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# Carmichael Times

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JUNE 14, 2024

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## Bench Honors Sharon Ruffner

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

**CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG)** - Passionate about keeping plastics out of waterways and landfills, the late Sharon Ruffner spearheaded the re-purposing of more than a ton of plastic bags.

Since her January death, Ruffner's project continues. A growing gang of volunteers, many of them Carmichael Kiwanis Club members, gather bags for recycling.

Inspired by example, Sacramento churches and nonprofit organizations have contributed; several have begun their own plastic drives. The bounty is shipped to the Trex company in Virginia and turned into composite lumber. Every 1,000 plastic pounds is rewarded with a bench for nonprofit organizations.

Jackie DeLu shared Carmichael Kiwanis presidency with Ruffner when their project began in 2021.

"Sharon and I were inspired by a Stockton Lions Club that began a similar effort," DeLu explained. "We didn't realize how strongly people felt about recycling plastic. The community really stepped up."

"Sharon's garage was soon completely full of bags. Her church, her yoga class, our neighbors: they all contributed plastic bags."

The latest seat to reward club efforts found a special place. Koobs Nature Area (5325 Engle Road, Carmichael) is a reserve supported by the club; a place where Ruffner and her husband volunteered. Ruffner's family and 30 chums joined a recent ceremony to dedicate the bench.

"Sharon would be so happy," noted her husband, Bob Ruffner. "I doubt she realized how successful this project would be for the community."

Any household can support the Kiwanis Club's ongoing drive. Donations must be clean, dry and of stretchable composition. Bubble wrap, cling wrap and mailers are also welcome (paper labels must first



Bob Ruffner (seated) enjoys a park bench dedicated to his community leader wife, Sharon Ruffner. The composite seat was recently installed in Koobs Nature Area, Carmichael. Friends are Kiwanians Linda Rose Jones (left) and Jackie DeLu and singer Frank McClory.



Recycling initiator Sharon Ruffner said: "It's exciting to find meaningful use for so many products that have been inflicted on our environment."

be removed). Unacceptable items include frozen food and candy packaging; pet food bags; plastic gloves; beverage rings; bottles and rigid containers.

Said Ruffner on launching the recycling drive: "Millions of pounds of plastics are in our landfills and floating on our oceans. It's exciting to find meaningful use for so many products that have been inflicted on our environment."

Since Ruffner's death, collection management has fallen to fellow Kiwanian Linda Rose Jones. For information on contributing plastic to the Kiwanis club, e-mail jones.lindaer@comcast.net. ★

## Unsheltered Homelessness Decreases 41 Percent in Sacramento

Sacramento City Express News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The number of people living outdoors in the city and county of Sacramento plunged 41 percent between 2022 and 2024, one of the largest decreases in homelessness statewide.

The biennial Point-in-Time Count released June 5 by the nonprofit Sacramento Steps Forward found that overall homelessness, including those living in emergency shelters, fell by 29 percent compared to the count two years ago.

Sacramento Steps Forward coordinates community-level efforts to end homelessness. Every two years, it recruits hundreds of volunteers to go out and count people who are unhoused throughout Sacramento County. This year's count, on Jan. 24 and 25, found 3,944 people living unsheltered, down from 6,664 people identified in the 2022 count.

The total number of unhoused people counted, including those in shelter and temporary housing, dropped by 29 percent from 9,278 to 6,615.

"These results are truly outstanding and, undeniably, reflect Sacramento city and county's 'all in' approach to addressing this crisis," said Lisa Bates, CEO of Sacramento Steps Forward.

Leaders from Sacramento city and county said the decrease in unsheltered homelessness reflected the tens of millions of dollars invested by both local governments in standing up new emergency shelter beds and permanent supportive housing units, and an increasingly coordinated response to sharing resources and responsibilities.

"There are still too many people who are homeless for us to declare victory but maybe homelessness is not so intractable after all," said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. "The 41% reduction in unsheltered homelessness is dramatic and affirms that the steady course we set seven years ago to address this state and national crisis is working."

District 2 County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy also cited the work the county has been doing, including opening two Safe Stay sleeping cabin communities in his district. A Safe Stay community now under construction on Stockton Boulevard in the city of

Continued on page 3

## ART and Fun at Effie Yeaw Gala



Auctioneer Keith McLane whips up excitement during bids for Deladrier Almeida's Birthday Creek riverscape. The auction volunteer is Sue McCullough Sanden.

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

**CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG)** - By June tradition, a gala and art auction hosted more than 200 guests in the Effie Yeaw Nature Center last weekend.

Supporters of the

beloved Carmichael nonprofit organization wined, dined and opened wallets to purchase art and cultural experiences.

Much of the proceeds will fund programs at the 48-year-old facility, named for pioneer nature educator and Carmichael resident Effie Yeaw.

Outreach continues under the aegis of the non-profit American River Natural History Association.

Reinvented this year with a camp theme, the Camp Effie Yeaw fundraiser included a barbecue dinner and s'mores desert buffet. A quartet from

nearby Rio Americana High School provided jazzy interludes.

Auctioneer Keith McLane encouraged bidding; patrons raised paddles to fund Nature Center needs. Television anchor Molly Reihl was the emcee.

Continued on page 2



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# ART and Fun at Effie Yeaw Gala

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2024 sponsors included CBEC Eco Engineering,

Charles Dailey, Helen Diepenbrock, Marcy Friedman, Bob and Deborah Moskovitz,

Drs. Kevin Tanner and Gabrielle Rasi, Supervisor Rich Desmond, Girl Scouts Heart of

Central California Council. Proceeds are not known, as of press time.

For Nature Center information, visit [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net). ★



Rio Americana High School students provided a jazzy ambiance. The musicians are, from left Salome Ospina, Miles Rothman, Zack Long and Colin Thowtho.



Good Day Sacramento anchor Molly Reihl (third from left) joins gala guests, left to right, Johnny Javanifard, Elke Von Schlosser, Sylvia M. Fitzgerald, Gary Zilaff and Chuck Halnan.



A sold-out event with more than 200 attendees includes supporters, from, left Richard Hauch, Kim Pacini Hauch, Janet Crooks and Mark Drobny.



Stephan Booth (left) celebrates his winning bid for a Tom Sellas Riverscape called Rio Pond. Auction volunteers from, left, are Sara Tabatabai and Ryan Digman.

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### ASIAN GROCERY

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### WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

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# Strike Up the Money Unsheltered Homelessness Decreases 41 Percent in Sacramento



Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band Association President David Meyer awards a \$1,000 scholarship to music student Megan Lynch. The presentation followed the teenage percussionist's performance in Carmichael Park.

**Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner**

**CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG)** - Presented during the Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band Association's recent festival in Carmichael Park, a \$1,000 youth scholarship was awarded to student musician Megan Lynch. The prize crowned the Granite Bay High graduate as the association's 2024 soloist contest winner. Accompanied by the Amador County Concert Band, Lynch, 18, gave a xylophone performance that delighted park audiences. "She mastered a new piece of music just

for this performance," said contest chair Grant Parker. "Not only was Megan virtuosic, she also showed the sense of humor the 1925 piece called for. She was poised, professional and the crowd loved her." The cash prize will go toward Lynch's studies at the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. The Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band Association Youth Artist Soloist Scholarship has been awarded annually for 30 years. Applicants must be enrolled in a Northern California high school band program. For more information, go to [www.svsva.net](http://www.svsva.net). ★

*Continued from page 1*  
Sacramento will include tiny homes provided to the city by the state. It will be run by the county through its partnership agreement with the city. "It is encouraging to see positive results from the hard work we've been doing for years," Kennedy said. "The county has invested significant resources into new programs, services and shelter beds. I am proud to have many of these shelter beds in my district and more coming this year. Together, we're making a difference!"

