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THE NEWS

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VOLUME 45 • ISSUE 38

Serving Rio Linda, Elverta and Sacramento County

SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

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ARE A MAJOR
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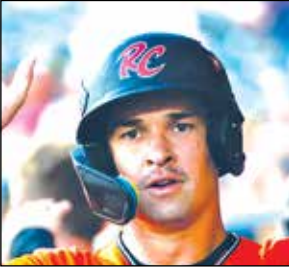
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Supervisor Rich Desmond Addresses Community Concerns at Lunch Bunch Meeting



The lunch bunch is the ultimate networking group where community members informally drop in and out and may pass out fliers, business cards and more information to the community.

Story and photos
by Ryley Metten

NORTH HIGHLANDS, CA (MPG) - The monthly Tri-Communities Lunch Bunch was recently held at Pancake Palace off Watt Avenue in North Highlands on Sept. 3. Sacramento County District 3 Supervisor Rich Desmond was the main speaker at the meeting, where he addressed concerns in the communities of North Highlands, Rio Linda and Elverta.

Before Rich Desmond took the Pancake Palace stage, Board Director Charlea R. Moore announced

upcoming events including the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the local nonprofit group, B.U.D. (Better Understanding Drugs) to raise awareness for drug education on Sept. 5.

It was announced that the Rio Linda Country Faire is also still looking for sponsors. The Faire will take place on Sept. 19 and Sept. 20 at the Dry Creek Ranch House. The faire will offer a chance for the community to connect with local vendors, go on a tour of the ranch, listen to live music and more.

Fliers were also handed out for the Celebrate North Highlands event on

Sept. 26 and the North Watt Business Watch meetings held on the second Monday of every month at the Family Community Church from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Desmond then took the floor, opening his speech with gratitude to see familiar faces and his compassion for the unincorporated Sacramento community.

"I'm a lifer in unincorporated Sacramento County. My father was an attorney here for 60 years representing a lot of property owners in the northern part of the county. I spent a

Continued on page 3

SBSK Readies for Holiday Giveaway



Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids gives these to the children right before Christmas break. Courtesy photo

By Claire Gliddon,
SBSK Chief Blanket
Gatherer

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Got beanie babies? Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids (SBSK) is asking for donations of new or "almost new" Beanie Babies all year long.

Every September, Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids picks as many of the lowest-income elementary schools they can and finds out how many kindergartners they have. Volunteers make double-fleece blankets (about 50 inches by 60 inches) for all of them, and a little fleece pouch with a Beanie Baby in it to go with each blanket.

Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids gives these to the children right before Christmas break. Some of these kids live in their cars or in places without heat and this is all they get for Christmas. It is wildly popular with the teachers and the kids! Spread the word, too! This is their 13th year for this project, and they hope to continue doing it, as long as they can get Beanie Babies.

In 2025, Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids gave out over 3,300 blankets and Beanie Babies in their Kindergarten Project, reaching 58 schools! SBSK is always looking for new volunteers to make blankets all year round for children in need. Like to knit, crochet, sew, quilt, make no-sew blankets and have run out of people to make things for? We're looking for you!

To learn more about Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids, visit www.sacblankets4kids.com and sign up! No pressure, no timelines, no meetings...just people who enjoy crocheting, knitting, quilting, sewing, making no-sew blankets and helping a whole lot of children at the same time.

SBSK is a nonprofit organization that serves children in need from infants to 18-year-olds. They do this all year long! But the Kindergarten Project is their "special" project of the year.

Email claire@sacblankets4kids.com for a list of drop-off places for your Beanie Babies.

Art, Art and Away!

Registration open for 2D art class at Rio Linda Elverta Recreation and Park District



The program will explore drawing, painting, color theory, composition and a variety of artistic mediums while building confidence and creating unique projects. Photo designed by Magnific

By MPG Staff

RIO LINDA/ELVERTA, CA (MPG) - The Rio Linda Elverta Recreation and Park District is inviting young artists to let their creativity take flight. Starting Sept.

29 and running through Nov. 24, the program will explore drawing, painting, color theory, composition and a variety of artistic mediums while building confidence and creating unique projects.

Each participant will complete and take home their own canvas masterpiece.

The class is open to artists ages 8-14. Cost is \$165 per participant with all supplies included. The

nine-week program will take place from 5 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays at the RLE Community Center, 810 Oak Lake, Rio Linda.

For more information or to register, visit rleparks.com.

★

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TheRioLindaNews.com

Lee Wins 102nd State Fair Men’s Golf Tournament

Sacramento Golf Council News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A three-way tie on the 18th hole set up a dramatic four-hole playoff Sept. 7 as Aidan Lee, Kavi Marez and Keita Yobiko battled for the championship of the 102nd State Fair Men’s Golf Tournament, held Sept. 5 to 7 at Haggin Oaks Golf Complex.

All three players finished the regulation 54 holes with scores of 199.

Birdies by Lee and Marez on the first playoff hole eliminated Yobiko from contention. Lee and Marez then continued their battle for the title through the remaining playoff holes, with Lee sinking four birdies during the playoff. Marez ultimately secured a par on the fourth playoff hole at No. 18, giving Lee the victory.

Lee finished regulation play with rounds of 65-68-66 for 199. Marez posted 67-67-65 for 199, while Yobiko finished with 70-65-64 for 199.

Now in its 102nd year,



Alden Lee wins the 102nd State Fair Men’s Golf Tournament.
Photo courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council

the State Fair Men’s Golf Amateur Tournament has a long tradition of showcasing and developing talented golfers who have gone on to successful professional careers. Past champions include several notable PGA professionals, including Ken Venturi

(1950), Allen Geiberger (1955), Dick Lotz (1961 and 1962), George Archer (1963) and Kevin Sutherland (1984).

