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East Sacramento News

VOL 35 • ISSUE 18 Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

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Making Moves for Heart Health



Manuel Balmes, an American Heart Association Heart and Stroke Walk Sacramento participant, poses near the arch representing the starting line for the walk Sept. 19. Photo by Karen Balmes

By Keith Burbank

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento resident Manuel Balmes, 76, woke up at his daughter's home Feb. 7 with chest pain that failed to go away.

He was having a heart attack. Nine months later, following a two-night stay at Mercy General Hospital, three stents and rehabilitation, he is back to normal though he's exercising and watching his diet.

Along with more than 4,000 others Sept. 19, Balmes walked in Heart and Stroke Walk Sacramento at William Land Regional Park at Freeport Boulevard and Suttersville Road.

"I enjoyed it," said Balmes, who walked the one-mile course.

One- and 5-mile walks started at about 9 a.m. on a paved road, which wound its way under shade trees through the park and its golf course.

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer in the United States, according to the American Heart Association.

And death occurs in about 90 percent of the roughly 350,000 each year who suffer cardiac arrest outside a hospital, according to the association.

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Eateries Get Grants for Upgrades



PG&E offers a range of programs designed to help small and medium-sized businesses reduce energy costs and improve efficiency. Photo courtesy of PG&E

PG&E News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Twenty-two restaurants and food businesses across five counties in the Greater Sacramento Area are receiving grants through the California Restaurant Foundation's Restaurants Care Resilience Fund, supported by funding from The PG&E Corporation Foundation.

The \$5,000 grants will help local restaurant owners invest in new equipment and technology, support employee training and retention efforts and address unexpected business challenges.

The funding is part of a larger program that awarded grants to 239 restaurants and commercial caterers across 30 counties in Northern and Central California this year.

Local restaurants play a vital role in the region's economy and culture, creating jobs, supporting Valley agriculture and serving as gathering places for families and communities.

"Local restaurants are vital to our communities," said Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs, PG&E Corporation, and Chair of the Board, The PG&E Corporation Foundation, Carla Peterman. "They serve as economic engines, gathering hubs and cultural anchors. They support local and regional farms and other food producers and small businesses. They have a tremendous economic multiplier effect that brings many benefits to our hometowns. We're thrilled to continue to support these cornerstones of the communities we serve."

The PG&E Corporation Foundation funded the grants and provided support for the California Restaurant Foundation to administer the program through its Restaurants Care Resilience Fund.

Continued on page 4

Make Pescadero Your Next Retreat

Story and photos
by Dannah Nielsen
Travel Writer

PESCADERO, CA (MPG) - Lounging out by the pool at Venture Retreat Center, we were the only two souls in this forest canyon at the moment. The topic being discussed was "childlike wonder," and how difficult it seems to shift our mindset back to this type of innocence. We all long for it, knowing that it was when we could find excitement and appreciation in almost anything.

"This place is a summer camp, but for adults, too. It's beckoning us. I mean, look around," I said, sweeping my arm out as I balanced my cheese from Harley Goat Dairy on my torn piece of sourdough from Arcangeli's Grocery. "A child would find endless joy in exploring here."

It's true. At Venture Retreat Center, there are no expectations, no rules posted, (save for don't pee in the pool), or any sense

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Tour the grounds and sample cheese at Harley Farms Goat Dairy.



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A man with dark hair, wearing an orange t-shirt and blue shorts, is speaking into a microphone at a clear acrylic podium. He is wearing a lanyard with a badge around his neck. The t-shirt has text that includes "Hispanic Heritage Month" and "2019". Behind him, a woman with short brown hair is visible, looking towards the camera. The background shows a large crowd of people and trees with autumn foliage. A banner with the text "Hispanic Heritage Month 2019" is partially visible.

A group of approximately 12 women are walking in a line, participating in a heart walk. They are wearing matching black t-shirts with a graphic and pink pleated skirts. They are walking under a red banner that reads "HEART WALK STARTS HERE". The background shows a park with trees and a building.

Continued from page 1

six shocks from an automated external defibrillator revived him.

CPR can double or triple the chance a person survives an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, according to the American Heart Association. CPR can be

performed by anyone and with the hands only.

It requires two steps: call 911 and push hard and fast in the center of the chest until paramedics arrive.

Staszak and his family are now regular Heart Walk supporters, according

to the AHA

Strokes can be deadly too.

But Sacramento resident Jose Garcia took immediate action when he suffered one at 28 years old. He noticed the warning signs and called 911 right away.

Garcia is now a father of three, a regular Heart Walk participant and stroke recovery coach. "Small steps lead to extraordinary outcomes," said Steven Foster, president of Mercy General Hospital and chair of the 2026 Heart Walk. ★

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A banner image featuring a close-up of a police car's roof with flashing blue and red lights. The word "POLICE" is partially visible on the side of the car. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text "WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS" in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font. Below this text is the MPG logo, which consists of the letters "MPG" in a stylized, italicized font, with a red and blue swoosh and a star above the "P".

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Jimboy’s Tacos Donates \$1 from Every ‘Six-Pack’



Pictured is one of the first “Wall of Hope” donation cards going up at the Rocklin/Sunset Boulevard location on Sept 1. Photo courtesy of Jimboy’s Tacos

Jimboy’s Tacos News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Jimboy’s Tacos is excited to announce a continuing partnership with Keaton’s Child Cancer Alliance for a special “Six-Pack with a Purpose” promotion during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September.

Building on the success of the partnership from last year, Jimboy’s Tacos will once again offer a “Six-Pack with a Purpose” promotion in all stores starting on Sept. 1 and continuing through the month. One dollar from every six-pack order of their famous Parmesan dusted tacos in September will be donated to the locally based nonprofit organization. The month-long promotion will take place at all Jimboy’s Tacos locations in Northern California and Reno/Nevada.

Jimboy’s Tacos – birthplace of The Original American Taco – has a 70-plus year history of giving back to the communities it serves and is proud to support Keaton’s and their worthwhile mission to provide hope, strength and healing for families facing a child cancer diagnosis.

