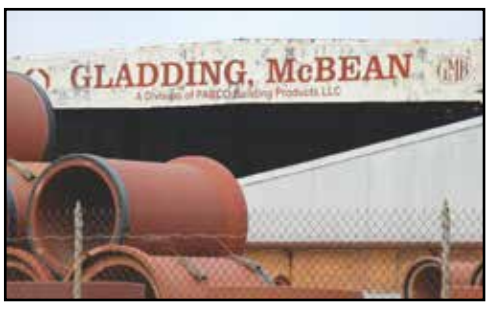


151 Years of Clay and Craft

PAGE **9**



Placer Sentinel

VOLUME **27** • ISSUE **6** *Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987* NOVEMBER 6, **2026**

SEE INSIDE

DAVIS EXPLORES COMMUNITY HUB IN TAHOE CITY



PAGE **2**

A PURRR-FECT HOLIDAY FAIRE



PAGE **4**

REMEMBER AND HONOR



PAGE **2**

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A Legacy of Giving

Auburn's Vernon 'Bud' and Bernie Beadles Loved to See People Succeed



Today, after both Bud and Bernie have passed, their charitable fund continues to support their Lutheran faith, youth, the performing arts and the poor and impoverished. Photo courtesy of Placer Community Foundation

Placer Community Foundation News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Bud and Bernadine "Bernie" Beadles met in France in 1956, when a friend convinced Bud, an Air Force jet pilot, to help Bernie move boxes from one barracks to another. Four months later, they were engaged, and in April 1957 they were married.

Their life together would take them to many places through Bud's military service and work. As retirement approached, Bud began thinking about where they should finally put down roots. After visiting a dentist friend in Auburn, he felt the small town could be home. It took Bernie a little longer to agree, but once they moved, they never looked back.

Auburn's friendly feel reminded them of the Midwest towns where they had grown up, and both became active in the community. Bernie volunteered with the Assistance League of Greater Placer County, while Bud served with the Auburn Host Lions Club.

That same spirit of service shaped the way they thought about charitable giving.

Continued on page 3

A Life of Service

Bonnie Potter to Lead Auburn Veterans Day Parade

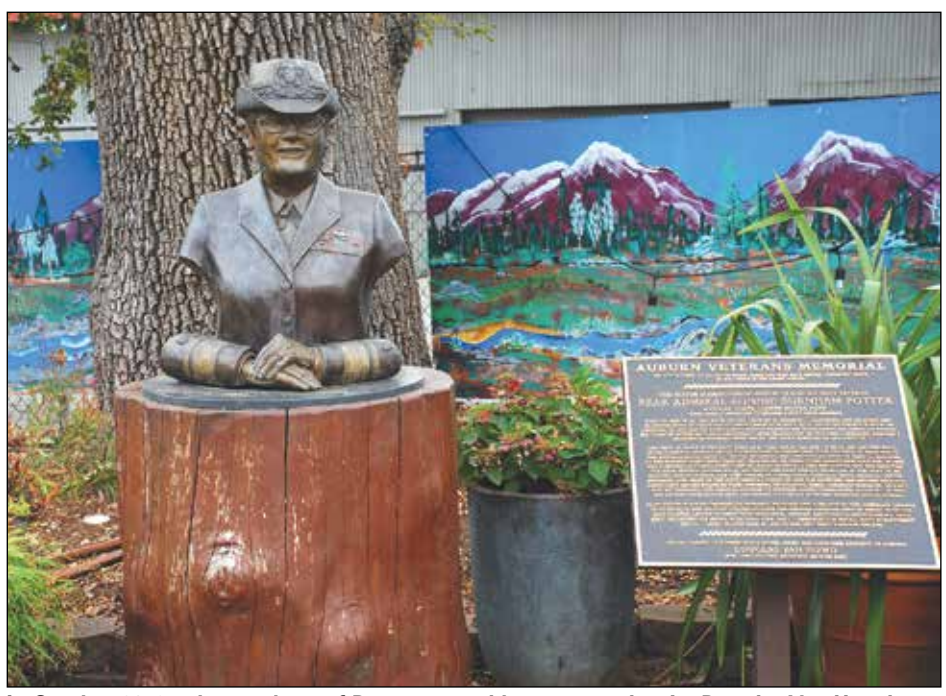
Story and photo by Sara Jackson

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Retired Rear Adm. Bonnie Potter spent nearly three decades breaking barriers in Navy medicine, eventually becoming the first female physician in the U.S. Navy to be selected for flag rank.

But since retiring from active duty more than two decades ago, Potter has built another legacy much closer to home — serving veterans and the greater Auburn community.

In recognition of that service, Potter has been named grand marshal of this year's Auburn Veterans Day Parade.

A native of Piedmont, Potter graduated from UC Davis in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in animal science. After completing medical technology training and graduate studies in animal physiology at UC Davis, she attended Saint Louis University School of Medicine on a Navy scholarship, earning her medical degree in 1975.



In October 2019, a bronze bust of Potter created by renowned artist Douglas Van Howd was placed in Auburn's Armed Forces Pavilion and Community Garden.

That same year, she entered active duty as a Navy lieutenant and began a career that would eventually place her among the trailblazers of military medicine.

Potter completed her internship and residency in internal medicine at Naval Regional Medical Center Oakland, serving as chief resident from 1978 to 1979. She remained there as a staff internist and residency training officer until 1983.

Over the following years, Potter combined medicine, teaching and military leadership. Her assignments included Naval Hospital Portsmouth in Virginia, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

During Operations

Continued on page 2

Animal Services Center Celebrates 10 Years

Placer County Animal Services News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Placer County Animal Services is marking 10 years at its Animal Services Center in Auburn, and inviting the community to join the celebration. A special anniversary event will be held Monday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. at the center, located at 11232 B Ave.

The event will feature comments from county leaders, tours, photo opps, a memory wall and $10 adoptions (which will continue throughout the rest of November).

The Placer County Animal Services Center opened in 2016, expanding capacity to care for significantly more pets — approximately 80% more dogs and 75% more cats than the former facility — and doubling space for animals during major emergencies such as wildfires.

"Over the past decade, partnerships with local cities, county departments and animal welfare organizations have allowed this facility to serve thousands more pets and families across the region," said Animal Services Manager Katie Ingram. "We're proud to mark 10 years in this state of the art space and we'll keep pushing for innovation."

Since opening ten years ago, the center has maintained a live release rate of over 92%, adopted out 13,566 animals and returned another 7,082 to their owners. Animal Control officers have also responded to 78,597 calls in that time. Volunteer engagement has grown substantially as well, with more than 150 volunteers contributing more than 100,000 hours over the past decade. The facility has been a hub of community support during disasters including the Mosquito and River fires, assisting with animal rescue, transportation and sheltering. Modern features like the veterinary area and outdoor exercise areas have been improved further over the years with the support of donations, including new shade structures and an X-ray machine.

To commemorate the anniversary, past adopters are also encouraged to share updates and adoption stories with the @PlacerAnimals accounts on Facebook or Instagram, or stop by the shelter to write or post photos on the memory wall. ★

UC Davis Explores Community Hub in Tahoe City

Placer County News Release



The Placer County Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Regents of the University of California, on behalf of UC Davis and the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, to jointly explore potential expansion into Tahoe City. Photo courtesy of Placer County

KINGS BEACH, CA (MPG) - University of California, Davis could soon bring hands-on community education and world-class scientific research to Tahoe City. The Placer County Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Regents of the University of California, on behalf of UC Davis and the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, to jointly explore potential expansion into Tahoe City.

The proposed concept proposes a regional science, education, community and economic hub on county-owned properties in Tahoe City. TERC currently operates a Tahoe Science Center and UC Davis TERC Lab facility in Incline Village on the University of Nevada, Reno at Lake Tahoe campus.

The agreement establishes a framework for the county and UC Davis to explore opportunities for activating underused properties, such as the former Tahoe City Fire Station 51, located along North Lake Boulevard on the Commons Beach property, the community center building and the 10,654-square-foot Bechdolt building opposite the fire station.

The board's approval allocates $500,000 of the Tahoe Economic and Community Enhancement Fund to explore project scenarios. Future board considerations will include lease, construction and funding agreements.

Built in 1961, this station formerly served as the home of the North Tahoe Fire Protection District, which relocated to a new facility in 2012. Since then, the county has worked with community members and local organizations to explore options for the site's future.

"For more than a decade, we have solicited input and worked hard to identify a meaningful, sustainable future for this property," said District 5 Supervisor Cindy Gustafson. "This partnership allows us to explore a concept that brings together environmental research, education and community activities while supporting Tahoe City's year-round vitality and ensuring responsible use of county-owned land."

Over the past two decades, the county and its partners have conducted multiple visioning, planning and community engagement efforts to identify potential reuse or redevelopment concepts. These efforts have included the 2011 West Commons Beach Alternatives Analysis, a Request for Information process conducted from 2017 to 2020 and subsequent discussions with the Climate and Wildfire Institute Inc. from 2022 through 2024.

During the discussions around previous iterations, county staff have continued engaging community organizations, partners, businesses and stakeholders to better understand local priorities. Those conversations identified three foundational priorities to guide the county's evaluation of future partnerships and potential uses for the properties.

