



**How Sac County Meets the Needs of Older Adults**

PAGE 3

“ I HAVE A DREAM THAT MY FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN WILL ONE DAY LIVE IN A NATION WHERE THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER. ”

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., A TESTAMENT OF HOPE: THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS AND SPEECHES



# Gold River Messenger

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Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

JANUARY 2024

**SEE INSIDE**

**CHP NEW TRAFFIC SAFETY LAWS**



PAGE 3

**TALL CLUB SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE**



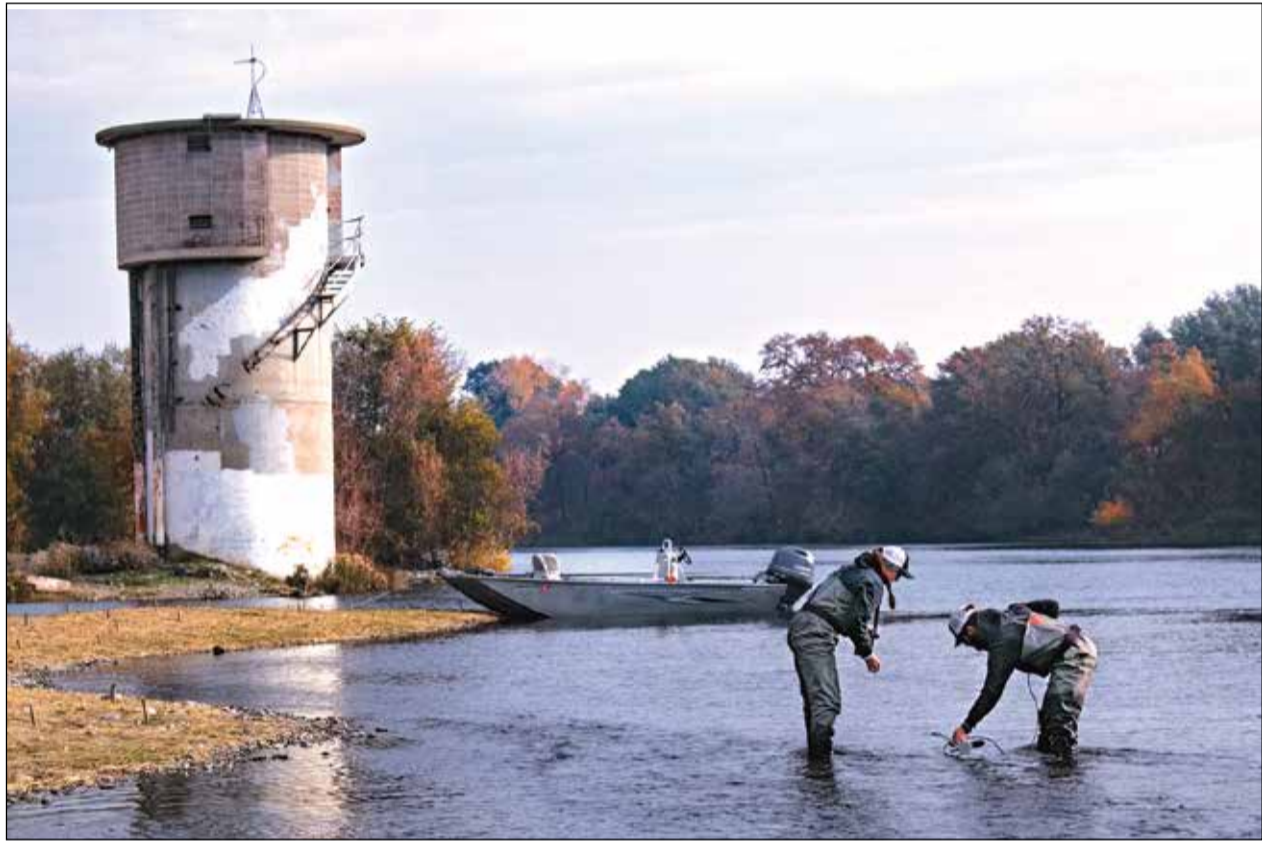
PAGE 2

**GRANT FOR CHILD SAFETY SEAT EDUCATION**



PAGE 4

## New Salmon Successes



Carmichael's iconic water tower is a sentinel near a newly established salmon nesting habitat near Ancil Hoffman Park. Biologists Maeghen Wedgeworth and Matt Ziemer drop markers prior to measuring underwater nests.

*Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner*

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Within weeks of a \$3.6 million Water Forum project completion in October, giant chinook were spawning in new gravel beds beside Ancil Hoffman Park.

At the peak of the fall American River salmon run, biologists commissioned by the Forum counted more than 100 new redds (nests) in river reaches that have been less than hospitable for spawning for decades. Salmon were digging nurseries when this



Adult salmon die soon after reproducing. Biologists Maeghen Wedgeworth and Matt Ziemer examine a chinook corpse in river shallows.

reporter joined the survey of six augmented acres at Upper River Bend. After salmon, steelhead will use the same breeding habitat. Another species benefitted

by the project is Pacific Lamprey, that breed in the same habitat.

“Monitoring is important” explains Kirsten Sellheim, senior scientist

for Cramer Fish Sciences. “We bring what we learn into the next project design. In spring, we’ll do more monitoring here to learn how juvenile fish are using side channels that were part of this project.”

“River bend is further downstream from most of the Water Forum’s past projects. Close to Nimbus Dam, spawning areas get crowded; this can reduce embryo survival. With the River Bend project, we’re trying to spread out spawning opportunities. It’s likely that greater reproduction success could occur in less crowded areas.”

*Continued on page 2*

## Gregg Fishman Elected SMUD Board Vice President



**New SMUD Board Vice President, Gregg Fishman.** Photo courtesy SMUD

**SMUD Press Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - SMUD’s Board of Directors elected Gregg Fishman as Vice President of the Board, effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Gregg was first elected to the SMUD Board of Directors in January 2015 and represents Ward 3, which includes East Sacramento, much of the Arden-Arcade area, and the Campus Commons, College Glen, and Rosemont neighborhoods, as well as parts of Carmichael, Florin, Fruitridge and Vintage Park.

