



Tahoe Construction Season Ends with Great Progress

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Placer Sentinel

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County Seals a Message to the Future

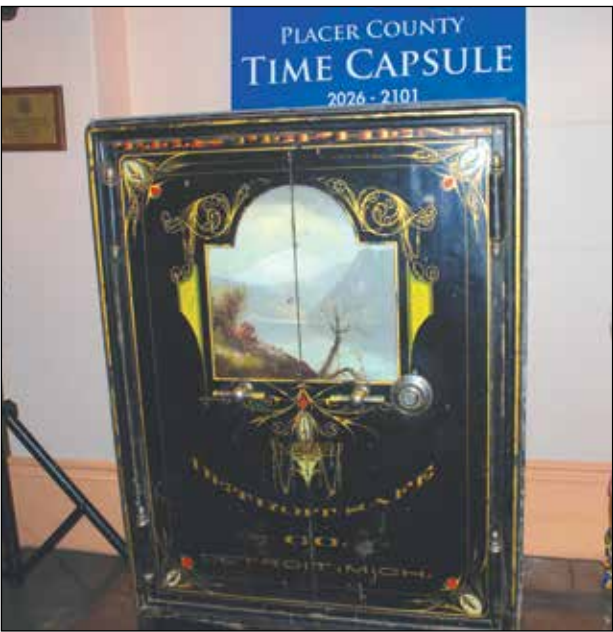


Auburn's historic Placer County Courthouse.

Story and photos by Sara Jackson

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Seventy-five years from now, Placer County residents will have an unusual opportunity to look back at life in 2026, through an iPhone, a flake of gold, government records, photographs, toys, handwritten letters and other pieces of everyday life carefully preserved inside a 19th-century safe.

As part of Placer County's 175 anniversary celebration, county officials, community leaders and residents gathered at the historic Placer County Courthouse to seal a time



The Placer County time capsule sealed, waiting for future citizens to open it again 75 years later on Placer County's 250 anniversary.

capsule intended to remain closed until April 25, 2101, when the county celebrates its 250th anniversary.

"We're in the middle of progress. Times are changing so quickly. And so what we're trying to do here at the county and the whole is preserved our heritage. Make sure that we're enjoying our communities and finding ways for them to be these resilient places that people want to live in. So what better opportunity than the 175 anniversary?" Museum Administrator, Bryanna Ryan said.

The time capsule itself is part of the county's history. Rather than using a newly

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Placer County Secures \$700K Caltrans Grant for Tahoe City

Placer County News Release

TAHOE CITY, CA (MPG) - Parking, traffic and pedestrian improvements will soon be taking shape in downtown Tahoe City following a \$700,000 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant awarded to Placer County by the California Department of Transportation.

The Tahoe City Downtown Access Improvements Project is now fully funded thanks to both the Caltrans grant and local investment from TOT-TBID Dollars at Work, which will advance improvements identified in the Tahoe City Mobility Plan. A total of \$1.5 million has been invested in the project through transient occupancy tax funds. The project is designed to improve access, circulation and multimodal connections throughout downtown Tahoe City for residents, visitors and businesses.

Planned improvements include expanding the existing public parking facility on Grove Street from 47 spaces to 69 regular parking spaces, along with three accessible spaces. The project also includes eight electric vehicle charging stations, public safety lighting, two loading and delivery areas, stormwater drainage improvements and construction of approximately a half-mile section of Class 1 multi-use trail.

"Investing in transportation infrastructure that makes it easier and safer for people to park their cars and enjoy the benefits of walking and biking to access local businesses is an important part of maintaining a vibrant Tahoe City," said Department of Public Works Deputy Director Jared Deck. "This grant allows the county to make significant improvements while advancing the community's long-term vision for a more connected downtown."

The project is scheduled for construction in summer 2027. When complete, the improvements are expected to enhance traffic circulation and pedestrian and bicycle access to Tahoe City's commercial, business and recreational amenities.

The expanded public parking facility will provide additional parking in the center of town for residents and visitors accessing nearby amenities, including the ball

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PCWA Breaks Ground on Ophir Water Treatment Plant



PCWA Board members and regional leaders ceremonially break ground on the Ophir Water Treatment Plant on Oct. 15, 2026. The \$206 million facility will expand drinking water treatment capacity and strengthen water reliability in western Placer County. Photo courtesy of PCWA

PCWA News Release

OPHIR, CA (MPG) - The Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) broke ground on the Ophir Water Treatment Plant, launching construction of a major regional facility that will help meet future water needs and strengthen service for existing customers throughout western Placer County.

The project's total cost is estimated

at approximately \$206 million, and the plant is expected to begin operating in 2030. Its first phase will add capacity to treat 10 million gallons of drinking water per day, supporting communities including Lincoln, Loomis and Rocklin and unincorporated western Placer County.

"I believe Ophir will stand as one of the defining infrastructure investments of our generation," PCWA

Director Primo Santini, whose district includes Lincoln and much of western Placer County said. "Just as we benefit today from the vision and investments of those who came before us, future generations will depend on the decisions we're making now."

PCWA Board Chair Josh Alpine and Santini joined Placer County

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Placer County Seals a Message to the Future

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constructed container, organizers chose an iron safe dating to 1878. Located inside the courthouse, the massive safe weighs about 3,200 pounds and has been filled with records, letters and commemorative objects representing communities throughout Placer County.

