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Land Park News

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FINDING DATA ON FUNDING STATE GOVERNMENT



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CULTURE



PAGE 5

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Bright Beats, Bold Art and Bananas

Community Festival Returns for its 15th Anniversary



In addition to live music, there were also a series of live performances.

Story and photos
by Khushi Salgia

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento community and beyond gathered for the 15th annual Banana Festival at William Land Park on Aug. 15 and 16. This festival, hosted by the Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum (SOJO Museum) is not actually about

bananas itself, but about celebrating the cultures where bananas grow such as some African countries, some Latin American countries and the Caribbean. Thousands of guests showed up wearing yellow or banana-printed outfits to eat good food, listen to soul and reggae music and browse the cultural art pieces. “It’s surprising how much you can do with bananas,” said Jameel

McDaniels, who is the nephew of Shonna McDaniels, the executive director of the SOJO Museum. McDaniels has worked at all 15 of the banana festivals since he was a kid. According to him, when the banana festival started in 2009, it was a much smaller scale event and took place at Cosumnes River College. “Barely anyone showed up,” he said. Continued on page 3

Celebrating Community at Ohana Walk



Walkers get ready to head out. Photo courtesy of ACC Senior Services

ACC Senior Services
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A simple idea to bring people together has become a beloved Pocket-area tradition. On Saturday, Sept. 19, ACC Senior Services (ACC) will host its fifth annual Ohana Walk, bringing together families, friends, seniors, children, community organizations

and supporters for a morning of connection, culture, wellness and community support. This year’s Ohana Walk will honor founders Lynn and Wayne Kurahara as grand marshals, recognizing the vision and leadership that transformed an idea to unite the ACC ohana into a beloved community celebration. The Ohana Walk was created in 2022 following the COVID-19 pandemic as a way to

reconnect the community while marking ACC’s 50th anniversary. The Kuraharas’ recognition also honors the many volunteers, community partners, donors and supporters who have helped the Ohana Walk grow over the past five years. “They provided tremendous encouragement and support,” Wayne shared. At ACC, ohana means more than family: It embodies a community that Continued on page 2

School Season Brings More Young Riders to Local Trails



Sacramento County
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As students gear up for back-to-school season, Sacramento County expects to see an increase in kids and teens riding bicycles and e-bikes. Whether they’re commuting to school, meeting up with friends or enjoying the American River Parkway, now is a great time for young riders and their parents to review the rules of the road and the trails. The message is simple, ride smart. ride safe. ride free. Know your ride, know your classification, know the rules and make smart choices that help you enjoy the freedom of riding. First, know what you’re riding. Not every electric two-wheeler is an e-bike. California recognizes three classes of electric bicycles, and knowing the difference is especially important when riding on trails.

Class 1 e-bikes provide electric assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and have a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph. Class 2 e-bikes have a throttle that can propel the bike without pedaling, and have a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph. Class 3 e-bikes provide electric assistance only while the rider is pedaling and can assist up to 28 mph. Class 3 e-bikes are not permitted in Regional Parks facilities, including the American River Parkway and Dry Creek Parkway trails. Riders must be at least 16 years old to operate a Class 3 e-bike. State law requires anyone under 18 to wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet when riding on public roads, bikeways or public bicycle paths and trails. E-motorcycles, sometimes called e-Motos, are different from e-bikes altogether. A qualifying e-Moto is an electric motorcycle, with two wheels, handlebars, a straddle seat and no pedals. These vehicles are subject to additional licensing and registration requirements and are not permitted on the Parkway trail. Continued on page 3

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Celebrating Community at Ohana Walk

Continued from page 1

comes together to support one another, the spirit that remains at the heart of this annual event.

From an Idea to an ACC Tradition

The event continues to grow. Last year, the Ohana Walk attracted 1,000 registered participants of all ages and generations, greatly exceeding the Kuraharas' expectations when they conceived the idea.

"When undertaking the project of doing a walk-a-thon event, we did not know what to expect, and our original goal was to get just a few hundred participants," the Kuraharas said.

A Celebration for Every Generation

The Ohana Walk is designed to be accessible and welcoming for participants of every generation. Families can walk together, friends can create teams, community organizations can walk as groups, and seniors can enjoy the route at their own pace, while children and grandchildren can make the morning a family adventure.

Participants may choose a one-, two- or three-mile flat and accessible, family-friendly routes along the Greenhaven-Pocket Canal Parkway, with an optional shaded greenbelt extension. Water stations, rest markers and check-in booths are available throughout the course.

The celebration continues after the walk at the ACC campus, where participants can enjoy food, music, entertainment, activities and community booths. Registered walkers will receive a



Supporters participate in the Ohana Walk Raffle. Photos courtesy of ACC Senior Services



An ACC Taiko class performs during the picnic.

commemorative Ohana Walk T-shirt, wristband (event access) and swag bag.

The event is designed to be as much about being together as it is about walking.

Supporting Older Adults and Caregivers

While the event offers a festive day for the

community, it also serves an important purpose. Proceeds benefit ACC Senior Services and support programs and services for older adults and their caregivers.

For more than 53 years, ACC has provided senior living options, caregiver support and community-based services intended

to help older adults remain active, connected and supported at any stage.

Every mile walked and every dollar raised helps to advance that mission while demonstrating the community's commitment to caring for older adults. It also reflects something that has been part of ACC's identity for more than five



Walkers of all ages enjoy the family friendly event.



A community picnic follows the walk.



CSUS Health Hive is on-site for wellness programs and screenings.

decades: the belief that strong communities are built when generations and cultures come together to help one another.

The fifth annual ACC Ohana Walk takes place Saturday, Sept. 19, beginning at the ACC campus at 7334 Park City Drive in Sacramento's Pocket neighborhood. The walk

begins at 8:30 a.m. and will be followed by a community picnic.

Registration includes participation in the walk, picnic meal, an event T-shirt and swag bag. All proceeds benefit ACC Senior Services programs and services. Donate, learn more or register today at accsv.org/ohana. ★

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Bright Beats, Bold Art and Bananas

Continued from page 1

Over the years, the event gradually garnered popularity, but it wasn’t until the pandemic that its popularity skyrocketed as people have been more eager to get out and prioritize in-person experiences than ever before. McDaniels was working at the banana store booth which had every conceivable type of banana merchandise from pet clothing to banana slices. The proceeds go to the SOJO Museum.

