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Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

OCTOBER 9, 2026

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Picking Pumpkins, Building Futures



Pumpkins of all shapes, sizes and colors fill the Compassion Planet pumpkin patch, where proceeds help support young adults in need.

**Story and Photos
by Sara Jackson**

ROCKLIN, CA (MPG) - Behind a Rocklin pumpkin patch is a nonprofit that began with one young man and a couple that opened their door to him.

Every two minutes, a child enters the U.S. foster care system. By the time they turn 18, they are expected to make their way in the world alone, without a family, finances, or anyone to call. So when a young adult named Marvin turned up on Scott and Jacquie Flanagan's doorstep, they took him in, and helped him navigate job applications, showed him how to make important life decisions, and mentored him in finding his footing as

an independent adult.

The experience showed the Flanagans just how difficult the transition out of foster care can be for young adults without a family or support system to fall back on. So, in 2012 they founded Compassion Planet.

Today, the organization serves approximately 60 to 70 young adults each year across Placer and Sacramento Counties. Compassion Planet's Mentoring Program works with young adults ages 18 to 24, providing workforce training, education in life skills, trauma-enforced mental health support, and real employment opportunities across 10 social enterprises.

"We work with a population that's

one of the most at-risk populations in America," said Scott Flanagan, co-founder and executive director of Compassion Planet. "And that is when you age out of the foster care system, or in some cases, our young people come from juvenile justice. If they don't have healthy adult mentors in their life or programs like ours, two out of three of them are going to be either homeless within the first few years, incarcerated, have a drug addiction, early rates or suicide, or they'll be trafficked. And that's kind of our mission is helping these young people find healthy independence, and so that's what they get through our program."

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Ikeda's: A Roadside Tradition in Auburn

**Story and photos
by Sara Jackson**

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Its location along I-80 has helped make Ikeda's a popular stopping point for motorists heading toward the Sierra Nevada or traveling down into the Central Valley. On busy travel days, cars stream off the interstate and into the market's spacious parking lot.

But the Auburn landmark, which was voted the No. 1 pie shop in America for 2026 by USA Today, came from much humbler beginnings.

Sam Ikeda was an Auburn orchard farmer who took pride in selecting the largest, sweetest and juiciest fruit to sell. Looking for a way to sell his produce directly to customers rather than relying on a middleman, he envisioned a fruit stand where produce could travel from the orchard directly to market shelves.

In 1950, Sam and his wife, Sally, partnered with Everett Gibson and started a roadside fruit stand along old Highway 40. Gibson brought an established Bay Area customer base, while Ikeda supplied high-quality fruit.

After Gibson retired, Sam and his wife, Sally, took over and opened Ikeda's in 1972.

Sam started with best quality peaches. High-end clientele would come from the Bay Area and fall in love with his peaches, because it was a world they never experienced before. They would come from the city and, while passing through Auburn, stop to visit Sam's orchard, where the farmer picked fruit by hand, offering it straight from the tree.

They would then tell their friends to stop in Auburn, and that started the ball rolling. Eventually, news of the fruit pies and everything else got around via word of mouth.

Sally and Sam always wanted to provide great service, great quality products, and to make sure the store is always clean. According to them, if they could maintain those three things, then the customers are going to feel like they are buying great products.

Thirteen years after

their elder son, Glen graduated from college, he joined the family business. Five years later, their second son Steve joined his brother, allowing Sam and Sally some much needed down time.

The two sons not only maintained the store but incorporated their own ideas on expanding the business to selling pies, fresh sauces, prime-grade beef, Pacific wild-caught fish and fine wines.

Ikeda's supplies wares from local vendors who

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Ikeda's was voted the No. 1 pie shop in America for 2026 by USA Today.

**Newsom
Signs SB 690,
Reforming
CIPA to
Protect Small
Businesses
and Nonprofits**

**Stop CIPA
Shakedowns
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Stop CIPA Shakedown Lawsuits coalition celebrated Governor Gavin Newsom's signing of SB 690 on Sept. 30, 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, 2027, 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, Alliance for Legal Fairness General Counsel. "We applaud Governor Newsom for signing SB 690 into law and delivering 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 Senator Caballero for her leadership and Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan for her sincere engagement in moving this issue through the Legislature, and we thank Governor Newsom for

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Picking Pumpkins, Building Futures

Continued from page 1

At Compassion Planet, young adults spend 12 to 18 months learning and growing in the Mentoring Program. More than 161 of them have graduated from the program with over 92 percent now living in healthy independence.

