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Celebrating Adopt a Shelter Dog Month



For the fourth year, Placer County Animal Services is teaming up with local elected officials to raise awareness and celebrate National Adopt a Shelter Dog Month with special adoption events and promotions. Photo designed by Magnific

Placer County News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - For the fourth year, Placer County Animal Services is teaming up with local elected officials to raise awareness and celebrate National Adopt a Shelter Dog Month with special adoption events and promotions.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, residents and visitors can adopt any pet from the Auburn shelter for free. Congressman Kevin Kiley and Placer County Supervisor Shanti Landon will be present to host the event, which will also feature a pet resource and safety fair, local pet-related vendors and more.

The adoption event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Placer County Animal Services Center located at 11232 B Ave., Auburn, CA.

The event will kick off National Adopt a Shelter Dog Month in October, and PCAS will continue with \$5 discounted pet adoptions through the end of October.

"Shelter animals make incredible companions, and so many are ready to join a loving family. Since this widely successful partnership with Placer County began just four years ago, over 550 pets have found their forever homes, brightening the lives of families all across our region. If you've been thinking about adopting, you'll never find a better time," said Congressman Kiley.

According to statistics from the California Animal Welfare Association, only 30% of households choose to adopt pets from shelter and rescues. So far, in 2026, more than 1,800 pets have come into the Auburn shelter. While more than

90% of them have been adopted, returned to their owners or rescued, there are still dozens of amazing dogs, cats, puppies, kittens and other pets waiting for their forever homes.

"Events like this help raise awareness about the challenges faced by animal shelters and remind us that everyone can play a role in making a difference," added Supervisor Landon. "I'm grateful for Congressman Kiley's continued partnership in bringing attention to this important issue. Whether you choose to adopt, foster or simply learn more, your involvement can have a meaningful impact. We hope you'll join us on Sept. 26!"

For more information about the event and other ways to support shelter pets, visit the Placer County Animal Services website at placer.ca.gov/animal. ★

TART Introduces Real-time Tracking and Trip Planning

Placer County News Release

TAHOE CITY, CA (MPG) - Finding bus routes and getting around North Lake Tahoe is becoming easier today with the addition of new technology from Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit.

TART has introduced real-time vehicle tracking and trip planning through the TART Connect app and the Transit app, giving riders more tools to plan their trips and follow their bus in real time. Riders can now receive real-time information about their ride, plan trips, view nearby transit options, access step-by-step directions and check schedules. The TART Connect app is available for download on iOS and Android devices.

The new technology is designed to make riding TART more convenient and predictable for residents, employees and visitors by providing easier access to the information they need before and during their trip.

"Public transit works best when it is easy to use," said Public Works Transit Manager Jaime Wright. "With real-time tracking and trip planning now available, riders have more information at their fingertips and more confidence when choosing TART to get around the region."

The real-time tracking enhancements come as TART's fall schedule begins today and continues through Dec. 11. Service updates include night service on the North Shore, TART Connect micro-transit on-demand service ending at 10 p.m., as well as additional buses for popular events throughout the fall.

TART is a public-private collaboration that provides free transit services and connections throughout the Tahoe Truckee region. Riders are encouraged to download the Transit app and review the new fall schedule before traveling.

For more information visit: <https://tahoetruckee-transit.com/>.

View the fall schedule brochure here: https://tahoetruckee-transit.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Fall26_TARTschedule_web.pdf. ★

PCWA Board Updates Water Connection Charge

PCWA News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - To keep water infrastructure funding aligned with the cost of serving new development, the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors approved an update to the Agency's Water Connection Charge (WCC). WCCs are one-time charges paid when new or expanded development connects to PCWA's treated water system, and they help fund the added water capacity needed to serve those new connections, including treatment, transmission, storage and groundwater facilities.

Customer water rates, by contrast, are separate and support ongoing water service and the operation, maintenance and renewal of the existing system.

The update applies to new or expanded treated water connections in PCWA's Auburn/Bowman and Foothill/Sunset/Ophir drinking water systems.

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Standby power at PCWA pump stations is one of the projects included in the Water Connection Charge update and will help support delivery of American River water to the future Ophir Water Treatment Plant. Photo by Joel Schaap/PCWA

**WE SUPPORT
OUR MILITARY**

Community Invited to Time Capsule Sealing Ceremony

Placer County News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - As part of its 175th anniversary celebration, Placer County will recognize its past and present Saturday, Oct. 10, sealing a commemorative time capsule that will remain untouched for the next 75 years.

The community is invited to join county staff and local officials to celebrate this occasion, beginning at noon at the Historic Auburn Courthouse. A historic safe dating to 1878 will serve as the time capsule at the Placer County Museum. It will remain sealed until 2101 when it will be opened as part of Placer County’s 250th anniversary.

The contents of the capsule will offer future generations a glimpse into what life was like in Placer County in 2026. County staff are currently gathering artifacts to be included, such as newspapers, photographs, coins and promotional souvenirs.

“For 175 years, Placer County has been shaped by the people, places and moments that came before us,” Museums Administrator Bryanna Ryan said. “This



A historic safe dating to 1878 will serve as the time capsule at the Placer County Museum. It will remain sealed until 2101. Photo designed by Magnific

time capsule gives us an opportunity to preserve a piece of today for the generations who will call Placer County home decades from now. We hope that when it is opened in 2101, it will tell a

meaningful story about who we were and what life was like in 2026.”

The ceremonial event will feature speakers from throughout Placer County, followed by a special capsule-closing

ceremony. Attendees will then have the opportunity to explore the Historic Auburn Courthouse through guided museum tours led by volunteer docents.

The event will conclude Placer County’s year-long 175th anniversary celebration, which has highlighted the county’s rich history while recognizing the people and communities that continue to shape its future.

Placer County was established April 25, 1851, and has grown from its Gold Rush roots into one of California’s most dynamic counties. As the county closes this milestone anniversary year, the time capsule ceremony will create a lasting connection between the community of today and the generations of tomorrow.