The tournament is sponsored by the Sacramento Golf Council, with Larry Glasmire serving as tournament director. ★



New ‘Smart’ Farm Tech Targets Vegetable Production

Agricultural technology took center stage during a field day last month as a dozen developers showed off “smart” weeders and thinners that differentiate weeds from crops, autonomous bird hazers and an autonomous lettuce harvester. The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Connect event was designed to bring together stakeholders to discuss growers’ pain points and how they could work together to address them. Nearly 300 growers, pest control advisers, equipment manufacturers, educators and others took in the agricultural tech demonstrations hosted at Sabór Farms’ lettuce fields near San Juan Bautista. “We all have these different perspectives, different educational levels, different life experiences, and all of that input is what makes something work,” said Jennifer Clarke, California Specialty Crops Council chairperson. “Otherwise, these guys spin their wheels creating technology we can’t use.”

Sonoma County Grower Says Winegrape Sales Remain Sluggish

With harvest underway, California farmers are again struggling to find buyers for their winegrapes, according to Sonoma County grower Domenic Carinalli. “I’ve got a lot of it for sale. It’s a pretty sad story right now. We have a nice crop, but there’s just no buyers,” Carinalli told Ag Alert® in a field report. During the past three years, a global downturn in wine sales

has left wineries with surplus inventory, and many have pulled back from purchasing grapes. “It’s close to harvesting time,” Carinalli said last month. “Some (vineyards) are being harvested already. We haven’t harvested. Hopefully, we’ll start in a week or two. But you’ve got to sell it first. We had just one small lot sold. If we don’t get it sold, we’ll probably just let it go, leave it on the vines and let the birds have it. Normally, we have it all netted. This year we haven’t netted anything. It’s a tough year.”

Paintballs Among New Tools Allowed for Hazing Wolves

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has approved new hazing options for ranchers living in counties with gray wolves present. State officials have scheduled training sessions throughout impacted areas that, once completed, will qualify ranchers to receive permits to use paint and inert powder projectiles along with sustained pursuit to prevent wolves from attacking livestock. Last year, California confirmed 196 livestock killed by the predator. Many impacted livestock producers have long held that the noninjurious hazing options given to them to scare off wolves, including shining bright lights and making loud noises, are not effective. Sierra County Sheriff Mike Fisher described the new hazing options as more frustrating than encouraging because the range and impact of paint or powder projectiles make them useful in only very narrow circumstances.★





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‘We Need Roads’

Continued from page 1

lot of my formative years in Rio Linda, Elverta, North Highlands, these really wonderful older unincorporated Sacramento County communities so it is really great to be back,” Desmond said.

Before beginning to address crucial issues among the tri-counties and greater Sacramento region, Desmond explained how he is unfortunately not as closely involved with the northern part of Roseville Road in North Highlands due to district boundary changes. Desmond is the District 3 Sacramento County Supervisor, while north of Roseville Road is represented by District 4 Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez.

Desmond spoke about Sacramento’s nine-billion-dollar budget and the limited discretion on what some of those dollars are used for. Desmond explained that we have a billion dollars in the general fund but only really have total control over about a third of it and a vast majority of this goes to public safety.

“I did a lot of advocacy in the legislature along with other county supervisors

throughout the state,” Desmond said, “we were able to get the state to kick down a little more money to the county so we won’t have to divert as much general fund so we are going to be able to restore additional public safety resources next week.”

The first thing on Desmond’s mind was the harsh Sacramento roads we are much too familiar with. Desmond explained that due to changes in state level gas taxes we don’t have as much funding for one of the biggest public safety concerns: our roads. This is because there are more electric vehicles equating to less gas tax and gas tax is the primary source of funding for road project repairs.

When questioned by Desmond, District Director for Assemblyman Josh Hoover, Mark Cullum elaborated on the state’s possible solutions to the gas tax and electric vehicle problem.

“At some point there comes the argument of are we going to remove the gas tax or will electric vehicle tax double? Which is a big thing that Assemblymember Hoover is against. We obviously

have to come up with something for these EVs to equate for as we still have our state mandate to do away with commercial gas vehicles.”

One North Highlands resident also raised concerns about not only the state of the roads in the tri-communities, but also the lack of roads when faced with an emergency.

“If we ever had a national disaster, there is nobody getting in and out of the county. For one the road isn’t safe to even drive on and the community cannot exit,” they said.

North Highlands Community Planning Advisory Council District 4 Appointee Kenya Bell also raised concern for electric vehicle fire hazards.

“We are going to have a lot more electric vehicles. Have we put in the infrastructure for the batteries? I know with the fire department and the explosion of batteries there is a lot that needs to be thought about,” Bell said.

After addressing the much-needed roadwork and electric vehicle concern, Desmond began a conversation about homelessness crisis and his approach to address the



Sacramento County District 3 Supervisor Rich Desmond was the main speaker at the meeting, where he addressed concerns in the communities of North Highlands, Rio Linda and Elverta.

issue which he calls “The Four Cs: coordination, capacity, consequence and compassion.”

“We need more capacity because through better coordination when we encounter people out in the streets we need to know that if they are ready, willing and able, we have a place for them to go right now. Whether that’s into an inpatient, behavioral health treatment center, maybe a shelter or maybe we could get them into some kind of affordable housing solution,” Desmond said.

Desmond’s advocacy for the new shelter on Watt Avenue was also addressed.

“I am a firm believer that if we do this right and we work with the business owners and people in the community this will be a net benefit because the first priority is going to be the surrounding community. That is the first place that we are going to be getting people off the streets.”

The opening of the new Watt homeless shelter is currently delayed but it

could be open by the end of the year. The shelter will hold about 350 individuals and will feature tiny homes, locks for the door and a car component.

Desmond’s speech at Pancake Palace wrapped up with telling the tri-county communities at

lunch bunch that their voice matters and urging them to contact their current supervisor, Rosario Rodriguez about any concerns.