Vice President Fishman has been a clean energy advocate for much of his career. As a former SMUD employee, he promoted wind and solar energy when they were in their infancy. At the California Independent System Operator, he led public engagement efforts supporting new wind energy farms in California. As President of the SMUD Board in 2018, he led the utility in passing its Integrated Resource Plan, hailed by the California Energy Commission as “... an ambitious road map for lowering greenhouse gas emissions in the Sacramento region.”

In his varied career, Gregg was a news reporter and anchor at KFBK and KGO Radio, a public information officer at SMUD and the California Independent System Operator (California ISO), and communications coordinator for the California State Association of Counties. He currently works at Sacramento Regional Transit as the Sr. Community Relations Officer.

Gregg is an active volunteer with the Sacramento Tree Foundation and has led a neighborhood effort that has planted more than 2,000 new trees since 2001. He received an award from the MLK 365 organization for helping to make it easier to remove racially restrictive clauses from local property records. He is a 25-gallon blood donor and a frequent volunteer master-of-ceremonies for Project Ride in Elk Grove.

Gregg is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento with a bachelor's degree in journalism. He and his wife live in Arden Park and are the parents of two daughters. ★

## First Snow Survey of the Season Finds Below Average Conditions

**DWR Special Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted the first snow survey of the season on January 2, 2023, at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded 7.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 3 inches, which is 30 percent of average for this location. The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of DWR’s water supply forecast. Statewide the snowpack is 25 percent of average for this date.

After one of the largest snowpacks on record



The Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted the first snow survey of the season on January 2, 2023, at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded 7.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 3 inches, which is 30 percent of average for this location. Photo courtesy of DWR

last season, the start of this water year has been dry despite some recent storms in the last weeks

of December that provided a small boost in the snowpack. While state reservoirs are still

above average for this time of year and strong El Niño conditions are

*Continued on page 4*



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# Sacramento Tall Club Memorial Scholarship Available

By Thomas J. Sullivan

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Members of the Sacramento Tall Club (STC) affiliated with Tall Clubs International (TCI) are seeking outstanding eligible high school seniors throughout Sacramento, Yolo, Placer and El Dorado counties to apply for their competitive annual 2022-23 academic scholarship.

The number of submitted scholarship applications dropped off last year, said STC Club President Harry Lehman of Orangevale. STC did not award a local scholarship for the 2021-22 school year.

"We wanted to take an extra step to reach out to all high school districts throughout our region in a focused direct mail effort, and through the media to make sure that both public and private schools received this year's application materials in a timely manner."

"We recognize that the potential pool of eligible scholarship candidates across the Northern California region is quite large, and we wanted to take all steps possible to encourage high school seniors to apply."

TCI divides California geographically into four scholarship areas with membership of the Sacramento Tall Club responsible for student scholarship applications in some 29 inland counties, large and small, north to the Oregon border, Lehman said.

Locally, STC has provided scholarship materials to high schools in the San Juan Unified School District serving Citrus Heights, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento city and county high schools.

"The TCI scholarship application process is now completely entirely online," Lehman said.

"Typically, high school guidance counselors are aware of the STC and TCI scholarship program, but many may not be aware that our application process has completely changed," Lehman said.

Individual applicants can upload their application, current high school



**Nicole Hensley, 2018-2019 Sacramento Tall Club scholarship award and TCI scholarship winner from Bella Vista High School. Left to right are Bob and Patty Huggett, scholarship winner Nicole Hensley and LeeAnn and Dave Spencer. Nicole was awarded her check for \$1,000 on May 23, 2019, at Awards Night at Bella Vista High. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Tall Club**

transcripts, reference letters, and personal photo to the TCI scholarship website at [www.sacramentotallclub.org/scholarship](http://www.sacramentotallclub.org/scholarship) starting January 1st where they will receive an immediate receipt email acknowledgment of their application and responses to any direct questions which they may have, Lehman said. STC scholarship applicants may also contact [scholarship@sacramentotallclub.org](mailto:scholarship@sacramentotallclub.org) with additional questions or for more information.

A complete summary of STC scholarship application guidelines, sample essays and photos of current and past winners are also posted on the club website.

Every year, the Sacramento Tall Club awards academic scholarships to qualified and talented high school seniors who meet the tall club height requirements (at least 5'10" for women and 6'2" for men.) The annual STC scholarship award is dedicated in memoriam to former TCI and STC members, many of whom were big supporters of young scholars and their many talents and merits. Scholarship amounts can vary year to year.

Part of the scholarship application for each young person is to write an essay titled "What being tall means to me."

Completed essays, high school transcripts and all application materials submitted by area high school students graduating in the

2023-24 school year are due by March 1.

Local Sacramento Tall Club (STC) scholarship winners also compete for annual scholarships awarded by both Tall Clubs International (TCI) and by the non-profit Tall Clubs International Foundation. Annually, the TCI foundation awards scholarships of up to \$1,000 each.

While grade point average and test scores are especially important scholarship criteria, so too are participation in school activities and community involvement.

General membership in the social Sacramento Tall Club is open to men that are over six feet and women that are nearing that mark.

The 2023 STC scholarship winner will be notified later in March 2024 by the club membership.

All signed STC scholarship applications should be submitted with a good headshot photo, preferably a senior graduation photo. Partial applications submitted online are not accepted, Lehman said.

The club also has a donations link to contribute to its scholarship fund at: [www.sacramentotallclub.org/scholarship](http://www.sacramentotallclub.org/scholarship) so that the dollar amount of student scholarship awards can be increased. Lehman said, "We're always looking for, and welcome support from the community to help the STC scholarship program grow and offer more scholarships to eligible students." ★

# New Salmon Successes

Continued from page 1

Begun in August, the ten-week gravel-moving project continued Federal and State-funded efforts to aid salmonids. At the end of their lifecycles, these threatened species must have movable stones in oxygenated water for nesting and fertilization. To this end, 23,000 cubic yards of small-diameter gravel were moved from adjacent areas to form riffles and provide hospitable shallows.

The project includes a long, man-made side channel where hatchlings can feed and grow.

