



We're Here
to Stay

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Never, Ever Forget



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



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SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

SEE
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RESTAURANTS
RAISE NEARLY
\$400,000 FOR
LAKE TAHOE



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Communities Prepare for Wildfire

County celebrates its 150th Firewise USA community



Firewise USA provides a framework for neighbors to work together to reduce wildfire risk through actions such as creating defensible space, removing hazardous vegetation and hardening homes. Photo courtesy of Placer County

Placer County News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Placer County continues to lead the country with the highest number of designated Firewise USA communities and today celebrated a new milestone.

County and fire officials joined Granite Bay residents from the Mooney Ridge community to celebrate the addition of the 150th Firewise USA community. A commemorative sign was presented to neighborhood organizer Patrick Dwyer during a special ceremony this morning to mark the achievement, which comes just as the country moves



County and fire officials joined Granite Bay residents from the Mooney Ridge community to celebrate the addition of the 150th Firewise USA community. Photo courtesy of Placer County

into September's National Preparedness Month.

"Reaching our 150th Firewise community is a true milestone, and it is a credit to the residents who have put in the work to make their neighborhoods

safer," said Placer County District 4 Supervisor Suzanne Jones. "This sign is a symbol of what can happen when neighbors come together and take action. Each community that participates helps

strengthen wildfire preparedness across Placer County."

Firewise USA provides a framework for neighbors to work together to reduce wildfire risk through actions such as creating defensible space, removing hazardous vegetation and hardening homes. Since the program began in Placer County in 2007, residents have invested thousands of volunteer hours in wildfire risk reduction.

"Wildfire preparedness is about much more than responding when a fire starts," said CAL FIRE/Placer County Fire Chief Jim Hudson. "The work residents are doing before

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Placer Launches Community Oral History Project



The Placer 175 oral history project complements a year-long effort to celebrate the county's history with community events and history engagements. Photo courtesy of Placer County

Placer County News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Placer County has launched a StoryCorps-inspired community oral history collection project as it continues observances for its 175th anniversary this year.

All are invited to record an interview with someone important in their lives to help capture and archive the stories of Placer's residents and communities.

Using StoryCorps' Do It Yourself program resources, participants can record interviews from anywhere using the StoryCorps Connect website or the StoryCorps app. Or they may attend a hosted in-person recording session facilitated by county staff at locations throughout the county. Reservations are required for in-person sessions.

Recordings will be archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, as well as locally at the Placer County Museum Archive. Interviews recorded before Oct. 10 may also be included in a time capsule Placer County will place at the Placer County Museum in Auburn, to be opened in 2101 for the county's 250th anniversary.

"Among our residents are Olympians, war heroes and world-famous artists. But the texture of history is just as much made up of the more ordinary lives the rest of us are living," said Project Manager Chris Gray-Garcia. "The chance to record an interview for Placer 175 is also a chance to ask someone you know about their life and make sure they're remembered by history, too."

More information on how to record an interview for the Placer 175 oral history project is available on the project web page at <https://engage.placer.ca.gov/placer-175-oral-history>.

Interviews collected through the project will be published on the Placer

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Tahoe City Oktoberfest to Celebrate 20th Anniversary

Tahoe City Downtown Association News Release

TAHOE CITY, CA (MPG) - Prost! Tahoe City Oktoberfest celebrates its 20th anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 19, from noon to 5 p.m. at Gatekeeper's Museum/William B. Layton State Park with an afternoon of craft beer, Bavarian-inspired food, live music, games, kids' activities and bounce house, craft vendor village, photo booth, and fall fun on the shores of Lake Tahoe. Oktoberfest is presented by TCDA, North Tahoe Chamber and Pete N Peters.

The family-friendly celebration is free to attend for all ages, with tickets required only for the Beer Garden.

Discounted Beer Garden tickets are on sale now for \$25 and will be \$30 at the door. Each ticket includes a beer mug and two drink tokens. Guests can also stop by the TCDA booth



The family-friendly celebration is free to attend for all ages, with tickets required only for the Beer Garden. Photo courtesy of Silent A Photography, TCDA

at the Sept. 10 Tahoe City Farmers Market to purchase tickets in person and save on online processing fees.

Two Tahoe City traditions come together in a special keepsake this

year. The first 700 Beer Garden guests to check in will receive a limited-edition commemorative glass featuring Pete N' Peters' 50th anniversary logo and the 20th anniversary Tahoe City Oktoberfest

logo. Additional Beer Garden guests will receive an Oktoberfest mug sponsored by Tahoe Tap Haus or Bridgetender Tavern & Grill.

The Beer Garden will

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www.PlacerSentinel.com

We're Here to Stay

By Mary Jane Popp

And that’s a fact! KAHl Radio has a long and special history in Auburn. KAHl was born in 1957 when radio was in its heyday... I joined the team in 2007 when we celebrated KAHl’s 50th anniversary. It was so fun. Syndicated radio host Jimmy Jay flew in from Boston to be with us. He still hosts the “Rewind” Radio Show on Saturday on FM-104.5 and AM-950 KAHl.

We had a blast from the past for some three hours on air. Jimmy pulled out his little black book and began calling those rock and roll oldies but goodies like Chubby Checker, and we got to chat with them. We had a wonderful time. They didn’t even know we were calling, but they shared their time to make the party sparkle. Our listeners stopped by to wish us well with cake and conversation. It was a wonderful beginning for me to be a part of the KAHl family...

KAHl was involved in so many events like Auburn Sings, a contest of local talent broadcast live from the Auburn State Theatre with a live audience. Dave Rosenthal and I co-hosted it. Dave and I co-hosted the National Amgen Bicycle Race which started in downtown Auburn. That was a live broadcast on location. KAHl was always there to do news and talk and keep the community in the know from fun happenings to keeping the community informed with weather, traffic, sports and major disasters too.

Now we are taking a leap into a new era for AM-950 KAHl and also FM- 104.5. Ken Segura Knoll and I have stepped up to make sure both stations remain an integral part of the community. We hope to take this little engine that could and transform it into a roaring locomotive rolling out a new multi-media era. Yes, we will keep that community feel that made KAHl special, but with new additions like the Kahi Gold Country Channel with video for so many local events like the Fourth of July Parade and festivities which Reyn Knoll and I co-hosted, celebrating the 250th birthday of our nation.

And no worries, you wanted high school football? Well, it’s back with video and audio starting every Friday night with the Coaches Corner at new locations every week and hosted by Tom O’Malley. Then watch the play by play and experience the great half-time entertainment with the Placer High Marching Band. GO HILLMEN!!! Just go to our website at www.kahi.com and click on the live broadcast. You can also see it on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Want to see it all again? Tune in to ACTV, Auburn Community TV, for the replay of the whole game on Saturday. We are working with Philip Jacques to bring you even more video on our Kahi Gold Country Channel like the new TV show I’m doing called What’s Popping with Mary Jane Popp. Got some great guests I want you to meet. And of course, I will still be doing my POPPTALK Radio Show too on FM-104.5 & AM-950 KAHl. And there’s more to come with



50th KAHl celebration with Jimmy Jay Boston Rewind Show. Photo by Mary Jane Popp



Casey MJ Late Barry 2019. Photo by Mary Jane Popp



AMGEN Race. Photo by Mary Jane Popp



MJ with actor Perry King on location in Colfax. Photo by Mary Jane Popp



Mary Jane and Reyn Knoll at Celebrity Chef in March 2026. Photo by Mary Jane Popp



KAHl Owners MJ and Ken Segura Knoll at Writers of the Future Gala in Hollywood 2025. Photo by Mary Jane Popp

podcasts and more on location broadcasts... We are also hoping to bring you an exclusive Speaker Series next year. How about Ballroom Dancing? We’ll keep you posted. All for your entertainment pleasure.

I have been doing a

POPPTALK column for Paul Scholl at Messenger Publication for a very long time and will continue that column in the Placer Sentinel premiering in Auburn as we speak. Next year we will celebrate our 70 years with you, streaming programming

to enhance our connection with Northern California’s Foothills and Gold Country.

