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VOL 32 • ISSUE 17

Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

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CHP Celebrates Graduation

112 New Officers Sworn In



This year's graduating class of 112 officers includes 11 women who are entering the force. Photo courtesy of CHP

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) welcomed more than 100

of California's newest members of law enforcement during a graduation ceremony at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento. The

November 3, 2023 ceremony is the culmination of more than six months of rigorous training, hard work, and commitment. "These cadets are

California's finest," said Governor Gavin Newsom. "They are truly the best among us — answering a call of duty

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Absolute Compassion Hospice Offers Commitment to Family and Care

Absolute Compassion Hospice News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - For ten years and counting, Absolute Compassion Hospice has been serving compassionate hospice care here in the greater Sacramento area. Absolute Compassion Hospice is a family owned and operated Hospice Provider, serving the communities of Sacramento, Yolo & San Joaquin counties.

Absolute Compassion is not only the name of the company, but it is their mission as well: "We recognize the value of every individual, guided by our commitment to excellence in service. We are competent, caring people offering extraordinary community hospice care. There is nothing more rewarding and gratifying than knowing you've touched lives. We touch lives, we make a difference and we do it through Absolute Compassion."

Continued on Page 2



The team of caring professionals at Absolute Compassion Hospice provide personalized expert care services 24 hours a day. Photo courtesy of Absolute Compassion Hospice

Shooting on Hurley Way

Sacramento County Sheriff's Office News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - At approximately 9:00 PM on Saturday, October 28, 2023, the Sheriff's Communications Center received a report of a shooting at an apartment complex on the 2200 block of Hurley Way in Sacramento. Deputies quickly arrived on scene but could not immediately locate a victim. A short time later, deputies discovered an adult male victim at a nearby apartment with a gunshot wound to the foot. The victim was transported to a local hospital, where he remains in stable condition.

Crime Scene Investigators responded to the scene and gathered evidence. Sheriff's deputies' investigation revealed the victim was having a verbal argument with the suspect when the suspect produced a handgun and shot the victim one time in the foot. The suspect fled the area before deputies' arrival on scene.

This investigation is still ongoing, and detectives are asking anyone with information about this incident to contact the Sheriff's Office at (916) 874-5115 or Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers at (916) 443-HELP (4357). Tips leading to an arrest are eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1000, and tipsters remain anonymous. Tips are paid in cash, and you are never asked for identification. Contact Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers at (916) 443-HELP (4357), 1-800-AA-CRIME, or **TIPS. Use the "P3 TIPS" app or online at www.sacvalleycrimestoppers.com.

Tip information may also be left anonymously at www.sacsheriff.com or by calling (916) 874-TIPS (8477). ★



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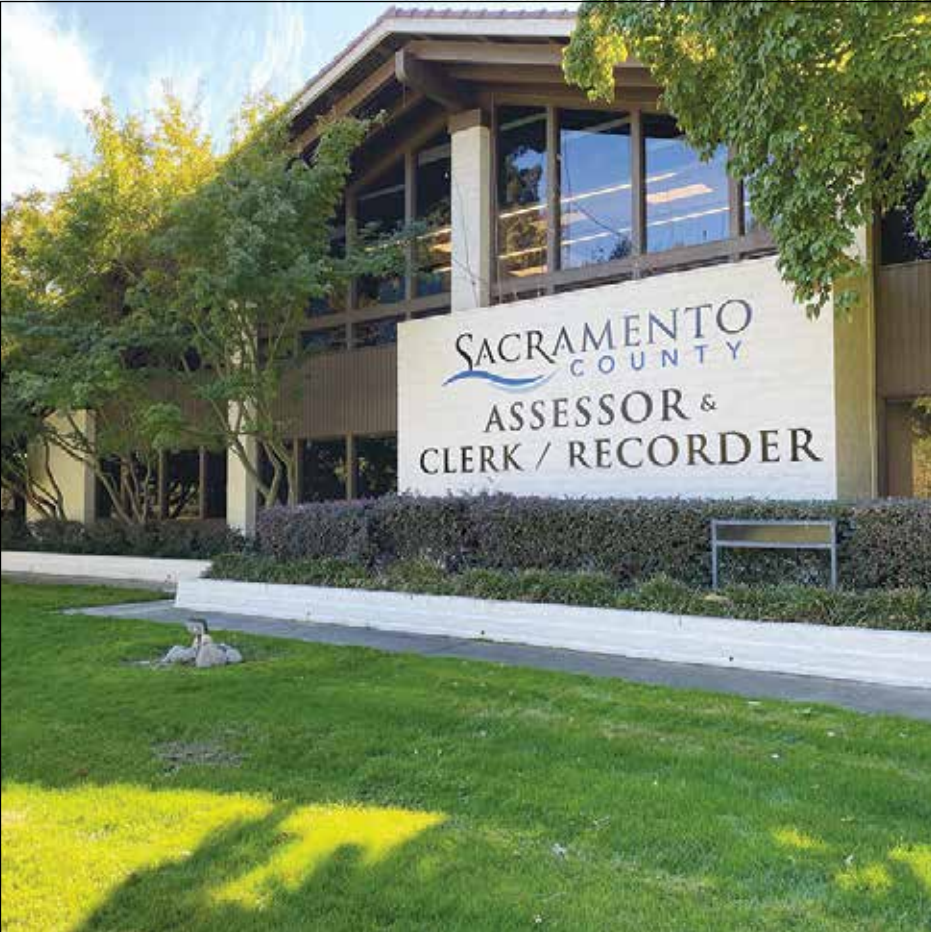
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County Clerk/Recorder to Consolidate and Relocate to New Office



The new central office is located at 3636 American River Drive in the unincorporated part of the County near Watt Ave and Hwy 50. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The County Clerk/Recorder’s (CCR) office is consolidating and relocating two of its three offices by early 2024. CCR will be consolidating the downtown office (600 8th Street, Sacramento) and the East Area Service Center location (5229 Hazel Avenue, Fair Oaks) and taking over a 26,952 square foot central office located at 3636 American River Drive in the unincorporated part of the County. “We are excited for this change!” said Donna