For millions of years, salmonids maintained their species unaided. The American River and its tributaries once offered 200 miles of breeding sites. Gold Rush and damming alterations have reduced possibilities to 12 viable miles.

Dams don't just block spawning paths; they also bar natural gravel movement. "The lower part of the American River is gravel-starved," explains Water Forum Habitat Manager Erica Bishop. "Some salmon and steelhead reach home waters and can't find a place with the right physical conditions for spawning."

"Though the Nimbus Hatchery will always have a role in juvenile fish production, our focus is to help fish complete life cycles naturally."

The current project wrapped just as the first migrating salmon reached Upper River Bend. Results were immediate. "Our first survey in October showed only a few redds in the area," says Sellheim. "Within a month, the numbers had skyrocketed. We know from 15 years of augmentation projects that we're creating suitable conditions."

As the early runners got down to business, more than 8000 new willows and sedge plants took root. As the river inundates, juvenile salmon use these tree structures to shelter from high water velocity and to hide from predators. Thousands of native wildflower and grass seeds will germinate and bloom with baby fish feeding on the insects supported by this enhanced riparian vegetation.

A 2021 Water Forum project supported a third of in-river steelhead reproduction for that season. "Fish begin to spawn as soon as heavy machinery leaves the water," says Water Forum manager Erica Bishop. "We know the habitats we create meet their needs."

Water Forum projects are supported by the Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, CA Prop 68 funding, Sacramento City and County and signatory water agencies. Learn about the Water Forum at [www.waterforum.org](http://www.waterforum.org) ★

# Presidential Primary Election Update

## Ballot Drop Box and VoteCenter Locations

### Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) has posted the list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations for the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election on the website.

Vote by Mail ballots will be mailed to voters beginning Monday, February 5, 2024. Ballot Drop Boxes will begin opening Monday, February 5, 2024, and Vote Centers will begin opening Saturday, February 24, 2024. A complete list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations, their days and hours of operation, and an interactive map can be found at: <https://elections.saccounty.net/votecenters/pages/locations.aspx>

A QR code to the interactive map will be included in the County Voter Information Guide to replace the flat printed map. This simple change supports the County's GoGreen policy, is accessible to voters with disabilities and is fiscally responsible, saving the county over two (2) million pages of printed material and the associated mailing cost.

For more information, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email [voterinfo@sac-county.gov](mailto:voterinfo@sac-county.gov), or by using the toll-free voter

assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone).

### KEY ELECTION DATES

- **Monday, February 5** - Mailing of ballots to all registered voters begins
- **Monday, February 5** - Voted ballots may be returned in any of the Ballot Drop Boxes located throughout the County
- **Monday, February 19** - Close of voter registration for this election. Voter registration forms must be postmarked by this date or delivered to the VRE Office at 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento 95823 by 5:00 p.m. Online voter registration must be completed before midnight on this date at [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov)
- **Tuesday, February 20** - Conditional Voter Registration (VBM) begins
- **Saturday, February 24** - 11 Day Vote Centers open
- **Tuesday, February 27** - Last day a Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot can be mailed to you. After this date, VBM ballots are only available at the VRE office or at any of the 90 Vote Centers
- **Saturday, March 2** - All Vote Centers open throughout the County
- **Tuesday, March 5** - Election Day ★

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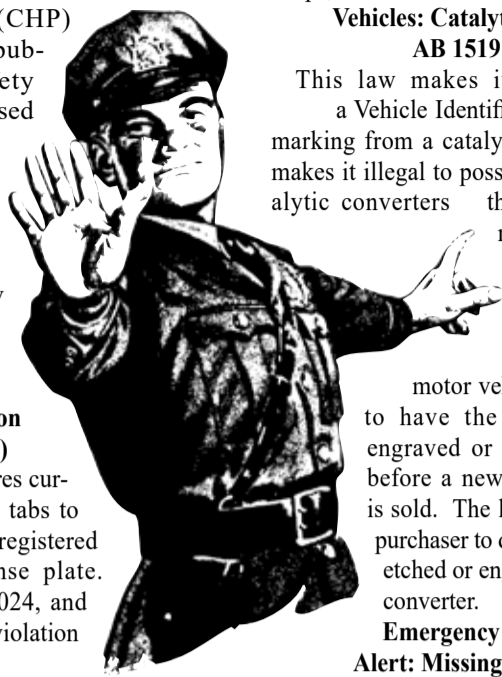


# CHP New Traffic Safety Laws

# How Sacramento County Meets the Needs of Older Adults

**CHP News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - As we head into the new year, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is educating the public on traffic safety laws that were passed during this year's legislative session and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom. The laws referenced below take effect on Jan. 1, 2024, unless otherwise noted.



**Vehicles: Registration - AB 256 (Dixon)**

Existing law requires current month and year tabs to be displayed on the registered vehicle's rear license plate. Beginning July 1, 2024, and until Jan. 1, 2030, a violation of vehicle registration shall not be the sole basis for any enforcement action before the second month *after* the month of expiration of a vehicle's registration. However, if a vehicle is stopped for any other Vehicle Code violation, enforcement action for a violation of vehicle registration may be taken before the second month *following* the month of expiration. Late registration fees from the Department of Motor Vehicles will still apply.

**Vehicle Removal: Expired Registration (AB 925, Ta)**

Requires a peace officer or traffic enforcement official to verify the lack of current vehicle registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles before towing a vehicle for expired registration longer than six months and prohibits the vehicle from being towed if the officer or traffic enforcement official does not have immediate access to those records.

**Vehicles: Speed Safety System Pilot Program - AB 645 (Friedman)**

The cities of Los Angeles, Oakland, San Jose, Glendale, Long Beach, and the City and County of San Francisco may install a limited number of cameras to enforce speed limits for a five-year pilot period in school zones and designated "safety corridors" – locations that have a high occurrence of fatal and injury crashes – and areas known for illegal street racing. Recorded violations will be subject to a civil penalty.