The next lunch bunch meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 1 at Pancake Palace. ★

Voters Agree Building Fees Are a Major Problem

Three-quarters say government fees and regulations contribute to affordability challenges; 83% favor reducing fees that average over \$100,000 per new home

North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Sacramento-area residents overwhelmingly agree that housing costs are a major problem and that government fees and regulations contribute to the shortage of housing that is affordable, according to a new regional poll.

The poll of 810 registered voters in Sacramento, Placer, Yolo and El Dorado counties found that 93% consider the cost of housing and rent a very big or somewhat of a problem, including 68% who consider it a very big problem.

Three-quarters of respondents said excessive government regulations and fees have contributed a lot or somewhat to the shortage of housing people can afford. And 83% said local government leaders should work to reduce fees, which average more than \$100,000 for each new home.

The poll was commissioned by the North State Building Industry Association, Sacramento Association of Realtors, the Placer Business Alliance, and the Sacramento Metro, Folsom and Roseville chambers of commerce. The survey was conducted Aug. 4-7 among 810 registered voters and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.44 percentage points.

BIA President & CEO Tim Murphy said the results show that residents are deeply concerned about housing costs and want local government officials to address the fees and regulations that increase the cost of building new homes and apartments.

“Housing affordability is a tremendous challenge in the Sacramento region, and the only way to seriously improve affordability is for local governments to reduce the red tape that makes building such a lengthy and expensive process and to reduce the fees that drive up costs,” Murphy said.

“Nearly three out of four respondents — 72% — don’t believe their children or grandchildren will be able to afford to buy a home in our area. The poll found that should be their top priority, ahead of reducing homelessness, cutting taxes or preventing crime. Isn’t it time for local officials to begin promoting housing affordability instead of making homes more and more expensive to build?”

Poll also finds support for housing choice, stronger business climate

Jessica Coates, CEO of the Sacramento Association of Realtors, said a top priority should be supporting development of all types of housing.

“Homeownership is at the heart of the American Dream, and our agents hear

every day that buyers want options,” Coates said. “Solving California’s housing crisis means building all types of housing. Nearly two-thirds of those surveyed agree, and that desire for choice holds up across the region and across age groups. Single-family homes are a critical piece of the solution, and they need to go hand-in-hand with the full range of housing types, including infill, missing middle and multi-family housing, that reflect what Californians actually want and can afford.”

The poll also found strong support for local businesses.

“California’s high cost of doing business and increasingly complex regulatory environment continue to create real challenges for employers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. The public recognizes that challenge, with 82% in our region agreeing that it should be easier for everyday people to open and run a small business,” said Robert Heidt, President & CEO of the Sacramento Metro Chamber.

“At the Metro Chamber, we believe we should be removing unnecessary barriers to entrepreneurship, investment, and job creation — and we’ll continue advocating for policies that make the Capital Region a place where businesses can start, grow and succeed.”

Joe Gagliardi, CEO of Choose Folsom, said local chambers play a key role in promoting a healthy business climate.

“These results reinforce that people want communities where businesses can start, grow and thrive — and they expect local leaders and business organizations to help create that environment,” Gagliardi said. “They also remind organizations like ours that we have an ongoing responsibility to clearly demonstrate the value of that work. Strong local businesses contribute to strong local economies, quality jobs and vibrant communities, and we need to continue connecting those dots for the people we serve.”

Ananda Rochita, President & CEO of the Roseville Area Chamber, pointed out that poll results found that Placer County residents were more likely to think their area was on the right track than the rest of the region, which she attributed to the longstanding cooperation between business leaders and government to promote a strong economy.

“Thanks to the strong partnership between the business community and local government in Placer County, our area is the only part of the region where more people think the county is going in the right direction,” Rochita said. “The chamber will continue advocating for business-friendly and streamlined policy that cuts through red tape.” ★

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I'm not enough

You are more than enough

I can't keep going

I will carry you

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Subscriptions should be mailed to *The Rio Linda News*, 2508 Garfield Ave., Suite A, Carmichael, CA 95608. Subscription rate is \$42 per year within Rio Linda, Elverta, Sacramento County, \$72 outside Sacramento County.

The *Rio Linda News* is published weekly. Call (916) 773-1111 for more information.

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New Preserves Held by Land Trust Protect Open Space

Sacramento Valley Conservancy News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) added two new open space preserves to the system of protected lands in Sacramento County this summer, one protecting blue oak woodlands and the other open grasslands for Swainson’s Hawk foraging. Hardwood forests and grasslands are among the least-protected landscapes in California, and these new preserves are a small step toward addressing this gap as the state seeks to reach 30X30 biodiversity goals. Westervelt Ecological Services established the preserves as habitat mitigation for a development project in the City of Folsom. The Crevis Creek Oak Woodland Preserve connects to the 4,600-acre Deer Creek Hills Preserve and adds 125 acres of protected oak woodland in Eastern Sacramento County, where SVC has a goal of



The Golden Hills Preserve provides foraging land for Swainson’s Hawk, which is a California threatened species losing habitat to outward urban expansion. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Valley Conservancy

protecting 10,000 acres of blue oak woodlands south of Folsom. Found only in California, blue oak woodlands are iconic landscapes inhabiting the lower foothills of the Sierra Nevada and Coast Ranges. Blue oak woodland habitat supports exceptional biodiversity, providing food, nesting sites, shelter, and movement corridors for more than 300 vertebrate species and thousands of invertebrates, including

birds, mammals, reptiles, pollinators, and amphibians. The preserve remains privately owned and will be grazed for vegetation management and agricultural values. The Golden Hills Preserve provides foraging land for Swainson’s Hawk, which is a California threatened species losing habitat to outward urban expansion. The 118 acres of open grasslands will help connect other large



The Crevis Creek Oak Woodland Preserve connects to the 4,600-acre Deer Creek Hills Preserve and adds 125 acres of protected oak woodland in Eastern Sacramento County, where SVC has a goal of protecting 10,000 acres of blue oak woodlands south of Folsom. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Valley Conservancy

preserves with Van Vleck Ranch to the northeast and the CDFW Cosumnes and Gill Ranch preserves to the southwest. Connected protected areas are critical for wildlife corridors to function and wildlife to successfully migrate between different habitat zones. Westervelt will own and manage the property, continuing to manage the grasslands with grazing to manage fire risk and vegetation growth.