Allred, Sacramento County Clerk/Recorder. “This new location will provide a more streamlined customer experience in an updated and more spacious facility.” The first move will come with the closure of the eastern location in mid-November. Due to deliveries and installations needed at the new American River Drive location, an exact date has not been confirmed yet for when the East location will close. An updated SacCounty News story will be posted when that information becomes available. CCR continuously

analyzes their structure, efficiencies, public service levels and office configurations for their programs, staff and public. Advancing technology has changed business needs, with more services now offered electronically. CCR determined that a consolidation of two locations into one singular and more centralized location is more efficient for operations. To learn more about the consolidation and relocation, visit the County Clerk/Recorder’s website. For questions or concerns, contact CCR at (916) 874-6334. ★

Absolute Compassion Hospice Offers Commitment to Family and Care

Continued from Page 1

A bit more than ten years ago, founders John Cimino and Rangi Giner discussed the idea of starting a hospice care agency. They perceived a need for a more friendly, family-oriented hospice. They each had plenty of experience owning and operating assisted living facilities, where they had experienced frustration addressing the challenges encountered regarding residents who qualified and would benefit from hospice care. The first resident at their new jointly owned facility, The Meadows at Country Place, had no children or other close family to help with the ups and downs of dealing with his chronic and incurable terminal illness. As an assisted living (non-medical) facility, they naturally had no way of making medical decisions or providing medical comfort care, so every time the resident had extreme pain or other symptoms requiring medical care, they would have to send him back to the hospital. Once symptoms were alleviated, and medical help was no longer needed, the resident would be returned to assisted living. The stress and the resultant tiredness was very troublesome and wearing on the resident, at a time when the most important thing should have been maintaining a comfortable quality of life. John and Rangi wanted to be able to get this (and every other terminal) resident access to the quality hospice care he deserved, but engaging any available hospice



Absolute Compassion Hospice founders John Cimino and Rangi perceived a need for a friendly, family-oriented hospice in the area. Photo courtesy of Absolute Compassion Hospice

company, in a timely fashion, proved to be extremely problematic. From their family-centered, compassionate point of view, they started visualizing something better. They wished to keep their hospice small so that they could provide a more personal experience. They knew that as owners, they would take a hands-on approach, maintaining attention to detail for each unique individual they served. They would be able to provide services in a more timely manner to the local community of “little guys” that would typically fall through the cracks in the large corporate approach. They would have dedicated doctors on staff to qualify patients as well as prescribe necessary medical interventions for treatment of discomfort and pain. It seemed meant to be. Under the scrupulous management of Kenneth Mendoza, Absolute Compassion has flourished. The team of caring professionals provide

personalized expert care services 24 hours a day. Many hospice providers provide care, but Absolute Compassion also provides caring. It’s their passion for compassion that sets them apart. Their patients and families are assured the peace of mind in knowing that they will be treated with dignity, respect and quality care 24 hours a day. Every moment in life is meant to be cherished... especially when you know the end could be near. Absolute Compassion Hospice Care allows patients and families to spend their final time together in comfort and dignity while receiving services focused on sustaining quality of life. Their goal is to eliminate pain and manage all of the other troubling symptoms of advanced, life-threatening illness. Absolute Compassion Hospice is located at 6355 Riverside Blvd suite T, Sacramento, CA 95831. For more information you can call (916) 399-5922 or visit absolutecompassion.com/ ★

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CHP Celebrates Graduation of 112 New Officers Sworn In

Continued from Page 1
to serve our communities with trust and care. On behalf of all Californians, I am proud to welcome them to the California Highway Patrol.”

The graduating class of 112 officers, including 11 women, report for duty on Nov. 13, 2023, to one of the CHP’s 103 Area offices throughout the state.

“The newly sworn officers exhibited remarkable dedication and determination throughout their training. They have proven themselves ready to take on the responsibilities and challenges of law enforcement, ensuring the safety and well-being of those who live and visit California,” said CHP Commissioner

Sean Duryee. “We are proud to welcome them as part of the CHP family.”

At the CHP Academy, cadet training starts with nobility in policing, leadership, professionalism and ethics, and cultural diversity. Cadets also receive instruction on mental illness response and crisis intervention techniques. Training also includes vehicle patrol, crash investigation, first aid, and the apprehension of suspected violators, including those who drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Cadets also receive training in traffic control, report writing, recovery of stolen vehicles, assisting the motoring public, issuing

citations, emergency scene management, and knowledge of various codes, including the California Vehicle Code, Penal Code and Health and Safety Code.

A new class of more than 100 cadets will begin their 26-weeks of training at the CHP Academy that same day, bringing the total number of cadets in training to nearly 350.

In June 2022, the CHP launched a multi-year recruitment campaign to recruit and hire 1,000 officers. If you are interested in an exciting career that offers diversity, challenges, and opportunities, the CHP invites you to apply to become a part of our professional organization. ★



The newly sworn in CHP officers answer the call of duty to serve our communities and roadways. Photo courtesy of CHP

ABC10 Launches 4th Annual Stand Against Hunger

ABC10 News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -

The Golden State produces nearly half of the nation’s fruits and vegetables yet roughly one in five Californians – about 8.8 million – currently struggle with food insecurity. To help address this critical issue, ABC10 is proud to announce the 4th Annual Stand Against Hunger holiday fundraising campaign that is launching November 6 and continuing through December 17, 2023. Stand Against Hunger is a signature community initiative led by ABC10, a TEGNA-owned media station, and is supported by Wells Fargo, Raley’s Food for Families, Bayside Community Church, and Northwest Exteriors. To help kick off this important community effort, the TEGNA Foundation has generously donated \$25,000 to support the cause.

Local food banks serve a combined total of more than 500,000 people per month in the Greater Sacramento, Foothill and Valley region. In 2022, and with the help of generous businesses, organizations, and community members, nearly \$350,000 was raised through this high-profile initiative that resulted in more than 1.7 million meals last holiday season. All donated funds generated as part of the six-week Stand Against Hunger effort will be divided equally among the participating local food bank partners each year.



