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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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IS ABOUT PEOPLE



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Aaron Robertson Joins Park District



FORPD Board Director and local historian Ralph Carhart (right) shares a story with Robertson at Gum Ranch Park.

Story and photos
by Judy Andrews

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) has appointed Aaron Robertson as its new District Administrator. Robertson joined the organization in June and succeeds former District Administrator Mike Aho, who served the district for nine years.

With a lifelong commitment to public service, Robertson brings extensive leadership experience and a background in conservation, natural resources and the environment. He served as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps for



FORPD District Administrator Aaron Robertson joined the district in June 2026.

nearly 30 years and credits his service with instilling leadership, accountability and the ability to solve

problems under pressure. "I've learned it's all about taking care of your team and having solid

operational systems in place. I like to call it 'being brilliant at the basics,'" the district administrator said. "I think these principles apply to public administration and to managing a park system – focus on the basics, support the team and ensure we deliver real value to the Fair Oaks community."

Before coming to the district, Robertson served as deputy director at California Fish and Wildlife and chief deputy director at California State Parks.

In addition to his full-time job, he serves on a national conservation

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Higher Interest Rates Lead to Decline in September New Home Sales

North State Building
Industry Association
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Higher mortgage interest rates stemming from the increasing costs of energy as the war with Iran continues caused a drop in new home sales in September in the Sacramento region, the North State Building Industry Association reported today.

New home sales in the eight-county region totaled 286, which was down 14% from August, down 34% from September 2025 and down 30% from the historical average for the month dating back to 1997.

North State President & CEO Tim Murphy said interest rates rising to above 7% by the end of the month has caused many prospective buyers to hold off.

"Renewed tensions between the U.S. and Iran pushed oil and gasoline prices sharply higher, which lifted inflation expectations and put upward pressure on interest rates," Murphy said.

He added that demand for housing remains strong, but higher mortgage rates, elevated construction costs and tighter real purchasing power are limiting both buyers and builders.

"Still, buyers should keep in mind that builders continue working hard to find ways to help them afford the new home of their dreams. I'd urge anyone thinking about buying a home to check with area builders to find out what incentives they are offering," he said.

During September, Roseville saw the most new home sales with 61, followed by Rancho Cordova (52), Sacramento (47), Natomas (29) and Galt (24).

Sales were reported for 202 communities in Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. ★

Parlour Vintage Clothing Opens

Story and photos
by Thomas J. Sullivan

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Owner Shawna James welcomes you into her Fair Oaks boutique to explore an eclectic collection of distinctive, hand-curated vintage clothing she can't wait to share.

Located next to Dick's Rancho Glass near the intersection of Madison and San Juan avenues, Parlour Vintage Clothing opened in May at 5357 San Juan Ave. The shop is

Continued on page 3



James holds one of her favorite clothing pieces that is available for sale at the boutique. This finely beaded 1940s red cocktail dress, readily captures the glamour and fashionable flair of the classic Big Band era.



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Aaron Robertson Joins Park District

Continued from page 1

board with roots dating back to the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Robertson manages daily operations for 12 public parks serving roughly 35,000 residents and reports to the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District's Board of Directors. The board oversees fiduciary priorities and sets the district's broader vision.

"We have a great team in place, and we're excited to have Aaron on board," said Raymond James Irwin, board chair of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District. "We owe it to the community to ensure the right person can lead the district with a steady, calm hand. Aaron does that beautifully."

The district employs more than 65 full- and part-time staff members, whom Robertson calls "the hardest-working people he's ever worked with." The organization has four departments, each led by a manager who reports directly to Robertson.

The departments are Facility Maintenance, Recreation and Administration. Arts and Entertainment is the FORPD's newest addition, providing cultural and performing arts experiences to the community.

Located in the heart of the village, the new Fair Oaks Performing Arts Center opened one year ago as part of a multi-million-dollar bond project approved in 2018 to renovate and improve Village Park.

"So far, we've received great feedback from the public during our first opening season," said Jen Schuler, arts and entertainment manager. "With many live shows sold out, we're closely monitoring audience preferences and responses to improve future offerings and tailor programming for different ages and groups."

With Village Park renovations complete, Robertson is



Robertson gets out to the parks at least three times a week and talks to Fair Oaks residents.



Robertson is shown picking up trash he often finds during park visits.

refocusing on daily operations to ensure the district's financial systems are sustainable and the team's internal processes are

"airtight." "We're always working on facility improvements and upgrades, as well as ways to

improve park access," said the district administrator. "You see parks eroding over time. I don't want that to happen here."

Through a partnership grant from SMUD, the district is replacing the old tennis court lights at Miller Park with more efficient LED lighting. The district is also renovating irrigation systems at parks that need them, especially at Phoenix Park, where the sports fields are located.

Robertson is also leading the district in developing a strategic plan to guide the next 10-20 years. As part of a community outreach strategy, FORPD recently released a survey to identify areas for improvement and residents' preferences for park services, amenities, events and programs. The district invites the community to participate in scheduled outreach opportunities and complete the survey. More information is available on the district's website at forpd.org.

"My vision for the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District is to achieve operational excellence by being transparent and responsive, doing the small things consistently well, ensuring every park is safe and accessible, and continuing to deliver outstanding park spaces and programs efficiently," said Robertson. "Fair Oaks is a wonderful, welcoming community. I want our parks to reflect that for years to come. Residents here truly care about their parks, which makes this work uniquely rewarding for me."

Robertson loves the Fair Oaks community and says it reminds him of a small town where he grew up in Texas. He and his wife, Ronee, live in Roseville and have three adult children and three young grandchildren, ages 15 months, 5 and 7.

The Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District's main office is at 4150 Temescal St. in Fair Oaks. For more information about the district and to access its Fall Activity Guide, visit forpd.org. ★

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Nov. 7th
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Parlour Vintage Clothing Opens



Parlour Vintage Clothing displays more than 1,500 curated pieces, including hundreds of fashionable blouses and dresses in its retail inventory.

Continued from page 1
open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and features vintage men’s and women’s clothing, along with ethically made, small batch collections.

The boutique also stocks purses, tote bags and baskets, along with fresh-cut flowers, leather goods, apothecary items, ceramics, candles and textiles.

James said her passion for vintage first started in her teens and grew stronger with age.

“In 2010 I opened a brick & mortar vintage clothing boutique in my hometown, Nevada City, a small town nestled in the foothills of the gold country of northern California,” she said.

“I named it ‘The Parlour’ after a location in a classic old black and white movie I once saw,” she said.