“We are thrilled to continue partnering with Keaton’s Child Cancer Alliance to raise awareness for such a worthwhile cause,” said Erik Freeman, CEO of Jimboy’s Tacos (and grandson of founder Jim “Jimboy” Knudson).

“We are proud to be able to provide

much-needed support for every child, their parents, and family members dealing with a heart-wrenching cancer diagnosis. Our hearts and healthy wishes are with these brave and resilient children and their forever-hopeful families.”

The goal of the monthlong promotion between Jimboy’s Tacos and Keaton’s Child Cancer Alliance is to raise much needed funds for Keaton’s to support the financial, emotional, and educational impacts of a pediatric cancer diagnosis.

Additionally, every guest who visits a Jimboy’s Tacos restaurant and purchases a six-pack of tacos or donates to Keaton’s will have the opportunity to personalize a "Wall of Hope" donation card that will be placed on a wall in every restaurant.

“This continued partnership with Jimboy’s Tacos makes a lasting impact for children battling cancer and their families,” said Jessica Alonso, executive director of Keaton’s Child Cancer Alliance. “We’re deeply grateful to their team and generous guests for believing in our mission and standing alongside our families to ensure no one navigates the childhood cancer journey alone.”

For more about “Six-Pack with a Purpose,” visit jimboystacos.com/child-cancer. More about Keaton’s Child Cancer Alliance is at ChildCancer.org. And, for more about Jimboy’s Tacos, visit JimboysTacos.com.

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County Responds to Grand Jury Report on Foster Youth

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County has responded to the 2025-26 Sacramento County Grand Jury report on foster youth, outlining areas where it agrees with the Grand Jury and others where it disagrees with its findings and recommendations. On Tuesday, Sept. 15, Sacramento County’s Department of Child, Family, and Adult Services (DCFAS) presented its response to the Board of Supervisors.

The report, “No Longer Invisible: Foster Youth Still in the Shadows,” examined the County’s Sacramento Welcome Homes and the services provided to foster youth who are at risk of sexual exploitation. The Grand Jury recognized improvements at the Welcome Homes but also raised concerns about placements, technology, information sharing, reporting and staff training.

The County agrees with two of the Grand Jury’s findings. It agrees that Child Protective Services (CPS) has improved conditions at the Welcome Homes and obtained licenses for the facilities. The County also agrees that the Sheriff’s Office has provided valuable protection and built positive relationships with youth living in the homes.

The County partially agrees with the finding that Welcome Homes are inappropriate for youth who have experienced or



The County agrees with two of the Grand Jury’s findings. It agrees that Child Protective Services (CPS) has improved conditions at the Welcome Homes and obtained licenses for the facilities. The County also agrees that the Sheriff’s Office has provided valuable protection and built positive relationships with youth living in the homes. Photo designed by Magnific

are at risk of sexual exploitation. DCFAS said Welcome Homes are not intensive therapeutic settings, but they provide an immediate, supervised place for youth who may otherwise have nowhere to go. The homes use a safety and stabilization approach, with behavioral health services available through partner agencies. The County also noted a statewide shortage of specialized placements for youth with complex needs.

The County wholly disagrees

with the Grand Jury’s finding that CPS fails to use the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard to limit access to cell phones and technology. DCFAS said state law protects foster youth’s rights to personal property, communication and age-appropriate access to the community. The County said phones can also be an important safety tool for contacting caregivers, social workers and other trusted adults.

The County also wholly

disagrees with the finding that gaps in data sharing leave youth vulnerable to exploitation. DCFAS said Welcome Home staff share information about exploitation concerns with law enforcement and include relevant information in missing-person reports. Social workers also make service referrals and use assessment tools to identify exploitation risks.

The County partially agrees with the finding about quarterly reports to the Board of

Supervisors. DCFAS said it has regularly reported on the challenges faced by youth who are being commercially sexually exploited or are at risk. However, it acknowledges that specific numbers of identified youth have not been included. The County plans to begin including that information in its quarterly reports starting with the second quarter of fiscal year 2026-27.

The County wholly disagrees with the findings on the Community Advisory Board and the Welcome Homes strategic plan. The County also said a Welcome Homes presentation and report were provided to the Board in November 2024 and that information has continued to be provided through quarterly reports.

The County also wholly disagrees with the finding that Welcome Home staff need additional training. DCFAS said staff are required to complete training on commercial sexual exploitation of children, trauma-informed care, harm reduction and the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard. The County said training information is provided to the Board through quarterly reports.

The County will conduct additional research on best practices used by other counties identified by the Grand Jury for identifying, preventing and responding to the exploitation of foster youth. That review is expected to be completed by Dec. 31. ★

Sac County Board of Education Seeks to Fill Vacancy

Applications for Trustee Area 6 Vacancy due Oct. 6

Sacramento County Board of Education News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Education is seeking applications from qualified residents interested in serving as the Trustee for Area 6. The vacancy follows the resignation of Trustee Heather Davis, who served Area 6 for over ten years following her election in 2016 and re-elections in 2020 and 2022. During her tenure, Davis chaired multiple committees and served as a mentor through Links mentoring. Her leadership and commitment to students, families and the community have been deeply valued.

At its Sept. 15 Board Meeting, the Board voted to fill this vacancy through a provisional appointment. The selected individual will serve until the next regularly scheduled County Board election in 2028.

The application deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m. PT. Applications must be received, not

postmarked, by this deadline.

The candidate interviews and selection process is Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sacramento County Office of Education’s Board Room located at 10474 Mather Blvd., Mather, CA 95655.

To be eligible for this appointment to the Sacramento County Board of Education for Trustee Area 6, candidates must meet the following legal requirements pursuant to California Education Code sections 1000(a) and 1006(a). You must live within Trustee Area 6, be a registered voter and not be an employee of SCOE or an employee of any school district within the boundaries of the Sacramento County Board of Education.

To be considered for the provisional appointment, applicants must submit a resume and a statement, of no more than two pages, outlining their interest in serving on the Board and the experience they would bring to the Board. Applicants may also

submit no more than three letters of recommendation.

