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Pocket News

VOL 35 • ISSUE 19

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OCTOBER 9, 2026

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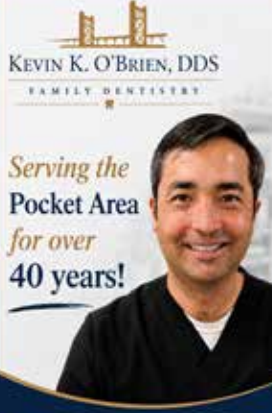


PAGE 7

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PAGE 4



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Homecoming Parade a Hit



Students on the John F. Kennedy High School Class of 2027 float participate in the 2026 homecoming parade.

Story and photos
by Keith Burbank

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - For three years John F. Kennedy High School held no homecoming parade, but 2026 was different. Hundreds of students this year participated and hundreds more watched as the band, floats, cheerleaders, JOTC and other groups marched down Gloria Drive Sept. 25. Festivities

began at 3 p.m. “This parade has been months in the making,” said Kevin Inlay, activities director at the school. “The moment last year’s seniors graduated I submitted my permit for this because to shut down a street like this in the city as big as Sacramento requires a permit.” He met with Sacramento police, fire and transportation, he said. Then

Inlay had to reach out to clubs and his team had to place notices on the doors of about 400 homes letting them know the street would be closed. “It is quite the effort, but as you can see, well worth it in the end,” Inlay added. Kennedy High School in the Greenhaven/Pocket neighborhood is in the Sacramento Unified School District and has about 2,250 students, according

to the school. About 500 participated in the parade, Inlay said, and more watched from the sidewalk. “It took a huge effort, and it wasn’t just me,” Inlay said, “it was our amazing new principal Jill Thom.” Thom is serving as interim principal. Kennedy’s Homecoming football game was delayed until Saturday morning

Continued on page 2

Season Final Yields Three Medals

By Keith Burbank

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Three Sacramento athletes took home medals in the 2026 USA Taekwondo season final in Arkansas in September. Emily Shimomura, 9, and Khai Chang, 9, won first-place while 64-year-old Artavia Edwards took home a bronze medal in the final Sept. 11-13 in Little Rock. Ian Chang, 11, also competed and fell just short of reaching the medal round. “Arkansas was a great experience,” said Edwards, a second-degree black belt. Of her competitors, Edwards said, “Win or lose, we’re family.” She will be traveling later this month, along with Khai, to Daytona Beach, Florida, to compete in the Pan American Club Championship. The event is being held Oct. 22-25. Khai Chang won first place,

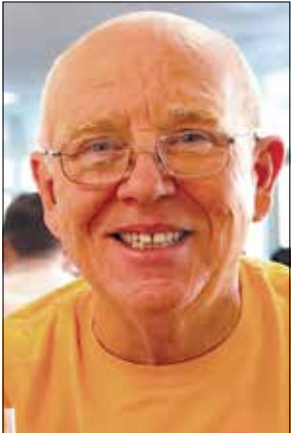
too in Arkansas. He is pursuing the USA Taekwondo Aspiring Dominant Athlete status for 2026, said Xai Lor, owner of iYa Taekwondo. Emily too has had an exceptional season, said Lor, a taekwondo master, remaining undefeated through the finals in Arkansas. “Her performance capped another impressive competition in a season defined by consistency, discipline, and determination,” Lor added. Ian finished just 0.04 points shy of advancing to the medal round, Lor said, “a difference small enough to show that he was competing right alongside some of the strongest athletes in his division.” Ian is promoting to his black belt Oct. 3, he said by phone. Taekwondo “has taught me many things,” he said, such as courtesy, integrity and

Continued on page 2



Sacramento’s Khai Chang, 9, will travel to Daytona Beach, Florida, in October to compete in taekwondo’s Pan American Club Championship. Photo by Albert Chang

Long-time News Writer Passes



Pocket News contributor Steven Clazie Photo by Karyn Clazie

By Pattie McDaniel

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Long-time contributor to Messenger Publishing Group, and past exalted ruler of Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6, Steven B. Clazie, died Aug. 15. He was preceded in death by his wife Joan Louise Maloney. She was the love of his life, and they enjoyed over 60 years together before she died Dec. 17. They had two daughters, Stephanie Kinder of Tennessee, and Karyn Clazie of Oregon. Clazie has three grandchildren, John, Kyle, and Shane Denison. Joan’s long-time caregiver, Suzanne Neill, was more like a family member than a companion. As Clazie became ill, Suzanne took care of him until he died.

Clazie and his wife were raised in Vallejo. Following graduation from Vallejo High School, they attended Sacramento State University. Both graduated with bachelor’s degrees and teaching credentials. Clazie returned to Sacramento State to complete his master’s degree. They both enjoyed teaching careers in the Sacramento City Unified School District. Clazie’s most recent story was the front-page Pocket News article “A teen’s story of survival in war time.” This human-interest story is about Janina Korzeniewska Clark,

Continued on page 3



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Homecoming Parade a Hit

Continued from page 1

because of safety concerns, Rebecca Alvarado, school community liaison, said. But the Kennedy Cougars notched one for the win column

Sept. 26 with a 31-6 victory over the Luther Burbank High School Titans. ★



Students from Sacramento's John F. Kennedy High School lead their fellow students Sept. 25 in the first homecoming parade at the school since 2023.



John F. Kennedy High School cheerleaders march Sept. 25 in the 2026 homecoming parade.



A person dressed as Jack Skellington from the movie "The Nightmare Before Christmas" walks in John F. Kennedy High School's homecoming parade Sept. 25, 2026.



Junior ROTC students at John F. Kennedy High School in Sacramento march Sept. 25 in the school's 2026 homecoming parade.

Season Final Yields Three Medals

Continued from page 1

perseverance.