The project caps a year-long 175th anniversary celebration that involved thousands of residents from communities across the county. Organizers described the collection as more than a record of what Placer County has built; they said it also reflects current ideas about stewardship, government, planning and civic involvement.

“As we seal this capsule, we are leaving behind more than memories. We are leaving behind our legacy. We’re preserving a moment in time, actually,

of our present, and planting a message of how great Placer County was, and how we tried to make it the perfect place for the future,” Placer County Board of Supervisors Suzanne Jones said.

Among the objects included in the time capsule is a declaration titled Enduring justice, signed by the Honorable Garen J. Horst and all current 11 sitting judges.

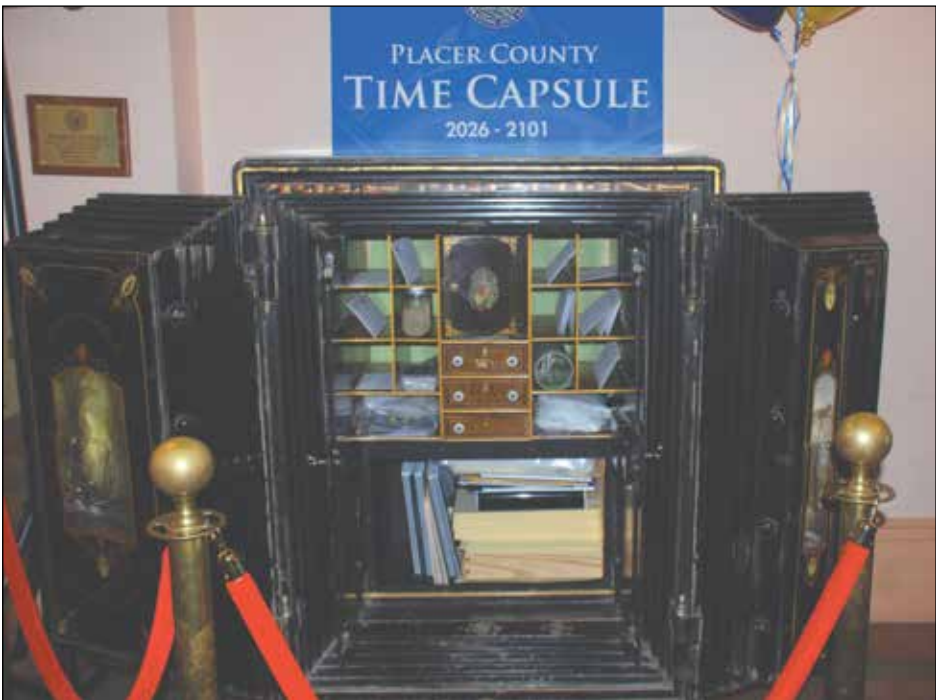
“Enduring Justice, as our nation has recently celebrated the 250 anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we are reminded that democracy does not endure on words engraved on parchment alone. Freedom survives only through the courage, integrity, and commitment of those who remain faithful to the Constitution and the rule of law. As we move forward into the future, may these enduring



The Honorable Garen J. Horst gives his speech in front of the Placer County Courthouse on Saturday, October 10 during the 175 anniversary celebration.

ideals survive, and be defended by those willing to stand for justice,” Judge Horst said.

California State Senator, Roger Niello described the time capsule as a guidepost for future generations, noting that while technology and challenges will change, people in the future may still ask the same basic questions about who they are and what they can



The historic safe that was first used by grocer, T.E. Stephens in 1878. It remained in Old Town Auburn until it was donated to Placer County Museums in 2017.

learn from those who came before them.

“The capsule is more than a collection of objects. It’s a message. It tells future residents what we valued, what we worried about, what we celebrated and what we hoped for. It gives them a glimpse of the ordinary lives that, one day, will be history. By preserving a small part of our presence, we are helping future generations understand their past. And in doing so, we hope to guide their future. Seventy-five years from now, when this capsule is opened, may those gathered then, see not only what we left behind, but also the enduring spirit that this community and the faith we placed in generations who would follow us,” Senator Niello said.

The capsule does not focus only on the past.

Many contributions document the issues confronting the county today and the hopes residents have for the next 75 years.

Board of Supervisors Vice Chair, District 5, County of Placer, Cindy Gustafson spoke about protecting Lake Tahoe, forests, river canyons and other natural resources. Letters placed in the capsule discuss forest management and catastrophic wildfire, while other objects commemorate environmental and public works projects. The collection even includes debris removed from an old bridge in the American River.

Cities and community organizations also contributed their own snapshots of 2026. Lincoln supplied a letter, commemorative pin and Gladding, McBean medallion. Auburn contributed its strategic plan,

a photograph of its current all-woman City Council, police and fire department items and information about local events. One particularly modern contribution is a letter generated by Artificial Intelligence for future readers.

The ceremony ended with the final items — including a guest book signed by attendees — being placed inside before the vault was closed following a countdown and shouts of “Seal that vault!”

Placer County Executive Officer Daniel Chatigny closed the ceremony when he said, “My hope is that when this safe is open in 75 years, on our 250 anniversary, future residents see that we care deeply about this county and worked to leave them a strong, thoughtful and hopeful foundation.” ★



Crowd gathered in front of the Placer County Courthouse to celebrate the county's 175 anniversary.