Sacramento Steps Forward CEO Bates noted several significant factors that have helped ease the crisis of unsheltered homelessness in Sacramento, including: Direct assistance from the state to cities, counties and Continuums of Care through the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Grant (HHAP) program. The city, county and Sacramento Steps Forward have received \$120 million in HHAP funding since 2019. HHAP currently pays for 97% of the city's



The number of people living outdoors in the city and county of Sacramento plunged 41 percent between 2022 and 2024, one of the largest decreases in homelessness statewide. Photo courtesy Pixabay

emergency shelter beds. increase of 1,001 units. An easing of rents and the availability of apartments. Bates noted that the average apartment vacancy rate rose by 58% since 2022, with rents dipping by 3%. The new Coordinated Access System funded by the City and County and run by Sacramento Steps Forward provides a centralized access point for shelter, housing and homelessness prevention services. To read the full 2024 Point-In-Time Count report and view infographics, go to [www.sacstepsforward.org](http://www.sacstepsforward.org). ★

## Four-Legged Seasonal Help Brought in to Fight Flooding

**Sacramento County Department of Water Resources News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento County Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing its annual eco-friendly program to combat overgrowth in detention basins to prevent the potential for flooding in the unincorporated parts of

the County. Starting on May 21, Billy Goat Gruff and hundreds of his hungriest friends will converge on five separate locations over the next five weeks to help reduce the flood threat from overgrown grass and weeds. Most of the County's flood prevention efforts occur during the spring and summer months before the rains fall again. Left unattended overgrowth could

block water flow from heavy rains, resulting in street flooding. This is the twelfth year these contractors have been utilized as an effective force to ensure the creeks and detention basins are clear for the upcoming storm season. This year, 300 goats and sheep will be casually dining as they rotate through five different locations. The areas chosen for the

contractor's dining experience will include Arcade Creek at Evergreen Estates: Winding Way at Auburn Blvd - 4.4 Acres, Arcade Creek at Kenneth Avenue: N/O Burl Way - 3.4 Acres, Arcade Creek at White Fir Way: E/O Garfield Ave - 2 Acres, Ottoman Hills Detention Basin: Main Avenue at Wiltshire Way - .7 Acres, and Strawberry Creek at Calvin Road: East & West of

Auberry Drive - 7.7 Acres. Residents near the projects received postcards letting them know about the cost-effective approach to flood prevention work. An onsite herder and trained dogs accompany the dining party 24-hours a day to ensure they are cared for, kept on task, don't wander off, and offer Thousand Island or Blue Cheese, if requested. ★

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# New Rice Bowl's New Owner Continues Traditions



Owner Kate Tang takes an order over the phone at New Rice Bowl Boba Milk Tea Express.

Story and photos by Mitch Barber

**CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG)** - Joseph Bartlow said you can't get chow fun, the thick rice-noodle dish, in Tennessee.

That's why he visits New Rice Bowl Boba Milk Tea Express in Carmichael. The house combination chow fun — with chicken, beef and shrimp, along with white and green onions and a generous amount of sliced green bell pepper — is a heaping mound of food at \$16.95.

Bartlow recently moved to the area from Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee and he visits the Carmichael restaurant about three times a month, he said. On a recent occasion, he dined in with his wife and two children.

Kate Tang, owner of New Rice Bowl Boba Milk Tea Express who has been at the helm for just three months, has a family, as well: three young children and husband, Hua Zhang, who helps with delivery and in the



The house combination chow fun is ready for consumption inside the restaurant. It comes with chopsticks, if you'd like, soy sauce, a fortune cookie, a fork and napkins.

kitchen when needed.

Tang is a cheerful, young presence at the register, patiently describing items on the menu.

Her background includes growing up in Guangdong, China, and being a waitress at a sushi restaurant starting in 2013. She visited her homeland last February, and she currently resides in Elk Grove.

She was quick to recommend that the Carmichael Times talk to "Chuck," whose full name is Charles Wagaman, who has delivered and done maintenance for the restaurant the last approximately 10 years. He indicated that the restaurant

has a 24-year history.

"There is a huge amount of Chinese and Asian customers," Wagaman said.

The menu has changed little in its 24 years, according to Wagaman, and customers don't like change.

"It's basically the same because it's all based on the original owner's menu," Wagaman said. "He still comes in if they need some help with shelves and stuff. He (Wayne Mok) still owns the building."

Tang said she scaled back the Japanese offerings on the menu, no longer serving sushi but stuck with Japanese staples teriyaki

chicken, edamame and pimento soup. The reasoning behind it is that other area restaurants do Japanese food, such as sushi, professionally and it no longer made sense to compete.

Angel Murillo, who works "just down the street," stopped by the restaurant for the first time specifically to sample the Japanese cuisine.

"My co-worker and I like teriyaki chicken (served over steamed rice for \$12.95)," Murillo said.

Wagaman said his favorite item on the menu is the honey walnut shrimp (\$17.95), a Chinese delicacy.

He also said he liked "anything 'salt and pepper' — salt and pepper shrimp (\$16.95), salt and

pepper fish, salt and pepper chicken. Those are all good. Salt and pepper spareribs."

When asked about Tang, Wagaman said, "She's very nice and good with customers. Very friendly."

The most difficult dish to make? Tang said that is the egg foo young, because it is steamed, pan-fried and then deep-fried. It comes in six varieties: chicken (\$13.95), barbecue pork, vegetable, beef, shrimp and house combination.

She also sells party trays with items such as fried chicken wings, broccoli beef, chicken chow mein and general chicken. They range from \$44.95 to \$99.95.

But don't forget the

beverage options; "Boba Milk Tea Express" is part of the restaurant's name, after all.

The menu lists 23 different types of milk tea, including the caffeine-free taro milk tea. You can add boba (tapioca balls) to a tea for just 50 cents. This writer ordered and drank a taro milk tea with boba (\$5.45); the straw was wide to facilitate easy transit from the cup to one's mouth.

The restaurant additionally offers smoothies and milkshakes.

*New Rice Bowl Boba Milk Tea Express is at 7416 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael. It is open from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays and from 4 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays.* ★

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**M E M O R I A L**

**RAYMOND L MARTINEZ • 10/6/1939 – 4/28/2024**



Raymond is survived by his wife, Consuelo (Connie), children Mateo and Anika; step-children Roberto, Teresa, Cristina, Isabel and Victoria; brothers Carlos and Jesse; and numerous nephews, nieces, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

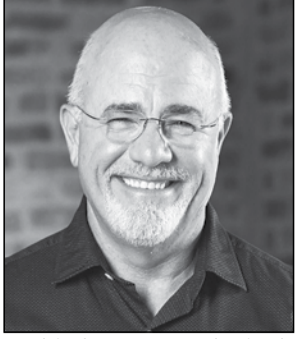
He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He always looked forward to spending time with family. He enjoyed cooking, working on various home improvement projects, photography and general tinkering. He was patient, quiet, yet personable. If you could get him started on telling a story, it was usually worth listening to.

For the past few months, Raymond struggled with complications from diabetes. Even as his condition worsened, he continually expressed his love for

Connie. He would brighten every time she would enter the room. He passed peacefully, with Connie and several family members at his side. His family misses him every day, but their memory of him will never fade.

A Memorial Mass will be held for Raymond on June 14, 2024 at 11:00am St. Joseph Parish 9961 Elk Grove Florin Rd Elk Grove, CA 95624

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in his honor to The Fisher House <https://connect.fisherhouse.org/campaign/Raymond-L-Martinez>



**Think, Pray and Find Your Calling**

Dear Dave,

My husband and I have been very blessed financially over the course of our lives. We make a little over \$200,000 a year combined, and we currently have a net worth of around \$4 million. But what do you do when you're not motivated by that kind of thing anymore? How do you find and live out God's purpose for your life, when you've already had a better life than you ever expected?