Now in its ninth year, Compassion Planet’s Pumpkin Patch is one of the major fundraising ventures for the organization. The pumpkin patch is open through Oct. 31 at Deer Creek Farm in Rocklin. One hundred percent of the proceeds goes to supporting the organization’s programs.

Admission to the farm is free, allowing visitors to browse a wide assortment of pumpkins before choosing just the right one. Pumpkins are individually priced by size and type, with choices ranging from traditional carving pumpkins to decorative varieties



Kid’s Patch offers a variety of activities for kids of all ages, including a hay maze, photo opportunities, face painting, and a petting zoo.

and cooking squashes. Also available is a kid’s play area with photo opportunities, face painting, balloon animals, a petting zoo on the weekends, and fall shopping at the Deer Creek Farm Boutique.

Every pumpkin purchased helps Compassion Planet continue in its

mission of providing young adults with mentoring, job training, employment and the support needed to begin building independent lives.

Pumpkins for sale at Compassion Planet’s pumpkin patch are locally grown and fresh picked from commercial partner farms in the Central Valley, such

as the Van Groningen & Sons fields in the Manteca area. They provide 35,000 pounds of pumpkins each year.

Once the pumpkins arrive in Rocklin, Compassion Planet’s young adults, along with community volunteers participating in the Mentoring Program, work



Visitors enter The Pumpkin Patch beneath a towering jack-o'-lantern, setting the scene for a fall outing that helps support Compassion Planet’s programs for young adults.

together to unpack, stack and arrange the rows and rows of pumpkins.

Compassion Planet relies heavily on its volunteers. Last year 368 volunteers contributed over 26,000 hours of their time.

“So, how we connect with our community is, of course through volunteers,

through donors, through people who come to our fundraising events, people who shop at our enterprises. Those are really the main ways where people get plugged into our organization,” said Flanagan.

To learn more about Compassion Planet, visit www.compassionplanet.org ★



A seasonal display welcomes visitors to The Pumpkin Patch by Compassion Planet, where pumpkin purchases help fund mentoring, job training and other services for young adults.



Hay bales overflowing with pumpkins provide a colorful autumn backdrop at The Pumpkin Patch, where proceeds help fund Compassion Planet’s programs for young adults.

Ikeda’s: A Roadside Tradition in Auburn

Continued from page 1

make their own honey and hot sauces and other products. If there’s a brand that’s in demand and it’s from Oregon, New York, or somewhere else around the country, then the market will stock it. But most of the items they sell come from California.

Pies became one of the business’s biggest attractions. Glen Ikeda started the pie operation as a way to use surplus or slightly bruised fruit rather than letting it go to waste. Today, Ikeda’s sells more than 120,000 pies annually, according to information in the company history, with its bakery producing more than 20 varieties of scratch-made pies and baking as many as 1,000 in a day.

The market is currently run by Glen’s two sons, Derek and Brendyn. Glen is still a fixture at the market.

“We’re trying to get him to retire, but as a family member that basically the heart and soul. He really, really transformed this business. And him and my uncle,

when they are the heart and soul of this team, and they’ve been in it for so long, they can never really retire,” said Derek, manager and part owner.

As manager and part owner, Derek has also incorporated his own ideas for the market, which includes wagyu beef, smashed burgers, key lime pies and Japanese curry potpies.

The market has changed considerably since its roadside-fruit-stand days, but its connection to California agriculture remains. Every single morning, before the sun rises, farmers hand pick apples, berries, pears, peaches, plums, nectarines and other fruit from the family orchard.

For travelers, however, Ikeda’s has become more than a place to buy fruit. It is part of the journey — a familiar place to stretch your legs, grab something to eat and pick up a pie before getting back on the highway.

“We are known for our pies, but we’re also just a food emporium. There’s something for



Ikeda’s is not only known for its pies, but its signature sauces, and other products provided by local vendors.

everybody here. We have some people come in and say, ‘We love your muffins. We love your salsas. We love your meat.’ Most of the time, they say, ‘We love your pies.’ So that makes me believe that we’re not just a singular store. We’re a food market, and there are lots of things for everybody to find,” said Derek.