Holding oranges are ABC10 staff members Gerardo Cabral on the right, and Michelle Gaskill on the left. Photo courtesy of ABC10

Every dollar makes a difference. In fact, a donation of just \$5 will buy 10 meals for those in need. The seven local food banks participating in the 2023 Stand Against Hunger include the following:

- Emergency Food Bank of Stockton
- Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
- Placer Food Bank
- Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services
- Second Harvest of the Greater Valley
- Yolo County Food Bank
- Yuba-Sutter Food Bank

“Food insecurity affects hundreds of thousands in our community each year, and the number of individuals seeking food services locally has nearly doubled since the pandemic,” says Risa Omega, President & General Manager of ABC10. “I am honored that ABC10 and our parent company TEGNA are teaming up with other

community-minded businesses and organizations to take a Stand Against Hunger. In addition to our on-air support, program leadership and financial contributions, ABC10 staff members will get actively involved by volunteering their time to help at local food banks this holiday season.”

Telemundo (T33), 103.9 The Fish in Sacramento, and KAT Country 103.3 in Stockton are providing on-air support for the cause.

Viewers and community members are encouraged to donate online to the food bank of their choice at www.abc10.com/standagainsthunger. To learn more about ABC10 and its mission, or to watch award-winning special reports and other exemplary news stories, please visit www.abc10.com or www.youtube.com/ABC10. In addition, ABC10 can be live streamed via the ABC10+ app on Roku and Amazon Fire. ★

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Shifting How California Funds its Mental Health System

System is Critical to Getting More People Off the Streets

**Commentary By
Darrell Steinberg
Mayor of Sacramento
From CALMATTERS.
ORG**

What if we could reach each person suffering from mental illness or addiction on California’s streets and assertively surround them with the resources they need to get well and to get housed? What if we could get them a mental health therapist, a bed in an addiction treatment facility? Someone to help them find an apartment and to pay their rent?

This is not an impossible dream. To reach tens of thousands of people living in tent encampments, we must prioritize and focus the billions generated through our existing Mental Health Services Act, the millionaire’s tax I authored in the Assembly and was approved by voters 20 years ago as Proposition 63.

California needs more money for housing and more money for mental health and substance abuse treatment – all targeted for those with the most severe needs.

The effort is well underway with Gov. Gavin Newsom’s mental health system overhaul, which requires that more of the \$4 billion raised annually by the MHSA is spent in a much more focused way. Thirty percent for housing, 35% for wraparound services, and the remainder for other services and ensuring children get the help they need before they suffer the worse consequences of untreated mental illness.

In March, voters will have a chance to weigh in on these crucial changes in addition to a second key piece of the governor and legislature’s agenda for behavioral health reform. Proposition 1 would modernize the MSHA – renamed the Behavioral Health Services Act – and raise an additional \$6.2 billion in one-time bond funding to build more housing and treatment beds for those with the most severe needs.

Currently, the funds produced by Proposition 63 flow to counties to care for adults and children with serious mental illness. MHSA’s 20-year history and \$31 billion of community-based services has saved many lives.

But the work is so incomplete.

Counties currently spend this money to help many people in need. But there has not been enough focus on identifying and enrolling the unhoused people suffering in plain view on our streets.

The updated Behavioral Health Services Act shifts the dynamic by requiring more funding – an estimated \$1 billion – to be spent on housing those with severe mental illness and substance use disorders. It expands the successful full-service partnerships, the wraparound services that is the proven formula to end homelessness for thousands when combined with housing.

The law would also require the prevention and early intervention resources required by the original MHSA to be spent on proven

strategies like investing in early psychosis identification, so teenagers do not suffer that life-altering first break.

In Sacramento, our city and county governments in December took an important legal step toward a more robust encampment outreach and enrollment strategy. Sacramento County pledged in this agreement to do “whatever it takes” to get people off the streets, including adding as many full-service partnerships as needed. New city-county outreach teams are working the encampments and identifying the people who qualify for this level of care.

Our agreement is a model that could be replicated by cities and counties statewide to reach more people.

Passing the accompanying bond next year to build community treatment and housing facilities will move us much closer to fulfilling the promise made by Gov. Ronald Reagan and the Legislature when they closed old hospitals and promised a decent system of community based mental health care. Closing the hospitals was the right decision. For decades the community promise was forgotten.

The MHSA in 2004 was a major step towards upholding that promise. The BHSA and the bond has the chance to move us even closer.

Every dollar, every program, every roof, every bed, every newly trained care provider means one more person off our streets, out of the hospital, out of jail, out of a lonely back bedroom with the chance for a better life. ★

SAFE Hosts Interactive Financial Literacy Workshop at Sac State



SAFE Credit Union Community Relations team at CSUS Budget Cents event. Photo courtesy of SAFE Credit Union

SAFE Credit Union News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - With fewer than 1.5 percent of California students receiving any guaranteed financial education in schools, SAFE Credit Union is stepping in to fill the gap with a new program that lets teens and young people learn firsthand the sort of financial decisions they’ll make as adults.

SAFE recently brought its new Budget Cents program to California State University, Sacramento students. The college’s Associated Students Incorporation (ASI) partnered to host the event.

“The lack of financial education can lead to young adults making mistakes that can impact them for years,” says SAFE Credit Union Vice President of Community Relations and Financial Education Rebecca Delmundo. “Helping young people learn positive spending and budgeting practices can position them for a better future, especially when it comes time for those major life milestones like buying a house, new car, or starting a family.”

“It’s just those sort of insights that Sac State students could benefit from,” said Sasha Margulies, marketing coordinator with ASI. “I think it’s a wonderful opportunity for students to come learn how to manage their finances, what they should be doing to prepare for the real world while in college and set themselves

up for success after they graduate.”

Budget Cents is targeted to teens and young adults learning to become financially independent. The simulation provides real-life scenarios giving students a better idea of financial decisions they’ll make when living on their own. Students are given a persona that includes a job, income, family size, and debt level. They then visit various stations that represent major expenses, including housing, vehicles, childcare, and entertainment.