One foundational priority is science and environmental protection. This includes advanced research, collaboration and the application of scientific knowledge to Lake Tahoe and the Tahoe Basin.

Another foundational priority is public awareness, education and stewardship. Provide residents, students, families and visitors with opportunities to better understand and participate in protecting the region's natural resources.

The last priority is community and arts spaces. To create opportunities for gathering, creative expression, cultural programming and community activities.

The proposed collaboration with UC Davis and TERC offers an opportunity to explore how these priorities could be integrated into a coordinated vision for the proposed site. Any future development or implementation would be subject to further planning, evaluation and applicable county processes.

Learn more about UC Davis TERC here: https://tahoe.ucdavis.edu/. ★

A Life of Service

Continued from page 1

Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Potter served as head of medical services aboard the hospital ship USNS Comfort, deploying in support of the military operations from 1990 to 1991.

After two decades as a clinician and teacher of internal medicine, Potter moved into executive medicine and increasingly senior leadership positions.

She served as commanding officer of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton from 1995 to 1997. Then came a milestone not only for Potter, but for Navy medicine.

In 1997, Potter was promoted to rear admiral, becoming the first female physician in the Navy to be selected for flag rank. She later received her second star as rear admiral.

Potter went on to command the National Naval Medical Center and serve as chief of the Navy Medical Corps. In December 1999, she reported as fleet surgeon for the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, with additional duties as command surgeon for U.S. Joint Forces Command and medical advisor to Allied Command Atlantic.

Her military honors include the Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with gold star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and Combat Action Medal.

In 2000, the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine presented Potter with its Laureate Award in the U.S. Navy Region, recognizing her commitment to education, research and medical care.

When Potter retired from active duty in 2003, however, her life of service did not end.

She and her husband, August, moved to Auburn and established Fair Winds Alpacas on their North Auburn ranch. Potter also became deeply involved in the region's veterans' organizations and community activities.

Her extensive list of local service has included positions with American Legion Post 84, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 904, the Placer County Navy League, Fleet Reserve Association and the Placer County Auburn Veterans Memorial Hall Board.

She has also served as treasurer of the Auburn Veterans Day Parade Committee, co-chair of Congressman Kevin Kiley's Service Academy Review Committee and commander of the Auburn Area Honor Guard.

Each Memorial Day, Potter volunteers to lead ceremonies at four Auburn-area cemeteries.

Her community involvement extends beyond veterans' organizations. A certified Placer County election inspector since 2008, Potter has also served as volunteer faculty at the UC Davis School of Medicine and on the Northern California Retired Officers Community Board of Directors.

Her work in the alpaca industry became another chapter in a career marked by leadership. Potter served six years as president of the Alpaca Owners Association Board of Directors, and her contributions to the agricultural community earned her the James G. King Industry Award.

In 2012, she received the Daughters of the American Revolution Ellen Hardin Walworth Medal for Patriotism and the President's Volunteer Service Award for her work with the Sacramento Medical Reserve Corps.

Auburn also gave Potter a permanent place among those honored for their military service. In October 2019, a bronze bust of Potter created by renowned artist Douglas Van Howd was placed in Auburn's Armed Forces Pavilion and Community Garden.

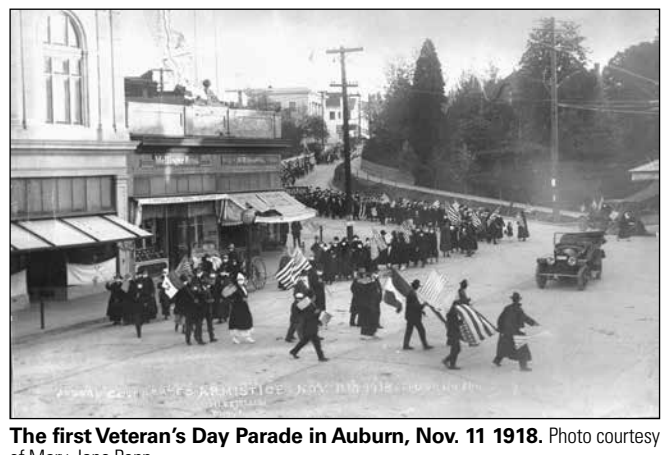
Potter's selection as grand marshal recognizes a career that has taken her from Navy hospitals and medical classrooms to the USNS Comfort and some of the highest levels of Navy medicine.

But it also recognizes what came afterward.

For Potter, retirement became another opportunity to serve, this time in the Auburn community she and her husband chose to call home. ★

Remember and Honor

By Mary Jane Popp



The first Veteran's Day Parade in Auburn, Nov. 11 1918. Photo courtesy of Mary Jane Popp

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - It's the oldest Veteran's Day parade in the state of California. Can you guess where? How about Auburn? The WWII Armistice Agreement (that's what they called it back then) was signed in France Nov. 11, 1918. Veterans in Auburn were elated and threw together the first Armistice Day parade to happen on exactly the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour. It was an incredible happening. And except for two years, 1941 and 1942, because people were so scared as to what was happening after Pearl Harbor, it resumed in 1943. Armistice Day became Veterans Day after WWII and the Korean War with President Dwight D. Eisenhower signing legislation changing the name.

Auburn has had a parade complete with a ceremony that includes the National Anthem, a 21-gun salute, military vehicles, a grande marshal and a flyover featuring fixed wing planes or biplanes which are historically from the 1930's and used throughout aviation history. And what a spectacle it will be. The Placer High School Marching Band will be in the parade this year. A student from the Placer High School Choir will sing the National Anthem. Yours truly will be the Mistress of Ceremonies, and KAHI will be there to cover all the pomp and circumstance. Here's hoping the turnout will be spectacular to honor those men and women who keep our country safe and free. Here's the agenda for the 106th annual Veteran's Day parade honoring the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This year's theme is "Home of the Free Because of the Brave." And it all began with a hastily organized parade Nov. 11, 1918. Come and enjoy all the highlights.



The memorial coin to be given to the first 500 veterans on Nov. 11. Photo courtesy of Mary Jane Popp

Pancake breakfast will be hosted by the Auburn Jeep Club free for veterans and $5.00 for general public at 8 a.m. The Parade Step-Off is at 10:50 a.m. featuring entries proudly announced by yours truly Mary Jane Popp from KAHI. The Ceremonial Pause will begin at 11 a.m. a brief ceremony at Central Square featuring the National Anthem, a three-volley rifle salute by the Auburn Area honor Guard, Taps played by Placer High School students and a bagpipe performance of Amazing Grace.

The parade concludes at the Gold Country Fairgrounds (Placer Building) with complimentary pizza, cookies, chips and drinks.

All military veterans are invited to walk or ride in the parade with transportation provided for those who need assistance. And here's a special honor so deserved. The first 500 veterans—whether marching or watching—will receive a commemorative a "250 Years of Service" Medal.

Let's make this the biggest and proudest Veteran's Day parade Auburn has ever seen. I know I will be there so proud of my late husband who was a Vietnam Veteran and retired a Lt Colonel. All the men and women, today and those who have passed on, deserve the honor for us to truly have "Home of the Free Because of the Brave." God bless them all! ★

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Veterans Day 2026: Quilts of Valor

By Bob Olenczak-Olin



Recipients of the Quilts of Valor with Robert (BOB) on the right. Photo courtesy of Quilts of Valor



Robert (Bob) Olenczak-Olin receiving his Quilt of Valor; pieced by Janene Malatesta and Quilted by Karen Banta. Photo courtesy of Quilts of Valor

ROSEVILLE, CA (MPG) - "QUILTS = HEALING." Two words represented a dream of Catherine Roberts.

The dream came about when her son, Nat, was deployed in Iraq. She dreamed about a young soldier sitting on his bed who was filled with despair but then found hope and comfort being wrapped in a quilt.

Her thoughts about how the model of an organization would look like. The model was its simplicity. Have volunteers donate their time and materials to make quilts.

This dream turned into a national organization called Quilts of Valor Foundation, which began in 2003. The foundation, a 501-C3, is in all the 50 states and Canada, England and Australia. Since their beginning there have been over 450,000 quilts presented to veterans. In the United States there are 10,000 volunteer members operating across 600 local groups (or units) spanning all 50 states.

Additionally, the organization is backed by tens of thousands of supporters, hundreds of volunteer leaders and an all-volunteer network of quilters known as the Volunteer LongArmy. I will let you research on your own what the LongArmy does.

So, this Veterans Day, it is appropriate that we honor are veterans in many ways. My thoughts were to let as many veterans and their families know about an organization that has the word HEALING in what they do.

The mission of Quilts of Valor is to cover Service Members and Veterans "touched by war" in comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

Many of our veterans have been "touched by war" in a direct or indirect way and sometimes with lasting impact. Everyone's experience is different so it is left up to the individual service member or veteran to define.

The point is not to discriminate, but to honor. Anyone who has taken the Oath of Enlistment has accepted the burden and risk and may be "touched by war" in ways that are not totally apparent.

Valor describes a person of great courage, bravery and strength of mind, especially when facing extreme danger.