Sacramento Valley Conservancy holds permanent conservation easements on the properties, ensuring they remain protected for habitat conservation. Together, Sacramento Valley Conservancy and Westervelt have permanently protected more than 1,500 acres within Sacramento County. The partners remain committed to acquiring additional priority properties to

expand protected lands and strengthen the ecological integrity and connectivity of the preserves. Executive Director of the Sacramento Valley Conservancy Kelly Hopkins said, “These two preserves help expand open space and protect important oak woodland in the Cosumnes River Watershed, and near Deer Creek Hills Preserve. These acquisitions represent another important step in our effort to connect and protect contiguous preserves in Sacramento County, and we’re excited to continue working with Westervelt.” President of Westervelt Ecological Services Travis Hemmen said, “We value our partnership with the Sacramento Valley Conservancy and share their commitment to connecting important natural landscapes throughout Sacramento County. These preserves help preserve some of the character and natural habitat of the region for future generations to enjoy.” ★

Sacramento’s Biggest Outdoor Oktoberfest is Coming!

Cal Expo News Release



Enjoy traditional German beers alongside regional beers, ciders, and wine, paired with Oktoberfest favorites like pretzels, sausages, and schnitzel. Photo courtesy of Cal Expo

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Get ready for a brand-new fall tradition coming to Cal Expo! On Oct. 9–10, Saktoberfest is

coming for two days of live music, traditional food, games, family-friendly fun and Oktoberfest celebrations. Get ready to dance, sing along and celebrate! From the lively sounds of a traditional Oompa band to high-energy DJs, enjoy a mix of music and entertainment throughout the Saktoberfest celebration. Come hungry and ready to raise a stein! Enjoy traditional German beers alongside regional beers, ciders and wine, paired with Oktoberfest favorites like pretzels, sausages and schnitzel. Plus, discover



even more delicious options from a variety of food trucks. Bring your family and friends together for games, activities and friendly competition. Play cornhole, explore the pumpkin patch, cheer on contestants during on-stage competitions like yodeling and enjoy activities for all ages. Get ready to prost! Buy now and save! Early bird admissions from Sept. 1-3 are \$5 plus fees, regular admission from Sept. 4 to Oct. 8 are \$8 plus fees and day of the event admission on Oct. 9–10, is \$12 at



From the lively sounds of a traditional Oompa band to high-energy DJs, enjoy a mix of music and entertainment throughout the Saktoberfest celebration. Photo courtesy of Cal Expo

the door, \$12 plus fees online. There will be on-site parking for \$10. To learn more about Saktoberfest or to purchase tickets, visit www.calexpo.com ★

California Small Businesses One Step Closer to Relief from Abusive CIPA Lawsuits

Stop CIPA Shakedown Lawsuits News Release

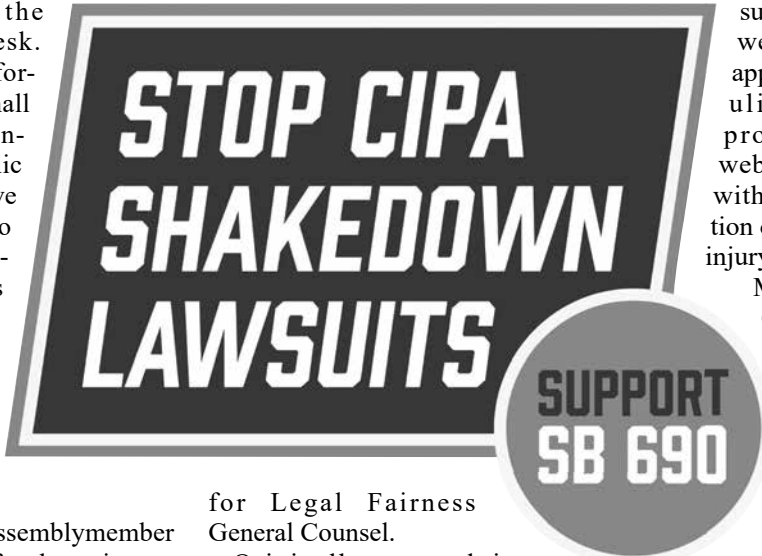
SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Stop CIPA Shakedown Lawsuits coalition has expressed its support for SB 690 following its passage through the California State Legislature and advancement to Governor Gavin Newsom’s desk. Authored by Senator Anna Caballero, SB 690 represents a first step toward addressing the growing wave of abusive lawsuits brought under the California Invasion of Privacy Act (CIPA). The coalition is encouraged to see lawmakers take action to address CIPA’s pen register and trap and trace provision, providing needed relief to small businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies that have been targeted by lawsuits over common website tools, often without any allegation of actual harm or injury.