SAFE representatives help students with their budget and provide feedback to the students at the end of the simulation. The goal is to see whether students successfully budgeted their money while ensuring they are not overdrawn and have money left for savings.

“What surprises students the most during the simulations without a doubt is how much things cost,” SAFE Credit Union Financial Wellness Manager Hector Madueno said. “When we built this program, we looked at data for the Greater Sacramento area. So, when they are running through it, they’re going to see actual housing costs, the actual costs of food or dining out.”

SAFE established this program to foster financial literacy and education in the Greater Sacramento region. “We believe that providing individuals with the knowledge and skills to make informed financial



SAFE Credit Union Financial Wellness Manager Hector Madueno

decisions is essential for achieving financial security and prosperity,” Madueno said.

The event attracted participants from diverse backgrounds with the university’s ASI program. ASI offers services such as a food pantry, childcare services, a safe ride program and no-cost education events such as Budget Cents. Many attendees expressed their appreciation for the insights they gained during the event.

“The information to pay extra on the amount due to your credit card was very helpful,” said Sacramento State student Lorena Rodriguez. “I did not know that before.”

Budget Cents programs are free to schools and other participants. Those interested in booking a Budget Cents workshop can email financialwellness@safecu.org for more information.

For more information about the Budget Cents event or for video from the event, contact mediainquiry@safecu.org ★

\$38 Million Catalytic Converter Theft Conspiracy

**United States Attorney’s Office,
Eastern District of California News
Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Three Sacramento family members pleaded guilty October 16, 2023, to charges related to their participation in a nationwide catalytic converter theft conspiracy, U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced.

Brothers Tou Sue Vang, 32, and Andrew Vang, 28, and their mother Monica Moua, 58, all pleaded guilty to conspiring to transport stolen catalytic converters from California to New Jersey in return for over \$38 million in wired payments. Tou Sue Vang also pleaded guilty to an additional 39 charges related to money laundering.

In October and November 2022, federal, state, and local law enforcement partners from across the United States executed a nationwide, coordinated takedown of leaders and associates of a national network of thieves, dealers, and processors for their roles in conspiracies involving stolen catalytic converters sold to a metal refinery for over \$600 million dollars. Nine of 21 defendants were charged in the Eastern District of California.

Catalytic converters are part of an exhaust system that reduces toxic gas and pollutants from a vehicle’s internal combustion engine. Catalytic converters use precious metals in their center, or “core,” and are regularly targeted for theft due to the high value of these metals, especially the precious metals palladium, platinum, and rhodium. Some of these precious metals are more valuable per ounce than gold, and their value has been increasing in recent years. The black-market price for catalytic converters can be above \$1,000 each, depending on the type of vehicle and what state it is from. They can be stolen in less than a minute. Last year, approximately 1,600 catalytic converters were reportedly stolen in California each month, and California accounts for 37% of all catalytic converter theft claims nationwide.

According to court documents, the defendants pleading guilty operated an unlicensed business from their residence in Sacramento where they bought stolen catalytic converters from local thieves and shipped them to DG Auto Parts LLC (DG Auto) in New Jersey for processing. They sold over \$38 million in stolen catalytic converters to DG Auto.

Also charged in the 2022 indictment were co-defendants Navin Khanna, aka Lovin Khanna, 40; Tinu Khanna, aka Gagan Khanna, 36; Daniel Dolan, 45; Chi Mo, aka David Mo, 37; Wright Louis Mosley, 50; and Ishu Lakra, 25, all of New Jersey who operated DG Auto in multiple locations in New Jersey. According to court documents, they knowingly purchased stolen catalytic converters and, through a “de-canning” process, extracted the precious metal powders from the catalytic core. DG Auto sold the precious metal powders it processed from California and elsewhere to a metal refinery for over \$600 million. The charges against them are only allegations; they are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation with assistance from the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department, the Sacramento Police Department, the Davis Police Department, the Auburn Police Department, the Livermore Police Department, and the San Bernardino County Sherriff’s Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Veronica M.A. Alegria is prosecuting the case.

Tou Sue Vang, Andrew Vang, and Monica Moua are not yet scheduled to be sentenced. Andrew Vang and Monica Moua each face a maximum penalty of five years in prison. The 40 counts to which Tou Sue Vang pleaded guilty carry various maximum penalties per count ranging from 20 years in prison to five years in prison, and fines that range from \$500,000 to \$250,000 per count or twice the gross gain or loss from the crimes. The actual sentences, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables.

This effort is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at www.justice.gov/OCDETF. ★

Tenth Annual Gala for Kids Helping Kids Sacramento

**Kids Helping Kids
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Kids Helping Kids Sacramento fights pediatric cancer by hosting its Tenth-Annual Benefit Gala at The Harris Center on Saturday, January 20th. At previous galas hosted by Kids Helping Kids, they have had amazing performances by Grammy-nominated band Switchfoot, singer-songwriter Andy Grammar, successful touring artist Ben Rector, and many more. Along with the benefit concert, the gala includes silent auction bidding on fantastic baskets and experiences you won’t find anywhere else. Proceeds raised by this event will go towards improving conditions for children battling pediatric cancer, and helping out with

any financial burdens that may appear during a child’s treatment.

Kids Helping Kids is an entirely student-run, non-profit organization made up of juniors and seniors from Del Campo High School. In 2016, Kids Helping Kids was recognized as the number-one student run non-profit in the United States, and as of this year, they have just been recognized as the number-one student run non-profit in the world according to the Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship (SAGE) competition earlier this year. They put on their Signature Gala, along with several other events, to raise money for the populations they serve. Since 2012, Kids Helping Kids has raised over \$1.4 million to give back to the underserved

both locally and globally. They support children battling pediatric cancer and their families by providing financial resources during their medical treatment. Kids Helping Kids aids families in paying for expenses which are directly caused by the massive cost of treatment for their child. Each year, they raise \$50,000 to help 100 families battling pediatric cancer, and this year they hope to generate even more so they can reach even more children.