A new Gold Rush is here—A media delivery gold rush. There will be many more surprises to come, and we want to invite you to give us your feedback so we can work together

to make FM-104.5 and AM-950 KAHl, along with our Kahi Gold Country Channel, an integral part of Auburn and surrounding communities. Our motto is LISTEN...WATCH...READ... PARTICIPATE. All this and more to come on The Golden Voice of the Foothills! ★

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Placer County Opens 2026 Air Art Contest

Placer County Air Pollution Control District News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - The Placer County Air Pollution Control District is inviting K–12 students attending school in Placer County to participate in its 2026 Air Art Calendar Contest. This year’s theme, “Clean Air for Everyone,” encourages students to explore what clean air means to them and how people can help protect air quality.

“This contest is a great way to connect students, teachers and schools with air quality in a creative and meaningful way. We’re looking forward to seeing this year’s artwork and even greater participation,” Air Pollution Control Officer Erik C. White said.

Students may submit original artwork for a chance to win a cash prize and have their artwork featured in the district’s 2027 Air Art Calendar. The deadline to enter is Oct. 31.

The contest is open to all K-12 students attending school in Placer County. Students may submit one entry, and there is no cost to participate.

First, second and third-place winners will be selected for each grade level, kindergarten through 12th grade. The first place prize is \$50, second place is \$30 and third place is \$20.

Selected artwork will be featured in the district’s 2027 Air Art Calendar. Every student who submits eligible artwork with



Students are encouraged to use their creativity to show what clean air means to them
Photo designed by Magnific

a completed entry form will receive a copy of the calendar.

Winners will be notified in Jan. 2027, with student recognition planned for Feb. 2027.

The teacher associated with each first-place winner will receive a \$50 classroom stipend, for up to 13 teacher awards.

The school with the most eligible contest entries will receive a sweet treat gift basket for school faculty and staff.

Students are encouraged to use their creativity to show what clean air means to them. Artwork may include clean air messaging in English, Spanish or both languages. Students are not required to include written text.

Requirements include the artwork must be original work created by the student, be on 8.5”-by-11” paper, be landscape/horizontal, be flat and suitable for reproduction and it must use materials such as crayons, markers, colored pencils or paint.

The artwork is not to be folded or stapled, includes three-dimensional materials and cannot include copyrighted characters, company or product logos or inappropriate content.

All submissions must include a completed entry form to be eligible.

Entries may be submitted by mail to or submitted in person at the Placer County Air Pollution Control District at 110 Maple Street, Auburn, CA 95603.

Entries may also be submitted online at PlacerAir.org/airart or by email airart@placer.ca.gov.

Mailed entries must be postmarked by Oct. 31.

For entries submitted online or by email, students whose artwork is selected for the calendar may be asked to provide the original artwork or a high-quality scan to ensure the best possible reproduction.

For contest details, artwork requirements, and the entry form, visit PlacerAir.org/airart. ★

Communities Prepare for Wildfire

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an emergency, creating defensible space, hardening their homes and working with their neighbors, helps create safer conditions for firefighters and communities.”

The work of Firewise USA communities is part of a larger effort to reduce wildfire risk and may provide financial benefits to homeowners.

In July, Placer County received a Fire Risk Reduction Community designation from the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, recognizing the county’s comprehensive approach to wildfire prevention and risk reduction. California requires insurers to account for the designation when setting rates, although the amount of any potential savings varies by insurer and property. Residents should contact their insurance provider to determine how the designation applies to their policy. Firewise USA participation may also qualify homeowners for wildfire-related insurance discounts, depending on their insurer and policy.

Participation in Firewise USA is one part of a broader strategy to prepare Placer County for wildfire and other climate-related risks. The approach has received national attention, including recognition from The Washington Post for the county’s disaster preparedness and climate resilience efforts.

Through its 10-Year Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, the county uses data to identify where fuel reduction and forest management can have the greatest impact. The Regional Forest Health Division has evaluated approximately 650,000 acres and identified a dozen projects for priority treatment.

Projects include forest restoration, hazardous-fuel reduction, strategic fuel breaks and other treatments designed to protect communities, critical infrastructure and evacuation routes. The county works with CAL FIRE, the U.S. Forest Service, local fire districts, fire safe councils and other partners to coordinate projects and leverage state and federal funding.

“Wildfire risk doesn’t stop at a property line or jurisdictional boundary, so our response can’t either,” said Regional

Forest Health Coordinator Amanda Brenner. “We’re using data to identify where strategic fuel reduction can provide the greatest benefit and working with partners to make those investments go further.”

The county is also supporting the I-80 Wildfire Risk Reduction Project, led by the Placer-Sierra Fire Safe Council, which is creating strategic shaded fuel breaks along a 33-mile section of Interstate 80 from Applegate to Yuba Gap. The project involves Placer County, Caltrans and CAL FIRE and is designed to reduce wildfire threats to nearby communities and protect critical infrastructure.

In eastern Placer, the county has also coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service and National Forest Foundation on fuels reduction projects on county-owned property near Olympic Valley and Cabin Creek, helping leverage resources and expand the amount of land receiving treatment.

The county’s Regional Forest Health Division and Firewise USA program address wildfire risk at both the landscape and neighborhood levels, from strategic forest management and fuel reduction to residents creating defensible space and hardening their homes.

While large-scale fuel reduction and forest management are important, residents remain a critical part of wildfire preparedness. Key to that effort is connecting neighborhood leaders with local Firewise and fire safe council organizations.

“Placer County’s 150th Firewise USA designation is more than a milestone; it’s a reflection of our residents’ dedication to keeping their neighborhoods safer,” said South Placer Fire Chief Darin Snedeker. “As we begin National Preparedness Month, this achievement reinforces how powerful community involvement can be in reducing wildfire risks.”

For more information about Firewise USA communities, visit Placer County’s Firewise program webpage.

For more information about preparedness, including wildfires, visit ReadyPlacer.org. ★

‘Fur & Feathers’ Takes Over Auburn Gallery

Auburn Old Town Gallery News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Join us on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 2 to 6 p.m. as we celebrate the 31st Anniversary of Auburn Old Town Gallery! We’re so grateful to have been part of our beloved Auburn community for 31 years, and we’d love to celebrate this special milestone with you—our loyal and local supporters. Come enjoy live music, light refreshments and cake, meet and greet our artists and live art demonstrations.

This year's September Feature Wall at Auburn Old Town Gallery highlights "FUR & FEATHERS." This feature wall at the gallery is devoted to animal art so now is the time to brush up on what we know about so many artists focus on animals as subject matter. As it turns out the first art images ever recorded were of animals on cave walls.

In fact, the oldest cave drawing of an animal was recently discovered in Sulawesi, Indonesia and is a whopping 67,800 years old! This precedes European cave wall art by 15,000 years. From this we now know that ancient human creativity didn’t happen in a single place and it wasn’t just confined to ice age Europe. Instead, this uniquely human yearning to express ideas of behavior, storytelling, rituals, spiritual symbols, place and identity used animal forms on cave walls and was a world-wide phenomenon.

Today that yearning to express is more alive than ever, and it’s no wonder that animals still dominate artistic subject matter. They are the ultimate metaphor. Afterall, our fellow animals have been with us since the start. We share a planet together. We admire the wild, unselfconscious beauty of



A sampling of some of the art you will see on this month’s Feature Wall: “FUR & FEATHERS.” Photo courtesy of Auburn Old Town Gallery

animals, which show us a mirror of what we ourselves once were before human self-awareness became a thing. In our journey to the top of the food chain, we used animals to get us to where we are now, as transportation, protection and sustenance. Without these fellow earthly inhabitants, we would not exist. Moreover, though we might believe that as humans we are separate from animals, we are, in fact, animals ourselves.