- Amanda

Dear Amanda

I can't tell you what your calling is, but I can say this. There's a lot of fulfillment and joy to be found when you're doing something that serves the people and things in your life that matter most.

If you've studied psychology a bit, you may remember something called Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Basically, it says once your physiological and safety needs have been

**Dave Ramsey Says**

met, you begin to feel the need to find other things to motivate you. It sounds like you're both hard-working, performance-driven people. I am, too. And people like us get our relaxation, and even fulfillment, away from work in different ways than most people.

If I were in your shoes, I'd start trying to think about ways you can serve other people or causes you care about. Maybe there were dreams you had a long time ago, and you put them aside for your career. What really speaks to you right now, at this stage of your life? For you, if you have kids in the house, it might mean becoming a stay-at-home mom and really pouring yourself into them. It might mean starting an animal shelter, or providing meals for people who are homebound. Everyone has dreams, and everyone's dreams are different.

It sounds like you've been thinking about this for a while, so here's my advice to you. Take a day, or even a weekend, all to yourself. Get away from everything and everyone—and all outside distractions—and think about your future self. Bring along things to eat and drink, a bunch of notepads, pencils and a

Bible. Then, before you do anything else, take a deep breath, relax and pray.

From that point on, be completely honest with God and with yourself. Open up your heart and mind to things you care about and all the possibilities. You have to have a goal that's worthy in mind, and that's the one thing that's missing. But a time of thoughtful prayer—and yes, even daydreaming—may just put you closer to an answer than you've ever been before.

Congratulations on your success, Amanda. You and your husband truly have been blessed. But now, it may be the time to become a blessing to others!

- Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time No. 1 national best-selling author; personal finance expert and host of *The Ramsey Show*, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on *Good Morning America*, *CBS Mornings*, *Today Show*, *Fox News*, *CNN*, *Fox Business*, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, *Ramsey Solutions*. ★

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# California Seeks a More Resilient Water Supply as Familiar Sides Battle for Access



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California is a semi-arid state in which the availability of water determines land use, and in turn shapes the economy.

That, in a nutshell, explains why Californians have been jousting over water for the state's entire 174-year history.

The decades of what some have dubbed "water wars" may be approaching a climactic point as climate change, economic evolution, stagnant population growth and environmental consciousness compel decisions on California's water future.

A new study, conducted by researchers at three University of California campuses, projects that a combination of factors will reduce California's water supply by up to 9 million acre-feet a year – roughly the equivalent of all non-agricultural human use. They include effects of climate change, new regulations to stem the over-draft of underground water, reducing Colorado River diversions and increasing environmental flows, especially those through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

In an average year, around 200 million acre-feet of water fall on the state as rain or snow. Evaporation and percolation take most of it, leaving about 80 million acre-feet to be divided up among three major uses. Agricultural irrigation and environmental flows to

the ocean are roughly equal at around 35 million acre-feet while residential, commercial and industrial users take the remainder.

The latter is not only the smallest of the three uses but has been remarkably stable – even declining somewhat, despite decades of high population growth – thanks to intensive conservation programs.

Although water officials constantly beseech Californians to limit their personal consumption of water, the real conflict in recent years, particularly during periods of drought, has pitted agricultural interests against environmentalists over the flows needed to nurture fish and other wildlife.

Environmentalists have pressed state water officials, particularly the Water Resources Control Board, to compel farmers to reduce diversions from rivers to enhance flows. Agriculture is also being squeezed by new restrictions on tapping aquifers via wells. Moreover, California's largest-in-the-nation agricultural sector has also been shifting from seasonal crops to nuts, grapes and other permanent, high-value products, which need year-round watering.

"Good management and policy for this situation requires organized serious attention and consistent long-term policy, without complacency or panic," the UC study concludes.

The new study bolsters a 2022 policy paper issued by the Newsom administration calling for 4 million acre-feet of new water storage, another 1.3 million in savings through conservation and reuse of wastewater, and new supplies from desalination and other processes.

The study also arrives as legislation that would set new

targets for increased water supply, Senate Bill 366, makes its way through the Capitol with broad support from water interests of all varieties.

It's one thing to point out that California faces a potential water supply crisis and should be earnestly trying to avoid the effects, but actually doing something confronts two steep hurdles: the glacial pace of water projects of any kind, and unresolved conflict over water rights, some of which date back to the state's founding in 1850.

The Sites Reservoir exemplifies the former. The western Sacramento Valley project, which would add 1.5 million acre-feet of off-stream storage, has moved closer to reality in recent years after seven decades of sitting on the shelf. Ditto for the long-planned canal or tunnel that would bypass the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The notion of a comprehensive, long-range program making California's uncertain water supply more resilient sounds great, and the clock is ticking. However, it assumes that officialdom has the legal authority to make it happen.

Until and unless the issue of water rights is resolved, the much-discussed reallocation of supplies – more for environmental flows and less for agriculture – will remain stalled.

*Dan Walters is one of most widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. He began covering California politics in 1975, just as Jerry Brown began his first stint as governor, and began writing his column in 1981. He has been at CalMatters since 2017. ★*

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# Sac County Caps Initial Water Development Fees

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento County Water Agency Board of Directors approved a new cap on Initial Water Development Fee Payments required at the Improvement Plan approval stage of the development process. The Development Fee Program pays for water infrastructure projects within the county's Zone 40 area.

The fees are paid by developers and have been set at \$21,399 per home being built. The Sacramento County Water Agency collects the fee during the development process. The initial payment is 15% of the total fee, with the remainder collected when the building permit is issued.

Zone 40 was formed nearly 40 years ago as a capital development fund. The funds help build new water systems and ensure there is an adequate water



The cap on fees will bring down the cost of new homes in Sacramento County. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

supply for development within Zone 40.

Changing this Sacramento County Water Agency section, known as Title 4, allows the water agency discretion to cap the initial payment of 15% to a maximum of \$200,000 per subdivision. Capping the fee will reduce one of the larger upfront costs typically financed by developers and help bring down the cost of building homes in Sacramento County.

The cap can be removed during an annual review if

Sacramento County Water Agency finds a potential reduction in cash flow. Less money would impact the water agency's ability to plan, design and construct new water supply facilities needed within Zone 40 for future development.

Sacramento County Water Agency has partnered with the Building Industry Association on these changes with a mutual goal of removing the barriers to building cost-effective housing in Sacramento County. ★

# Invasive Fruit Fly Quarantine Lifted in Sacramento County



Invasive fruit fly. Photo courtesy of Martin Hauser/California Department of Food and Agriculture

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Thanks to the cooperation and diligence of county residents and the local agriculture department, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), working in coordination with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner, declared the end of the Oriental fruit fly quarantine in Sacramento County following the eradication of the invasive pest.

The declaration comes nearly eight months after we first detected populations of the Oriental fruit fly in the area and established a quarantine encompassing parts of Rancho Cordova, and the communities of La Riviera, Carmichael, Fair Oaks and Gold River.

During the quarantine, crops that are hosts for the invasive pest — which include more than 300 varieties, such as citrus and other fruits, nuts, vegetables and berries — were not allowed to be moved from the properties where they were grown. Commercial crops were required to meet stringent treatment or processing standards before being harvested or moved.

As the temperatures rise and vacationers ramp up their travel plans, residents are urged to refrain from bringing back potentially infested produce from their trips. While at home, we encourage residents to stay vigilant for signs of invasive pests.

To help prevent any future introductions of invasive species, residents should follow these guidelines:

Cooperate with the agriculture department and allow them access to your garden to place traps, inspect plants, conduct necessary treatments or remove potentially infested produce.