More information to come soon about who our headline artist will be and what kind of unique baskets and experiences will be offered, which their team is currently striving to secure.

For more information on Kids Helping Kids, go to www.kidshelpingkids-sac.org. ★

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Arden Arcade News
Serving Arden Arcade and Sacramento County since 1993

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ABOUT TOWN

Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink Open Nov. 8 - Jan. 15

Sharpen your skates and perfect your triple axel—the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink returns to the heart of the city on November 8! Feel a chill blow down K street as you approach Ali Youssefi Square and be teleported into a winter wonderland at the ice rink.

Regular Hours

Tuesday – Thursday 2 – 9 PM, Friday – Sunday 10 AM – 10 PM, Closed Mondays except for holidays.

Special Events

Nov. 18 - Princess & Superhero Day
Nov. 19 – River City Food Bank Donation
Nov. 25 – Silent Disco at the Ice Rink
Nov. 26 – Crafting Kindness
Dec. 2 – Calling All Dreamers Holiday Market
Dec. 3 – Calling All Dreamers Holiday Market
Dec. 9 – Xfinity Free Skate
Dec. 10 – Crafting Kindness
Dec. 16 – Silent Disco Ugly Sweater Party
Dec. 17 – First Step Communities Donation
Jan. 7 – Crafting Kindness

Tickets are available at the entrance to the rink when you arrive to skate.

For more info about holiday hours and scheduled events, visit www.godowntownsac.com/events/signature-events/ice-rink/

Run to Feed the Hungry Nov. 23

Presented by Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services at CSU Sacramento (Sacramento State), Sacramento CA.

The pandemic and the economic disruption it caused have triggered a nationwide hunger crisis. Many families—some for the first time—are having to make impossible choices between rent, transportation, utilities, medicine, and putting food on the table. In Sacramento County, about 280,000 individuals are now turning to Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services (SFBFS) for food assistance every month, an increase of 87% over 2019.

The need for SFBFS’ services is as great as ever, and after three straight years of rising demand, our resources are becoming increasingly stretched. But with your support, we’ll be able to keep pace with demand and distribute more food to more people than ever before. Whether you choose to run or walk the 5K or 10K, donate to an individual or team, or fundraise yourself, every dollar from Run to Feed the Hungry will be used to feed the nearly 1 in 5 Sacramentans who are at risk of hunger.

To register as a runner, view the track map, or find more info, visit www.runtofeedthehungry.com.

California Waterfowl Fundraising Dinner Dec. 7

This fundraiser for the California Waterfowl Association will be held at Portuguese Hall, 6676 Pocket Road, on Dec. 7.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for games and social hour. Dinner will begin at 7 p.m., followed by a live auction. The event will also include a silent auction and youth program.

For tickets, visit the website, www.CalWaterFowl.org/Tickets

Breakfast With Santa at the Elks Lodge Dec. 17

Two of the best kept

secrets in Sacramento are at Elks Lodge 6.

The first secret is they have a wonderful breakfast every Sunday from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Keep it a secret from the kids, but Santa will be there on Saturday, December 17th.

The breakfast will be closed on December 24th and 31st for the holidays.

The breakfast starts with a wonderful omelet bar. The rest of the menu includes: pancakes, french toast, waffles, and biscuits and gravy. There is also potatoes, sausage, bacon, and of course either orange or tomato juice. Don’t forget the coffee! All of that for \$15, and children under 10 are half price. That price includes tax and tip [donations to the Purple Pig are encouraged].

That second best secret is the Elks have an indoor swimming pool and athletic facilities with handball courts. While you are there you can have a tour of the facilities.

The Elks Lodge 6 is at 6446 Riverside Blvd.

Elk’s Lodge Calendar of Events Elks 6’s Annual Arts & Craft Festival and Greenhaven Pocket Farmers Market.

The Greenhaven Pocket Farmers Market will open at 8 A.M.

Free Raffle at GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market every Saturday until November 11th

Come by Membership Booth and fill out a raffle ticket for a chance to win a free farmers market tote bag filled with fresh farmer products and other goodies. The winning ticket will be drawn at 1 P.M. at the close of each market day until Saturday, November 11th. The winner need not be present to win.

Can you stay too long at the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market?

Vic Cima, manager of the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market, said, “Juan Flores thought he had to shop from 8 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the GHP Farmers Market. His dog got so tired that he had to take a dog nap! Juan will be back every Saturday. We hope his dog also comes.”

Elk’s Lodge Sunday Breakfast

Every Sunday 8:30am - 11am
Bring your friends and family
\$15 tax included
Best deal in town

Made to order Omelets or eggs any way you want. Bacon, sausage, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, waffles, coffee large parties should call for reservations

Guest are VERY welcome!

Canal Holiday Lights Community Pocket News Event

Hi friends and neighbors!

Costco has had Christmas decor for a month, so winter must be coming soon! With it comes the return of our Pocket Canal Holiday Lights!

I hope you’ve enjoyed this great tradition as much as I have. I love the beautiful show as the lights reflect off the water, but most of all, I enjoy how much it gets our community out, enjoying it together, being with friends, being with family.

We need your help to

keep it going and continue to grow this great community tradition.

Can you make a donation to support the effort this year? Any amount helps!

Donations are tax deductible, please donate here:

<https://giftstoshareinc.ejoinme.org/donate>

(select “District 7 Canal Holiday Lights”)

If your business is interested in sponsoring, please let me know!

And save the dates, December 2nd, hanging holiday lights & December 3rd, lighting ceremony with Santa.

Thanks so much for your support!

Your partner in building stronger communities,

Devin Lavelle
devinlavelle@gmail.com

Sacramento Symphonic Winds Holiday Concert Dec. 10

The Sacramento Symphonic Winds holiday concert entitled “Holiday Fiesta” will be Sunday, December 10, 2:30pm, at Capistrano Hall, California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). Admission and parking at Capistrano Hall (garage levels 1-3) for this concert are free of charge. Donations are welcome! The Sacramento Symphonic Winds is a 60-piece adult symphonic wind ensemble conducted by Music/Artistic Director Dr. Matthew Morse. This concert features Symphonic Dance #3 “Fiesta” by Clifton Williams, A Christmas Carol by Alan Silvestri, Rhapsody on Christmas Carols by Claude T. Smith, and more! Visit our website at: <http://www.sacwinds.org> OR find us on Facebook!