This year is the first Ian and Khai traveled nationally to compete, their father Albert Chang said.

For Khai, he likes taekwondo because it has taught him self-defense and new things, he said.

"Every tournament brings a new challenge," said Lor. "There are no guarantees once an athlete steps onto the competition floor. What these athletes can control is their preparation, their discipline, and how they represent themselves, their team, and their community. That is what makes us especially proud."

iYa Taekwondo is on Greenhaven Drive in Sacramento's Pocket-Greenhaven neighborhood. The school's eighth annual haunted house and trunk-or-treat event is planned for 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 17. ★

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Messenger Publishing Group

Long-time News Writer Passes

Continued from page 1
who survived World War II as a teenager despite her capture by the Nazi's several times. Little did anyone know it would be Clazie's last story.

Janina's children, Jane Gallagher and Kevin Clark, researched their mother's childhood. A cousin, Jalyn Venis, wrote the book "Janina's war: How a teenager survived Nazis, the

resistance, and the most horrific war on earth." The book is for sale on Amazon.

Clazie enjoyed a hearty laugh, even if it was at his expense. During a family gathering at a local ice cream parlor, Clazie ordered his favorite: peppermint milkshake.

As the pink ice cream began to melt and the foam ran down the side of the glass, one of his grandsons exclaimed that he had ordered a "pretty, pretty princess milkshake." This family moniker was a favorite tease for years.

Clazie was inspired to be a teacher after hearing President John F. Kennedy's famous words, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

He taught for years at John F. Kennedy High School in Sacramento. He proudly served as class sponsor and as the faculty advisor for the Kennedy High Clarion, the student newspaper.

After a career teaching secondary students, Clazie delighted in reading to kindergartners at Genevieve F. Didion TK-8 School. Clazie once again exhibited his sense of humor when he surprised the students dressed as The Grinch.

While sitting at his wife's bedside, Clazie often wrote late at night or in the early morning hours. He remained devoted to her and shared her battle against supranuclear palsy. This rare neurological disease has no cure.

After his wife became wheelchair-bound, Clazie was often seen pushing her around



Clazie with his wife of 60 years Joan Louise Maloney. Photo by Karen Clazie



Clazie receives special citations from the Elks. Photo by Nicole Holton-Alveraze

the Pocket-Greenhaven Farmer's Market on Sundays.

Clazie wrote a touching story about the 60 years, 5 months and 10 days he and his wife were together. "My journey with Joan" can be found in the Feb. 11 issue of Pocket News.

Writing was Clazie's talent and passion. It gave him pleasure to share stories of the Sacramento area and its people. Steve wrote many articles about the Pocket-Greenhaven Farmers Market and Elks or community events.

He highlighted the many youth groups that Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 helped, and he continued to support many Elks events financially.

Clazie was proud to be

recognized as a fidelity donor to the Elks National Foundation, which provides grants for community projects.

The California-Hawaii Elks Association gave Clazie many first-place awards for his articles.

Clazie served as Elks Lodge No. 6 exalted ruler in 2008-2009. The exalted ruler is the president and highest-ranking officer in an Elks Lodge. He was proud of his leadership roles in the Elks, and he embodied the Elks principles of charity, justice, fidelity, and brotherly love.

Members of the public celebrated Clazie's life Sept. 20 at Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. ★

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By Keith Burbank

The existing building is the second Rhoads School built in

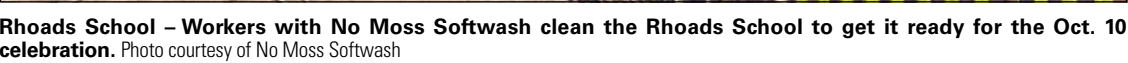
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involves cleaning with less than 40 pounds of pressure.

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The program brings to life what it was like be a student and teacher at the school years ago, Tanner said. ★



**Story and photos
by Susan Maxwell
Skinner**

The date coincided with national appreciation for the late Dolly Parton, whose Imagination Library loaned a larger-than-life cutout of the star. “Dolly’s people told us

The surgeon told girls

The expo this year saluted Dolly Parton as an example of what can be achieved through hard



“We want girls to know they can be anything they want to be,” said Museum Director Karen Jones. “Dolly Parton said that when girls follow their dreams, the sky was

Event supports included: SMUD, Carmichael Kiwanis,

San Juan and Twin Rivers School Districts; SAFE Credit Union and County Supervisors Rich Desmond and Phil Serna. Learn about Museum events at www.aerospaceCA.org ★

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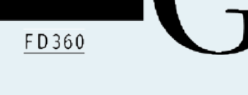


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SacSewer Warriors Take Second Place in Division 3

Team earns first place in Maintenance and third in Safety, highlighting the people and expertise behind SacSewer’s essential services

Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer) News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer) is demonstrating the depth of operational excellence behind one of the region’s largest essential service providers, as its Warriors earned second place overall in Division 3 at the Water Environment Federation’s (WEF) Operations Challenge at WEFTEC in New Orleans Sept. 28-29.

Competing against 26 teams in Division 3, the SacSewer Warriors earned first place in the Maintenance Event and third place in Safety. Made up of employees from SacSewer’s collection and treatment operations, the team also posted some of its fastest competition times to date after months of preparation and practice leading up to the event. Operations Challenge brings together skilled water sector professionals competing in events designed around technical skills, and real-world scenarios involved in utility operations including collections, process control, maintenance, laboratory and safety.

While the results are a point of pride for the Warriors, the competition also offers a visible look at the people and expertise behind SacSewer’s essential services. The skills demonstrated in the competition – technical knowledge, safety awareness, teamwork, communication and problem-solving – are the same skills employees rely on every day to operate and maintain critical infrastructure and provide reliable service to the community.