So, what is a Quilt of Valor? It is a quality handmade quilt, that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to service member who has been "touched by war." The quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

To use the term Quilt or Quilts of Valor or QOV, the quilt must be a specific size, must have a label with required information, it must be awarded (it is not a gift) and it must be recorded.



Being awarded a quilt is a process where a service member or veteran is nominated by another person to be awarded the Quilts of Valor for their service. Photo courtesy of Quilts of Valor

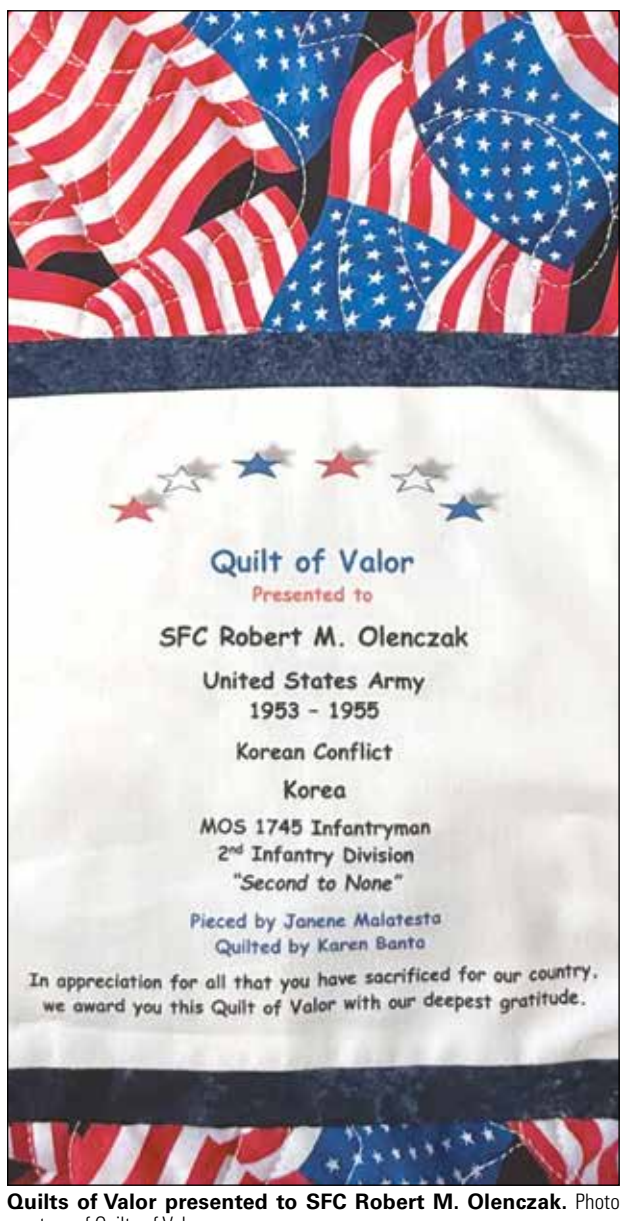
Being awarded a quilt is a process where a service member or veteran is nominated by another person to be awarded the Quilt of Valor for their service. It is not a surprise gift, but a nomination and must be approved by the recipients of the quilt. It may be refused if that is the desire of the veteran.

To nominate a veteran, go the Quilts of Valor Foundation website and follow the direction. The website will also give you some history, information about clubs or unit locations and additional information about the foundation.

But most of all, you will also find a number of ways, including donations, to help Quilts of Valor continue what they do.

In case you are in the area or want to take a trip, there is the America250: Quilt of Valor Traveling Quilt Exhibit now covering the United States and it will be in California Jan. 20-23, 2027 at the Ontario Convention Center, 2000 E. Convention Center, Way, Ontario, CA.

I was fortunate to have been recently nominated and received my quilt and had it draped over me by the quilters who made the quilt. An honor I shall never forget. The unit that was responsible for my quilt was the Piece and Comfort Quilters of Roseville headed by Kaye Allen.



Quilts of Valor presented to SFC Robert M. Olenczak. Photo courtesy of Quilts of Valor

Catherine Roberts, the founder, expressed these simple words to all recipients of the quilts, "Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor for serving our nation." ★

Board Approves SNOW Museum and Cultural Center

Placer County News Release

KINGS BEACH, CA (MPG) - The Sierra Nevada Olympic Winter Museum and Community Cultural Center project will move forward following the Placer County Board of Supervisors' approval in North Lake Tahoe.

The board unanimously approved six items related to the project, including adoption of two resolutions: one to certify the environmental impact report and the second to amend the Olympic Valley General Plan and land use ordinance to establish the "cultural amenities" land use designation. The board also adopted an ordinance to rezone the project site from forest recreation to cultural amenities.

The proposed SNOW Museum project, located at 101 Olympic Valley Road, calls for a 20,000-square-foot museum and community cultural center at Olympic Valley Park. The project is envisioned to celebrate the legacy of the 1960 Winter Olympics and the history of winter sports in the Sierra Nevada.



The SNOW Museum Foundation will operate the museum and intends to establish a hall of fame to honor winter sports athletes and leaders of the California and Nevada winter sports industry. Photo courtesy of Placer County

The proposed two-story building would provide a range of indoor and outdoor spaces designed to serve both residents and visitors. Planned uses include a museum focused on Olympic and Sierra Nevada ski history, a cultural community center, event space, a cafe and museum gift shop, and potentially a visitor center.

The SNOW Museum Foundation will operate the museum and intends to establish a hall of fame to honor winter sports athletes and leaders of the California and Nevada winter sports industry. The nonprofit organization also intends to submit an application to become designated as a U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum.

Outdoor improvements would include gathering areas designed to complement the building and provide opportunities for community events and activities. The project includes a plaza deck south of the building, along with a V-shaped garden to the east.

The proposed development would be located within Olympic Valley Park, a 26.8-acre year-round community park consisting of two parcels owned and operated by Placer County. The project represents an opportunity to add a cultural and educational destination within the existing park while maintaining the park's broader role as a community gathering place.

The 1960 Winter Olympics, held in what is now Olympic Valley, helped establish the region as an internationally recognized winter sports destination. More than six decades later, the proposed center would provide an opportunity to preserve that legacy, share the history of winter sports in the Sierra Nevada and create a new community gathering space for Olympic Valley.

Olympic Valley Park is subject to a deed restriction associated with Placer County's 1999 purchase of the park parcels from the U.S. Forest Service. The restriction prevents future uses of the property from including private development of a commercial, residential or industrial nature. Through continued discussions, the Forest Service has indicated that its review of the proposed project has not identified any obvious violations of the property's deed restriction, thereby allowing the county to proceed with the project.

Included in Tuesday's board approval is a ten-year conditional land use permit to allow the SNOW Museum Foundation more time to begin a significant fundraising campaign to help construct the project.

Find more information about the project here: https://www.placer.ca.gov/7884/SNOW-Sports-Museum-and-Community-Cultura. ★

A Legacy of Giving

Continued from page 1

The Beadles were introduced to Placer Community Foundation by their attorney, Paul Aronowitz, in 2010. Bud later described PCF as "the answer we were looking for." They wanted to support the causes they cared about during their lifetimes, while also making sure that giving would continue long after they were gone.

Together, they established the Bud and Bernadine Beadles Charitable Fund, a Donor Advised Fund at PCF. Over the years, Bud directed grants to local and national causes that reflected their values, vision and passions. They also included a future gift in their estate plan.

"We love to see people succeed," Bud once said, "and most times, they just have to be given an opportunity."

Today, after both Bud and Bernie have passed, their charitable fund continues to support their Lutheran faith, youth, the performing arts, and the poor and impoverished.

From the life they built together in Auburn to the causes they chose to support, Bud and Bernie planned with care for the people and community that mattered to them.

Create a lasting legacy of your own. Placer Community Foundation can help you develop a charitable plan that supports the causes you care about for generations to come. ★





Popp Talk

With Mary Jane Popp

Why Veterans Day?

We all love celebrations, don't we? We celebrated Memorial Day and now it's time for Veterans Day. Aren't they for the same reason to honor our military men and women. Not exactly. They are six months apart, but the emphasis is quite different. Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who have died in the service of our country, particularly those who have died in battle. While those who died are also remembered Veterans Day, the day is set aside to thank and honor ALL those who served honorably in the military in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely attended to thank LIVING veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served not only those who died-have sacrificed and done their duty.

That's why I am so proud to have had one of those honorable men in my life for both these special days. My late husband was a Vietnam Vet and served overseas fresh out of OCS as a Second Lieutenant, stayed in the reserves after he served his stint in Vietnam, and retired a LT Colonel. By the way, haven't you wondered why there is no apostrophe in Veterans Day, but does include an "s" at the end of the word veterans? How about this? Because it is not a day that belongs to veterans, it is a day for honoring ALL veterans. I honestly did not know that. Never to old to learn. Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls.

How about a little history on this special day. It goes back a very long time to 1918. WWI was known at the time as "The Great War" that officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919 in the Palace of Versailles in France. However, the fighting ceased seven months earlier when the armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany, went into effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded "the war to end all wars." It was a true wish for all to hope for, but unfortunately, that was not the end of all wars as WWII was in the wind.

