

Graffiti City:
Behind Sac's Street Art Scene

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VOL 35 • ISSUE **21** | *Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years* | NOVEMBER 6, **2026**

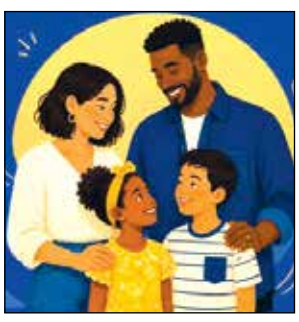
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Lace Up Those Skates



Two children enjoy skating at the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink. Photo courtesy of the Downtown Sacramento Partnership

By Keith Burbank, from press reports and a Downtown Sacramento Partnership News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Downtown Sacramento's favorite winter tradition is back! Presented by Dignity Health, the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink returned Nov. 4 in Ali Youssefi Square at 7th and K streets. The 34th season was scheduled to kick off with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m., bringing together local leaders, community members and partners to celebrate the rink's return. The rink was expected to open to the public at 2 p.m.

Located in the heart of downtown, the rink puts visitors within easy

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Rally for Community Benefits



Union workers with Unite Here Local 49 and their supporters march Oct. 21 around Old City Hall in Sacramento demanding better community benefits tied to the downtown Railyards project.

Story and photos by Keith Burbank

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - More than 1,000 Sacramento residents have signed a petition demanding better community benefits tied to a development proposed for downtown, according to a local union.

And dozens of people echoed those demands Oct. 21 at Old City Hall, while calling for the City Council to delay a vote on the project so those benefits can be negotiated with the developer. City Councilwoman Mai Vang, District 8, attended the rally.

She supports the Railyards project, she said, but added "we want a railyard for all."

She wants to see the project include at least 25% affordable housing and she wants the community to shape the benefits package, she said. Additionally, she supported a delay to the City Council vote planned for Oct. 27.

That vote has been delayed.

Those rallying Oct. 21 want a community benefits package that

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University Gets National Certification

SACRAMENTO STATE

Sacramento State News Release

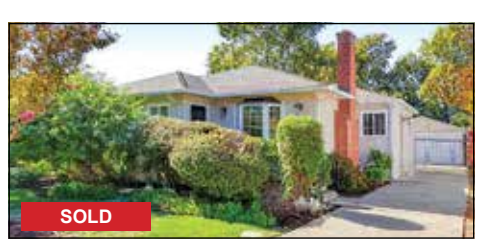
SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Excelencia in Education announced Oct. 27 that California State University, Sacramento (Sacramento State) has earned certification as an Intentionally Thriving Institution (ITI)–the highest level of recognition through the Seal of Excelencia–for demonstrating positive impact in preparing Latino, and all, students for success after graduation and connecting them to the workforce. This marks the third time Sacramento State has earned Seal of Excelencia recognition and the first time it is placed among the now 12 institutions to ever receive ITI certification.

"We are preparing record numbers of graduates to leave Sacramento State ready to build lives grounded in independence, health, purpose, joy, and the ability to support their families and communities," said President Luke Wood. "Earning the Seal and being recognized as an Intentionally Thriving Institution affirms, on a national stage, that our work across recruitment, enrollment, belonging, graduation, and career success is purposeful, informed by data, and delivering real results."

As one of 21 colleges and universities to earn the Seal in 2026, Sacramento State is accountable for delivering value to students, communities, and the country, reinforcing higher education's role as an engine of social mobility, economic vitality, and workforce development. From demystifying the application process to providing access to workforce and financial readiness opportunities to making sure all students and families feel included, Sacramento State provides support at every stage of

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Lace Up Those Skates



A figure skater graces the ice in downtown Sacramento. Photo courtesy of the Downtown Sacramento Partnership

Continued from page 1

reach of Sacramento's seasonal attractions, including the Theatre of Lights show and holiday tree in Old Sacramento Waterfront and winter performances at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center. Just steps from Golden 1 Center, DOCO, and a wide variety of shops and restaurants, it's an ideal stop for a full day or evening of holiday festivities.

The Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink will operate Tuesdays through Sundays from Nov. 4 through Jan. 18, offering locals and visitors plenty of opportunities to hit the ice throughout the holiday season. Groups of 10 or more can book online for dedicated two-hour skating sessions, while those planning a private celebration can reserve the entire rink by calling 916-442-8575. New this season, the rink will offer figure and hockey skating lessons.

"The Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink is a place for everyone, from first-time skaters to longtime visitors," said Michael Ault, executive director at the Downtown Sacramento Partnership. "We're excited to introduce figure and hockey skating lessons this season and offer even more opportunities for skaters of all ages and experience levels to learn new skills, build confidence, and make lasting memories on the ice."

Skaters can also look forward to themed events and community activations throughout the season.

Veterans and active military members skate free from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Nov. 11 and all season with a valid military ID.

Visitors can skate with superheroes and princesses Nov. 14, which is Princess and Superhero Day from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Skaters can have their face painted and skate with guests dressed as Elsa, Anna, Incredible Hulk, Spiderman and perhaps others. Skaters are urged to dress as their favorite princess or superhero.

Donation week at the rink is Nov. 16 to Nov. 29, when guests can get $5 off admission when they donate an item to the River City Food Bank.

Figure skating lessons begin Nov. 17, with the Sacramento State figure skating team. Sunday sessions begin at 9:15 a.m. and Tuesday sessions begin at 1:15 p.m. Skaters must arrive at 9 a.m. Sundays and 1 p.m. Tuesdays.

Cost of the first session is $30 and includes rink access when public skating begins. Skaters may receive instructions based on age and skill level.

And thanks to the A's, everyone can skate for free from 10 a.m. to noon Nov. 22. Stomper might visit the rink.

General admission to the rink is $15 while children 6 years old and younger can skate for $8. The prices include skate rental. The rink is open 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays through Sundays, weather permitting.

Call 916-743-4669 to see whether the rink is open when the weather is bad.

This report contains information provided by a Downtown Sacramento Partnership news release. ★

Research Inspires Artwork



The event, which will be a presentation and public exhibition, will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity, 400 Jibboom St., Sacramento. Courtesy photo

By Keith Burbank

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Artists and researchers will come together Nov. 12 at ARx Live to unveil artwork inspired by science research, according to SMUD's Museum of Science and Curiosity.

The event, which will be a presentation and public exhibition, will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity, 400 Jibboom St., Sacramento.

"We are proud to welcome ARx Live to MOSAC," said Carlos Gonzalez-Jaime, executive director of the SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity, in a statement. "This exciting collaboration reflects our commitment to STEAM education by bringing science, art, and innovation together in ways that inspire curiosity and connect people. By pairing this unique exhibition with MOSAC's hands-on, interactive experiences, we hope to make these ideas accessible to audiences of all ages and invite our communities to explore the fascinating intersection of art and science."

The Nov. 12 event is the culmination of a nine-month partnership between artists and researchers resulting in visual, digital, literary, performative and mixed media art. Artwork will be on display at the Museum of Science and Curiosity until Dec. 15.

Nine artist-researcher teams took part in the program. They include Geoanna Bautista with the University of California at Davis School of Medicine and Jennifer Lugris, a Uruguayan Korean American painter based in Sacramento.

Leigh Ann Simmons at the University of California at Davis Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing partnered with artist Jessica Wimbley, who is based in Sacramento.

Jennifer Rosenthal of the University of California at Davis School of Medicine worked with artist Jodi Connelly, whose work involves people and their natural environment.

Drew Cingel at the University of California at Davis and artist and photographer Melissa Uroff partnered.