One of the ways that culture was brought to the festival was through the vendors. One of these was Tania Bolden of Beads-String-N-Bling. She makes brightly colored accessories such as bracelets and earrings as well as fans and umbrellas which are her most popular items. These items take inspiration from African colors, patterns and designs.

“The mission is to bring culture to Sacramento,” she said. “People love bright colors.”

In addition to cultural heritage, there were also some fun vendors such as Little Lady Crochets. Madily Amez, who started the business 8 years ago crochets animal plushies from tiny octopi to large dinosaurs.

“It was a skill I learned from my grandma,” she said.

She also crocheted bananas each with a different facial expression specifically for this event. While her offerings at the festival were family-friendly, her business took off after she went viral for her more adult-themed designs. Since then, she’s



Tania Bolden stands with her booth for her business, Beads-String-N-Bling.

been getting consistent orders from all over the country.

Another artist who brings their own unique style to their work is Nate Lawson from Nate’s Comic Art. He hand-draws superhero-inspired designs to put on items such as mousepads, T-shirts and coffee cup sleeves.

“I’ve been drawing since I was fifteen,” Lawson said.

When his fiancée, Jonna Haan, showed him how to make prints of his art, he decided to make a business out of it.

“His mother said he always had a pen in his hand and nothing was safe,” said Haan of Lawson as a kid.

His most popular items are the ones with Spiderman and the ones with Venom on it, regardless of which type of product it is. Those are also the drawings he is most proud of. Each drawing takes about three hours to



The Spiderman and Venom designs are the most popular at Nate’s Comic Art.

complete.

Speaking of artists, the Banana Festival also had a live painting contest where artists would bring their own canvases and paints and use the two-day duration of the festival to create a painting which would be judged at the end. One of these artists, Jared Konopitski, was working on a painting he named on the spot called “Technicolor Banana Ride.” Konopitski, who

makes neon, nature-inspired, magical realism paintings is a professional artist who has painted murals, had work showcased in galleries and magazines and has even worked on TV shows.

“I make pictures from made-up stories,” he said.

“Technicolor Banana Ride,” which features a colorful hummingbird, was inspired when he was having breakfast the day before and a hummingbird



The 15th annual banana festival took place at William Land Park on Aug. 15 and 16. Festivalgoers wore yellow and even banana-themed outfits.



Artist Jared Konopitski works on his painting for the contest, which he had just started the day before.

flew past. There was also a banana in his line of sight and the vision for the painting came to him at that moment.

The Sacramento Banana

Festival is about more than just fruit; it is a multicultural celebration that brings the community together while also raising money for a meaningful cause. ★

School Season Brings More Young Riders to Local Trails

Continued from page 1

A simple rule of thumb: If it doesn’t have fully operable pedals, it’s not an e-bike.

Parents can help by looking at their child’s bike before they head out and making sure they know what type of e-bike they are riding, how fast it can go and where it can legally be ridden.

The Jedediah Smith Memorial Multi-use Trail along the American River Parkway is a popular destination for cyclists, pedestrians, runners, skaters and equestrians. With many different types of users sharing the trail, knowing and following the rules helps keep everyone safe.

For cyclists riding on the parkway follow the 15-mph speed limit. The trail is designed to accommodate many types of users, so riders should slow down and be prepared for changing conditions and other trail users. Pass on the left. Give a verbal warning, such as “On your left,” before passing another cyclist or trail user. Ride single file. Leave space between

riders and allow others to pass safely.

Stay alert. Keep your eyes on the trail and watch for pedestrians, other cyclists, animals and vehicles crossing the trail. Pull completely off the trail when stopping. Stopping in the middle of the trail can create a hazard for others. Stay on permitted trails. Outside of the designated off-paved cycling areas, bicycles are not permitted on non-paved trails on the parkway.

Wear a helmet, California law requires riders under 18 to wear a properly fitted helmet when riding on public roads, bikeways and public bicycle paths and trails. Helmets are recommended for riders of all ages and always use lights when riding after dark. Riders should make sure their bicycles are properly equipped and visible to others.

The Parkway’s 15 mph speed limit applies to all riders, regardless of how quickly their bike is capable of traveling. For example, a Class 1 or Class 2 e-bike may be capable of reaching 20 mph, but

riders must not exceed the Parkway’s 15 mph trail speed limit, the same goes for traditional bicycles.

Class 3 e-bikes and other motorized vehicles, including e-motorcycles, are prohibited in all Sacramento County Regional Parks trails and park facilities.

A safe ride starts before you ever get on the bike. Riders should wear a properly fitted helmet, stay aware of their surroundings and follow the posted speed limit. On a busy multi-use trail, a few extra seconds of caution can make a big difference.

Parents can help by taking a few minutes before the school year begins to review their child’s bike, make sure it is properly equipped and talk about where and how they can safely ride.

“E-bikes can be a great way for young people to get around and enjoy the outdoors, but with that freedom comes responsibility,” said Sacramento County Regional Parks Director, Liz Bellas. “We want young riders and their families to enjoy our trails while making smart

choices that keep themselves and everyone around them safe.”

For many young people, riding a bike or e-bike is about more than getting from one place to another. It’s a way to spend time with friends, get outside, explore the parkway and enjoy a little independence.

Smart and safe riding helps make that freedom possible. When riders know their bikes, understand where they can ride and follow the rules, they can ride with confidence and enjoy the freedom to keep exploring.

So before you head out this school year, remember ride smart, ride safe, ride free. Know your ride, know the rules, make safe choices and have fun.

For more information about multi-use trail rules and regulations, visit Sacramento County Regional Parks’ multi-use trail rules and regulations.

For tips on safely riding bicycles on roads, bike lanes and sidewalks, visit Sacramento County’s active transportation webpage. ★



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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. ★

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Culture

By V.G. Harris

Well, Kings fans, while the NFL is already in preseason mode and only weeks away from regular season games, the NBA is not far behind.

In less than 60 days your own Sacramento Kings will once again be gracing the hardwood, and many are asking what can they expect?

Ask any 10 people and you'll get 10 different answers.

That would not be true of many organizations that have developed expectations based on recent successes and possibly on additions that were made to the team during the off season.

The Sacramento Kings made the post season just four years ago and appeared to be on a roll. So, what happened that brought them to a paltry 22 wins last year?

Injuries certainly played a critical role, but it is much more than that.

I took a look at the most storied franchise in the NBA with a total of 18 championship rings.

