



**K-ZAP Launches
'Feed the Kitty'
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East Sacramento News

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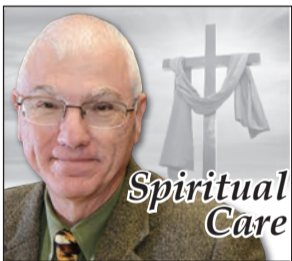
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TO HOUSING**



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BY LISTENING
TO OTHERS**



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Hearts for Healing Boosts Community

*Photo and story by
Stephen B. Clazie,
Sacramento Elks 6*

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Since its inception, the Greenhaven Pocket Farmers Market (GHP) has believed the value of a life is determined by the lives it touches. If we desire to live purposefully and successfully, then we must contribute to enhancing the lives of others.

As part of that philosophy, the GHP does not charge charitable organizations a fee for having a booth at the market.

This summer, among the vendors are two Girl Scouts working on their Silver Award Project, which is the highest award for Girl Scouts in their age group. The Gold Award is actually the highest award but it's for older girls.

Sydney Lin is excited to share her project. She tells everyone stopping at their booth, "My troop is working on our Silver Award. Our project is to help breast cancer patients by making heart-shaped pillows that they can use after surgery."

Her partner, Hannah Gravvat, will present a handout and ask, "Did you know that in the United States, as many as one in

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Sydney Lin, left, and Hannah Gravvat demonstrate how breast cancer patients can use heart-shaped pillows after surgery.

Fireworks and July 4: Keep it Safe; Keep it Legal

**Sacramento County
News Release**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - With Independence Day coming up, it's always a good idea to know the risks of fireworks, only use legal fireworks and stay safe when using them.

If you see or suspect illegal firework usage, report it! When it comes to fireworks, we want to keep it safe and keep it legal!

The Use or Sale of Illegal Fireworks will Result in Fines

In 2022, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors adopted a social host ordinance that levies fines, starting at \$1,000, against property owners that either use or allow the use of illegal fireworks on their property, in addition to fines for use in places such as the American River Parkway.

"Host," as it relates to this ordinance, means a person who knowingly permits or allows fireworks to be lit, exploded or sold on private property owned or controlled by the person.

If the illegal fireworks are being set off from your property, you are responsible for the fines.

Penalties for violations are as follows:

\$1,000 for the first violation, \$2,500 for the second violation within one year of the first violation, \$5,000 for each additional violation within one year of the first violation, and \$10,000 for each violation that occurs at schools, parks and within the American River Parkway.

When to Call 9-1-1

Calls for service throughout the county increase dramatically on July 4, and emergency response resources are stretched extremely thin.

During the holiday weekend, use 9-1-1 for emergencies only, such as an active fire or injury or immediate threat to persons or property. Each jurisdiction has provided an alternative method to report illegal fireworks sales and usage.

Know the Risks

The unsafe use of fireworks can cause severe burns, amputations, blinding and even death. Damaging fires might occur when children use fireworks unsupervised by

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Walking with American Heroes

*Story and photos by
Kristina Rogers*

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Celebrating our U.S. Veterans is certainly something Americans do often. And although newer generations hear about "sacrifice," there isn't always a deep understanding of what that really means. All they hear are dates along with static photos in a school history book.

A recent flag planting ceremony at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery made military history more "interactive." The event was supported by Walk with Me, a non-profit founded by William Franco III. War veterans and the Boy Scout troops worked together to place flags at the gravesite of the dead who served from the Civil War to Desert Storm.

Franco said, "The Walk with Me program brings an active-duty soldier or veteran together with a Boy or Girl Scout. They walk alongside each other and carry on a conversation."

Continued on Page 3



William Franco III stands next to the Veterans Affiliated Council memorial.



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Libraries Provide Free Meals to Youth This Summer

By Annie Kerr and Mitch Barber

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As another blisteringly hot summer unfolds, library officials make it a priority to provide support to youth while they are out of school and parents are working.

Fourteen public libraries throughout the area are offering free meals to local youth as needed throughout the summer.

Lunch at the Library provides free meals for young people when school is out for summer.

From June 18 through Aug. 9, meals will be distributed at 14 library locations Tuesdays through Fridays from noon to 1 p.m.