Elk Grove Marine Corps League Launches Toys for Tots Toy Collection Effort

Marine Corps League, Elk Grove Detachment #1238 comprised of nearly 70 Marine veterans involved in all conflicts from WWII to Afghanistan hosts their 76th Anniversary National Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots program. The mission for the Toys for Tots program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year and to deliver the toys as Christmas gifts for needy children in the community in which the gifts were collected.

The collection will be on Friday, November 24, 2023 - 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Smart and Final parking lot at - 8775 Elk Grove Blvd. Baskins Robbins Ice Cream is on the west side and F&M Bank is on the East end in Elk Grove, CA

Today the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program in the United States collects on average 17 million toys and distributes them to 7.5 million children each year.

Marines in Dress Blues who are currently serving our country; Marine veterans who have served in Wars from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, the Gulf War, Desert Storm, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq. Elk Grove Girl Scout Troop# 276 will also attend.

This event is fully sanctioned by the USMC Reserve’s Toys for Tots Program. For more information about the program and its history, please go

to www.toysfortots.org

Sacramento Area Museums Showcase Region’s Farm-to-Fork Roots All Year Long

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (August 28, 2023) – The Greater Sacramento region is rich with popular museums and destinations that offer diverse and enriching experiences for individuals, families, residents, and visitors alike. Given the critically important role agriculture continues to play in the region, many local museums offer special exhibits, experiences and activations that highlight ever-enduring Farm-to-Fork connections. A sampling of some of the Farm-to-Fork offerings at local museums includes the following:

California

Agriculture Museum – Woodland is home to an entire museum focused on agriculture, filled with a unique collection of harvesters, wheel and crawler-type tractors, combines, trucks, art, artifacts, rotating interactive exhibits and much more. In all, the museum tells the history of Farm-to-Fork, dating back to the Gold Rush era and how the industry evolved from horse drawn to steam driven to fuel powered machines to harvest and transport California’s bounty.

California State Railroad Museum & Foundation – A Fruit Growers Express refrigerated rail car is on permanent display inside the Museum’s Roundhouse. Museum

visitors can explore this historic rail car and exhibit, “Farm to Fork: A Public History,” and learn about how refrigerated rail cars enabled California farmers, growers, and producers send farm-to-fork freshness all over the country. Visitors can step inside the historic Fruit Growers Express rail car to see how the ice-cooled rail cars transported produce and built an agricultural system that exports more wealth than the California Gold Rush. Plus, the popular weekend excursion train, Sacramento Southern Railroad – currently on pause due to an important rail repair project – runs on the historic Walnut Grove Branch Line. This rail line transported pears, asparagus, celery, seeds, and other products from the Delta communities to markets nationwide.

Sacramento

Children’s Museum

– Young visitors hungry to learn about fresh food have a variety of options at the Children’s Museum, including at the miniature Leo’s Market and Leo’s Food Court (a miniature market of food carts), about bees and honey with the in-house beehive, and an interactive train table highlighting Sacramento’s agricultural landscape in miniature, complete with mini livestock. Plus, the Children’s Museum will be at the Farm-to-Fork Festival (September 22-23) sharing vegetable stamp printing with visitors.

SMUD Museum of

Science & Curiosity – MOSAC’s interactive exhibits bring the story of water to life, demonstrating how our region is working together to conserve this natural resource for now and future generations. The “Water Challenge” exhibit lets museum visitors actively shape a watershed’s flow, create a tune for saving water at home, and choose between local or non-local foods to buy based on how everyday decisions impact conservation efforts — all while learning about the environmental footprint along the way.

Utility Exploration Center

– The City of Roseville’s Utility Exploration Center (UEC) is a testament to the region’s commitment to sustainable living and resource conservation. Nestled in the heart of a region renowned for its Farm-to-Fork movement, the UEC acts as an educational hub, encouraging residents and visitors alike to delve into the intricacies of energy and water conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable practices. By fostering an understanding of how we use and preserve resources, the UEC underscores the importance of our agricultural roots.

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, “like” them on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SacMuseums or at website at www.SacMuseums.org. ★

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The Federal Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is currently 6.50% for a new Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC), and is fixed for the first 5 years of the loan which is called the term period. After the first 5 year period, the APR can change every based on the value of an index and margin. The index is the prime rate and an U.S. Treasury Security adjusted to a constant margin of 0.25 and the margin is 6.45%. The current APR for the 5 year period is 6.75%. The maximum APR that can apply any day during the HELOC is 15%. A sample representation of the funding certificate: (1) the bank APR assumes a maximum HELOC of \$100,000 and a total maximum Loan-to-value (LTV) of 75% (meaning the new HELOC and any existing net debt of that loan on your residence (2) your residence securing the HELOC must be a single-family home that you cannot do your primary residence; (3) if the full limit of that loan is withdrawn in a single draw from the credit advance limit, that loan may not closed (example: loan a total maximum loan-to-value) of 75% and may not be a revolving line of credit. Additional property restrictions and requirements apply. All loans are subject to a credit approval. Property location is required and title insurance may be needed. Rates, APR, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Other conditions apply. A \$500 early closure fee will be assessed if the loan is closed within three years from the date of opening. An annual fee of \$25 will be assessed on the first anniversary of the HELOC and annually thereafter during the draw period. Ask for a copy of our Fixed Rate Home Equity Line of Credit Disclosure Statement for additional important information. Other HELOC loans are available under different terms.



In my new book, “Tell it To the Chaplain,” I describe the yearlong post-graduate residency I took in 1991 to become a chaplain. The program was called Clinical Pastoral Education and was the hospital-based internship required to begin a career in healthcare chaplaincy.

Each morning, the interns went onto the wards to support patients in need of spiritual care. In the afternoon, we’d critique our patient visits with our supervisor and fellow students.