**Vehicles: Stopping, Standing, and Parking - AB 413 (Lee)**

Designed to increase visibility at crosswalks, this law prohibits parking or stopping a vehicle along a curb at least 20 feet from a marked crosswalk or 15 feet of a crosswalk where a curb extension is present. The regulation only applies to the side of the road of the vehicle's approach to the crosswalk. Local jurisdictions may establish different distances through local ordinances by marking areas with signs or paint.

**Cruising - AB 436 (Alvarez)**

The law removes city and county authority to regulate cruising via local ordinances. Additionally, the law legalizes "lowrider" vehicles to cruise California's streets, by removing the height restriction on lowered vehicles.

**Automobile Dismantlers: Catalytic Converters - AB 641 (Fong)**

This law redefined an automobile dismantler to include individuals in possession of nine or more catalytic converters. Additionally, the law creates penalties for individuals illegally

acting as an automobile dismantler. Individuals and businesses who have a legitimate purpose for having catalytic converters, such as repair shops, will be excluded from penalty.

**Vehicles: Catalytic Converters - AB 1519 (Bains)**

This law makes it illegal to remove a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) marking from a catalytic converter. It also makes it illegal to possess three or more catalytic converters that have had their VIN markings removed.

**Vehicles: Catalytic Converters - SB 55 (Umberg)**

This law requires a motor vehicle dealer or retailer to have the catalytic converter engraved or etched with the VIN before a new or used truck or car is sold. The law does allow for the purchaser to decline having the VIN etched or engraved on the catalytic converter.

**Emergency Notification: Ebony Alert: Missing Black Young - SB 673 (Bradford)**

This legislation establishes the "Ebony Alert," which allows law enforcement agencies to request the CHP to activate an alert for Black youth, including young women and girls between 12 to 25 years of age, who are reported missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances, at risk, developmentally disabled, cognitively impaired, or who have been abducted.

**Emergency Services: Endangered Missing Advisory - AB 946 (Nguyen)**

This new law will aid in the recovery of missing persons who do not meet the age restrictions associated with the AMBER and Silver Alerts. The new law authorizes law enforcement agencies to request the CHP activate the "Endangered Missing Advisory" for public distribution of missing person information within appropriate geographical areas when specific criteria is met.

**Vehicle Safety Regulations - SB 68 (McGuire)**

This law authorizes the CHP to establish rules and regulations allowing commercial vehicles capable of carrying more than 500 gallons of fuel to exceed the standard 10 hours-of-service limit during Governor-declared State of Emergencies. The exception only applies for the purpose of vehicles transporting fuel for refueling aircraft used in emergency-related activities, including fire suppression.

**Pupil Transportation: Driver Qualifications - SB 88 (Skinner)**

This law will require drivers and their vehicles which are used by a local educational agency to provide pupil transportation for compensation, to meet certain safety requirements.

**Vehicles: Zero-Emission School Buses: Signage - SB 775 (Padilla)**

This law authorizes a school district, county office of education, or charter school using a zero-emission school bus to transport pupils at or below the 12th-grade level to place signage on the rear of the zero-emission school bus that identifies the school bus as a clean air zero-emission bus. It also authorizes the CHP to issue guidelines governing the size and placement of that signage.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security ★



"We think of older people as needing care and help — and some do — but we all do at points in our life. We want a society where people are able to say, "I need help." Photo courtesy of Kampus Production

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - California launched the Master Plan for Aging in 2021 to create a California for All Ages by 2030.

"We are all aging, whether we're 10, 20, 30, 40, or 70, 80, 90, or 100," says Heidi Richardson, program planner with the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family & Adult Services. The benefits of supporting older residents are the same as supporting all residents: a community where residents from birth to older ages can thrive, enjoy life, help others, and reach out for help when in need. "We think of older people as needing care and help — and some do — but we all do at points in our life. We want a society where people are able to say, 'I need help.'"

**Sacramento's Growing Aging Population**

According to the California Department of Aging, the population of Sacramento County residents over age 60 will increase 187% from 2010 to 2060. Conversely, the population of younger residents is decreasing.

"What's going to happen in Sacramento County, in probably 2026, is the older adult population will exceed the youth population. That will be the first time in history that that's ever happened," says Pam Miller, executive director of the Agency on Aging Area 4. "There's a whole lot of things out there that are happening for the first time that older adults are experiencing. I think the increase in housing costs, the increase in food costs, and your income probably going down because you're older, it's like the perfect storm for folks to need a lot of services."

Agency on Aging Area 4 services cover Sacramento, Nevada, Placer, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, Agency on Aging, Area 4 supports older residents by connecting them with programs that can help with housing, food insecurity, caregiver resources, legal services, health care and more. Locally, housing, food insecurity and transportation are top issues, says Miller.

**Planning To Meet Future Needs**

In February 2021, Sacramento County joined AARP's Age-Friendly Network of States and Communities. Created by the World Health Organization and implemented by AARP, age-friendly communities identify eight domains that make communities more livable. Those domains include accessible and affordable housing and health care, transportation options, green spaces, as well as opportunities for social and civic participation. Age-friendly communities "help older people thrive and experience connection and joy in their life," Richardson says. "Our goal for older adults — and everyone — is to thrive as residents of Sacramento County." In 2023, Sacramento received a grant from the California Department of Aging to develop an Action Plan, the next stage of becoming an age-friendly community.

**Aging And Disability Resource Connection**

While Sacramento is working towards an age-friendly future, there are many current resources, programs and supports available. The Aging and Disability Resource Connection helps older adults and people with disabilities stay in the community by providing resources through information and assistance, person-centered case management and other important services. The goal is to keep people out of long-term care. Multiple community agencies and government programs are part of the Aging and Disability Resource Connection and work together to help older adults and people living with disability connect to services that are right for them.

**General Resources for Older Adults**

**Senior Resource Guide** - Phone: 2-1-1 or 1-844-546-14642; **Agency on Aging Area 4** - Phone: 916-486-1876; **Aging and Disability Resource Connection** - Phone: 1-800-211-4545; **ACC Senior Services (includes Meals on Wheels)** - Phone: 916-394-6399; **Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services** - Adult Protective Services (APS) Phone: 916-874-9377; In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS): Phone: 916-874-9471; **Resources for Independent Living** - Phone: 916-446-3074. ★



**VOTE EARLY!**  
**AVOID LINES**



**March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election**

**Vote Early and Vote by Mail.**

**All voters will be mailed a ballot**

• You should have received your official ballot in the mail.