The Boston Celtics were once almost invincible, putting together eight straight championships, and sending a message that you may compete with us, but don't expect to win.

What made the Celtics such a dynasty? One word describes how Boston got there. Culture.

The Celtics developed a culture that didn't just spell team, it defined it.

Led by legendary Red Auerbach, the Celtics coach developed a team culture that many have tried to emulate but few have been successful. Perhaps the San Antonio Spurs may break into the conversation, as Gregg Popovich led the Spurs to five championships spanning a 29-year run.

Gregg Popovich simply had a modality that much like Red Auerbach, not only grasped the attention of his team, but transformed it.

So, what you ask, is the culture of the Sacramento Kings?

If I had that answer or even a good guess, I would certainly venture it.

What I can tell you is that denigrating players and constantly discussing their lack of ability as it relates to defense, or some other basketball related issue, is not something that will ever build a lasting relationship and is conducive to anything related to culture.

The Sacramento franchise while extolling

their past two drafts, have become cataleptic in their approach to anything resembling a culture.

Whether the national media can see it or not, the Kings have an abundance of talent on the current team, but a culture is badly needed. Something that isn't just lip service but shows up and supports the players in a way that builds confidence and a trust.

Domantas Sabonis has bought into what the Sacramento Kings have preached every season he's been here and has been the epitome of a leader literally from the day he arrived.

Domantas had to overcome the many fans that were crushed by the loss of Tyrese Haliburton, and all he did was cover his ears and lead the entire league in rebounding three years in a row.

Imagine breaking a thumb and playing through the pain to lead the league in rebounding and double-doubles.

Not lost in his stellar play has been the attitude of a true leader. Always the first player to help his teammate to his feet, a constant source of encouragement, Sabonis has been the poster boy for what an NBA teammate should look like.

But Sabonis isn't the only player to be shopped for a trade and criticized for his perceived lack of defense.

Zack Lavine has had to endure constant dialogue about the over inflated salary he is receiving and how he is keeping the Kings from moving forward because of his price tag and lack of defensive skill.

After these two have been trashed will no restraint, let's encourage them to be team leaders and approach the upcoming season will renewed enthusiasm.

Earth to the Kings. This is not how team culture is taught and developed.

Both Sabonis and Lavine have been former NBA all-stars, and contrary to popular opinion they both hit the hardwood with the same acumen that made them all-stars.

Let's start but extolling the virtues and building a culture that the glass is half full and not the opposite.

I know leaders when I see them, and Domantas Sabonis and Zach Lavine fit the description to a tee.

I'm showing up to see them play and I hope you will too!

All the best!

Interested in How California Pays for State Government? Here's Where to Find the Data



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The state budget is an obvious source for anyone interested in how California finances its programs.

However the budget, including the latest version enacted in June, is only a rough outline, a collection of suppositions and guesses, some educated, others politically motivated.

An obvious example is what happened four years ago when Gov. Gavin Newsom declared that California had a \$97.5 billion surplus, bragging “no other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this.”

That number never appeared in the budget, but legislators immediately pumped up spending. The surplus turned out to be a mirage based on what officials later acknowledged was a \$165 billion error in revenue estimates.

However, the spending increases were already in effect, leading to chronic, multibillion-dollar deficits ever since. Moreover, one piece of increased spending, the extension of health care coverage to undocumented immigrants, cost \$6.2 billion more than assumed in the budget, resulting in cutbacks of coverage.

While the budget itself is an imprecise source of financial information, its addenda provide troves of useful

data for those savvy enough to find them. They reveal such statistics as how many employee positions the state has (482,088), a list of the state's outstanding bond debts (\$73 billion) and how much the state collects from dozens of specific taxes and fees (\$328.4 billion).

One particularly interesting chart provides details on revenues and spending year-by-year, dating back to 1975. It reveals that income, outgo and the size of the state payroll remained stable relative to the growth in California's population and personal income, until Newsom became governor in 2019.

Since then, the state has added about 100,000 positions to its payroll, increasing it by one-third, relative to population. State general fund spending rose from 7.9% of total personal income in 2019-20 to 9.58% in 2023-24, the highest ever recorded since 1975. It now stands at 9.42%.

Those numbers are why Newsom will be leaving his successor a very unbalanced budget — no matter what he claims. In fact, one addendum projects shortfalls lasting through the next governor's first term, even if general fund spending remains virtually static, which it will not.

Those seeking an even deeper understanding of the state government's financial position have another source: The 372-page “Annual Comprehensive Financial Report” that the state controller's office files with the federal government. Its numbers are rock solid because they have to be and are backed up by audits.

State Controller Malia Cohen issued the 2024-25 report in May, two months after the federal government's deadline — but that

was an accomplishment. The state hadn't issued a timely report since 2018 because it was struggling with a new financial reporting tool, the Financial Information System of California, dubbed FISCal, that was years overdue, many millions of dollars over budget and incapable of generating accurate data.

The financial report covers a much broader array of state agencies (201) and programs than the budget, and therefore a much larger financial spread: \$595.5 billion in revenue and \$582.5 in spending — 66% larger than the \$351.7 billion current state budget.

Among its revelations is that the state has \$176.5 billion in unfunded liabilities for state employee pensions and retiree benefits, primarily healthcare. The report also contains detailed data about taxable sales, personal income and other economic sectors from which the state derives income.

One chart is especially timely, given the current debate over Proposition 40, a ballot measure that would impose a tax on the wealth of California's approximately 200 billionaires. Opponents of the wealth tax argue it could impel one-percenters to leave the state if it passes.

A chart on page 322 hints at the ramifications, supporting the oft-quoted assertion that California's top 1% of taxpayers by income — about 175,000 people — generate nearly half its income tax revenues.

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

I Worked for my Ex-husband but Wasn't Paid and now have little Social Security; What are my options?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

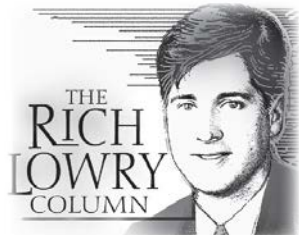
Dear Rusty: Sadly, I was in business with my ex-husband. I'm a nurse and he was a chiropractor. He refused to pay me “on the books” and now, at age 73, after divorcing him due to his financial irresponsibility (I don't want to burden you with the thefts that he perpetrated), I am stuck with a small \$773 Social Security payment each month. At age 73 I am now faced with having to go back into the workforce. Is there anything I can do to prove that I worked 40 years for my husband but wasn't paid? **Signed: Distressed Divorcee**

Dear Distressed: We are so sorry to hear of your unfortunate circumstances. Assuming your ex-husband is now collecting Social Security retirement benefits (or is at least eligible to if you are divorced at least 2 years), you should be able to collect an ex-spouse benefit as his former wife. In that case, you would be entitled to receive 50% of the Social Security benefit he was entitled to at his own full retirement age (because he and you were married

for over 10 years).

