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Mark Friedman, chairman of real estate development and investment firm Fulcrum Property, speaks about the greater Sacramento region's bid to secure a Major League Baseball expansion team as a rendering of a new stadium is projected a press conference at The Barn in West Sacramento on Thursday, May 28, 2026.

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## West Sacramento gears up for MLB expansion pitch

BY ANNIKA MERRILEES  
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Regional officials thrust West Sacramento into the national competition for a Major League Baseball expansion team Thursday, making a case that, armed with public funding, \$800 million in land and private investment and an unconventional audition of sorts as a temporary host to the Athletics, the city can prove itself a worthy, permanent home for the league.

The Greater Sacramento Economic Council said in a news release that it expects \$1 billion in public investment from the city of West Sacramento through tax increment financing, hotel tax revenue and other sources. Officials from the United Auburn Indian Community and Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians confirmed that the tribes are each committing \$250 million.

"This is the beginning of a long effort," said Mark Friedman, founder and chairman of Fulcrum Property and board chair of the Greater Sacramento Economic Council, during a news conference Thursday. "We're confident in our vision and the momentum that we've



Sacramento City Council members Rick Jennings, Karina Talamantes and Caitly Maple sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" after Greater Sacramento regional leaders announce the region's bid to secure a Major League Baseball expansion team during a press conference at The Barn on Thursday, May 28, 2026, in West Sacramento.

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built. When Major League Baseball is ready to expand, Sacramento will be ready to compete and will be ready to win."

Although the league has not formally begun the process to expand, cities across the country have begun laying the

groundwork to stand out in any future contest, setting up tax

SEE MLB, 6A

## State lawmakers advance anti-ICE bills, but friction emerges

BY ANDREW GRAHAM AND STEPHEN HOBBS  
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Both the California Assembly and their counterparts down the hall in the Senate voted in favor of bills to push back against President Donald Trump's immigration enforcement agenda, and the federal

agents who enforce it, ahead of a Friday deadline for such measures to cross over to the other chamber.

The Assembly advanced 22 immigration enforcement-related bills on Wednesday. The Senate advanced 10. Among the measures were bills to prosecute people who impersonate immigration agents, require U.S. Immigrations and

Customs Enforcement to put its agency name on rental cars it uses in operations, require hotels to notify guests and employees when ICE is staying there and block ICE from staging out of state-owned facilities.

More bills required the California attorney general to investigate fatal shootings by ICE officers (a reduced version of a bill that initially required an

investigation in all such shootings), keep California cops from moonlighting with ICE, heavily tax private prison companies running ICE detention and more.

The Assembly bills drew significant support in that chamber, but there are signs of trouble ahead for some legislation as it moves to the Senate. Democrat support may not be quite as unified now as it appeared in January and February, when lawmakers flooded the state Capitol with legislation seeking to blunt the work

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## Union tries novel legal angle to stop RTO

BY WILLIAM MELHADO  
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A state worker union hopes to use a California environmental law notorious for obstructing the construction of new homes to block a very different kind of project: Gov. Gavin Newsom's impending return-to-office order.

On Wednesday, the union representing state attorneys and administrative law judges sent "exhaustion" letters to over 100 state departments, arguing that the return-to-office order will require more than 90,000 state workers to commute four days a week, which will negatively impact California's environment.

The California Environmental Quality Act requires agencies to complete a report on the additional carbon dioxide emitted from more drivers on the road before imposing the return-to-office order, the union said.

"Importantly, the CEQA review requires that each agency and department consider feasible alternatives, and we've been living in one of those for the last six years," said Talene Ghazarian, the president of California Attorneys, Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers in State Employment.

"Status quo is a feasible alternative," she said, referring to the current two-day, in-office policy most eligible state em-

SEE RTO, 4A

## Iran War lifts 2nd inflation reading to highest since 2023

BY COLBY SMITH  
*NYT News Service*

A measure of inflation closely watched by the Federal Reserve accelerated in April to a three-year high, reinforcing the central bank's budding support to consider raising interest rates if price pressures do not ease.

The personal consumption expenditures index rose 3.8% from the same time last year. It was the fastest annual pace since May 2023, when the Fed was in the midst of raising rates to tame a burst of inflation that had emerged in the wake of the pandemic. Over the course of the month, prices rose 0.4%.

A measure of underlying inflation that strips out volatile food and energy prices also notched a multiyear high. That measure, "core" inflation, increased 3.3% on a year-over-year basis after rising 0.2% in April.

The latest data, which the Commerce Department released Thursday, provided officials at the central bank with yet more evidence that they need to prioritize the risk of resurgent price pressures stoked by the war with Iran over shoring up the labor market, which has stabilized in recent months. Earlier this month, the consum-

SEE INFLATION, 6A