The event will take place at the Historic Auburn Courthouse/Placer County Museum located at 101 Maple Street in Auburn. The event will begin with tours at noon, and the ceremony officially begins at 1 p.m.

For more information about the event or previous celebrations, visit Placer County’s 175th anniversary web page: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/175>. ★

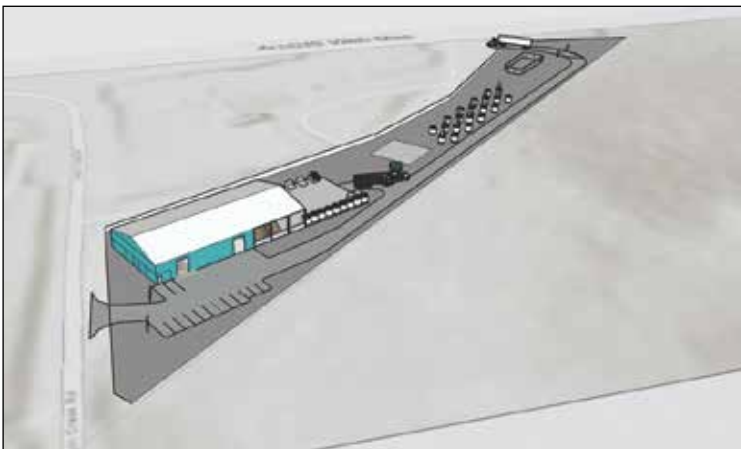
Placer’s Planning Commission Approves Use Permit for Cabin Creek Biomass Facility Project

Placer County News Release

TAHOE CITY, CA (MPG) - The Placer County Planning Commission approved a use permit for the proposed Cabin Creek Biomass Facility at its Sept. 10 meeting. The project is designed to convert locally, sustainably sourced woody biomass and other eligible organic waste materials into biochar and other renewable or beneficial-use products to assist in the reduction of catastrophic wildfire risk.

The proposed project would establish a biomass utilization and biochar production facility on county-owned property at the Eastern Regional Landfill complex, located at 900 Cabin Creek Road. The site is approximately 2 miles south of Interstate 80 and just west of state Route 89. The facility would be developed on the southernmost 2.7-acre portion of a 148-acre county-owned parcel.

The commission’s approval



The facility would provide an alternative use for excess woody biomass generated through forest thinning and management activities. Photo courtesy of Placer County

advances an innovatively redesigned proposal from a biomass energy facility previously approved for the site in 2013. The current project would use new technology that replaces the previously approved gasification-based power generation system with patented non-combustion thermal conversion technology.

The project, which supports

the county’s long-standing biomass utilization efforts to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, is proposed through a public-private partnership between Placer County and Biochar Now LLC. Under the proposal, locally, sustainably sourced woody biomass and other eligible organic materials would be processed using kiln-based thermal conversion technology to produce biochar

and other renewable or beneficial-use products.

The facility would provide an alternative use for excess woody biomass generated through forest thinning and management activities, which have been conducted in Placer County for many years by agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, local fire districts and private property owners.

Historically, a portion of the excess biomass generated through these activities has been disposed of through open pile burning or other methods. Alternatives to open burning, like this project, can help reduce air emissions while creating opportunities to beneficially use the resulting biomass in our local economy.

The county’s biomass utilization program was created in 2006 with many objectives. To reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires in Placer County, protect residents and visitors from the impacts of wildfire events and promote beneficial reuse of

excess biomass materials generated within the county. As well as to improve overall air quality through alternatives to open burning.

As part of its action, the Planning Commission also adopted an addendum to the previously certified Cabin Creek Biomass Facility project final environmental impact report.

In 2013, the board considered and subsequently denied a third-party appeal challenging the previously proposed project’s environmental analysis. The board approved a conditional use permit for the project at that time, but the permit was not exercised and expired in 2015.

Placer County’s Board of Supervisors is anticipated to hear additional actions towards the public-private partnership between the county and Biochar Now LLC at its Sept. 22 meeting.

Learn more about the project: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/2900/Cabin-Creek-Biomass-Energy-Facility>. ★

PCWA Board Updates Water Connection Charge

Continued from page 1

It reflects updated construction cost information from recent bids for four major expansion projects included in PCWA’s existing WCC model. Those projects are part of the backbone infrastructure needed to provide water service to new homes and businesses in western Placer County, including the first phase of the Ophir Water Treatment Plant, the Foothill Water Treatment Plant Valve Station, standby power at the American River Pump Station and Ophir Road

Pump Station, and the Placer Parkway Pipeline.

“Today’s action updates the Water Connection Charge to reflect the current cost of these major infrastructure projects,” said PCWA Board Director Jefferson Willoughby. “As a public water agency, we have a responsibility to keep these charges accurate, maintain long-term financial stability, and ensure new connections help fund the added water capacity they require.”

“We appreciate the opportunity to continue working closely with

the Building Industry Association and other partners during development of this cost study, and we look forward to ongoing dialogue moving forward,” said Willoughby.

The 2026 update is effective immediately and adds the latest bid information to PCWA’s previously adopted 2024 Water Connection Charge Study. All other assumptions in the study remain unchanged, and PCWA plans to begin a more comprehensive update following this action.

Updated information will be available at pcwa.net. ★



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The NTCA and North Tahoe Chamber Welcomes New Leaders to Their Team

North Tahoe Chamber News Release

NORTH LAKE TAHOE, CA (MPG) - The North Tahoe Community Alliance has welcomed two new staff members to its leadership team. Christine Horvath joins as Marketing Director, and Nadia Fuia as Controller. Both will help guide the direction and efforts of the organization. The organization also announced the shift of long-time staff member Anne-Karin Atwood into the role of Event and Operations Supervisor for the North Tahoe Chamber.