PCWA Breaks Ground on Ophir Water Treatment Plant



PCWA Board Director Primo Santini speaks about the generational importance of the Ophir Water Treatment Plant during the Oct. 15 groundbreaking ceremony. Photo courtesy of PCWA



Community leaders, regional partners, contractors, and PCWA employees gather for the groundbreaking of the Ophir Water Treatment Plant, a major investment in the region's future water supply. Photo courtesy of PCWA

Continued from page 1

Board of Supervisors Chair Shanti Landon, Lincoln Mayor Richard Pearl, and PCWA General Manager Andy Fecko for the ceremony at the Ophir Road site. Regional partners, contractors and PCWA employees also gathered to mark the milestone.

“Projects like Ophir don’t happen overnight,” Fecko said. “They take decades of planning, investment, and people committed to making decisions and carrying them through. Today, all that work is coming together as we break ground on a facility that will serve this region for generations.”

Ophir builds on the water supply secured through PCWA’s Middle Fork American River Project and nearly three decades of investment in the infrastructure needed to

deliver that water to communities. Earlier projects included the American River Pump Station, Ophir Road Pump Station, Ophir Road Pipelines and Foothill Raw Water Pipeline.

Those facilities provided operational benefits as they were completed while preparing the system for the new treatment plant. PCWA timed Ophir’s construction so that additional capacity will be available as projected demand requires it.

Once operational, Ophir will work in coordination with PCWA’s Foothill plant in Newcastle and Sunset plant in Rocklin. The additional treatment location will give PCWA greater flexibility during maintenance and unexpected events. It will also allow more time for essential rehabilitation work at Foothill, PCWA’s largest treatment

facility, during lower-demand months.

The plant is master planned for expansion to 30 million gallons per day. Underground pipelines are designed to accommodate up to 60 million gallons per day should future regional needs require additional capacity.

The project also reflects PCWA’s long-standing partnership with Lincoln. Through a 2023 funding agreement, the city invested upfront in future capacity, helping reduce PCWA’s borrowing needs while preparing both agencies to serve their communities.

“Lincoln is investing in water infrastructure for today’s residents and for the community Lincoln will become over the coming decades,” Pearl said. “Partnering with PCWA helps both agencies plan

ahead for the water supply and infrastructure their residents and businesses will need, while strengthening water reliability across the region.”

Water connection charges associated with new development fund the infrastructure needed to expand capacity. This approach places the cost of serving growth on new connections.

Construction is also supporting local jobs and businesses. Locally based W.M. Lyles Co. is building the plant under a \$170.5 million construction contract awarded in August. Nine California-based companies, including eight based in the region, are expected to participate in the first three weeks of site work alone.

For project information and updates, visit pcwa.net/ophir-wtp. ★

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FAWN: Clearing the Way For Wildlife

By Sara Jackson

PLACER, CA (MPG) - Friends Aiding Wildlife in Nature (FAWN) was founded in 2024 by Irene and Roger Smith that resulted in a trip the couple took, where on the front page of the local newspaper was a photo of two dying bull elk caught up in barbwire.

“That was sore of our first awareness of the problem. And then we began to think what’s being done about the problem. When we returned home to California from our trip and we have five acres in Newcastle. We were walking around our property just checking things out and what did we find? A dead doe hanging by her ankle from our own fence. It was like we were being given a message. That something has to be done about the problem,” Cofounder of FAWN Irene Smith said.



Clover Valley Fence Removal on May 26. Photo by Irene Smith

FAWN’s mission is to help “re-wild” areas used by wildlife by identifying and removing obsolete fencing, which is fencing that has fallen from their posts that lies twisted and rusted on the ground that creates deadly traps and obstacles for wildlife each year.

It is essential that wildlife be mobile so they can have access to food, water, shelter and mates. Obsolete fencing cuts across historic migratory routes, causing the deaths of hundreds of thousands of wild animals because they are unable to access seasonal grazing and fresh water.

If wildlife are left with fewer safety routes, they are forced to take alternate routes which include creeks and roadways.

Family separation is also a concerning factor in the safety of wildlife. In Placer County, a local fawn rescue group takes in upward of 200 fawns each year. The doe can easily jump over the fence, but her baby cannot. The fawn is often left curled up by the fencing and can die of predation, dehydration or starvation.

“We started reaching out to conservation groups and service clubs and government agencies to see if anything was being done by any of them. We couldn’t find anything that was being done about removing obsolete fencing. We were determined to go ahead and start our own group,” Smith said.

Irene and her husband, Roger began giving presentations to different organizations in order to recruit volunteers. FAWN now has over 100 hundred volunteers working in Placer County, El Dorado County, Nevada County



FAWN volunteers come out of the woods carrying ‘wreaths’ of old, rusty barbed-wire fencing from the Canyon View Preserve in Auburn on Sept. 18. Photo by Irene Smith

and Plumas County each year.

“We made arrangements with the land trust in each of those counties to do what we call a demonstration project, and they have to provide the volunteers. And we provide the tools, the knowledge and the techniques on how to remove obsolete fencing. We’re trying to spread the word of our mission as broadly as we can. So we’re reaching out to other counties,” Smith said.

In areas like Auburn, FAWN volunteers works to remove obsolete fencing at the Placer Land Trust’s Canyon View Preserve. They also coordinate with groups such as the Placer Resource Conservation District to complete massive single-day property cleanups. They also work with Sierra College’s ECOS Club, and local Rotary clubs to mobilize volunteers.