Competing against 26 teams in Division 3, the SacSewer Warriors earned first place in the Maintenance Event and third place in Safety. Photo courtesy of SacSewer

“The Warriors give us an opportunity to showcase the people behind the services our community depends on,” said Christoph Dobson, general manager of SacSewer. “Their performance reflects the professionalism, dedication and pride that our employees bring to their work every day. We’re proud to see the Warriors represent SacSewer and demonstrate the caliber of talent we have throughout our organization.”

The Warriors also represent the interconnected nature of a modern sewer utility. While each area of the organization brings specialized knowledge and expertise, it takes people working together across



Preparing for Operations Challenge gives employees an opportunity to sharpen their technical and leadership skills, practice working under pressure, learn from colleagues in different areas and exchange ideas with other utilities. Photo courtesy of SacSewer

disciplines to safely and reliably collect, treat and recover resources from sewage.

“The beauty of SacSewer’s work is the way all of these people with diverse skills come together to serve our community,” Dobson said. “The Warriors are one example of that collaboration. Whether someone works in collections, treatment, the laboratory, engineering or another part of the organization, every role brings a different area of expertise to the work we do. Together, those contributions allow us to safely and reliably serve our community.”

Preparing for Operations Challenge gives employees an opportunity to sharpen their technical and leadership skills, practice working under pressure, learn from colleagues in different areas and exchange ideas with other utilities. SacSewer has captured the Warriors’ preparation, competition and experiences through a series of videos that offer a behind-the-scenes look at the skills and teamwork required to compete – and the benefits Operations Challenge brings to SacSewer and the community we serve. To watch a video demonstrating why Ops Challenge matters, visit: youtube.com/watch?si=Rh-GHvV8g1ZCsRL5F&v=yn-LU-UoG5Js&feature=youtu.be

The experience also provides an opportunity for employees to learn from one another and bring new ideas and perspectives back to their work at SacSewer – an added benefit of participating in a competition that celebrates the expertise and professionalism of utility operations.

FAA Awards Contract for New Air Traffic Control Tower at SMF

Sacramento International Airport News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has awarded a design-build contract to Walsh Federal LLC for a new air traffic control tower at Sacramento International Airport (SMF), marking a major milestone in the long-planned replacement of the airport’s existing tower, which has been in service since 1967.

The contract was awarded Sept. 19, with work scheduled through early 2030. The new tower is expected to become fully operational around 2030.

“This contract award is a significant step forward for the long-term safety, efficiency and resilience of our airspace operations at Sacramento International Airport,” said Harry Barrett Jr., assistant director of airports for Sacramento County. “We have been ready for this investment for many

years, and we are excited to see the project move from planning toward construction.”

The FAA previously identified SMF as a priority site for tower replacement in 2016. SMF is one of eight airports nationwide selected for new tower construction as part of a broader FAA initiative to modernize aging air traffic infrastructure. The program is supported in part by funding from the \$5 billion allocated to the FAA Air

Traffic Organization through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The current SMF control tower presents operational and accessibility limitations as well as challenges associated with aging facility systems. The replacement tower will be located on the airport’s north campus and will provide improved sightlines and a modernized working environment designed to better support FAA air traffic controllers. The

new location will also enhance security by relocating critical operations away from public-facing airport areas.

The FAA contract with Walsh Federal covers design and construction of the replacement tower, with a period of performance extending through February 2030. Construction is currently expected to begin in summer 2027. The new tower will remain FAA-owned and FAA-operated upon completion.



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California Writers Week in the Capitol Region

California Writers Week News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - California Writers Week, an annual recognition of the talents and contributions of writers in our state, takes place the third week of October. Established in 2003 via Joint Legislative Resolution 2170 and sponsored by Assemblyman Tim Leslie, California Writers Week

was initiated by the California Writers Club. The resolution mentions founders of the club in 1909, including Jack London, Ina Coolbrith and George Sterling and traces California’s literary tradition back to the writing of Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Mary Austin, John Steinbeck, among others. The sponsors of the resolution encourage all Californians to honor the contributions that

California writers make to humankind. During Oct. 11-17, members of the Sacramento branch of California Writers Club will provide readings of their work to seniors living in five of the area’s assisted living facilities. The goals are to entertain, generate awareness of the writing of local authors, and encourage residents of the facilities in their own reading and writing endeavors.

More information can be found at California Writers Club, Sacramento. In addition to the readings offered to seniors, Sacramento CWC branch board member Julie Snider is offering a public reading and book signing. Julie is a retired teacher living near Sacramento, and she writes both fiction and nonfiction. Her heartwarming stories, often centered on themes of social justice,

help readers from diverse backgrounds find common ground. The event will take place from 1-2 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Fair Oaks Library, 11601 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks. Julie will read short selections from her debut novel, Chapel Bay Secrets, published in January 2026. You can find more information about Julie and her writing on her website, <https://juliesniderauthor.com/> ★

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 scrapbooks, news articles, photos and more. Through October. Details at sachistorymuseum.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. ★

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New Law Limits CIPA Lawsuits

Startup Aims to Cut ID Verification Cost

By Stop CIPA
Shakedown Lawsuits
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Stop CIPA Shakedown Lawsuits coalition Oct. 1 celebrated Gov. Gavin Newsom's signing of SB 690, a major reform to the California Invasion of Privacy Act (CIPA) that will provide much-needed relief to thousands of California small businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies facing abusive lawsuits and demand letters.

SB 690 passed the California Legislature without a single “no” vote, reflecting broad recognition among lawmakers of the need to address the misuse of a decades-old privacy law against organizations using ordinary website technologies.

The new law will take effect Jan. 1, limiting private lawsuits involving CIPA's pen register and trap-and-trace provisions when claims arise from activity on websites, online applications, or mobile applications, while preserving California's strong consumer privacy protections and government enforcement authority.