Lunch is available for free for youth 18 and under who are physically present. Meals must be consumed on-site. No registration is required. Drop-ins are welcome. Eligibility documentation is not required. Look for signage at the library or meeting room entrance.

“The Sacramento Public Library has been doing this since 2013,” said Christie Hamm, youth services director.

“Libraries have stepped in to help kids whose families might be stressed. Our meals come with whole grains and fruits and vegetables. So, they get a good

healthy meal, and we also help them get connected with our different summer reading programs,” she continued. “It’s a great time, and a friendly and welcoming place for them to come to.”

According to Hamm, all are welcome to enjoy the free lunches and there is no income requirement. The youth are encouraged to come to the library and engage in reading programs, computer and STEAM programs, book groups, and they might even win prizes.

The programming varies by library branch.

“Lunch is just the beginning of connecting people to other services the library provides,” Hamm said.

The lunches are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and programs are funded by the California State Library.

Lunch will not be served on July 4. All libraries will be closed for the holiday.

Meal Locations

Meal sites are available at 14 library locations: Arcade, Carmichael, Colonial Heights, Del Paso Heights, Elk Grove, Fair Oaks, Martin Luther King, Jr., North Highlands – Antelope, North Sacramento - Hagginwood, Rancho Cordova, Rio



Teen volunteers help with the Lunch at the Library program. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Public Library

Linda, Southgate, Sylvan Oaks, and Valley Hi - North Laguna.

USDA Meal Finder

Find a summer site in your community

with the Summer Meal Site Finder mapping tool.

You can also text “Summer Meals” to 914-342-7744 or call 1-866-348-6479 to find a site near you.

District Still Failing Vulnerable Students, Grand Jury Says

Sacramento County Grand Jury News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) fails to meet the needs of students with learning, physical, and behavioral disabilities, despite receiving multiple improvement recommendations from national, state and local education experts, the Sacramento County Grand Jury found in its eight-month investigation on June 17.

“The Board of Education has failed to direct the administration to create a working plan and

district-wide accepted goals to guide the Special Education Department,” said Steve Caruso, 2023-24 foreperson. “Yet the Grand Jury found over the past seven years SCUSD received reports with specific recommendations for best practices in special education services.”

“Incredibly, there’s no plan for the more than 7,000 special education students in the district,” Caruso continued. “Both the board and the administration seem content to ignore these students and their parents.”

SCUSD also fails all students by not consistently assessing each student,

through “early intervention,” to determine their specific learning needs, the Grand Jury found. SCUSD has invested in an early assessment and intervention system, but its use is limited to only a few of the District’s 47 elementary schools.

Educational experts told the Grand Jury, if SCUSD assessed students’ learning needs early and provided them with the specific support they need, many students could avoid special education altogether and thrive in the regular education classroom, Caruso said.

The Grand Jury also found that teachers and

administrators throughout the district fail to update and refine Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) that are created for each special education student. All IEPs are required to be reviewed annually to ensure the special education student receives the services to which they are entitled.

Tension and low morale among administration, faculty, staff, and bargaining units in SCUSD Special Education Department was a reoccurring theme from the 14 interviews the Grand Jury conducted for this investigation.

Turnover adds to district-wide internal strife

and low morale especially when the focus changes frequently with no clear expectations or consequences for not following procedures.

While the recent change of top administrative leadership seems to bode well for improving districtwide relationships in the future, the Grand Jury was also told infighting among district office administrators can still thwart progress.

The Grand Jury report includes 13 wide-ranging recommendations that SCUSD can follow to improve special education.

Among them, the Grand Jury recommends the Board of Education direct

staff to create and then formally adopt a master plan for special ed.

The Board should also receive quarterly updates on progress implementing the plan from SCUSD administration.

The Sacramento County Grand Jury is the independent watchdog over public entities within the county. Concerned residents can contact the Grand Jury on a confidential basis through written complaints that alert the Grand Jury to issues within public entities.

We would like to hear from you at www.sac-grandjury.org. ★

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2 lbs
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Grapefruit
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Dried Bracken 5 oz
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Kadaya Snack 2 kinds 150 g
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CJ Korean Cold Noodles 2 kinds 474.4 g 305 g
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Kalamata Olives w/ Garlic & Pepper
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Cerignola Olives
REG. \$7.69/lb
\$6.69/lb

Kalamata Olives w/ Garlic & Pepper
REG. \$6.59/lb
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First-Ever Adopt-a-Pet Day Finds Homes for 3,609 Pets

CalAnimals News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Animal Welfare Association (CalAnimals), the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SF SPCA) and the ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) announced the results of the first-ever California Adopt-a-Pet Day, with 3,609 pets adopted into loving homes on June 1.