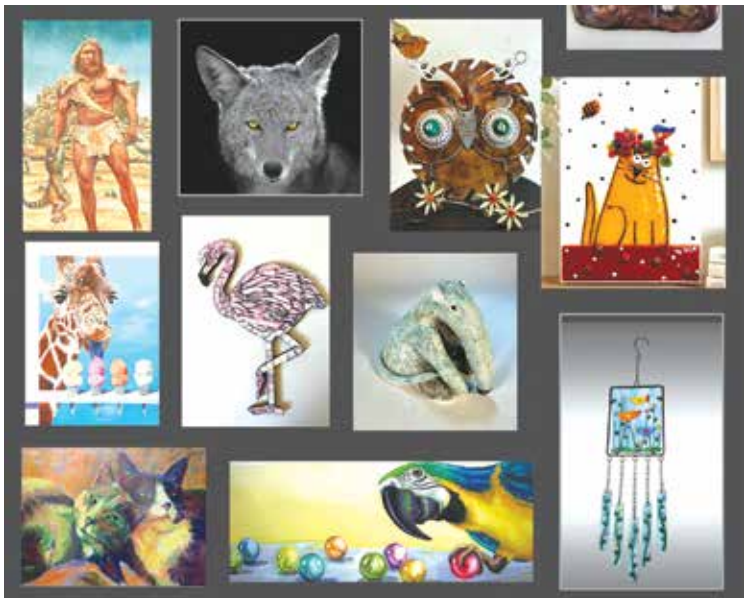
Some of the featured artists and their art mediums at the gallery include Michelle Magnus Brown with mixed media; Carol Black with signed and numbered print; Linda Whiteside with ceramic; Darien

Hamilton with oil painting; Michael Maloney with photography; Janis and Kelly Quinn with metal sculpture; Judy Butler with glass.

Also including Sandy Delehanty with watercolor; Pam Kinzie with ceramic; Sandy Linblad with acrylic on canvas; Diane Tharp with watercolor; Marsha Toms with glass; and Sonja Hamilton with watercolor.

The Auburn Old Town Gallery is located on 218 Washington Street in Auburn. You can learn more about the artists and information on the event at www.auburnoldtowngallery.com

We hope you’ll join us for an afternoon of celebration, creativity and community! ★



Enjoy the diverse and creative pieces that are featured in September, and while you’re here explore all the amazing art at AOTG. Photo courtesy of Auburn Old Town Gallery

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Welcome Ben Simmons

By V.G. Harris

Many of you have now been Sacramento Kings fans for literally decades, and discussions of playoffs have been a topic rarely heard in the city of Sacramento.

Enter new GM Scott Perry who has been promising changes with regard to bad drafts and trades that don’t make sense.

Although Perry has made a couple of moves that I strongly disagree with, the jury is largely still out as he has begun in earnest his quote, “rebuild.”

DeAaron Fox was traded not on his watch, but make no mistake about it, the decision to bring on the first overall pick in the 2016 draft is all about Scott Perry.

Sink or swim, the acquisition of Ben Simmons, albeit for only one year and a price tag of only 3.5 million, lands entirely in the lap of Scott Perry.

Just a week ago in this column I wrote that the possibility existed that the Kings may have interest in signing Simmons, who has had a checkered past to say the least, and now the suspense is over, and Ben Simmons is now about to become a full-fledged member of the Sacramento Kings family.

I am an ardent believer that any player attempting a comeback deserves his opportunity to allow the fan base see what he has in the tank, and I for one will not root against this player that has literally been injury prone for the entirety of his 10-year NBA career.

It is rare that an organization has the opportunity to acquire a player drafted No. 1 overall, and in the case of 6-foot-10 Ben Simmons he is coming to the Kings after sitting out the entire 2025-26 season.

The prevailing problem has been related to back issues for Simmons, but according to Simmons himself, he wasn’t going to try and mount a comeback until he was “bulletproof.”

The Kings recently worked out Simmons in Sacramento, and he had a meeting with Scott Perry that obviously went well.

Simmons stats are not eyepopping, but certainly worthy of taking note. Over a 10-year career spent with three teams, Simmons had a scoring average of just over 13 points per game, seven rebounds, seven

assists and 1.5 steals.

To his credit, although most widely noted for missing games due to injury, Simmons made the all-star team one time, and in 2021 was runner up for the defensive player of the year.

Aside from the perpetual injury bug, if there is one knock on this otherwise talented big man, it is his abysmal free throw shooting.

At an astonishing low 59 percent, he brings back memories of another talented big man who couldn’t make free throws by the name of Wilt Chamberlain. Wilt shot an almost unbelievable 51 percent from the charity strip, and like Shaquille Oneal he was known for his inability to make free throws when it counted.

Sadly, Ben Simmons is coming to a team that is typically dead last in free throw shooting, so who on the Kings team is going to step up and teach this 10-year veteran how to improve in an area that he clearly knows little about?

The Kings coaching staff?

If you thought all eyes were on Darius Acuff Jr., wait till you see Ben Simmons take the floor for the Sacramento Kings.

As I said before, I refuse to root against Simmons regardless of past problems, and I don’t believe the Kings would sign him to a contract of any length if they thought he wasn’t 100 percent healthy.

I want to close my eyes and imagine what a healthy Ben Simmons looks like playing alongside Domantas Sabonis, with a talented rookie point guard distributing the ball, and two capable three-point shooters on the wings in Zach Lavine and Keegan Murray.

Does this new lineup have potential? Absolutely it does, and once again it boils down to staying away from injuries and allowing a group of very talented players to develop chemistry and do what they do.

If you’re an ardent Kings fan it’s almost impossible not to get excited.

Look for an opening night that Sacramento hasn’t seen in years, and all of a sudden ticket sales just went up!

Stay tuned Kings fans because there is more to come.

All the best!

★

California’s Political Hopefuls Remain Silent on State’s Job Losses, Unemployment



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

In two months California voters will elect a governor, fill several other statewide offices and choose a new class of state legislators and members of Congress.

The aspirants for those positions are making all sorts of promises to win voters’ approval. But few, if any, have mentioned a slow-motion menace affecting a fundamental facet of life: jobs.

The state has never fully recovered from the virtual shutdown of the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic. It still has more than a million unemployed workers. Its unemployment rate continues to be the highest, or nearly so, of any state. And its signature economic sectors, such as high tech and film production, have been shedding jobs for several years.

As ominous as those data points sound, a deeper dive into employment data reveals an even darker reality.

“California’s labor market is holding up, but its foundations remain troublingly narrow,” Justin Niakamal, research manager at Beacon Economics, said in a recent overview of the state’s economy. Healthcare is the only sector with strong employment gains, he noted.

While healthcare jobs are welcome, they are highly dependent on spending by

federal and state governments, and both have been cutting back. Moreover, while healthcare is a service industry, it does not create added-value wealth the way technology, film production and agriculture do.

Back to the data.

California’s stubbornly high unemployment rate — 5.1% in July — was second-highest among the states, behind Connecticut and Oregon, both at 5.2%. The rate is the percentage of the labor force that is not employed, even in part-time work, during the month.

The size of the labor force, as well as the unemployment figure, are important to note. Over the previous year, California’s labor force — people who are working or seeking work — declined by 286,300, according to the monthly Employment Development Department report.

To some extent, the labor force decline masks the actual decline in employment. Moreover, the widely quoted unemployment figure is simplistic: Even if someone is paid for working just a few hours in a month, he or she is counted as employed.

The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics makes several other computations of employment that are more sophisticated. One, called U-6, measures underemployment. It takes into account workers who want to work full time but can only find part-time work, as well as those who are “marginally attached” to the labor force.

California’s U-6 rate is a much more realistic measure of the job picture. It was calculated at 10.3% in June, easily the highest of any state.

The bureau also calculated

U-6 for New York City and Los Angeles County because their populations are larger than many states. New York’s rate was 10.2% while Los Angeles’ was 12.1%.

Those are high numbers but may still understate what’s happening — or not — in California’s job market.