"Tonight, thousands of California businesses have gotten relief from abusive litigation," said Andrew Kingman, general counsel for the Alliance for Legal Fairness, in a statement. "We applaud Gov. Newsom for signing SB 690 into law and delivering



Pictured are Andrew and Gytahna Loffgren of Dixon firm Element Electric. A CIPA lawsuit was filed against the company for alleged violations of the California Invasion of Privacy Act. Photo by Kevin Dietrich

real relief to businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies that have been forced to spend valuable resources defending themselves against abusive CIPA lawsuits.

"This is a meaningful step forward for organizations across California that have faced costly litigation and significant disruption, even when there is no allegation of actual harm or injury.

"We thank Sen. Caballero for her leadership and Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan for her sincere engagement in moving this issue through the Legislature, and we thank Gov. Newsom for recognizing the urgent need for CIPA reform."

Originally enacted in 1967, CIPA was intended to protect Californians from unlawful wiretapping and eavesdropping on landline phones.

But the decades-old

law, written long before the internet existed, has increasingly been exploited to bring over 4,000 abusive lawsuits over common website tools such as analytics tools, pixels and other digital services, without any allegation of actual harm or injury.

The signing of SB 690 marks an important step toward modernizing CIPA and ensuring California's privacy laws protect consumers without being exploited to pursue abusive litigation against businesses and organizations.

While SB 690 provides important relief, more work remains. The coalition will continue working with policymakers and stakeholders to pursue additional reforms addressing CIPA Section 631 and ensure California's privacy laws provide strong protections for consumers without enabling abusive litigation.

★



CEO Alex Marinov is pictured in his home office working on Stile's identity verification product. Photo by Yana Marinov

By Keith Burbank

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A startup is looking to transform identity verification by making it fast and cheap.

Stile at stile.id is run by brothers Vlad and Alex Marinov. Alex Marinov serves as CEO. He owned a logistics business in Elk Grove before he sold it with about 160 employees to a private equity firm.

"We started exploring this idea earlier in the year," Alex Marinov said, "like January, February."

He and Vlad Marinov, who has banking experience, want to bring the cost of each verification down to 10 to 50 cents, Alex Marinov said.

The company is now beta-testing its products. It has no customers and will need to do many verifications to be profitable.

Identity verification is important, Alex Marinov said, recalling a scenario that played out in 2024.

A controller for a company joined a Zoom call with whom she thought was her boss and the chief financial officer. Her aim was to approve a \$20 million wire transfer.

She approved it only to find out later the image and voice of her boss was fraudulent.

"So that's kind of the top problem we are

trying to solve," Alex Marinov said, adding that Stile has checks it can do to deter that type of fraud.

One is a "liveness" check, Alex Marinov said.

"Are you talking to an actual human (on) a Zoom call?" he said. "We actually have an ability to understand if it's a human or not."

Stile can scan the face of the person to see whether it's a 3D image.

Stile has four employees, including the two brothers. The others are involved in marketing and quality assurance.

Alex Marinov is confident Stile can achieve its aim. Because of artificial intelligence, Alex Marinov said, his team of four can compete with others that have raised \$10 to \$20 million to build an identity verification product.

"We can do it for hundreds of thousands of dollars ... just because of AI," he said.

Vlad has been surrounded by the problem of identity verification at multiple companies he's worked for, he said.

"This is a problem I've been thinking about for so many years in my career life," he said.

And now, he said, he has what it takes to prevent fraud by using his skills and the tactics of those committing fraud.

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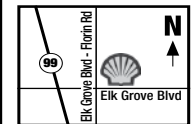
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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Get Excited Kings Fans

By V.G. Harris

Time to wake from a summer slumber and embrace the 2026-27 season, because the Sacramento Kings will be in action Monday night against the daunting Los Angeles Lakers.

While the Lakers are without Lebron, they are arguably packed with talent and last year’s rookie Adou Thiero is just waiting for an opportunity to show the Laker fans what this highly athletic NBA forward can bring to the hard court.

Likewise, the Kings are blessed with a deep team, something that they have struggled with in the past, and that brings with it the looming question, who will be Doug Christie’s starters, and who will garnish the majority of minutes off the bench.

Minutes are a precious commodity in the NBA, and players like Malik Monk simply cannot get lost in the shuffle as new faces enter the arena, and the tendency is to play newcomers and rookies early while sometimes forgetting who it is that got you there.

Not lost on anyone is the paltry 22 wins of a season ago, but most fans have put that agonizing number in the “lost to injury” column and I believe rightfully so.

It’s the reason Doug Christie is back for a second season, and with a solid draft and the acquisition of an apparently healthy Ben Simmons, Christie has the chess pieces to make last season’s 22 wins a distant memory.

Without question this team will need to walk before it can run. Putting too many minutes on rookie Darius Acuff Jr. or veteran Ben Simmon’s should be the last thing coach Christie should do, and developing a rotation that satisfies minutes while producing results is the balancing act that he has before him.

This is why we watch the game Kings fans, and while the offseason may not have been as active as you would have liked, I am grateful that the Kings have a post presence led by Domantas Sabonis and backed up by youngsters clamoring for playing time. Both Precious Achiuwa and Dylan Cardwell will undoubtedly get quality minutes and they should.

Coming out of the gate Sabonis needs to establish who he is, and once again be the cleaner of the boards that the NBA has seen

over the past four seasons. With that rebounding acumen comes stopping the competition from second chance points and presents fast break opportunities for the Kings.

Many were critical when the Kings brought in Domantas Sabonis and sent Tyrese Haliburton to the Indiana Pacers, but with that trade the Sacramento Kings became the No. 1 scoring team in the NBA.

It was a magical season that saw the Kings win 48 games, make the playoff’s outright, and take the archrival Golden State Warriors to a seven-games series.