Dr. Timothy Little was our supervisor. He was an old hand at teaching his charges how to walk with patients through sickness and pain. He was blind, yet quite Yoda-like with his limitless wisdom. He often used a critique tool called a “verbatim,” which was our written verbatim of a visit in a word-for-word description.

One afternoon I went onto the hospital wards determined to find a patient who would portray me in a favorable light to my supervisor.

As I walked past the nurses’ station, a nurse called me aside to tell me of a patient requesting a chaplain visit. The man he described was in his fifties and had just received a terminal diagnosis of stomach cancer. However, before the nurse could explain more, an urgent phone call pulled him back to the desk.

Never mind, I thought, waiving a dismissive hand.

Pregnant With Truth

I pushed out of the station like I was Chaplain America looking for a patient to save.

I found the room and opened the door. As I neared his bed, my game face shattered. The male patient appeared every bit pregnant.

Fortunately, I think his bulging gut blocked him from seeing the shock on my face as I composed my introduction. The man responded well. He took an immediate liking to me and freely shared the doctor’s prognosis.

“Would you pray with me?” he asked. “I feel God in me and know He wants to heal me.”

“Certainly,” I said, smiling inwardly. This was someone I just might “save.”

I prayed a strong prayer from my Baptist tradition, full of words like, “If it be your will, God,” and “In Jesus’s name we ask.” In retrospect, it was more like I was casting a theological incantation rather than trying to understand the man’s soul.

Still, he offered a satisfied smile. I was sure my patient would be the stunning star of my upcoming verbatim.

Just as I was about to dismiss myself, the man placed his hand on his belly.

“Sometimes I can feel him move,” he said.

“Pardon me. Who do you feel move?”

“Jesus!” he proclaimed. “Jesus is returning through me. I’m carrying God’s son.”

Along about then, the nurse appeared at the door and motioned me outside.

“Chaplain, I was trying to tell you that our patient is also psychotic.”

I shot the nurse my best “no-duh” look.

“I was trying to tell you that when my phone rang,” he added.

A few days later I humbly presented the verbatim as a “how-not-to.” I admitted that I’d not waited for the nurse’s guidance or tried to hear the patient’s pain.

Dr. Little tapped his white cane on the floor. “Well, well, well,” he said, “I think we might have the beginnings of a chaplain.”

Years later, I reprised that verbatim, this time before a peer committee as I sought professional certification as a chaplain.

“What did you learn?” asked one committee member.

“I learned that I can’t be the hero of someone else’s story. When someone invites me into their story, I can’t morph into the Great Explainer or shine as the Truth Holder. I must honor the way God intersects their story without injecting myself into it.”

They all voted to endorse me as a new chaplain – and gratefully, I acknowledged that their commendation demonstrated yet another way in which God intersects my story.

You can find this story in “Tell It To the Chaplain” on my website, Amazon or by sending me \$20. Send comments to comment@thechaplain.net. Leave recorded comments at (843) 608-9715 or write 10556 Combie Rd Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602.. ★

Grant Fuels the CHP’s Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Efforts

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Motorcycle-involved crashes continue to be a major concern for the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The CHP has implemented a yearlong, federally funded program, Get Educated and Ride Safe VI (GEARS), with the goal of increasing motorcycle safety and awareness throughout the state.

The GEARS VI goals are designed to reduce the number of motorcycle-involved crashes and crash victims. Based on provisional data, there were 7,639 motorcycle-involved crashes, resulting in 381 deaths and 6,969 injuries, within CHP jurisdiction in federal

fiscal year 2021-22 – an 8% increase from the previous year.

“Motorcycle riders are statistically more likely to be injured or killed when involved in a crash,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “The GEARS VI grant will support the Department’s efforts to improve safety for motorcycle riders and other road users through focused education and enforcement.”

During the grant period, the CHP will increase motorcycle safety activities in regions with a high number of motorcycle incidents and participate in traffic safety education campaigns such as “National Motorcycle Ride Day” on October 14, 2023.

The campaign will promote the use of U.S. Department of Transportation-compliant helmets for all riders and raise driver awareness of sharing the road with motorcyclists. The CHP will also increase enforcement in areas with a high number of motorcycle-involved crashes, which resulted from speed, improper turns, and driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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

One Community Health Acquires New Location in Sacramento

One Community Health News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On October 23, 2023, One Community Health announced its acquisition of a new building in Sacramento as part of its expansion. The building is located on Kings Way in Arden.

“We are thrilled to be able to grow with the needs of our community,” said Chief Executive Officer, Michelle Monroe. “This expansion allows us to continue our mission to create a healthier Sacramento by increasing access to care for all

members of our community, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, orientation, or ability to pay. This new property will add 42,000 square feet of health center and support services space, allowing us to better address the growing unmet needs of the community.”

One Community Health is a private, nonprofit community health center serving the greater Sacramento area. Founded in 1989 in response to the AIDS crisis, they devoted themselves to the care of people with HIV/AIDS for more than

two decades. In 2015, they became a Federally Qualified Health Center, providing coordinated and comprehensive primary and preventive services to the whole community, with an annual growth of nearly 7%.

The acquisition of the building and construction planning is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2023, with construction on modifications and improvements beginning in early 2024. For more information about One Community Health’s expansion, please visit OneCommunityHealth.com. ★

The Insurance Fiasco

By Ben Christopher, CalMatters.org

A week after negotiations to rescue California’s floundering home insurance market stalled out in the Legislature, the state’s top insurance regulator put out his own rescue plan that effectively amounts to a trade for the state’s major insurers.

Under proposed regulations Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara announced this afternoon, major insurers will be required to cover a certain share of homeowners in the state’s most wildfire-prone areas. In exchange, the Department of Insurance will allow companies to charge more to cover the rising costs of doing business in a fire-ravaged state.

Lara called the package of new proposed regulations “the largest insurance reform” since 1988, the year California voters passed a proposition requiring insurance companies to get prior approval before raising premiums.