Determine if your property is located within an active quarantine area by visiting CA FruitFly.com.

Buy fruit trees and vegetable plants from licensed California nurseries. Purchasing agricultural goods from uncertified sources can spread invasive pests. Source your plants locally and responsibly. To find a licensed nursery near you, visit California Department of Food and Agriculture's Directory of Licensed Nurseries.

Inspect your garden for signs of invasive fruit flies or maggots and report any findings to the agriculture department.

When entering the United States from another country, avoid bringing agricultural products, including fruits or vegetables. Help us protect our agricultural and natural resources and California's unique biodiversity from invasive fruit flies: Don't pack a pest when traveling or mailing/receiving packages.

To learn more about invasive species and how to protect the county's fruits and vegetables, visit California Department of Food and Agriculture's Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division at [www.cdffa.ca.gov/plant](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/plant). ★

# San Juan Unified Celebrates First Student-Run Literary Magazine

## San Juan Unified School District News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - San Juan Unified School District celebrated its first-ever published student-run literary magazine on May 17. This opportunity, driven by passionate students and mentored by educators, gives young writers a platform to share their creative works and showcases the power of creative writing in promoting identity, equity and educational justice.

Julia Clauson, founder and editor of the San Juan Unified literary magazine, brought the idea to district staff to give fellow students a space to express themselves freely. Clauson chose "Identity" as the theme for the first issue to explore what identity means and how it evolves through personal experiences and external influences.

One of the student writers, Ava Commandatore from Rio Americano High School, wrote an essay about identity that was featured in the magazine. The piece explores the complexities of identity and how it is perceived in today's life.

"I wrote my essay based



A San Juan Unified student reads aloud a piece she wrote. Photo courtesy of SJUSD

off my opinion of [identity], how it reflects in our everyday life, how others perceive our identity and how it can alter your identity or make you want to change your identity just for someone else," said Commandatore.

Reflecting on the journey that brought the magazine's vision to life, Rachel Nguyen, a teacher on special assignment and co-facilitator of the magazine, shared, "A few years ago, I started a writing club at Bella Vista High School. Students were writing such interesting and exciting fiction that I saw a need for an outlet for creative writing."

Nguyen emphasized that the literary magazine was a joint effort, particularly highlighting Julia Clauson's important role.

"Julia arrived at the Writing Club last year as a

sophomore. It was our first full year of the club and Julia had an idea: a vision to start a literary magazine for the entire district to give all students a chance to contribute to a shared writing community," said Nguyen.

Az'Jah Jones, an Encina Preparatory High School student, found joy in expressing herself through her poem, "My Honest Poem."

"I felt really happy writing it because I was getting a lot of emotions out that I didn't really know I had," Jones said.

Students were encouraged to submit various forms of writing, including short stories, poetry, comic strips, essays, scripts, and novel excerpts. Submissions in languages other than English were also welcomed, reflecting the rich diversity of San Juan

Unified's student body.

"One of the best memories of my entire school experience is the Literary Magazine reading day," said Clauson, "We were 10 students from different high schools gathered at the District Board Room to go through all the submissions together. We were so surprised at the number of submissions there

were and how wonderful, incredible and diverse they were."

After months of preparation and hard work, the Literary Magazine was published in March 2024, showcasing the incredible talent and creativity of San Juan's young writers. During the May 17 ceremony, student writers read their literary pieces in the

presence of district leaders, staff and family members.

Looking ahead, the team plans to publish the magazine annually with the goal of eventually turning it into a bi-annual publication. Clauson hopes the magazine remains a platform for students' creative writing at the district level and continues long after she graduates. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-03442 Naqib Jami, 2740 Fulton Avenue Suite 27, Sacramento, CA 95821 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Fast Service Towing" 2740 Fulton Avenue Suite 27, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County May 2, 2024
Publish: May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 2024 FAST 6-14-24

der the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Auto Splash" 7320 Winding Way, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County May 17, 2024
Publish: May 31, June 7, 14, 21, 2024 AUTO 6-21-24
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-03120 Christian Baird, 35111 Del Paso Road Suite 160, PMB419, Sacramento, CA 95835 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "On The Fly Notary" 5433 Duck Walk Way, Sacramento, CA 95835. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County April 23, 2024
Publish: May 31, June 7, 14, 21, 2024 NOTARY 6-21-24

TSHIRTS 6-28-24
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-03888 Cheng Corp, 2378 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95822 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Encore Dental Services" 2378 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95822. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County May 15, 2024
Publish: June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024 ENCORE 6-28-24
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-03996 Robert John Harris, 7552 Fusion Way, Sacramento, CA 95829 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Mr Wonderful's Trucking" 7552 Fusion Way, Sacramento, CA 95829. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County May 21, 2024
Publish: June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024 WONDERFULS 6-28-24

County June 4, 2024
Publish: June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 2024 PROGRESS 7-5-24
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-04299 Home Care Plumbing, Inc, 11584 Linday Way, Gold River, CA 95670 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Home Care Plumbing" 11584 Linday Way, Gold River, CA 95670. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County June 3, 2024
Publish: June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 2024 HOME 7-5-24
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-04250 Uyen Vo, 821 Howe Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95825 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Uvglamorous/UVO Beauty" 821 Howe Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95825. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County May 30, 2024
Publish: June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 2024 UVGLAMOROUS 7-5-24

Publish: June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024 PHAM 6-28-24
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV008290
Kavita Devi and Daniel Chand have filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Hridhaan Chand to Ethan Chand.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court July 31, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: April 25, 2024 Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024 CHAND 6-28-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV010691
Tamika Nashae Bledsoe has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Tamika Nashae Bledsoe to Mika Nashae Bledsoe.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on September 26, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: May 31, 2024 Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 2024 BLEDSOE 7-5-24
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV010014
Mohammad Haroon Obaidi has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Ahmed Belal Obaidi to Tayeeb Obaidi.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on September 19, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: May 20, 2024 Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 2024 OBAIDI 7-5-24
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV009232
Anh Dung Tran and Thi Kim Huong Le have filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Anh Dung Tran to Dung Anh Tran and Thi Kim Huong Le to Huong Thi Kim Le.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on September 11, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: May 10, 2024 Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024 TRAN 6-28-24

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV009845
Taqwaallah Hasnawi has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Taqwaallah Hasnawi to Nancy Aram.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on September 18, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: May 20, 2024 Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: May 31, June 7, 14, 21, 2024 HASNAWI 6-21-24

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV009902
Gurmukh Singh has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Gurmukh Singh to Gurmukh Singh Nagra.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on September 18, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: May 17, 2024 Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024 SINGH 6-28-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

TO all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Jose Hernandez.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Michelle Hernandez, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Michelle Hernandez be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows June 27, 2024, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 129; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under probate 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Huck Ingram, 110 Bank Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945; 530-432-1996.
Publish: May 31, June 7, 14, 2024 HERNANDEZ 6-14-24
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF RAYMOND KENT SHEBELUT, AKA RAYMOND K. SHEBELUT AKA RAYMOND SHEBELUT CASE NO. 24PR001631
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent



# News to Know: The Most Popular Veterans Benefits Don't Expire



Paul Lawrence served at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs from 2018 to 2021. Photo courtesy of Paul Lawrence

By Dr. Paul Lawrence

While some people may think that the veterans benefits they have earned from military service could evaporate or disappear, this is inaccurate. The most popular veteran benefits have no expiration date. You can apply at any point and are not time-bound.

The three most popular veterans' benefits are disability

compensation, home loan guaranty and education/G.I. Bill.

For these benefits, there are important dates to remember. If you miss those dates, you may be inconvenienced but these benefits are still available, providing you qualify.

Disability compensation is a tax-free monthly payment based on an injury or disability that occurred during service. A veteran completes an application, referred to as a claim. Accompanying this claim is information about their service and medical conditions. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) evaluates the claim and grants or denies benefits.