Angie Louie in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of California at Davis worked with artist Muzi Li Rowe, and Nicole Kravitz-Wirtz with the Centers for Violence Prevention at the University of California at Davis partnered with artist Ruby Chacon. Chacon is based in Sacramento and a high school educator.

Industrial biologist Dave Hogsett and Bay Area artist Sunroop Kaur worked together and artificial intelligence researcher Gabriel Simmons worked with visual artist Taner Ilhan Pasamehmetoglu.

Elizabeth Lopez, a wildlife biologist, partnered with community artist, organizer and educator Yared Portillo.

ARx Sacramento is modeled after a similar program at the Phoenix Bioscience Core in Arizona, which is starting its fifth year of partnerships.

"Nine months ago, we set out to show that Sacramento is a city where creativity and research thrive side-by-side - ARx Live is that vision realized," said Megan Van Voorhis, interim Assistant City Manager, in a statement. "Watching these artist-researcher teams translate rigorous science into work the whole community can experience is exactly the kind of inclusive, innovative arts programming we set out to champion." ★

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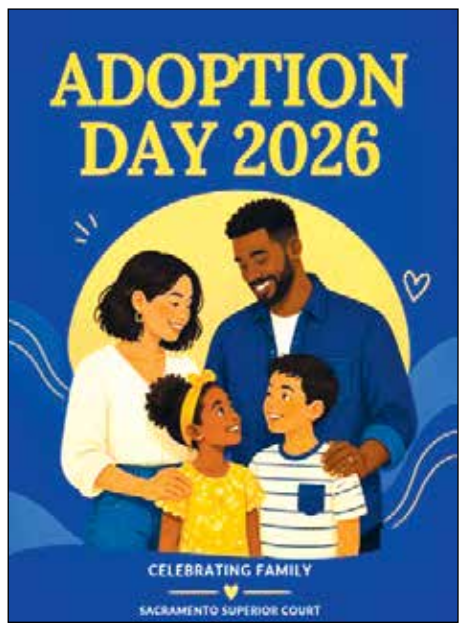


Teresa Olson
916-494-1452
teresa.olson@cbnorcal.com
CalBRE# 00784986

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Sacramento Superior Court to Host Adoption Day Event

Sacramento Superior Court News Release



SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Superior Court will finalize and celebrate the adoptions of children from foster care on Friday, Nov. 6.

"Every year on Adoption Day, the Juvenile Court celebrates family," said Blanca Boyd, director of operations for the juvenile court. "We are honored to be part of such an important milestone in the lives of these families."

Adoption Day is an opportunity to increase public awareness of the need for adoptive parents and educate prospective adoptive parents about the adoption process. It is also a time to celebrate local families who have opened their lives to children in need of permanent homes.

"We are so happy for the families who are joining us for their adoption ceremonies on this special day," said Judge Kristina Lindquist, presiding judge of the juvenile court. "Adoption Day is an important, annual celebration of safe, loving, and permanent homes for children who have been in the foster system."

Adoption Day in Sacramento County is a collaborative effort between multiple agencies.

"Adoption Day is a labor of love by our court staff and community partners, and I could not be more proud of the work that goes into this event," said Judge Lindquist. "We witness this same type of dedicated, caring collaboration of our system partners on a daily basis to ensure the well-being of every child in foster care."

This Nov. 6, judges and court staff will be joined by community partners, including the Department of Child and Family Adult Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Sacramento (CASA), Parent Cooperative Community, Sacramento Sheriff's Department Youth Services Unit, Sacramento Public Library, Zeta Phi Beta, Lend A Heart, Wayinder, The 501st Legion and Build A Sundae to bring together those families participating in adoption proceedings that day.

"All children deserve to have a family and strong connections for life," said Sacramento County's Deputy Director of Child Protective Services, Melissa Lloyd. "Adoption is a great work of love and provides a child the opportunity to develop secure attachments and be supported to achieve optimal physical and emotional growth and health overall."

Adoption Day festivities will include scheduled adoption proceedings, refreshments, and activities for children. The event will be held at the Juvenile Courthouse in Sacramento.

"We are glad to celebrate the families who will join us on Adoption Day, but it is also important to remember that in our own community, there are many children in foster care every day who need the help of those willing to open their homes as foster and adoptive families," Judge Lindquist said. "The need for additional families to help these vulnerable youth in Sacramento is real. Every child deserves the love and connection of a supportive family."

As adoption proceedings are confidential, this event is not open to the public or members of the media. ★

Rally for Community Benefits



Union workers with Unite Here Local 49 and their supporters show their solidarity following a rally Oct. 21 at Old City Hall to demand better community benefits tied to Railyards project in downtown Sacramento.

Continued from page 1

includes 25% affordable housing, a grocery store, an anti-displacement fund and living wages for operations workers at the proposed hotels and soccer stadium, said Aamir Deen, president of Unite Here Local 49, which represents downtown hospitality workers.

LDK Ventures, which is at least partly responsible for the development of the project, did not respond to a request for comment.

The Railyards project will double the size of downtown Sacramento, Local 49 leaders said, with up to 10,000 housing units, a concert venue, stadium and three hotels.

Nancy Williams, 68, now lives where the Railyards project would be built. She lives in affordable housing, which she pays for with her Social Security check.

If they build the more than 9,000 units of market-rate housing, "I'll be priced out," she said. "I can't imagine being homeless out here."

William's opinion is the City Council votes their own way, she said. But she is speaking up.

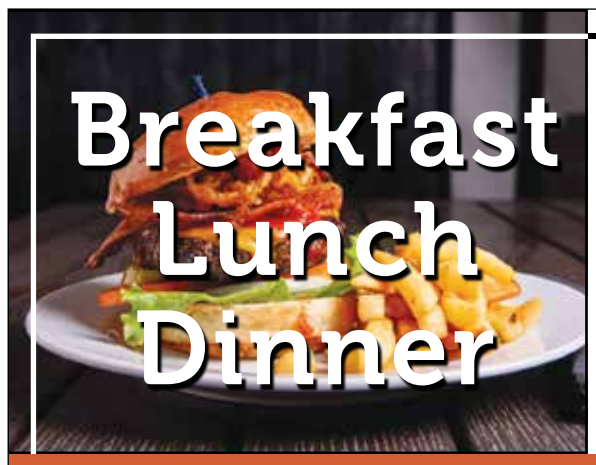
The existing plans call for 6% percent of the homes to be affordable, union officials said, while 96% will be luxury. Thousands of jobs will be low-wage, the officials added, and developers might get a $222 million tax subsidy for the project.

The project website says the project will have mixed-income housing.

The City Council planned to vote Oct. 27 on an enhanced infrastructure financing district for the project, which is part of the overall subsidy, union officials said. An EIFD is a type of tax increment financing that can help California cities and counties pay for economic development projects. ★

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Jackie White Settles in as Sacramento County Superintendent

New Superintendent Reflects on Her Journey and Vision for Public Education

Sacramento County Office of Education News Release



Jacqueline "Jackie" White was sworn in Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools on Sept. 1, becoming the first woman to hold the position in more than a century. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Office of Education

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Jacqueline "Jackie" White celebrated a historic milestone during her Sept. 1 swearing-in ceremony as Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools, becoming the first woman to hold the position in more than a century.

Surrounded by family, friends, educators and community leaders, White reflected on the people who helped shape her journey, her more than 20 years in public education, and her hopes for the students and communities she now serves.

The occasion marked a new chapter in a career that began in the classroom, where White taught fifth and sixth grades in the Twin Rivers Unified School District. She subsequently served as a principal, district administrator and assistant superintendent at the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), overseeing programs ranging from career technical education and adult education to services for some of the county's most vulnerable students.