James later closed her Nevada store after five years with a desire to travel more. Her former brick and mortar store turned into a mobile boutique using her recreational vehicle to offer selections from a growing curated collection of vintage clothing at pop-up



The boutique also stocks purses, tote bags and baskets, along with fresh-cut flowers, leather goods, apothecary items, ceramics, candles and textiles.

markets across the state.

Earlier this spring, James sought out vacant retail space in Fair Oaks for her boutique and discovered a long-vacant suite at 5357 San Juan Ave. in a busy location where the communities of Citrus Heights and Fair Oaks

meet would be a perfect fit for her customers.

After a complete interior refresh, the store displays more than 1,500 curated pieces, including hundreds of blouses and dresses in its inventory. A full rack of vintage jeans is sorted by

size, using 45 rpm single records serving as dividers.

James said much of her current inventory of women’s clothing reflects the popular fashion trends



A full rack of vintage jeans is sorted by size, using 45 rpm single records serving as dividers.

condition and invite a new owner to step out in classic style.

James said she accepts some items on consignment. She also still shops estate sales, keeping a sharp eye out for timeless, fashionable women’s clothing she believes her customers will be proud to wear.

One such find, available for sale is a finely beaded 1940s cocktail dress, which captures the glamour of the classic Big Band era.

In 2024 James launched “The Parlour Handmade” clothing line of well-loved, classic, comfortable, effortless and size-inclusive women’s styles which are made in San Francisco in small batches. All are ethically made in small batches using carefully curated fabrics, she said.

The special collection is available in a variety of selected boutiques, online through its website www.theparlourvintage.com or directly in its Fair Oaks store.

“When it came time to reproduce some of my most treasured vintage pieces and to create my own clothing line, I decided to pay tribute in my designs to all the dear women in my life who have since passed,” she said.

“I was reminded of each of my grandmothers. One was a seamstress and the other fully appreciated fashion and was quite particular in putting herself together,” she said.

The collection includes the “Elsie” wrap skirt named after her paternal grandmother and the “Velma” wrap dress, named after her great-grandmother.

Parlour Vintage Clothing is located next to Dick’s Rancho Glass, near the intersection of Madison and San Juan Avenues at 5357 San Juan Ave. in Fair Oaks. Business hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, call 530-277-2493 or follow The Parlour Vintage Clothing Boutique on Facebook (@theparlourvintage) or Instagram (@theparlourhandmade) for updates on new arrivals. ★

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Learn more at smud.org/Community



Defendant Convicted of Workers' Comp Fraud While Working for SacRT

Sacramento County District Attorney's Office News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Sept. 14, Rona Christina Means was convicted by a jury of felony presenting a false or fraudulent insurance claim; misdemeanor presenting false or misleading information in support of an insurance claim; and misdemeanor making a knowingly false or fraudulent statement to obtain workers' compensation benefits.

Rona Christina Means was working as a SacRT bus operator. Means claimed she was assaulted and repeatedly punched by a passenger on July 25, 2018, and later sought workers' compensation benefits for her injuries. The California Department of Insurance investigated the case, including interviewing Means, other SacRT employees, doctors and the insurance company. There was also bus surveillance video from multiple

camera angles that did not support Means' claim that she was repeatedly punched or otherwise attacked. Means faces a maximum potential sentence of five years in prison and two years in county jail. Means also faces approximately \$45,500 in victim restitution. Sentencing is set for Oct. 23 at 1:30 p.m. in Department 9D before the Honorable Allison Williams. ★



MARK

✓

GREGG

for Los Rios Board of Trustees District 2

Change begins with challenge and effective leadership

✓ Transparency

✓ Integrity

✓ Community

A portrait of Mark Gregg, a middle-aged man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling at the camera.

A portrait of Robert Jones, an older man with white hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned bow tie. He is smiling at the camera.

greggforoffice.com

"As the current Los Rios Community College Trustee, I proudly endorse Mark Gregg for his campaign. Having served four terms, I understand the importance of community engagement and what it takes to deliver real results. Mark Gregg has the integrity and vision needed to achieve this. I encourage you to join me in voting for Mark Gregg this election."

- Robert Jones, VP Emeritus CSUS

✓ Mark Gregg for Los Rios Community College Board of Trustees

Paid for by Mark Gregg for Los Rios Community College Board of Trustees 2026

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For 6 people \$115.00

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(Small Room) (12 inch) (1 pitcher) (Dishes To Choose From Below)

For 12 people \$210.00

3Hours Karaoke + 2Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes
(Medium Room) (14 inch) (Up to 2 pitchers) (Dishes To Choose From Below)

For 14 people \$230.00

3Hours Karaoke + 2Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes
(Family Room) (14 inch) (Up to 2 pitchers) (Dishes To Choose From Below)

For 18 people \$295.00

3Hours Karaoke + 3Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 6 Main Dishes
(Large Room) (14 inch) (Up to 4 pitchers) (Dishes To Choose From Below)

For 28 people \$395.00

3Hours Karaoke + 3Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 6 Main Dishes
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Dishes To Choose From

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Frozen Cooked Clam Meat 12 oz