“After a robust search, I’m excited to have our highly qualified senior leadership team in place. The professional experience both Christine and Nadia bring, along with their deep knowledge of and passion for North Lake Tahoe, will make them tremendous assets to our organization and our community,” said Tony Karwowski, NTCA president and CEO. “And, I’m absolutely thrilled to have our most tenured staff member, Anne-Karin, who has excelled within our organization in a variety of different roles for the past 30 years, in her new role with the North Tahoe Chamber.”

Horvath is an experienced, highly collaborative and results-driven marketing professional who has served as the Director of Marketing at Palisades Tahoe for 20+ years. She has also been a longtime volunteer on committees convened by the NTCA, and will now lead multi-faceted marketing efforts for the NTCA, North Tahoe Chamber, and Lake Tahoe Travel that drive community vitality, economic health and resiliency and destination stewardship.

Horvath earned her MBA in marketing at Pepperdine University, and a Master of International Business from IESE



Fuia started in her role as Controller in early August, joining the NTCA following 16 years with Tahoe City-based Tahoe Luxury Properties. Photo courtesy of NTCA



Horvath started in her new role as Marketing Director with the NTCA on Sept. 8. Photo courtesy of NTCA



The organization also announced the shift of long-time staff member Anne-Karin Atwood into the role of Event and Operations Supervisor for the North Tahoe Chamber. Photo courtesy of NTCA

Business School. During her tenure at Palisades Tahoe, she developed expertise in multi-channel communications and brand strategy, tourism, hospitality and destination management, visitor driven insights and performance marketing analytics, strategic alliances, executive communications and strategic programming to optimize visitor patterns and mitigate impacts. She started in her new role with the NTCA on Sept. 8.

Fuia started in her role as Controller in early August, joining the NTCA following 16 years with Tahoe City-based Tahoe Luxury Properties. An experienced Financial Controller and CPA with an M.S. in Accounting from California State University-Sacramento, she brings deep knowledge and experience in the North Lake Tahoe real estate and vacation rentals industries, as well as an understanding of lodging, TOT and TBID tracking and

remittance to her role.

Fuia oversees all accounting operations for the NTCA and the North Lake Tahoe Marketing Cooperative and is responsible for preparing and presenting financial reports to management, the Finance Committee, the Board of Directors and Placer County. A key member of the management team, she collaborates closely with department leaders to support informed decision-making that aligns with community priorities.

Atwood began her career with the organization in 1993 as a Reservationist for the Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau. Since that time, she has held roles that have included Property Liaison, Quality Control Manager and Central Reservations Call Center, Marketing Executive Assistant and Office Manager.

In her new role as Event and Operations Supervisor for the North Tahoe Chamber,

she will play a vital role in strengthening member engagement by coordinating communications, membership services, and over 22 member-focused annual events. Atwood will also work to build trusted relationships with local businesses, event producers, and community partners while supporting event sponsorships, economic development initiatives, and the Chamber’s commitment to caring for the North Lake Tahoe business community.

On Sept. 22, the North Tahoe Chamber will host a Coffee Connect at the North Tahoe Visitor Information Center in Kings Beach that is open to the community from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. to welcome and congratulate Anne-Karin, Christine and Nadia.

Learn more about the NTCA and its work to invest tourism-generated funds in support of community priorities at www.northtahoecommunityalliance.com. ★

Loomis Soroptimist Accepting Education Award Applications

Soroptimist of Loomis Basin News Release

LOOMIS, CA (MPG) - Soroptimist International of Loomis Basin invites single mothers going back to school, girls at Del Oro High School who are community volunteers and Loomis Union School District teachers to apply for education grants. Applications are available at the Soroptimist Loomis website <https://www.soroptimistloomis.com/awards/>.

These grants support the Soroptimist mission to provide women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment, especially those facing significant obstacles.

The Soroptimist Live Your Dream Award of up to \$2,500 is for women who are head of their households and pursuing education to improve their skills and employability. They may be enrolled or accepted into a vocational skills training program, community college or undergraduate degree program. Apply by Nov. 15 through the Soroptimist Live Your Dream portal www.bit.ly/LYDA-apply and select the “Loomis Basin” club.

The Loomis Soroptimist

Investing in Dreams Award is for girls at Del Oro High School who lead, initiate, enhance or contribute to community service projects, especially those impacting women and girls. Applicants may be awarded up to \$1,500, and funds can be used for trade school, community college or other higher education expenses. Find the application at <https://www.soroptimistloomis.com/awards/>. Applications are due Friday, Dec. 18.

Loomis Soroptimist Teacher Grants support Loomis Union School District teachers’ projects that enrich students’ education and have lasting impact over multiple years. In the past, these Loomis Soroptimist grants of \$100 - \$300 have been used for historical re-enactment, science experiments, hands-on math, books, musical instruments, journalism, wood working and Science, Technology, Engineer and Math (STEM) programs. The application deadline is Nov. 15 and teachers may apply online at <https://bit.ly/Teachergrant> or find the link at <https://www.soroptimistloomis.com/awards/>.

These grants are made possible thanks to the community support of Soroptimist fundraisers: Fiesta Bingo fundraiser on Nov. 7 and the It’s in the Bag



Soroptimist International of Loomis Basin gave education grants to teachers, and college and high school students at a ceremony held in February 2026. The club is accepting applications now for 2027. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist of Loomis Basin

designer purse fundraiser on Jan. 27, 2027.

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization with the vision: “Women and girls have the resources and opportunities

to reach their full potential and live their dreams.” The club welcomes new members interested in making a difference in our community. Soroptimist International of Loomis Basin

is a 501(c)(3) and is involved in many local and international projects focused on education empowering women and girls. Learn more: <https://www.soroptimistloomis.com/>. ★

Placer County Public Health Offers Free Flu Vaccination Opportunities

Placer County News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - As cold and flu season gets underway, Placer County Public Health is sharing an overview of respiratory virus deaths among Placer County residents last year (July 2025 to June 2026) and will offer free flu shots at walk-in clinics and local events this fall, making them more accessible for those unable to get care through their regular provider.

