like, it sounded so good, I just didn’t believe it, so I was like, ‘I want to meet you. I want to see this,’ Lottie said. “And so, um, he went back and told them about me, and then one day, uh, Mama Brittany was coming up in the truck, and I was like, ‘Hey,’ like, ‘I want to move in with you,’ like, ‘Can I be your new daughter?’”

Eventually, Lottie made the move into Erin and Britney’s home. She is now in her 20s and has a child of her own. She still keeps in touch with the Eason family – and they continue to support her by offering advice as seasoned parents and by being the occasional babysitters for Lottie’s child.

The Eason family fosters through Sacramento County’s Department of Child, Family and Adult Services. They said the resources and classes provided by the County helped build their confidence as parents.

“We’re able to find whatever supports are necessary – whether it’s educational, mental health, physical health, whatever it may be, we’re able to really get peer

mentors, family advocates, whatever we need and whatever the kids need,” said Brittany.

As of July 2026, more than 800 kids and teens were in foster care in Sacramento County. Many of the youth placed in foster care are in supportive homes – but some are still waiting for placement. 887 is the exact number of kids in Sacramento County Foster Care as of July 1. On average, 15 kids are usually awaiting placement. Britney and Erin are aware of the need for more resource families and said they always start conversations about how others can get involved – even when they’re meeting strangers in public.

“I tell strangers that I meet if they come up and talk about our kids ... that they can just contact the county. Get set up with orientation. It doesn’t cost anything. It’s free. Just go down there, ask questions,” Erin said.

Erin is right; there are regularly scheduled orientations where people can go and ask social workers and other staff questions about the requirements and what it’s like to be a resource parent. No commitment is required at the initial orientation. You can find a list of upcoming orientations on the DCFAS website.

“There’s no rush. The County doesn’t pressure you to rush,” Erin said.

Once a potential resource parent completes an orientation, they can start the interview and application process at their own pace. You can read a full list of requirements for resource parents on the DCFAS website. Going through the process not only changed Britney and Erin’s lives but the lives of the dozens of youths they’ve helped over the years.

“I still looked at them as family, like, over the top. Like, they’ve done things for me that my family has not even done, and that’s, that’s why I stand by, you know, blood doesn’t make you family. It’s really about the things that people do and the stuff that, the actions and the care of love, you know, and the way they show love. So, I really appreciate Erin, and just Brittany and everyone who was involved in my life, cause that did impact me. I don’t know where I would be. You know, I’d probably be somewhere else if I wasn’t placed in their house,” Jelan said.

The words from Jelan are emotional for the two moms. Erin said those words are also an important reminder about why they chose to help kids and teens in need – even when those children were struggling

sometimes with grief, the loss of their home, anger and anxiety.

“We’ll figure it out. We’ll get through it together. We’re going to find a way to make this work, you know? And we’re still supporting those kids in the transition from our home to wherever it is their next place may be.”

Currently, there are 539 families approved to foster in Sacramento County. More than 300 of those families are relatives or non-related family members (NREFM). A NREFM placement can refer to a person known in a foster youth’s life, like a pastor, coach or tribe member, that the child already has a relationship with. Being placed with family or an NREFM can sometimes ease the transition into foster care because the child is not placed with a stranger. However, not every family has people they can rely on during difficult times that lead to youth ending up in foster care, and applications are always open for people to become resource parents.

“We could not do this without our resource parents, the families who are willing to step in for the children in their lives, and our non-related family members, and all our community partners,” Child Protective Services Deputy Director, Melissa Lloyd said. “It is a privilege to know so many people who help our foster youth during what is often one of the most difficult times in their lives. Over the more than 25 years I’ve worked with Child Protective Services, I’ve seen so many people rally around these kids and lift them up – but there is always a need for more support. This commitment and the day-to-day responsibility of caring for foster kids are not always easy – but we must realize that it is often much more difficult for the youth who are placed into our care.”

If you are interested in helping a foster youth but are not in a situation to become a resource parent, you can still support the youth in different ways.

Since the 1980’s, Sacramento County employees have gathered donated gifts for foster youth and older adults in need. The gifts and any financial donation go directly to foster youth or adults who are Adult Protective Services Clients. Recently, the program leaders realized there was a year-round need for basic items and birthday presents. Reach out to GFTH@saccounty.gov to find out how you can make a difference. ★



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Tuesday, August 25 at 2 p.m.

“Differentiating Alzheimer’s Disease from Other Forms of Dementia”

Presented by:
Kirstin Oehler, RN, Manager of Clinical Education for Snowline Health

Light refreshments will be provided

Please join us as we explore the four most common types of dementia, learning to distinguish between them and understand their unique characteristics. This seminar covers the causes, symptoms and progression of:

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- **Vascular dementia**
- **Lewy body dementia**
- **Frontotemporal dementia**

By the end of this seminar, caregivers will be better equipped to support individuals with different forms of dementia.

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Please RSVP By August 21
At 916-392-3510

Coffee Klatch Support Group
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in the Conference Room:
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