The Ludwig Institute for Shared Economic Prosperity takes the U-6 underemployment calculation even further. It discounts jobs, even full-time work, that pay less than a living wage, which it pegs at \$26,000 a year. It calls its number the “true rate of unemployment,” saying it measures “functional unemployment.”

As one might suspect, Ludwig’s calculations for California — reported by major metropolitan area — are very high, especially in rural communities where agriculture is a primary source of jobs.

California’s highest “true unemployment” rate, according to Ludwig, is in Redding (67.4%). Other rural or semi-rural communities fall into the 50%-65% range. But some urban regions see high rates as well, such as 53.8% in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim metropolitan area.

Only a few regions are under 50%.

Given these numbers, one might expect that California’s officeholders and office seekers would be telling us how they will respond. They are not.

Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state’s political, economic, social and demographic trends.

★

Social Security Matters

Why change Social Security now? It’s a working “Ponzi



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Maybe everybody has the same reaction that I do to Social Security insolvency. I do not understand a system that has been basically run like a Ponzi Scam since its Inception; why have you decided (in 2026-2027) that now is the time to change a perfectly good Ponzi Scam. In all reality, this began with Babylon. I’m sure that if you searched the meaning of the words “Babylonian money magic,” you would understand what I’m talking about. If this is as good as the Earth has, why would you mess with a perfectly rotten thing. Why would you decide to change currencies to some sort of fragile digital currency?

Signed: Skeptical Senior

Dear Skeptical Senior: You touch on an item that the AMAC Foundation has dealt with many times over the years, specifically the notion that Social Security has the characteristics of a Ponzi Scheme.

Our position in response to that notion is that Social Security was created and operated with full transparency, with its financial

status, formulas, and long-term deficits completely and publicly documented, and reported to the President and Congress annually. Unlike the infamous Charles Ponzi, the government has a permanent pool of contributors through mandatory FICA and SECA (self-employment) payroll taxes and is designed to remain in operation infinitely as long as there’s a taxpaying workforce. Moreover, the Social Security system is overseen by Congress, specifically the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The Social Security Administration is subject to routine hearings by these congressional overseers and maintains an independent Office of the Inspector General to ensure the integrity of its financial operations.

Contrary to Ponzi victims, all participants retiring from the workforce (and their dependents) recover their Social Security contributions via benefit payments, some more than others based on their level of participation in the system. Also, contrary to Ponzi Schemes, Social Security was designed as a social insurance system and has operated successfully in that mode for over nine decades.

What raises the notion of a Ponzi Scheme comparison these days is the looming insolvency facing Social Security just six

years from now. This financial problem, however, has nothing to do with fraud. Rather, it is a function of workforce demographics and the fact that Congress has long deferred corrective action on a problem that has been known for the past four decades. We sometimes hear well intended (but sometimes uninformed) comments from some Washington politicians invoking the Ponzi Scheme reference, but we believe that Congress is finally waking up to the urgency. And we also believe Congress is now starting to move seriously to set a course for correction in time to ward off the impact of insolvency. AMAC is proud to be a part of the collective thinking currently surfacing, and our Social Security Guarantee is in play as a plan to be considered.

We invite you to review our SS reform plan (at <https://amac.us/social-security-guarantee>) and likewise to stay tuned to our Social Security Report website (<https://socialsecurityreport.org/>) where we post regular updates on a variety of matters pertaining to Social Security and retirement.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA).

★



President Trump’s tariffs aren’t popular, but he’s found a way to make them even less so -- a trade war with America’s most inoffensive ally.

When one thinks of countries that deserve to be subjected to a steady stream of insults (it’s Lake America now, not Lake Ontario) and a punishing regime of tariffs, Canada is far down the list.

Ottawa has been a loyal, if occasionally annoying, friend of the United States for nearly 100 years. The presence of a well-meaning country with similar values along the 5,000-mile border to our north is a gigantic geostrategic blessing, although one that is apparently lost on President Trump.

Both sides deserve blame for the breakdown in negotiations, but news reports suggest it was the U.S. that made additional demands at the 11th hour. Now both sides are imposing new duties on the other, and Trump is threatening 50% tariffs on all Canadian cars, trucks and parts beginning in the new year.

It can certainly true that we can impose more pain on the Canadians than they can on us and grind them down economically. We can also land the 101st Airborne in Nova Scotia. But why would we want to do it?

The contention with Canada is characteristic of Trump’s economically

A Foolhardy Conflict with an Inoffensive Ally

senseless, legally dubious and politically harmful push to tariff everything and everyone he can.

Trump’s imposition of all these duties -- often relying on strained interpretations of U.S. statutes -- has run directly counter to his promise in the 2024 campaign to reduce prices, a pledge central to his victory. Although the administration maintains that the cost of tariffs isn’t passed on to U.S. consumers -- instead borne by foreign countries and producers -- its actions implicitly concede the opposite.

The administration excluded an array of consumer electronics from new reciprocal tariffs on China to avoid unpopular price increases, and it lifted tariffs on a long list of foodstuffs late last year. Twice this year, including about a week ago, the administration widened exceptions for beef imports. If tariffs were genuinely cost-free, none of this would have been deemed necessary by the most protectionist administration since that of Herbert Hoover.

A chief argument for tariffs is that they will revive American manufacturing. Even if this is true, it’s a long-term play, whereas the disruption from tariffs is experienced immediately. It’s also a questionable proposition; increasing the price of imported goods used in manufacturing, which is the effect of the scattershot tariffs, doesn’t do U.S. producers any favors. It is telling that the National Association of Manufacturers opposes the sweeping tariffs.

Polling consistently

finds that the duties are unpopular. Majorities oppose Trump’s handling of the issue, and the public believes that the tariffs have increased prices and should be lowered. The trade war with Canada in particular fares poorly. A YouGov survey found that 62% of people oppose the imposition of 50% tariffs on many Canadian imports.

At the end of the day, Trump has chosen a long-standing ideological goal and his legacy over his short-term political standing. He has advocated for major tariffs for decades and has finally gotten them. They are likely to endure, even if they hurt now. His most probable Republican successor, J.D. Vance, presumably wouldn’t roll them back, and the Democratic candidate in 2028 might be equally protectionist. Regardless, it’s going to be difficult for future presidents to give up the revenue generated by the duties.

And so a president who campaigned on lowering prices has embraced a policy that, at the margins, increases them. Unless things are smoothed over with our Friendly Neighbor to the North, there will be more where that came from -- in a dispute with a country that no one considers an economic threat to the United States.

If the midterms end up sending a broad message of discontent, the tariffs will surely be a reason why.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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★

The Big West Honors Ching as the League’s Offensive Player of the Week

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Following her two-goal performance that helped lift the Sacramento State women’s soccer team to victory against Southern Utah, junior Candace Ching was named The Big West’s Offensive Player of the Week on Monday (Aug. 31) for the first time in her career.

Ching became the second Hornet to win weekly honors from the league this season alongside teammate Mia Jackson, who also picked up her own offensive award back on Aug. 17 following two goals in her debut in the green and gold against Pacific. Sacramento State has now won multiple offensive weekly awards in the same season for the first time since 2019 when Kylie Kim-Bustillos, Tiffany Miras and Camila Fonseca did so in the Big Sky Conference. Her first score came in the



Junior Candace Ching was named The Big West’s Offensive Player of the Week on Monday (Aug. 31) for the first time in her career. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

61st minute as she collected a deflected ball that was tapped to her by teammate Marely Velazquez Varela, outraced a defender into the box, and finished with the right foot to the near post to tie the match.

In the 64th minute, Ching then gave her team the lead for good. Establishing position near the penalty spot, Ching chested down a lofted ball from teammate Ellie Farber before unleashing a one-timer into the

upper right-hand corner for the eventual game winner.

Along with Jackson’s performance against the Tigers, Ching’s stellar second half gave the Hornets two players with a brace in the same season since

2022 when Abigail Lopez (at Pacific) and Aubrey Goodwill (at Cal State Bakersfield) did so.