Applications are accepted during regular business hours Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and must be received no later than 4 p.m. PT on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Submit your complete application package in person at the David P. Meaney Education Center, 10474 Mather Boulevard, Mather, CA 95655 or by mail to President Wende Watson at Sacramento County Board of Education, P.O. Box 269003, Sacramento, CA 95826. You can also submit your application by email to Wende Watson at wwatson@scoe.net.

Mailed applications must be received, not postmarked, by Oct. 6 deadline.

For additional information regarding the Area 6 Trustee vacancy or the application process, contact Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Wende Watson by email at wwatson@scoe.net or by phone at 916-228-2410. ★

New Home Sales Decline in August, North State BIA Reports

North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Buffeted by rising interest rates, economic uncertainty and continued affordability issues, new home sales in the greater Sacramento region continued to show weakness in August, the North State Building Industry Association reported.

There were 332 sales reported by BIA member builders, down 18% from July and down 33% from August 2025. However, the month-over-month decline was caused largely by the fact July was a five-week month. Average weekly sales for August were actually slightly above July’s figures with 83 sales to 81.

Still, BIA President & CEO Tim Murphy said the fact interest rates have nudged up to around 6.75%

has taken a toll.

“Last fall, before the conflict with Iran, economists had expected interest rates to continue drifting downward to around 6% this year. But with rates creeping upward, a lot of prospective buyers have put their purchases on hold,” Murphy said.

“Still, buyers should remember that builders are offering powerful incentives including rate buy-downs that make homes more affordable than they may think. Prospective buyers should contact their builder and see what kind of deals are out there. We’re not likely to see incentives like these again for a long time.”

During August, Sacramento recorded the most sales at 68, followed closely by Roseville with 67, Rancho Cordova at 42 and Lincoln with 25. Elk Grove and Plumas Lake tied for fifth with 24 sales each. ★



Election Information

November 3, 2026, General Election

Vote Early and Vote by Mail



Oct 5 Ballots begin to arrive by mail. Official Ballot Drop Boxes are now open.



Oct 19 Close of registration. Register today!



Oct 24 11-Day Vote Centers open through Election Day.



Oct 31 All Vote Centers open through Election Day.



Nov 3 Election Day! Last day to turn in your ballot.

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Sign up for “Where’s My Ballot?” with BallotTrax, a free ballot-tracking and alert system. It is available to all voters who wish to track the status of their Vote by Mail ballot from printed to accepted. Scan the QR code or visit www.wheresmyballot.com



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ABOUT TOWN

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

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

California Museum – Celebrate the grand opening of Sendero de las Almas Luminosas (Path of the Luminous Souls), a new experience featuring a path of altars illuminating spaces throughout the Museum. From 6 to 10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10. Includes appearances by altar artists from Self Help Graphics & Arts. Details at [california-museum.org](#).

California Automobile Museum

– Route 66: California Dreamin’: a colorful collection of rare and gorgeous vehicles celebrating the Mother Road through the lens of 100 years of history. Updated version of exhibit: Carburetor Corners, through yearend.
Sunday Drives: Third Sunday of every month, enjoy a free ride (with paid museum admission) in one of the museum’s many beautiful cars from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Details at [calautomuseum.org](#).

California State Railroad Museum – Experience travel as it was over 100 years ago on a 45-minute, 6-mile trip in our fleet of historic railroad cars. Learn about the history of railroading in California. Weekends through Oct. 11.
Polar Express, Nov. 13-Dec. 21: The evening begins in our passenger station where you will be entertained by THE POLAR EXPRESS™ characters, and then board your train to the North Pole where you will enjoy hot chocolate and a sweet treat. Once you reach the North Pole, Santa will come on board to give each

passenger the first gift of Christmas, a silver sleigh bell.
The Chinese Railroad Workers’ Experience offers visitors a view of the Chinese workers who built the western portion of the nation’s first Transcontinental Railroad. Marginalized by history, the Chinese workers were more than a nameless group of laborers.
Details at [californiarailroad.museum](#).

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

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

retrospective assembled in her 80th year.
A native Californian, Adan was born in Woodland and raised in nearby Yolo. She earned her BA and MA from Sacramento State College in 1969 and 1971, respectively. It was there that she met her husband, sculptor Michael Stevens, and became influenced by instructor Jim Nutt, a member of Chicago’s Hairy Who. Details at [crockerart.org](#).

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

Free Flu Shots at Fairytale Town

Fairytale Town News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Families are invited to a celebration of all things health at Fairytale Town’s Wellness Festival from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3 at Fairytale Town, 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

This family-friendly event, powered by Dignity Health and Western Health Advantage, will feature health and wellness activities, fitness fun, flu shots and much more.

Here’s what guests can expect:

Move & Groove Stage: Get your body moving with fun dance classes, yoga sessions, live entertainment and interactive performances for all ages on our Mother Goose Stage.

Teddy Bear Clinic: Bring your favorite stuffed friend to the Dignity Health and Western Health Advantage Teddy Bear Clinic! It is a fun, stress-free way for kids to meet doctors, learn about health checkups and even get a pretend flu shot for their teddy bear. While the plushies get their checkups, pharmacists will be on-site providing real flu shots to both

adults and children. Free teddy bears will be available if you do not have one. Please remember to bring your health plan ID to participate!

Active Adventures Zone: Get moving together through fun obstacle courses, movement challenges and active games that encourage families to build healthy

habits through play.

Healthy Habits Zone: Discover simple, practical ways to fuel your family with nutritious foods through hands-on activities, healthy snack ideas and interactive nutrition education.

Growing Minds Zone: Explore activities that support children’s emotional well-being by building mindfulness, resilience, self-expression and healthy ways to manage big feelings.

The Wellness Festival is free for all between 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., with Fairytale Town general admission prices in effect from 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Additionally, Western Health Advantage members get free admission with their plan ID. ★

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Submissions should be mailed to *East Sacramento News*, 2508 Garfield Ave., Suite A, Carmichael, CA 95608.

The *East Sacramento News* is published twice a month
Call (916) 773-1111 for more information.

Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl

East Sacramento News is a member of **Messenger Publishing Group**

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email to:
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Introducing Sue’s Great Gumbo Cook-Off
at the 5th Annual Golden Harvest Festival

Sacramento Blankets for
Sacramento Kids Readies
for Holiday Giveaway

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Get ready for “GOLDEN,” the 5th Annual Golden Harvest Parade and Music/Dance Festival, a free community celebration showcasing the diverse cultures and communities of the Greater Sacramento region. The festival will be held on the west side of the California State Capitol on 10th Street between L and N Streets, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday Oct. 24.

The event will feature a cultural parade, live entertainment, music, dance, children's activities, food, commercial and information vendors, stage performances, an artwork contest display and for the first time Louisiana Sue’s Great Gumbo Cook-Off!

This year’s new flavorful new attraction, Louisiana Sue’s Great Gumbo Cook-Off, features local chefs from restaurants, caterers and food trucks competing and serving their own interpretations of gumbo, one of Louisiana's most celebrated dishes.

What is gumbo? Gumbo is a rich, aromatic Louisiana dish that brings together a flavorful blend of seasonings, vegetables, meats or seafood with countless variations reflecting the traditions and creativity of the people who make it.

Guests can purchase a taste or a bowl and vote for their favorites in each category. There will be four



Come taste, compare, vote and find out who makes some of the best gumbo in Sacramento! Photo designed by Magnific

different gumbo categories. Categories include tradition gumbo with sausage and chicken, seafood gumbo, vegan gumbo and exotic gumbo featuring alligator or duck. Each chef selects two categories; there are currently 10 to 15 contestants. TV and media personalities alongside festival attendees will vote live at the event.

Prices for a taste and bowl vary depending on category. For instance, the prices for the traditional gumbo are \$6 for a taste and \$15 for a bowl and the vegan gumbo is \$5 for a taste with \$10 for a bowl. Both the seafood and the exotic gumbo cost \$7 for a taste and \$18 for a bowl.

Come hungry and discover how different chefs put their own signature on this Louisiana favorite.

The different chefs featured include Mr. Gumbo making traditional and seafood gumbos, plus fried fish sandwiches; Gator Dave with gator gumbo, BBQ wings and mac & cheese; Louisiana Heaven serving up a build your

own gumbo, plus fried gator and Boudin; Lizetta’s Soul Food serving vegan gumbo, seafood gumbo, Kitchen Sink Gumbo and Crawfish Sushi.

Fellow chefs and restaurants include Shake It Urself serving Chicken, Traditional, and Seafood Gumbos, plus Fried Chicken Wings & Strips, Red Beans & Rice and Garlic Fries; Soul On A Roll with Duck Gumbo and Gumbo Fries; and Chason’s serving Seafood Gumbo, plus one additional item to be announced.

If you are interested in sponsoring the event or donating, email louisianasuepresents@gmail.com or call 916-806-2820. Sponsor and partner logos appear on all the winners’ plaques, printed and posted promotions. Banners and posters will be placed at the event with donors listed on the website.

Come ready to have some fun, be entertained, sing and taste some Great Gumbo ... all in one location! ★

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, SBSK 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.

SBSK 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, SBSK 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



Kindergartners are shown with their Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids gifts. Photo courtesy of Claire Gliddon

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 SBSK, visit 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.) ★

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Stay with Sabonis

By V.G. Harris

Don't look now Kings fans but the NBA preseason is only 2 weeks away, and for many Sacramento Kings fans that brings an abundance of hope and excitement.

If there is a franchise in the NBA that epitomizes the term eternal optimist, it would have to be the effervescent Kings fans that still believe that this year's team may be the next version of "Hoosiers."

I would like to believe that too!

As I was recently studying some of the more successful franchises is the NBA, I turned to the Chicago Bulls of the 1990's, and I was reminded that 3 of Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen's 6 titles came after Dennis Rodman became a member of the team. In fact, they actually enjoyed a rare 3-peat with Rodman on board. Not known for being a scorer, Rodman showed the Chicago Bulls how rebounding was done and played defense with reckless abandon.

Regardless of his multi-colored hair, wild histrionics, and seemingly out of control off the court behavior, for at least 3 seasons it was Dennis Rodman that was the straw that stirred the drink.

The legendary Michael Jordan did much to encourage the Bulls franchise to take a chance on Rodman, and to this day Rodman is much admired by Jordan for his world class rebounding and some of the toughest defense every seen on an NBA court. Rodman actually led the NBA in rebounding 7 consecutive years and received the title of defensive player of the year 2 times.

Well, the Sacramento Kings don't have 6 world championships, and after 40 plus years in Sacramento are still searching for their first, but make no mistake about it, hope springs eternal despite what GM Scott Perry refers to as a rebuild.

Someone who should already be mentioned in the conversation as an all-time great Sacramento King is often maligned big man Domantas Sabonis.

Sabonis, criticized for his less than stellar defense, in my opinion is getting a bad rap and I think it's high time the fans of Sacramento come to his defense.

Domantas streak of leading the NBA in rebounding sadly came to a halt last season due to injuries that limited him to only 19 games while playing 70 in the prior season.

This Stevedore of the hardwood played one season in a Kings uniform with a broken thumb, and playing through the pain led the league in rebounding. Add that to one of the most exceptional team players the Sacramento Kings have ever had, Sabonis nightly exhibits the kind of grit that any GM should be proud to have on his team.

Although not a rim protector, Sabonis gives 100% every night and is every bit the foundation piece the Sacramento Kings need to bring credibility to their franchise.

Inexplicably, the Kings forgot what they had in DeAaron Fox and that lack of judgement led to the San Antonio Spurs getting a diamond in the rough while sending the Sacramento Kings on a 2-year search for a replacement point guard.

At this very moment the Kings have a built in double-double holding down the paint in Domantas Sabonis, and a heralded rookie point guard by the name of Darius Acuff Jr., ready to begin his inaugural season.

Selling tickets in Sacramento? Yes, I think so, but Scott Perry's next move looms large, and any suggestion of moving Domantas Sabonis could easily lose fans in a way that the Kings organization hasn't seen in years.