For White, the journey has been both professional and deeply personal.

She spoke warmly about her family, particularly her two grandmothers, one a school secretary and the other a science teacher, whose influence helped shape her life and commitment to education.

"They gave me both roots and wings," White said, reflecting on the generations who helped make the moment possible.

White also paid tribute to her predecessor, David W. Gordon, who served as county superintendent for more than two decades and whose career in education spans more than 50 years.

"You are a leader among leaders and have always modeled grace, compassion and kindness," she told Gordon, thanking him for his guidance and generosity during the transition.

The ceremony also featured a spoken-word presentation by Patrice Hill, a longtime educator, poet and director of Sacramento Area Youth Speaks, whose message of hope, resilience and collective responsibility reflected the spirit of the occasion.

"Together as community, embracing transformative leadership, we will light the way. We will fight for education and a brighter day," Hill told those gathered.

Her presentation, built around the theme "Futures Forward," emphasized the importance of working together to overcome challenges and create opportunities for future generations.

While recognizing the significance of becoming the first woman to serve as county superintendent since Minnie O'Neill held the position from 1907 to 1914, White emphasized that her attention is firmly on the future.

She acknowledged the challenges confronting public education, including declining enrollment, financial pressures and rapidly changing technology. But her message was one of optimism, determination and shared responsibility.

"We must stand resolute, arm in arm, knowing our children deserve the best we can give them," White said. "We must dream for them. We must work for them."

White emphasized that meeting those challenges will require schools, families and communities to work together, listening to students, expanding educational opportunities and strengthening the support systems that help young people succeed.

Her vision extends beyond academic achievement to preparing students for college, careers and meaningful participation in their communities.

Throughout the evening, White returned to the importance of the people who supported her journey and the collective effort needed to improve public education.

"It is with great humility that I recognize there is no me without all of you," she said.

As she begins her tenure, White hopes to build on Sacramento County's educational accomplishments while ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Her goal is straightforward but ambitious: creating the conditions for every student in the Sacramento region to "belong, learn, lead and thrive."

"That is the work. That is the opportunity," White said. "And it is an honor to do that work with all of you."

The swearing-in ceremony can be viewed online at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-WiwuzFHbaE. ★

Health Forum Focuses on Detection

By Kevin Ruse

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Shortly after attending an employer-sponsored health screening event, Andrew Cope received a phone call advising him of his APOE status. Andrew was told he had two copies of the APOE4 gene. This rare genetic profile, which occurs in only about 2-5% of the general population, represents the strongest known genetic factor for developing late-onset Alzheimer's disease. What followed, for Mr. Cope, a natural researcher, was an in-depth study of what his future might hold, all while navigating primary care, neurologists, clinics, and additional testing.

How many of us have wondered how we would feel and what we would do if we received similar information? Does having a family history increase my risk? How can I find out? Are treatment options available today? Who will take care of me, and how?

These questions and many more will be addressed at the 11th Annual Brain Health Forum to be held on Friday, Nov. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Carmichael Elks Lodge #2103 at 5631 Cypress Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608.

This year's theme is: "This Is Our Mammogram Moment." Just as mammograms transformed early detection and outcomes for breast cancer, advances in early detection and treatment are creating new opportunities for patients and families with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

This year's forum will focus on exciting advances in Alzheimer's early detection, including blood-based testing, new treatment options and practical information for families navigating the challenges of caregiving. From 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., resource tables will provide valuable information for caregivers, including help with meals, transportation, home safety and respite care.



Andrew Cope thanks Assemblymember Catherine Stefani at San Francisco's Walk to End Alzheimer's for supporting SB 950's expanded treatment coverage and reduced step-therapy barriers for people with Alzheimer's and other memory conditions. Photo courtesy of Kevin Ruse

Attendees will have the opportunity to speak with representatives from Dignity Health, Sutter Health, UC Davis, the Greater Sacramento Women's Brain Health (GROW) Program, Del Oro Caregiver Resource Center, the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Veterans Administration and more.

From 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the forum will feature a variety of presenters including Dr. Shawn J.Kile, a neurologist who specializes in cognitive disorders including Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Claire Day, Chief Mission and Program Strategy Officer for the Alzheimer's Association Northern California and Northern Nevada Chapter, will speak about the U.S. POINTER lifestyle interventions shown to support cognitive health. Also presenting will be Andrew Cope, who will share his personal story and perspective on the importance of early detection and timely access to treatment.

Whether you're concerned about your own brain health, caring for a loved one or simply interested in the latest advances in Alzheimer's research, this free community event offers an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and connect with valuable local resources.

The 11th Annual Brain Health Forum is presented by the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Congressman Ami Bera, M.D. You can register for this free event at https://bera.house.gov/events/brainhealthforum or call 1-800-272-3900. The Brain Health Forum is free of charge. Light refreshments will be served along with giveaway prizes. ★

Weekday Closures of Freeport Bridge in November



During the closures, detour signs will direct travelers south of the project where they can cross at the Paintersville Bridge. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SacDOT) will conduct full weekday closures of the Freeport Bridge between Highway 160 and South River Road throughout the month of November.

The Freeport Bridge is about a mile south of the Cosumnes River Blvd on the east side of the Sacramento River and approximately four miles north of Clarksburg on the west side of the river. The bridge connects South River Road in Yolo County with Highway 160 in Sacramento County.

SacDOT is closing the bridge for repair work. Detours will be set up during the weekday closures. The closures will run Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Nov. 2 through Nov. 30.

The bridge will reopen to traffic each evening and remain open Saturdays and Sundays.

During the closures, detour signs will direct travelers south of the project where they can cross at the Paintersville Bridge. Traveler on the east side of the Sacramento River can take River Road/ Highway 160 to the Paintersville Bridge and drivers on the west side of the Sacramento River can use South River Road to the Paintersville Bridge detour.

The reconstruction cost for Freeport Bridge Deck Repair is $300,000 and is funded by the Sacramento County Road Fund. Drivers are encouraged to give themselves extra travel time due to the weekday detours.

A detour map can be viewed at: https://sacdot.saccounty.gov/. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Let's Get a Win

By V.G. Harris

As the Sacramento Kings enter the week with a winless 0-6 record to start the 2026/2027 NBA season, fans scratch their heads and ask the question, "where do we go from here?"

In this column I have discussed the value of leadership, and as the Kings continue searching for their first win of the season, I'm asking from what quarter will that leadership come?

Radio talking heads and pundits from all corners are calling for a change in the coaching staff and for All star Domantas Sabonis to be traded.

Doug Christie appears to be a ships captain without a rudder, and of the 6 losses the Kings have to start the season, only 2 of those games did Sacramento have a legitimate chance of winning.

If I have any criticism, it is not having a collective game plan. Simply telling the team to play better defense or shoot more 3's is not a game plan, and I wonder how long it will be before the players begin to lose faith.

All eyes are on Monday night's game against the Dallas Mavericks, and I am hopeful although doubtful that it will produce a win.

For those fans that simply say we don't have the players, I would say as I have before that there is legitimate talent on this team already.

Domantas Sabonis continues to be the constant foundation of the team, and whether it's scoring, rebounds, or defense, Domantas gives it 100% effort from start to finish.

When we talk about leaders, they come from outside the court and most definitely on the court.

While the organization won't stop talking about trading Sabonis, I completely disagree with their assessment, and if the worst thing that Sacramento will have to endure is a cellar dweller of a season to weather the storm, I believe that the fan base will hold their nose and stay the course.

Let it not be said that Sacramento fans ever turned their backs on this team, because it has never happened.