Entering the week, Ching ranks tied for second in the league in goals scored with three, tied for sixth in shots on goal with five, and tied for second in the conference in points with six.

Standing as one of only three remaining unbeaten teams in The Big West table, Sacramento State put its 4-0-1 record on the line with a single match the week of Aug. 31-Sept. 4 against Fresno State (Sept. 3).

The Hornets have tied the school record for the best start in school history through five matches originally set by the 2000 squad with the same record. A win over the Bulldogs would give this year’s team the title of the best start in school history after that 2000 team began the year 4-0-2 following a draw against Pacific. ★

Chibi Ukaegbu to Join Houston Dynamo

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Republic FC announced that the club has reached an agreement with Major League Soccer club Houston Dynamo FC transferring defender Chibuike “Chibi” Ukaegbu (pronunciation: Chi-bee Oo-kay-boo) to Houston Dynamo II of MLS NEXT PRO pending league and federation approval. The 19-year-old becomes the latest homegrown player developed in Republic FC’s nationally respected academy system to feature with the first team and continue his professional career beyond Sacramento.

“Chibi is a highly talented and hard working young player, who has positively contributed to the club’s success over the past several seasons. We know that he’ll represent our club and region well as he continues to grow and wish him all the best as he enters the next chapter of his career,” said President and General Manager Tim Holt. “Chibi is a great example of what the young players of this region can

accomplish, and his journey through our academy, to the first team, and now on to a top club like Houston Dynamo is a source of pride for our club and the Sacramento soccer community.”

“It’s bittersweet to say goodbye to my first club — my hometown club — but it has been an honor to wear the Sacramento Republic FC crest,” said Chibi Ukaegbu. “I’m proud to be one of the local kids that followed their dream through the academy, to the first team, and now on to the next stage in my career.”

Ukaegbu continued, “I hope more kids across the region see this moment and understand that the path to the top doesn't skip places like Sacramento — it runs right through this club. I’m grateful for all the people who’ve stood behind me and pushed me further each day — coaches, teammates, the team and academy staff, my friends, and of course my family.”

Ukaegbu joined Republic FC’s academy at 14 years old in 2021 after playing for Placer United.

In two seasons with the academy, he appeared in 60 matches



Sacramento Republic FC has reached an agreement with Major League Soccer club Houston Dynamo FC transferring defender Chibuike “Chibi” Ukaegbu to Houston Dynamo II of MLS NEXT PRO pending league and federation approval. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

and helped the club’s U15 and U17 teams reach MLS NEXT Cup playoffs in both years. He earned opportunities to train with the First Team and signed his first professional contract with his hometown

team in November of 2023.

He would go on to make his professional debut and mark his first career start on May 7, 2024, at age 17. Facing off with fellow USL Championship club Monterey Bay FC in the U.S. Open Cup, Ukaegbu made a splash in his first-ever appearance, leading all players with four tackles won and seven duels won. He was a critical substitute in the club’s Open Cup 4-3 extra time thriller over San Jose Earthquakes.

Since making his debut, Chibi has made 47 appearances and played nearly 2,500 minutes across all competitions. Featuring in 20 matches that resulted in clean sheets, the defender has helped Republic FC secure two play-off berths, three appearances in the U.S. Open Cup Round of 32 and a trip to the Quarterfinals in 2024, and a spot in the 2025 USL Cup Final. Earlier this year in Open Cup play, he came on as a substitute to close out Republic FC’s shutout performance against MLS club Minnesota United before converting his penalty attempt in the ensuing twelve-round shootout.

Regularly recognized as one of the USL Championship’s top young players, Ukaegbu has also earned several invitations to U.S. Soccer national team programs, including two selections to the U-20 Men’s National Team and one to the U-19 Men’s National Team in 2025.

Founded in 2015, Republic FC’s youth development academy has propelled hundreds of young players into the next stage of their soccer journey. As the only youth-to-pro pathway in the Sacramento region, Republic FC’s academy provides unique opportunities for players to access professional environments, premier coaches, elite competition and more.

Over 30 players have joined the professional ranks in domestic and global leagues, including the eight who have signed professional contracts to play for their hometown team. Nearly 50 players have earned the opportunity to train and compete with the First Team through USL Academy contracts, while over 100 have gone on to play for Division I colleges. ★

UC Davis Welcomes Zyhira Jones as New STUNT Assistant Coach

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - UC Davis STUNT is strengthening its coaching staff with the addition of Assistant Coach Zyhira Jones. A former collegiate STUNT athlete and experienced head coach with a proven track record of program building and athlete development.

Jones arrives in Davis after founding and directing the inaugural STUNT program at West Park High School in Roseville, Calif. Over her six years, she built the program into a regional power, expanding the roster from 13 to more than 30 athletes while leading the team to three consecutive California STUNT State Championship appearances, two League Championships and two CIF Section runner-up finishes. During her time at West Park, Jones developed over 10 athletes who advanced to play at the collegiate level.

“Zyhira brings a level of expertise and experience that will be incredibly valuable as we build this program from the ground up. She has a proven ability to develop athletes, establish a strong team culture and build a program from its foundation into one of the most competitive high school STUNT programs in the state of California,” said UC Davis STUNT Head Coach Brittany Lampson. “Her experience leading a program through that growth process gives her a unique perspective that will translate directly to what we are building here at the Division I level. I'm excited to have her on our coaching staff and know that her knowledge, passion, and commitment to STUNT will play a huge role in helping us establish the foundation for this program and create something special from day one!”



Zyhira Jones has been named assistant coach of the Division I STUNT team at UC Davis. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

Before her time at West Park, Jones served as the head cheer coach at Del Campo High School (2018–20) and Encina High School (2017–18), overseeing practice planning, routine development and program administration.

“I'm so excited to join UC Davis and have the opportunity to help build the STUNT program at the Division I level,” Jones said. “I've had the unique experience of being part of a collegiate STUNT program from the beginning and then later building a high school program from the ground up, so getting to be part of another program's first chapter feels really special to me. I'm excited to bring what I've learned as both an athlete and a coach to UC Davis, help develop our student-athletes, and build a program that we can all be proud of. I'm really honored to be part of the start of this program and can't wait to see what we build together. Let's go Aggies!”

As a collegiate student-athlete, Jones competed for Concordia University Irvine from 2013 to 2016 as a member of CUI’s inaugural STUNT program. She graduated from Concordia University Irvine in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in biology. ★

State Fair Junior Championship Crowns 2026 Winners at Haggin Oaks

Sacramento Golf Council News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The State Fair Junior Championship for boys and girls ages 7 to 18 was held Saturday, Aug. 26, at Haggin Oaks Golf Complex. Players ages 12 to 18 competed on the Alistair MacKenzie 18-hole course, while the 7 to 11 division played nine holes on Arcade Creek.

In the boys 14 to 18 division, Kees Hoogendyk captured the overall title with a 68 score in the boys 16 to 18 division.

In the girls 14 to 18 division, Melody Chen won the overall championship from the 14 to 15 division.

Other division highlights included boys 16 to 18 winner, Amani Asghar scored 70; girls 16 to 18 winner, Khloe Chao scored 73; boys 14 to 15 winner, Ricky Soe scored 71; and girls 14 to 15 winner, Elise Lim scored 74.

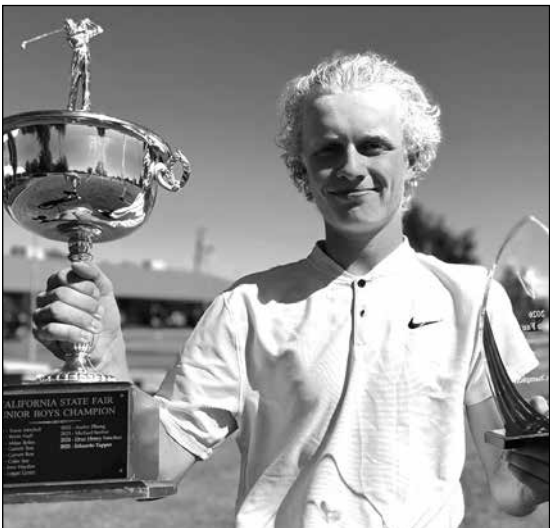
Boys 12 to 13 winner, Rishan Dey scored 71; girls 12 to 13 winner, Zoe Yu scored 73; boys 10 to 11 winner, Joseph Alastair scored 38, winning in a play-off against Carter Cedillo. And girls 10 to 11 winner, Livy Woodward scored 37.