In an era when interstate travel is increasingly dominated by chain restaurants and gas stations, Ikeda’s remains something different: a family roadside market that became a destination of its own. ★



Ikeda’s sells 120,000 scratch-made pies each year.

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Auburn’s Historic Landmark Buildings

Story and photos
by Sara Jackson

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Established on April 25, 1851, during the height of the California Gold Rush, Placer County was carved from portions of Sutter and Yuba counties.

Even its name reflects those beginnings, coming from the Spanish word placer, a reference to the sand and gravel deposits where prospectors searched for gold. Long before the county was established, however, the region was home to Indigenous peoples, including the Nisenan Maidu in the Auburn area and the Washoe Tribe in the Tahoe region.

As Placer County marks its 175th anniversary, its history and its buildings tell a story that stretches far beyond the Gold Rush. Agriculture helped build local communities, the First Transcontinental Railroad connected the region to a changing nation, World War II brought another period of transformation, and the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley placed the county on an international stage.

Perhaps the most

recognizable historic building resides in Old Town Auburn, and that is the Placer County Courthouse. Built between 1894 and 1898, this historical landmark shaped the city’s political and architectural identity.

Mirroring elements of the State Capitol, the Placer County Courthouse helped cement Old Town and the surrounding areas as the definitive seat of Placer County government. It still hosts select court function.

Today it hosts the Placer County Museum, it is one of the few surviving 19 century northern/central California courthouses, retaining its iconic dome and ornamentation.

In June 1855 a devastating fire swept through Old Town Auburn. In just an hour and 25 minutes, the fire destroyed roughly 80 buildings.

That need eventually became part of the city’s landscape. Among the reminders of Auburn’s long battle against fire are its historic firehouses, a landmark that reflects an era when local firefighters relied on community volunteers, hand-operated equipment and determination to protect the town.



Placer County Courthouse. Helped shape Auburn’s political and architectural identity.

Auburn Firehouse No.1 with its iconic red and white striped facade and bell tower, was built by volunteer firemen of the Auburn Hook and Ladder Company No. 2 in 1891.

Formally dedicated on May 21, 1892, the building was active until 1954. In 1957, local citizens raised money to have it physically moved to a new location to Lincoln Way and Commercial Street, saving it from demolition when nearby freeways were widened.

Added to the National Register of Historic Places on Dec. 19, 2011, the historic landmark now acts as a local fire department museum.

Auburn Fire House No. 1 protected the downtown area and housed early water company operations. Built in 1888 by

local volunteers, with financial assistance coming from Frederick Birdsall of the Bear River and Auburn Water and Mining Company, it originally served the “Rattlers” (Auburn Hose Company No. 1). The lower floor housed firefighting equipment, while the upper floor served as the Ditch Company office.

In 1973, Auburn Fire House No. 1 was relocated to its present location by the Rust Moving Company. It was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 19, 2011.

Old Town Auburn Commercial Street buildings were erected following the early Gold Rush fires. They established Auburn as a primary supply, freight, and stagecoach terminal



Auburn Hook and Ladder Co./Hose Company No.2.The historic landmark now acts as a local fire department museum.

connecting the mines to Sacramento.

One of the buildings that survived the major fire of 1855 is the Old Town Auburn Post Office constructed around 1854. The building began operating as a post office in 1877 and served the community for 145 years until it closed in 2023.

Joss House, located at 200 Sacramento St., is historic for a very different reason. Today it is a community building and cultural museum dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Auburn’s Gold Rush-era Chinese immigrants.

Originally built in 1909 as a social and religious headquarters, Joss House is one of the few preserved remnants of Auburn’s original Chinatown.

After a devastating fire destroyed most of the

neighborhood on Aug. 25, 1921, the building was rebuilt in 1930 by Charles Jung Due and his brothers to house the Ling Ying Association.

Over the years, Joss House has operated as a house of worship, a Chinese language and culture school, a boarding house, a hostel for traveling laborers.

It closed in 1968 after its last resident passed away and was then listed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1979.