The way that will work is that you would continue to receive your personally-earned \$773 monthly Social Security retirement amount earned from other employment, but you would also be entitled to a supplemental “spousal boost” to bring your payment up to half of the SS payment amount your ex-husband is entitled to at his SS full retirement age. In other words, because you were married to your ex for more than 10 years, you are entitled to the same Social Security benefits as though you were still married. That is true, even if he has remarried and his new wife is also getting a spouse benefit from his record. You will still be entitled to an ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband as his former wife. And if he dies before you, as a surviving ex-spouse you will get the same Social Security benefit he was receiving at his death, instead of the smaller amount your will get while you are both living.

Regarding rejoining the workforce, while you can certainly go back to work at age 73 without it negatively affecting your Social Security benefits, if you are struggling financially, I suggest you visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging: www.benefitscheckup.org. At this website, you can enter your zip code and find much information about other supplemental



During the 1979-1980 hostage crisis, a defiant Iran starkly demonstrated the limits of American power. Forty-five years later, it is doing the same thing, although in vastly different circumstances. Back then, when the post-Vietnam military was at a low ebb, we didn't strike Iran, and a long-shot rescue operation ended in abject failure.

Now, with the U.S. military at its most proficient and professional in history, we have inflicted punishing blows against the regime but still haven't been able to impose our will, in part because we are running low on the munitions necessary to prosecute the war. Not only is this embarrassing, it is dangerous.

If Operation Midnight Hammer -- last year's lightning strike against Iranian nuclear facilities -- demonstrated the prowess of the U.S. military and sent a useful deterrent message to our enemies, the Iran War is now doing the opposite. We're running low on missiles and interceptors in a months-long conflict with a beleaguered second-rate power. What would happen in a drawn-out war with a major adversary?

President Trump has posted a thunderous denunciation of leaks to the media about our depleted weapons stocks, and the leaks are indeed irresponsible. But this problem is a matter of public record and has been tracked by outside organizations.

A Foreseeable and Dire Munitions Crisis

At the end of July, the Center for Strategic and International Studies estimated that, out of an arsenal of 2,330 Patriot interceptors before the Iran war, we had roughly 800 remaining. We were down to roughly 250 THAAD interceptors from 450 at the start of the war.

On top of this, news organizations are reporting that we are almost out of ATACMS -- a ground-launched precision-strike missile -- and Precision Strike Missiles, the newer, longer-range successor to ATACMS.

This isn't comforting at a time when a war with China could be in the offing. Even before Operation Epic Fury, a war game involving a conflict in the Taiwan Strait conducted by CSIS had the U.S. running out of key munitions in days or weeks.

What happened? This is a crisis a long time in the making. As defense analyst Mackenzie Eaglen of the American Enterprise Institute has warned for years, skimping on the acquisition of munitions was an easy way to meet constrained Pentagon budgets, and we relied on optimistic scenarios about potential wars to justify chronically insufficient production.

For some understandable reasons, we also emphasized sophisticated missiles and interceptors over “good enough” systems. This led to Iran, for instance, forcing us to use highly expensive, difficult-to-replace interceptors against cheap, bulk threats from drones. All this means that we've expended ordnance that it will take us years to build

again. According to media reports, we've used about half our supply of Tomahawk cruise missiles, when we've been manufacturing fewer than 100 a year.

We need to put missile production on a wartime footing, and leverage hungry new defense firms to produce cheaper precision missiles and interceptors at scale. In World War II terms, it's the difference between the easy-to-maintain and mass-produced Sherman tank and the exquisite and powerful, but ultimately impractical Tiger. Whatever advantages the Tiger had in armor and punch, you'd still rather be the U.S. with 50,000 Shermans than the Germans with 1,500 Tigers.

The Trump administration has been talking the right game, and there have been encouraging moves. It has signed agreements to acquire 10,000 cruise missiles over three years at a cost of a few hundred thousand dollars each, far less than a Tomahawk at more than \$2 million.

Wars always bring surprises. It should have been a shock to no one, though, that contemporary military conflict is largely missile warfare, or that we'd have trouble sustaining prolonged hostilities given that we started out with inadequate stocks. The American way of warfare is often to mess it up before adjusting and getting it right. The course correction here should be considered the most urgent priority of U.S. national security.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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ABOUT TOWN

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

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

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

California Automobile Museum
– Route 66: California Dreamin’: a colorful collection of rare and gorgeous vehicles celebrating the Mother Road

through the lens of 100 years of history.

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

California State Railroad Museum – Experience travel as it was over 100 years ago on a 45-minute, 6-mile trip in our fleet of historic railroad cars. Learn about the history of railroading in California. Fridays through Sept. 4; weekends through Oct. 11.

Polar Express, Nov. 13-Dec. 21: The evening begins in our passenger station where you will be entertained by THE POLAR EXPRESS™ characters, and then board your train to the North Pole where you will enjoy hot chocolate and a sweet treat. Once you reach the North Pole, Santa will come on board to give each passenger the first gift of Christmas, a silver sleigh bell.

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

Details at californiarailroad.museum.

Crocker Art Museum – Suzanne Adan, “I’m No Spring Chicken,” through Oct. 11. Adan (born 1946) creates personal universes that combine fantasy, popular culture and autobiography. Approximately 100 of these compelling works, in a variety of media, are included in Suzanne Adan: I’m No Spring Chicken, a retrospective assembled in her 80th year.

A native Californian, Adan was born in Woodland and raised in nearby Yolo. She earned her BA and MA from Sacramento State College in 1969 and 1971, respectively. It was there that she met her husband, sculptor Michael Stevens, and became influenced by instructor Jim Nutt, a member of Chicago’s Hairy Who.

Details at crockerart.org.

SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity Laser Concert Series – Grateful Dead, Sept. 18-19. Hallowscream: A Heavy-Metal Laser Show, Oct. 23-24. This immersive music experience, paired with spectacular full-dome lasers, is the best way to listen to your favorite artists outside of a live performance. Details at visitmosac.org.