However, ownership needs to begin the process of making cogent changes that will not just bring energy to this team, but true direction.

The idea of playing the rookies and second year players is a no-brainer, but the offensive is unimaginative, and on defense any semblance of guarding the 3-point line simply isn't there.

Fans need to give credit where credit is due, and both Domantas Sabonis and Zach Lavine have shown up in a big way.

Is it any surprise that a healthy Domantas Sabonis is already leading the league in rebounding once again, and relative newcomer De'Andre Hunter is currently 32nd in the league in 3-pointers made.

Zach Lavine is tied in 32nd place in 3-pointers made, and I look for that to improve dramatically if the Kings can make progress with their offensive schemes.

Yes, Kings fans, it is a dark time in Sactown, but this early in the season it is way too early to throw in the towel.

I am but one opinion, and I'm anxious to hear from you, the fans.

Go to thekingskorner.com and subscribe to my website and please, by all means leave me a comment. What direction do you believe the Sacramento Kings should go?

I'll publish your collective thoughts, and we'll navigate through this difficult time together.

Without question bright spots remain in both Darius Acuff Jr., and rookie Emanuel Sharp, and how the Kings develop these 2 youngsters will be a testament of good things to come.

I heard a poem many years ago that the Kings should take note of and it goes like this:

For want of a nail, the shoe was lost,
For want of a shoe, the horse was lost,
For want of a horse, the rider was lost,
For want of a battle, the kingdom was lost,
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

Kings fans, Doug Christie and his staff don't need to reinvent the wheel. They need to find one small thing that is wrong and correct it. Once that has been accomplished, find the next thing, and repeat the process.

Once this exercise has been done a dozen times watch the victories mount up, and one more thing. Keep us informed as to what you're doing. We're all waiting for positive things to root about.

All the best! ★

California's Campaign Drama Entices Political Junkies, But Serious Issues Get Short Shrift



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

This year's political campaigns gave California's political junkies plenty of chaotic events to savor: gerrymandered congressional districts; the sudden, scandalous downfall of a frontrunner for governor, and running feuds with President Donald Trump over voting.

However, for those of us who just want effective governance that addresses the multitude of challenges arising from California's socioeconomic complexity, the campaign season has been drearily disappointing.

Few, if any, office seekers have even mentioned such serious issues as unstable water supplies, budget deficits, homelessness or rising living costs, much less offered voters clear-eyed approaches to them.

The Democratic playbook has often been to blame Trump for everything negative, even though those important issues afflicted California long before he appeared on the political scene.

Meanwhile Republicans, with very slim chances of making gains in such a blue state, have pinned every unresolved problem on outgoing Gov. Gavin Newsom, even though he inherited many of them when he took office in 2019.

Polls tell us that Californians are in a sour mood. They're worried about soaring living costs and the economy in general and are unhappy with the status quo. Yet they seem unwilling to make big political changes — preferring the known to taking a chance on the unknown.

That contradictory attitude is particularly evident in the campaigns for the two most important offices being filled this year, the governor and mayor of Los Angeles.

Despite having served in public offices for decades, including a stint as attorney general, Xavier Becerra's support for governor in polls last spring was in the low single digits. Back then the odds-on favorite, Congressmember Eric Swalwell, self-destructed as multiple women accused him of sexual harassment or even assault.

Swalwell not only dropped out of the race but resigned his congressional seat. The only other candidates with double-digit support were left-leaning billionaire Democrat Tom Steyer and Republicans Steve Hilton and Chad Bianco.

But they were unacceptable to Democratic leaders and their labor union allies, who immediately chose Becerra as a known quantity and therefore the most acceptable of the single-digit candidates. With Democrats holding a massive edge in voter registration, that made Becerra the likely next governor, and he still is.

Becerra's campaign has consisted almost entirely of blaming Trump and refusing to offer any tangible approaches to the multiple issues he'll likely inherit from Newsom. He knows he can win without committing himself publicly, so he doesn't.

While Becerra represents the don't-rock-the-boat stance at the state level, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, another veteran of multiple offices, is his counterpart in the state's largest city.

But she, unlike Becerra, cannot coast into victory. Bass is carrying heavy baggage from her sloppy handling of the wildfires that swept through Los Angeles and its suburbs early last year.

Bass was junketing in Ghana when the fires erupted, even though there had been forecasts that hot winter winds could create wildfire conditions. She tried to blame others for the miscue, fired the L.A. fire chief and later attempted to alter an official report on how the fires were handled.

Bass is highly unpopular but offers herself as a known quantity, while her left-leaning opponent, city councilmember Nithya Raman, represents the potentially disruptive unknown. The outcome could go either way.

Thank goodness the cacophony of shrieking TV spots making promises that cannot be kept or portraying rivals as devils incarnate — and the fliers filling our mailboxes — will all end soon.

Sometime after the polls close Tuesday — maybe weeks later in some close contests — we'll learn who survived. The losers will be disappointed, the winners will be jubilant and once again we will hope that they'll do more than plot how to climb the next rung on the political ladder.

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

Am I Entitled to More Social Security as a Veteran?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I served in the U.S. Army from July 1964 to July 1967. Am I eligible for a higher Social Security payment? Thank you. ***Signed: Vietnam Era Army Vet***

Dear Army Vet: Please accept my sincere thanks for your military service. I believe you are referring to the "Special Extra Credit for Military Service" which has been the subject of many published articles. That refers to a special Social Security accommodation available only to those who served in the military during specific periods of time - but it does not add to your monthly Social Security payment. Rather, it adds to your military earnings record for the years you served, which may (or may not) result in a higher Social Security benefit when you later claim Social Security.

Here's how it works in your case:

Serving between 1964 and 1967, if you told Social Security of your military service when you applied for Social Security benefits (or gave them a copy of your DD-214), they would have added up to $1,200 per year to your military pay record (FYI, those who served after 1966 were automatically given earnings credit for their military service years). However, whether those special extra credits would affect your monthly Social Security benefit depends on your lifetime earnings record when you later claimed Social Security.

When you applied for benefits, Social Security reviewed your lifetime earnings and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) to calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" (or "PIA," which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your Social Security full retirement age). If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than your earnings while serving in the military, Social Security would have used your later higher earning years to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings would not have had an effect on your Social Security benefit. However, if any of your military earnings (including the "special extra credits") were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating your Social Security benefit.

So, whether you would benefit from these "special extra credits for military service" depends largely on your earnings history after you were discharged from active duty. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years over your lifetime, and you provided SSA with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS benefit already includes consideration of your military service (FYI, Social Security should have asked about your military service when you applied). If you didn't tell SS about your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren't sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800.772.1213 and ask if you were given those "special extra credits for military service" for your 1960s military service years when you applied for Social Security. But if you had at least 35 years of higher earnings after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get any additional /Social Security benefit because of the "special extra credits" for your military service years.

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 (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-dvisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★



Abdul El-Sayed is no JFK

Abdul El-Sayed, the Democratic Senate candidate in Michigan, thinks he's another JFK, not in terms of charm or wit, but as a fellow victim of religious bigotry.

When he ran for president in 1960, Jack Kennedy indeed encountered anti-Catholic prejudice, including the preposterous claim that he'd take orders as president from the Vatican. This was irrational conspiracy theorizing, whereas the questions that El-Sayed is facing about his family's ties to extremist groups are well-founded.

It wasn't a right-wing smear artist who first said that El-Sayed's mother was with the Muslim Brotherhood, but his own half-sister. She tweeted in 2012, "Had an amazing talk with my mom about her activism in the Muslim Brotherhood during the early 70s while she was in college #respect." She suggested that other family members in Egypt were involved in the Muslim Brotherhood. His mom -- just her luck -- also worked for the Islamic American Relief Agency, which the U.S. government designated a supporter of terrorist groups.