So, what will the partial rebuild from Scott Perry bring us this year?

Only time will tell, but I can assure every basketball fan reading this column that there is no shortage of talent on this team.

The Looming question resides in the coaching staff, and whether this team can play together and find a real identity. Every team needs one, and most have one.

If you talk to coach Christie, he will tell you defense is the name of the game, but my question is can you teach defensive strategies, and will this team that is getting younger buy into what you’re teaching?

No one is going to argue that the Kings need to play defense, but will your veterans step up and lead by example or simply buy into what the national pundits want to banty about.

Enter Keegan Murray who needs to impress and do it early!

Yes, the clock is ticking with regards to Keegan Murray’s tenure as a King, but the ball is still in his court and the opportunity starts tonight.

I still have faith that Keegan can find the game that made him the NCAA scoring champion in the nation, and he just needs to remember the accomplishments of his rookie year.

His defense has taken a step forward. Now, it’s time to find the shooting stroke that suddenly went dormant.

Mentorship, teaching, are not just words, they are where leadership begins. I’m waiting to see if this coaching staff and Scott Perry have it, but the question will be answered soon.

Get excited Kings fans!

All the best! ★

Californians Are in a Sour Mood but Don’t Want to Change the Political Status Quo



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Californians are in a sour mood these days, and for good reason.

The state’s economy is stuck in neutral with scant job creation since the end of the COVID pandemic. Major sectors, such as high technology, are experiencing layoffs and job shrinkage and California is tied with two other states for the nation’s highest unemployment rate.

Meanwhile, Californians’ cost of living — especially housing, utilities and fuel — has climbed sharply, more than 100% since 2000, while personal income, adjusted for inflation, has actually declined fractionally since 2020.

A recent poll by the Public Policy Institute of California reflects the angst.

“Majorities of California adults (54%) and likely voters (52%) say the state is headed in the wrong direction,” PPIC found. “This belief is held by nearly all Republicans (94%) and a majority of independents (55%), compared to one in three Democrats (32%).”

PPIC continues, “Californians are much more pessimistic about economic conditions over the next year, with seven in ten adults (71%) and likely voters (73%) as well six in ten or more across parties (61% Democrats, 90% Republicans, 72%

independents) expecting bad economic times for the state.”

If Californians are dissatisfied with the present and sour on the future, one might assume that they would express that negative frame of mind by rejecting the state’s political status quo in favor of candidates who promise change.

However, with voting by mail beginning in a few days, the Democratic Party that has dominated California politics for the last three decades can comfortably expect to maintain — or even increase — its hegemony.

All of the statewide offices, including the governorship, will remain in Democratic hands. Polls by PPIC and UC Berkeley’s Institute of Governmental Studies have found Democrat Xavier Becerra with a double-digit lead over Republican Steve Hilton for the governorship.

Democrats will retain supermajorities in both houses of the Legislature and probably gain a few congressional seats, thanks to gerrymandered districts that voters adopted last year to help neutralize Republican gerrymanders in other states.

A handful of legislative and congressional districts are in play but the macro results favoring Democrats are certain. Republican candidates, from Hilton down, are handicapped by low voter registration and Californians’ deep disdain for President Donald Trump. Just 27% of California voters approve of Trump’s performance, according to the Berkeley IGS poll.

The most uncertain — and therefore most interesting — aspects of this year’s election are a very close battle for the mayoralty of Los Angeles, pitting veteran incumbent

Karen Bass against a left-leaning city council member, Nithya Raman, a few Democrat vs. Democrat duels for congressional seats, and some polarizing ballot measures.

Five of the 14 statewide ballot measures relate to taxes, including two that would increase them and three that would make increases less likely.

The biggest and most controversial is Proposition 40, which would impose a one-time 5% tax on the wealth of about 200 billionaires, with proceeds mostly going to shore up healthcare services.

Prop. 40 is sponsored by a healthcare worker union and generally draws support from some, but not all, Democratic political figures and unions. Meanwhile, billionaires are spending hundreds of millions of dollars to oppose Prop. 40 and pass two other measures, Proposition 41 and Proposition 42, that would undermine Prop. 40’s implementation if it survives the election.

Until recently, Prop. 40 was ahead in the polls, although barely. More recent surveys found that its base was eroding as the massive opposition campaign cranked up, so the result is very much in doubt. And even if Prop. 40 wins, it still could be neutralized by the passage of Props. 41 and 42.

Prop. 40 exemplifies the nation’s social and political polarization and its outcome, whatever that may be, will reverberate for years to come.

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 Mom Worries Daughter Making Bad Social Security Decision



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My question is not for me, but for my daughter who 62 years is old. She does not want to take her Social Security now. Her husband was a doctor and passed away recently. She had been married to him for more than 10 years and, in the meantime, he married someone else. I thought the President erased taxes on earned money so that people could collect what was due them no matter what they earned. My daughter keeps telling me she has already earned too much this year and cannot collect her widow’s benefits until next year. I don’t understand what no tax on Social Security means then. Also, she wants to wait until she is 67 before she collects her own money. She has been a nurse and believes her own benefits may be larger than her widow’s benefits. Is she correct to wait for that long?