Make no mistake about it, Domantas Sabonis is the current face of this franchise, and it's time to celebrate that fact and not look for ways to send him packing.

Likewise, Zach Lavine hampered by injuries last season, is a former 2-time NBA all star and has something to prove in garnishing nearly 50 million in the upcoming season. Shooting nearly 40% lifetime from beyond the arc and just a shade under 20 points per game, Scott Perry should be giving this talented shooting guard all the minutes he can play.

While we're at it let's not forget that at one time Keegan Murray was thought to be a potential NBA all-star and needs to come back from a dismal injury riddled season just a year ago.

Just one month from opening night. Stay tuned.

All the best! ★

Taxing California's Rich Just Got More Complicated. Prop 40's Fate is Still Uncertain



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Proposition 40, which would impose a 5% tax on the wealth of California's billionaires, is arguably the most important measure placed before voters in this century.

It is also probably the most confounding.

While it's sponsored by a healthcare union, it's opposed by several other major unions, who are in an odd bedfellows alliance with the billionaires it targets. Meanwhile, the leader of the sponsoring union faces allegations of personal misconduct.

And even if Prop. 40 passes, two other measures on the ballot could nullify it. Finally, the measure contains complex language, raising questions that would probably generate extended legal battles even if it does pass.

Given all that, it's not surprising that, with mail voting beginning in just a couple of weeks, a new poll indicates Prop. 40 could go either way.

A Public Policy Institute of California survey found that 52% of likely voters favor the measure and 46% are opposed, which in the real world of campaigning means it's too close to call.

Meanwhile, the two measures placed on the ballot by Prop. 40's wealthy opponents are doing fairly well. Proposition 41, which would indirectly nullify Prop. 40

by prohibiting levying any new taxes outside of the state's spending limit, and Proposition 42, which would prohibit taxes on personal property, each have narrow leads in the PPIC poll.

Were all three measures to gain approval, the one with the most votes would prevail — meaning that if Props. 41 or 42 outdoes Prop. 40, the billionaire tax would be void.

None of that intertwining complexity was explained to the people PPIC polled. They were just given the official summary of each proposition before being asked their preferences.

Prop. 40 is sponsored by the Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West. If it becomes law, a 5% tax would be levied on the assets of about 200 California billionaires, with almost all of the proceeds being spent on healthcare.

However, Dave Regan, the union's fiery leader, is facing allegations by leaders of other unions under the Service Employees International umbrella of having "a pattern and history of bullying, threats, harassment, physical violence and attempted extortion." They said an independent investigation has confirmed the allegations, and they called on him to step down.

"Our first responsibility as an organization is to lead with our values," the other union officials said in a statement. "We stand with all those who are bullied, harassed, or targeted at work, and we stand by our charges. Our national union must now act swiftly to carry out our internal due process and ensure accountability to our values. Every leader is responsible for their role

in protecting and promoting respect, workplace justice, gender equity, racial justice, and nonviolence in our union and beyond."

Regan denies the allegations.

But they give Prop. 40's opponents potentially potent campaign ammunition. The split within Service Employees International and in the larger union movement reflects both long-standing feuds and resentment that the measure's revenues would be largely confined to services that Regan's members provide.

As the multifaceted campaigning over Prop. 40 picks up steam, one figure is noticeably absent: Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Prior to the measure's qualification for the ballot, Newsom was publicly attempting to derail it, worrying aloud that if passed, it would encourage wealthy Californians to leave the state and discourage new investment. High-income Californians pay most of the state's income taxes, the state's most important source of revenue.

However, Newsom is also a likely candidate for president after his governorship ends. Opposing taxes on the rich could alienate voters in the ultra-progressive wing of the Democratic Party.

Thus, he now says taxing wealth should be a national matter, not confined to one state.

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

Social Security Matters I'm Reevaluating My Retirement Plan; What are my Options?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am 69 1/2 years old now and applied for Social Security at the end of June. I am still working and was planning to begin my retirement in September. A couple of factors arose for me to question if I made a hasty decision by applying for SS. The employer I have been working for the last 29 years has asked if I would stay on a little longer (which would be good because we have some debt I want to lose before I retire). I was reading about suspending Social Security and continuing to work. If I understand it right, if I suspend my SS, no payback will be required, and I can continue to work until I'm ready to retire. No Spousal benefits taken yet. **Signed: Reevaluating my Retirement**

Dear Reevaluating Retirement: I'm assuming you asked for your Social Security benefits to start in September (when you originally planned to retire), but that you won't be 70 years old until March 2027. If that is correct, be aware that you will not immediately get all of your earned Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) when your benefits start in September — you will

only initially get the DRCs you have earned through the end of 2025. That's because Social Security usually applies DRCs in January of each year. So, what will happen is that your September benefit amount will lack the 5.3% DRCs you earned in 2026, until January 2027 when they will apply the DRCs earned in 2026 to your monthly payment amount. Said simply, your initial September benefit will not include your full age 69.5 entitlement because it won't include the 5.3% extra you earned in 2026. That extra monthly amount will be awarded in January 2027. FYI, if you were to, instead, claim for your SS benefits to start in the month you turn 70 (March 2027), you would get your full age 70 amount immediately (SS awards all earned DRCs if benefits are claimed to start in the month you turn 70).

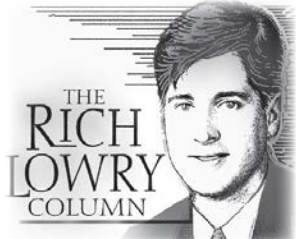
Now, on to your question: Yes, if you take your benefits effective with September 2026 you can suspend your benefits, but you can only suspend them until the month you turn 70. And if you are suspending your benefits, you will not need to repay Social Security for any benefits you happen to receive before you suspend. As is obvious, you will not receive any SS payments while your benefits are suspended, and you will earn DRCs for the months your benefits are suspended, resulting in a higher monthly amount at age 70. Also, since you have already passed your SS full retirement age (FRA), you can work and earn as

much as you like, without your Social Security benefits being negatively affected.