A disability compensation claim can be filed as early as 180 days prior to completion of active duty and throughout the remainder of a veteran's life. In short, there is no expiration date for disability compensation.

Many veterans file multiple claims throughout their lives as

new conditions are identified or previously identified conditions worsen. This is called a claim for an increase. There is no limit on how often this can be done.

There are two important dates to keep in mind relative to disability compensation. The first concerns the Intent to File. In advance of actually applying for disability compensation, you can complete an Intent to File form. This tells the VA that you will file in the next year and preserves the effective day (i.e., the date on which benefits will begin).

For example, a veteran completes an Intent to File form establishing Feb. 1, 2024, as his/her effective date. After collecting all the needed information and forms, benefits are granted on Dec. 1, 2024. The first payment would include a retroactive payment reflecting the intent to file date of Feb. 1.

You can get assistance with your VA claim for no cost from an accredited representative such

as your county veterans service officer or an accredited veteran's service organization, such as the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans or the VFW.

Home Loan Guaranty allows veterans to purchase a home with no money down. This is a tremendous advantage over our civilian counterparts, who must save for a down payment prior to purchasing a home. Subject to restrictions, this can even be used to purchase a mobile home or farm residence.

There is no time restriction on this benefit. It can be used repeatedly by veterans as they move and purchase new homes.

Education/G.I. Bill benefits are significant for veterans. Serve for three years and you can earn four years of free college. It can also be used for high-tech apprenticeships, advanced Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math training, and credentials and certificates.

In 2017, a new law, often

known as the Forever G.I. Bill, was introduced. If your service ended on or after Jan. 1, 2013, this benefit will never expire.

If your service ended prior to Jan. 1, 2013, you still could qualify for the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill or the Montgomery G.I. Bill for active duty or reservists. Each of these has an expiration date, so check those dates carefully at VA.gov.

Veterans' benefits are an important part of the rewards for military service and you can apply at VA.gov. The best time to learn about your benefits is well before applying for them. But remember, it's never too late to start and some of the most popular veterans benefits never expire.

Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D., served as Under Secretary for Benefits at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs from May 2018 to January 2021. He is the author of "Veterans Benefits for You: Get what You Deserve," published in 2023. ★

## New Report Highlights Success of Project Roomkey

Office of Governor Gavin Newsom News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** -An independent evaluation highlighted the success of Project Roomkey, the state's groundbreaking program that provided non-congregate shelter options, such as hotels and motels, for people experiencing homelessness to protect human life and minimize strain on the health care system during the pandemic.

"Project Roomkey exemplifies what's possible when government thinks outside the box and acts with urgency. By leveraging existing hotels and motels, the state, in partnership with local jurisdictions, rapidly housed thousands of Californians in need of assistance. Building upon this successful model, the state established Homekey, a nation-leading approach that continues to be utilized today." - Governor Gavin Newsom

### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

The success of Project Roomkey is a proof point that the challenge of homelessness can be addressed through a cost-effective and timely approach.

Since its launch, more than 62,000 individuals received temporary housing through the program, which in many cases included other supportive services such as daily meals, access to healthcare, emotional health and well-being support, and housing navigation and case management.

Roomkey's success paved the way for Homekey, creating a nation-leading

approach to rapidly provide housing for individuals experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Homekey has funded over 15,000 units of housing by converting hotels, motels, office space and other existing structures at an average cost of around \$210,000 a door.

"Project Roomkey taught us a great deal and this evaluation helps us focus on what we learned: the urgency created by the COVID-19 pandemic showed us what is possible when we use all the tools at our disposal to work collaboratively, design programs that meet people where they are, and address both health and social needs through our housing models," said California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly. "In a matter of months, California secured an additional 16,000 non-congregate shelter rooms and ultimately served over 62,000 people during the pandemic. Project Roomkey also created a pathway for the development of more than 15,000 permanent Homekey units."

Project Roomkey, which was launched in 2020, was designed to provide medically vulnerable Californians experiencing homelessness with temporary housing in hotel and motel rooms as an alternative to staying in congregate shelters, allowing them to safely isolate during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program has also helped California advance on goals related to increasing non-congregated shelter capacity across the state. ★

## County 2024-25 Recommended Budget Approved

Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on June 5 to approve the \$8.8 billion Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25.

The \$8.8 billion spending plan consists of \$3.5 billion in Enterprise and Special Revenue Fund appropriations (utility rates, fees and other dedicated revenue), \$3.8 billion in General Fund appropriations (funded with \$990 million in discretionary resources, \$1.5 billion in reimbursements from restricted funds, and the remaining \$1.3 billion in Federal, State and fee revenue dedicated to specific purposes), and \$1.5 billion in Restricted Funds.

The Recommended Budget recognized new or enhanced areas of growth, including:

Health Services increased by \$28.4 million for increased acute psychiatric inpatient costs, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing funding, increased capacity and services at Permanent Supportive Housing units, and behavioral health services at the Youth Detention Facility.

Child, Family and Adult Services increased by \$5.7 million (\$4.5 million Net County Cost) for Child Protective Services welcome and assessment center services and family resource center court-mandated parenting workshops.

Human Assistance increased by \$4.2 million (\$100,000 Net County Cost) for childcare payments for CalWORKs participants and funding for a position in the County Veterans Services Office.

The sheriff increased by \$3.9 million (\$1.2 million Net County Cost) for a mobile command vehicle, required software expenditures and required body-worn camera licenses and equipment.

Correctional Health Services increased by \$3.4 million (\$300,000 Net County Cost) for a Medication Assisted Treatment Program, additional pharmacy positions (both of which support the County's obligations under the Mays Consent Decree

Remedial Plan) and a new electronic health record system.

Community Development increased by \$1.2 million (\$1 million Net County Cost) to support the Infill Acceleration Program, the Climate Action Plan and two Planning Technician positions.

Homeless Services and Housing increased by \$1 million (before reimbursements) to fund beds at a planned Safe Stay Community and three new positions and services supporting administration for the department.

This year's reductions totaled \$6 million, which will result in the deletion of 31 vacant full-time equivalent (FTE) positions as well as other budget reductions across several departments. No filled positions were recommended for deletion.

The Recommended Budget's most significant reductions include:

Health Services reduced by \$2.2 million including consulting contracts, operational supplies and the deletion of 14 vacant FTE positions.

Child, Family and Adult Services reduced by \$1.8 million, including the deletion of 16 vacant FTE positions.

In addition to staff recommendations, the Board added two full-time equivalent positions: a criminal attorney in the District Attorney's office and a criminal attorney in the Public Defender's Office. The funding for those two positions will come out of the appropriation for contingency, reducing that appropriation from \$15.1 million to \$14.5 million.

The Board also supported a three-year funding commitment to the Black Child Legacy Campaign in future budget recommendations through Fiscal Year 2026-27.