In a span of four hours, volunteers can remove of up two and a half miles of fencing. Since 2024, volunteers have successfully completed a dozen projects and removed about 20 miles of fencing.

Placer County was once home to pioneer ranches. The most common fencing seen is grid fencing topped with two strands of barbwire. Volunteers are asked to leave the posts because they define a boundary that can sometimes be historic.

Old fences are only part of the problem. Modern fencing such as iron, spiked and wooden plank fencing seen in residential neighborhoods can also restrict wildlife movement. FAWN hopes to educate homeowners, government agencies and the public about the effects of fence placement and design, while promoting wildlife-friendly solutions for fencing.

Now, the Smiths hope to turn those experiences into action by removing forgotten hazards, educating property owners and encouraging residents to consider how something as ordinary as a fence can affect the animals that share Placer County’s landscape.

For more information visit www.fawn4wildlife.org or email FAWN4wildlife@gmail.com. ★

Fiesta Bingo Fundraiser Hosted by Loomis Soroptimist

Soroptimist International of Loomis Basin News Release

LOOMIS, CA (MPG) - Soroptimist International of Loomis Basin will host family-friendly Fiesta Bingo on Saturday, Nov. 7. The Soroptimist fundraiser will be held at the Blue Goose Event Center, 3550 Taylor Rd, Loomis CA 95650. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the event starts at 6 p.m. Soroptimist International provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment, especially those facing significant obstacles.

The fundraiser includes a delicious Mexican dinner and one pack of nine bingo games, for \$45 per ticket. Tickets may be purchased online at the Soroptimist Loomis website: <https://www.soroptimistloomis.com/bingo/>. Tickets are also available with cash or check at Hebard Insurance



Sharla Caves, president, Soroptimist International Loomis Basin, and Edward Jones Loomis office, (on right in blue Soroptimist shirt) enjoys Fiesta Bingo with her friends at a sponsor table. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Loomis Basin

Solutions, located at 3837 Taylor Road, Loomis Mon. to Fri. from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This event usually sells out, so get your tickets early.

Businesses and groups can sponsor an eight-seat table for \$600. Bring your family, friends, employees

and clients together for a good cause. Sponsor tables include a complimentary pitcher of margaritas and eight glasses, first call for dinner and eight extra bingo packs. The club will promote sponsors in the program, at the event and on social media.

At the Fiesta Bingo fundraiser, guests may buy extra bingo game packets, check out the amazing themed prize baskets and enjoy a no-host bar with Mexican beer, tequila cocktails and more.

With the funds raised, the Loomis club takes action to fulfill the Soroptimist vision of providing women and girls with resources to reach their full potential and live their dreams. The Loomis Soroptimist club distributes approximately \$17,000 in education grants to students and teachers. The club’s educational projects increase awareness of human trafficking, help single mothers and guide students in exploring careers. Soroptimist International has a consultative role to the United Nations and the club also supports international projects. ★



Ashley Summers, Hebard Insurance Solutions, and Lauren Coleman, Sierra Hills Roofing, welcome guests to Fiesta Bingo, the Soroptimist Loomis Basin Fall Fundraiser. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Loomis Basin

Placer County’s 2025 Crop Value Reaches Record \$122 Million



Cattle remained in the number one spot, with a total value of \$34,516,728. Photo courtesy of Placer County

Placer County News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Placer County’s total gross value of agricultural crops and livestock increased to a record \$122 million in 2025, a 9.9% increase from the previous year.

High beef prices and continued growth in tree nuts contributed to the growth, according to the county’s 2025 Crop Report presented Tuesday to the Placer County Board of Supervisors.

Cattle remained in the number one spot, with a total value of \$34,516,728. This follows a national trend of record-low cattle herd numbers, creating supply and demand pressures that have driven cattle prices higher nationwide. Poultry ranked fifth at \$12,282,021, an increase from last year’s production as the local industry remained largely unaffected by avian influenza.

Rice went from fifth in 2024 to second place with a gross value of \$17,472,844, following an increase in planted rice acreage.

Nut tree crops remained in the top five as well, with

almonds in third place at \$15,799,602 as more orchards in the county were in full production. Walnuts took fifth place at \$9,684,360.

The value of apiary products, such as bees and honey, more than doubled to \$1.3 million with an increase of \$513,000, or 64.3%, from 2024. This growth is closely tied to the expansion of almond production, which requires increased pollination as more almond acreage comes into production.

“The latest crop report continues to tell the story of the adaptability of Placer’s farmers and ranchers,” Placer County Agricultural Commissioner Josh Huntsinger said. “Our record crop value reflects our agricultural community taking advantage of new opportunities and adjusting to challenges, as farmers have always done in Placer County.”

The crop report also includes statistics on weed eradication, pest detection and exclusion efforts for imported packages, registered organic farms and producers, and the number of farmers markets throughout the county. ★

Tahoe Construction Season Ends with Great Progress



SR 28 is a narrow two-lane road that provides access to some of Lake Tahoe’s most desired public lands along the East Shore of Lake Tahoe. Photo by Brandon Huttenlocher, Design Workshop INC

Tahoe Transportation District News Release

INCLINE VILLAGE, NV (MPG) -

As the summer construction season winds down, the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) today announced progress updates for improvements along Tahoe’s East Shore. This project includes extending the iconic East Shore Trail and providing off-highway parking options to relocate unsafe roadside parking along the Nevada State Route 28 (SR 28) Scenic Byway south of Incline Village.