Elks Lodge 6 Events
Greenhaven-Pocket Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays through November: ghpfarmersmarket.com.
Sunday Morning Breakfast, 8:30-11 a.m.; \$15.
Martial Arts, 5 to 6 p.m. Mondays.
Sactown Swings: lessons, 7:15 p.m. Wednesdays, social dance, 8-10 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 p.m. See elks6.com for weekly menu.
Yoga, noon Mondays and 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays.
Karaoke, 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays.
Soulful Fridays, 6 to 10 p.m. ★

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CARE Program Teacher Lisa Saenz Named SCOE Teacher of the Year

**Sacramento County
Office of Education
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Teachers play a vital role in helping students learn, grow and thrive. Through expertise, creativity, resilience and compassion, they create safe and inclusive learning environments where students feel connected, valued and empowered to succeed.

Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) teachers often serve students with diverse and specialized needs, including students who have experienced challenges in traditional educational settings. The annual SCOE Teacher of the Year Program recognizes educators whose skill, dedication and professionalism make a meaningful and lasting difference in students’ lives.

Celebrating SCOE’s 2027 Teacher of the Year

As SCOE begins a new school year, it is fitting to recognize an educator who represents the dedication, compassion and commitment SCOE teachers bring to students each day.

Following a competitive application and interview process, a selection panel chose Lisa Saenz in late May as the SCOE 2027 Teacher of the Year. Saenz is an alternative education teacher for SCOE’s CARE Intervention Program at W. E. Mitchell Middle School.

Saenz is a dedicated, compassionate and accomplished



Lisa Saenz has been named the Sacramento County Office of Education 2027 Teacher of the Year. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Office of Education

educator whose work exemplifies SCOE’s commitment to supporting students with diverse needs. Her previous work in the juvenile justice system shaped her belief in education’s power to change lives. Seeing daily opportunities to reach incarcerated youth inspired her to become a teacher and help students beyond the walls of the juvenile justice system.

“My motivation is to challenge my students to do their best, to see the good, and to never give up,” Saenz said. “My desire to help teach future citizens of the

community is my passion.”

Saenz creates a safe, structured and relationship-centered classroom grounded in clear routines, consistent expectations and positive reinforcement. She builds a sense of family in her classroom, so students feel respected, valued and motivated to learn.

Drawing on her special education background, Saenz uses individualized support, collaboration and project-based learning to engage students with different strengths and needs. She helps students recognize their abilities,

build confidence and experience academic and personal success.

The selection panel also recognized Saenz’s professionalism, composure and leadership. During the 2025–26 school year, she served as an administration designee, expanding her ability to support students throughout the school community. In that role, she consistently demonstrated positive energy, sound judgment and a deep commitment to student success.

Education and Experience

Saenz began her education career in 2012 as a

special education teacher at Capital Academy. She joined SCOE’s CARE Intervention Program in 2017.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology and an Education Specialist Credential from Sacramento State and a master’s degree in educational leadership from Concordia University. She also completed the SCOE Leadership Institute and earned a Preliminary Administrative Services Credential in 2018.

Her previous honors include SCOE Employee of the Month recognition and the Above and Beyond Principal’s Award in May 2026.

Saenz credits her young daughter with inspiring her each day. Outside the classroom, she enjoys traveling, attending live sporting events, trying new restaurants, and dancing and singing with her daughter.

Saenz will represent SCOE in the Sacramento County Teacher of the Year competition.

Celebrating Sacramento County’s 2027 District Teachers of the Year

Congratulations to Lisa Saenz and all sixteen 2027 District Teachers of the Year from across Sacramento County who represent charter schools and the 13 local school districts. The teachers will be recognized at an annual ceremony being held later this month, where the two Sacramento County Teachers of the Year 2027 will be announced. ★

Shaping the Future of Commercial Corridors



“Our commercial corridors are where people shop, eat, work and do business every day,” said Crystal Bethke, director of Sacramento County’s Office of Economic Development. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Investment and Revitalization Strategy that will deliver an actionable plan to guide future investment in commercial corridors throughout the unincorporated County.

Interested applicants should review the RFP and submission requirements at: procurement.opengov.com/portal/saccounty/projects/283816

“Our commercial corridors are where people shop, eat, work and do business

every day,” said Crystal Bethke, director of Sacramento County’s Office of Economic Development. “We want to understand what each area needs to attract more investment and create places that better serve the people and businesses who rely on them.”

The effort is led by county’s Office of Economic Development in partnership with the Department of Community Development. It will create a practical roadmap to identify redevelopment opportunities, prioritize public and private investment, and recommend specific actions that support stronger neighborhood business districts, housing

opportunities where appropriate and long-term economic growth.

“Revitalizing our commercial corridors is about creating communities that are resilient, connected and built for the future,” said Troy Givans, Sacramento County’s community development director. “This effort will help us shape places that support housing, local businesses and public investment while ensuring redevelopment reflects the unique needs and identity of each corridor.”

The selected consultant will evaluate 15 commercial corridors, assess market conditions and redevelopment potential,

identify priority opportunity sites and their highest and best uses, recommend policy and infrastructure improvements and develop implementation plans for pilot corridors. The strategy will build on previous county planning efforts and focus on market-driven actions that are realistic and reflect the opportunities and needs of each corridor.

Consultant proposals are due by Sept. 4. The county anticipates beginning the project later this year, following evaluation and approval by the Board of Supervisors. ★

Sacramento Superior Court Expands eCourt with Launch of Criminal Case Access

**Superior Court of California
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Superior Court announced Aug. 3 the launch of criminal case information on its eCourt platform, marking another milestone in the court’s efforts to improve access to court information.

As of Aug. 10, criminal case information will be available through eCourt, the court’s electronic case management system developed by Journal Technologies. The implementation replaces the court’s Public Case Access System, which has supported case management for many years.

“The launch of criminal case information on eCourt is the result of years of planning, collaboration, and dedication by court staff and our justice partners,” said Court Executive Officer Kelly Sullivan. “This milestone represents an effort that will streamline court operations and management of criminal case information.”

The court first implemented eCourt in May 2023 with the launch of civil and probate case information. Small claims and unlawful detainer case information were added in June 2024, and Juvenile case information followed in July 2024. The addition of criminal case information represents the latest phase

of the court’s transition to a newer, unified electronic case management system.