### By the Numbers:

Total Budget: \$8.8 billion  
 General Fund: \$3.8 billion  
 Enterprise and Special Revenue: \$3.5 billion  
 Restricted Funds: \$1.5 billion  
 Number of Employees: 13,646 ★

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### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Raymond K. Shebelut, aka Raymond K. Shebelut aka Raymond Shebelut.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Kent Shebelut, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Kent Shebelut be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived

notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows July 16, 2024, 1:30 p.m. in Dept 129; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826. Zoom Telepresence: <https://saccourt-ca-gov.zoomgov.com/my/sscdept129> Meeting: 161 3352 9231

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the

court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Daniel K. Marvin, Law Offices of Sherwood & Marvin, 1025 North Demaree Street / P.O. Box 7208, Visalia, CA 93290; 559-733-3900

Publish: June 14, 21, 28, 2024  
 SHEBELUT 6-28-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER JAMES COLLINS CASE NO. 24PR001642

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Christopher James Collins.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by James C. Collins, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting James C. Collins be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however,

the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows July 17, 2024, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 129; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either

(1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

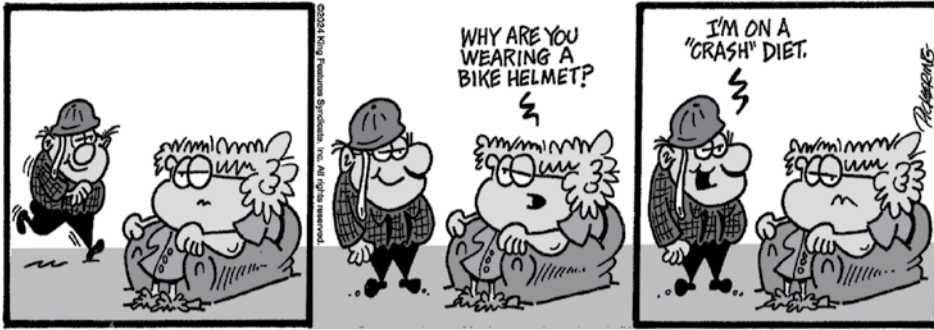
The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: David R. Morris Esq., 5137 Golden Foothill Parkway, Suite 110, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762; 916-789-9810

Publish: June 14, 21, 28, 2024  
 COLLINS 6-28-24

# COMICS & PUZZLES

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



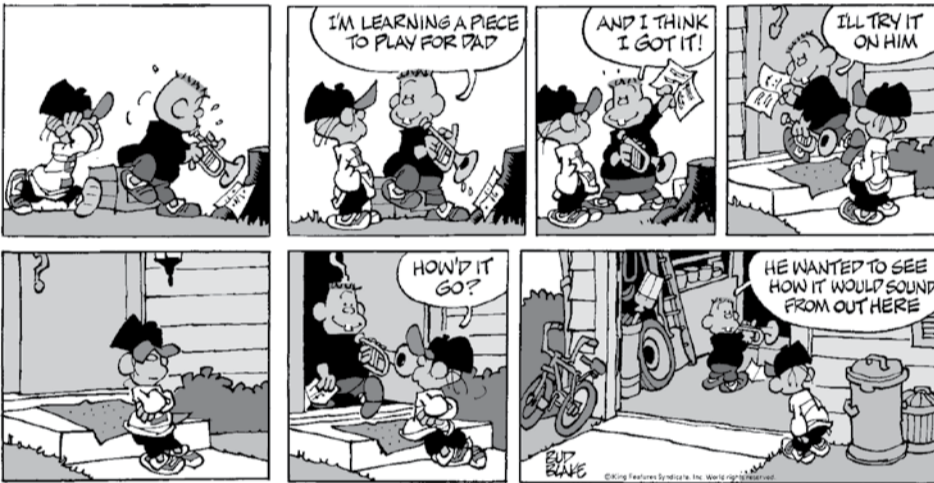
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## TIGER

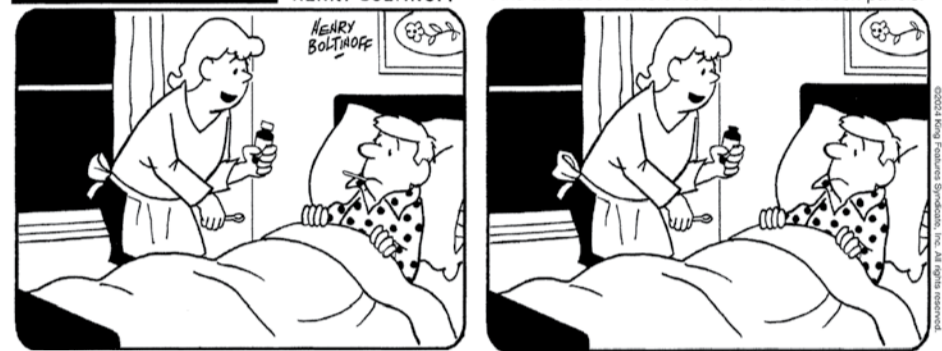
by BUD BLAKE



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Thermometer is missing. 2. A iron bow is missing. 3. Cap is missing from bottle. 4. Headboard is taller. 5. Fingers are moved. 6. Leaf is missing from flower.

## GRIN & BEAR IT

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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- ACROSS**
- Molten rock in earth's crust
  - Scarlett Johansson's 2013 voice only role
  - Jezebel's idol
  - Not silently
  - Pro vote
  - Italian bowling
  - Proclaimed as true without proof
  - Rob Manfred's org.
  - Savory taste sensation
  - \*Tom Cruise's 1986 blockbuster
  - "It featured the song "What Was I Made For?"
  - Wrath, e.g.
  - Milton Bradley's "The Game of..."
  - General Post Office
  - A woodland
  - Group of trained professionals, pl.
  - Icy precipitation
  - Concert units
  - Charles Dickens' Heep
  - Scandinavian capital
  - Rebroadcast
  - Khrushchev's domain, acr.
  - "What the gang did in 1988's "A Fish Called Wanda"
  - Exploding star
  - Clarified butter
  - Airport surface
  - Highway hauler
  - Breed
  - Miss Muffet's repast
  - Not flow
  - \*Tim Burton's 1989 and 1992 title character
  - "It featured the song "Summer Lovin'"
  - Popular fashion magazine
  - Road in Rome
  - Comment to the audience
  - Deposit the ashes
  - Giant Hall-of-Famer Mel \_\_\_\_\_
  - Canine skin infection
  - Humble and docile
  - Name badges, acr.
  - Streamlined
- DOWN**
- Bonkers
  - Sir Mix \_\_\_\_\_
  - Kind of boots in the '60s
  - One M in MMR vaccine
  - Slowly and gracefully, in music
  - Mass number
  - Snake-like reef dweller
  - Teacher of Torah
  - \*\*"Oppenheimer" subject
  - Popular smoothie berry
  - Pinnacle
  - Hula dancer's necklace
  - B in FBI
  - Open up
  - Half of NFL
  - a.k.a. Hansen's disease
  - \*1990 Swayze/Moore blockbuster
  - Trattoria staple
  - Petroleum tanker
  - \*1967, premiered in the U.K. on 6/6/76, with The
  - Chemical cure
  - Revered Hindu
  - Drawing support

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# Newsom Promised 1,200 Tiny Homes for Homeless.

## A Year Later, None Have Opened



An emergency non-congregate housing site in Chico on Sept. 6, 2023. Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

By Marisa Kendall  
CALMatters.org

In March 2023, Gov. Gavin Newsom stood before a crowd in Sacramento's Cal Expo event center and made a promise: He'd send 1,200 tiny homes to shelter homeless residents in the capital city and three other places throughout the state.

The move was part of Newsom's push to improve the homelessness crisis by quickly moving people out of encampments and into more stable environments. But more than a year later, none of those tiny homes have welcomed a single resident. Only about 150 have even been purchased.

Irontown Modular, one of six vendors the state chose to supply the tiny homes in Sacramento, San Jose, Los Angeles and San Diego County, is "absolutely shocked" that they've received no orders, said Kam Valgardson, general manager of the Utah-based company.

"The big problem is that the homeless people aren't getting served," Valgardson said. "I can complain as a business, but these homeless people are getting no support, no relief. The money's been promised, but something's broken in the process and nobody's placing orders."

There have been multiple delays and about-faces, over everything from the way the state is funding the units to the ability of local cities and counties to find places to put them. The state has suggested the delays are the fault of local governments. But tiny homes have failed to materialize even when local leaders moved quickly to approve a project site.