Now, El-Sayed could say that none of this has anything to do with him, since his biological mother didn't raise him, and that his mother made a mistake in working for the Brotherhood. Or he could produce evidence of the falsity of what his half-sister said, which, if it's wrong, shouldn't be difficult given that both his mother and half-sister are around (his half-sister is a radically anti-Zionist University of Chicago professor who is very excited about El-Sayed's candidacy).

Instead, he's argued that questions about this constitute rank Islamophobia. He makes it sound as though the Muslim Brotherhood is a fraternal association, a Knights of Columbus for Muslims, such that any concerns about associations with it are inherently hateful. His reaction is a little like someone being asked about his family's alleged KKK associations, and responding, "How dare you question my white Protestant heritage."

In a viral exchange, a questioner at a town hall asked the candidate if he disavows the Muslim Brotherhood. El-Sayed responded with a curt, "Yeah, sure," before challenging his interlocutor about why he was asking and going on a long riff about freedom of religion in America. Of course, no one is challenging his right to worship as he pleases, or to run for public office as a faithful Muslim. The questions have to do with the associations and his own views.

His father-in-law, a major donor to his campaign, served on the founding committee of the Islamic Society of North America, a group designated as an unindicted co-conspirator in the 2007 Holy Land Foundation case. He also -- just his luck -- served as president of the Council on American-Islamic Relations Michigan chapter, another group named an unindicted co-conspirator in that case.

As for El-Sayed himself, the New York Times reports that when he was a student at the University of Michigan, he was president of the Muslim Students Association, an organization founded by the Muslim Brotherhood in the 1960s. In 2012, he joined an open letter backing Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Morsi, who had just become president of Egypt: "We, leaders of the Egyptian community, support the revolutionary decisions taken by the president, and we call on him to purge the media and the police as quickly as possible."

Here one must pause to express a little sympathy for El-Sayed: Who among us hasn't, at least once, urged an Islamist authoritarian to crack down on his political opponents? During this Senate campaign, El-Sayed excused an Islamist attack on a Michigan synagogue (before apologizing). He invited streamer Hasan Piker, who has repeatedly expressed sympathy with terror groups, to campaign with him. And he has refused to say that Iran is more dangerous than Israel.

He doesn't deserve the benefit of any doubt and has responded to questions about all of this with evasions and high dudgeon. No matter how often El-Sayed invokes JFK, Kennedy didn't defend his Catholic faith as a way of distracting from his own extremism and that of people around him.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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University Gets National Certification

Continued from page 1

the student experience.

"This Seal is a testament to the work our faculty, staff, and administrators do everyday to make sure Sac State students are supported throughout their college journey and prepared for the careers of their dreams," said Lilia Contreras, Hispanic Serving Institution director, Student Affairs & Inclusive Excellence at Sacramento State. "As the No. 1 public university in the state capital, Sac State and its Latine students are helping power the region's economy."

Only 55 institutions nationwide have earned the Seal of Excelencia, producing outsized positive student impact. Seal-certified institutions represent less than 2% of colleges and universities, yet enroll 16% and graduate 18% of Latino students – and enroll and graduate 8% of all students.

The Seal is a rigorous national certification earned through the intentional alignment of data, evidence-based practices, and leadership, which together lead to student success. Since first earning the Seal six years ago, Sacramento State has sustained continuous improvement in student outcomes and intentionally invested in post-completion success for Latinos, who are representative of today's post-traditional student majority. In doing so, it is ensuring Latino, and all, students graduate ready for the workforce and civic leadership, thus also strengthening local talent pipelines.

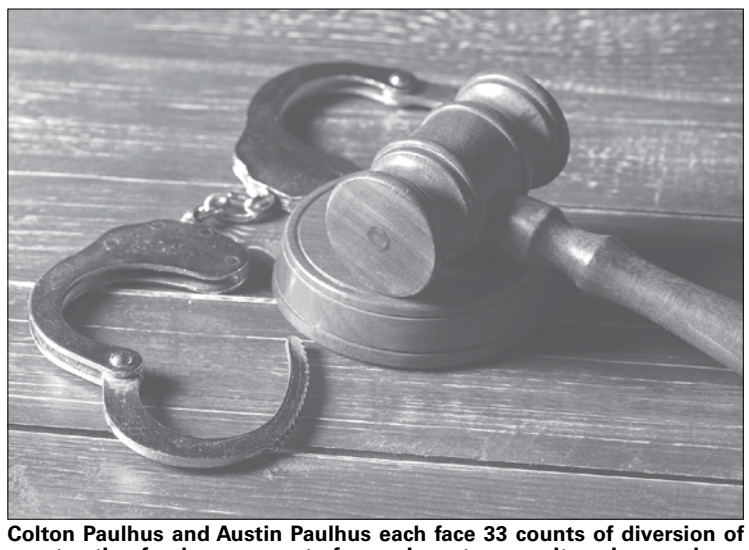
"Seal of Excelencia certified institutions present strength of purpose and impact at a moment of great change in higher education," said Deborah Santiago, Excelencia in Education co-founder and CEO. "Excelencia is proud to work with these leaders that show us how it looks when students succeed because of their institutions — not despite them. Thanks to the leadership of Intentionally Thriving Institutions in particular, we are cultivating talent that will ensure America's future."

Learn more about how Seal of Excelencia certified institutions model the transformation necessary for higher education to ensure Latino, and all, students thrive — and strengthen our nation's civic leadership and workforce: EdExcelencia.org/seal/seal-excelencia-certified-institutions. ★

Former Contractors Behind Anchored Tiny Homes Face Felony Charges

Contractors State License Board News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Following investigations by the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) and Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, two brothers behind former company Anchored Tiny Homes have been charged with 35 felony counts related to unfinished accessory dwelling unit (ADU) projects.



Colton Paulhus and Austin Paulhus each face 33 counts of diversion of construction funds, one count of conspiracy to commit a crime, and one count of employee wage theft. Photo designed by Magnific

Colton Paulhus and Austin Paulhus each face 33 counts of diversion of construction funds, one count of conspiracy to commit a crime, and one count of employee wage theft. Their charges come after CSLB investigated more than 200 consumer complaints across 18 California counties alleging abandoned ADU projects, unpaid subcontractors, payments in advance of work performed or often not performed and funds paid by homeowners that were not used for the homeowners' projects.

A settlement conference hearing initially scheduled for last week has been continued until Jan. 12, 2027.

Due to the volume and severity of the allegations, CSLB pursued a criminal investigation against Anchored Tiny Homes and took the most serious administrative enforcement action available to the Board by filing an accusation with the California Attorney General's Office seeking revocation of its contractor's license. CSLB revoked Anchored Tiny Homes' license in Nov. 2024.

After the revocation, CSLB continued to receive and investigate consumer complaints, and in collaboration with the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, began referring cases for possible criminal charges.

CSLB remains committed to protecting consumers from financial harm and ensuring integrity within California's construction industry. The Board's investigative and enforcement efforts play a critical role in reducing and preventing unlawful activity and unprofessional conduct in California's construction industry.

Contractors building ADUs must follow home improvement payment law restrictions regarding down payment and additional payments, known as progress payments. Down payments should never exceed $1,000 or 10 percent of the project's total cost, whichever is less. Any additional payments cannot exceed the value of the work performed or material delivered. CSLB's Fast Facts: Tips for Building a Residential Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) outlines other important information about ADUs.