REG. \$5.99/EA

\$3.99/ea

Scallops Medallion 1 lb

REG. \$12.99/EA

\$8.99/ea

WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast Boneless

\$5.49/lb

Beef New York Roast Boneless

\$6.99/lb

Chicken Thighs Boneless

\$2.39/lb

Pork Hocks

\$1.99/lb

Pork Country Style Loin Ribs-Bnls

\$2.99/lb

Pork Tenderloin

\$3.49/lb

WEEKLY HALAL SPECIALS

Chicken Thighs Boneless

\$2.49/lb

New Zealand Australian Lamb Shoulder Stew Bone In

\$5.99/lb

Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast Boneless

\$5.79/lb

FRESH PRODUCE

Russet Potato 10 lb Bag

\$2.99/bag

Carrot 5 lb Bag

\$3.29/bag

Rainbow Bellpepper 2 lb Bag

\$2.69/bag

Lemon 2 lb Bag

\$2.29/bag

Peeled Garlic 5 lb Bag

\$14.99/bag

Shallot Onion

\$1.39/lb

Chinese Eggplant

99¢/lb

Pomegranate

\$1.29/lb

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

Bounty Paper Towels 4 Rolls

REG. \$10.99

\$9.99/ea

Kedem Sparkling Blush Grape Juice 25.4 fl.oz

REG. \$6.99

\$3.49/ea

Nestle Ice Cream 8 packets

REG. \$5.99

\$1.99/ea

Suavitel Fabric Softener 8.5 liter

REG. \$19.99

\$16.99/ea

Hawaiian Punch Drink 3 Flavors 1 gallon

REG. \$4.49

\$3.49/ea

ASIAN GROCERY

Qing Ta Longkou Vermicelli 17.6 oz

REG. \$3.99

\$2.49/ea

Napa Original Condensed Creamer 14 oz

REG. \$2.99

\$2.59/ea

Martin Luncheon Meat Reduced Sodium 12 oz

REG. \$3.99

\$2.99/ea

Fiji Ocean Mackerel 15 oz

REG. \$4.99

\$3.99/ea

Onetang Szechuan Peppercorns 2.1 oz

REG. \$2.49

\$1.29/ea

EUROPEAN GROCERY

Nessi Castelvetro Green Olives In Brine 950 gr

REG. \$11.99

\$9.99/ea

Nessi Balsamic Vinegar 500 ml

REG. \$4.99

\$3.49/ea

Zircuk Soda 3 Flavors 2 liter

REG. \$3.49

\$2.29/ea

Polinka Cream Fudge 1 kg

REG. \$10.99

\$6.99/ea

Polinka Tea Biscuits 1 kg

REG. \$4.99

\$3.99/ea

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REG. \$16.59/LB

\$13.59/lb

Freybe Parmesano Salami

REG. \$16.59/LB

\$13.59/lb

North Star Head Cheese

REG. \$10.79/LB

\$8.79/lb

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Leek Pancake 450 g

REG. \$9.99/EA

\$4.99/ea

HOUSEWARE

Electric Rice Cooker (4 CUPS)

REG. \$10.99

\$8.99/ea

Electric Rice Cooker (10 CUPS)

REG. \$10.99

\$8.99/ea

Electric BBQ Grill

REG. \$16.99

\$16.99/ea

Advised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 21 - OCTOBER 27, 2026.

Advised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 21 - OCTOBER 27, 2026.

Future Voters Cast Ballots in 2026 Statewide Mock Election

Sacramento County Office of Education News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Democracy comes alive when youth transition from classroom instruction to hands-on civic participation. Middle and high school students at Leo A. Palmiter Jr./Sr. High School cast ballots in the California Student Mock Election, experiencing the democratic process firsthand and learning the power of informed voting ahead of the Nov. 3 General Election.

“Voting today made me realize how important every single vote is,” shared a Palmiter student voter. “It was exciting to see how the whole process works and know that our voices and ideas matter.”

The campus library transformed into an official polling station complete with voting booths, paper ballots and ballot boxes. Taking part in the hands-on simulation gave students a look at Election Day while instilling a deeper understanding of civic responsibility, electoral integrity and the value of an informed vote.

“Students had thoughtful questions about what ballot propositions mean, who gets to



Middle and high school students at Leo A. Palmiter Jr./Sr. High School cast ballots in the California Student Mock Election. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Office of Education

participate and how votes are tallied,” said Palmiter Principal Brett Homesley. “The mock election gave them ways to explore those questions and see how civic duty works in real life.”

Participating in this event gave students valuable insight into the significance of civic engagement and public service. Coordinated by the California Secretary of State and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the statewide initiative helps youth discover the importance of elections and the power of their voices in the democratic process. Results are available now at: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection/mock-election-results/2026-results>

Civic learning does not end at the ballot box. Educators, families and community partners looking to introduce fundamental civic concepts to youth can explore the PBS LearningMedia Election Collection for nonpartisan educational guides. Additional interactive tools designed to inspire a lifelong passion for civic learning are available through iCivics. ★

Society for the Blind Announces Blindness Awareness Month in October

Nonprofit Society for the Blind News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Nonprofit Society for the Blind in Sacramento is encouraging local residents to honor Blindness Awareness Month throughout October by connecting people with vision loss to services so they can gain the skills they need to stay independent and thrive.

“Losing your sight can be a daunting, isolating experience, but it’s not the end of the road,” Shari Roeseler, executive director, Society for the Blind said. “With the right training, assistive tools and a community of support, a vibrant new way of living is completely within reach. During Blindness Awareness Month, we want to make sure everyone knows that people can live their best lives with vision loss or blindness. If you or someone you know is experiencing vision loss, please reach out to Society for the Blind today. We offer a support system and wide array of instructors who are blind or have low vision so you can build the skills you need, whether you are a child,



For more than 70 years, Sacramento-based Society for the Blind has continued to create innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Photo courtesy of Nonprofit Society for the Blind

working-age adult or senior.”

For more than 70 years, Sacramento-based Society for the Blind has continued to create

innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential.

Since 1954, Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers to a nationally recognized agency and the

only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of Northern California. The nonprofit provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship and access to tools to maintain independence for more than 5,000 youth, working-age adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year.

In addition to its onsite Low Vision Clinic and assistive technology store, Society for the Blind offers four core classes – orientation and mobility, independent living skills, assistive technology and braille – to ensure people with vision loss can stay active, employed and living life to the fullest. The nonprofit also provides a program for seniors that includes support groups and classes. For youth, Society for the Blind offers a support groups for caregivers and parents of children with vision loss. The nonprofit also provides a braille production program and hosts events open to the public.

To learn more or make a donation, visit www.SocietyfortheBlind.org. ★



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November 3, 2026, General Election

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- Ballots will begin to arrive the week of October 5

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Vote Early! Vote by Mail.

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- View your voting history



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Visit www.elections.saccounty.gov or call toll-free (800) 762-8019

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Gut Punch as Simmons Is Out

By V.G. Harris

Golden One Center will entertain a slightly different attitude as the Sacramento Kings are poised to begin the start of the 2026-27 NBA season.

Former three-time all-star and defensive standout Ben Simmons will not only be out for the start of the season, but it has also been reported that he will be out for the entirety of the 2026-27 campaign.

In practice Simmons sustained an Achilles tear to his right ankle which will take at least a year of rehabilitation.

For a team already spiraling after an abysmal 0-5 preseason, and the only team in the NBA to not win a single preseason game thus far, the Kings are staring at the Friday night opener in utter shock.

Sacramento is no stranger to adversity, but this disheartening news comes on the heels of a preseason that has not been kind to coach Doug Christie. Multiple articles have come out in recent days critical of this frenetic style of managing the preseason lineups and substitution patterns.

The current 0-5 record is not only the worst record in the NBA, it portends a myriad of issues as the Kings look to the opener with the Trailblazers on Friday night.

One article went so far as to rate Christie as the worst coach in the NBA. Amid the distraction of sordid shots aimed at the coach, notable former head coaches with a bevy of experience sit on the sidelines hoping for a call. At the top of the list is Mike Budenholzer, former coach of the Milwaukee Bucks and holder of an NBA title. Budenholzer spent 17 years learning his craft under legendary coach Gregg Popovich. Two-time coach of the year, Budenholzer compiled a 520-363 in 11 seasons as an NBA coach, and along with Tom Thibodeau ranks among two of the most employable candidates today.