SR 28 is a narrow two-lane road that provides access to some of Lake Tahoe’s most desired public lands along the East Shore of Lake Tahoe. With limited formal parking areas or trail connections, hundreds of vehicles park along the corridor’s steep road shoulders on peak summer days, creating major safety hazards and environmental impacts to Lake Tahoe. Public and private investments in the SR 28 corridor are improving safety, expanding transportation options,

improving lake clarity and enhancing the recreation experience for residents and visitors.

“This season, we’ve made major progress on several pieces of the SR 28 corridor improvements, with the goal of reducing congestion, enhancing safety, improving lake clarity, and supporting sustainable access to Lake Tahoe,” Executive Director of the Tahoe Transportation District Jim Marino said. “These upgrades are necessary steps on the path to constructing new sections of the East Shore Trail.”

TTD is working with numerous partners, including the USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Nevada Department of Transportation, Tahoe Fund, Nevada Division of State Lands, Nevada State Parks, and local jurisdictions to build upon many recent transportation improvements along SR 28. In addition to safety upgrades, these coordinated efforts will

replace roadside parking spaces, help prevent water quality impacts from compacted road shoulders, and encourage the use of transit, biking and other alternative transportation options along SR 28.

38 new spaces have been added immediately north of the existing 90-space paid parking area at the East Shore Trailhead in Incline Village. Construction is underway on a new public transit shelter on SR 28 just north of Lakeshore Drive for southbound transit passengers. Additionally, environmental restoration is now complete at Rocky Point, an eroded shoulder area along the west side of SR 28. The project helps protect the clarity of Lake Tahoe by restoring and stabilizing the area.

There are now 130 parking spaces at the Chimney Beach Trailhead, with a new transit stop for the East Shore Express and a lighted crosswalk to guide pedestrians safely across the highway. Improvements include reduction in roadside parking capacity, bear

boxes for trash and public restrooms.

The Secret Harbor Trailhead currently has approximately 30 spaces, but is undergoing an expansion to 120 spaces with additional restrooms, a transit stop, a vista point, and stormwater improvements to protect the Lake. This project is currently in design, with the final design expected in early 2027.

Significant progress was made this season on a new, dedicated transit hub, park-and-ride, and permanent watercraft inspection station. Site preparation, water quality infrastructure, and paving for the 250-space parking area was completed this season. Construction will continue next season on the restrooms, transit shelter, boat inspection facility, and crosswalk to Spooner Lake State Park.

Design is underway for the next section of the East Shore Trail. The existing three-mile section of path from Incline Village to Sand Harbor State Park is providing thousands of people safer access

to the East Shore every year. Next up is a nearly two-mile segment of shared-use path from Sand Harbor towards Chimney Beach, which will further connect the corridor, add emergency pullouts, reduce environmental impacts, and provide scenic vistas.

This summer, seasonal paid parking began at Chimney Beach and Secret Harbor parking areas. All revenues are returned to the corridor to pay for operations and maintenance. In addition, parking enforcement and removal of roadside parking spaces helped to improve safety along the SR 28 corridor.

To make it easier for the public to explore the East Shore Trail and stay up to date on the many improvements underway, the Tahoe Fund worked with Design Workshop to create a new StoryMap. This interactive, online resource guides the public through the experience of visiting the East Shore Trail and provides key information about the many improvements underway along the

corridor.

“The first few miles of the East Shore Trail created tremendous safety and water quality improvements, in addition to being one of the most beloved recreational experiences in Lake Tahoe,” Tahoe Fund CEO Amy Berry, said. “We know the community is just as excited as we are about the next sections of the trail, and hope that this new StoryMap will make it easy for people to explore what’s happening and see how all of these improvements fit together to help transform the East Shore.”

The Tahoe Fund is offering customized trout plaques for purchase and the opportunity to add a name to the East Shore Trail Donor Wall. Funds raised directly support the next phase of the trail. Scenic vista points will also be available for purchase. Join the waiting list by emailing info@tahoe-fund.org.

To sign up for SR 28 project updates direct to your inbox, please email: SR28projects@tahoetransportation.org. ★

Placer County Secures \$700K Caltrans Grant for Tahoe City

Continued from page 1

field, the Tahoe City Golf Course, the planned Scotty Lapp skatepark, as well as nearby businesses.

To advance the project, the county completed the right-of-way acquisition process and obtained the necessary easements from property owners in downtown Tahoe City. The grant is part of Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program, which funds projects that advance multimodal transportation and land use planning, support regional transportation goals and contribute to greenhouse



The project is scheduled for construction in summer 2027. Photo courtesy of Placer County

gas reductions.

For more, visit the Tahoe City Downtown Access Improvements

Project webpage at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/7098/Tahoe-City-Downtown-Access-Improvements>. ★

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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

Roseville Walmart Unveils New Shopping Experience

Actum LLC News Release

ROSEVILLE, CA (MPG) -Walmart customers in Roseville now have more products to shop, new fresh food options and more convenient ways to get what they need following a major remodel of the Walmart Supercenter at 900 Pleasant Grove Blvd.

The newly transformed store features refreshed departments with expanded assortments across housewares, apparel, technology and cosmetics; a new sushi counter; upgraded automotive and vision centers; and expanded pickup and delivery options for customers who want to shop on their schedule.