Perhaps we can learn from tragedy of all the wars that were to come from WWII to the Korean War, Vietnam War, even though they didn't call it a war, to Dessert Storm, Iraqi War, Afghanistan, to the Iran War. God willing there will not be more, but I am beginning to believe as long as humanity exists, there will be wars over something that is believed to be justified. For now, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we will continue to honor all those men and women whose courage makes sure we remain free. GOD BLESS THEM ALL! ★

A Purrr-fect Holiday

Shop Local and Get Festive at FieldHaven Feline Center's 2nd Annual Holiday Faire

FieldHaven Feline Center News Release

LINCOLN, CA (MPG) - The holiday season is getting a festive start as FieldHaven Feline Center prepares to host its second annual FieldHaven Holiday Faire on Saturday, November Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at FieldHaven Marketplace in downtown Lincoln.

Free and open to the public, the Holiday Faire will bring together local artists, makers, small businesses and community members for an afternoon of holiday shopping, seasonal treats, family-friendly activities and plenty of festive cheer.

Visitors can browse an eclectic selection of handmade crafts, artwork, jewelry, accessories and unique gifts from a wonderful lineup of local vendors. Participating businesses include Arjun's Cat Hats, Auburn Cookie Co., Banjo Bear Creations, Cotton & Pigment, Pawsitive Candle Co., Rustic Rooster Design, Sweet Bee Studio Design, TuTu Made It! and many more.

The Faire will also feature a holiday bake sale, a hot chocolate bar, coffee and tea and a variety of creative activities, including a craft station, cat-ear headband decorating and face painting.

Adding to the holiday atmosphere, Tay Bridges will return to the Faire with his wonderful keyboard music, providing a festive soundtrack for an afternoon of shopping, sipping and celebrating.

Of course, no FieldHaven event would be complete without cats! Cat and kitten adoptions will begin at 11 a.m., with additional exciting adoption announcements coming soon.

Beyond the holiday fun, the event offers an opportunity for the community to support FieldHaven Feline Center and its lifesaving programs for cats and kittens in need.



Of course, no FieldHaven event would be complete without cats! Cat and kitten adoptions will begin at 11 a.m., with additional exciting adoption announcements coming soon. Photo courtesy of FieldHaven Feline Center

"Whether you're looking for unique gifts, a fun afternoon with family and friends, or perhaps your next furry family member, there's something for everyone at the FieldHaven Holiday Faire," said Makenna Gwaltney, executive director of FieldHaven Feline Center. "We're excited to bring our community together once again to celebrate the season while supporting a cause that makes a difference in the lives of cats."

FieldHaven Marketplace is at 454 F St. in Lincoln. Cat and kitten adoptions will begin at 11 a.m.

To view the event on Facebook, visit: https://www.facebook.com/events/4441433109445032/

To learn more about FieldHaven Feline Center, visit fieldhaven.com or call 916-434-6022. ★

PCWA Board Raises Concerns Over Fleet Regulations



PCWA Water System crews rely on medium- and heavy-duty trucks to access canals, water treatment plants and other critical infrastructure, including during winter storms and emergencies. Pictured here, crews navigate snowy conditions in Alta to help keep water flowing to local communities. Photo courtesy of PCWA



PCWA heavy-duty vehicles navigate steep, mountainous roads to access remote reservoirs and facilities within the Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project, where reliable transportation is essential to daily operations and emergency response. Photo courtesy of PCWA

Placer County Water Agency News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - The Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) Board of Directors has directed staff to pursue changes to California's recently approved Advanced Clean Fleets regulations, citing concerns about the potential multimillion-dollar costs of the state's unfunded mandate and the practical challenges of maintaining reliable water service across a large, geographically diverse service area.

At its Oct. 15 meeting, the Board reviewed requirements to transition purchases of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles toward zero-emission technology. The regulations generally require 50 percent of purchases to qualify through 2029, increasing to 100 percent beginning in 2030, subject to exemptions. The regulations affect 71 vehicles across PCWA's water and hydroelectric generation operations. PCWA is among public agencies across California subject to these requirements, which also affect qualifying vehicle fleets operated by cities, counties and special districts statewide.

The regulations mandate that the Agency replace existing gas- and diesel-powered vehicles with zero- or near-zero emission alternatives, even when many of the current vehicles still have years of useful service life remaining. One potential investment strategy presented to the Board totaled approximately $4.8 million through 2029, not including the additional costs of installing charging equipment and upgrading electrical infrastructure at Agency facilities.

Without state funding to offset these requirements, the vehicle and infrastructure costs could be in the tens of millions of dollars, with the majority in PCWA's Water System and ultimately to be borne by water ratepayers.

In addition to the financial impacts, Board members raised concerns about whether available electric vehicles can meet the demands of PCWA's operations. Crews travel long distances across a large service area, often navigating mountainous terrain and challenging weather conditions. Vehicle range, charging times and the ability to remain operational during extended workdays and emergencies are critical considerations when responding to water system repairs and maintaining reliable service. The safety of personnel traveling in severe weather must also be considered.

"Our customers count on us to deliver reliable water service, and our crews need the right equipment to make that happen safely," said PCWA Board Chair Joshua Alpine. "It is unthinkable that the state would impose this on local governments without consideration of safety and affordability and without a proven supply chain of compliant vehicles."

Concerned about the potential impacts on customers and operations, the Board directed staff to pursue regulatory and legislative relief, including outreach to the Governor's Office and state lawmakers, to seek more practical and cost-effective requirements for public utilities. ★

Placer County Encourages Residents to Prepare for El Niño



Placer County's Department of Public Works is preparing for the season ahead by completing road repair projects and clearing road drainages and culverts. Photo courtesy of Placer County

Placer County News Release

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - With the U.S. National Weather Service forecasting an El Niño climate pattern of likely historic strength for California this year, Placer County is urging residents this California Flood Preparedness Week to take steps now to prepare.

To support them, the county's Office of Emergency Services has created an El Niño information hub on its ReadyPlacer.org website: https://www.placer.ca.gov/elnino.

"While the potential hazards from a very strong El Niño are not guaranteed, the Weather Service's seasonal outlook forecasts above average precipitation for Placer County this winter," said Dave Atkinson, assistant director of the Office of Emergency Services. "We advise all residents to take steps as soon as possible to be ready."

Localized flooding, extended power outages and road closures have been concerns in previous winters with heavier precipitation.

Property owners should consider buying flood insurance, even if it hasn't been required by their mortgage lender. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from flooding. Because Placer County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, residents can purchase a separate flood insurance policy at a discount. There is a 30-day waiting period before new coverage takes effect.

Residents should also be aware of drainage features on their property and ensure that they remain clear. And they should keep up with the weather forecast and sign up for Placer Alert emergency notifications.

Placer County's Department of Public Works is preparing for the season ahead by completing road repair projects and clearing road drainages and culverts. The county will also maintain emergency sand and sandbag stations with partner agencies across the county, though residents are requested to prepare ahead of storms by purchasing these at commercial locations if at all possible and rely on emergency stations as a last resort.

"Preparedness can be the difference between a bad storm and an emergency," Atkinson said. "Across the county we're coordinating and preparing to address the challenges that may arise. But preparedness starts at home, and we all need to be doing our part to be ready for severe weather to protect ourselves, our families and our properties."

Placer County will continue to share preparedness information and resources as the season progresses. Residents are advised to bookmark the ReadyPlacer Dashboard for the latest information during severe weather and emergency situations. ★

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."

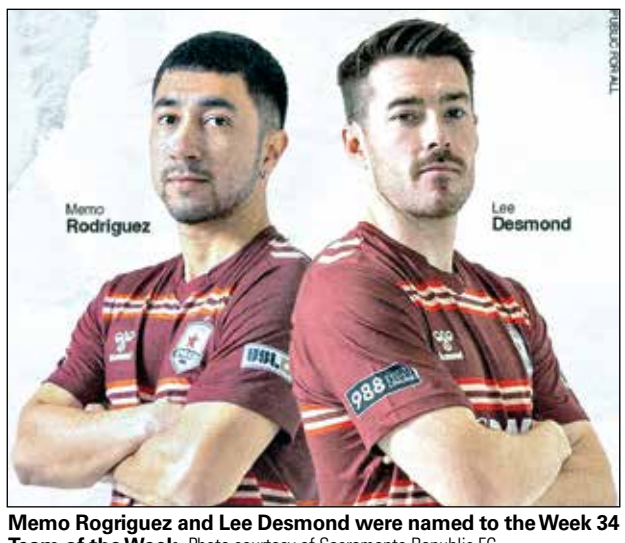
Martinez concluded the evening with a surprise announcement that all UC Davis student-athletes would receive a complimentary pair of OOFOS recovery footwear, drawing an enthusiastic response from those in attendance.

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. ★

Goat Herders Gain Wage Parity Under AB 187

By Sara Jackson



Sheep and goats return nutrients to the soil, help control invasive plant species, reduce bare soil exposure, and support native perennial grasses and biodiversity. Photo courtesy of Placer County

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A new California law backed by Placer County has restored wage parity between goat and sheep herders, resolving a pay disparity that local officials warned could jeopardize prescribed grazing programs used to reduce wildfire danger.