Users will be able to search for criminal case information in eCourt using several search options, including a party’s first and last name, last name and first initial, or case number. Available case information includes case numbers, hearing dates and calendar information, such as upcoming court appearances. The portal will also enable the electronic submission of some documents in criminal cases.

Individuals seeking to view publicly available criminal case information may use public kiosks on the second floor of the Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye Courthouse. Legacy paper case files that have not yet been digitized will remain available for in-person review upon request, subject to record availability.

“The court is continually looking for ways to improve the experience of those who interact with our justice system while preserving the protections required for confidential and sensitive information,” said Sullivan. “The addition of criminal case information to eCourt provides the public, attorneys and justice partners with a more efficient way to access important case information and reflects our commitment to a modern and accessible court system.” ★

No Kid Hungry Urges Families to Apply for SUN Bucks

No Kid Hungry News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Don’t miss out! California’s Summer EBT program, known as SUN Bucks, is back. This summer food program provides families \$120 per eligible child in grocery benefits when school is out for summer and children do not have access to school meals.

While most children who qualify are automatically enrolled to receive SUN Bucks grocery benefits, some children will need to apply by the Aug. 31 deadline.

Parents and guardians whose children did not yet receive a 2026 SUN Bucks card in the mail can check their child’s eligibility by visiting www.summerebt.org/states/california.

To apply, parents and guardians can simply ask their child’s school for a Universal Benefits Application (UBA). Complete and return the form to their child’s school by the Aug. 31 deadline. The form will be evaluated to determine if their child is

eligible for SUN Bucks.

“SUN Bucks helps connect kids with important nutrition, so they can return to school happy, healthy and ready to learn,” said Kathy Saile, director of No Kid Hungry California. “We’re thankful for the many state and community partners who have worked hard to sustain and promote SUN Bucks this summer. It is important that families know about this opportunity and apply by August 31st.”

It’s also important for families to use SUN Bucks benefits before they expire. Benefits expire 122 days after they are issued. Any unspent benefits will expire after this time and cannot be reloaded.

Additional information about the SUN Bucks program, including eligibility criteria and frequently asked questions, can be found at cdss.ca.gov/sun-bucks. Families can also call the SUN Bucks helpline at 877-328-9677. Live agents are available Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Sacramento County Water Agency Wraps Up 10-Year Water Meter and Pipe Improvement Project

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) has completed its biggest construction project ever. In August, SCWA wrapped up a \$160 million project to upgrade the water system in the Arden area. The Arden Service Area Pipe and Meter Installation Project spanned 10 years, and SCWA installed approximately 38 miles of new water distribution pipelines and more than 3,000 new water meters.

Project Manager Helen Rocha guided the project since its inception, holding community meetings and speaking with residents individually to educate homeowners and businesses about the project. This section of the Arden area was the



The Arden Service Area Pipe and Meter Installation Project spanned 10 years, and SCWA installed approximately 38 miles of new water distribution pipelines and more than 3,000 new water meters. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

last section in California to not have water meters. The switch to a metered system began after the state passed Assembly Bill 2572, requiring the installation of

water meters in 2004. The Water Agency started installing the meters in 2016.

The project also replaced waterlines that have been in service for

decades. Some of the oldest pipes were nearly 85 years old, installed during World War II. Due to the aging system, the infrastructure around the Arden Service

Area was in danger of pipe material failure and leaks. The new pipes provide better water flow to homes and businesses while reducing maintenance costs for SCWA. The upgraded system also improves fire flow standards to meet state guidelines offering firefighters better water pressure from hydrants in case they're needed.

Over the years, this project, conducted in six separate phases, won various construction awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers, including the Outstanding Community Improvement Project Award in the state of California in 2022.

Beyond the improvements to the water infrastructure, the project also included partnering with the Department of Transportation to provide street repaving in each phase once the pipes were installed. ★

Will Pope Named SCOE Chief Administrator, Human Resources

Experienced Human Resources and School-Site Administrator Joins SCOE

Sacramento County Office of Education News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) has named Willard (Will) Pope, M.Ed., as its new Chief Administrator, Human Resources, effective Aug. 4.

Pope succeeds Darrien Slider-Johnson, M.Ed., who is retiring from her position as Chief Administrator, Human Resources. In his new role, Pope will lead SCOE's human resources functions and support the systems, relationships and practices needed to recruit, develop and retain a highly qualified workforce.

"Will brings a valuable combination of human resources expertise, labor-relations

experience, and school-site leadership," said Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools, David W. Gordon. "He understands that strong systems and trusted relationships are both essential to supporting employees and improving outcomes for students. We are pleased to welcome him to SCOE, and we are deeply grateful to Darrien for her leadership and service."

Pope joins SCOE from Twin Rivers Unified School District, where he most recently served as Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations. In that position, he helped direct districtwide labor and employee relations, collective bargaining, certificated and classified recruitment and retention, administrator training, workplace investigations and compliance



The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) has named Willard (Will) Pope, M.Ed., as its new Chief Administrator, Human Resources, effective Aug. 4. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Office of Education

with employment law, Education Code, Board policy and negotiated agreements.

He previously served as the Twin Rivers Director of Title IX and Compliance,

coordinating investigations, supportive measures, staff training, and the district's response to complaints involving students and employees.

Before entering district-level human resources administration, Pope spent 12 years as a school-site administrator, having served as principal of Ridgepoint K-8 School from 2019 to 2022 and principal of Kohler PK-8 School from 2012 to 2019. He began his administrative career as vice principal of Foothill Farms Junior High School and Foothill Ranch Middle School, where he helped lead the transition from one school program to another and supported the development of a new faculty and school culture.

"My vision is to create the conditions where people,

partnerships and systems work together to expand opportunity and improve outcomes for every learner," Pope said. "I look forward to listening, building relationships and working alongside SCOE employees to strengthen the organization's support for students, schools and communities."

Pope earned a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in organizational studies from the University of California, Davis, and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from California State University, Sacramento. He holds an Administrative Services Credential from National University and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Sacramento State. ★

New School Year Sees SCOE Focused on Literacy, Student Success

Training Focuses Staff on Culture and Collective Responsibility

Sacramento County Office of Education News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - To begin the new school year this August, the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) ushered in "Mission Possible 2"—building on the professional learning program introduced last year. More than 250 school site employees from SCOE's Student Programs division gathered for two days of professional learning to prepare for teaching and learning in 2026-27.