**You can return your ballot starting February 5<sup>th</sup>**

- By mail, no postage necessary
- At a Ballot Drop Box
- At a Vote Center (starting February 24<sup>th</sup>)

You can find a full list of Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote Center locations in your County Voter Information Guide, in your mail ballot packet, or at [www.elections.saccounty.gov](http://www.elections.saccounty.gov)

**Vote Early! Vote by Mail.**

**Update your language preference**

Every registered voter will receive an official ballot in the mail containing contests, candidates, and voting instructions in your preferred language. If you prefer your ballot and voter information in Spanish, Chinese, or Vietnamese, update your language preference online by scanning this QR code or call (800) 762-8019.



**The Presidential Primary is Party Specific**

During the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election voters will nominate one presidential candidate from each party to run against each other in the November 5, 2024 General Election. To vote for the presidential candidate you want in the primary election, ensure you are registered with your preferred party by visiting [www.elections.saccounty.gov](http://www.elections.saccounty.gov) or calling our office at (800) 762-8019.



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# Public Health Awarded Grant for Child Safety Seat Education

# First Snow Survey of the Season Finds Below Average Conditions

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - In our continued effort to enhance child safety on the road, Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) has once again joined forces with partner agency Mercy San Juan to continue the successful car seat safety program. Aimed at educating parents and caregivers on the proper installation and use of child safety seats, this initiative is made possible through a \$78,546 grant generously provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).



Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) has once again joined forces with partner agency Mercy San Juan to continue the successful car seat safety program. Photo courtesy SCPH

The grant, which funds an array of community outreach events, prioritizes education classes and training sessions tailored to underserved and refugee communities. The comprehensive car seat safety program encompasses various components, all designed to empower parents and caregivers with the knowledge and resources needed to ensure the safety of their little ones as they travel.

and recertification courses for Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

•No-Cost Child Safety Seats for Families in Need: Families facing financial constraints will have access to child safety seats at no cost, ensuring that economic barriers do not compromise the safety of children.

•Community Outreach Efforts in Underserved Communities: Collaborating with local organizations, the program will actively engage in community outreach efforts to promote car seat safety in underserved areas.

Dr. Kasirye, the Sacramento County Public Health Officer, highlighted the essential role of OTS grant funding in assisting families, caregivers, and education professionals in ensuring children's

safety. Emphasizing that safeguarding children is a collective priority, "Properly secured car seats are pivotal in preventing harm to children in the unfortunate event of a crash," states Kasirye.

Sacramento County residents interested in learning more about the program can contact Riley Stoltenburg at StoltenburgR@sacounty.gov or call (916) 875-6094.

The funding for this critical program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Sacramento County remains committed to ensuring the safety of its youngest residents through proactive community engagement and education on proper car seat usage. ★

Continued from page 1

present in the Pacific Ocean, the outlook for the rest of the winter remains highly uncertain.

"California saw firsthand last year how historic drought conditions can quickly give way to unprecedented, dangerous flooding," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "Although El Niño does not guarantee an above average water year, California is preparing for the possibility of more extreme storms while increasing our climate resilience for the next drought."

DWR's electronic readings from 130 stations placed throughout the state indicate that the statewide snowpack's snow water equivalent is 2.5 inches, or 25 percent of average for this date, compared to 185 percent on this date last year.

"While we are glad the recent storms brought a small boost to the snowpack, the dry fall and below average conditions today shows how fast water conditions can change," said DWR's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit Manager Sean de Guzman. "It's still far too early to say what kind of water year we will have, and it will be important for Californians to pay attention to their forecasts and conserve water, rain or shine."

Last year, California experienced climate whiplash when the driest three year-period on record ended with extreme storm events in January and March that caused damage and flooding across the state. These extreme weather events highlight the need for all Californians to prepare for flood risk. DWR is working with tribal, federal, state, and local partners to provide flood resources and training to communities across the state.

The State-Federal Flood Operations Center (FOC) has pre-positioned flood fight materials at more locations across the

state and is starting this winter with more supplies on hand, including 2.2 million more sandbags. This fall, DWR coordinated pre-flood season meetings with emergency response agencies across the state and organized 38 flood-fight trainings for city, county, state and tribal agencies to prepare for possible local emergencies.

One year ago, the January survey at the Phillips location showed a water content of 177 percent of average and was followed by a series of damaging atmospheric river storms in January and March that caused flood impacts across the state and produced one of the largest snowpacks on record.

In addition to deploying resources including over 1.9 million sandbags across the state last year, the FOC coordinated a joint state, federal and local response to snowmelt-driven flooding concerns and prepared for the historic snowmelt by providing hydraulic and hydrologic modeling and snowmelt forecasts that allowed agencies to deploy resources, reinforce levees and protect communities.

On average, the Sierra snowpack supplies about 30 percent of California's water needs. Its natural ability to store water is why the Sierra snowpack is often referred to as California's "frozen reservoir." Data from these snow surveys and forecasts produced by DWR's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit are important factors in determining how DWR manages the state's water resources. Due to last year's above average conditions and historic snowpack, a total of 3.5 million acre-feet of water was captured in State Water Project (SWP) reservoirs. Lake Oroville, the SWP's largest reservoir, is currently at 130 percent of average to date and state water managers are prepared to capture and store as much water as possible. ★

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# The IRA Kills Incentives for Medical Innovation; Hardly a Win for Americans



**Commentary**  
by Sally C. Pipes

research to see if it was effective against diseases other than the one it was approved to treat. If that research proved successful, companies applied for approval to treat these additional "indications" and marketed the drug to additional groups of patients.

This strategy helped bring countless new treatments to patients who didn't have any other options. Since 2003, the Food and Drug Administration has approved more than 90 follow-on indications for orphan drugs, which treat rare diseases. The majority of cancer treatments from 2006 to 2012 were approved for at least one follow-on indication – roughly 40% of which were a different cancer subtype.