“Our team is proud to bring these new updates to customers here in Roseville,” Roseville Store Manager Vitaliy Stepanov said. “Whether customers are shopping in-store, picking up an order or stopping by for one of our services, these improvements are all about making their experience easier and more convenient. We’re excited for the community to come in and see what’s new.”

The new shopping experience will include a transformed store layout with refreshed departments and expanded assortments across housewares, apparel, technology and cosmetics, making it easier for customers to find what they need and discover new products and brands.

As well as a brand-new sushi



Walmart celebrated the newly remodeled store Thursday, October 1, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony alongside Roseville associates, customers and community leaders. Photo courtesy of Actum LLC

counter in the Grab & Go section, giving customers another convenient fresh food option for lunch, dinner or meals on the go.

There are more ways to shop on your schedule. Expanded pickup and delivery capabilities, including Curbside Pickup and Fast Delivery within three hours, giving Roseville customers more flexibility in how and when they shop.

Also including a refreshed

vision center. An updated look, layout and signage designed to create a more comfortable and customer-friendly experience.

The experience will also include a more comfortable auto care experience. A transformed Auto Care Center featuring a brand-new waiting area designed to make customers more comfortable while their vehicles are being serviced.

Walmart celebrated the newly remodeled store Thursday, Oct.

1, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony alongside Roseville associates, customers and community leaders. Representatives from the Roseville Chamber of Commerce, Congressman Kevin Kiley’s office, Senator Roger Niello’s office and Assembly member Jim Patterson’s office were in attendance. Roseville’s local public safety agencies and community organizations also joined the celebration.

As part of the reopening, the Roseville Supercenter also presented \$11,500 in grants to six local organizations supporting public safety, youth development and community services: the Roseville Police Department, Roseville Fire Department, Salvation Army, EMPACT Community Organization, Sacramento Young Marines and Roseville’s Teams and Dreams Foundation. ★

Placer County Library Makes Renewing Materials One Less Thing to Remember



The library launched a new automatic renewal program on Oct. 15. Photo designed by Magnific

Placer County News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Forgot to renew your library books? Placer County Library now has you covered.

The library launched a new automatic renewal program on Oct. 15 that gives patrons up to two additional renewals on eligible library materials. automatically, with no action required.

Two days before an eligible item is due, the library will automatically renew it for another loan period. Patrons will receive an email or text notification with their new due date, making it easier to keep track of borrowed

materials and avoid overdue items.

“We know our patrons are busy, and sometimes a library due date can get lost in the shuffle,” Amy Boese, director of Library Services said. “Automatic renewals are a simple way to give people a little more time with their materials while helping reduce overdue items and fines. It’s one more way we can make the library easier and more convenient to use.”

The program applies to all eligible library materials. Items that cannot be renewed, including State Parks passes and materials with a waiting list, will retain their current due dates.

Patrons can check their



The program applies to all eligible library materials. Items that cannot be renewed, including State Parks passes and materials with a waiting list, will retain their current due dates. Photo courtesy of Placer County

accounts for current due dates and other information by downloading the Placer County Library app or logging in at <http://www.placer.polarislibrary.com>. ★

Placer County Seeks Applicants for Planning Commission at-Large Seat East of the Sierra Crest



The selected applicant will serve four years and be compensated with a \$100 monthly per diem along with reimbursement for additional expenses as necessary. Photo designed by Magnific

Placer County News Release

TAHOE CITY, CA (MPG) - Placer County is seeking applicants to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Placer County Planning Commission for an at-large seat representing residents who live east of the Sierra Crest.

The Planning Commission is the principal advisory body to the Placer County Board of Supervisors on planning and land-use matters. The commission holds public hearings and makes recommendations on the Placer County General Plan, community plans, studies and zoning amendments; reviews and makes decisions on major land development proposals; and provides an opportunity for residents to participate in the county’s planning process.

The Planning Commission plays an important role in shaping the future of Placer County. The commission will be involved in the county’s ongoing Placer 2050 General Plan Update, which will establish a long-term framework for land use, growth, housing, infrastructure, environmental resources and other community priorities through 2050. The commission also considers housing and zoning regulations, community and area plans and major development proposals throughout the county, including eastern Placer and the North Lake Tahoe region.

The commission is composed of seven

members, one from each supervisorial district, and two at-large members, one from the east and west sides of the Sierra Crest.

The current seat term expires Dec. 31, and the new appointment will fill a four-year term. Applicants may be nominated by any member of the Board of Supervisors and must reside at least part-time east of the Sierra Crest and be residents of Placer County.

Appointments require approval by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors. The commission generally meets at 9 a.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays each month. The selected applicant will serve four years and be compensated with a \$100 monthly per diem along with reimbursement for additional expenses as necessary.

Residents interested in serving on the Planning Commission are encouraged to learn more about the commission, review eligibility requirements and submit an application to the Clerk of the Board. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Find more information about the Planning Commission and review meeting agendas and schedules at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/2403/Planning-Commission>.