Signed: Worried Mom

Dear Worried Mom: Your daughter is likely correct. There are two factors which come into play in your daughter’s circumstance – one is the Annual Earnings Test (for those collecting early SS benefits), and the other relates to Federal income tax on SS benefits received. I’ll try to clarify both of these for you:

If your daughter claims her widow’s benefit at age 62, her benefit will be significantly reduced (by approximately 20+%) from what she would get at her SS full retirement age, and that would be a permanent reduction. And, if she works (which you imply she does) she would also be subject to Social Security’s Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much she can earn by working prior to reaching her SS full retirement age (her “FRA,” which is age 67). The earnings limit for 2026 is \$24,480 (changes yearly) and, if her annual 2026 earnings exceed that amount, Social Security will take away \$1 of benefits for every \$2 she is over the annual limit. For example, if she is \$25,000 over the limit, SS would take way benefits equal to \$12,500. That would mean she wouldn’t get any SS benefits for the remainder of this year and likely some of next year also. And, if her earnings are significantly more than the annual limit, she may even be temporarily ineligible to receive a widow’s benefit (until she either reaches her FRA or earns less money). FYI, the Annual Earnings Test will go away when your daughter reaches age 67 but, until then, the AET will likely restrict her ability to receive Social Security benefits if she continues to work full time.

The next factor to be aware of is the so-called “One Big Beautiful Bill” (OBBB) which the President claimed means “no tax on Social Security.” This is an entirely different factor than the Annual Earnings Test (AET) described above. The above AET discussion dealt with SS earnings limits while

taking benefits before FRA, whereas the OBBB deals with income tax on Social Security benefits actually received. The OBBB (enacted last year) provides an extra \$6,000 deduction per person (on the tax return filed with the IRS) for those 65 years of age or older. That extra IRS deduction is designed to offset (either totally or partially) any income tax which is levied on Social Security benefits received by those age 65 or older. It’s also important to know that the OBBB only provides temporary income tax relief, because the law expires after the 2028 income tax year.

All of which leads me to conclude that your daughter’s decision to wait longer to claim her widow’s benefit from her deceased ex-husband is a prudent choice. As long as she is working and earning more than the annual earnings limit before age 67, the AET will restrict how much Social Security she is able to receive. If she later stops working or goes to part-time employment, she can revisit her decision at that time. And, depending on her own personally earned Social Security benefit amount at age 67 (vs. her widow’s benefit), she can assess whether to claim her personal SS retirement benefit or to, instead, claim her benefit as her ex-husband’s widow if that amount is larger than her own SS retirement. And, unless Congress later extends the OBBB prior to 2029, she will, at that time, likely need to pay income tax on the Social Security benefits she receives.

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



In 2016, Donald Trump’s support for tariffs helped propel him to a shocking electoral victory. In 2026, his tariff policy may help tank Republicans in the midterms. This turnabout counts as a surprise of Trump’s second term, and an unwelcome one for the president and his party.

During his political ascent in 2015-2016, Trump exploited issues where there was a disconnect between popular and elite opinion, and trade was prominent among them. His protectionism -- expressed in pungent and excoriating terms -- poached traditional Democratic ideological territory and appealed to the working-class voters that allowed him to crash the traditional Democratic “Blue Wall” states. In sheer political terms, what could go wrong? Well, nothing -- until he got his way.

It turns out that Liberation Day was the beginning of the end for any appreciable political support for his tariff policy. The assumption has usually been that the politics of tariffs favor protectionism -- the benefits are very visible and focused for specific sectors and businesses, so they will be highly committed to maintaining them, while the costs are widely dispersed among people who won’t care so much.

The logic here has been turned on its head, though. The costs felt by

The Revolt Against Tariffs

all the people with no direct stake in protectionism are tanking support for the tariffs. On top of this, there’s the fact that Trump won the second time promising to reduce prices, whereas import duties increase them. The Yale Budget Lab estimates the costs to households as about \$1,000 a year. The shambolic and arbitrary rollout of the tariffs, as well as the dubious legal basis for many of them, hasn’t helped, either.

According to a poll that the libertarian Cato Institute conducted with Morning Consult, 74% of Americans say the tariffs increased the prices they pay, including 66% of Republicans. Fifty-three percent of the public says that the tariffs have weakened the economy, and 49% say they have hurt their quality of life. Regarding the latest trade spat with Canada, a Politico/Public First poll found that 56% of Americans think the tariffs against Canada were “wrong.” According to a CBS/YouGov survey, people prefer a candidate who opposes Trump’s tariffs over one who supports them, by 26 points.

Democratic Senate candidates are promising to reverse Trump’s tariffs, even the card-carrying protectionist Sherrod Brown is critical. And some Republican candidates in states with lots of trade with Canada have dissented from the trade war with Our Friendly Neighbor to the North.

The Midwest is a trouble spot for the GOP in the midterms, and it’s not hard to understand why. Chinacut its purchases

of U.S. farm products in retaliation for Trump’s tariffs, and the farm sector has been slammed. Exports of wheat, cotton, beef and pork to China plummeted last year, and overall agricultural exports to China fell by 66%.

When you layer on top of this the price of diesel fuel jumping 80% and fertilizer increasing 15% because of the Iran war, it’s a formula for a revolt. The tariffs have led to a tangle a little more than a month before the election. Trying to address complaints about high grocery prices, the administration wants to relent on beef tariffs to help consumers, but farmers -- hurt by other tariffs -- are balking at a measure that will reduce prices at a time when they are struggling.

One way or another, someone is going to be unhappy. Even if Trump’s theory of the tariffs is correct -- that higher import duties will lead to re-industrialization -- the policy involves immediate disruption and increased costs in exchange for a protectionism-driven build-out that will take years to be fully achieved.

Long before then -- indeed, by January -- an opposition congressional majority hostile to the president and his tariffs may be entrenched in Washington. In politics, it’s often “careful what you wish for,” especially if it involves higher prices on an inflation-fatigued public.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Yang, Alvarenga Net Big West Weekly Honors

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - After playing big roles in the Sacramento State men’s soccer team’s victory over UC Riverside, junior Hiroshi Yang was named the Big West Offensive Player of the Week while freshman Adrian Alvarenga was named the league’s Rookie of the Week on Sept. 28.