For ongoing information and updates, visit www.cslb.ca.gov.★

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Subscriptions should be mailed to *Land Park News*, 2508 Garfield Ave., Suite A, Carmichael, CA 95608.

The *Land Park News* is published twice a month. Call (916) 773-1111 for more information.

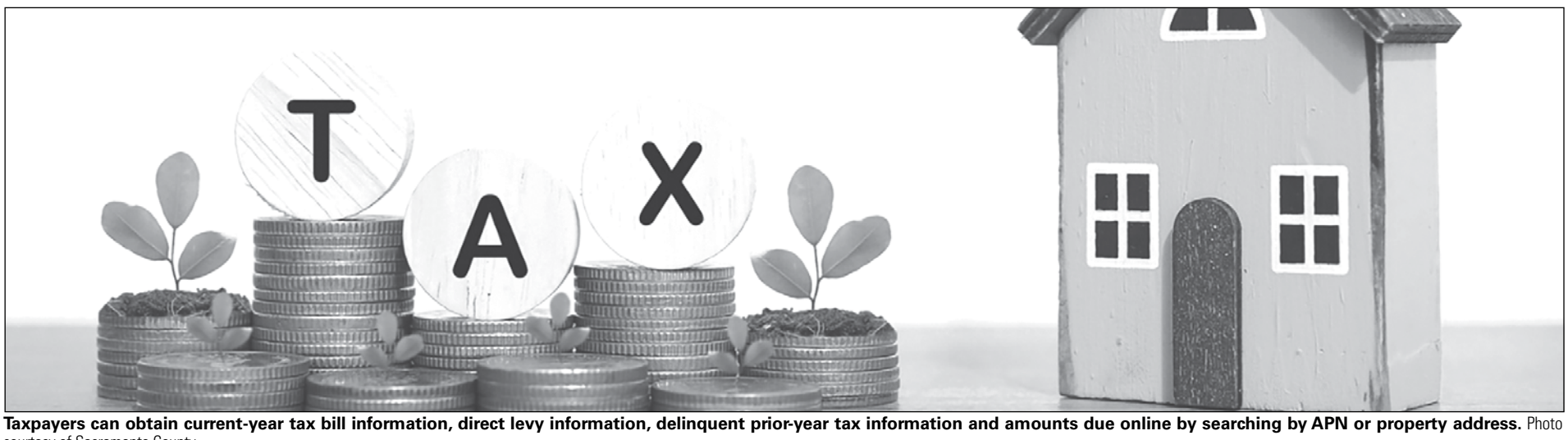
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Secured Property Tax Bills Mailed This Month



Taxpayers can obtain current-year tax bill information, direct levy information, delinquent prior-year tax information and amounts due online by searching by APN or property address. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County has mailed about 493,740 secured property tax bills which are payable beginning Nov. 1. These tax bills are mailed only once a year, however, property owners may pay their bills in two installment payments.

The first installment payment is due on Nov. 1. Payments will be accepted without penalty until 5 p.m. on Dec. 10. The second installment payment is due on Feb. 1. Payments will be accepted without penalty until 5 p.m. on April 12. Both installments may be paid when the first installment is due. A reminder notice will not be mailed for the second installment.

Taxpayers may sign up for online e-mail notifications for annual secured property tax bills and reminders before delinquent dates. Choose "e-Subscribe for property tax payment notifications" to receive these notifications.

Payments can be made online via credit card or electronic check. Taxpayers may print tax bill installment payment stubs to mail in with their payments. Taxpayers may also pay by credit card or electronic check over the telephone at 844-430-2823. There is a convenience fee for credit and debit cards. Electronic checks are free.

Payment can be made in person at the Sacramento County Tax Collector's Office at 700 H Street, Room 1710, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. In person payments can be paid via cash, check, credit card, debit card or money order. A convenience fee will apply for credit card and debit card transactions.

Payments can be sent via mail to P.O. Box 508, Sacramento, CA 95812-0508. The Tax Collector accepts and processes payments based on the postmark date. Payments may not be credited to the tax bill for several business days dependent upon the volume of payments received, whether payments were submitted with the correct payment stubs, and/or whether envelopes were postmarked by the delinquent date.

Property tax law requires that parcels be assessed at their factored Prop 13 value, or their fair market value (as of the Jan. 1, 2026, property tax lien date), whichever is less.

A rising real estate market can cause higher than expected increases in a parcel's annual tax bill if that parcel was in Prop 8 status last year. However, the assessed value of any parcel cannot increase beyond that parcel's factored Prop 13 level. The 2% inflation cap applies only to Prop 13 assessments. It does not apply to Prop 8 assessments, which by law must track the property's market value until it reaches the Prop 13 factored value.

Find assessed values at assessor.saccounty.gov under "Assessed Value Lookup," including this year's value and the factored Prop 13 value for comparison. If a taxpayer has evidence that their assessed value as of Jan. 1 was less than that shown on this year's 2026-2027 tax bill, they should visit the Assessor's Website (assessor.saccounty.gov), call the Assessor's Office at 916- 875-0700 or email the Assessor's Office at Assessor@SacCounty.gov.

Taxpayers can obtain current-year tax bill information, direct levy information, delinquent prior-year tax information and amounts due online by searching by APN or property address. A QR code is also provided on the tax bill payment stub for convenient access to the website using a smartphone. Payments can be made online by credit card or electronic check, or taxpayers may print tax bill installment payment stubs to mail with their payments.

Payments can also be made by telephone through the 24-hour Automated Property Tax Information Line at 844-430-2823. The automated line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provides property tax information, detailed billing and payment information, and the option to make payments by credit card or electronic check.

Tax specialists are available Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 916-874-6622.

R&TC 2610.5 "Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the property owner of the liability to pay taxes in a timely manner or give the Tax Collector reason to cancel penalties imposed for late payment."

Even if your tax bill is being paid by a lending institution (mortgage company), state law requires that a copy of the tax bill be sent to the property owner; all property owners should receive either the original tax bill or an "Owner's Information Copy." It is the responsibility of the property owner to keep their mailing address current with the Assessor's Office. To update your mailing address, please contact the Assessor's Office in writing at 3636 American River Drive, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95864 or via email at Assessor@saccounty.gov. Please make sure you include a parcel number and phone number with all correspondence. ★

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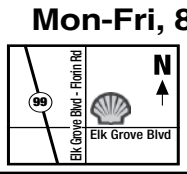
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Men's Golf Finishes Fall with Its Best Round at Ka'anapali Classic

Segerstrom, Matzke, Vaughan all shoot 71

Sacramento State Athletics News Release



The tournament was the final event of the fall for Sacramento State. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

LAHAINA, HI (MPG) - Three members of the Sacramento State men's golf shot even par and the Hornets enjoyed their best round of the Ka'anapali Classic on Tuesday, Oct. 27 in Hawaii. Due to inclement weather, the first nine holes of the third round were played on Monday, Oct. 26 and the teams wrapped up the tournament on Tuesday, Oct. 27.

Sacramento State was 10-over at the midway point of the round but took eight strokes off that mark this morning, to finish the round at 2-over. The Hornets concluded the tournament in 19th place with rounds of 308-293-286-887.

PJ Segerstrom, Zach Matzke and Griffin Vaughan were all even in the third round. Segerstrom had the highest overall finish on the team, tying for 47th at 74-72-71-217. He was even through nine holes with a birdie and a bogey but moved to 3-over after starting the day with a double bogey on the par-4 fifth. He immediately answered with an eagle on the par-5 sixth and birdied the par-4 seventh to get to 1-under. A double bogey on the par-3 eighth was followed by him playing his final six holes at 1-under with a birdie on the par-4 10th.