Unfortunately, thanks to the IRA, discoveries like these may soon be fewer and farther between.

The law's price controls are dressed up as "negotiations" between Medicare and drugmakers. If a drugmaker declines to accept the government's offer, then it faces an excise tax of up to 95% on the drug in question's sales or must withdraw all its products – not just the one subject to negotiations – from Medicare and Medicaid.

These price controls will significantly shorten the period in which pharmaceutical companies can recoup their investments in research and development. That's particularly true for small-molecule drugs – typically pills

– which can be hit with price controls under the IRA after just nine years on the market.

Biologics – usually injections or infusions – aren't subject to price controls until 13 years after approval.

Roughly half of a medicine's sales are made after year nine, in years 10 to 13. So it's only rational that some drug companies would adjust their research, development, and launch strategies accordingly.

Some may wait to seek approval until they've zeroed in on the largest patient population possible – even if they're confident they could get approval faster for a smaller group of patients with a different disease.

The IRA is also scrambling drug companies' incentives to do further research into follow-on indications. Devoting time and money to find out if a drug can treat another disease may not make financial sense once the nine-year price-control clock has started.

Patients will be the ones who pay the price for treatments delayed or never developed in the first place. That's not a win for the American people.

*Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book is False Promise, False Promise: The Disastrous Reality of Medicare for All (Encounter 2020). Follow her on Twitter @sallypipes. ★*

# David Villanueva Appointed County Executive



David Villanueva

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to appoint Assistant County Executive David Villanueva as County Executive. The appointment is effective January 28, 2024.

"I am pleased to announce that the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to appoint David Villanueva as County Executive," said Board Chair and Third District Supervisor Rich Desmond. "David's career has been dedicated to public service with Sacramento County and the State of California, with which he has had extensive senior management and executive management experience.

"The County as an organization has made tremendous progress over the last three years. We are confident this

will continue under David's leadership. David brings a unique combination of business, accounting and technology skills to this role, and he has shown in practice that his decisions are guided by honesty, integrity and a passion for service and transparency."

Appointed Assistant County Executive last May, Villanueva has been serving as Deputy County Executive for the Administrative Services Agency since 2011. Prior to that, he began his County service as Chief Information Officer/Director of the Department of Technology in 2008. Before his County service, Villanueva was the Deputy Director/Chief Information Officer for the California Department of General Services.

"I am deeply honored and grateful for the trust placed in me by the Board of Supervisors in appointing me as the County Executive," said Villanueva. "This opportunity to serve our community is both a privilege and a responsibility that I undertake with great dedication. I am committed to fostering a culture of transparency, collaboration, and customer service excellence within our organization.

"In the spirit of public service, I look forward to collaborating with our dedicated team and community stakeholders to continue to build a County government that is responsive, accountable, and committed to making a positive impact in the lives of our residents."

During his tenure at the County, Villanueva implemented a number of initiatives. Most recently, he led the County's new Leadership Development Academy program, designed to enhance leadership skills, learn global trends impacting leadership and sustain positive changes in the organization. He also implemented his Agency's departments in the County's Organizational Culture Change Initiative and managed the formation of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force.

Villanueva is a long-time member and the current Chair of the Board of Trustees for Plumas Lake School District. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from California State University, Sacramento, and recently completed the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. ★

# NFIB Releases Top Five Compliance Headaches for 2024

## NFIB News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - California's leading small business association today released its list of the top five compliance headaches hitting small business owners in 2024.

"California small business owners are no different from their counterparts elsewhere in the nation in struggling to find qualified employees and in dealing with inflation," said John Kabateck, California state director for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). "What does separate them from other small business owners in other states, however, is having to live with a Legislature that takes an almost sadistic delight in hamstringing them further with more and more regulatory compliance, and 2024 shows no letting up."

The five soon-to-be laws are:  
**SB 553 (Cortese) - Workplace Violence Prevention Plan. Effective July 1, 2024.**

This bill requires employers to establish, implement and maintain a workplace violence prevention plan and record information in a violent incident log, the post-incident response and internal workplace violence injury investigation. The log must include: the date, time and location of an incident, a detailed description of an incident, a classification of who committed an incident, the type of incident, including whether an incident involved physical, verbal, sexual or animal attacks, the consequences of an incident such as medical treatment received, whether security or law enforcement was contacted and the contact information of the individual completing the violent incident log.

**AB 2188 (Quirk) - Discrimination in Employment: Use of Cannabis. Effective January 1, 2024.**

Passed last year but going into effect on January 1, 2024, this bill amends California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) by making it unlawful for an employer to terminate, penalize or otherwise punish an employee for cannabis use outside the workplace. Existing law prohibits an employee from being impaired by cannabis in the workplace. One of the challenges for employers, however, is that since there is currently no

reliable testing method for determining if an individual is impaired by cannabis, the thresholding for proving such impairment is extremely difficult to meet.

**SB 700 (Bradford) - Discrimination in Employment: Use of Cannabis. Effective January 1, 2024.**

This bill amends California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) by making it unlawful for an employer to request information from an applicant for employment pertaining to the applicant's prior use of cannabis unless obtained from the applicant's criminal history. Takeaway from a recent NFIB California Podcast guest: Don't ask about an applicant's cannabis usage history. (NFIB does not provide legal advice. For legal advice about compliance with these or other laws, we recommend consulting with an attorney or human resource specialist.)

**SB 616 (Gonzalez) - Paid Sick Leave. Effective January 1, 2024.**

This bill increases paid sick leave from three to five days a year. Paid sick leave can still be front loaded and the current accrual methodologies remain in place.

**SB 848 (Rubio) - Reproductive Loss Leave. Effective January 1, 2024.**

This bill amends California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) by making it unlawful for an employer to refuse to grant a request by an eligible employee to take up to five days of reproductive loss leave. The leave must be taken within a three-month window from the time of the loss. A reproductive loss event can include a failed adoption, failed surrogacy, miscarriage, stillbirth or unsuccessful assisted reproduction.

Keep up with the latest on California small-business news at [www.nfib.com/california](http://www.nfib.com/california) or by following NFIB on Twitter @NFIB\_CA or on Facebook @NFIB.CA.