Both Yang and Alvarenga picked up their first career weekly awards from the conference office and became the second and third Hornet honorees this year alongside two-time offensive player of the week honoree Zac Giles, who won the league’s first award back on Aug. 24 and was also honored following his five-point performance on Sept. 21.

It marks the first time that Sacramento State has had players earn offensive weekly honors in the same season while Alvarenga became the seventh Hornet to earn weekly top rookie honors and the first since teammate Angad Singh



Junior Hiroshi Yang was named the Big West Offensive Player of the Week while freshman Adrian Alvarenga was named the league’s Rookie of the Week on Sept. 28. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

did so on Oct. 21, 2024. That was also the last time that Sacramento State has had two weekly winners in the same week since Singh and Donovan Sessoms (Offensive Player of the Week).

Yang tallied his first career brace in a 3-1 win over UC Riverside, staking the Hornets to an early 2-0 lead en route to

the team’s second straight victory. That performance came just a week after he had two assists in a 4-2 triumph over Pacific.

He scored his first in high-light reel fashion in the 28th minute, launching a wonder strike from about 35 yards out that looped over the new keeper’s head before bottoming out,

tucking under the crossbar, and settling in the right-side netting for the 1-0 lead.

It was eventually selected as the No. 9 play of the day on SportsCenter’s SC Top 10 later that night.

Eleven minutes later, it was Yang once again as the Hornets drew a foul about 25 yards out, setting up a free kick for the

home side from nearly straight on. Teammate Zac Giles and Yang both stood over the ball, but it was Yang that took the attempt, sneaking a left-footed low liner inside the left post for a 2-0 advantage.

The two scores brought Yang’s total to three, moving him into a tie for second on the team and a tie for fifth in The Big West entering the week. He also ranks tied for eighth in shots and tied for ninth in the conference in assists.

Alvarenga, meanwhile, helped hold things down at the other end of the field, entering the match as a reserve and playing 80 minutes against the Highlanders. He helped a defensive unit that limited UC Riverside to just eight shots overall and just two on goal in the victory.

Both totals were season lows for the defense as the eight shots allowed were the fewest in a match by an opponent since UC Davis was held to the same number of attempts in 2022 and the two shots on goal were the fewest since CSUN had only one in 2024. ★

Aggies Jade Light Signs Pro Contract with Okayama Seagulls in Japan



UC Davis volleyball superstar Jade Light has signed a professional contract with the Okayama Seagulls, playing the 2026-27 season in the Japan SV.League. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

UC Davis Athletics News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - One of the most prolific players in program history, former UC Davis volleyball superstar Jade Light has signed a professional contract with the Okayama Seagulls, playing the 2026-27 season in the Japan SV.League.

Light continues the long tradition of professional players who have come through the Aggie pipeline, succeeding former player Olivia Utterback, who is currently preparing for her second season with ASP Thetis W in Greece.

Founded in 1999, the Seagulls are the latest in a long line of professional teams that have played volleyball in Okayama going back to 1953. Last season, the club finished 12th in the SV.League, the second level of professional volleyball in Japan while also securing a ninth place finish in the Empress’ Cup All Japan Championship, a 24 team tournament

featuring some of the best programs in the country.

No stranger to high level play, Light finished her career at UC Davis with one of the best seasons in program history in 2025, being named the Big West Player of the Year and an AVCA All-American, the first All-American for the program since 1996.

During the season, she collected 1,000 career kills to become the 13th player in program history to hit that mark. She was also named the Big West Offensive Player of the Week three separate times and a First-Team Big West selection.

The Seagulls season begins on Oct. 16 when the team takes on the Osaka Marvelous at home. To learn more about the club, visit: <https://women.volleybox.net/osaka-marvelous-t2147>

The whole Aggie family wishes Jade the best of luck as she begins her professional career. ★

Seymour Awarded PCL Pitcher of the Year

Seymour and Whisenhunt Named 2026 Triple-A Pacific Coast All-Stars



RHP Carson Seymour was named the Pacific Coast League Pitcher of the Year, as well as an All-Star starting pitcher. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento River Cats

Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Sept. 26, Minor League Baseball announced the league awards and All-Star teams for the Triple-A Pacific Coast League and International League.

RHP Carson Seymour was named the Pacific Coast League Pitcher of the Year, as well as an All-Star starting pitcher.

Seymour made 22 appearances, including nine starts, for Sacramento this season, compiling a 5-2 record and a 3.79 ERA (76.0 IP, 32 ER). He allowed six home runs and 31 walks while recording

70 strikeouts and a .241 opponent batting average.

LHP Carson Whisenhunt was also named an All-Star starting pitcher.



Whisenhunt made 16 starts as well as one relief appearance and posted a 6-4 record with a 4.15 ERA (82.1 IP, 38 ER). He surrendered four home runs and 38 walks while striking out 90 and limiting opponents to a .250 batting average.

Despite being recalled

to San Francisco in mid-July, Whisenhunt finished the season tied for 10th in strikeouts.

This marks the second consecutive All-Star selection for both Seymour and Whisenhunt, who were also named starting pitchers on the Triple-A PCL All-Star team in 2025.

Sacramento has now produced the PCL Pitcher of the Year in consecutive seasons, following Whisenhunt’s selection in 2026.

About the Sacramento River Cats

Sutter Health Park is the West Sacramento home of the three-time Triple-A Champion Sacramento River Cats, proud affiliate of the three-time World Series Champion San Francisco Giants. Memberships, mini-plans, hospitality rentals and single game tickets for the 2026 season may be purchased now by calling the River Cats sales office at (916) 371-HITS (4487), emailing tickets@rivercats.com, or visiting www.rivercats.com. For information on other events at Sutter Health Park, visit www.sutterhealthpark.com. ★

Republic FC Unveils First Look at New Stadium

The Republic Preview Center in DOCO is the first place you can sit, see and feel what’s coming to Republic Stadium at The Railyards

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - For years, you’ve followed Republic Stadium through renderings, construction updates and groundbreaking photos. Now you can set foot inside of the club’s preview center – designed to reflect the elements of the stadium before it opens in 2028.