The training featured Dr. Anthony Muhammad, educator and author of "Transforming School Culture and The Will to Lead, the Skill to Teach." His work emphasizes the relationship between school culture and student achievement—and the responsibility educators share to confront barriers, maintain high expectations and ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.

The workshop reinforced that improving literacy and advancing student success are not the responsibility of one classroom, program or division. They require educators and leaders to work collectively, examine their practices, and create environments where students feel connected, valued, challenged and supported.

That shared commitment was visible



The training featured Dr. Anthony Muhammad, educator and author of "Transforming School Culture and The Will to Lead, the Skill to Teach." Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Office of Education

throughout the event.

Staff wore shirts created by Milton 510 featuring "LI" in the fashion of the alphabet letter cards to represent Literacy. The front included the literacy-focused message, "Kinfolk, once you learn to read, you will be forever free." On the back, the words "Literacy Level Up" appeared above the names of numerous celebrated Black authors and

thinkers spanning generations.

Educators and administrators united around a simple but consequential message: literacy opens doors to learning, independence, opportunity and freedom. The shirts helped build team spirit, but their message went much deeper. They connected literacy to history, identity, representation and possibility. The shirts were sponsored by SCOE and its partners:

MENTOR California, Improve Your Tomorrow, Inc. and the Roberts Family Development Center.

Mission Possible 2 brings to life SCOE's countywide back-to-school message:

"Success starts with being present, connecting, and creating conditions where every student is ready to learn."

For 2026-27, literacy will remain central to creating those conditions. Students must be present and engaged. They must experience meaningful connections with educators, peers, families, cultures and ideas. They must also have access to strong instruction, relevant texts, individualized support and adults who believe deeply in their capacity to learn.

The work will continue well beyond the two-day training. Throughout the year, SCOE will strengthen literacy practices, examine outcomes, elevate student voice and work with families and community partners to, among several student programs and services, turn the findings of its Landscape Analysis: Understanding the School Experiences of Black Students in Sacramento County into sustained action through its Freedom to Flourish initiative.

The message for the new school year is clear: It is time to level up literacy and make success possible for every learner. ★

Sacramento Superior Court Judges Accept Challenge to Connect with Students

Sacramento Superior Court News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County teachers who are interested in bringing civics to their K-12 classrooms this school year are invited to connect with the Sacramento Superior Court.

As California marks the nation's 250th anniversary, judges from the Sacramento Superior Court are readying for an outreach challenge

sponsored by Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero's Power of Democracy Civic Learning Initiative.

Beginning in August, the court pledges to connect with at least 250 K-12 public school students by the end of 2026.

"Participating in this statewide challenge is a wonderful opportunity for the court to connect with schools and students who may not yet be familiar with our educational outreach efforts, while also

celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence," said Court Executive Officer Kelly Sullivan. "It's a meaningful way to engage young people in learning about the important role the courts play in our democracy."

To help judges meet the challenge, the court is placing emphasis on September, when the judicial branch celebrates "Constitution Month." Judges are available for classroom visits, and the court is open to

hosting students for courthouse field trips. Teachers are encouraged to submit their requests early.

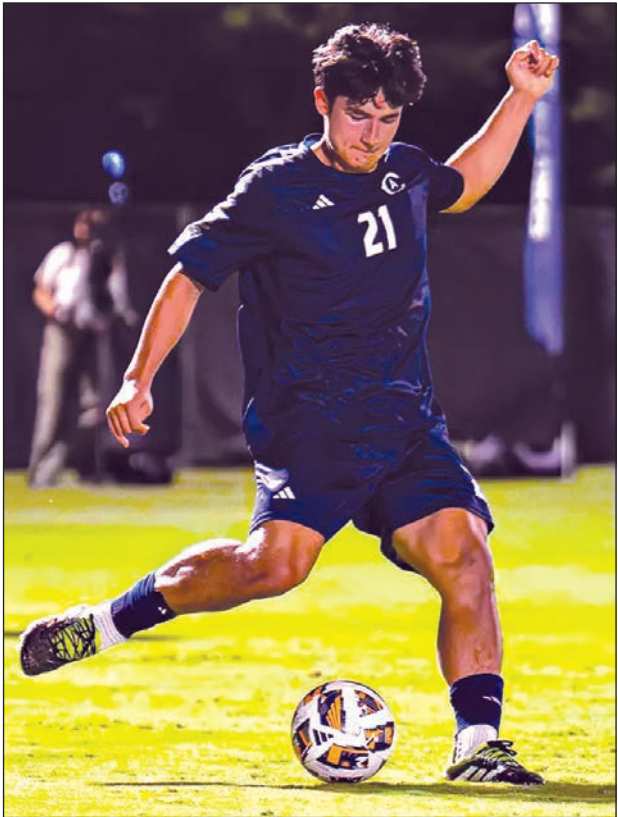
The challenge is supported by the Power of Democracy's "Judges in the Classroom" program. This program offers year-round interactive lessons, including mock trials, age-appropriate discussions of constitutional rights and Q&A sessions where students can learn firsthand about a judge's role.

"By bringing judges into

classrooms and inviting students into the courthouse, we show them that the law and Constitution are not just ideas they learn about—they are at work in their community every day," Sullivan said.

Teachers can sign up to support the challenge by choosing from the activities listed at <https://www.powerofdemocracy.org/pod250> or contact the court directly at CourtVisits@saccourt.ca.gov. ★

Three Aggies Named to Inaugural Mountain West Men’s Soccer Watch List



UC Davis placed sophomore defenders Nami Banks and Josh Gault and junior midfielder Rafael Matiello on the inaugural Mountain West Men’s Soccer Watch List on Wednesday, Aug. 12 selected by the league’s head coaches. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - UC Davis placed three players on the inaugural Mountain West Men's Soccer Watch List on Wednesday, Aug. 12 with sophomore defenders Nami Banks and Josh Gault and junior midfielder Rafael Matiello selected by the league's head coaches.

UC Davis was also picked third in the Mountain West's first pre-season coaches’ poll with 15 points. Grand Canyon and San José State each totaled 22 points, with the Lopes receiving four first-place votes and the Spartans

receiving two.

The announcement came one day before the Aggies took the field for the first time in 2026. UC Davis hosted Cal in an exhibition at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, at Aggie Soccer Field, the opening step toward its first season of Mountain West competition.