The plan is meant to reverse what has amounted to a slow-motion exodus of private home insurers from the state. In the last year and a half, seven of the top 12 property insurers operating in California have either placed new restrictions on where they do business or stopped selling new policies here entirely.

The biggest player of all, State Farm, announced a freeze on new policies in May, kicking off a fresh round of panic among homeowners scrambling to find affordable insurance policies and lawmakers

eager to tackle the crisis.

For years, insurance companies have complained that current rates and the existing regulatory process don’t allow them to recoup the cost of doing business in the state’s most at-risk regions. By easing some of those restrictions, while requiring the companies to expand their coverage, “it’s the department calling the bluff of insurers,” said Rex Frazier, president of Personal Insurance Federation of California, a trade group.

In principle, that’s trade-off insurers are willing to make, he added, though it will ultimately depend on how the specific regulations are crafted in the coming months.

Amy Bach, executive director of the consumer group United Policyholders, struck a similar note.

Lara “did not sell out to the industry here, in my opinion, he struck a deal,” she said. “Whether it’s going to manifest positively overall...the proof will be in the premiums.”

But Consumer Watchdog — an advocacy group that Lara all but called out by name during his presentation as “bombastic” and a group “materially benefiting” from the current regulatory system — came away with a difficult conclusion.

“He’s basically capitulated to the industry,” Jamie Court, the group’s president, said of Lara. “There’s not really much coming back for the consumer in here.”

Despite mounting public angst and calls for action from top lawmakers, the politics of addressing the problem in the Legislature

proved too thorny this year.

In the final weeks of the legislative session that ended a week ago, lawmakers scrambled to bridge the demands of insurers — who called for higher premiums to cover more of their costs and for a more flexible rate-setting process — and those of consumer groups, who resisted calls to add to the financial burdens of homeowners. After negotiations floundered, Gov. Gavin Newsom hinted that his administration and Lara’s Department of Insurance might be willing to act on their own.

In a statement, Sen. Bill Dodd, a Napa Democrat involved in the unsuccessful negotiations, cheered Lara’s announcement. “Given that the Legislature is not in session right now, utilizing the commissioner’s regulatory authority makes good sense,” he said. “I know there is work that still needs to be done and I’ll be supporting these efforts any way I can.”

Insurance companies have pointed to three main reasons that doing business in California is increasingly a losing proposition: Escalating wildfire risk, ever-rising construction costs and the global price of reinsurance — insurance companies, themselves, take out.

While costs have increased, the amount the companies are allowed to charge homeowners is tightly capped and closely regulated in California, making home insurance policies relatively cheap by national standards. In order to raise rates, major insurers need a sign-off from the



Can This Plan Fix California’s Insurance Crisis? MPG Courtesy Stock Photo

Department of Insurance.

Currently, insurance companies are not allowed to factor in the cost of reinsurance into those applications. They are also prohibited from using forward-looking models to predict future costs — something insurers say they desperately need as a warming climate and residential development encroaching into fire-prone areas results in fire seasons that are longer and more catastrophic than they have been in the past.

Lara proposed giving companies both of those tools, though companies will apparently only be allowed to itemize the cost of reinsurance as it pertains to California. It’s unclear how this calculation will be made.

Bach with United Policyholders said allowing companies to use predictive models isn’t inherently a bad idea — “Are these models nefarious tools of Satan? No,” she said — but hopes there will be transparency about which models are used and how they work.

In exchange for these new tools, companies will

be required to cover homeowners in wildfire-prone parts of the state at 85% of their statewide coverage. For example, if a company provides 10% of the homeowner policies across California, they would be required to provide 8.5% of the coverage in areas deemed “at-risk.”

Court, with Consumer Watchdog, said 85% is 15% too little. “It’s a really sh—y deal,” he said.

California homeowners currently unable to get insurance on the private market can currently turn to the FAIR Plan, a last resort issuer of fire coverage backstopped through a levy on regulated insurers. Between 2018 and 2022, the number of homeowners covered by the FAIR Plan more than doubled to roughly 3% of all homeowners.

But the FAIR Plan policies are expensive and limited. And if the FAIR Plan runs out of money, it’s legally required to refill its coffers by levying a surcharge on major insurers. The prospect of the FAIR Plan running out of cash and slapping the industry with

the bill has also encouraged insurance companies to scale back their coverage.

Consumer Watchdog regularly challenges the applications for higher premiums that insurance companies submit to the state, an intervention allowed for under the 1988 ballot measure. Today, Lara also said he wants to make it easier for the public to see who intervenes and how much they are compensated for doing so.

“One entity is involved in nearly 75% of all interventions for rate approvals, materially benefiting from a process that is meant for a broader public participation,” he said, referring to the nonprofit.

Lara also said that “throwing bombs is easy and putting out bombastic statements from entrenched interest groups doesn’t benefit anyone.”

Court said his organization would continue to fight back as the department drafts the detailed regulations. “We’ll be battling over this stuff for many months to come,” he said. ★

Help us Build a More Equitable Parks System

Cash assistance, Food benefits, Health Care
To align with the adoption of the new technology, the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance will replace the current

Customers who may have started an application in the old system should plan to finish by Thursday, October 26, or will need to begin a new application after creating an account in BenefitsCal starting Monday, October 30, 2023. Thank you for your patience as we transition to the new systems. ★

“Sacramento County is home to such a wonderful mix of people from all different backgrounds,” said Liz Bellas, Director of Regional Parks. “We want to make sure that we are creating spaces and services in which people from all different backgrounds and abilities can feel welcome and safe.”

Understand how people and communities throughout Sacramento County use, access and experience the Sacramento County Regional Parks, including identifying to the degree possible what users want in their parks; Identify, reach out to and engage people, communities and stakeholder groups throughout the County in order to hear from diverse voices regarding Sacramento County's Regional Parks and its management; Ensure that our regional parks and park events are welcoming to people and communities of many different backgrounds, including various races, genders, ages, socio-economic status

This survey is currently available in English, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese and Simplified Chinese and can be translated into additional languages upon request. To request additional languages or a paper copy of this survey, email parksinfo@saccounty.gov. ★

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