Today, the building is operated by descendants of the Yue family as a museum.

Over the next 175 years, the landscape and communities would change dramatically, but each era would leave its mark on the Placer County known today.



Old Town Auburn Post Office. Survived the fire of 1855.

FieldHaven Feline Center Named 2026 Best of the Best Nonprofit and Thrift Store

FieldHaven Feline
Center News Release

LINCOLN, CA (MPG) - FieldHaven Feline Center has been recognized in the 2026 Best of the Best Lincoln awards, earning top honors in two categories: Best Nonprofit Group/Organization and Best Thrift Store for FieldHaven Marketplace.

The annual Best of the Best awards are determined by community voting and celebrate the businesses and organizations that make the Lincoln community special.

For FieldHaven Feline Center, the recognition is especially meaningful because it reflects the community behind the organization: the adopters, donors, volunteers, shoppers, foster families, veterinary partners, staff members and supporters



FieldHaven Feline Center has been recognized in the 2026 Best of the Best Lincoln awards, earning top honors in two categories: Best Nonprofit Group/Organization and Best Thrift Store for FieldHaven Marketplace. Photo courtesy of Tiny Cat Photography

who make its work possible every day.

“This recognition belongs to our entire community,” Executive Director of FieldHaven

Feline Center Makenna Gwaltney said. “Every cat cared for, every family supported and every life changed happens because people believe in this

mission and choose to be part of it. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who voted for FieldHaven Feline Center and continues to stand alongside us.”

FieldHaven Feline Center works to improve the lives of cats and the people who care about them through rescue, adoption, veterinary care and community support programs. FieldHaven Marketplace extends that mission by turning donated goods and community shopping into resources that directly support the organizations lifesaving programs.

Winning Best Thrift Store is a testament to the volunteers, donors, shoppers and team members who have made FieldHaven Marketplace a community destination with a purpose.

The Best Nonprofit Group/Organization honor carries an equally important message: FieldHaven’s mission continues to resonate with the community it has served for years.

“We are proud of these awards, but even more proud of what they represent,” Gwaltney said. “They represent people coming together around a shared belief that cats deserve care, families deserve support and our community is stronger when we take care of one another. FieldHaven is not simply an organization. It is a community. And this recognition belongs to all everyone.”

FieldHaven extends its heartfelt thanks to the Lincoln News Messenger, Gold Country Media and, most importantly, the community members who voted.

To learn more about FieldHaven Feline Center, visit their website or call 916-434-6022. To learn more about FieldHaven Marketplace, visit their website or call 916- 434-0622. ★

Full Speed Ahead

By Mary Jane Popp

COLFAX, CA (MPG) - Small towns don’t have free concerts on Main Street. Don’t tell that to the folks in Colfax, California. That’s what Erin Newington told me on POPPTALK at KAH1 Radio about this 2200 strong community. It began with the Levitt Foundation that ran a national competition, funding free outdoor concerts. So, Colfax took it on in competition with much bigger populations, established nonprofits, and existing infrastructures. That didn’t deter the newly formed Historic Downtown Colfax Association (HDCA). They didn’t win that first year but did get the grant for the upcoming Iron Horse Music Festival. I will fill you in on the details. And there’s been so much spirit that kicked in to make a big splash with five free downtown concerts this year. So, here’s the rest of the story on the Iron

Horse Music Festival.

And what a day it’s going to be. The HDCA has added a family fun day, Saturday Oct. 10 from 1-9 PM featuring live music by The Rail Benders, Pinkie Rideau, Bob Woods Trio, and Achilles Wheel Trio. Add to that a lively downtown with food, crafts, and all sorts of activities for the whole family, along with the high Colfax spirit. Oh, and did I say FREE too? Colfax has a rich railroad history, and a beautiful setting for great family fun. Check out www.ironhorsemusicfestival.com.