The day-long event included more than 170 animal welfare organizations across the state working collaboratively to nearly double the original goal of finding homes for 2,024 pets.

The ASPCA provided funds to cover the cost of the adoptions at



A total of 3,609 pets were adopted into loving homes on June 1 at California Adopt-a-Pet Day. Image by congerdesign from Pixabay

participating shelters so that they were free to the public.

Of the 3,609 total pets adopted on California Adopt-a-Pet Day, there were 1,977 cats, 1,541 dogs, and 91 others, including rabbits, guinea pigs, and other small animals.

One of the pets matched with a loving family was

a dog named Nelly, a 3.5-year-old mastiff mix, who had been in the care of Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter (FAAS) for 1.5 years after originally arriving at the shelter as a stray. Described by shelter staff as being sweet and shy, Nelly was finally matched with an adopter on California Adopt-a-Pet Day after San Ramon

resident, Sahiba Singh, traveled 40 minutes to meet Nelly after seeing her on the shelter’s social media. Within a couple of minutes of meeting, Nelly, who normally takes a long time to warm up to strangers, was sitting on Singh’s feet. Nelly, now nicknamed Nelly Bean, was quickly adopted by Singh and is happily settling in to her new home.

“Her little lopsided face is perfect. She jumped out at me immediately. I read that she was shy and needed a quiet home. We have that. I had to meet her,” said Singh. “She’s so happy here, and we love her so much. We’re going to give her a lifetime of reasons to wag.”

“I’m overwhelmed with gratitude by the number of Californians that visited their local shelter on June 1, and am thrilled to find that for many, this

was their very first time adopting a shelter pet,” said Jill Tucker, CEO of CalAnimals. “Our shelters are overcrowded with a variety of wonderful animals just waiting for people to come and meet them, and it is our greatest hope that members of the public will visit shelters first when they are ready for a new pet. I want to thank all the shelters for participating in this wonderful event to promote adoptions and extend my sincere gratitude to the ASPCA and San Francisco SPCA for making this event possible. We have illustrated that by working together, we can truly make a difference.”

In recent years, California shelters have faced a large influx of animals as the result of ongoing challenges facing pet owners, including economic hardships, the

difficulties of accessing pet-friendly housing and the lack of affordable veterinary care due to the shortage of veterinarians.

These challenges often force families to have to make the difficult choice to part with their pets and have prevented many families from adopting new pets.

California has one of the highest rates of renters in the country, and housing is one of the largest barriers for families being able to keep or adopt a pet.

California Adopt-a-Pet Day was managed by CalAnimals, which focuses on the success of California animal welfare and sheltering organizations in meeting the needs of animals and people in their communities.

The next California Adopt-a-Pet Day will be in June 2025. ★

Walking with American Heroes

Continued from page 1

Franco said it’s about recognizing all the stages of military service; young recruits, active military, veterans, retired and those who have passed away.

As the commander of the Veterans Affiliated Council Board of Directors, he’s clear about being a civilian who has never served but wants to give back.

“Both my grandfathers and great-grandfathers served,” he said. “I’m a Navy brat and was born in Balboa Navel Hospital. My mother was an American migrant farm worker working different crops from Texas to California. When she joined the U.S. military, she had nothing but the shirt on her back. The military gave her structure, a community and a family. She’s very successful and has done a wonderful job.” Today his mother is an engineer with a home in a nice, Sacramento County suburb.



5,000 flags were put on the graves of servicemen and women at Sacramento Historic City Cemetery.



Veteran Jim Faulkinbury stands between his daughter Kara and Grandson Isaac.

community. They know how to work together and follow a chain of command.” These are skills that are very attractive to military recruiters.

And as Franco’s family has learned, the benefits of a military career can lead to further success in civilian life, as well. He believes the military is a great option for underprivileged kids since it offers structure and opportunity.

Walk with Me and the Veterans Affiliated Council also put veteran needs in front of politicians and legislators with events like the recent Los Angeles Congressional Veteran Forum.