During that time, there were 11 deaths involving influenza and eight involving COVID-19. There were no deaths involving RSV. One COVID-19 death involved a person under age 65. All other deaths occurred among



Public Health will offer free, walk-in flu vaccination clinics this at the Health and Human Services Center. Photo designed by Magnific

residents age 65 and older. Most COVID-19 deaths occurred last fall, while flu-related deaths occurred

during the winter months.

“Flu hits our community every year, and it can make some people very

sick. The good news is getting a flu shot is quick and easy,” said Dr. Rob Oldham, health officer

and HHS director. “We’re committed to making sure every resident who wants to can get vaccinated without barriers.”

Public Health will offer free, walk-in flu vaccination clinics this fall at the Health and Human Services Center, located at 11434 B Avenue in Auburn.

The vaccination clinics will be available on select Wednesdays and Fridays with morning and afternoon time slots. The dates include Friday, Oct. 2, Oct. 16 and Nov. 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 14, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Flu vaccines will also be available at community events such as the Senior Fair and Sierra Community House. The Health and

Human Services Center located at 11434 B Avenue, Auburn at the Senior Fair on Wednesday Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Flu vaccines will be available at the Sierra Community House located at 265 Beat St., Kings Beach on Wednesday, Oct. 21 from 2 to 5 p.m.

There is no cost for the flu vaccine at these county clinics and community events.

Residents can also contact their healthcare provider to schedule a seasonal flu vaccination. Local pharmacies may also offer no-cost flu vaccines for individuals who qualify through their insurance. Search for nearby locations on the website. For questions, call 530-886-188. ★

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 Pippens 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.

★



In the "Terminator" movie series, the artificial-intelligence system known as Skynet is given control of the nation's nuclear weapons and uses it to try to destroy humanity. One reason that apocalyptic scenarios involving AI are implausible is that, having seen how that particular movie ends, we are unlikely to be foolish enough to give AI custody of the most destructive weapons on the planet.

The unthinkable is nonetheless a hot topic of conversation, given that a researcher at Anthropic just resigned and issued a doomsday warning. According to Jacob Coxon, the rush to develop AI is "gambling with our lives," since it will soon create "superhuman systems that can hack anything, revolutionize any field overnight, and acquire real power and resources."

A current Anthropic employee then chimed in: "We really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humans!" He put the chances at greater than 10% in the next decade. The idea here is that Anthropic and similar firms are, in effect, running their own Manhattan Projects, with consequences unknown and potentially very dire.

Now, ChatGPT as we know it doesn't seem particularly well-suited to destroying humanity. It is a souped-up version of Google that is impressively fast, but also

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.

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★

Ashlynn Archer Joins Beach Volleyball Coaching Staff

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

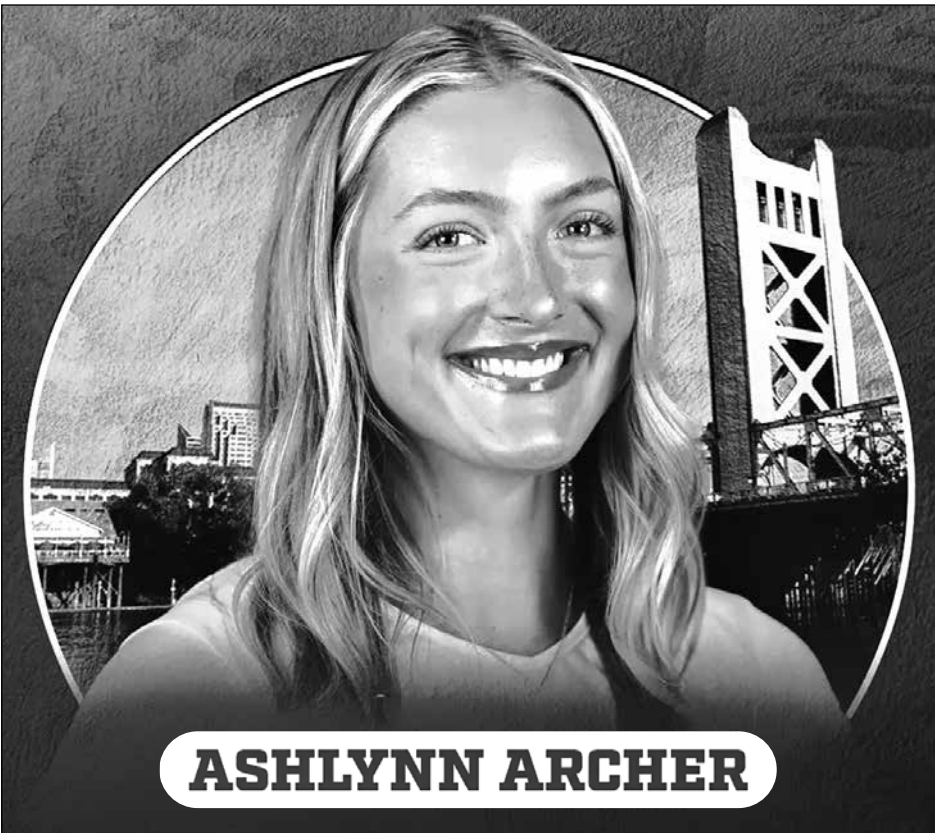
SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - After an incredible playing career in both a Sacramento State indoor and beach uniform, Ashlynn Archer will remain at her alma mater as assistant beach volleyball coach.