Lastly, Boys 7 to 9 winner, Chung-Kuang Chang scored 36 and the girls 7 to 9 winner, Olivia Villajoquin scored 37.

The tournament was hosted by the Sacramento Golf Council under the direction of Council President and Tournament Chairman Mark Perry. ★



In the girls 14 to 18 division, Melody Chen won the overall championship from the 14 to 15 division. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council



In the boys 14 to 18 division, Kees Hoogendyk captured the overall title with a 68 score in the boys 16 to 18 division. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council

Placer Updates Housing Program, Seeks Community Input



In addition to the WHPP updates, Placer County is seeking community input to help guide future revisions to its Launchpad Program, which provides funding to incentivize construction of affordable housing. Photo courtesy of Workplace Housing Preservation Program

Placer County News Release

TAHOE CITY, CA (MPG) - Placer County continues to make strides in helping local workers find and maintain housing in the North Lake Tahoe region. The Placer County Board of Supervisors recently updated guidelines and amended policy governing the Workforce Housing Preservation Program to expand eligibility opportunities.

The updates expand participant eligibility to include local businesses that operate at a location within the Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District’s geographical boundaries. This also includes businesses whose principal coverage area is within the TTUSD geographical boundary.

The program also expands eligibility to multi-family properties greater than four units. Previously, only properties with one to four units were eligible.

“Preserving attainable workforce housing remains one of the county’s highest priorities in North Lake Tahoe,” said District 5 Supervisor Cindy Gustafson. “These updates help strengthen the program, provide greater clarity for homeowners and future buyers and ensure the program continues supporting the local workforce for years to come.”

WHPP provides incentives to qualified homebuyers who meet local employment requirements in exchange for a recorded deed restriction that ensures those homes remain occupied by eligible local workers. The program is designed to preserve housing opportunities for the local workforce, creating a secondary housing market to support long-term homeownership opportunities in eastern Placer County.

Since the program’s inception, WHPP has secured 17 deed-restricted properties with a total investment of \$1,852,400. The properties encompass two condominiums, two duplexes and 14 single-family homes. Original sale prices for these properties have ranged from \$340,000 to \$980,000, with an average deed restriction disbursement of approximately \$108,965 per property.

Over the past year, the county secured three additional deed restrictions through

the program, totaling \$329,600 in funding. Those properties included one duplex and two single-family homes, with sale prices ranging from \$575,000 to \$750,000 and an average deed restriction disbursement of approximately \$109,867 per property.

As of the county’s 2024 annual monitoring cycle, all 17 participating properties remain owner-occupied and in full compliance with program requirements. None of the properties have been sold or listed for sale since entering the program.

WHPP has received a total allocation of \$4.1 million and currently has approximately \$2,247,500 in remaining available funds to support future workforce housing opportunities. The program continues to accept applications.

In addition to the WHPP updates, Placer County is seeking community input to help guide future revisions to its Launchpad Program, which provides funding to incentivize construction of affordable housing.

The county has launched a public survey to gather feedback on how Launchpad funding should be awarded and which types of housing projects should be prioritized. Community members, developers and others involved in housing development are encouraged to participate.

Feedback from the survey, along with input received through previous community engagement and from program applicants, will help inform program modifications that county staff intends to propose for adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

All survey questions are optional, and some questions may be more relevant to developers, community members or others involved in developing new housing. The county appreciates all feedback as it works to ensure the Launchpad Program continues to respond to local housing needs. Take the survey here: <https://placer.surveymonkey.com/r/26GW5NF>.

Learn more about the Workforce Housing Preservation Program at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/whpp>.

Learn more about the Launchpad program at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/10115/Launchpad>. ★

Olympic Valley Museum Moves Forward

Placer County News Release

TAHOE CITY, CA (MPG) - The Placer County Planning Commission took action to unanimously recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the proposed Sierra Nevada Olympic Winter Museum and Community Cultural Center, a project envisioned to celebrate the legacy of the 1960 Winter Olympics and the history of winter sports in the Sierra Nevada.

The proposed project, located at 101 Olympic Valley Road in the Olympic Valley community, would bring an approximately 20,000-square-foot museum and community cultural center to Olympic Valley Park. The project site is located between the park's driveway connection to Olympic Valley Road and the existing pickleball courts.

The proposed two-story, U-shaped building would provide a range of indoor and outdoor spaces designed to serve both residents and visitors. Planned uses include a museum focused on Olympic and Sierra Nevada ski history, a cultural community center, event space, a cafe and museum gift shop and potentially a visitor center.

Outdoor improvements would include gathering areas designed to complement the building and provide opportunities for community events and activities. A plaza deck is proposed south of the building, along with a V-shaped garden to the east.

The proposed development would be located within Olympic Valley Park, an approximately 26.8-acre year-round community park consisting of two parcels owned and operated by Placer County. The project represents an

opportunity to add a cultural and educational destination within the existing park while maintaining the park's broader role as a community gathering place.

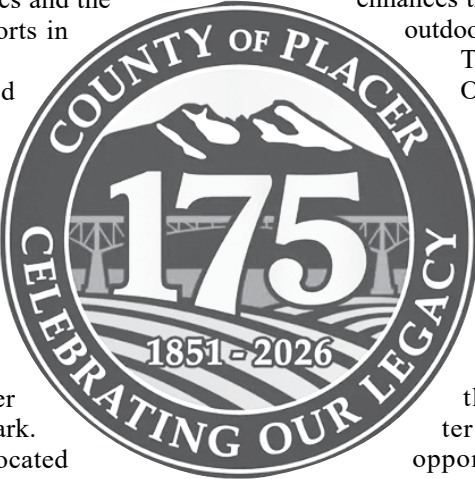
“Museums promote the recreation and pleasure of park visitors,” said Placer’s Deputy CEO Stephanie Holloway “The proposed SNOW Museum's focus on active recreational and athletic pursuits enhances the park's purpose of outdoor recreation.”

The 1960 Winter Olympics, held in what is now Olympic Valley, helped establish the region as an internationally recognized winter sports destination. More than six decades later, the proposed center would provide an opportunity to preserve that legacy, share the history of winter sports in the Sierra Nevada and create a new community gathering space for Olympic Valley.

The project site is subject to a deed restriction associated with Placer County's 1999 purchase of the park parcel from the U.S. Forest Service. The restriction limits future uses of the property for private development of a commercial, residential or industrial nature. Through continued discussions, the Forest Service has indicated that the proposed project does not appear to violate the property's deed restriction, thereby allowing the county to proceed with project discussions.

The Board of Supervisors will consider the Planning Commission's recommendation and the project's requested land-use entitlements at a future meeting.

Find more information about the proposed project at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/7884/SNOW-Sports-Museum-and-Community-Cultura>. ★



Forest Service Provides Free Air Purifiers

Placer County News Release

KINGS BEACH, CA (MPG) - Free air purifiers are being distributed to low-income seniors and families in the Placer County area of the Lake Tahoe Basin, with the first of 92 deliveries happening this week.

In 2023, the basin was impacted by excessive smoke from prescribed fires that caused poor air quality for several days. In response, the Placer County Air Pollution Control District held several meetings with agencies in the basin involved with prescribed fire. Following those discussions, the Placer County Air Pollution Control District, U.S. Forest Service, and Connecting Point have collaborated to implement a long-term air filter lending program to help low-income residents who may not be able to leave the basin when smoke impacts occur.