Assembly Bill 187, passed during the final hours of the legislative session Aug. 31, places goat and sheep herders under the same specialized minimum monthly salary structure through Jan. 1, 2029.

The legislation followed months of concern over what happened when a temporary wage exemption for goat herders expired June 30.

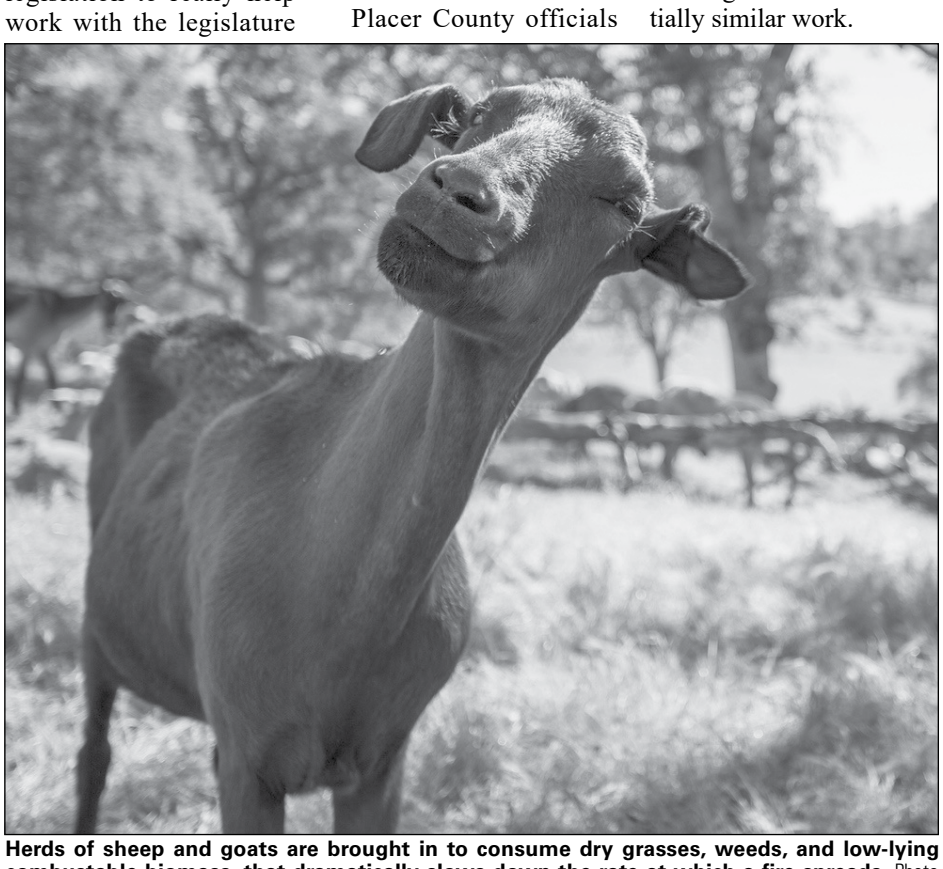
Beginning July 1, goat herders became subject to standard agricultural overtime requirements while sheep herders continued operating under a monthly salary structure.

"Current universal overtime rules that apply to other industries really aren't applicable or feasible for this industry. The County of Placer will take a similar position. My intention would be to really help work with the legislation to really help work with the legislature to find a more permanent solution," said Josh Huntsinger, Agricultural Commission and Director of Agriculture, Parks, and Natural Resources.

For grazing operators, the difference was dramatic. Potential annual wage costs for a goat herder could have risen to roughly $240,000, compared with about $60,000 under the previous wage structure.

Placer County officials joined a bipartisan coalition of state lawmakers in advocating for a solution, arguing that the disparity threatened the economic viability of prescribed grazing companies and could ultimately reduce the availability of an increasingly important wildfire-prevention tool.

A UC Davis study also supported wage parity, finding that sheep and goat herding involve substantially similar work.



Herds of sheep and goats are brought in to consume dry grasses, weeds, and low-lying combustable biomass, that dramatically slows down the rate at which a fire spreads. Photo courtesy of Placer County

That became a central argument in the debate: Why should workers performing essentially the same job be governed by dramatically different wage requirements based on whether they herd goats or sheep?

The issue was particularly important in Placer County, where prescribed grazing is used to reduce vegetation and wildfire fuels.

"As far as how close we are to losing them, I think what we would have seen is that the vendor would have to pass along that cost to the county. For instance, if a vendor's contracted for $100,000 worth of work and their costs double or triple, they're either not gonna be able to do that work for us, or they're gonna have to have a contract that doubles or triples in price. So we the county would be put in a position where we'd either have to absorb a massive cost increase or no longer be able to hire that grazer and then that grazer wouldn't have contracts and would have to basically reduce or eliminate that business. It's a real business killer for those grazer," said Huntsinger.

The county contracts with grazing companies to manage hazardous vegetation on county-owned property, particularly parkland. CAL FIRE also uses targeted grazing as part of its wildfire prevention efforts.

Goats can be particularly effective because they consume brush and vegetation in places that can be difficult to reach with equipment. Steep slopes, rocky terrain and areas near homes and other development can make mechanical vegetation removal challenging.

Prescribed grazing allows livestock to reduce that vegetation before it can become fuel for a wildfire.

But the work requires herders who remain with the animals for extended periods, moving and monitoring livestock and caring for them while grazing projects progress across properties.

Because herding does not fit neatly into a conventional eight-hour workday, grazing operators argued that applying standard agricultural overtime requirements to goat herders while exempting sheep herders created an enormous financial imbalance.

Without a change in the law, operators warned that companies could be forced to raise prices significantly, reduce their use of goats or leave the prescribed grazing business altogether.

For Placer County, that could have meant fewer options for managing vegetation at a time when wildfire prevention remains a major concern.

The issue also has statewide implications. The Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force identified expansion of prescribed grazing as one of its 2025 Key Deliverables, reflecting growing interest in using livestock as part of California's broader vegetation-management strategy.

AB 187 gives grazing companies some certainty by extending the common wage structure through the beginning of 2029.

State Sen. Melissa Hurtado, D-Bakersfield, praised the restoration of wage parity following passage of the legislation, which ended the two-month period in which goat and sheep herders were treated differently under state wage rules.

The legislation does not permanently resolve the issue. Unless lawmakers take further action, the current wage provisions are scheduled to expire Jan. 1, 2029.

That leaves California several years to determine how goat and sheep herders should be compensated over the long term.

For Placer County, however, passage of AB 187 addressed the more immediate concern: keeping the cost of prescribed grazing from increasing to a level that could make the practice impractical.

The result is a wage system that once again treats goat and sheep herders alike — and, county officials and grazing advocates contend, helps preserve an important tool in Placer County's efforts to reduce vegetation and wildfire risk. ★





Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl

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Placer Sentinel

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North Tahoe Galleries Join Placer Artists Tour



The North Tahoe expansion is presented through a partnership among the Tahoe City Downtown Association, Kings Beach District, Placer Artists Tour and Arts Council of Placer County. Photo courtesy of Tahoe City Downtown Association

Tahoe City Downtown Association News Release

TAHOE CITY, CA (MPG) - North Tahoe galleries will participate in the 33rd annual Placer Artists Tour for the first time Nov. 6-8, bringing the popular countywide arts event to Tahoe City, Kings Beach and Olympic Valley. The free, self-guided tour invites visitors to meet local artists, explore galleries, discover the creative process and purchase original artwork.

The expansion marks a milestone for North Tahoe's creative community, connecting local artists and galleries with a broader regional audience while encouraging visitors to explore local businesses and cultural offerings during the fall shoulder season. The 2026 tour features 129 participating artists, galleries and schools at 80 locations throughout Placer County, from Roseville to North Tahoe.

The North Tahoe tour takes place Nov. 6 to 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free, and visitors can explore participating galleries at their own pace. For more details, visit PlacerArtistsTour.org.

Participating North Tahoe galleries include Tahoe City galleries, The Eadington Gallery and Kiwi Kamera Gallery, Olympic Valley's Gallery Keoki and Kings Beach galleries, North Tahoe Arts and Tahoe Print & Frame.

The North Tahoe expansion is presented through a partnership among the Tahoe City Downtown Association, Kings Beach District, Placer Artists Tour and Arts Council of Placer County. The initiative supports efforts to strengthen the local creative economy, increase visibility for North Tahoe artists and galleries, and attract cultural tourism during a traditionally slower time of year.

"Bringing the Placer Artists Tour to North Tahoe creates an opportunity to showcase the talented artists and galleries in our community while encouraging residents and visitors to explore our downtown businesses," Katherine Hill, executive director of TCDA said. "Arts and cultural events are an important part of building a vibrant year-round economy." ★

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.

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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.