Suffice it to say, if the noise gets any louder in Kings land, fans will be clamoring for better leadership, and who can blame them.

I still cannot believe the lineups coach Christie put on the hardwood during the preseason, or the confounding reason he had for sitting 6-8 players at a time, while players

that have already been cut from the team not only played considerable minutes, but actually started games.

That being said, the Kings have a game to play, and going into that game with a positive spirit will be the order of the day.

Coming out of the preseason, Sacramento has every reason to believe that first round draft choice Darius Acuff Jr. is going to be the point guard of the future, and Emmanuel Sharpe has given fans every reason to be excited about the energy and defense he brings to the table.

The loss of Ben Simmons is a multiple gut punch, but throwing in the towel is not in the equation, and responding to adversity is how teams grow into something bigger.

I look for opening night to bring a sell-out crowd to Golden One Arena, and with them a chance for head coach Doug Christie to hit the reset button and silence some of his critics.

Everyone loves an underdog and look no further than coach Christie if you're looking for someone to root for.

Both Domantas Sabonis and Zach Lavine have shown no signs of lingering injuries, and Wednesday night looms large as the last opportunity for Christie and his Kings to break a preseason losing streak and go into the regular season on a high note.

The Trailblazers have already bested Sacramento just last week, and it wasn't a contest from the jump. That needs to change and players need to come to play.

I expect a much different season out of Zach Lavine. The same can be said of Keegan Murray, who thus far has been disappointing in preseason. That needs to change and no better time than Wednesday night.

On your feet Kings fans because the rest of the NBA has already counted you out and wouldn't it be something special to prove them wrong.

Look for GM Scott Perry to make some type of move soon that will bring support to Darius Acuff Jr. at the point guard position.

Does Russell Westbrook shock the world and return for one last season. Anything is possible but stay tuned.

All the best Kings fans!

★

New California Laws Arise From Latest Legislative Skirmishes in Endless 'Tort Wars'



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The state Capitol is an arena where lobbyists for thousands of interest groups battle over issues that mostly involve money — very often big money. The Legislature and the governor can, and often do, write into law new provisions that financially benefit one interest or are costly for another.

One of the longest-running conflicts, dubbed “tort wars,” pits lawyers who file personal injury lawsuits and their allies against business interests and their insurers.

They fight over laws that specify which actions cause damages, known as “torts,” which can be the subject of liability lawsuits and what compensation can be collected if such cases prevail.

The stakes can be immense, involving many billions of dollars, so for tort warriors it's a perpetual game of defining new, legally actionable acts; expanding or shrinking those already on the books, or devising tactics to thwart those employed by the other side.

The dynamics of tort politics were demonstrated one night in September 1987, as that year's legislative session was nearing adjournment.

Veteran lobbyists for major tort war interests had been exploring a potential multi-point deal to resolve some long-simmering issues with key legislators behind closed

doors. The negotiators took a break for dinner and drinks at what was then Sacramento's famous political watering hole, Frank Fat's restaurant.

Spontaneously, as the liquor flowed and food was consumed, negotiations restarted right there, as Willie Brown, then the much-celebrated speaker of the state Assembly, bounced from table to table.

The result was the infamous “napkin deal” that gave everyone involved at least part of what they wanted. It was jotted down on a napkin, quickly drafted into legislation and passed with no public input.

One provision — which years later haunted Brown and other politicians — protected the tobacco industry from lawsuits by disease-stricken former smokers. (Footnote: I and the late Jay Michael, a lobbyist for medical interests who was one of the participants, co-wrote a book about lobbying that includes a detailed account of how the napkin deal came about.)

This brief history of tort wars sets the stage for what has been happening recently, including in the just-concluded 2026 legislative session.

Two years ago, the business side scored a significant victory with passage of two bills that narrowed the scope of the Private Attorneys General Act, which allows workers to sue their employers in the name of the state for alleged violations of workplace laws.

Employer groups had qualified a ballot measure to overhaul PAGA, as the law is known, which prodded lawyers and other rival interests to agree to a compromise in return for dropping the measure.

The 2026 session, as usual, featured a couple of other tort-related measures.

One, Assembly Bill 1776, is a significant expansion of the Cartwright Act, California's long-standing law prohibiting monopolistic arrangements among businesses.

The state's Law Revision Commission proposed extending it to actions by a single corporation that had monopolistic effects and allowing private parties to file suits under the revised law.

Business interests opposed the entire concept, saying it was unneeded, and they particularly disliked the private right of action. Before the bill received final approval that part was stricken, limiting enforcement to the attorney general or a local prosecutor.

The second measure, Senate Bill 690, arose out of an American Bar Association publication describing how some California attorneys were using, or misusing, California's law against secret wiretaps to demand payment from corporations for using website tracking software to gather information.

Business groups depicted the practice as extortion, and SB 690 was drafted and enacted to make using the wiretap law this way much more difficult.

This year's legislative session is over, but tort warriors already are gearing up for the next one.

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

Did I Understand you right - I won't get all my SS benefits immediately?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I was a little confused with one of your past articles. This September I hit my full retirement age and for every month I continue to delay, my SS benefit goes up a little more. But reading your article sounds like the extra benefits are only added at the end of the year. For example, let's say that at my full retirement age in September I get \$3,524, and in January 2027 I would get \$3,619. According to the Ask Rusty article I read, if I start my benefits in June of 2027, I will have earned \$3,735, but it sounds like I would only get \$3,619 up until the end of the year, and then they would adjust it. If this is the case, would I get retroactive money back for the 6 months I did not get the correct amount? **Signed: Seeking Clarification**

Dear Seeking: Thanks for your inquiry. Your understanding of the previous Ask Rusty article is correct. If you start your benefits in June 2027 (10 months after your full retirement age (or your “FRA,” in Sept. 2026), you will initially only get

the Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) you earned through the end of 2026. The DRCs you earned from January 2027 to June 2027 would not be credited until January 2028, and you would not get any retroactive benefits for the DRCs earned during the January – June 2027 timeframe.

SSA's reasoning for this is somewhat confusing but has to do with your ability to claim retroactive benefits when you claim after reaching your full retirement age. When claiming after reaching your FRA you have the ability to claim benefits retroactively for up to six months. So, to avoid potentially overlapping benefit payments, SSA defers applying your current year's DRCs until January of the following year. Thus, you essentially lose the extra 2027 DRC money for the remainder of 2027. And, FYI, the one exception to this rule is that when benefits are claimed mid-year at age 70, all DRCs are immediately paid. Please understand that I'm not endorsing this SSA rule; only trying to explain how it works and why. Like many SSA rules, there are nuances to how benefits are paid. And this is a classic example. And just remember, as attractive as taking 6 months of retroactive benefits may sound, it also means your monthly amount would be reduced by about 4% for the rest of your life.