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. ★

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 Philips. “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



Cinema at the State Presents ‘500 Days in the Wild’

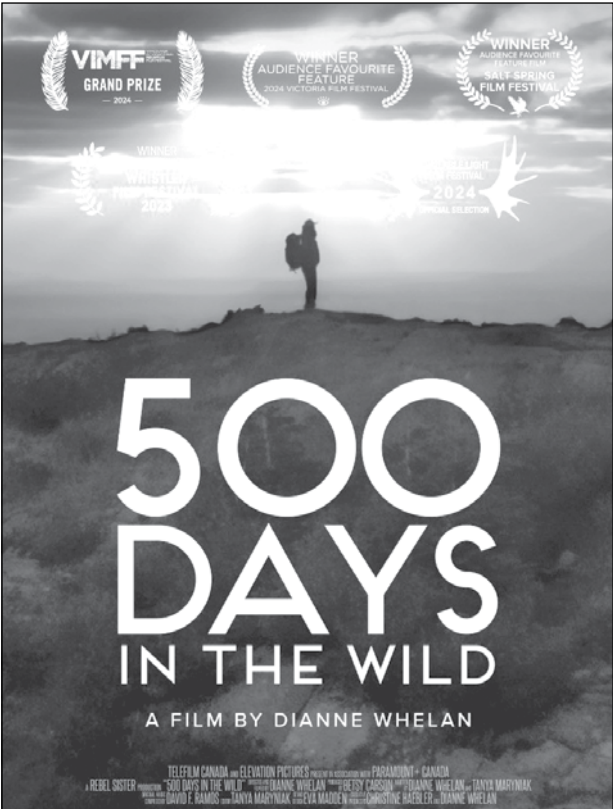
Auburn State Theatre News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG)- Award-winning director and cinematographer Dianne

Whelan is the only person to complete this epic journey of discovery—hiking, biking, paddling, snowshoeing and skiing the entire length of the Trans

Canada trail, across land and water trails from sea to sea. If you saw her film "40 Days at Base Camp" we screened in January, you won't want to miss seeing

this documentary sponsored by Jane Hamilton. For a woman in her 50s who is not an extreme athlete, her adventure was sometimes grueling, occasionally harrowing, often exhilarating and always surprising. She started out alone, disillusioned with the state of the world and worried about climate change, to look for different ways of caring for the land and each other. She ended the journey a bit wiser, more hopeful, in love and with a passion to share this story. The documentary will air at Odd Fellows Lodge on 1226-1/2 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA at 7 p.m. on Thursday Sept. 24. Tickets for adults are \$15 and \$12 for seniors and kids under 12 with each ticket including \$2 fee.



The documentary film “500 Days in the Wild,” screening Thursday, Sept. 24 at Odd Fellows Lodge. Photo courtesy of Auburn State Theatre.

You can purchase tickets at AuburnStateTheatre.org or by calling 530-885-0156. ★

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Selected Tahoe Fund as Wildlife Resilience Initiative Partner

Tahoe Fund News Release

INCLINE VILLAGE, NV (MPG)- The Tahoe Fund announced today that it has received a \$750,000 grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to lead a science-driven effort to increase wildfire resilience for communities and forest ecosystems in the Tahoe Sierra Region. “The Moore Foundation is leading the charge in philanthropic wildfire work on a global scale,” said Amy Berry, Tahoe Fund CEO. “It’s an honor to be part of their Wildfire Resilience Initiative. With their support, we will be able to expand our impact in the Tahoe/Sierra region and better prepare our communities for potential fire.” The partnership includes funding to support work on forested landscapes and within communities, including the Fire Smart Community Pilots now underway in six neighborhoods in the Tahoe Region, and plans for forest stewardship on Tahoe’s West Shore. By



This grant is part of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation's Wildfire Resilience Initiative, enabling beneficial fire and reducing vulnerability to extreme wildfire, to safeguard healthy fire-adapted ecosystems and resilient fire-prone communities. Photo courtesy of the Tahoe Fund

bringing together new technologies, local fire districts, residents, and researchers, these pilots are creating a whole new approach to preparing communities for wildfire and demonstrating how comprehensive stewardship actions can support forest health, community preparedness and

wildfire resilience. “The Tahoe Fund is co-developing these Fire Smart Community Pilots with fire agencies, land managers and property owners,” said Genny Biggs, program director, Wildfire Resilience Initiative, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. “They test the parcel- and community-level ‘mitigations that matter,’ to prioritize and implement place-based interventions that measurably reduce vulnerability to extreme wildfire events—and, ultimately, to scale durable public-private partnerships that turn wildfire risk into resilience.” This grant is part of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation’s Wildfire Resilience Initiative, enabling beneficial fire and reducing vulnerability to extreme wildfire, to safeguard healthy fire-adapted ecosystems and resilient fire-prone communities. To learn more, visit <https://www.moore.org/wildfire>. To learn more about the Fire Smart Community Pilots, visit www.tahodefund.org/firesmartpilots. ★

TCPUD’s Kim Boyd Wins Statewide Staff Member of the Year Honor

Tahoe City Public Utility District News Release

TAHOE CITY, CA (MPG) - Tahoe City Public Utility District’s (TCPUD) Director of Strategic Affairs, Kim Boyd, has been named the 2026 Staff Member of the Year by the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), recognizing her leadership, initiative and commitment to public service at TCPUD and throughout California’s special district community. CSDA’s annual awards recognize individuals and organizations whose leadership, innovation, advocacy and commitment to public service strengthen special districts and the communities they serve across California. “Kim’s initiative, strategic thinking and deep commitment to serving our community have made her an invaluable leader within our organization, and I couldn’t be more pleased to see her recognized with this well-deserved honor,” said TCPUD General Manager Sean Barclay. “Kim is a quiet leader who doesn’t seek recognition or the spotlight. Instead, she focuses on doing the work with excellence, supporting her colleagues and making sure we deliver the



TCPUD Director of Strategic Affairs Kim Boyd has been honored as the 2026 Staff Member of the Year by the California Special Districts Association. Photo courtesy of Tahoe City Public Utility District

best possible outcomes for our community.” Boyd joined TCPUD in 2017 as a senior management analyst and was promoted to director of strategic affairs in 2024. During her tenure, she has helped secure more than \$15.6 million in grant funding for critical district initiatives, including infrastructure improvements, environmental stewardship, multi-use trail reconstruction and cybersecurity investments. Kim has also stepped forward to lead efforts to secure financing for the