“Prescribed fire is a crucial tool for reducing wildfire risk in our communities and we welcome its responsible use,” said Placer County District 5 Supervisor Cindy Gustafson. “Excessive smoke, however, often affects our most vulnerable residents who can least afford measures to avoid it. We’re helping protect those who need it most as we all continue the important work of restoring and preserving our forests.”

The Forest Service’s Lake Tahoe

Basin Management Unit contributed 44 air purifiers, and the Placer County Air Pollution Control District contributed 48, funded through Community Air Protection program grant funds.

“The District supports the use of beneficial fire to help reduce the amount of material that may otherwise burn during a wildfire,” said Placer County Air Pollution Control Officer Erik C. White. “We want beneficial fire to occur in a way that does not cause smoke impacts to residents. We are pleased to support eligible residents with an air purifier to help mitigate any impacts from prescribed fire.”

A first round of purifiers will be distributed to seniors participating in the Meals on Wheels program in partnership with its local operators. Sierra Community House will identify eligible families with children for further distributions.

The air purifier distribution is part of California Climate Investments, which uses billions of Cap-and-Invest dollars to fund projects that reduce harmful emissions, protect public health, strengthen local economies and support natural environments. With a strong focus on communities most impacted by pollution and limited access to resources, California Climate Investments help build a more equitable and sustainable future. ★



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‘Unmasking the Shadow’

Placer Repertory Theater Announces Season

Placer Repertory Theater News Release

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Delusion and misperception drive the stories shared by Placer Repertory Theater's 2026-2027 theatrical season, “Unmasking the Shadow,” that includes three new stage plays based upon classic literary source material (Dracula, Don Quixote, Sherlock Holmes) touring Placer County and the Sacramento area Sept. 2026 through June 2027 and available for booking.

“Our artistic intent this season was to develop new works that begin with false premises. Characters that are self-deluded or are misperceiving others, only to strip away the stories these characters tell themselves and the masks they wear or misperceive on others to discover Truth,” said Producing Artistic Director, T.S Forsyth.

“Each play this season explores a dynamic shift from initial perceptions and beliefs to the journey’s end with newfound realization.”

Placer Rep’s 2026-2027 main season shows include "Dracula (on Tour)" back by popular demand! This production has been in development since last year’s script-in-hand preview. The opening run is Sept- Oct 2026, then the show is available for BOOKING through June 2027.

An interactive melodrama full of fun, romance, thrills and drama!

The main season also includes "Don Quixote de la Mental Institution" (working title). A brand-new immersive, devised work. Play cards, take your pills and watch “Don Quixote” struggle with his mental health. Features a tour de force performance on an epic scale by Carson Sloan, with support from the other patients and visitors on the ward (that’s you). Feb. and March 2027 production and available for booking!

The final show will premiere in April 2027, "Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet," a new play based upon the plot and characters of the first ever Sherlock Holmes novel. This thrilling detective play, punctuated with comedy, includes the journey of the Holmes & Watson bromance!

In addition to Placer Rep’s three main season plays, PRT 2026-2027 programming includes New Works Festival, New Works Showcase, School Tours and Family Theater and VAPA education outreach programming plus special shows and events. Discount tickets are available via Placer Rep’s brand-new shows and events portal at <https://OnTheStage.Tickets/Placer-Repertory-Theater>.

For bookings, group sales and questions you can email education@placerrep.org. ★

Tahoe Restaurants Raise Nearly \$400,000 for Lake Tahoe

**The Tahoe Fund
News Release**

TAHOE CITY, CA (MPG) - Four of the Lake Tahoe region’s most iconic restaurants offer their guests a way to give back to the local environment, and it’s added up in a major way. By leaving contributions of any size to their checks, guests at Gar Woods Grill & Pier, Riva Grill, Bar of America and Sparks Water Bar have raised nearly \$400,000 for the Tahoe Fund.

“When you visit one of these quintessential Tahoe restaurants, you’re not only enjoying an incredible meal or a signature Wet Woody, you can also give back to this special place and inspire others to do the same,” said Amy Berry, Tahoe Fund CEO. “We are so thankful for this longstanding partnership and their unwavering support of our work.”

This partnership is part of the Tahoe Fund’s \$1 for Tahoe program. Created to offer a simple way for those who love Tahoe to help make it even better, \$1 for Tahoe raises money to restore and improve the environment and enhance recreational opportunities through guest donations. Proceeds from the program support the efforts of the Tahoe Fund in its mission to improve the Lake Tahoe



Guests at four iconicTahoe restaurants have raised nearly \$400,000 for the Tahoe Fund. Photo courtesy of The Tahoe Fund

environment for all to enjoy. “We’re proud to have supported the work of the Tahoe Fund for over a decade,” said Tom Turner, CEO of Tahoe Restaurant Collection. “Thanks to our guests, every

small act of generosity over the last ten years has made a big impact for Lake Tahoe.” The funds raised from guest contributions goes directly to projects that help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire,

improve lake clarity, and make it easier to get around, enjoy, and take care of Lake Tahoe. Some of the projects that benefit include innovative pilots to prepare communities for wildfire, restoration efforts

in the Upper Truckee River watershed and the next section of the East Shore Trail. To learn more about the various programs funded by Tahoe Fund, visit: www.tahoe fund.org. ★

Tahoe City Oktoberfest to Celebrate 20th Anniversary



This year also celebrates Pete N’ Peters’ 50th anniversary with a special limited-edition commemorative Beer Garden glass featuring both anniversary logos. Photo courtesy of Silent A Photography, TCDA

Continued from page 1

feature regional craft beverages from Bike Dog Brewing, Alibi Ale Works, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co., 2 Towns Ciderhouse, and Tahoe National Brewing Co., with additional breweries expected to join the lineup. Festival food will include Men Wielding Fire, Big Blue Q of Tahoe, Rub Shack, Pop Crunch & Munch, Tahoe House strudel with the Tahoe City Rotary Club, Divine Bake House, Fusion 2 Go and Little Truckee Ice Creamery.

Alpine Sound returns with live Oktoberfest music throughout the afternoon, setting the stage for festival games including the Stein Squat, Yodel Contest and Wiener & Wurst Toss. Guests are also

encouraged to wear their best German-inspired attire for the costume contest and a chance to win prizes.

New this year for the kids is free entry to the Bounce House. Kids can also enjoy pumpkin painting, balloon twisting with Inspired Balloons, kids fall temporary tattoos, festival Oktoberfest photo walls, a Story Trail courtesy of Tahoe City Friends of the Library and more family-friendly activities.

A free Bike Valet and a free Event Shuttle from Olympic Valley and the West Shore will be available. Oktoberfest details, tickets and shuttle schedules are available at visittahoe city.org/event/oktoberfest26. ★

Tahoe Literary Festival Returns Oct. 9 to 11

**Tahoe Literary Festival
News Release**

TAHOE CITY, CA (MPG) - The third annual Tahoe Literary Festival will take place from Oct. 9 to 11, bringing acclaimed authors, poets, memoirists and literary professionals to Tahoe City for three days of author conversations, panels, generative workshops, craft talks, community open mic, book fair, singer-songwriters’ showcase and writers’ retreat.

Featured authors include bestselling author and two-time “Survivor” winner Parvati Shallow; California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick; Nevada Poet Laureate Shaun Griffin; author and Memoir Nation co-host Grant Faulkner; bestselling author Suzanne Roberts; and artist and naturalist Obi Kaufmann.

Additional authors include Priya Hutner, Melissa Duge Spiers, Greg Sarris, Josh Weil, Sands Hall, Nevada County Poet Laureate Karen Terrey and Reno Poet Laureate emeritus Jesse James Ziegler, along with Jared and Julia Drake of Wildbound PR and many others.

The festival kicks off Friday, Oct. 9, with a free community celebration featuring readings, poetry, music, and a community Open Mic Night hosted by Scott Green of Tahoe



The Tahoe Literary Festival fosters community, creating a place where readers can discover new writers, authors can engage directly with audiences and aspiring writers can learn from established professionals. Photo designed by Magnific

Poetry Collective at the Boatworks Mall in partnership with Tahoe Wine Collective.