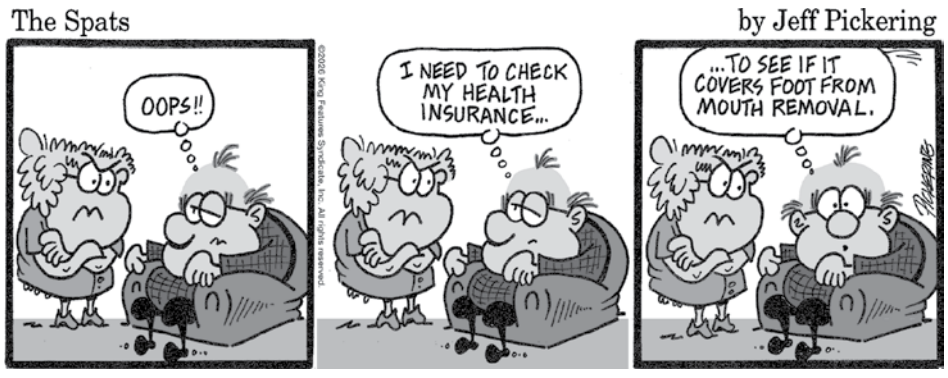
He doesn't deserve the benefit of any doubt and has responded to questions about all of this with evasions and high dudgeon. No matter how often El-Sayed invokes JFK, Kennedy didn't defend his Catholic faith as a way of distracting from his own extremism and that of people around him.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

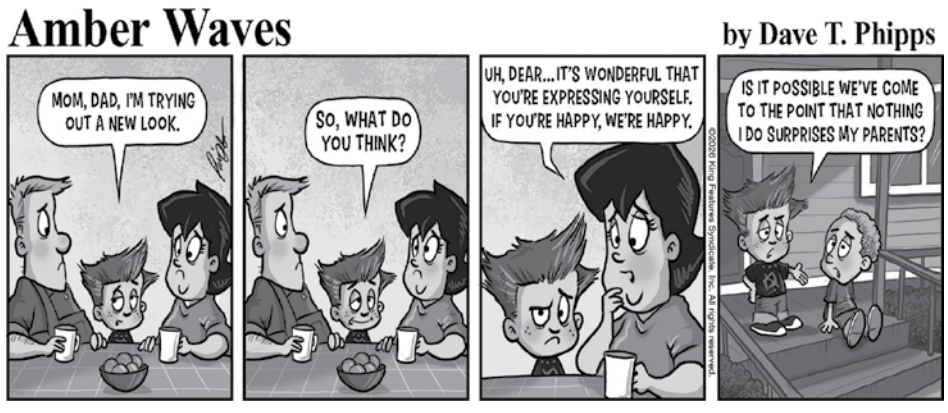
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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats by Jeff Pickering



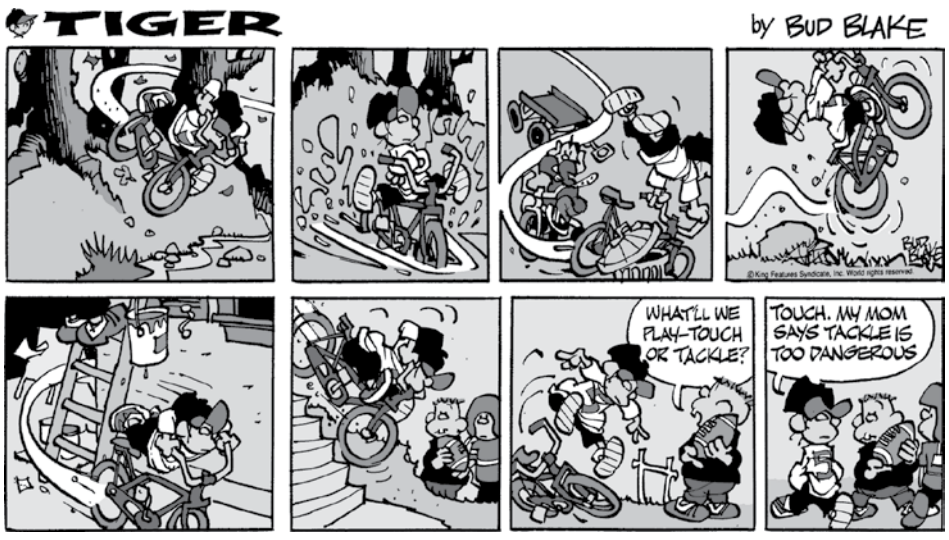
Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

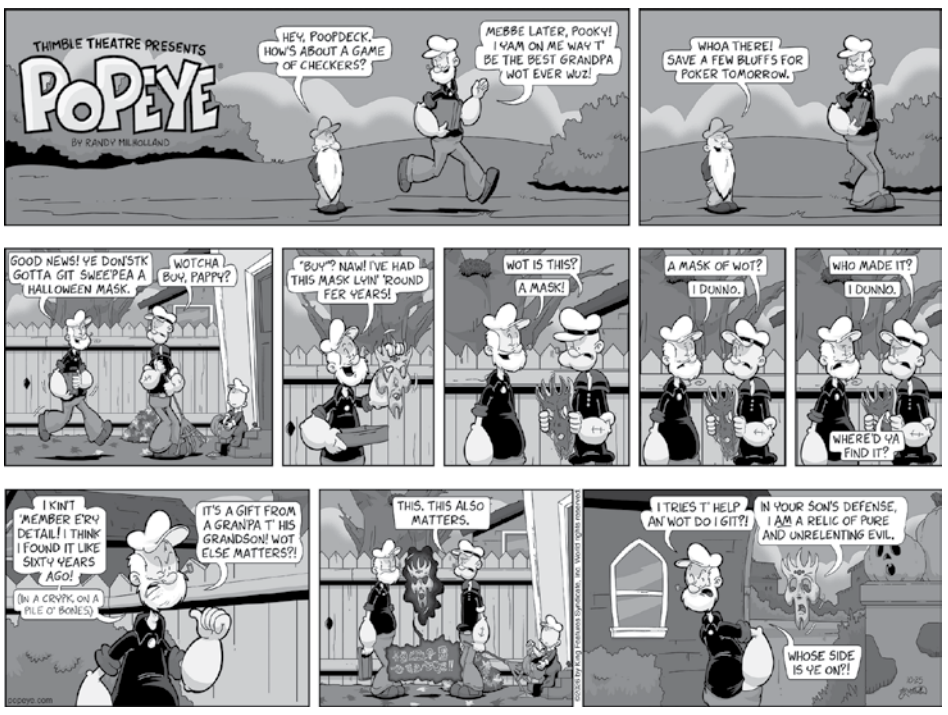


Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas



TIGER by BUD BLAKE





HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



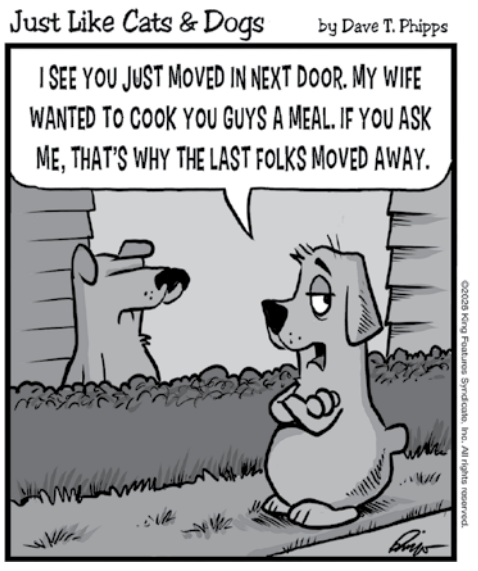
Differences: 1. Door is narrower. 2. Window is smaller. 3. Left arm is not showing. 4. Pencil cup is moved. 5. Chair leg is moved. 6. Plant leaf is moved.