Tahoe Cedars and Madden Creek Water System Reconstruction Projects, two of the largest and most complex infrastructure investments in TCPUD history. This includes significant work to establish a public financing authority, positioning TCPUD to pursue low-interest financing for approximately \$75 million in infrastructure investments. These projects will modernize aging water systems, improve drinking water reliability and significantly increase water availability for fire suppression

in Tahoe’s high-fire-risk communities. Boyd has also played a leading role in advocating for wildfire resilience and infrastructure investment throughout the Tahoe Basin. Through the Tahoe Water for Fire Suppression Partnership, she has helped bring state and federal attention to the challenges facing rural water providers in high-fire-severity areas, including organizing on-the-ground tours

that allow policymakers to see firsthand the region’s unique water infrastructure and wildfire resilience needs. Her statewide involvement also includes service on CSDA’s legislative and professional development committees and active participation in the Association of California Water Agencies, where she has served as a conference panelist and shared TCPUD’s

experiences with water professionals from throughout California. Within TCPUD, Kim is a trusted advisor, collaborator and mentor whose influence reaches across departments. Her willingness to step forward, take on complex challenges and support those around her reflects the leadership and commitment to public service recognized by the Staff Member of the Year Award. ★

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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

WHAT HAS FOUR LEGS AND ONE ARM?

I GIVE UP... WHAT HAS FOUR LEGS AND ONE ARM?

OUR NEIGHBORS' PIT BULL!!

by Jeff Pickering

Amber Waves

GERALD, HONEY, IT'S GRANDMA'S BIRTHDAY THIS WEEKEND AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A PARTY.

OOH, LIKE GOING TO ROCKET PIZZA WITH LASER TAG, A BIG CAKE WITH A MAGICIAN AND BALLOONS?

NO, DEAR, JUST A SMALL GET-TOGETHER, A NICE DINNER AND MAYBE HER FAVORITE PIE.

GEEZ, THIS IS WHY OLDER PEOPLE NEVER GET EXCITED ABOUT THEIR BIRTHDAY!!

by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb

IT'S PRETTY COMMON IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. IT'S A BOO OF ORCADELICS.

FAR OUT, MAN

by Gary Kopervas

TIGER

HE NEEDS EXERCISE

I'M TAKING HIM TO THE PLAYGROUND

HIGHER, TIGER

CATCH ME, TIGER

SPIN ME FASTER

HOLD ME UP

LIFT ME, TIGER

BUD BLAKE

by BUD BLAKE

TUMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY KANDY HOLLAND

THIS COMIC BOOK ISN'T REALLY ALL THAT GREAT.

THE CHARACTERS ARE JUST SHOTS-OF-OTHER, BETTER CHARACTERS. THE PLOT LINES ARE PAPER THIN AND HALF OF 'EM DON'T GO ANYWHERE.

SO, OBVIOUSLY, IT'S GONNA BE MY NEW HYPERFIXATION.

I JUST FINISHED THIS COMIC BOOK SERIES AND IT'S SOMETHING.

IT STARTS OUT LIKE A GOLDEN AGE COMIC. VERY "EVERYTHING IS BLACK AND WHITE."

THE MAIN HERO IS A GOODY TWO-SHOES. HONESTLY, HE'S PRETTY BLAND.

BUT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, YOU GET THESE HINTS THAT SOMETHING'S NOT QUITE RIGHT. AND THE HERO SEES IT, TOO.

BUT THEN IN THE LAST ISSUE, IT TURNS OUT THE REST OF THE RUN WAS A DREAM! THE HERO'S BEEN TRAPPED IN A DEVICE AND SOMEONE'S BEEN FEEDING HIM HALLUCINATIONS.

BUT IF YOU GET INTO THE LORE--

IT'S TWO IN THE MORNIN'. THIS AIN'T A GOOD TIME.

IT'S THE PERFECT TIME! I DO MY BEST CONVERSATION WHEN IT'S INCONVENIENT.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

6. Tie is missing.

5. Apron strap is moved.

4. Curtain is not as wide.

3. Finger is missing.

2. Pad is longer.

1. Menu is shorter.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

SO SWEET MY MOTHER STILL WRITES ME LETTERS. "HELLO, DEAR, HOPE THINGS ARE GOOD WITH YOU, I MEAN CONSIDERING"...

S	W	A	G			C	A	M			N	T	H			
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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Convention freebie

5. *Tucker of TV's "Modern Family"

8. To the ____ degree

11. *Space Shuttle Program org.

12. Deal with it

13. Extra tire

15. Stead

16. Real estate land unit

17. Enter user name and password (2 words)

18. *Instagram's parent company

20. "Fine by me"

21. Strong virile man

22. Caviar alternative

23. *Bruno Mars' hat

26. Highest-reaching

30. Before of yore

31. Quill-dipping vessel

34. Popular aquarium show star

35. Schoolmarm's whip

37. Neither here ____ there

38. Opposite of cation

39. Hurry up, acr.

40. Blood infection

42. Not com or edu

43. Arranged in order

45. Inside info

47. Aye's opposite

48. B2C business

50. Hyperbolic tangent

52. *Katy Perry's 2010 hit

55. Battle royal

56. One R in R&R

57. Nightcrawler

59. *Hipsters' facial trend

60. Prima donnas' problems

61. Not in favor

62. Public promotions

63. Even, to a poet

64. CISC alternative

DOWN

1. *Pete Davidson's TV show

2. Ragamuffin

3. On a deck, perhaps

4. Cowboy, in South America

5. Popular warming drink

6. Chef's garb

7. Opposite of domineering and bold

8. Hindu serpent deity

9. Legendary King Priam's city

10. Chicken coop dweller

12. Taxi driver

13. Ship with a single mast

14. * ____ 60 game

19. Spooky

22. Decay

23. Greek cheese, pl.

24. Remove from existence

25. ____'s, blended

26. Scotch whisky

27. High rocky hills

28. Celestial hunter

29. Open disrespect

30. Sour-tasting

32. Capped joint

33. *Funko ____!