As you contemplate

when you should claim your Social Security retirement benefits, you should always keep in mind your anticipated life expectancy when making that decision. If you expect to live at least to the “average” life expectancy for those in their mid-60s (about mid-80s for someone your current age), then waiting longer to claim is usually a better long term financial decision (even considering the DRC issue described above). But if your life expectancy is less than “average,” claiming sooner is usually a better choice.

If you have further questions about when to claim Social Security, please contact us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org or 1.888.750-2622. There is never a fee for our advisory service because we are a non-profit organization.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (<http://amacfoundation.org/services>) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

★



Iran Exposes an Intolerable U.S. Vulnerability

targets. Camp Arifjan in Kuwait, where buildings and radar domes were hit, is just over 60 miles away.

A number of bases have been fully or partially evacuated, and the effects have been felt on U.S. operations. One reason that there was so much strain on the USS Abraham Lincoln during its lengthy deployment is that Bahrain was no longer available as a supply hub. We had to rely on facilities in Diego Garcia and Singapore, creating a supply chain thousands of miles long.

The Iranian missile and drone threat to our bases was foreseeable, and yet we didn't do enough to protect them. One option now is a broad pullback of our presence in the region. But so long as hydrocarbons power the modern economy, this is a nonstarter. The Gulf states would have an incentive to look elsewhere for strategic partners, most worryingly to Russia or China, and might conclude that they should do more to accommodate an Iran that would have effectively chased us from the Persian Gulf.

The answer to the threat to the bases is the same thing that created the threat in the first place -- innovation. We've long had bases in the Gulf, including a naval command headquarters in Bahrain since 1948, but the purpose and the nature of the presence has changed over time. As Kristian Alexander writes in an analysis for the Stimson Center, during the Cold War we didn't have a large

land presence at bases. After Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, that changed.

Today, the question is how to reconfigure our presence again to make it more defensible and sustainable. “U.S. bases,” Alexander writes, “remain indispensable for intelligence collection, command and control, maritime security, air and missile defense, logistics and long-range power projection.”

One option is to locate more facilities in Israel. Elliott Abrams of the Council on Foreign Relations points out that the Jewish state is much further away -- more than 1,000 miles from Iran --and would impose fewer restrictions on our access and overflight rights.

But we still require bases in the Gulf. We're going to need to disperse them, harden them (including with more underground elements) and build in more redundancy. The air defense needs to be more robust and layered, and less dependent on expensive missiles that are in short supply.

The war with Iran was supposed to represent a short, sharp defanging of the Iranian regime. Instead, it has dragged on and served as a lesson in key shortcomings of U.S. military power that must be addressed, lest they bite us again in a conflict with a much more powerful adversary.

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

★

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Informing, Empowering & Engaging Readers With Their Community



By Patsy McGavock

Last fall, we explored “Saving a Divided Democracy,” beginning with something simple: Join a club. Meet face to face with people whose experiences and perspectives differ from our own.

This series follows my own journey considering a deeper question: Once we’re there, how do we begin healing our divide? I hope you’ll join me in recognizing ourselves in others’ experiences — and sharing moments of personal discovery.

Eighteen months ago, a civic engagement seminar forever changed what “politics” means to me.

I’d asked how parents might better come together to work with our school district.

“Start a political club,” the instructor suggested.

Why political? I wanted to support my community, not organize around a party.

“What are you doing about the policies that concern you?” he asked.

I explained — helping parents understand district process and policy affecting our children, bringing less heard voices forward and finding solutions together.

“Great,” he replied. “That sounds like you’re starting a political club.”

Politics, he emphasized, is about people. It’s not inherently about partisanship.

I starkly realized I’d begun associating politics exclusively with parties, campaigns and us versus them. That concerned me. My own assumption kept me from starting conversations. Yet part of what I valued in civic engagement was actually political participation — people finding solutions through policy.

I began approaching conversations with less apprehension and more curiosity, asking people what mattered to them — and why — rather than worrying about which side they might represent.

It also changed how I see elected officials.

Policy Not Partisan: Beyond Party Lines, Politics is About People

I interviewed four officials know to prioritize working toward solutions over strict party-line decisions: Assemblymember Josh Hoover, a Republican representing north-east Sacramento County, Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond, a “small ‘i’” independent with no party preference, and received written comments from Assemblymember David Alvarez, a Democrat co-chair of the cross-party California Problem Solvers Caucus.

I wondered whether their experiences reflected my growing understanding.

Hoover acknowledged that politics can mean different things to different people, including alliances and maneuvering within the Assembly. But he also sees something more fundamental.

“Also, it’s just people have different opinions, right? It’s sort of the art of working through those different opinions,” he shared.

It’s the same in families, neighborhoods, schools and volunteer organizations — we often agree on outcomes but disagree on how to reach them. Working through those differences requires many of the same skills we need in public life.

Desmond offered a personal example. The youngest of nine, he grew up in a family whose political views span the spectrum. He learned to look beyond differences and ask siblings what mattered most.

He brings that approach to representing a diverse district.

Desmond emphasized: Differences don’t disappear. They also needn’t prevent progress. Recognizing ourselves as neighbors facing shared problems improves our chances of accomplishing something.

Hoover deliberately meets one-on-one with fellow legislators.

“I really make a point when someone new gets elected to sit down with them and get to know what they care about and who they are,” he said.

That willingness to listen extends across party lines. Alvarez described what listening across party lines requires.

“Within the Problem Solvers Caucus, I have to explain my reasoning, expect it to be tested, and take seriously the concerns of colleagues who see the issue differently, even when I may not end up agreeing with them,” Alvarez wrote.

But what if understanding doesn’t lead to agreement?

Hoover acknowledged that legislators sometimes publicly disagree or vote against each other’s proposals without closing the door to future collaboration.

Desmond similarly reminds constituents that even without agreement, he remains their representative, ready to work together on the next issue.

The relationship doesn’t have to end because agreement was not reached.

Perhaps healing our divide begins before we even discuss policy.

It begins when we become curious about someone holding a different view. Asking what experience brought them there. Discovering that a perceived adversary also cares deeply about many of the same things.

We needn’t abandon our principles or dismiss our differences. But we can change what we expect of one another.

Think of someone whose political views differ from yours. What do you actually know about the person behind them? Could you begin there?