“We are pleased to see California lawmakers recognize the urgent need for CIPA reform and advance SB 690 to the Governor’s desk. This is a step forward for the small businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies that have been forced to spend valuable resources defending themselves against abusive lawsuits. We thank Senator Caballero for her leadership and we thank Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan for her sincere engagement in moving this issue through the Legislature. We urge Governor Newsom to sign SB 690 into law and deliver this

needed relief to businesses and organizations across California,” said Andrew Kingman, Alliance for Legal Fairness General Counsel. Originally enacted in 1967, CIPA was intended to protect Californians from unlawful wiretapping and eavesdropping. But the

decades-old law, written long before the internet existed, has increasingly been exploited to bring abusive lawsuits over common website tools like appointment scheduling, payment processing, and website chat, often without any allegation of actual harm or injury. More than 4,000 CIPA lawsuits have been filed in just the last four years, in addition to tens of thousands of demand letters shaking down businesses and organizations across California. Plumbers, solar installers, restaurants, rural healthcare

providers, local news outlets, food banks, public schools, and others have been targeted because it is cheaper to settle these claims than to fight them in court – even when no actual harm has been alleged. Notably, SB 690 does not address Section 631, CIPA’s wiretapping provision. Throughout the legislative process, the coalition advocated for a comprehensive solution addressing both provisions being used to bring lawsuits and demand letters against businesses and organizations over common website tools. Without changes to Section 631, the coalition is concerned that many California small businesses, nonprofits and public agencies will remain vulnerable to these claims. For more information about SB 690, visit StopCIPAshakedowns.com. ★



S.A.F.E. Event to Shine Light on Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking

MAD LIT News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The public is invited to attend a powerful event, S.A.F.E. – Stopping Abuse for Everyone, to help bring awareness, education, intervention, prevention and healing to the issues of domestic violence and human trafficking. The event will take place on Sunday, Sept. 27 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Step 1 Dance and Fitness, 4710 Natomas Blvd., Suite 150, Sacramento. Through performance, storytelling, movement and community gathering, S.A.F.E. will create a supportive space for the truth to be seen,



Stopping Abuse for Everyone helps bring awareness, education, intervention, prevention and healing to the issues of domestic violence and human trafficking. Photo designed by Magnific

heard, felt and discussed. Our intention is to move people, open hearts, start conversations and inspire action. S.A.F.E. event includes live performances featuring dance, spoken word and music, a community gathering that connects audiences with awareness resources and artist-driven storytelling that gives voice to survivor-centered experience. Partnerships with local organizations to connect attendees to support networks. For more information, contact Pepper Von, peppervon01@gmail.com, 916-402-1715 or Randi Robinson-Snaer, randirobinson@mac.com, 916-715-8481. ★

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17. Sailor's assent

18. Nincompoop

19. "Electric current path

21. "Like magnifying glass lens

23. Unhappy

24. Southern stew staple

25. ____ Beta Kappa

28. Harper and Bruce, e.g.

30. Type of jacket

35. Nevada city

37. "The Road Runner" corporation

39. Solemnly promised

40. One twelfth of a foot

41. What blacksmith did to a horse

43. Ice dancer's jump

44. Phishing and such

46. Nobel Peace Prize home

47. Either right or left

48. Good guy

50. Same as island

52. Tierra ____ Fuego

53. Third-person possessive pronoun

55. Yoko's last name

57. "Electric current unit

60. "It pulls things down

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71. In a frenzy

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3. Bear's den, e.g.

4. Same as talcums

5. Opposite of potential

6. Med. sch. requirement

7. *Path of light

8. Heard by Horton

9. Tel ____, city

10. Bowling ball path

11. Seductive one

12. Like a fox

15. Historical records

20. Some are bright

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24. *Reverse one, in the kitchen

25. *Rainbow-producing device

26. From this time on

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

The Simmons Factor

By V.G. Harris

Ben Simmons has stolen the preseason show thus far and understandably so. 2018 rookie of the year in the NBA and a three-time all-star, brings with it a lot of optimism and certainly fan excitement.

After sitting out the entirety of the 2025-26 season recovering from back problems, Simmons says he is 100 percent healthy and ready to prove his naysayers wrong.

Many have questioned his toughness, but two back surgeries are nothing to scoff at, and as many people can attest to, back injuries can be hard to overcome.

At 6-foot-10, Simmons represents a skyscraper of a point guard and is even taller than hall-of-famer Magic Johnson.

The apparent plan is for Simmons to back up Darius Acurr Jr., and if so, it could pay dividends.

Without question a point guard of his size represents problems for opposing teams, so what remains to be seen is how he fits in with Scott Perry’s new look Kings, and does he have the motor to be a game changer.

The good news as it relates to Ben Simmons is that on a team that is hungry for players with defensive qualities, Simmons has a proven history of being a top flight defender, and although not known for being a big scorer, Simmons can certainly make his mark of the defensive end.

If, as has been expressed, the Kings intend to bring Simmons off the bench and have him back up Darius Acuff, giving him 20-25 minutes per game may be a recipe that will work for a player that has proven to be injury prone.

Meanwhile, aside from Acuff, there are two other draft picks that need attention, and that most notably means on court minutes.

Emanuel Sharpe is another player that comes to the Kings with a history of being a tough defender, and Kings fans got to see his defensive skills on display during the NBA summer league.

Sharpe has a natural knack for the ball and was a division one standout in college on the defensive end of the floor. It makes fans wonder how Simmons and Sharpe would look on the court together, as Sharpe is a natural

shooting guard and Simmons plays the point. Just possible that times are changing for the better.

Trade talks continue to swirl as it relates to Domantas Sabonis, and that should not come as welcome news.

I see Sabonis as the anchor of this team, and if anyone comes with a pedigree it is most certainly Domantas.

The Kings need this big man to have a comeback season after being limited to a career low 19 games last year due to injuries. This stalwart has proven himself not just to the Kings organization, but to the league as well, and Sabonis has earned the respect of players throughout.

Alex Karaban, drafted 29th overall, comes to the Kings with four seasons of college ball, and an NCAA title under his belt. Used to winning, Karaban should be a consistent player off the bench, and if coach Christie develops a consistent flow with minutes, Karaban can become a valuable commodity for Sacramento this season.

Much depends on how Christie develops what has now become a young team, and effective use of players like Achiuwa, Cardwell, Karaban and Sharpe will make a big difference in the win/loss record of the Kings this season.

The Kings young players aren’t the only ones that need to earn their stripes. It’s high time the coaching staff steps up and shows what they can do.