Matzke started the morning 2-over but also eagled No. 6 and birdied No. 7 to dip into red numbers. A double bogey on the par-4 11th moved him to 1-over before a birdie on No. 12 and a par on No. 13 closed his tournament.

Vaughan was 4-over through 12 holes before catching fire. The freshman birdied four of his final six holes to get back to even. His streak began with a birdie on the par-3 eighth and the par-5 ninth. After two pars, he birdied the par-4 12th and 13th. Matzke and Vaughan tied for 77th overall at 10-over.

Luke Price completed the team total with a 73. Price entered Tuesday 5-over in the round. He immediately lowered that number with birdies on Nos. 6 and 9. His only bogey of the day came on the par-4 11th but was trailed by birdies on Nos. 12 and 13.

No. 12 Georgia withstood a change from Clemson to win the team title by one strike. The Bulldogs were 23-under over the three rounds while the Tigers were 18-under during the day to get 22-under.

The tournament was the final event of the fall for Sacramento State. The team will start its spring season at the Wyoming Desert Intercollegiate in Palm Desert, Calif., on Feb. 22-24. ★

An Aggie Connection: OOFOS Invests in UC Davis Student-Athletes

UC Davis Athletics News Release



OOFOS is the Official Recovery Footwear of UC Davis Athletics. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics.

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - UC Davis Athletics welcomed current student-athletes and former Aggies back to campus Tuesday, Oct. 6, for Aggie Elevate, an evening dedicated to connection, professional development and the lasting impact of the student-athlete experience.

Hosted at the University Credit Union Center in partnership with Aggie Leverage and the Aggie Varsity Club, the event brought together student-athletes and letterwinners to network, share experiences and explore opportunities beyond competition.

UC Davis Director of Athletics Rocko DeLuca opened the evening with remarks emphasizing the importance of the Aggie community and building relationships that extend beyond a student-athlete's time on campus.

The evening's keynote speaker, Angel Martinez '77, a former UC Davis All-American in Track and Field and Cross Country, shared his professional journey and the experiences that helped shape his career as a leader in the footwear industry. Throughout his career, Martinez has held founding and leadership roles with major footwear brands such as Reebok, Keen, Ariat, UGG, Teva and Hoka, combining his passion for sports with an interest in innovation, research and competition.

Martinez currently serves as Co-Chief Executive Officer of OOFOS, a footwear company focused on recovery and reducing the physical stress placed on the body. Drawing on his experiences as a student-athlete and business leader, he encouraged current Aggies to embrace the relationships, opportunities and lessons that will shape their lives beyond competition.

"Being a student-athlete at UC Davis taught me lessons that stayed with me throughout my career," said Martinez. "The discipline, relationships and experiences you gain here prepare you for so much more than competition. It's important to recognize the opportunities you have right now, invest in the people around you and understand that taking care of yourself, both physically and mentally, is just as important as pushing yourself to succeed."

Martinez also discussed the importance of recovery and taking care of the body beyond competition, connecting his professional work with the demands student-athletes face throughout their athletic careers and beyond.

For current student-athletes, the opportunity to hear directly from a former Aggie who successfully translated his athletic experiences into a professional career offered a valuable perspective on life after college.

"Hearing from someone like Angel, who was once in our position as a UC Davis student-athlete, really puts into perspective how much we're gaining from this experience beyond our sport," said Ella Palmer, president of the UC Davis Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). "It's encouraging to see how the relationships we build, the challenges we overcome and the lessons we learn here can continue to shape our lives long after we graduate."

Martinez concluded the evening with a surprise announcement that all UC Davis student-athletes would receive a complimentary pair of OOFOS recovery footwear, drawing an enthusiastic response from those in attendance.

OOFOS serves as the Official Recovery Footwear of UC Davis Athletics, reflecting a shared commitment to student-athlete performance, recovery and well-being.

"We're proud to have OOFOS as the Official Recovery Footwear of UC Davis Athletics," said UC Davis Director of Athletics Rocko DeLuca. "This partnership is another example of our commitment to providing student-athletes with the resources they need to be successful both on and off the field. Having an Aggie like Angel Martinez involved makes it even more special, and we look forward to continuing to build our relationship with him and the OOFOS team." ★

Memo Rodriguez and Lee Desmond Named to Team of the Week

Sacramento Republic FC News Release



Memo Rogriguez and Lee Desmond were named to the Week 34 Team of the Week. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Oct. 27, the USL Championship announced the Week 34 Team of the Week. For their contributions in the Oct. 24 win over Oakland Roots, Republic FC's Memo Rodriguez and Lee Desmond have earned a spot on the league's top weekly squad.

Memo helped Republic FC get on the board early, posting his first assist of the night on Alfredo Midence's second-minute goal. After Oakland took a 2-1 lead before halftime, Memo later connected with Desmond for Sacramento's equalizer in the 81st minute. The midfielder delivered a curling ball from a set piece near the sideline, and Desmond rose above the defense to flick the ball past the goalkeeper. The Indomitable Club went on to win the game, with Kyle Edwards delivering the decisive goal in the 90th minute.

In addition to his two assists, Memo finished the night with four chances created, five duels won and five possessions won. Rodriguez has had a stellar first season with Republic FC, closing out the regular season with seven goals and a team-best nine assists, including nine goal contributions in the club's final six matches. He leads the team with six Team of the Week selections.

Desmond put in a strong two-way performance against Oakland. In addition to the late goal – his second of the season – he posted eight clearances, six of six duels won, and an 87 percent passing accuracy. A member of the Republic FC squad since 2022, the Team Captain recorded new single season highs across several categories this year – 2,655 minutes, 150 clearances and 159 duels won.

Saturday, Oct. 24's come-from-behind win – the club's 13th consecutive unbeaten result – clinched the second seed in the Western Conference for the second year in a row.

Republic FC tickets are available now at SacRepublicFC.com. ★

Graffiti City

Behind Sacramento's Street Art Scene

By Khushi Salgia



A mural painted by Sacramento-based street artist 2hermano (Gabriel Romo). Named "Mayahuel," it is located in Downtown Sacramento. Photo courtesy of 2hermano

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Art nourishes the soul, and the same is true for public art as well. Anyone who has spent even a bit of time in Sacramento will have noticed the expansive portfolio of murals on display, both in the city and in the suburbs. As a result, Sacramento is one of the top mural hubs in the country.

When it comes to public art, not all of it can be painted with the same broad brush (no pun intended). While graffiti is the most popular term to describe any sort of public art, graffiti is different from other street art. While street art is the broad umbrella term to describe public art ranging from murals to poster pastings, graffiti is different in that it tends to be unauthorized. One of the most common types of graffiti is tagging, which is when someone writes their name or '(their name) was here' in the traditional spray-painted block letters style.

"Graffiti started in Philadelphia and New York when artists wrote their names or nicknames on walls with pens," said Ten Blair, co-founder of Graffiti For Good, a local grassroots nonprofit that supports street art in Sacramento.

This practice of tagging, which started in the 1970s in alternative subcultures—such as the skater and punk communities— has since become widespread throughout the country and the world. While tagging and other forms of graffiti have the stereotype of being affiliated with gang activity, and in certain cases that might be true, it started with artistically inclined kids who were bored after school.

"It was never gangs to start off with." said Blair.

Although graffiti can carry a negative connotation, street art on the other hand, is well-loved by artists and community members alike.

"A wall, when done well, just completely transforms the space," said Gabriel Romo, a Sacramento-based muralist who goes by the name 2hermano. "A lot of times, people can't verbalize what it is, but there's symbols and things that are getting transmitted through the color and the pigment."