Saturday, Oct. 10, features a full day of programming from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., including author conversations, panels, generative workshops and craft talks. The full-day Saturday festival pass is \$65. The day culminates with a free community book fair, author meet & greet and singer-songwriters’ showcase open to the public.

The multi-genre festival, curated for both readers and writers, explores poetry, fiction, memoir and nonfiction, with topics ranging from cults and climate fiction to historical and literary fiction, food writing and workshops on the business of writing.

On Sunday, Oct. 11, the

festival hosts a half-day writers’ retreat from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Attendees can choose poetry with Lee Herrick, memoir/nonfiction with Suzanne Roberts, or a fiction workshop (a crash course in novel writing) with Grant Faulkner. The retreat offers generative writing and dedicated creative time for emerging and experienced writers. Advance registration is required. Tickets are \$75.

Founded to celebrate and strengthen the literary arts in the Tahoe region, the Tahoe Literary Festival fosters community, creating a place where readers can discover new writers, authors can engage directly with audiences, and aspiring writers can learn from established professionals.

For tickets, schedule and festival information, visit TahoeLitFest.com. ★



**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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Placer Launches Community Oral History Project

Continued from page 1

175 community page on the StoryCorps Archive website at <https://archive.storycorps.org/communities/placer-175/>.

The project will collect interviews through the end of October.

Placer County was established April 25, 1851. The Placer 175 oral history

project complements a year-long effort to celebrate the county’s history with community events and history engagements. More information on the observances is available on the county’s 175th anniversary web page at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/10713/Placer-County-175th-Anniversary>. ★

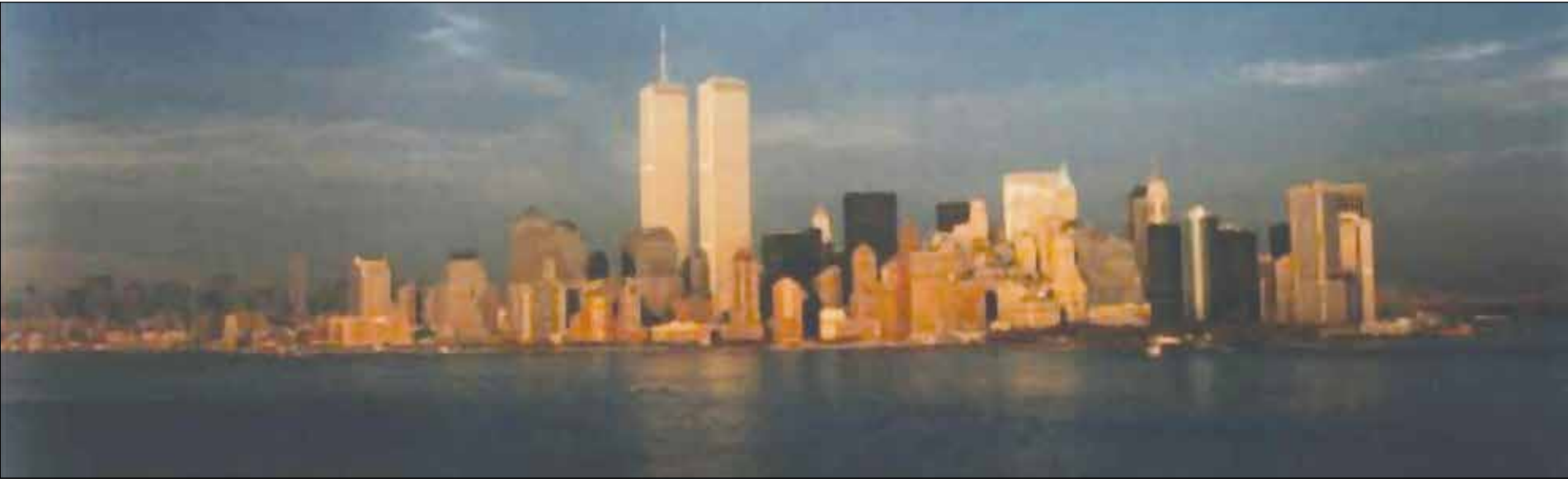


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A Morning Like No Other – Ground Zero at 25 years



An early morning skyline view from the Staten Island Ferry. This was the daily view of thousands of commuters to Manhattan before 9/11. Years later, I met with my friend, the captain of the ferry, in Sacramento for lunch. John had to leave New York because he just couldn't live another day in that memory. He stopped his ship in the middle of the harbor that 9/11 morning, as he and his entire shipload of travelers and crew watched the horror unfold.



Reflections at East River and John Finley Walk. Photo by a savior

Commentary and photos by Paul V. Scholl

After a long night of late work well into the morning, I was in a deep sleep. The repeating ring of the telephone awakened me. I received an alarming telephone call from a close friend frantically trying to get my attention. She said “just get up and turn on the TV. You won’t believe what is happening”. She was absolutely right.

As I sat there on my white leather couch in my small rental home in Roseville, tuned in as the world was tuned in, to the disaster in New York as it unfolded live for everyone to see. We were all New Yorkers that day.

I had previously lived in Manhattan. After returning to California, I traveled to New York City often to teach classes at The Learning Exchange and spiritual training centers as a part of my ministry. I also met with many clients as a spiritual life coach each visit. Through these visits I became friends with so many great people who lived in The City. I stayed at their homes, got to know their families, learned about their lives, loves, and fears. Many of them worked in the immediate area of the Twin Towers.

As I sat there watching the towers fall along with the rest of the world, I had no idea if any of those friends or members of their families were being crushed under the weight of that destruction. It was a personal anguish and horror felt by millions

simultaneously. It was a grief embedded forever. And we as a nation vowed to never forget.

Everything changed for everyone during those hours. Terrorism had come to our shores, and those whom we had charged to protect us failed miserably. We have been paying for their failures ever since.

And for those who paid the ultimate price, giving their lives to save others inside and around the Twin Towers? And for all the First Responders who witnessed the death and destruction at the end of their fingertips and right before their own eyes? What did they get from so many after only 25 years? Many forgot.

Yes, life goes on, but as individuals we do not. Our time is limited. We are here to understand life, liberty, love, and loss. We are here to understand joy and grief. These become the web that builds our evolution, our DNA that we pass on to those who follow us. If we do not teach our emotional history to our children, good and bad, they will suffer repeating our mistakes and the feeling of betrayal from us for not forewarning them.

Enter our current day Neon Nation. Have we lost our way in one generation? Does the “Shiny thing” distract us so easily because it is too hard for us to focus on the truth and explaining it to others as our society crumbles around us?

A few months after 9/11 I traveled back to New York to offer support to any of those friends who needed it. I traveled to the site while the clean-up was still under-way. I saw the scorched church and cemetery. There were still many “Missing” flyers posted to walls and lampposts. I saw the many memorials around the site. When I found one memorial that listed all of the names of those lost I read every one of them. I thank God to this day that not one of my



One of the many memorial walls surrounding the Ground Zero site. Photo by Paul Scholl

friends was on that list.

The history of Ground Zero is complex and still unfolding. The more the years fall away the more important it is that we reveal as much as we can about that fateful morning and all that led up to it.

When someone kills your son or daughter, husband or wife, it doesn’t matter what political party they belong to. It doesn’t matter what religion they belong to. It doesn’t matter their motive. All that matters is your loved one is gone forever. Grief takes over. And no one can ever really fill that void. It never truly heals. You just learn how to manage it in the silent times, alone with your Creator.

All those who lost loved ones during those tragic days only asked one thing from us. Never Ever Forget.

On this remembrance weekend 25 years later, take a few moments in silence to share the grief and the weight of the losses experienced by so many on September 11, 2001. If only with that simple action, love will prevail.

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Visitors reading through the many memorials and “missing” posters.



A dedication plaque honoring the fallen first responders.



A memorial sculpture remembering all the construction workers.



And then an angel appeared over the site in my camera lens.