Find the online application here at <https://placercounty.prod.simpli-gov.com/prod/portal/ShowWorkflow/AnonymousEmbed/3eb8b6a9-c2a2-4f3a-a6b7-2556ab376ca8>. ★



Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl

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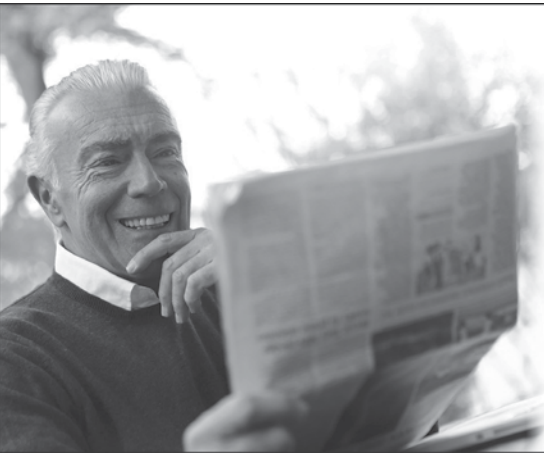
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Kings Korner

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 pre-season, 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! ★

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.

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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. ★



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.

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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

GULP...

I'VE HAD EGG ON MY FACE BEFORE...

...BUT THIS TIME I'VE GOT A "GRAND SLAM BREAKFAST."

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

THERE WE GO. ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO LEAVE CANDY FOR TRICK-OR-TREATERS WHILE WE'RE GONE.

WE MUST GET SEVERAL AS THE BOWL IS ALWAYS EMPTY WHEN WE RETURN.

TRADE YOU SOME GUMMY WORMS FOR THOSE MILK DUDS?

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

CORNHENG

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

OKAY, I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PLAYGROUND

THIS SWING SQUEAKS TOO MUCH!

PARN SLIPES TOO HOT TO TOUCH!

STUPID JUNGLE GYM HAS SPLINTERS

YUCK! THE WATER IS WARM

THIS SEESAW STIRS UP BUGS!

OKAY, WE'LL GO HOME

BUT WE ONLY JUST GOT HERE!

THUMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY KANDY HIRSHLUND

AUTUMN JUST MAKES ME APPRECIATE ALL OF THE SIMPLE PLEASURES.

Y'KNOW... CHANGING LEAVES, PUMPKIN PATCHES, HOT APPLE CIDER...

...PLAYING WITH DARK KNOWLEDGE NOT MEANT FOR MAN.

RISE! RISE, MY CREATION, AND SPEAK!

YEA GAVE ME LIFE? MIGHTY NEIGHBORLY OF YA!

I WANNA SHOW ME AROUND, POPEY! I WANNA MEET THE LOCALS!

YEA, MAYBE NOT. YOU'RE A MONSTER, THEY'LL BE AFRAID OF YOU.

MONSTER'S A STATE OF MIND. I'M SURE ANY DIFFERENCES CAN BE TALKED OUT.

NOT WITH THE UNWASHED MASSES! THEY HAVE TORCHES AND PITCHFORKS! THEY WON'T ACCEPT YOU!

IF THEY DON'T ACCEPT ME, THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM. I DON'T EXIST TO PLEASE OTHERS.

I KNOW I'M A GOOD PERSON. THAT'S WHAT MATTERS.

THEY'RE NOT FUN WHEN THEY BECOME SELF-ACTUALIZED.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

POP'S BAKERY

9-14

Birthday & Party Cakes, Brownies, Donuts, Cakes

POP'S BAKERY

9-14

Birthday & Party Cakes, Brownies, Donuts, Cakes

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.

GRIN and BEAR IT

by Dave T. Phippe

HELLO, I AM YOUR A.I. TUTORIAL FOR YOUR NEW COMPUTER. I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE MIDDLE-AGED SO I WILL TALK SLOWLY.

"I'm afraid shock over my making a house call may have complicated his condition."

BRAM LED WADI
LIMA VISE RELIC
TOAT ELSE ARETE
THRILLER JEEZ
OLDEN PAW
GANNET JEHOVAH
USA USED UP LINE
EPICS YON AFTER
SERA MEGOHM ALB
TRAUMAS AISLES
LAN CRISP
MODS VOORHEES
METRO ACME CREE
BATON TOAD KIEV
ANON SAN SERE

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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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Loomis Legacy Loop Brings Local History to Life

Story and photos
by Sara Jackson

LOOMIS, CA (MPG) - Loomis developed as a major Gold Country fruit growing hub after local prospectors transitioned to agriculture in the late 19 century. Placer County became known as the birthplace of the California fruit industry.

That agricultural past is celebrated today through the Loomis Legacy Loop, a self-guided tour highlighting the pioneer families, orchards, railroad and businesses that helped build the town.

The route includes 14 historic fruit-crate labels recreated as colorful outdoor murals and tiles throughout Loomis. The artwork recalls an era when family-owned orchards covered much of the Loomis Basin and fruit packing and shipping were an important part of everyday life.

The Town of Loomis began incorporating agricultural murals onto local buildings in the mid-1990s to celebrate a time when orchards and fruit packing were a significant part of the community. The Valley of the Gods mural on the Nelthorpe building and the California Fruit Exchange mural on what is now the Ace BBQ building were both created around that time.

“As we developed the Loomis Legacy Loop, we worked with the Loomis Historical Society to ensure the murals reflected our history and, whenever possible, were located near buildings where fruit was packed. This helped connect the artwork to the actual places and stories behind it. The building owners deserve special recognition for allowing these murals on their properties. Their willingness to participate has helped preserve an important part of Loomis history, while adding beauty and character to downtown. The murals are more than artwork; they are a lasting reminder of the people, businesses, and agricultural industry that helped build our community,” former Mayor of Loomis and former Executive Director of the Loomis Basin Chamber of Commerce said.