It is hard to measure Doug Christie after a season where his team was largely on the disabled list, but make no mistake about it, this year marks the litmus test in his young coaching career.

If the 20-25 wins that the pundits have expressed are what the Kings have to look forward to is in any way correct, look for a complete shake-up of the coaching staff.

There is way too much talent for this team to be on the south side of 30 wins, and even one more tweak could represent an acceleration of Scott Perry’s rebuilding program.

Stay tuned Kings fans, because I believe you’re going to see a much healthier team than just a season ago!

All the best! ★

California’s Future Water Supplies Depend on the Outcomes of Four Intertwined Battles



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Since the earliest years of its history, California has been a political battlefield over divvying up the state’s water. The intensity of the multisided conflict, like water itself, ebbs and flows.

By happenstance this is one of the more intense and climactic periods in the eternal competition over water. It’s driven by uncertainty over the effects of climate change on precipitation and by looming decisions on how to cope with those effects.

What happens on four intertwined fronts in the near future will determine how water will be managed and allocated in the coming decades. In no particular order:

Colorado River

Decades of conflict over allocating Colorado River water, involving not only California but other Western states, are coming to a head. Runoff from snow in the Rocky Mountains has been declining, and the two major reservoirs on the Colorado, Lakes Mead and Powell, have been shrinking and rapidly approaching operational failure. Federal authorities have been pressing the states involved to agree on how the shortages should be managed, but it’s been a stalemate.

California is less dependent than Nevada and Arizona, which rely on

the Colorado to serve their fast-growing urban centers. When the Bureau of Reclamation imposed some temporary operational rules recently, Nevada sued and Arizona is threatening to follow.

Sites Reservoir Project

An off-stream reservoir on the west side of the Sacramento Valley to capture and store water during years of high precipitation has been proposed for decades. But with projections of decreased snowpacks due to climate change, the project, called Sites, has gained momentum in recent years.

Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to nail down the project before leaving office in four months. Last week, the administration’s Water Resources Control Board issued a draft water rights decision for Sites. The project needs permission to draw water from the Sacramento River before it can secure financing for the 1.5-million-acre-foot reservoir.

Delta Tunnel Project

Newsom also wants to pin down another major project — a tunnel that would carry Sacramento River water around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to improve deliveries to Southern California via the California Aqueduct. A conveyance of some kind has been proposed for more than 60 years but has never been able to clear political, legal and financial hurdles.

Advocates say the project would take pressure off the Delta, but it faces stiff opposition from environmental groups who contend it would worsen the Delta’s environmental problems. Putting together a package of regulatory permission and financing from water

agencies that would benefit has been a daunting, and so far elusive, goal.

San Joaquin River Diversions

While proposing the 45-mile-long tunnel to divert some Sacramento River water from flowing through the Delta, state water officials are simultaneously pressuring San Joaquin Valley farmers to reduce San Joaquin River diversions to increase flows into the Delta.

Supposedly reductions would be voluntary, but the state is also working on mandatory cutbacks if not enough water is voluntarily offered. Last week, Westlands, the largest water district in the valley, pulled out of the voluntary negotiations, saying the state was moving toward coercion. If the state issues mandatory cutbacks, it would probably become a legal battle over whether the state can interfere with long-standing water rights.

The conflict is exacerbated by reductions in water farmers can draw from underground aquifers with wells. There are projections that reductions in water supply, could take as many as 900,000 acres of farmland out of production.

That possibility drove major agricultural interests to successfully press the Legislature last week to make it easier to remove farmland from open space preserves, to replace crops with solar power arrays.

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

Must I Enroll in Medicare at Age 65?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I will be turning 65 next month, I am currently retired and I am not on Social Security. My question is; Is there anything I have to do, if I don’t want Medicare? I am on my wife’s employer plan, and she works for the Postal Service as a Rural Carrier. She doesn’t plan on retiring for another 8 yrs. Also, I would like to wait till my full retirement age (FRA) before I draw Social Security at 67. Do I have to draw Medicare at that point? Signed: *Retired but Curious*

Dear Retired but Curious: As long as you are covered by a “credible” healthcare plan (such as that from your wife’s US Postal Service employer), you can defer enrolling in Medicare

until your Postal Service Health Benefit (PSHB) coverage from your wife’s employer ends. When that happens, you (and your wife) will enter a Medicare “Special Enrollment Period” (SEP) during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty. Thus, in your specific circumstances, you don’t need to do anything about enrolling in Medicare when you turn 65.

That is still true, regardless of when you claim your Social Security benefits. If you claim Social Security at age 67 and before your wife retires from the USPS, you will be required to take Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services), but Medicare Part A is premium-free for those also eligible for Social Security.

However, enrollment in Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient healthcare services) is always optional because there is a premium associated with it, and you can continue to defer enrollment in Medicare Part B as long as you

have “credible” healthcare coverage from your wife’s employer (even while you are collecting Social Security).

When you apply for Social Security, you can inform SS that you are declining Medicare Part B because you are still covered by your wife’s USPS employer healthcare plan. Then, when your wife retires and you lose your USPS healthcare coverage, you can enroll in Medicare Part B at that time without a late enrollment penalty.

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A decade later, Colin Kaepernick is as tiresome as ever. To mark the 10-year anniversary of his kneeling during the National Anthem, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback is out with a new memoir, “The Perilous Fight.” (Get it?)

In an interview with NBC News in advance of the book’s release, which he clearly imagines as part of a vindication tour, he proved himself as committed to woke racial politics as ever.

He told NBC that his protests were about fighting “police killing black folks” and “systemic oppression.” He added that he was thinking -- not very modestly -- about the Montgomery bus boycotts, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King while he took a knee.

It’s certainly true that Kaepernick sacrificed his career to his protests, although he was a marginal player by the end. In his prime, Kaepernick was a top-notch athlete and electric performer. No one can take his exemplary 2012 and 2013 seasons away from him. In one playoff game in 2012, he passed for 263 yards and ran for 181, a single-game record for rushing by an NFL quarterback.