36. *Toy for the fidgety

38. Off kilter

40. Dirty dwelling

41. Specks in the sea

44. Oohed and ____

46. Atmospheric pressure line, on weather map

48. Military blockade

49. Fire-raising

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Cinema at the State Presents ‘9 to 5’

Auburn State Theatre News Release

VAUBURN, CA (MPG) - This office satire about three female secretaries who decide to get revenge on their tyrannical, sexist boss by abducting him and running the business themselves was a massive box office hit.

Join Auburn State Theatre and movie sponsors, the Sugar Plump Fairies – who will be all “Dolly-ed” up – in honoring and celebrating Dolly Parton by attending this award-winning comedy.

The trio, (Dolly Parton, Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda), one of whom has been passed over for promotion because she is a woman, spend a night together fantasizing about payback scenarios for their slave-driving chauvinist boss. One of them panics the following day when she suspects she really has poisoned the tyrant. In addition to co-starring in the film, Dolly Parton also wrote and performed the film’s iconic theme song, which reached #1 on the pop charts.

“9 to 5” is playing at Odd



Join Auburn State Theatre and movie sponsors, the Sugar Plump Fairies – who will be all “Dolly-ed” up – in honoring and celebrating Dolly Parton by attending this award-winning comedy. Photo courtesy of Auburn State Theatre

Fellows Lodge #7, 1226-1/2 Lincoln Way, Auburn on Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and kids under 12 (includes \$2 fee). To purchase tickets, visit AuburnStateTheatre.org or call 530-885-0156. ★

Auburn State Theatre Hosts Inaugural Día de los Muertos Ofrendas (Altars) Show

Auburn State Theatre News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Auburn State Theatre is excited to announce its first Día de los Muertos Ofrendas (Altars) Show featuring colorful displays created by artists and community members to honor loved ones and celebrate their lives. The exhibit will be on display at Auburn’s Carnegie Library community center from Friday, Oct. 16 through Sunday, Oct. 18.

Sponsored by a grant from BriarPatch Food Co-op, this show will familiarize visitors with ofrendas (altars) and the Mexican tradition of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Ofrenda displays will highlight the various ways in which people remember and pay tribute to their departed loved ones. Ofrendas are created to honor anyone who was important to you - ancestors, friends (and even pets) - and celebrate their lives, to remember who they were and to keep them in the memory of younger generations.

The show is free to the public (with donations gratefully accepted) and will be open for viewing



Ofrenda displays will highlight the various ways in which people remember and pay tribute to their departed loved ones. Photo courtesy of Auburn State Theatre



The show is free to the public (with donations gratefully accepted). Photo courtesy of Auburn State Theatre

from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 17, noon to 8 p.m. Oct. 17 and noon to 4 p.m. Oct. 18 at Auburn’s Carnegie Library, 175 Almond Street, Auburn.

This will be a beautiful and moving event that

is related to our annual “Coco” event taking place the following Friday, Oct. 23, at New Auburn Cemetery; we hope to see you there! Check out details for both events at AuburnStateTheatre.org. ★



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Sierra Donor Services Honors Hispanic Heritage Month

Maggie Núñez: An Angel Living on Through Others

Sierra Donor Services News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, Sierra Donor Services (SDS) is highlighting the critical need for more Latino organ donors in California. By sharing a story about a mother who honored her daughter’s life through the gift of organ donation, Sierra Donor Services hopes to inspire more Hispanic families to learn about the life-saving impact of donation.

In California, nearly 20,000 people are waiting for a lifesaving transplant, and 49 percent of those waiting are Hispanic or Latino. For one California family, organ donation became a deeply personal decision following the loss of a beloved daughter.

Lodi resident Claudia Núñez is a single mother, caregiver and Sierra Donor Services Hispanic ambassador who maintains a busy schedule while finding time to give back to her community. Her compassion and selflessness were especially



Lodi resident Claudia Núñez is a single mother, caregiver and Sierra Donor Services Hispanic ambassador who maintains a busy schedule while finding time to give back to her community. Photo courtesy of Sierra Donor Services

evident when she made the decision to donate her daughter’s organs, giving two people the gift of life.

In 2014, Núñez welcomed her daughter Maggie, a healthy baby girl. At eight months, Maggie developed an illness that brought significant health challenges and changed the course of her life. Claudia was told by doctors that her child wouldn’t live past the age of one. Despite that, Maggie continued to defy the odds and reached the age of ten.

Following Maggie’s death, Núñez made the decision to donate her daughter’s organs. Maggie’s gifts saved the lives of two people: a Sacramento resident who had been waiting 15 years for a kidney transplant and a Pennsylvania resident whose life was saved through a kidney and liver transplant. Through Maggie’s gifts, Núñez’s greatest loss became a lasting legacy of hope.

“Maggie taught my family what compassion is, and she also taught us that we must always keep fighting and never give up,” said Núñez. “That is why, on the day we had to decide her fate, the choice to donate her organs was not difficult. Maggie gave

two people a second chance at life. Her passing will always hurt but knowing that she continues living on in other lives brings me a deep sense of peace.”

“We hope that learning about Claudia’s story and her daughter Maggie empowers more Latinos to help our community especially during Hispanic Heritage Month,” said Cristian Morales, Sr. External Affairs Coordinator at Sierra Donor Services. “Our Hispanic community has the power to save up to eight lives by becoming registered organ donors.”

SDS works tirelessly to facilitate the donation of organs, corneas, and tissue, ensuring every gift is treated with the highest level of care and respect. As SDS reflects on the dire need of lifesaving transplants in the Hispanic community, the organization remains committed to its mission of saving and improving more Latino lives, honoring donors, celebrating recipients, and educating the public. We are calling all Latinos to become organ, eye and tissue donors by visiting SierraDonor.org. ★

Roseville Man Pleads Guilty to Defrauding Employer of More Than \$2.3 Million

United States Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of California News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Christopher William Edward Abplanalp, 38, of Roseville, pleaded guilty today to one count of wire fraud, U.S. Attorney Eric Grant announced.