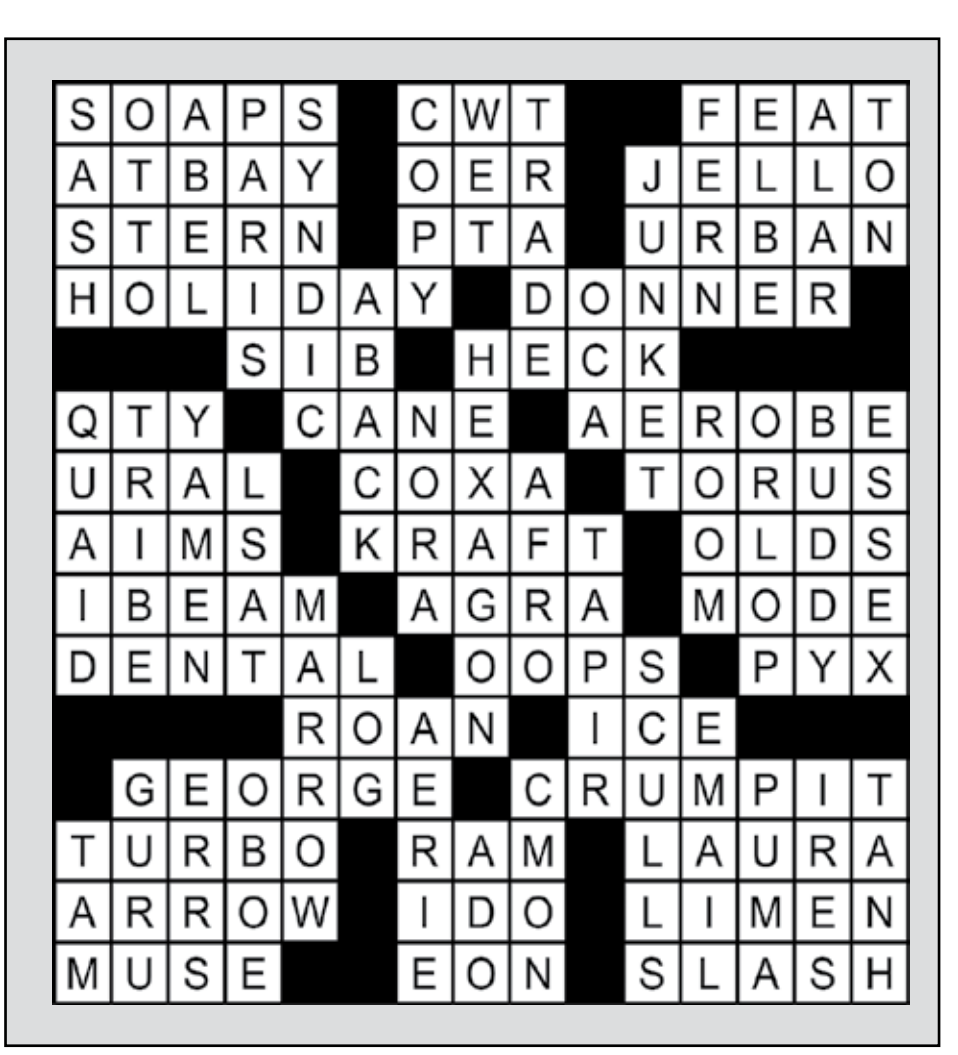
BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY SMITH by BRANT PARKER AND FRED LASSWELL



"Santa wants his letters in Morse code!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps





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CLUES

ACROSS
1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. *HomeExchange story, with The
21. *Rudolph's father
23. *Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
24. "Dickens!"
25. Quantity, acr.
28. *"Candy ____ Lane" starring Eddie Murphy
30. Opposite of an-aerobe
35. Russian mountain range
37. Coxae, sing.
39. Tori, sing.
40. Goals
41. Famous Mac & Cheese manufacturer
43. One of auto pioneers
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Home to Taj Mahal
47. A la _____, with ice cream
48. Relating to teeth
50. "My bad"
52. Eucharist vessel
53. Multicolored horse
55. NHL court
57. *Bailey of Bedford Falls
60. *Mount ____, Grinch's home
64. Supercharger
65. Ewe's mate
67. Alice Halsey on "Little House on the Prairie"
68. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
69. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
70. Sensory threshold, in psychology
71. Artist's inspiration
72. Bajillion years
73. Guns N' Roses lead guitarist

DOWN
1. "Away to the window I flew like a flash, ... and threw up the _____"
2. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
3. Cain's brother
4. *The McCallisters' travel destination
5. Trustee
6. Printer button
7. *Harry and Marv, a.k.a. the ____ Bandits
8. Pro move
9. Shade-loving plant
10. Hamburg river
11. Winglike
12. Freight weight
15. Official work trip
20. Taken where?
22. South American tuber
24. Six-sided polygon
25. *Cousin Eddie actor
26. Human social group
27. Mandarin's headquarters
29. *Luther Krank's wife
31. Living space
32. Lowest deck
33. *Will Ferrell's famous holiday role
34. English county
36. Future J.D.'s hurdle
38. Like Bob Ross' do
42. Short-trunked ungulate
45. Bone filler
49. Yule treat
51. Type of racing boat, pl.
54. Nest for an eagle
56. Not your grandmother's mail?
57. Spiritual leader
58. Makes a mistake
59. Double reed woodwind
60. Slangy "Follow me!"
61. Cat on a shoe
62. Wraths
63. Hyperbolic tangent
64. _____ o' shanter
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare

CROSSWORD



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SUDOKU

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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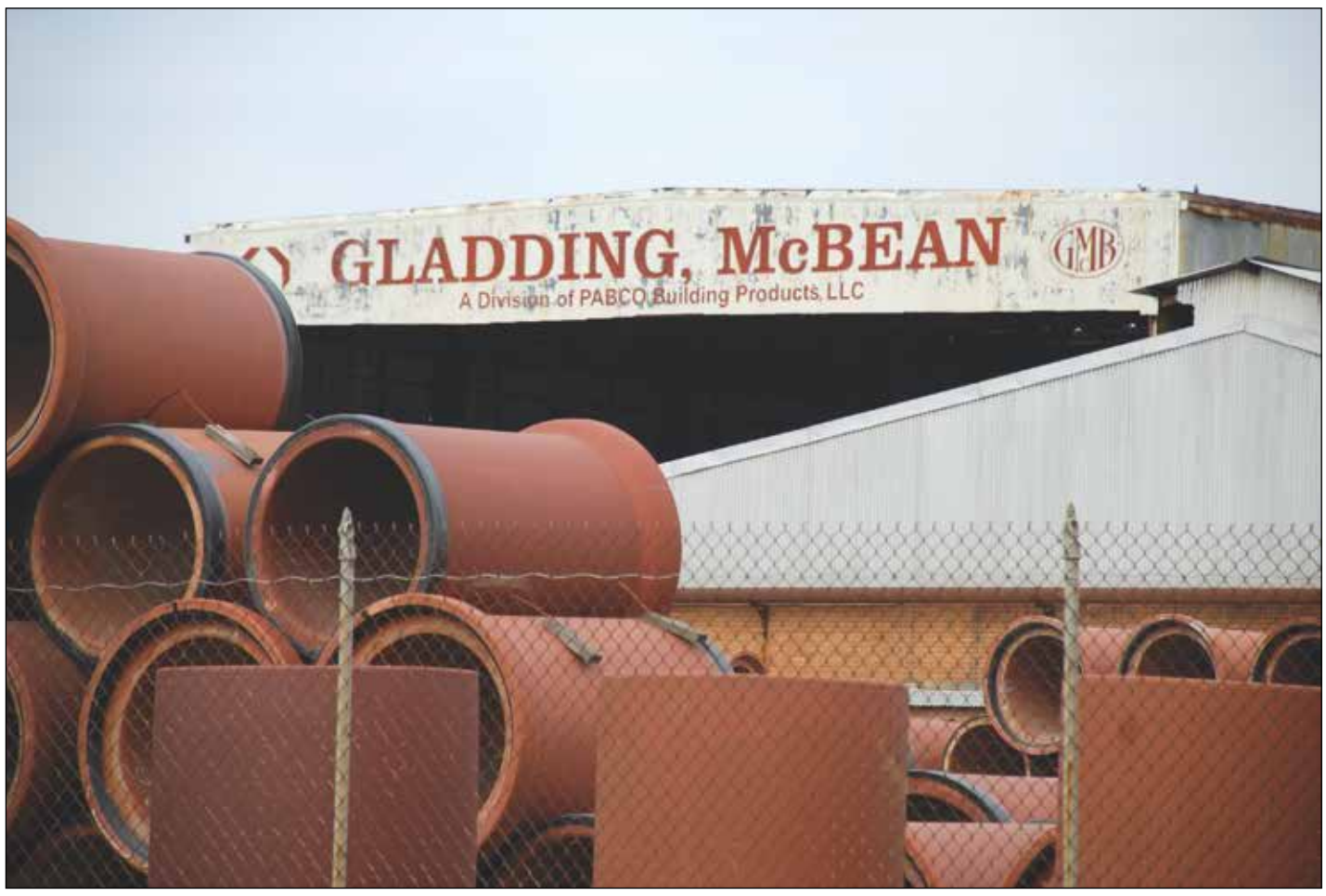
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151 Years of Clay and Craft

Gladding, McBean's Lasting Legacy in Placer County

Story and photos by Sara Jackson



Gladding, McBean manufacturing plant located in Lincoln. Founded in 1875.

LINCOLN, CA (MPG) - By the late 1800s, California was growing at a remarkable pace. Towns were expanding, streets and sewer systems were being built, and architects were looking for materials that could give the young state's buildings a sense of permanence.

In Placer County, an unusually rich deposit of clay helped meet that demand and gave rise to a company that would become one of the region's most enduring industries.

Gladding, McBean was founded in Lincoln in 1875 by Charles Gladding, Peter McGill McBean and George Chambers. The company grew from a local clay products manufacturer into a nationally known producer of architectural terra cotta, clay pipe, roof tile and other ceramic products.

Its story has been closely tied to Placer County ever since.

"To me, Gladding, McBean represents the pride of making something that lasts. Our clay sewer pipe serves communities underground, our roof tile protects buildings and gives them character, and our architectural terra cotta helps create and preserve landmarks. Together, those products have given Lincoln a reputation for skilled manufacturing far beyond Placer County. After more than 25 years with the company, the connection between our people, our work and Lincoln means a great deal to me," National Sales Manager Jamie Farnham said.

The company's beginnings can be traced to the discovery of high-quality clay near Lincoln and the community's access to the railroad. Those advantages allowed Gladding, McBean to manufacture heavy clay products locally and ship them to customers throughout California and beyond.