He couldn’t maintain this level of performance, though. In 2015, he lost his starting job to journeyman Blaine Gabbert. He won it back for a time in 2016, although he got benched during one game

Ten years later, Kaepernick Remains Unpersuasive

after throwing for all of 4 yards. The 49ers went 1-10 when he started, and by one metric, he ranked 23rd out of 30 qualifying quarterbacks. So he was hardly the GOAT, instead once-very-good, now-mediocre.

Then there was the issue that his style of play didn’t necessarily fit in most offensive schemes.

Layer on top of this the circus he’d bring to town with his kneeling and it’s understandable that teams didn’t find him an alluring proposition in 2017 when he was a free agent. There were myriad options available as backup quarterbacks who weren’t notorious for disrespecting the national anthem immediately prior to games.

TITLE: None of this would have mattered if Kaepernick had maintained his 2012 level of play; in that hypothetical, teams would have signed him even if he started to do the black power salute during huddles.

Kaepernick has now worked himself into a position where he’s compared NFL players to enslaved people (in an absurd Netflix documentary), and he’s bitter that he isn’t numbered among them as a 38-year-old who hasn’t played in 10 years.

Then there’s the substance of his advocacy. The high-water mark for Kaepernick’s anti-police worldview came in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, when the NFL basically apologized for not listening to his supposed wisdom and the police were put on their back foot in many cities

around the country.

The result was an increase in violent crime that, of course, disproportionately victimized black people. The country has now recovered from this idiocy -- based on the lie that the police indiscriminately kill black people -- and the country is much safer for the people who Kaepernick purports to care most about. If we ever go anywhere near his preferred policy of abolishing the police and prisons, we’d instantly create the worst crime wave in the country’s history.

Kaepernick is sometimes compared to Muhammad Ali. The legendary boxer sacrificed part of his career by claiming conscientious objector status during the Vietnam War. Ali was hated for a time, but his true greatness as a boxer, his incandescent charisma and his outsized place in the culture allowed him to transcend that political controversy and become a beloved American figure.

That is not going to happen to Colin Kaepernick, whose claim to fame is kneeling on the sidelines during some NFL games. He’s very dismissive of the enduring change wrought in the NFL by his protests and the tumult after 2020. The league has painted the words “End Racism” in end zones. Kaepernick rightly considers these pointless messages performative, but so was his scorn for the anthem of his own country a decade ago.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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The River Cats Hit Big in Vegas

Led by a Three-Homer Game From Will Brennan

Sacramento River Cats News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - After a tough homestand vs. the Salt Lake Bees, Sacramento hit big to begin their final roadtrip of the season at Las Vegas.

Scott Bandura doubled to lead off the game, his fourth leadoff double since stepping into the leadoff position on Aug. 23. Four of his five total leadoff hits have been doubles, with a single on Aug. 25.

Parks Harber drew a walk, then Bo Davidson knocked a 107mph line drive directly at the face of Vegas starter Jamie Arnold, who immediately walked to the dugout and exited the game.

The Aviators released an update Wednesday afternoon that stated: “Jamie Arnold suffered intra-orbital and maxillary sinus fractures. Dr. Brendan G. Johnson, a dual board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeon, determined that no surgery is required. There is no timetable for return.”

Hayden Juenger entered in place of Arnold and Will Brennan grounded into a double play that scored Scott Bandura, and Diego Velasquez grounded out.

Joe Whitman was the starter for Sacramento, sending down the Aviators in order to begin the game.

The Cats started off the second with three-straight singles, the third from Aeverson Arteaga scoring Eddys Leonard. That hit from Arteaga extended his hitting streak to nine-straight games, his longest hitting streak since Aug. 24-Sept. 11, 2022, with Single-A San Jose when he hit in 15-straight.

Fernando Gonzalez then grounded into a double play that scored Charlie Szykowny.



After a tough homestand vs. the Salt Lake Bees, Sacramento hit big to begin their final roadtrip of the season at Las Vegas. Photo courtesy of Sacramento River Cats

Bandura swiped second and advanced to third on a throwing error, but Harber lined out to end the inning.

Whitman allowed a single and a walk in the second but escaped without a run.

In the third, Bo Davidson led off with a single and Will Brennan his first home run of the night, putting Sac up 5-0 early.

Vegas went three up and three down, all line outs to Brennan in right field.

Gonzalez walked to lead off the fourth, but Scott Bandura grounded into the third double play of the night, and Harber flied out, marking the first of just two innings in which the Cats would not score.

After ground outs to Johnthan Rodríguez and Joey Meneses, the Aviators made a push with a Brayan Buelvas single and Jack Winkler reaching on a fielding error from Arteaga, but Bryan Lavastida ended the inning on a fly out.

Davidson doubled in the fifth, Velasquez drew a walk, and Leonard singled to score

Davidson. 6-0 Sacramento.

Whitman allowed a leadoff single the Luke Mann, but sent down all three of the following batters.

Gonzalez tripled in the sixth, his first career three-bagger, and subsequently scored on a sac fly from Bandura.

Whitman allowed a single to Buelvas in the sixth but retired all three other batters.

Will Brennan led off the seventh with his second home run of the night, a solo shot to right field.

Whitman allowed another single in the seventh to Lavastida, but Luke Mann grounded into a double play and David Diaz flied out, keeping a goose egg on the board for Vegas.

The eighth was yet again led off with a home run, this time from Scott Bandura, his 10th of the season with Sacramento. It was a 416-foot shot to right field, Bandura's longest recorded home run of his career.

Harber flied out, and Davidson knocked a triple, his first since Aug. 19, 2025, with Double-A

Richmond. It marked the first multi-triple game for Sacramento since July 9, 2025.