For 80 years, NFIB has been advocating on behalf of America's small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven association. Since its founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, please visit [nfib.com](http://nfib.com) ★

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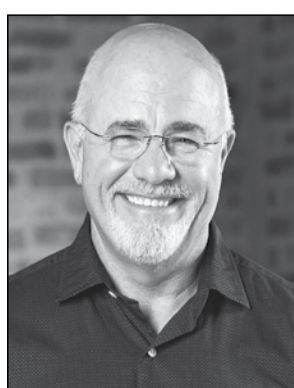
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# A Veteran Thank Today



# Kevin Patrick Kiley Marries Chelsee Gardner



## Dave Ramsey Says

you're basically unemployed. On top of that, you have just \$40,000 with which to start a business. It's time to rev up your engines and get to work, not spend a bunch of money vacationing. Trust me, there'll be plenty of time to celebrate after you've won, maybe in even bigger and better ways, if you'll just delay gratification and put in the dedication and hard work now.

When it comes to opening a new business, a good rule of thumb is this: Everything's going to take twice as long to accomplish as you thought it would, and everything's going to be twice as expensive as you thought it'd be. I'm sure you're both smart people, but my guess is you're not exceptions to this rule when it comes to opening and running a small business.

Think about it, every single dollar connected with your business could mean the difference between survival and going under. Like I said,

I kind of get your husband's thought process, but it would be a very unwise idea right now. You've got to look at the big picture. You're going to be heartbroken, and maybe in a real financial bind, if you have to close up shop in a few months because you ran out of money.

On the other hand, if you work hard now, stay smart and make this thing a success, you can take a vacation—and really celebrate—when the time is right!

—Dave

*Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions*

### Work Hard Now, Celebrate Later

Dear Dave,

My husband and I bought a franchise recently, and we are opening our business in a couple of months. We've got \$40,000 saved up, but my husband wants us to take a two-week vacation before we open for business. He feels that the business will completely consume us for the next two or three years, and he wants to go into things relaxed and refreshed. How do you feel about this idea?

— Jill

Dear Jill,

I understand where your husband's coming from. A business is very time consuming, and to make it a success you'll both have to eat, sleep and breathe it for a very long time.

But here's the reality of your situation. Right now,

The groom, Kevin Patrick Kiley, is also from the greater Sacramento area and was raised in Orangevale and Granite Bay. He currently represents California's 3rd Congressional District as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Chelsee and Kevin met at a community event in Rocklin, California, celebrating the Fourth of July. Kevin proposed to Chelsee in the summer of 2023 in the same park where they first met.

They are grateful for the love and support they receive from their family and friends as they embark on this journey together as husband and wife. The couple will reside in Roseville. ★



Kevin Patrick Kiley and Chelsee Lee Gardner were married on December 30th, 2023. Photo courtesy Office of Representative Kiley

### Office of Representative Kiley News Release

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG)** - The Office of Representative Kiley is delighted to announce that he and Chelsee Gardner were married on December 30th, 2023. The ceremony took place at Pioneer Church in Auburn, California, the oldest church in Placer County.

The bride, Chelsee Lee Gardner, was raised in the small town of Rio Oso, California, and moved to Rocklin, California, in 2011. She works at Agape International Missions, a nonprofit devoted to the fight against sex trafficking.

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S	P	O	T			E	L	M		L	E	A	N	T

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • GEOGRAPHY 101**

**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Village People's "Man"
- Certain tray content
- Little bit, in Mexico
- Ammo in a quiver, sing.
- Geological Society of America
- Young eel
- Song of praise
- Snowy \_\_\_ or great horned \_\_\_
- Must-haves
- "Strait between Russia and Alaska"
- "Smallest of the Great Lakes"
- Crime scene evidence
- Peter the Great, e.g.
- Consumer-protecting org.
- Skiing helmet manufacturer
- Mother-of-pearl, pl.
- Type of sail, pl.
- #29 Down anagram
- Like Raphael's cherubs
- Face shape
- Tie with a morning coat
- Dwarf buffalo
- Short version
- "At \_\_\_, soldier"
- Supposed giant Himalayan
- Drool
- Swimming hole
- D.C. V.I.P.
- Jim Acosta's announcement
- \*Baltic \_\_\_
- \*0 latitude
- \*Bay east of India
- Cuban dance
- John Keats' "To Autumn," e.g.
- Fortune teller's card
- Jeered
- China's drinkable export
- Bird-related
- Dick and Jane's dog
- "Slippery" tree
- Lean, past tense

**DOWN**

- \*Atlas page
- Speedy steed
- First Nation nation
- Squirrel away
- Possessing
- Full of excitement
- \*Opposite of NNE
- Saintly rings
- Guilty, e.g.
- Last word on walkie-talkie
- Ghana money
- Guessimate phrase (2 words)
- Catch in a snare
- Nigerian money
- A Bobsey twin
- Steel on boots, pl.
- \*Inlet in Norway
- Abalone seeker
- Olden day calculators
- \*Compass \_\_\_
- TV personality Aiken
- Ancient Scandinavian characters
- What actors do
- Iberian Peninsula country
- Serb or Croat

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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	9	6			7			3
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38. Comme ci, comme ça  
 42. Past or present  
 45. Group of five  
 49. Actor DiCaprio  
 51. Like floss  
 54. "That's all she \_\_\_"  
 56. Tequila source  
 57. Work units  
 58. Wisecrack  
 59. Rounded protuberance  
 60. Aid in crime  
 61. Show pleasure  
 62. Cantatrice's offering  
 63. Student aid  
 66. \*Tierra \_\_\_ Fuego  
 68. Big bang maker, acr.

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.



# The Paid Sick Day Dilemma

# Ag Pass Program to Assist Farmers During Disasters



The National Federation of Independent Business lists the new law among its top five "compliance headaches" for California's small business owners. Photo courtesy of Marcus-Aurelius Pexels

By Sameea Kamal, Calmatters.org

California workers will be guaranteed five paid sick days a year starting Jan. 1, up from the three days that employers are currently required to provide, thanks to Senate Bill 616.