Next time, we’ll explore how that willingness becomes the harder work of finding solutions, drawing on the experiences of the cross-party California Problem Solvers Caucus — even when agreement is uncertain.

Patsy McGavock is a volunteer writer and community advocate “informing, empowering and engaging readers with their community.” and can be reached at PatsyMcGavock. JustServe@gmail.com. ★



BY JOSH F.W. COOK

★ CALIFORNIA ★
POLICY
AND
ETHICS

Beccera (And Us) Will Pay for Newsom’s Last Budget

By Josh Cook

California’s budget has grown faster than its revenue for years, and the gap is now structural. State spending has risen roughly \$100 billion since Newsom’s first full fiscal year, outpacing revenue growth by about 10 percent.

The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office projects an eighteen-billion-dollar budget problem for twenty twenty-six twenty-seven, with structural deficits climbing to around thirty-five billion dollars a year starting in twenty twenty-seven twenty-eight if nothing changes. And don’t expect the federal government, whose debt topped 40 trillion, to come in and somehow cover the shortfalls.

That growth in the income-to-spending ratio has been papered over with short-term fixes.

The state has already solved \$125 billion in budget problems over the last three years, mostly with one-time measures. Internal borrowing has climbed to \$21 billion, the rainy-day fund sits near \$14 billion, and California still owes nearly \$20 billion in pandemic-era unemployment

debt to the federal government.

The books look balanced on paper, but the underlying imbalance keeps widening. The Los Angeles Times reported in May that if Newsom does not fix the structural deficit, the problem lands squarely on the next governor. That successor would face drastic across-the-board cuts with limited reserves, especially if a recession hits. Former Controller Betty Yee said one-time solutions have only made the chronic problem worse.

Whoever takes office in January—likely Xavier Becerra—inherits a maxed-out, complicated credit card, and everyone who watches government sees it. The delayed Medi-Cal cuts and asset-test changes from this year’s budget only kick in after July twenty twenty-seven, so the new governor will be the one actually implementing the hard choices the outgoing administration pushed down the road.

A stock-market downturn or federal funding cuts would turn a difficult situation into a genuine crisis, with far fewer options than previous administrations had.

You can only do bad government fiscal policy for so long until it collapses.

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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Cupcake is moved. 2. Money is missing. 3. Sign is moved. 4. Man is taller. 5. Counter is wider. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

by Wagner

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

BRAM LED WADI
LIMA VISE RELIC
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GANNET JEHOVAH
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MODS VOORHEES
METRO ACME CREE
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CLUES

ACROSS
1. *Count Dracula's creator
5. Zeppelin lead-in
8. Dry riverbed
12. Stew bean
13. Workbench holding device
14. Thing of the past
15. Just right (3 words)
16. "If all ____ fails..."
17. Thin mountain ridge
18. *Michael Jackson's Halloween party song
20. Exclamation, with Louise
21. Like days long gone
22. Lion's "hand"
23. Large seabird
26. YHWH
30. 50 states, acr.
31. Gone (2 words)
34. Drawn in the sand?
35. Long stories
37. Over there
38. Subsequently
39. Doris Day's "Que ____"
40. One million ohms
42. Vatican vestment
43. Causes of PTSD
45. Theater passages
47. Local Area Network
48. Like autumn air
50. '60s British teen-agers
52. *Jason's last name
55. Subway in Paris
56. Pinnacle
57. First Nation nation
59. Cheerleader's prop
60. * ____'s "swelter'd venom" in #36 Down
61. Capital of Ukraine
62. Any day now
63. Francisco lead-in
64. Dried-up

DOWN
1. Club alternative
2. '80s band "Quiet ____"
3. Wet nurse
4. Maid, after getting married
5. City in Northern France
6. Ruhr's industrial center
7. Hunted ruminant
8. *Full moon shapeshifter
9. Sheltered, nautically speaking
10. Flighty one
11. Skater's turf
13. South African grass-lands
14. Indian prince
19. Intestinal obstruction
22. Liveliness in one's step
23. *Ghost at a Halloween party
24. According to
25. Nigerian money
26. Jupiter's sister and wife
27. Essential to life
28. Anoint
29. *Witches' hemlock and belladonna, e.g.
32. *Pennywise's are mismatched
33. *"Wool of bat, and tongue of ____"
36. *"...toil and trouble; fire burn and ____ bubble"
38. Anabaptist group
40. Gingerbread shape
41. *Red-____, like Winifred Sanderson of "Hocus Pocus"
44. Wide-mouth jar inventor
46. Small spots
48. "Cuckoo for ____ Puffs"
49. Kieran Culkin as ____ Roy
50. Not nice
51. Von Bismarck or Hahn, e.g.
52. Giant kettles
53. Great Lake
54. Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex," e.g.
55. Business degree, acr.
58. *All Hallow's ____

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Light Up the Cemetery on Nov. 5



The Fair Oaks Cemetery District invites the community to join them for a special evening of remembrance, reflection and celebration at “Light Up the Cemetery” on Nov. 5, starting at 4 p.m. Photo courtesy of Erik Johnson

By MPG Staff

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The Fair Oaks Cemetery District invites the community to join them for a special evening of remembrance, reflection and celebration at “Light Up the Cemetery” on Nov. 5, starting at 4 p.m.

The evening will begin with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony marking 100 years of service as a Special District. This milestone celebrates a century of service to families and the Fair Oaks community, making it a meaningful part of this year's event.

As the evening continues, the cemetery will begin to glow with lights placed throughout the grounds. Tea lights will be placed on graves in honor and memory of loved ones, creating a beautiful display of remembrance as the sun goes down. Lights will also be hung throughout the cemetery, transforming the grounds into a warm and peaceful setting for the community to enjoy.

Guests will be invited to take a moment to remember someone special. Those who wish to do so can share memories or stories about their loved ones, creating a

space to celebrate and share those memories with others.

While the event centers on remembrance, everyone is welcome. You do not need to have a loved one buried at Fair Oaks Cemetery to attend. The evening is open to the entire community and offers neighbors, friends and families a chance to come together.

Guests can enjoy free hot chocolate and s'mores while visiting with others and taking in the lights throughout the cemetery.

The holiday season can be a difficult time for those who have lost someone they love. “Light Up the Cemetery” offers a gentle reminder that although our loved ones may no longer be with us, their memories continue to shine.

The Fair Oaks Cemetery District hopes this event will remain a cherished community tradition – a night when light represents love, memories, and the enduring connections we share with those who came before us.