The Chamber developed a proposal for the Loomis Town Council and requested funding to create what is now known as the Loomis Legacy Loop. Working in partnership with the Loomis Historical Society, downtown business owners, and local artists, eight new murals were added to compliment the existing murals around town.

When asked what the biggest challenge was in translating vintage fruit crate labels into murals was, Knisley said, “One challenge I recall was figuring out how to reproduce the artwork on buildings with such different surfaces and materials. Each surface brought its own considerations for applying the murals and ensuring they would last over time.”



Blue Goose Label. American Fruit Growers Incorporated, also known as American National Growers Corporation, was a fruit and vegetable packer and marketing organization that operated nationwide under the Blue Goose brand.

By the early 20 century, Loomis had become the second-largest fruit shipping station in Placer County. “Mountain Grown” became a familiar slogan associated with Placer County peaches, plums and pears. During the 1940s, the Loomis fruit district shipped about 4,500 train cars full of plums each summer.

The railroad was essential to that success. The historic Loomis Train Depot served as a transportation hub where the Central Pacific Railroad carried locally grown crops to markets nationwide.

Visitors following the Legacy Loop can see the restored depot as well as historic fruit sheds where packed crates were once handled by workers before being loaded into refrigerated rail cars.

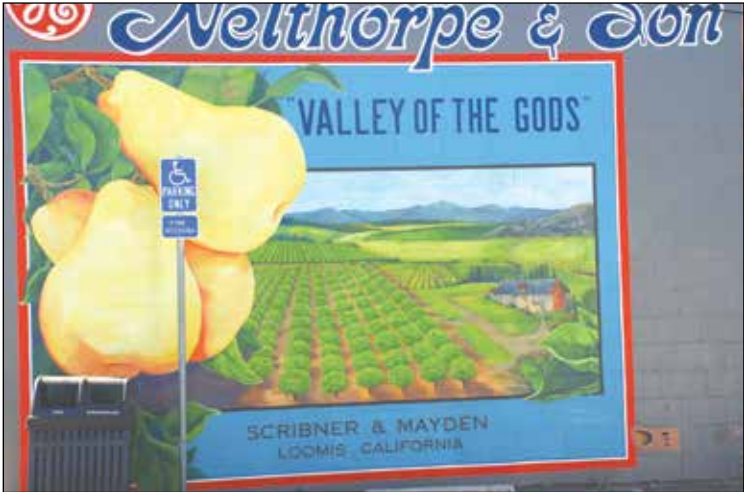
Other stops offer glimpses into the families behind the industry. The Holly Glen mural is a detailed reproduction of vintage fruit-crate artwork reflecting the orchards of the Loomis Basin, while the Wil-Mar label tile recognizes the area’s ranching heritage and the farming pioneers who helped establish the community.

The route also follows Taylor Road, itself a link to the area’s transportation history. Originally a Native American trail between the Yuba and American rivers, the route later accommodated wagon traffic and became part of the Lincoln Highway in 1913 and, later, Highway 40.

Visitors can also explore Loomis’ Main Street heritage, including preserved brick-and-mortar storefronts dating to the early railroad era.

The High-Hand Fruit Shed is one such building dating back to that time. In 1926, the Loomis Fruit Growers Association built High-Hand Fruit Shed as its main packing facility. During peak harvest seasons it employed up to 100 workers who sorted, packed, and shipped “Mountain Grown” plums and peaches globally under the High-Hand label.

The Legacy Loop’s public art serves as more than decoration. By reproducing the labels once attached to crates of locally grown fruit, the project preserves memories of nearly 70 years of agricultural packing heritage.



Valley of the Gods. Owned by Scripter and Maiden, who became partners in a pear orchard in northwest Loomis. Packed under the Valley of the Gods label, the fruit was marketed through the Pioneer Fruit Company.



Holly Glen Orchards, owned by California native John A. Ferguson, who purchased 20 acres on Wells Avenue in 1896. He cleared the land to plant an orchard, whose fruit shipped with the Lewis Fruit Growers Association.

For those walking through downtown Loomis today, the murals, depot and historic buildings provide a reminder that the town’s agricultural roots remain visible — if you know where to look.

“I believe the Loomis Legacy

Loop is a hidden gem that is still waiting to be fully showcased. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the project was never fully completed or marketed to the extent we had originally envisioned. Nevertheless, those who discover the tour are often

impressed by the beauty of the murals and the history available through the mobile app. It gives visitors an opportunity to explore downtown at their own pace while learning about Loomis’s agricultural roots,” Knisley said.

★



California Fruit Exchange. Incorporated in May 1901 with member associations from Loomis, Newcastle, and Penryn, it grew to be the largest fruit grower’s cooperative organization on the Pacific coast.



High-Hand Fruit Shed. In 1926, the Loomis Fruit Growers Association built High-Hand Fruit Shed as its main packing facility.



Blue-X Brand Fruit. Used in the 1940s by the California Fruit Exchange for cherries and other produce packed in Loomis.



Magnolia Orchard. Hans Nicholas Hansen purchased a ranch on Horseshoe Bar Road and named it Magnolia Orchard. He was president of the Loomis Fruit Growers Association from 1937 to 1950.



Valley Vista Orchard. Owned by Christian Larson, who purchased a 40 acre ranch along Horseshoe Bar Road, about three and a half miles east of the current Loomis.

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