According to court documents, between February 2023 and July 2025, working as an executive manager at a Placer County business, Abplanalp stole more than \$2.3 million, most of which he then spent gambling. In executing this scheme, he diverted money from the business’s account with an online payment processing system to his own personal account, or to various other friends or acquaintances. Abplanalp also repeatedly charged a client’s credit card for items the client had not ordered and for invoices that did not exist, and then transferred the

proceeds to himself. He also instructed clients to tender payments directly to him, and told vendors to issue rebates and refunds to his personal account, rather than the business. To conceal his theft, Abplanalp altered, deleted or made false entries to the business’s accounting software.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation with assistance from IRS Criminal Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Dhruv M. Sharma is prosecuting the case.

Abplanalp is scheduled to be sentenced by U.S. District Judge Dale A. Drozd on Feb. 8, 2027. Abplanalp faces a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables. ★



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Truckee’s 31st Annual River Day and Fair Returns

Truckee River Watershed Council News Release

TRUCKEE, CA (MPG) - The Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) is calling all nature lovers to join its annual Truckee River Day volunteer event on Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers and TRWC staff will come together to help restore meadows, creeks and forests across the Truckee River

watershed and protect our area for generations to come. Over the past 30 years, over 10,000 Truckee River Day volunteers have helped improve the health and resiliency of over 200 sites across our watershed. As a result, places like Martis Wildlife Area, Perazzo Meadows and Coldstream Canyon now support thriving native plant and wildlife communities while continuing to

provide robust opportunities for recreation. TRWC spearheads these efforts to restore, protect and enhance precious parts of our watershed that sustain the Truckee River.

Since the mid-1800s, historic and present-day land uses have impacted our watershed. As a result of logging, cattle grazing, gravel mining, highway and railroad development, and urban expansion, excess sediment is polluting our waterways and native species are struggling to survive.

TRWC is addressing these ongoing impacts while helping our community adapt to the increasing threat of wildfire, drought and flooding – and each October, they invite the community to join in the effort at Truckee River Day.

Volunteers have a choice of half- or full-day projects of varying difficulty levels. Restoration will take place at eight sites throughout the watershed with efforts including restoration of meadow and wetland systems, habitat enhancement for important wildlife, native tree planting, erosion prevention and more!

Volunteer registration is open now through Oct. 10, with space available on



Registration is now open for the Truckee River Watershed Council’s 31st Annual Truckee River Day and River Fair. Photo courtesy of TRWC

a first-come, first-served basis. Register at www.truckeeriverwc.org to secure your spot or contact Eben Swain at eswain@trukeeriverwc.org to learn more.

After Truckee River Day volunteering events, TRWC’s annual River Fair will take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Granite Flat Campground. The

fair is open to the public and presented in partnership with Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships (SWEP), featuring fun educational activities for all ages and free food while supplies last.

TRWC leads this important effort in partnership with SWEP, Tahoe Donner Association, Town of Truckee, Truckee

Donner Land Trust, US Forest Service, Sugar Pine Foundation, Friends of Olympic Valley and Truckee Fire.

Thank you to this year’s funders, including Truckee River Watershed Council donors, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Town of Truckee, Truckee Chamber of Commerce and Raley’s. ★

Rebirth of The Colfax Hotel

A Brief History and What the Future Holds for the Iconic Hotel

By Ryley Metten

COLFAX, CA (MPG) - After more than 50 years of sitting empty, the iconic Colfax Hotel is getting a renovation! In August, current owners of the hotel, Wendy and Leif Lowery received the final permit needed for the highly anticipated restoration project, confirming that the work on the hotel is now officially in progress.

The Colfax Hotel was originally built during the winter of 1902 and opened on Grass Valley Street in Colfax on March 1903. At that time, the hotel was officially named The Gillen Hotel, after the builder Daniel Cornelius Gillen and had morphed into different names over the years such as Marvin Hotel and as we know it now, The Colfax Hotel.

The Colfax Hotel (Gillen at the time) was designed to attract travelers, miners and visitors passing through Sierra Nevada, featuring 56 rooms, a restaurant and balconies. Being at the junction site for the Southern Pacific Transcontinental line and the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad, Colfax served as a location where crew changes for the railroad took place. The Gillen Hotel was a hotspot for these crews, giving the crew time to rest before continuing their journey.

In 1907, a newly constructed wooden walkway led from the Nevada County Quartz Monument to the Gillen, attracting many more visitors to Colfax and the iconic hotel. Unfortunately, a tragic fire struck the hotel in 1911, destroying ten rooms. The hotel’s name was briefly changed to the Martin Hotel in 1917 after the new owner, Fred Marvin, after Dan Gillen had leased the hotel to him.

After Marvin’s death in 1923, Fred C. Dill and A.A. McKee acquired the lease and the hotel was officially named The



The Colfax Hotel (Gillen at the time) was designed to attract travelers, miners and visitors passing through Sierra Nevada, featuring 56 rooms, a restaurant and balconies. Photo courtesy of Colfax Chamber of Commerce

Colfax Hotel, as it is known today. The hotel continued to thrive even after the fire, serving as a community gathering place hosting Soroptimist Club luncheons and business meetings.

Several more ownership changes followed in the years to come and in the 1970s the hotel’s role as a railroad-traveler stop faded, ultimately resulting in the loss of many customers and closing its doors. Alas, the property was eventually purchased by investors promising to reinvent and reopen the hotel however those plans were never followed through, that is, until this August.

Owners Wendy and Leif Lowery have big plans for reopening the historic hotel. Earlier plans for the property have mentioned a restaurant and retail space on the ground floor, eight hotel rooms and eight multi-family units used for long- or short-term occupancy, however planning details are ever changing as construction progresses.

There is currently no confirmed opening date for The Colfax Hotel as it is still early in its rehabilitation process, however we can’t wait to bring this Colfax staple back to the limelight! ★



Earlier plans for the property have mentioned a restaurant and retail space on the ground floor, eight hotel rooms and eight multi-family units used for long- or short-term occupancy, however planning details are ever changing as construction progresses. Photo designed by Magnific



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