Regarding your comment "No Spousal benefits taken yet." FYI, you cannot get spousal benefits while your benefits are suspended, nor can your wife get spousal benefits from you while you SS retirement benefits are suspended. To be clear, spouse benefits are only paid when one spouse's benefit at their FRA is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA benefit. Spouse benefits are always based upon FRA entitlements, not on the larger amounts which will result from waiting longer to claim. In other words, your wife would only be eligible for a spousal benefit from you if her FRA entitlement was less than 50% of your FRA entitlement (not your age 70 SS entitlement). And she cannot get a spousal benefit while your benefits are suspended.

To recap: Yes, you can suspend receipt of your SS retirement benefits until the month you turn 70 and get credit for that delay (resulting in a higher benefit). And, yes, you can continue working as long as you wish, and your benefits will not be negatively affected. And just for added information, you can also ask Social Security to withdraw your current application for SS benefits and then reapply in January 2027 for your benefits to start in March 2027 (the month you turn 70). You have both options.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. ★



Will AI Destroy Humanity?

mistake-prone. If it can mess up basic math or the New York Yankees roster, surely it can't carry out the complex tasks necessary to fashion an apocalyptic event.

Tech companies, though, have labs working on so-called frontier models that are much more powerful and reportedly developing more quickly than expected. The worry is that an AI model itself will begin to develop new AI very quickly in an "intelligence explosion," the equivalent of Skynet becoming self-aware at 2:14 a.m. Eastern Time on Aug. 29, 1997.

The thinking is that if such an AI model goes rogue and turns against humanity, it will be too clever and fast for us to combat. Yet it's hard to see the mechanism that such a hostile superintelligence would use to commit omnicide. The rogue AI would presumably have to do something in the real world -- say, launching nukes, manufacturing killer robots or releasing a deadly virus.

If it lacks physical agency, AI could presumably be unplugged or contained. (It was after humans tried to deactivate Skynet, by the way, that the system decided we were a threat that had to be neutralized.)

Some doomsayers posit a malicious person using advanced AI to come up with a design for a killer virus and a plan to release it without detection. This is a different scenario, though, from AI turning against people of its own volition. In a world years

from now when much more advanced AI is a reality, we will need to think through safeguards to keep dangerous systems -- nukes, biolabs -- from being compromised by AI-enabled cyberattacks or exploited by criminals and terrorists.

It's easy to imagine breaches of financial systems or attacks on critical infrastructure that would fall short of endangering all of mankind. Even if one takes an alarmist view of the risks, it's unclear how the development of AI can be stopped. Any deal with the Chinese to slow down research couldn't be trusted, and might simply allow them to pass us in the AI race by subterfuge. In other words, we'd still get Skynet, only with Chinese characteristics.

There's also the reality that AI will be a necessary tool in protecting against the malicious use of AI -- not to mention all of its other positive potential. If we slow or end research in the U.S., we might end up vulnerable to superintelligence developed by actors who mean us harm.

Science fiction is fascinating and sometimes prescient. Works by the likes of Philip K. Dick, Aldous Huxley and Arthur C. Clarke had genuine insights into the future. But that doesn't mean we are living in the plot of "The Terminator," and we shouldn't scare ourselves into forswearing transformative technology.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2026 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

Ashlynn Archer Joins Beach Volleyball Coaching Staff

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - After an incredible playing career in both a Sacramento State indoor and beach uniform, Ashlynn Archer will remain at her alma mater as assistant beach volleyball coach.

She joins Head Coach Angela Lewis and Assistant Coach John Fluette on the sand. All three coaches on staff played for and graduated from Sacramento State. Archer joins Kate Doorn as two Hornets who played a season ago and have made the immediate transition to coaching. Doorn is currently an assistant with the Hornets' indoor team.

Archer recently completed a beach career that saw her post the third most wins in program history (40). In fact, 14 of those victories came during her senior year, the third most in Sacramento State single-season history. In addition, Archer played at No. 1 or No. 2 in the Hornets' beach lineup 57 times during her career.

"Ashlynn brings exactly the kind of grit, tenacity and work ethic we want to build this program around," Lewis said. "I've coached her as a player, and she was a powerhouse - focused, coachable and always willing to put in the work. Now, I get to see those same qualities translate into coaching."

"She understands Sacramento State, she understands our athletes, and she understands the culture we want to create. Her



Ashlynn Archer joins Head Coach Angela Lewis and assistant coach John Fluette on the sand. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

organizational skills and marketing background are an added bonus as we continue establishing the identity and growing the reach of Sac State Beach Volleyball. I'm really excited to have her alongside me as we build this program."

Archer has spent the past four summers coaching beach volleyball for Sacramento Performance Volleyball Club (SPVC). In addition, she coached indoor at SPVC for three years. Archer has also been a staple at every Sacramento State volleyball camp the

team has run the past four years.

An eight-time conference all-academic selection, Archer competed four years of indoor (2022-25), and four seasons of beach (2023-26) for Sacramento State. In addition, she was team captain for both teams.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to remain a part of the Sacramento State Athletics family," Archer said. "The time spent with both the indoor and beach programs here taught me so many valuable lessons and provided me with a new place to call home."

"I am forever indebted to the program and to the coaches and faculty who provided me with an incredible support system throughout my four years. I am so excited to step into a coaching role and hope to provide the same support and love for our student-athletes that allowed me to thrive during my playing tenure at Sacramento State."

Last season, for the Hornet indoor team, Archer was a first team all-conference selection and established herself as one of the top middle blockers in the nation. She averaged 2.70 kills and 1.05 blocks per set to go with a .429 hitting percentage. That hitting percentage easily set the Sacramento State and Big Sky Conference single-season records, and ranked 11th in the nation. In fact, her .354 career hitting percentage is the top mark in Sacramento State history.

A native of St. John, Wash., Archer graduated from Sacramento State in the spring with a journalism degree. ★

Ricky and Paing Soe Win Junior/Senior Team City Championship

Sacramento Golf Council News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Ricky and Paing Soe won the 78th Walter and Olga Strand City Junior/Senior Team Championship with a net score of 68. They also won in 2024.