The Republic Preview Center will open on Oct. 13 by appointment only for Season Ticket Members and Stadium Deposit Holders, located just a few blocks from where the stadium is beginning to rise in The Railyards. It’s the first opportunity for fans to touch and feel elements of the new stadium, and it’s where Season Ticket Members will begin choosing their seats and lock in their spot for history.

Designed by Elevate, the 3,443-square-foot space takes its cues straight from the stadium’s premium areas. Red tile and brass tones tie back to the suites, and the furniture and finishes reflect the theme and what will eventually be incorporated into the stadium’s lounge and club spaces.

The details are worth a closer look. The bar features a brass Republic FC crest – inspired by the historical markers found throughout Sacramento, and its front carries a subtle nod to the stadium’s trusses. On the walls, artwork celebrates the city and community that built this club: the best supporters in the league, as well as the monuments of the Capital City -- the State Capitol, Tower Bridge, the Sacramento River, the California Grizzly and the California Quail.

At the heart of Republic Preview Center is a scale model of our new home, giving guests a look into the details of the enhanced matchday experience... from the full stands reaching five stories tall, the proximity to the field, as well as the towering canopy and trusses that will redraw the city’s skyline.

From there, it gets personal. The club’s stadium team will help you find the perfect seat for your ideal game day. New premium experiences will transform game day and the first look at what that means for you will come with your personalized visit to the Republic Preview Center.

Every visit is a guided

walk from where this club has been to where it’s going. You’ll start with a welcome at the bar, move past a living history wall where the most experienced supporter can relive history and new fans can see how far we’ve come, see the 2014 championship trophy, anniversary kits and signed match balls from some of the biggest nights in club history. We’ll save the rest for your visit.

The visit builds toward the moment you choose your seats. Once you get locked in for the 2028 season, you’ll join some club legends in leaving your mark on Republic FC with an exclusive opportunity. We’re keeping the details under wraps for now. You’ll have to come in to find out how.

Visits are by appointment only, beginning Oct. 13, so every guest gets a personal, guided look.

Season Ticket Members have first priority, followed by stadium depositors. If that’s you, a member of our team will reach out directly to schedule your visit.

Not a member yet? Become a 2027 Season Ticket Member or place a deposit at RepublicStadium.com to get in line. Deposits start at just \$9.16. ★

California Capital Airshow Returns with Night Show and World-Renowned Performer Lineup

California Capital Airshow News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The 20th annual California Capital Airshow (CCA), presented in partnership by Sacramento County and the City of Rancho Cordova, returns Oct. 10-11 from noon to 8 p.m. daily at Mather Airport in Sacramento.

The two-day event will recognize CCA's 20th anniversary alongside the nation's 250th with an extraordinary lineup of performers, including the United States Air Force Thunderbirds and the Canadian Forces Snowbirds. The event will feature miles of aircraft on display and hands-on exhibits for all ages, and conclude with nighttime aerial performances and a massive pyro-musical fireworks show.

This unique show features nonstop aerial performances running from 3:30-8 p.m. each day, culminating with the night show. In addition to the two headlining jet teams, the USAF Thunderbirds and Canadian Snowbirds, airshow highlights include performances from the U-2 Dragon Lady and T-38 Talons of Beale Air Force Base, the United States Air Force C-17 Globemaster III Demonstration Team, and the United States Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet Demonstration Team. As the sun sets, the show will continue with maximum afterburner followed by aircraft lighting up the night sky with pyrotechnics, walls of fire, spectacular fireworks and hundreds of drones.

"This year's show is a milestone celebration that offers a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Darcy Brewer, CEO of California Capital Airshow. "We're bringing the Thunderbirds and Snowbirds to Sacramento to celebrate our 20th anniversary and the nation's 250th, with a night show and fireworks finale to match."

Airshow tickets are on sale now at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com.



The Airshow team is grateful to its 1,000 passionate volunteers that keep the airshow running. Photo courtesy of Mark E. Loper/California Capital Airshow

Each adult General Admission ticket includes free admission for up to six youth (age 15 and under) and free parking. A variety of upgraded tickets and experiences are also available for purchase. Tickets are available online only and will not be sold at the gate. They are expected to sell out, so attendees are encouraged to purchase their tickets soon.

Special thanks to our generous partners Sacramento County, the City of Rancho Cordova, Sutter Health, Wilton Rancheria, Modern Aviation, SMUD, Teichert, Roseville Auto Mall, Sky River Casino, Kaiser Permanente, Sacramento Republic FC, Five Star Bank, Southwest Airlines, Atlas Disposal, UPS and iHeart Media.

In addition, the Airshow team is grateful to its 1,000 passionate volunteers, a long list of committed community supporters, as well as the teams of law



The event heavily relies on volunteers to assist with admissions, guest services, ramp and flight line security and more over the two-day event at Mather Airport. Photo courtesy of Mark E. Loper/California Capital Airshow

enforcement and emergency services that give their time and energy to keep everyone safe. Tickets and more information can be found at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com.★



The event will feature miles of aircraft on display and hands-on exhibits for all ages, and conclude with nighttime aerial performances and a massive pyro-musical fireworks show. Photo courtesy of Mark E. Loper/California Capital Airshow



The USAF Thunderbirds will headline the California Capital Airshow on Oct. 10-11. Photo courtesy of Mark E. Loper/California Capital Airshow



The Thunderbirds and Snowbirds are coming to Sacramento to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the airshow and the nation's 250th, with a night show and fireworks finale to match. Photo courtesy of Mark E. Loper/California Capital Airshow