In some cases, it's difficult to know exactly what's holding up these projects. Communications involving the governor's office are exempt from the California Public Records Act. Multiple requests by CalMatters for emails between the governor's office and the cities and counties slated to receive the tiny homes were denied.

The state has started construction at the Sacramento tiny home

site, and has made funding available to the other three cities and counties to buy their own tiny homes — delivering on its promise, Monica Hassan, deputy director of the state's Department of General Services, said in an email to CalMatters. That bolsters the state's "already substantial efforts to help tackle the homelessness crisis," she said.

"Focusing solely on timelines diminishes the hard work of numerous individuals dedicated to providing much-needed housing," she said.

### BRINGING TINY HOMES TO CALIFORNIA

The governor set up a big to-do when he made his tiny home promise in March of last year. He had sample tiny homes set up in the Cal Expo event center to use as a backdrop as he spoke. Local officials, including Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, flanked him to show their support and gratitude.

The venue also was strategically chosen — Sacramento planned to set up its allotted 350 tiny homes right there, a Cal Expo.

The plan was simple: The state would buy the tiny homes. The California National Guard would help prepare and deliver them, "free of charge and ready for occupancy." Los Angeles was promised 500 tiny homes, Sacramento 350, San Jose 200 and San Diego County 150.

In October 2023, Newsom's office gave its first concrete update: It revealed the six companies it contracted with to supply the tiny homes. They ranged from Pallet, a Washington-based company that specializes in sheltering unhoused people and already has multiple sites up and running in California; to AMEG, a company based outside of Sacramento that does disaster recovery and modular home building, but hasn't built a community for homeless residents before.

But the project's parameters changed. Instead of buying and delivering the units, the state decided to send several of the

cities cash grants and let them order the tiny homes themselves. In San Jose, this left the city on the hook for more money than anticipated. The state awarded the city \$13.3 million. Building the planned tiny homes for 200 people will cost \$22.7 million, according to Mayor Mahan.

The mayor said San Jose told the state it would rather get tiny homes with en-suite bathrooms, which are more expensive. But, Mahan said, San Jose was willing to cover the cost difference.

Instead, Newsom's administration decided to provide cash grants in place of fully built tiny homes. It's more efficient, Hassan said.

San Jose plans to open its tiny home site by July 2025.

"This is a solution that even under this timeframe is significantly faster and lower cost than many alternatives," Mahan said. "And we're grateful for the support, and when unexpected things come up, we just roll with the punches."

Finding space to put these tiny homes — which is the responsibility of local cities and counties — also proved challenging. Plans to place Sacramento's tiny homes at Cal Expo, where Newsom made his splashy announcement last year, fell apart. Instead, the state intends to set up 175 tiny homes on Stockton Boulevard. The county plans to install the remaining 175 on Watt Avenue.

In March, a year after Newsom named San Diego County as one of the tiny home recipients, the County Board of Supervisors finally approved a location for the project in Spring Valley. But there's still a lot to do. The county has to test the soil and make sure the site is safe. After that, officials plan to start getting community feedback on the planned project. The county has not yet bought the tiny homes or set an opening date.

"Like every other homelessness policy solution, local governments are fundamentally the drivers and fundamentally the implementers," said Jason Elliott, Newsom's deputy chief of staff.

"What the state has done is provide billions of dollars in new investment, dozens and dozens of bills to cut red tape and a policy framework that pushes for faster action to resolve unsheltered encampments. But as we have seen time and time again in California, local commitment and partnership is the other side of that coin."

San Jose, in contrast to San Diego County, approved plans to set up tiny homes at the Cerone bus yard back in October. Even so, the state didn't send San Jose a grant agreement until March, Mahan said.

Of the four communities promised tiny homes, the state has made the most progress in Sacramento. In late January and early February, the state bought 155 units from BOSS, a tiny home company based in Montebello in Southern California. Those units, most of which are 70 square feet, have been built and are ready to ship to Stockton Avenue, said Kris Van Giesen, senior vice president of community development.

After a brief delay due to rain, a contractor hired by the state has started building out the infrastructure at the Stockton Avenue site, Hassan said. It's slated to open this fall.

In Los Angeles, city officials still haven't finalized locations for their tiny homes.

"The city has been working diligently to evaluate potential sites, coordinate relevant departments and prepare plans that will be submitted to the state by the end of May," Gabby Maarse, a spokesperson for the mayor's office, said in an email.

### NO ONE IS ORDERING TINY HOMES

Another big selling point of Newsom's plan: His administration opened up the contracts so that other cities and counties (in addition to the chosen four) could use their own money to buy tiny homes from the six approved vendors, without going through a time-consuming and bureaucratic request for proposal process.

That move was supposed to help get more tiny homes

deployed quickly, and therefore, move more people out of encampments. But CalMatters spoke with all six approved vendors, and none have received any orders through that process.

Several companies said a handful of cities have reached out and expressed interest. But without cash from the state, many are finding it hard to pull the trigger.

"A lot of these cities are struggling to find the funding they need," said Amy King, founder and CEO of Pallet.

The cheapest Pallet tiny home approved by the state contract sells for \$18,900. Add an en suite bathroom, and the price jumps to \$55,350. That's still considerably cheaper than other housing options.

Other companies said the state hasn't done as much as it could to promote the effort. There's no website that lists the vendors covered by the state contracts, the available models and price comparisons, said Anmol Mehra, co-founder of Plugin House, an Austin-based modular home company and one of the six approved vendors.

And the state insists on approving any promotional materials the vendors put out on their own, Valgardson said. After his company, Irontown Modular, accidentally posted marketing materials online prematurely, the state made them take the materials down and get approval. It took almost two months to get the green light, Valgardson said.

The tiny home companies said they had to jump through myriad hoops to secure the state contracts. Several said they had to design new products specifically to meet the state's strict requirements for everything from vapor-resistant light fixtures to emergency exit lighting. It took months and cost tens of thousands of dollars, Valgardson said.

David Baldwin, owner of AMEG, expected orders to start rolling in by December of last year. It's "a little bit frustrating," he said.

"We're ready to go," he said. "We have people chomping at the bit that want to go help." ★

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# Birds Tests Positive for West Nile Virus



Lab director Sarah Wheeler tests a dead bird for signs of disease. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District

## Sacramento Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - On June 10, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District confirmed that the first mosquito sample of the season has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). The mosquito sample was collected from the City of Sacramento, in the area of south Land Park in close proximity to the first positive bird reported last week. "As we expected, the very warm weather we've had recently increased the number of mosquitoes and accelerated virus activity," said Gary Goodman, District Manager. "It's important for residents to take these findings seriously and do everything they can to protect themselves," added Goodman. As part of the laboratory results received today, two dead birds also tested positive for the disease. Other counties throughout the state have also started to report West Nile virus activity. Last year in California, there were 433 confirmed human cases of the disease, including 19 fatalities. The detection of this recent WNV activity is evidence that the disease is

present, and the public should take proper precautions to stay protected. "Summer is around the corner and as more people enjoy outdoor activities, it's important to remember that the best protection against mosquito bites is an effective insect repellent," said Goodman. Residents are also encouraged to report dead birds, neglected pools and other mosquito problems. As a response to the finding of WNV, the district will increase its mosquito trapping and monitoring in the area to find sources where mosquitoes may be breeding. Targeted ground spraying may also be conducted to rapidly decrease the numbers of adult mosquitoes. For current information about District activities, please visit [www.FIGHTtheBITE.net](http://www.FIGHTtheBITE.net). Residents may also subscribe to mailing lists to receive email notifications for upcoming mosquito treatments by zip code. To sign up, go to [Spray Notifications](http://SprayNotifications) on the website. 2024 West Nile virus activity update: Sacramento County: 3 dead birds and 1 mosquito sample have tested positive for West Nile virus to date. Yolo County: No activity has been registered so far. ★