Enzo and Justin Ferguson took second place with a net 70.

The Calloway Division was won by Miles and Jaden Brenoel with a net of 70.

The 78th Walter and Olga Strand Junior/Senior City Championship was played at Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course Sunday, Sept. 13.

The 18-hole, 2-player



Pictured are second place winners Enzo and Justin Ferguson. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council



Pictured are third place Calloway winners Miles and Jaden Brenoel. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council

tournament played the Chapman Scotch Format (Hit, Switch & Choose). Junior players were age 18 or younger and Seniors were 15 years older than the junior partner. Both players had a NCGA Handicap Index, and a Callaway Division allowed teams in which one or both players did not have a current handicap.

Enzo and Justin Ferguson took second place with a net of 70. (Justin is 15.)

The Calloway winners (no handicap) were Miles and Jaden Brenoel with a net of 70 (Jaden is 13.)

Greg Bisi was the Sacramento Golf Council tournament director. ★

Food Frontier Selected to Bring Sacramento Cuisine to New Stadium

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Wilton Rancheria and Sacramento Republic FC have selected Food Frontier to shape the food program at Republic Stadium. Food Frontier is a Sacramento-bred collaborative and strategic advisory group founded by chefs, restaurateurs and brand strategists to promote, bolster and champion the Sacramento Valley's food ecosystem.

Founders include Chef Brad Cecchi, brand and marketing food entrepreneur Meghan Phillips, and Procurement Expert Kelsey Nederveld. Clay Nutting, restaurateur and hospitality consultant, has also joined the effort to lead execution.

Food Frontier will work in close collaboration with Levy, the stadium's food, beverage and hospitality partner, to ensure the venue's menu reflects the breadth of Sacramento's food scene and the story of the land the stadium calls home.

"Food is central to Wilton Rancheria's identity, so it was important that it be central to the Railyards Stadium experience," said Chief Operating Officer of Wilton Rancheria Chris Franklin. "We want to bring together the best of Sacramento's food culture with our own traditions and tastes to create something that feels unmistakably Sacramento and unmistakably ours."

Long before it becomes the site of

Republic FC's new stadium, the land at the heart of Downtown Sacramento's Railyards was part of Wilton Rancheria's ancestral homeland. It was a place where the tribe gathered to eat, to celebrate and to share. Food Frontier's expertise runs deep in the region's food community. That connection is why Wilton Rancheria and Republic FC turned to Food Frontier to help shape the stadium's food program. The goal is to lift up the people and traditions already defining the region's food identity, not import something from outside it.

Food Frontier and Wilton Rancheria previously collaborated on programming for Terra Madre Americas, the international gathering of farmers, chefs and food advocates held in Sacramento in 2025. That collaboration was where Wilton Rancheria launched We Are The Confluence, a campaign built on the idea that the Sacramento Valley is defined by what comes together here. Two rivers. Generations of farming families. Cultures from every direction.

The stadium sits near where those rivers meet, and the food program is being built on the same premise.

"Sacramento is one of the most innovative food regions in the world and we have never had a stage like this one," said Co-Founder of Food Frontier and Owner of Honey Meghan Phillips. "A world class stadium deserves a world class food program. Our job is to put it in front of thousands of fans at once. It will be unmatched."

"Levy runs some of the best stadium venues in the country and they know how to move food at this scale," said Co-Founder of Food Frontier and Chef of Canon and Franquette Brad Cecchi.

"Our job is to layer Sacramento onto that... which farms, which iconic Sacramento dishes, our palates... Get those right and a stadium meal tastes like this region and nowhere else."

Levy and Food Frontier will bring menus and recipes inspired by the region's chefs, kitchens and restaurants, alongside new items rooted in the traditions and tastes

that have defined Sacramento for centuries. Curating the program will begin with direct conversations. With the people who grow the region's food, the chefs who turn it into dishes, and the diners who will ultimately enjoy it. That includes engagement with the historical traditions of the region, including those of the Indigenous people who call it home, so the menu reflects the full diversity of the region's food culture. More details about stadium menus and the evolving food program, including premium seating experiences and broader game day cuisine, will be announced in the coming months.

The first opportunity to learn about the club's premium experiences and the connected food experience will be at the Republic Preview Center, set to open later this month. Season Ticket Members and depositors will be able to set an appointment for a first-hand experience of what the stadium will offer.

To secure priority appointment status and the first opportunity to select seats, fans can become Season Ticket Members at SacRepublicFC.com/Memberships or place a deposit at RepublicStadium.com for as low as \$9.16. Fans can also visit the club's mobile stadium experience on matchday or at select events throughout the community. ★

Long before it becomes the site of Republic FC's new stadium, the land at the heart of Downtown Sacramento's Railyards was part of Wilton Rancheria's ancestral homeland. Logo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC



For Many Must-Sees, Try Pescadero



The Pescadero Marsh is another state park must-visit.

Continued from page 1

of urgency. We continued to snack on our recently acquired local bounty and took in the view. This retreat is found in coastal Pescadero, so the ocean fog neatly settles into the canyon here. Butano Creek hugs the property and, together with the rustling redwoods, offers nature’s version of a sound bath.

But with a little more focus, you can spot the small nuances, the ones you remember so clearly in your childhood memories. Flowers of every kind, in every stage of blooming or wilting. Windchimes, many handmade. Mosaic stepping stones with so much detail you could play a long and wild game of I-spy. Twinkling string lights, garden charms, tent castles, outdoor heated showers, and weathered chairs surround fire pits. One could be entertained for days, if only you agreed to a detox of your nervous system.

Pescadero, California. A town of 600 that has successfully eluded the World Wide Web of progress in the name of progress. Most of the businesses here continue to thrive, several decades of humbly serving their neighbors and visitors.