By the way, Erin Newington won’t admit it, but she’s been the firecracker that lit up this community from day one, because she realized the wonderful opportunities that people just needed to know about. She brought a new and exciting life for the whole family to join in the fun at Colfax! Join in Saturday Oct. 10!!! ★



A band performs at a past Iron Horse Music Festival. Photo courtesy Iron Horse Music Festival

Going Electric in the Foothills

Story and photos
by Sara Jackson

PLACER, CA (MPG) - Placer County residents curious about electric vehicles were given the opportunity Saturday, Oct. 3 to learn about cleaner transportation at the Third Annual Placer Plug-In Day, hosted by Placer Earth Care Action. The festival celebrates National Drive Electric Week and California Clean Air Day, bringing attention to electric cars and bikes and the role transportation choices can play in improving community health. Prospective buyers were given access to representatives from the Health Education Council, where they were provided with information and given application assistance for the Driving Clean Assistance Program, known as DCAP. “What I hear mostly is that people are concerned about range and affordability,” Event Coordinator, Ken Moore said.

Administered through the California Air Resources Board, the state-wide program offered incentives to income-qualified Californians purchasing or leasing eligible clean vehicles. Depending on eligibility and the program pathway, participants may qualify for up to \$12,000 in vehicle purchase assistance and an additional \$2,000 charging incentive.

The event comes as Placer County plans as a growing number of people transition to electric vehicles. The Placer County Transportation Planning Agency has completed a countywide Zero-Emission Vehicle infrastructure plan examining charging gaps, electrical utility capacity and locations where additional charging could be needed. The agency has identified 30 priority charging locations stretching from Roseville, up through Auburn, Colfax



Electric vehicles line up on display at the Third Annual Placer Plug-In Day.



A Tesla Roadster sporting a bold number 5 on display at the Third Annual Placer Plug-In Day

and Truckee. Regional agencies are prioritizing key highways (I-80 and Highway 50) to support the heavy influx of weekend travelers moving between the Bay Area, Sacramento, and Lake Tahoe.

For Auburn residents, choosing an electric vehicle involves considerations specific to foothill living. Steep roads, extreme seasonal weather changes and access to reliable charging can affect how a vehicle fits into everyday routines. Driving uphill into the

Sierras drains an EV battery roughly 20 to 30 percent faster than driving on flat terrain. However, you will recover a significant amount of that energy on the way back down through regenerative braking. Sub-freezing mountain weather can temporarily reduce your total driving range by 20 to 40 percent due to battery chemistry slowdowns and the energy required to heat the cabin.

Home charging presents another consideration. Most Level 2 chargers

require a dedicated 240-volt circuit, and some older Auburn homes may need electrical upgrades. The city provides a streamlined permitting process for residential electric vehicle charging stations. If you need to install a charger, the City of Auburn enforces an expedited streamlined permitting process for residential Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS). “If you have a home, it’s easy to plug in overnight, and range is increased every year. Now

people have more than adequate range to feel very comfortable, and not have to worry about range anxiety, about running out of juice,” Moore said. Placer County is currently coordinating with major utilities like PG&E to ensure local substations can handle the peak electrical loads generated by fast-charging hubs.

On a 100-percentage charge, a modern electric car can typically travel between 200 and 350 miles. However, this range varies drastically by

the vehicle & battery size. Residents concerned about winter outages or Public Safety Power Shutoffs may want to explore vehicles with Bidirectional charging capabilities. Visitors weighing their options should also understand the difference between vehicle types. Battery electric vehicles run entirely on electricity, while plug-in hybrids can use both electricity and gasoline. Potential benefits outlined in the research include reduced maintenance, responsive acceleration and available driver assistance technology. Actual costs, range and features depend on the vehicle and how it is used.

Placer Plug-In Day offered a starting point for residents considering the switch. Learning about purchase assistance alongside charging requirements can help households assess both the upfront expense and the practical demands of electric transportation before choosing a vehicle. For foothill drivers, those questions extend from daily commuting to longer trips into the Sierra during changing weather conditions. ★



A Tesla Cyber truck displays its front storage compartment, known as a “frunk,” at the Third Annual Placer Plug-In Day.



A Tesla Cyber truck displays its front storage compartment, known as a “frunk,” at the Third Annual Placer Plug-In Day.



An Energica electric motorcycle is displayed alongside electric cars and trucks at the Third Annual Placer Plug-In Day.

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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 pre-view 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. ★

Mark Anderson Selected for PCOE Area 5 Provisional Appointment

Placer County Office of Education News Release

ROCKLIN, CA (MPG) - During the Sept. 15 special board meeting, Lincoln resident Mark Anderson was selected to fill a provisional appointment in Area 5 on the Placer County Board of Education (County Board).