The company initially concentrated on clay sewer pipe. Its first carload was shipped to San Francisco in 1875. As California's population and cities grew, so did demand for the durable products manufactured in Lincoln.

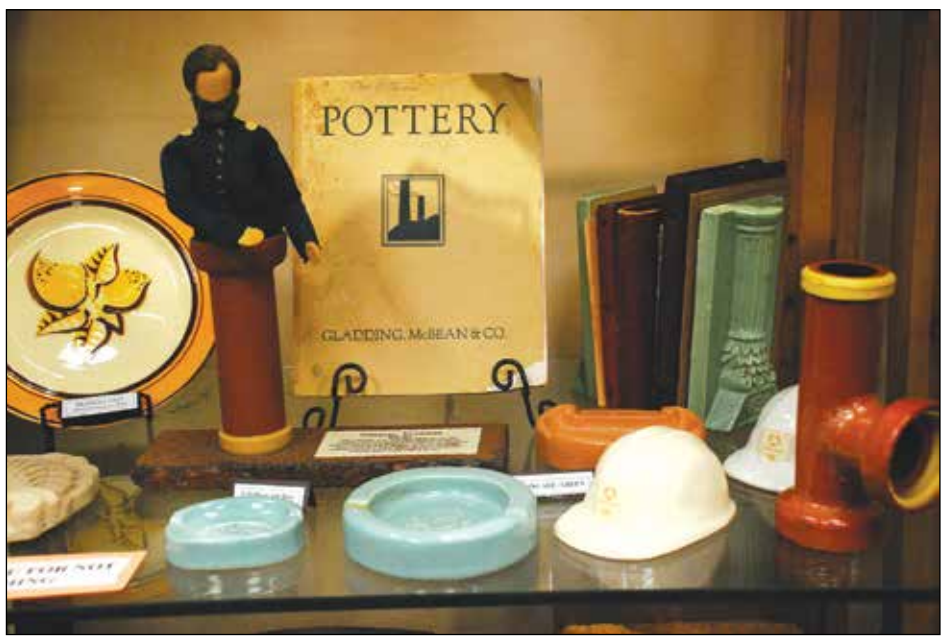
By the 1890s, the plant had expanded into brick, roofing tile, enamel-faced brick and decorative garden pottery. Eventually, however, Gladding, McBean became especially celebrated for its architectural terra cotta intricately molded and sculpted pieces used to ornament buildings.

That craftsmanship turned a Placer County manufacturer into a contributor to architecture far beyond the county line. Gladding, McBean products were used in projects ranging from California buildings to structures as far away as Tokyo. The company also supplied materials associated with prominent institutions including Stanford University.

Closer to home, the company's importance was economic as well as cultural.

"Our connection to Auburn is visible in buildings such as the Placer County Courthouse and the Masonic Temple. But the broader company story also includes clay sewer pipe for wastewater infrastructure and roof tiles for homes and other buildings. Those products show the range of needs a clay manufacturer can serve. Gladding, McBean's influence extends from recognizable architecture to the everyday systems communities depend on, carrying Lincoln's manufacturing reputation well beyond the county," said Farnham.

For generations, the Lincoln plant provided jobs for Placer County residents, including highly skilled craftsmen and sculptors. At its peak in the 1940s, the operation employed as many as 750 people, including artisans whose work required skills quite different from those found in a typical industrial plant.



Gladding, McBean pottery, architectural ceramics and other historic pieces showcase the company's diverse clay craftsmanship.



Decorative clay pieces and sculptures fill a historic Gladding, McBean workshop.

That employment had an impact beyond Lincoln. Auburn, as the Placer County seat and one of the region's principal commercial centers, was part of the same growing regional economy. The company's success helped establish western Placer County as more than an agricultural area or a region defined by its Gold Rush past. Manufacturing became part of the county's identity as well.

Gladding, McBean also survived challenges that ended many other early California industries. The devastating 1918 influenza pandemic affected the company, but specially fired kilns survived intact and production continued. Through economic downturns, changes in ownership and shifts in architectural tastes, the Lincoln operation endured.

Its manufacturing methods have evolved dramatically. Modern technology now works alongside techniques rooted in the company's earliest years. Laser scanning, computer-aided design and CNC technology have joined traditional molding, glazing and firing skills. Environmental regulations have required changes to historic glaze formulas, while craftspeople have worked to retain the appearance of the original finishes.

Today, the sprawling Lincoln facility remains a striking physical reminder of Placer County's industrial heritage.



Clay by James Phillips 2023

When asked if she believed Gladding, McBean would still be manufacturing in Lincoln 50 or 100 years from now, Farnham said this, "I believe it can be, provided we continue investing in people and the business. We need to train the next generation and maintain the equipment and processes needed to compete. That means continuing to earn a place in wastewater infrastructure with clay sewer pipe, in roofing with clay tile, and in new architecture and restoration with terra cotta. Passing knowledge and experience from one generation of employees to the next will be essential to that future."

More than 150 years after its founding, clay from Placer County continues to carry the region's craftsmanship and history far beyond the place where the story began. ★

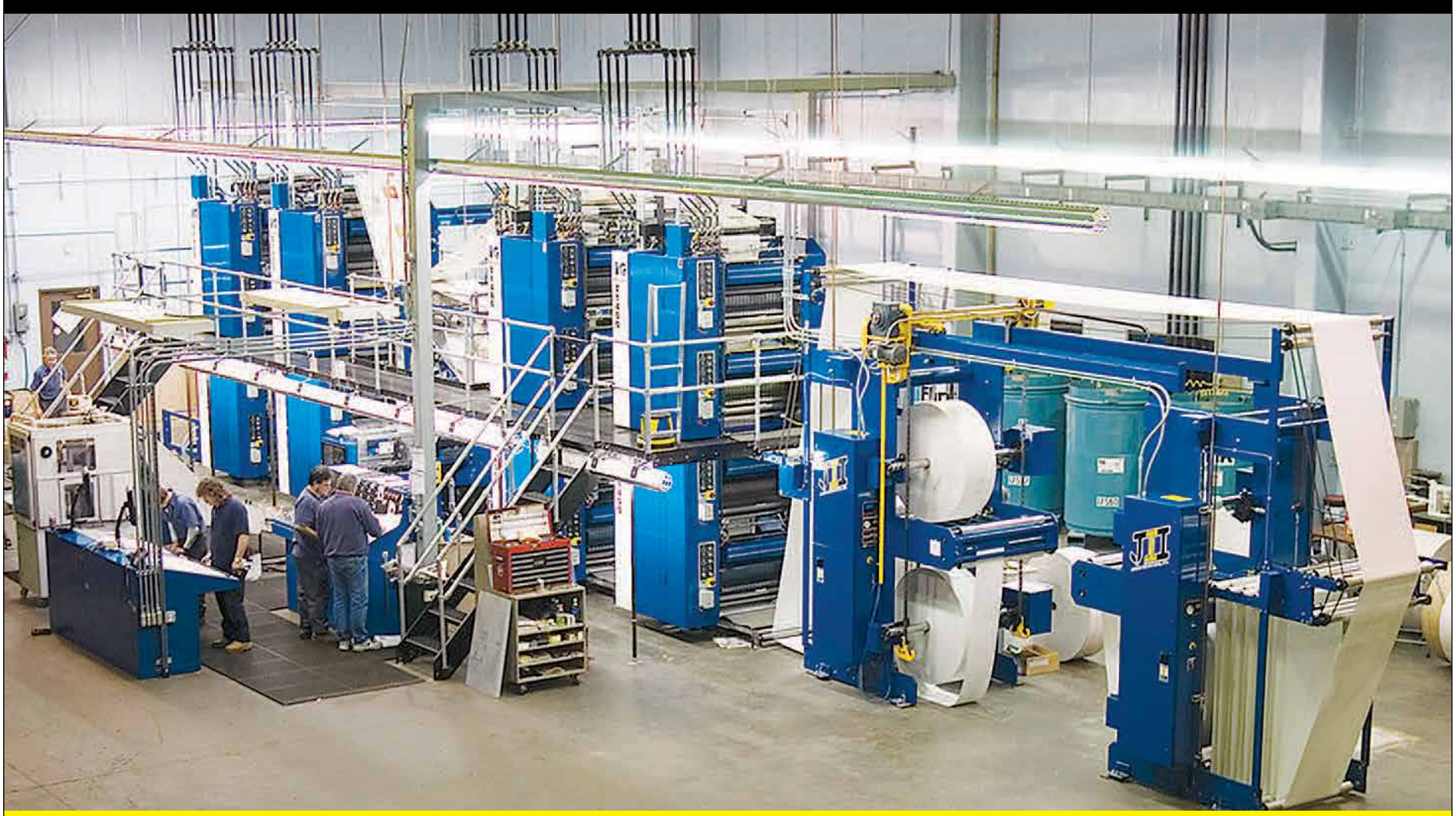


Rows of clay pipes fill the yard at Gladding, McBean's historic Lincoln plant, with the facility's brick smokestack rising in the background.



A decorative Gladding, McBean fountain outside the Lincoln museum reflects the company's tradition of architectural ceramics and craftsmanship.

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