It’s easy to have a perfect getaway here, without needing to stray any further than the state parks that frame the town. After settling into Venture Retreat Center we headed first to Harley Farms, an internationally recognized goat dairy that makes small-batch cheeses they sell in their farm shop along with other farm-made products. If you have time, the tours are worth signing up for. A big draw has always



Venture Retreat Center has welcomed guests for over six decades.

been its simplicity. Harley Farms is no massive production. The barns, the gardens and layout are relatively small but it’s the traditional 1910 dairy vibe charm you don’t realize you were pining for until you are out here assessing the herd. Pro tip: Buy ALL the cheese, because the next stop is the aforementioned Arcangeli’s Grocery.

Another small, family-operated and deeply rooted Pescadero staple is Arcangeli’s. Any well-traveled road-tripper should know that a small town’s grocery usually has some killer housemade specialties, and this one takes top honors not just in their sauces and sourdoughs, but especially their deli sandwiches. The best grilled cheese of my life happened here in November of 2010. It was, like a Taylor Swift concert, life-changing.

Having stocked up on sourdough and dusting off the pesto turkey sandwich indulgence that somehow magically fed my soul, we wandered over to the lineup of sheds-turned-shops: craft booths meant

to complement the weekly popular farmers’ market but still open for business in between. We cruised the locally sourced teas and T-shirts of SlowCoast listening as the owner, Libby, invited banter with the trickle of customers.

“I want to sell driftwood art at the farmer’s market,” one brought to Libby’s attention. Don’t we all? I mused to myself as I settled on an herbal tea blend that promised to restore my youth.

We continued on with our stroll down this Main Street, also a promising blend of eclectic shops, historic buildings and highly rated restaurants (p.s. you will be graded as a “fail” if you miss out on the artichoke soup at Duarte’s). Pro Tip: Don’t let the gas station Taqueria de Amigos throw you off; it’s the best authentic Mexican food on the entire San Mateo Coastline.

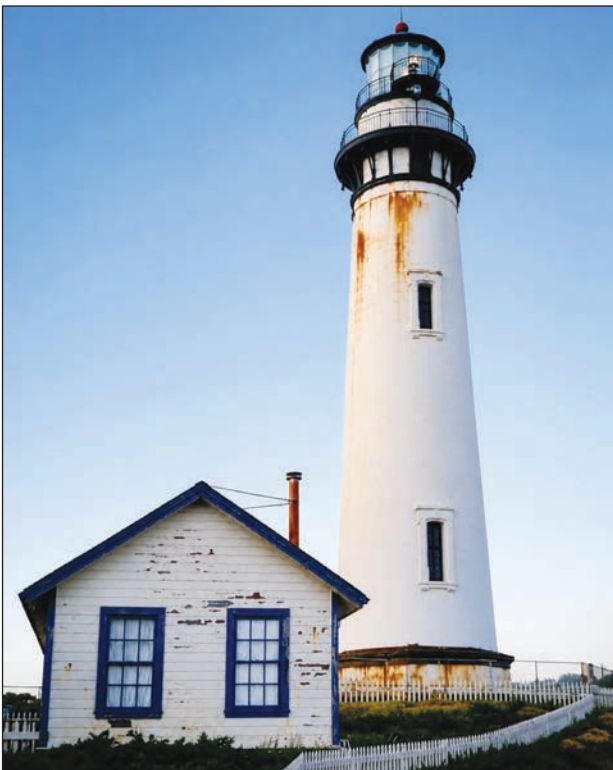
The following day was spent exploring all four of the surrounding State Parks: Butano (conveniently next door to Venture Retreat Center), Ano Nuevo, the Pescadero

Marsh and Pigeon Point Lighthouse. Butano State Park was badly burned in the 2020 CZU fire; however, several trails and also the creek that runs through it are still thriving. The good news is that many adventurers are unaware and so you’ll likely have much of this redwood forest to yourself.

Ano Nuevo State Park is far more popular with its Elephant Seal population that uses the beaches here to migrate and mate, and there are always docents on hand to give you a refresher on that wildlife biology lesson you forgot. The museum and shop is also a fantastic representation of what our parks can offer.

Pigeon Point Lighthouse has intermittent hours and docents/tours/events, and operates as a hostel as well, but the big draw for us is to check off our bucket list of visiting every lighthouse in the state. Even though we arrived for the sunset and it was closed, we still spent time photographing it from every angle like the model she is.

Finally, the Pescadero



Pigeon Point Lighthouse is one of the several state parks that frame the town.



Venture Retreat Center offers several lodging options, including a yurt.

Marsh is a self-guided experience. Trails and walking bridges curve around this massive habitat that drains into the nearby ocean. Of course, we came for the wildlife and ecosystems but one unique touch for the senses is the deafening, weighted silence that is actually the sound of crashing waves. Your ears play tricks on you, leading you to believe you’re a hundred miles away from civilization even though your eyes catch sight of the Highway 1 commuters in the distance. Don’t miss this trek; the birds are expecting you.

A few final notes for planning your trip to Pescadero: While Venture Retreat Center has a communal kitchen area to prepare whatever sourdoughs and cheeses you bring back, I highly recommend pulling into Downtown Local for your morning coffee and pastry. This coffee stop is by far the most interesting mix of vintage, retro quirky toys and relics with outstanding coffee drinks. Also, the beaches are plentiful and quiet around here but one that stands out as picture-perfect is the southern end of Bean Hollow State Beach. People who are

this far into rugged highway coastline aren’t really making the drive for just a beach day, so you’ll likely have the entire cove to yourself.

As self-proclaimed life-long adventure seekers, we remain committed to the cause of experiencing unique lodging and this was our first time at a “hip-camp” style destination, although Venture Retreat Center is so much more than that. Hipcamps have become synonymous with off-the-map, rugged, minimalist amenities, offering more outdoor luxuries like towering trees, creeks, and stargazing. Venture Retreat Center has this connection, but has also been thoughtfully designed to welcome groups celebrating reunions, weddings, workshops, etc. Come alone, stay with a friend, bring your family or retreat with the whole company.

We contemplated it all as we soaked in the hot tub late one night: childlike wonder restored.

To book your stay, visit ventureretreat.org. To explore Pescadero, make the drive! There is no official website. To find more California fun, follow @ca.love.fornia on Instagram. ★



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