“I want to thank all of the highly qualified candidates who expressed interest in serving on the County Board,” said County Board President R. Jan Pinney. “And, we extend a warm welcome to Mr. Mark Anderson. He brings decades of experience in business leadership, finance, operations, philanthropy and education governance to the County Board.”

Professionally, Mr. Anderson spent more than 20 years with Hewlett-Packard in leadership roles spanning corporate operations, finance and philanthropy, including managing a \$20 million annual global philanthropy budget. His extensive education governance experience includes service with Gateway Community Charter Schools since 2003, where he has held roles as board director, treasurer, vice president and gateway foundation chair.



Mark Anderson is sworn in to fill a provisional appointment to Area 5 on the Placer County Board of Education (County Board). Photo courtesy of Placer County Office of Education

Mr. Anderson has a long history of supporting education through community and business partnerships. He co-founded Pleasanton Partnerships in Education, which supported 16 PreK-12 schools and approximately 13,000 students through educational resources, career guidance, work-based experiences, mentorship and more than \$2 million in teacher mini-grants. He also founded the Greater Sacramento Resource Area for Teaching, a nonprofit that provided

educators with affordable STEAM resources and classroom support.

Mr. Anderson earned a Master of Science in Systems Management from the College of Notre Dame and a Bachelor of Arts in Management from Saint Mary’s College.

Mr. Anderson will serve on the Placer County Board of Education for Area 5, which serves the Lincoln and Western Placer communities, until the next regularly scheduled election in November 2028. ★

Newsom Signs AB 2727 to Strengthen Public Safety Safeguards for Elderly Parole

Office of Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Governor Gavin Newsom has signed Assembly Bill 2727, authored by Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen (D-Elk Grove), following two years of work to strengthen public safety protections for children, survivors and communities within California’s elderly parole process.

“Protecting our children and our communities has been at the heart of this bill from day one,” said Assemblymember Nguyen. “When someone has been convicted of some of the most serious sexual offenses, especially crimes against children, we have a responsibility to make sure every safeguard is in place before they are released back into our communities. AB 2727 strengthens those safeguards, closes gaps in the review process, and puts public safety first. After two years of work, I am proud to see this important measure signed into law.”

AB 2727 requires individuals convicted of specified serious sexual offenses to be at least 65 years old and have served at least 25 years before qualifying for elderly parole. The new law also strengthens the review process for certain individuals serving life sentences for sexually violent offenses by requiring additional screening to determine whether they may still pose a sexual danger before release.

“As a co-sponsor of Assemblymember Nguyen’s AB 2727, we thank the Governor for signing this bill into law today. AB 2727 reforms Elder Parole and expands the Sexually Violent Predators (SVP) laws. These changes will provide prosecutors with needed tools to prevent the release of individuals who commit violent sexual offenses into our communities. We commend Assemblymember Nguyen for her leadership in advancing these reforms and her commitment to protecting victims and keeping our communities safe,” said Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho.



Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen



Governor Gavin Newsom

“Today, the voices of victims are roaring louder than the voices of predators to protect our children and protect our state,” said Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer. “Not every crime and not every criminal is the same and I am proud to stand with Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen, prosecutors from across California, and victims everywhere in refusing to accept a criminal justice system that is a one-size-fits-all system and instead restoring accountability and providing long fought justice for our most vulnerable victims.”

AB 2727 was co-sponsored by the Sacramento County and Orange County District Attorneys’ Offices and was developed through extensive discussions with the Administration, the Board of Parole Hearings, the Department of State Hospitals and other stakeholders. The measure received bipartisan support throughout the legislative process.

Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen represents the Cities of Sacramento and Elk Grove. ★

Newsom Signs SB 690, Reforming CIPA to Protect Small Businesses and Nonprofits

Continued from page 1

recognizing the urgent need for CIPA reform,” Kingman said in the statement.

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.