The bill, authored by Long Beach Democratic Sen. Lena Gonzalez, also extends protections against retaliation to workers who are in a union, but excludes provisions that would have granted railroad employees access to unpaid sick leave.

It was a significant, but partial victory for proponents, including advocacy groups for families and women and dozens of unions. They originally sought seven days, but the final version was reduced in negotiations during the legislative process.

The California Work & Family Coalition hailed the law — one of several measures last session aimed at improving work-life balance — as "a commonsense change."

But trade associations representing various industries such as the California Grocers Association and California Hotel & Lodging Association, as well as chamber of commerce groups throughout the state, argued that the law would hurt small businesses that have not recovered from the pandemic, are now dealing with inflation and can't afford the additional cost of covering for sick workers.

The National Federation of Independent Business lists the new law among its

top five "compliance headaches" for California's small business owners in 2024, along with SB 848, which makes it unlawful for employers to refuse as many as five days of "reproductive loss leave" for miscarriages, failed adoptions and other events.

The state Chamber of Commerce had the sick leave law on its "job killer" list and recently issued guidance for employers to navigate the law's complexities.

There's no federal law that requires employers to give workers paid sick leave. California became the second state in the nation to adopt a paid sick leave policy in 2014, but now provides less time than 15 states and many of its own cities, including San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley.

Upon signing the bill on Oct. 4, Newsom said too many people were still having to choose between skipping a day's pay and taking care of themselves or their family members when they get sick.

"We're making it known that the health and wellbeing of workers and their families is of the utmost importance for California's future," he said in a statement.

This isn't the first time a sick leave expansion has been introduced, but the COVID-19 pandemic amplified the need. In March 2021, a new law required larger employers to provide as many as 10 more days for quarantines or vaccine side effects. But that benefit went away, along with federal tax credits that paid for it, six months later. ★



January flood waters caused millions of dollars in damage to area ag producers. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Last winter's floods took a devastating toll on the Sacramento area's agricultural industry. More than \$38 million in losses were reported by area farms. That loss of revenue included damaged crops, dead livestock, and damaged infrastructure.

When the flooding struck, commercial agricultural producers were forced to evacuate. In many cases, animals and equipment that couldn't be loaded onto trailers and moved were left behind, while crops were also left unprotected. Once out of the area, farmers were not allowed back in until the water receded. There wasn't a system in place to show law enforcement who belonged and who didn't during the crisis.

The Sacramento County Department of Agriculture recognized this issue that farmers and ranchers faced by leaving, and with the assistance of the County Office of Emergency Services, have developed a program to assist the local ag industry with a way to allow them back in to protect their farms and livestock during a disaster.

The Board of Supervisors has approved the County's first Ag Pass Program. Ag Pass will be activated during a declared disaster that allows, when safe, the ability for coordinated re-entry of commercial agricultural producers to an evacuated area through collaborative pre-incident planning, coordination, and implementation.

The County held a series of community meetings to discuss how to create the new program to allow qualified agriculture and livestock producers safe passage to their properties. The Ag Pass Program provides

guidance and direction for local governments and non-governmental organizations on how to safely allow accredited agricultural workers back onto their property to assess their businesses. To become part of the Ag Pass Program, commercial agricultural producers will need to register through the Sacramento County Department of Agriculture, Weights, and Measures.

Under the program, County accredited members will be limited to performing only those functions and tasks that have been determined essential for the support of commercial operations to lessen the impacts of economic loss or to provide auxiliary support to peace officers and emergency personnel in locating water sources and access routes.

The Ag Pass coverage is limited to registered commercial agricultural operations under the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. An initial application for the Ag Pass will require Primary Pass holders to outline all critical tasks and require an approximate number of personnel.

"This pass does not give any special privileges or authorization to disregard the direction of public safety officials or force any employees, laborers, farmhands, or members of the public, regardless of their immigration status, to disregard the orders of any public safety official," said Chris Flores, Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner.

Agricultural producers are encouraged to contact the County Department of Agriculture to learn more about this new program. Applicants must take training from the County before an Ag Pass is issued. All passes must be renewed annually.

Training classes are expected to begin in early 2024. ★

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Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast - Bnls \$3.99/lb	Pork St. Louis Ribs - Single Pack \$2.99/lb
Chicken Drumsticks \$2.49/lb	Pork Butts Boneless \$2.99/lb
Pork Tenderloin Boneless \$2.99/lb	

**FRESH PRODUCE**

Opal Apple \$1.39/lb	Lemon Cello 2 lbs \$2.99/lb	Russet Potato 2lbs/\$1.00	White Corn 79¢/ea	White Dragon Fruit \$2.49/lb
Popeye Spinach 10 oz \$1.79/ea	Orange 10 lbs Bag \$5.99/lb	Assorted Mushroom 400 g \$2.99/ea	Cara Cara Orange 79¢/lb	

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**ASIAN GROCERY**

Dragonfly Bean Tost Jap Do Noodle 2 lbs \$4.99/ea	V Cut Potato Chips Spicy BBQ 5.46 oz \$3.49/ea	Lee Kum Kee Pure Sesame Oil 14 Ltr \$7.99/ea	Dragonfly Gintano Rice Flour 16 oz 99¢/ea	Jobs Nuts de Coco Gel 4 Flavors 12.7 oz \$1.99/ea
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**EUROPEAN GROCERY**

Safal Bulgur #1 Fine 20 oz \$2.29/ea	Safal Bulgur #2 Medium 20 oz \$2.29/ea	Golden Plate 100% Grapeseed Oil 1 liter \$8.99/ea	Do Ghazal Gift Set Tea 400 gr \$6.99/ea	Carabao Energy Drink 250 ml 79¢/ea
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**KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY**

Wang Hangee Rice 2 Bnls 15 lbs \$11.99/ea	Tea Herb Soybean 30pk 3000 ml \$7.49/ea	Cooked Rice Cupbun 2 Bnls 168 g / 247 g \$1.49/ea	Hot Chicken Ramen 2 Bnls 5 x 140 g \$5.99/ea	Crown Chow White Ses 254 g \$3.99/ea	Dor Andor Red Ginger Premium 60x50ml \$5.99/ea
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