Banks made an immediate impact in his first college season, appearing in all 19 matches, starting 18 and ranking third on the team with 1,571 minutes. The Watsonville, Calif., native earned Big West All-Freshman Team honors after scoring twice on 20 shots. Both goals came in the opening 23 minutes of a 3-2 Senior Night win

over UC Riverside, a performance that also earned him Big West Freshman of the Week honors.

Gault also took on a full-season role in the back line. The Clovis, Calif., native appeared in all 19 matches, made 13 starts and logged 1,449 minutes as a freshman. He played the full 90 minutes nine times and stayed on for all 110 minutes of UC Davis’ Big West Tournament quarterfinal match at Cal State Fullerton, which the Aggies won 5-4 on penalty kicks.

Matiello enters his junior season after not appearing in a match in 2025. His freshman campaign in 2024 showed the attacking

threat he can provide: three goals in 16 appearances, including a two-goal performance in a 2-1 win over Cal State Fullerton that ended the Titans’ 10-match unbeaten streak. The showing earned Matiello both Big West Offensive Player of the Week and Freshman of the Week honors. He was also part of the UC Davis team that won the 2024 Big West Tournament and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

The three watch-list selections return to a program that averaged 15.3 shots per match last season, ranking 21st nationally and second in the Big West. UC Davis went 4-3-2 in its final Big West

campaign, finished 3-0-1 at home in conference play and reached the tournament semifinals.

Head coach Dwayne Shaffer enters his 30th season at UC Davis with 269 victories as an NCAA head coach, the 17th-highest total among active Division I men's soccer coaches.

Following the Cal exhibition, the Aggies hosted Chico State at 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16. UC Davis opened the regular season Aug. 20 at Sacramento State and begins Mountain West play Sept. 26 at San José State. The complete 2026 schedule is available online at ucdavisaggies.com/sports/mens-soccer/schedule/2026 ★

Sacramento Kings to Open New Official Team Store in Downtown Commons

New Retail Destination Expands Access to Exclusive Kings Apparel and Elevated Fashion Collections

Sacramento Kings News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Kings announced the opening of a new official Kings Team Store at Downtown Commons presented by Sutter Health (DOCO), creating a year-round destination for fans to shop the latest team apparel, exclusive collections and premium merchandise.

Located across from Golden 1

Center, the official Kings Team Store will deliver an expanded retail experience featuring elevated apparel collections, fashion-forward accessories and exclusive merchandise designed to showcase the Kings brand in new and distinctive ways. Open daily, the official Kings Team Store will make Kings merchandise more accessible than ever for fans and visitors throughout the year. On Sacramento Kings home game days and select arena

events, the Label K Store inside Golden 1 Center will continue to operate, providing guests with convenient access to merchandise within the arena.

“Our fans continue to embrace the Kings as both a team and a lifestyle brand, and this new official Team Store gives them a retail experience that reflects who we are today,” said Sacramento Kings President of Business Operations John Rinehart. “Located in the heart of DOCO,

just steps from Golden 1 Center, it extends the Kings experience with exclusive merchandise and apparel that celebrates our team, our city and the pride of being part of Kings basketball.”

The more than 4,000-square-foot store will feature a wide assortment of merchandise for fans of all ages and styles, including exclusive apparel, everyday fan gear, fashion-forward collections, accessories, headwear, collectibles and gifts. Designed

to make Kings merchandise more accessible than ever, the store will offer everything from classic team essentials to elevated lifestyle pieces that celebrate team pride.

The opening of the new Kings Team Store will coincide with the start of the 2026-27 NBA season. Additional details regarding the store's grand opening celebration, special promotions and exclusive merchandise will be announced in the coming weeks. ★

The Sacramento River Cats Announce Their Schedule for the 2027 Season

Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento River Cats, proud affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, have announced their 150-game schedule for the upcoming 2027 season and are offering a limited time opportunity to be the first to secure tickets for next season. Fans who purchase tickets to remaining contests in 2026 will receive an equal number of tickets for the 2027 season. Fans can visit rivercatspromos.com/schedulelaunch27 to be eligible for this ticket promotion.

Before the 2027 regular season gets underway, the River Cats will welcome the San Francisco Giants back to West Sacramento for a preseason exhibition game on Sunday, March 21. This will be the fourth straight and sixth overall exhibition matchup between the two sides in their shared history.

The River Cats will begin the regular season on the road for the

first time since 2024 with a three-game series at Albuquerque. They will then return home for the first of 13 series hosted by the River Cats at Sutter Health Park, opening with a six-game set against the Salt Lake Bees (Los Angeles Angels) from March 30 to April 4.

Four of Sacramento’s first five series at home will see teams from the Pacific Coast League West Division, as they host Salt Lake twice from March 30 to April 4 and April 27 to May 2, Tacoma (Seattle Mariners) from May 11 to 16, and Reno (Arizona Diamondbacks) from May 25-30. They will also see Round

Rock (Texas Rangers) from April 13 to 18, which will be the Express’ only visit to Sutter Health Park.

The River Cats will take a two-week road trip at the beginning of June, facing Sugar Land (Houston Astros) from June 1 to 6, then traveling to face Oklahoma City (Los Angeles Dodgers) from June 8 to 13. They will then return home for

the final series of the second half against Las Vegas (Athletics).

They will kick off the second half on the road at Salt Lake from June 22 to 27.

Following the All-Star Break, the Cats will host two consecutive series at home, beginning with a three-game set vs. Oklahoma City from July 16-18, then a six-game set vs. Reno from July 20 to 25. The Comets’ visit in July will be the Dodger affiliate’s only trip to Sutter Health Park in 2027.

Sacramento will finish out the season at home for the fourth-straight year, facing Las Vegas from Sept. 14 to 19.

Each Pacific Coast League team will visit Sutter Health Park at least once, with Salt Lake, Tacoma, Reno and Las Vegas

each making two trips.

The River Cats will play at home on the Fourth of July for the first time in recorded franchise history. It will mark the series finale vs. El Paso, taking place from June 29 to July 4.

The only other holiday Sacramento will host is Father’s Day on June 20, also marking a series finale vs. Las Vegas, occurring June 15 to 20.

The River Cats will play a total of 39 weekend home games, with 13 each on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Meanwhile, Sacramento will play 36 weekday home games with 12 games each on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Due to the six-game series format, the River Cats will not play on Mondays.

The full 150-game schedule can be viewed online. Game times for all 150 contests, 2027 membership information and a full 2027 promotions schedule are to be announced. First access to single game tickets for the 2027 season are available for a limited time. ★