For more information about SB 690, visit [StopCIPAshakedown.com](https://www.sacog.ca.gov/Home/Components/News/News/283/16). ★

\$46 Million Awarded to Pavement Preservation and Road Rehabilitation Projects

Fix-it-first investments focus on preserving and repairing existing roadways for 24 projects

Sacramento Area Council of Governments News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) announced \$46 million in grant awards to transportation projects throughout the six-county Sacramento region that improve and repair pavement, help goods move through the region and provide long-term economic benefits.

“Through the System Preservation Program, SACOG and our regional partners are making smart, cost-effective investments. By addressing maintenance needs today, we can reduce costs tomorrow and support the long-term vitality of our communities. We are proud to partner with local agencies advancing this important work,” said Jill Gayaldo, SACOG board chair, and City of Rocklin councilmember.

The projects awarded include \$1.06 million to the City of Marysville to preserve pavement in the Historic Business District, \$2.81 million to the City of Rancho Cordova for pavement rehabilitation on Folsom Boulevard and \$3.45 million to the City of Yuba City to rehabilitate Stabler Lane and Queens Avenue. View the complete list of awards: <https://www.sacog.ca.gov/Home/Components/News/News/283/16>

About SACOG’s 2026 Federal Funding Cycle

The System Preservation Grant Program is part of the 2026 Federal Funding Cycle which will allocate \$203



million in federal transportation funding this year. This major regional investment in the transportation system helps local communities improve streets, roads, transit access, safety, air quality and transportation choices. SACOG works closely with local governments to advance regional priorities as detailed in the 2025 Blueprint, the region’s long-range transportation and land use plan.

About the Sacramento Area Council of Governments

SACOG is where local government leaders in the Sacramento region come together to advance three strategic goals of equity, economy, and environment. In partnership with its 28 member cities and counties, SACOG addresses complex challenges that are too big for any one jurisdiction to solve on its own. ★





**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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Placer Sentinel

Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

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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 turnaround 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. China cut 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. (c) 2026 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

Alchemy Surf Resort Approved for West Placer

Placer County News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - The Placer County Planning Commission approved plans for the Alchemy Surf Resort, a new recreational surf and hospitality destination planned within the Placer One development.

The project, proposed by Inland Surf Company, will center around a 5-acre surf lagoon and include a variety of activities, a hotel, dining and gathering spaces.

“Alchemy Surf Resort represents another step in the development of the Placer One area and adds a new recreational and hospitality use to the mix of uses planned for west Placer,” Placer County Planning Director Chris Pahule said. “The project has gone



The project, proposed by Inland Surf Company, will center around a 5-acre surf lagoon and include a variety of activities, a hotel, dining and gathering spaces. Photo courtesy of Placer County

through the county’s planning and review process, and the approved plans provide a framework for the applicant to provide a unique recreational

destination business to the community.”

Plans call for a 100-room hotel, bungalows and a 28,390-square-foot surf center.

The resort will also feature a 5-acre surf lagoon, standing wave pool, outdoor skate plaza, children’s playground, beaches and activity areas, spas and cold

plunges. As well as an action sports hub with trampolines, climbing walls, indoor skate facilities and shore hubs with food and beverage services, incidental retail, member services and gathering areas.

The resort will be part of the larger Placer One development in west Placer County. Placer One is approved with a mix of residential, open space, schools, commercial, town center, businesses, parks and other amenities along with the future Sacramento State Placer Center and a county forensics lab.

Inland Surf Company is aiming to break ground in the spring of 2027.

Additional information about the Alchemy Surf Resort and the Placer One development is available at <https://alchemyresort.com>.

★

Placer County Reports First Human Case of West Nile Virus This Season

Cases statewide more than triple the number this time last year

Placer County News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - As West Nile cases statewide continue to soar, Placer County has recorded its first human case of this season – though the virus may have been contracted in another county. Regardless, with West Nile prevalent locally, the county’s health officer and the Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District encourage residents to reduce their risk of mosquito-borne illnesses. Since West Nile virus was first detected this season in June in Placer County, nine dead birds and 112 mosquito samples have tested positive in the District.

Other counties in the region have already reported cases and deaths, and statewide case counts year-to-date are more than three times higher than they were at this point last year. West Nile virus is a potentially serious

illness transmitted through the bite of a female mosquito, and there is no cure.