While large cities with vibrant art scenes such as New York City and Los Angeles have some of the biggest street art scenes in the world, Sacramento is special because it has quite a comparable street art scene given its size and population. The city sets aside a budget for commissioning street art as well as designated legal painting areas for those who want to voluntarily paint a mural. Due to this specific infrastructure in place, a whole subculture and community is encouraged to flourish here.



An art installation located in the Graffiti For Good gallery, created by artists Child of Helmuth and Jefferson Eisenberg. Photo by Khushi Salgia

Romo, who has also painted murals in San Diego, said that San Diegans tend to be more hesitant to allow street art as there isn't as big of a subculture there.

"We are lucky that Sacramento does embrace it," he said.

Another reason for Sacramento's high number of murals is due to the annual Wide Open Walls (WOW) Festival (formerly called the Sacramento Mural Festival). This multi-day event, hosted by the nonprofit Wide Open Walls, brings in street artists from all over the world.

"It makes you feel proud to be from Sacramento," said David Sobon, founder and executive director of WOW.

During the festival these artists gather across the city to transform building walls and alleyways with vibrant public art. One of the most famous murals to come out of this event is the large painting of Johnny Cash on the side of Marriott's Residence Inn at the intersection of 15th and L streets. Painted by Shepard Fairey in 2018, this mural was created in honor of the 60-year anniversary of Cash's song "Folsom Prison Blues."

This year, WOW celebrates its 10-year anniversary, and over the past decade, the festival alone has led to about 200 murals in Sacramento. In addition to the festival, WOW as a non-profit has created a total of 400 murals in the Sacramento area. Sobon developed an interest in art from a young age due to this mother being a collector. Later, his work as an auctioneer allowed him to learn who all the major funders were in the region. He was inspired by the murals that he would see daily and wanted to find a way for there to be more of them in Sacramento.

For owners of private buildings and businesses, Sobon approaches them directly and explains the benefits of having a mural on the side of their building.

"I have to convince them it's a good idea," he said. "But the tourist benefits are unbelievable."

When a business has a mural on the side of its building, it brings a lot more people to the building. People take pictures with it and post the pictures on social media, generating free advertising.

"Everybody's willing to pay for good art," he said.

The benefits of street art are more than monetary. When an area has high-quality paintings that are aesthetically pleasing and culturally relevant, it makes people feel like their neighborhood is taken care of.

Graffiti For Good "came out of a need to take ownership of our neighborhood and make people feel safer," Blair said. "We want to keep as many artists employed as possible while also making the city more beautiful." ★











Popp Talk

With Mary Jane Popp

Men are Like a Pair of Shoes

Have you been looking for Mr. Right in all the wrong places? Are you seeking your soul mate, but it seems like you're having a devil of a time? **Jeff Carta** found his main goal in writing **"Men Are Like A Pair Of Shoes"**… A Single Woman's Guide To Finding The Right Pair, was to encourage women to realize and exercise the power they have in selecting a mate. He believes some women simply accept flawed relationships. "Women do have power in their relationships," he says, "While men ask, women choose." But Carta made this book lighthearted in order to help with the emotional turmoil and fear of rejection women have in their shaky self-esteem.

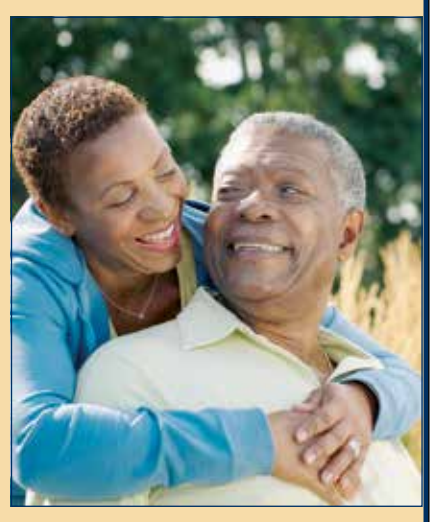
Carta says when people wind up in unhappy relationships, it's frequently because they haven't seriously considered what they want in a mate. Too often, women let fears, insecurities, or social pressures shoehorn them into an improper fit. So, he asks the question every woman has had to face…would you be willing to walk in painfully ill-fitting shoes 24/7 for the rest of your life? Or would you complain about the many hurts your shoes are causing, only to protest you can't part with them because the shoes hold so much potential. You'd toss them out in a heartbeat says the man. "What you really want are comfortable fitting shoes that are durable enough to last a lifetime," **Carta** explains. You bethca'! In my humble opinion, you don't have to settle and you don't have to think he will change after the "I do" is done.

So there has to be Tips for Improving Your Shopping Style like Improper Fit, Health Risks or Disappointments, such as promiscuous buying and looking for shoes in the wrong places. "You have to shop with a Smart Heart," says **Carta.** It gets to the heart of dating behavior, and that includes knowing the Right Stores for You, Buying Shoes Over The Internet, The discount Bin, Questions To Ask As You Shop, and If The Shoes Fit, Wear Them. There is a Shopping List for a Soul Mate which includes cleaning out your closet, knowing what type of shoes you are looking for, creating your Shopping List, and Wearing Comfortable Shoes vs Finding the Ideal Pair. And don't forget, Making The Good Fit Last with Tips on Shoe Care, and even Talking To Your Shoes.

So, before you Throw Out The Old Pair of Shoes and Shop for New Ones, you gotta' read this fun and timely look at looking for him. You'll find lots of shopping tips, and before you start wearing another woman's shoes or saying I Have To Have Them, you need to read **"Men are Like A Pair of Shoes."** You'll get some downright good info from **Jeff Carta**, and you'll also have a good belly laugh or two. It is just amazing how men are like a pair of shoes. By the way, I did get a good fit for 53 years. Hope you find Mr Right too! ★

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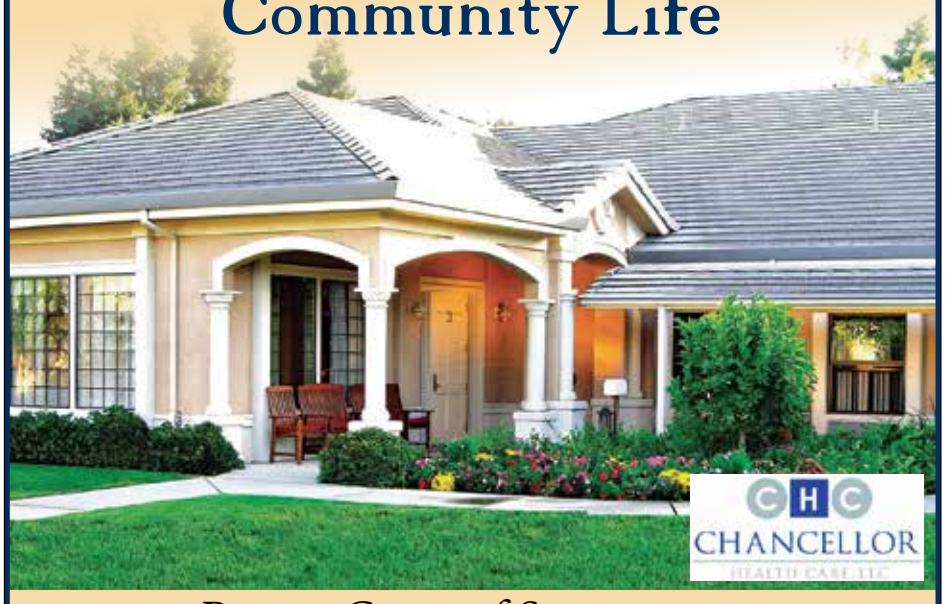
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