# 1 in 6 New Trucks and Buses in California Are Zero-Emission

## Office of Governor Newsom News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The sales of new zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty trucks in California in 2023 have doubled from the prior year, now representing 1 out of every 6 new vehicles sold for services that include last-mile delivery, freight transportation, and school buses, according to a report released by the state on June 6. With 18,473 medium- and heavy-duty ZEVs sold in California in 2023, the state has exceeded its Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) goal two years ahead of schedule and selling five times the required amount. Since 2021, a total of 26,921 medium- and heavy-duty ZEVs have been sold in California. "California is once again proving what can be done by turning ambition into action. We're achieving our goals years ahead of schedule. The fifth biggest economy in the world is moving away from dirty polluting big rigs and delivery fleets – cleaning our air and protecting public health," said Governor Gavin Newsom. The latest figures are a preliminary look at annual data that tracks sales of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in California and points to continued momentum for zero-emission vehicles ahead of rules that start phasing in later this year requiring the gradual deployment of clean vehicle technology for fleets. "California set visionary targets to move key transportation sectors toward zero-emissions technology and the market is stepping up to be part of the solution for cleaner air and climate action well ahead of required targets," said CARB Chair Liane Randolph. "The data shows that the future is zero-emissions and that fleets are finding value in making the switch early."

### WHY IT MATTERS

The Advanced Clean Trucks and Advanced Clean Fleets regulations establish a phased-in shift toward sales and use

of zero-emission technology. California communities that sit near trucking corridors and warehouse locations with heavy truck traffic, which often are low-income and communities of color, have some of the worst air in the nation. While trucks represent only 6% of the vehicles on California's roads, they account for over 35% of the state's transportation-generated nitrogen oxide emissions and a quarter of the state's on-road greenhouse gas emissions.

### HOW WE GOT HERE

Advanced Clean Trucks requires manufacturers of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles to phase-in the sale of zero-emission options in California as an increasing percentage of sales. A similar rule has been adopted by 10 other states, including New York, New Jersey, New Mexico, Massachusetts, Washington, Oregon, Vermont, Colorado, Rhode Island and Maryland. Together, these 11 states represent over 25% of new heavy-duty vehicle registrations annually in the nation. The Advanced Clean Fleets regulation includes a first-of-its kind requirement for all medium- and heavy-duty vehicles sold into California fleets to be zero-emissions beginning in 2036 and is expected to introduce 1,690,000 ZEVs into the California fleets by 2050. To ensure that the needed technology will be available to meet upcoming milestones, CARB and the nation's leading truck and engine companies signed the Clean Truck Partnership in July 2023, which commits participating manufacturers to meeting California's vehicle standards, regardless of whether any other entity challenges California's authority to set more stringent emissions standards under the federal Clean Air Act. In turn, CARB has agreed to work collaboratively with manufacturers to provide more flexibility in meeting CARB's requirements. ★

# California Highway Patrol Swears in 106 New CHP Officers



The mission of CHP is to provide Safety, Service, and Security. Photo courtesy of CHP

## California Highway Patrol News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The newest members of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) were sworn in May 10 during a graduation ceremony at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento. The 106 officers are part of the CHP's multiyear recruiting campaign to fill 1,000 vacant officer positions by hiring qualified individuals from California's diverse communities. "These men and women have chosen to dedicate themselves to a career in public service. They have completed several months of rigorous training at the CHP Academy to prepare them to serve the people of California," said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. "While this job is one of the most difficult things they will do in their entire life, it is also the most rewarding thing that they will do, and we are proud to have them as part of the CHP family." The swearing-in ceremony for the new officers marks the completion of a challenging 26-week journey at the CHP Academy. They will report to one of the 103 CHP Area offices throughout the state to begin serving the people of California. At the CHP Academy, cadet training starts with nobility in policing, leadership, professionalism and ethics, and cultural diversity. Additionally, cadets receive

instruction on mental illness response and crisis intervention techniques. Training also covers vehicle patrol, crash investigation, first aid, and the apprehension of suspected violators, including those who drive under the influence. Cadets also receive training in traffic control, report writing, recovery of stolen vehicles, assisting the motoring public, issuing citations, emergency scene management, and various codes, including the California Vehicle Code, Penal Code, and Health and Safety Code. The CHP has seen an outpouring of interest in joining the ranks since the onset of a multiyear recruitment campaign in June 2022. In the first four months of 2024, the CHP received more than 7,600 cadet applications - a more than 100% increase from the same period in 2022. To accommodate the surge of interest, the CHP has been holding three Academy classes simultaneously for the first time in the Department's history. The next cadet graduation from the CHP Academy is scheduled for July 12, 2024. For more information about a lifechanging career with the CHP, visit our website and register for our online hiring seminar at 6:30 p.m. on May 22. The mission of the California Highway Patrol is to provide Safety, Service, and Security. ★

# Retire Flags with Dignity at SAFE Credit Union

## SAFE Credit Union News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - To celebrate Flag Day, SAFE Credit Union will provide flag retirement bins at all its branches in the Sacramento area and its headquarters in Folsom now through Saturday, June 29 for people to bring weathered and damaged flags. At the end of the month, the bins will be collected and the flags properly retired. "Our branches are honored to be able to provide this service," says Janine Southwick, SAFE Credit Union's vice president Retail Branches. "It's another way we can connect with our members and a unique way to show we honor the national symbol."

SAFE's heritage stretches back to 1940 when it started as a credit union serving Army Air Corps personnel at what would later become McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento. Today, SAFE has many employees and members who are active National Guard and reservists, veterans, and families and loved ones of active and retired military. The flag retirement initiative is being led by a new employee resource group at SAFE focused on employees with military connections called Veterans and Loved Ones Resource (VALOR). "Flag Day is an opportunity to reflect on the significance of the American flag and what it represents: unity, freedom, and the enduring spirit of our nation," says Loan Servicing Manager Yvette Tibbs, who leads VALOR.



Tyler Batista, relationship officer at the SAFE North Natomas branch, poses next to the in-branch bin for retired flags. Photo courtesy of SAFE Credit Union

"The flag is a powerful symbol of our shared values and the sacrifices made to uphold them." People are encouraged to bring flags ready for retirement to SAFE branches this month or they can find other flag retirement services with Scouting and veterans' groups. For more information regarding proper American flag etiquette, visit the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) website. Participating Branches: Antelope Branch, 7887 Walerga Road Citrus Heights Branch, 7475 Madison Ave. East Elk Grove Branch, 9312 Elk Grove Blvd. East Sacramento Branch, 6341 Folsom Blvd. El Camino Branch, 3560 El Camino Ave. Folsom Branch, 2740 Bidwell St. Granite Bay Branch, 8789 Auburn Folsom Road Hazel Branch, 5261 Hazel Ave. K Street Branch, 2901 K St. in Sacramento Laguna Branch, 9162 Bruceville Road in Elk Grove Land Park Branch, 4700 Freepoint Blvd. Lincoln Branch, 111 Ferrari Ranch Road North Natomas Branch, 2761 Del Paso Road Rancho Cordova Branch, 12519 Folsom Blvd. Rocklin Branch, 6190 Stanford Ranch Road Roseville Branch, 121 N. Sunrise Ave. Sunrise Branch, 7601 Sunrise Blvd. Watt Branch, 4636 Watt Ave. in North Highlands West Roseville Branch, 1541 Blue Oaks Blvd. West Sacramento Branch, 2105 Town Center Plaza For more information about the flag retirement bins, contact Senior Communications and Design Specialist Susan Burns at [Susan.Burns@safecu.org](mailto:Susan.Burns@safecu.org) or (916) 212-0485. ★