Will Brennan then blasted his third home run of the night, a two-run shot to right center field. He became the 17th Triple-A player and fourth PCL player to have three home runs in a game this season.

He also became the 12th River Cat in recorded franchise history (since 2005) to have a three-homer game, and first since Austin Dean did so May 15, 2022. It was the first three-homer game and second multi-homer game of Brennan's career (2 HR, June 20, 2024, with the Cleveland Guardians).

Brennan totaled five RBI on the night, the third five-plus-RBI game of his career, with the other two occurring in 2022 with Triple-A Columbus.

Velasquez doubled following the homer, extending his hitting streak to 11-straight games, his longest since hitting in 13-straight from April 18-May 2, 2025, with Richmond.

Ryan Walker entered in the

eighth in place of Whitman. The Aviators would score their only run that inning, a 359-foot, solo shot to right field from Johnathan Rodriguez.

The ninth was the only other inning the River Cats did not record a run; however, Arteaga did knock another single to lead off the inning.

The Aviators earned one more hit in the bottom of the ninth but went quietly into the night for a final score of 11-1.

Sacramento recorded 18 hits on the night, including a whopping nine extra-base-hits. Both matched their season highs, both done previously on May 20 vs. Sugar Land.

They also had the leadoff batter reached base in all nine innings, with three singles, two doubles, a triple, two home runs and a walk. It was the first time Sacramento has done so in recorded franchise history. It was also the first time a PCL team has had all nine leadoff batters reached base since Oklahoma City did so June 2, 2019, at Memphis.

Whitman earned the win, his fourth with Sacramento and ninth on the season. He threw 7.0 scoreless innings, allowing five hits, one walk and fanning three batters. It marked the second time this season a River Cats pitcher has thrown back-to-back 7.0-plus inning starts. It was also the first time a River Cat has thrown a combined 15.0-plus innings in back-to-back starts since Andrew Suárez did so on Aug. 7 and 12, 2018 (15.1 combined innings).

Davidson went 4-for-5 on the night with a single, double and triple; just a home run shy of the cycle and was on deck before Harber grounded out in the ninth. It marked Davidson's third four-hit game with Sac, all three coming at Las Vegas. ★

Ask

DR. UNIVERSE

Why is there an oz for ounces in math when there is no z in the word ounces?

- Lahna, 9, New York State

Dear Lahna,

Your question made me think about how words change. The dictionary adds new words and definitions all the time.

The latest update to the Oxford English Dictionary added *jelly*, meaning jealous. It also included *drop bear*. That's an imaginary scary-koala that appears in stories.

I asked my friend Nikolaus Overtoom how we got the abbreviation for *ounces*. He's a professor of ancient history at Washington State University.

It turns out *ounces*—and later *oz*—evolved as words traveled from Ancient Rome through Medieval Europe and into England.

“The mixture of linguistic elements in English makes it one of the most flexible, diverse and complex languages in history,” Overtoom said. “It is a language that continues to evolve and grow to this day, with each generation creating and adopting new English words.”

Like *doomscrolling*. That word also made it into the dictionary this year.

The story of *oz* starts with *ounces*.

Before the Ancient Romans started using coins, they carried lumps or bricks of bronze. It was like money—but super heavy. If you had to a pay a big bill, you might need a wooden cart to tote your payment.

Lumps of bronze were called aes rude (top). This version of the first coin, Aes grave, is called an as (middle). Uncia coins (bottom) were worth 1/12 the value of these. But Romans didn't invent the first coins ever. Those probably came from Lydia, an ancient kingdom in what's now Turkey. Chuy 1530 CC BY SA 3.0. Classical Numismatic Group CC BY 3.0

Eventually, the Romans wanted to standardize these bronze chunks. They made *aes grave*, the first coins in Rome. These were still pretty heavy. Each coin weighed one Roman pound, or *libra*. A Roman pound was 12 ounces.

But sometimes people needed to weigh or pay smaller amounts. So, they came up with a unit that was 1/12 of a Roman pound—an *uncia*.

Since *uncia* just means 1/12, it's also how people measured lengths shorter than a Roman foot. That's how we got the English word *inch*.

As time went on, regular people stopped speaking formal Latin. It evolved into new languages—like French, Spanish and Italian. When the Normans (medieval French descendants of the Vikings) took over England, they brought French words. One of these was *unce*, from the Latin *uncia*. That changed into the English word *ounce*.

Back in medieval Italy, merchants used the Italian version of the word: *onza*. Sometimes they shortened it to *oz*.

As people traded with each other, *oz* traveled to England.

There were other changes, too. You might have clocked that a Roman pound isn't the same pound we use today.

That's because we use a *wool pound*, or *Avoirdupois*. That pound is the same as 7,000 grains of barley, or 16 ounces. English wool traders changed it because the number 16 was practical. It can be halved four times to weigh or sell smaller amounts.

A *Roman pound* is the same as 5,000 grains of barley, or 12 ounces. People who sell precious metals and gems today still use a variation of this—the *Troy pound* (5,760 grains).

But that original Roman pound—*libra*—is why we use the abbreviation lb.

It seems weird since neither of those letters show up in the word *pound*. But if you track how the words changed over time, it makes an *ounce* of sense.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

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National Night Out Brings Community Together

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PAGE 7

Sacramento Selected as New Sample Area for the Consumer Price Index

United States Department of Labor News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has selected Sacramento as one of the 100 largest U.S. cities to participate in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program. The program is designed to provide a more accurate picture of the cost of living in the United States.

The program is a key component of the U.S. economic picture, and the BEA is pleased to have Sacramento selected as a sample area. The program will run for the next five years, and the BEA will continue to monitor the program's progress.

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What can drivers expect?

At year-end, drivers will see a 10% increase in the cost of driving, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. The increase is due to a variety of factors, including rising fuel costs, higher insurance rates, and increased maintenance costs. Drivers are encouraged to plan ahead and budget for the increase.

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