Come share a cup of hot chocolate, enjoy some s'mores, walk among the lights, and celebrate the people and memories that continue to brighten our lives.★

Fathers and Daughters Enjoy Fishing and Family Fun

American River Parkway Foundation strives to make the American River Parkway more accessible to all in Sacramento County and beyond



One way the Parkway Foundation helps remove barriers that prevent families from experiencing the Parkway is by covering the cost of Parkway CONNECT events. Photo courtesy of American River Parkway Foundation

American River Parkway Foundation News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Twenty-one daughters and their fathers enjoyed a morning of fishing at Sailor Bar Park on the American River Parkway on Saturday, Oct. 10.

This is the third annual Father-Daughter Fishing event hosted by the American River Parkway Foundation in partnership with local nonprofit Sisters of Nia, which works to uplift, educate and empower young girls in grades sixth, seventh and eighth.

The Father-Daughter Fishing event is part of the Parkway Foundation's Parkway CONNECT program, which aims to remove barriers that prevent families from experiencing the American River Parkway. “This was our largest group to date, and



Twenty-one daughters and their fathers enjoyed a morning of fishing at Sailor Bar Park on the American River Parkway on Saturday, Oct. 10. Photo courtesy of American River Parkway Foundation

it was so great watching the girls out by the water casting the fishing poles with their dads. In addition to fishing, some even made a fish print to remember our morning together. Most of the group had fished before, but only five or six had been to the American River Parkway,” said Education Manager of the Parkway Foundation Jackie Hadley.

One way the Parkway Foundation helps remove barriers that prevent

families from experiencing the Parkway is by covering the cost of Parkway CONNECT events through grant funding and donations.

“All of the fishing gear for this event was donated, which is a testament to how passionate our community members are about helping more people experience and recreate on the American River Parkway,” added Executive Director of the Parkway Foundation Dianna Poggetto.

So far this year, 411 people of all ages and backgrounds discovered the Parkway through Parkway CONNECT events. For more information about the Parkway CONNECT program, visit www.ARPF.org/Parkway-Connect. Or check out the Discover the Parkway YouTube series to hear from past participants about the impact of this program. ★

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Women’s Basketball Picked Fifth, Picton and Cotton Earn Preseason Honors

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento State women’s basketball team is making a great first impression entering its first season in The Big West as the coaches have picked the Hornets to finish fifth in the league while selecting senior Natalie Picton and junior Jenessa Cotton to its seven-woman preseason All-Big West squad.

After spending the last 30 years as members of the Big Sky Conference, Sacramento State received one first-place vote and 88 points overall from the league’s head coaches, finishing behind prohibitive favorite UC San Diego (120 points, 10 first-place votes), UC Irvine (108 points, one first-place vote), UC Santa Barbara (94) and California Baptist (93 points).

The Hornets stood 18 points ahead of Utah Valley (70 points) to finish among the top half in the 12-team league.

Picton was a force for Sacramento State in her first season in the green and gold, starting 31 of the team’s 33 games and averaging a team-high 35.8 minutes per contest. The Big Sky All-Tournament Team selection finished the year second on the team in scoring at 13.4 points per game while averaging 3.7 rebounds and 2.2 steals per game.



As the coaches have picked the Hornets to finish fifth in the league while selecting senior Natalie Picton and junior Jenessa Cotton to its seven-woman preseason All-Big West squad. Photo courtesy Sacramento State Athletics

She was among the top 10 in the Big Sky in steals per game, minutes, three pointers made (66), and fourth in three-pointers per game (2.13). Picton scored in double figures 22 times, including a collegiate high of 27 points in a win over Simpson on Dec. 15 of last year.

Cotton is in her first season with the Hornets after transferring from Kansas State where she appeared in 24 games, started 16, and averaged 4.3 points and 3.4 rebounds per game while shooting .422 from the field overall in 14.8 minutes per contest.

A highly regarded recruit out of Mater Dei HS in Santa Ana, Calif., Cotton originally signed with Duke out of high school and appeared in eight games for a Blue Devils squad that won the ACC Championship and advanced to the “Elite Eight” of the NCAA Tournament in 2025.

Entering 2026-27, Sacramento State returns seven letter winners and welcomes seven new faces to the roster overall while featuring one of the nation's top transfer classes among mid-major schools according to the website On3.com.

The Hornets are coming off a

2025-26 campaign that saw them finish 15-18 overall and 8-10 in their final season in the Big Sky, advancing to the semifinals of the conference tournament for only the fifth time in school history after finishing fifth during the regular season.

The 15 wins matched the win total from the 2024-25 campaign and gave Sacramento State back-to-back seasons with 15-or-more wins for the first time in a decade since the 2013-14 (18-12) and 2014-15 (18-16) teams accomplished the feat. The Hornets finished with double-digit wins for

the fourth time in the last five seasons after doing so just twice in the five years before that.

Sacramento State’s incoming class consists of six Division I transfers and one true freshman who will help usher in the Hornets’ debut in The Big West. The group includes three Big 12 Conference transfers in Arizona’s Achol Magot and the Kansas State duo of Alexis Hess and Cotton, one from the Missouri Valley Conference in Evansville’s Jelena Savic, one from The American in Memphis’ Brooklyn Charlo and one from the Northeast Conference in Long Island’s Koko Akridge. Those six players join true freshman Oregon native Jordan Barlow, who recently graduated from South Medford HS.

Two of the transfers are “coming home” to California as Akridge (San Diego, Calif.) and Cotton (Orange, Calif.) return to their home state, while Pennsylvania (Hess), Arizona (Magot) and Colorado (Charlo) are also represented. Savic, a native of Melbourne, Australia, is the lone international player among the signees.

Sacramento State opens the year with an exhibition against Stanislaus State on Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m., before officially tipping-off the campaign on the road at UT Arlington on Nov. 3.

Sacramento Golf Council Names 2026 Players of the Year



Women’s Player of the Year Sakura Watanabe. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council



Men’s Senior Player of the Year Bob Niger. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council



Men’s Player of the Year Kavi Marez. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council

Sacramento Golf Council News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Golf Council (SGC) awarded their Player of the Year awards on Monday, Oct. 12, at Haggin Oaks Golf Complex.

Five awards were presented to Men’s Player of the Year Kavi Marez, Women’s Player of the Year Sakura Watanabe, Men’s Senior Player of the Year Bob Niger, Women’s Senior Player of the Year Karen Garcia and Lynne Cowan, Men’s Super Senior Player of the Year Mark Morgan.

Player of the Year awards are based on points received in the top championships each year.

Three major sponsors of the awards are Adam Johhson, Golf Fitness Solutions; Michael Yates; Eugene C. Yates Insurance Agency and Nurse Next Door.