“West Nile virus continues to pose a real risk in our region, even for people who may feel perfectly healthy,” said Dr. Rob Oldham, the county’s health officer. “Most infections are mild, but serious illness can occur, which is why taking steps to avoid mosquito bites is essential.”

During high season, the District traps and tests mosquitoes for West Nile virus weekly throughout Placer County. These test results are used to assess the risk of virus transmission, inform the public and guide preventative or responsive vector control treatments.

“As in previous years, our surveillance showed a peak in West Nile virus-positive mosquitoes in mid-summer, with activity typically decreasing as the weather cools,” District

General Manager Joel Buettner said. “However, we expect other mosquito species that are not associated with West Nile virus transmission to remain abundant into the fall, and we urge residents to continue protecting themselves from bites by using repellent and wearing protective clothing.”

The risk for West Nile virus transmission to humans in Placer County remains high. The Mosquito and Vector Control District and the county’s Public Health division anticipate additional human cases as we move into fall. Officials recommend residents practice the “three Ds.”

The first “D” is “Dump and Drain.” Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate all sources of standing water, including flowerpots, old tires, rain gutters, and pet bowls. If you know of a swimming pool that is not being properly maintained, contact the District at



As West Nile cases statewide continue to soar, Placer County has recorded its first human case of this season. Photo designed by Magnific

916 380 5444.

The second “D” is Defend. Apply an EPA approved insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 according to label instructions to defend yourself from bites. West Nile virus-transmitting mosquitoes typically bite in the early morning and evening, so proper clothing and repellent use during

these times is important.

He third “D” is District. Contact the District for any additional help controlling mosquitoes around your home.

For more information about West Nile virus, visit California’s website at westnile.ca.gov. Residents are encouraged to report dead birds on the website or by calling toll free 1 877 WNV BIRD (968 2473). ★

Community Unites to Protect Truckee’s Land, Water and Wild Spaces

Fundraiser hosted by Tahoe Modern generates ove\$13,500 in support of the Truckee River Watershed Council and Truckee Donner Land Trust

Truckee River Watershed Council News Release

TRUCKEE, CA (MPG) - A recent community fundraiser hosted by Tahoe Modern raised over \$13,500 in support of efforts by the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) and the Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) to protect, restore and enjoy natural spaces across the greater Truckee area.

The event showcased displays and brief presentations from each organization, offering community members the opportunity to engage directly with staff and explore specific restoration and preservation efforts.

“Decades of partnership between TRWC and the Truckee Donner Land Trust serve as a prime example of how local nonprofits can work together to benefit both our community and our landscape,” Allison Bornstein, development director at TRWC said. “We were honored to join forces with Tahoe Modern and supporters across the community to uplift the important work taking place across the watershed.”

In addition to convening and hosting supporters from throughout the community, Tahoe Modern contributed a \$5,000 match of donations made throughout the evening’s event.

“At Tahoe Modern, our work has always been inspired by the landscape and the way we live here. Supporting TRWC and TDLT is a natural extension of that connection—helping care for the open spaces, trails and watershed that make this place so special. We are proud to open our showroom, bring our community together and support



The event showcased displays and brief presentations from each organization, offering community members the opportunity to engage directly with staff and explore specific restoration and preservation efforts. Photo courtesy of Truckee River Watershed Council

the important work these organizations are doing,” Megan Bristol, founder & lead principal designer at Tahoe Modern said.

Over the past 30-plus years, TRWC and TDLT have established themselves as two of the most impactful nonprofits within the area. They first collaborated in 2008, when

the TDLT acquired nearly 900 acres in Perazzo Meadows and worked with TRWC to restore key meadow habitat.

Since then, the organizations have partnered on efforts to protect and restore Johnson Canyon, Lacey Meadows, Pole Creek, and many other areas across the watershed. They also work as collaborators on

Truckee River Day projects and within the Donner Lake Interagency Partnership for Stewardship (DIPS).

“The Land Trust is grateful for Tahoe Modern’s support and the opportunity to speak with the community about the goings-on at the Land Trust and the Watershed Council,” John Svahn, executive director

of TDLT said. “When the Land Trust acquires land for conservation, we work closely with partners like the Watershed Council to restore the meadows and waterways and develop recreation that is compatible with protection of the natural resources. The end result is properly-functioning meadows and trails to enjoy.”

★

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