The Sacramento Golf Council is a volunteer organization that coordinates 25 city and county golf tournaments each year.



Women’s Senior Player of the Year Karen Garcia and Lynne Cowan. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Golf Council

Jennifer Contreras Named 2026 El Futuro Scholarship Winner

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In front of a sold-out crowd at Heart Health Park on Noche Latina, Republic FC and the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce celebrated Jennifer Contreras as the recipient of the 2026 El Futuro Scholarship. A Woodland native, Contreras is a current student at UC Davis majoring in Food Science.

Jennifer’s journey to college hasn’t always been easy, but thanks to her involvement in the in the Educational Talent Search (ETS) program that is designed to

prepare low-income, first-generation students for college success, she has found the support and confidence to pursue her goals. “I always had a vision for myself: I wanted to go to college and create a different path,” she wrote in her application.

Giving back and community involvement also play a big role in Jennifer’s story: “I take pride in mentoring, tutoring, and contributing to organizations that inspire students to pursue further education.”

Now inspired by her own experiences and her desire to pay it forward. “Through this journey, I’ve learned that initiating change often begins with

gestures such as giving guidance or recounting personal stories,” she continues. I’ve gained an understanding of the importance of togetherness and the impactful influence mentorship has on molding people’s futures.”

As this year’s El Futuro Scholarship winner, Jennifer will receive a \$2,000 academic grant funded by Republic FC and the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She plans to use the scholarship to help manage the academic costs of her program at UC Davis, while also providing some financial assistance in opportunities to immerse herself in life on campus.



Republic FC and the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce celebrated Jennifer Contreras as the recipient of the 2026 El Futuro Scholarship on Oct. 10. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

California Capital Airshow Celebrates 20 Years

Milestone event featured two days of aerial performances, a nighttime show and a salute to America's 250th



Two Redline Airshow aerobatic planes fly in close formation, with one inverted above the other, during a high-energy performance at the California Capital Airshow. Photo courtesy of Braden K. Loper

California Capital Airshow News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - From the roar of fighter jets to a night sky filled with drones, lasers, fireworks and pyrotechnics, the 2026 California Capital Airshow marked its 20th anniversary at Mather Airport on Oct. 10 and 11 with a weekend that brought aviation, patriotism and community together.

Presented by Sacramento County in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova, the Airshow welcomed more than 100,000 spectators from the Sacramento region and beyond.

"This show was a huge thank you to the Sacramento region for two decades of support," said Darcy Brewer, CEO of California Capital Airshow. "Between two jet teams, an incredible lineup of military and civilian performers and the return of our night show, we celebrated our 20th anniversary and America's 250th in a way our community will remember for a long time."

Two Jet Teams, Then a Sky Full of Light

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds showcased the speed and precision of their F-16 Fighting Falcons, while the Royal Canadian Air Force Snowbirds flew their graceful, close-formation routine in their final full performance in the CT-114 Tutor jet. The U.S. Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet Tactical Demonstration Team, aircraft from Beale Air Force Base and a lineup of world-renowned civilian performers rounded out the daytime program.

As daylight faded, the Airshow transformed into an electrifying nighttime spectacle. Illuminated aircraft, colorful lasers, dynamic pyrotechnics and walls of fire lighting up the sky over Mather. The evening closed with a drone show and choreographed fireworks set to music honoring America's 250th birthday and the Airshow's 20th anniversary.

20 Years of Service, Education and Community

On the ground, guests explored miles of static aircraft and exhibits including historic warbirds, military and public safety aircraft, and hands-on aviation and STEM activities. Families met pilots, tested aviation technology first-hand and learned about career paths in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

That work continues long after the final performance. The nonprofit California Capital Airshow reaches more than 3,500 students annually through scholarships, internships, mentorships and educational programming, and has awarded more than \$679,000 in scholarships to nearly 300 students since its founding.

"Twenty years ago, this organization began with a vision to celebrate aviation and bring our community together," said Terrence McNamara, Chairman



A young aviation fan gets a front-row view of the excitement at the California Capital Airshow, where aerial performances captivated spectators of all ages. Photo by Rick Sloan



Parachutists descend with American flags and an America 250 banner during an aerial demonstration at the California Capital Airshow. Photo by Rick Sloan

of the California Capital Airshow Board of Directors. "Today it is a source of regional pride, a way to honor our military and aviation heritage, and a platform for investing in the young people who will shape the future of flight. That legacy is what we are most proud of, and we are committed to building on it for the next 20 years."

Nearly 1,000 volunteers helped bring the Airshow to life, supporting everything from event operations and guest services to behind-the-scenes logistics. Visitors from throughout California and beyond – including many attendees from Canada travelling to see the Snowbirds' final performance – also contributed to the local economy, supporting area hotels, restaurants and businesses.

Looking Ahead

As the last fireworks faded over Mather Airport, the California Capital Airshow closed a milestone chapter. The nonprofit remains committed to using the magic of aviation to honor service, celebrate the Sacramento region and inspire the next generation.

California Capital Airshow extends its sincere thanks to Sacramento County, the City of Rancho Cordova, Sutter Health,



Fireworks illuminate the sky as colorful lights and pyrotechnics transform the runway during the California Capital Airshow's nighttime finale, bringing the evening's festivities to a spectacular close. Photo courtesy of Braden K. Loper



Families and aviation enthusiasts explore a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III on display at the California Capital Airshow, where visitors had the opportunity to see military aircraft up close. Photo by Rick Sloan

Wilton Rancheria, Modern Aviation, SMUD, Teichert, Roseville Auto Mall, Wilton Rancheria, Kaiser Permanente, Five Star Bank, Southwest Airlines, Atlas Disposal, UPS, iHeart Media, Paratransit, and Elite Power. In addition, the Airshow is grateful for the many volunteers, aviation professionals, public safety agencies and community supporters who helped make this event possible.

For event highlights, photos and information about the Airshow's year-round programs, visit www.CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com.

About California Capital Airshow

Established in 2004, the California Capital Airshow is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring the Sacramento region's rich aviation heritage, recognizing veterans and inspiring the next generation through the power and magic of flight. In addition to producing one of the region's premier aviation events, the organization supports youth development through aviation and STEM scholarships, educational outreach, internships, mentorships and charitable community partnerships. Learn more at www.CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com.★



Craig and Arina Pfaff hold their two children, Kaylee (4) and Malina (8 months), as the United States Air Force Thunderbirds fly overhead. Photo by Rick Sloan



Civil Air Patrol cadets pose for a group photo while assisting with event operations at the California Capital Airshow, where volunteers helped support the weekend's festivities. Photo by Rick Sloan