Franco said, “We work to hold our legislators accountable, so they follow through with what they promised us. Putting veterans in the forefront of this is the key.”

Anyone who’s aware of the current state of veterans’ support and benefits understands how vital this is.

Memorial Day weekend is only the recent effort. Walk with Me supports military appreciation

throughout the year such as Veteran’s Day, 9/11, the 4th of July and Armed Forces Day. And they support efforts all over the state of California.

As the young Scouts and their families continued to plant flags and prepare for the weekend festivities, I noticed the planting is a ceremony itself. Reading the gravesites of soldiers and considering what they did for their country is a valuable reflective moment.

William Franco explained, “This makes it more tangible, instead of just the preverbal bumper sticker ‘We honor our veterans.’ We ask, okay, well how? By doing what? Paying your taxes? This is the true piece where you get to feel it, eat it, breathe it. Being able to see the youth work with veterans and honor our fallen heroes really warms my heart.”

To learn more about Walk with Me and other Veteran organizations go to: www.calvac.org. To learn about the Sons of the American Revolution go to: www.sar.org. ★



A vet and Scout walk together to place flags and talk.



Flags sit ready to plant at veterans’ graves.



Boy Scouts work together.



Leroy John Adams and a Boy Scout work together to honor the veterans’ grave sites.

Sharing Your Faith by Listening to Others

In the years I served as a hospital chaplain, I was often asked, “Why don’t you use your position to tell people about Jesus?”

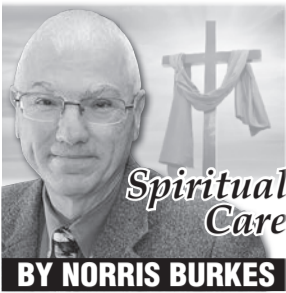
The question is much like the one I’m still asked as a syndicated columnist: “Why don’t you use your writing to tell people about Jesus?”

The first question assumes that chaplains represent Christianity and should use their position to surreptitiously evangelize patients.

The second question assumes that a Christian who writes a spiritual column for secular newspapers should use his writings to espouse Christian teachings.

But neither assumption is true.

That’s because hospital chaplains, like spiritual columnists, don’t “represent” a single belief.



Chaplains don’t wear the hat of a pastor, rabbi or even a guru. That’s because once you’re inside a hospital, it doesn’t matter what you are.

What matters to the chaplain is who you are.

In the hospital, like in this column, I try to help people get in touch with the spiritual component in their lives. I affirm the personal beliefs of the patient because when people are sick or dying, they tend to look toward their own healing rituals for comfort.

And while I believe

that Jesus is my friend — and even theirs — I don’t believe patients should hear that proclamation from a stranger.

While serving as a hospital chaplain, who happens to be a Christian, I did some unorthodox things at the request of patients that might make some Christians uncomfortable.

For instance, I’ve taped crystals to their wrists, turned their bed eastward, read the Bible, read the Koran, spread a healing blanket on their bed and placed garlic under their bed. I’ve collected bones to be burned and placentas to be buried.

I did these things because those patients deserved my respect, not because I personally share their beliefs.

When I’ve shown proper respect for people’s beliefs, I was sometimes honored

with questions about my beliefs.

On one such occasion, I met a cancer patient who told me that he wasn’t even sure he believed in God.

“That’s fine,” I joked. “I’m in customer service, not sales.”

He liked that retort, and we established a common ground for our visits over the next several weeks.

One day, in the grips of his illness, he fired multiple spiritual questions, which I answered in rapid succession.

Yes, there is a God; yes, God is loving; yes, God wants an up-close relationship with you.

He then asked how he could talk to God.

“Talking to God is just like talking to me,” I said. “Just say what you feel.”

He wondered aloud if God would consider him a hypocrite for waiting until

his dying days to pray.

It was then he asked me to do something I’ve never done before or since. “Say the words for me.”

Like I said, I’ve done some fairly unorthodox things, but nobody had ever asked me to lip-sync their prayers — very unorthodox.

“OK,” I agreed, “but if I pray something you don’t agree with, squeeze my hand to indicate you want a do-over.”

As he reached for my hand, I told God that my friend wanted to know him. I told God that the man sought forgiveness and wholeness and was asking for God to be present in his life.

It was a prayer I will never forget. It was a prayer that never would have happened if it hadn’t started with respect.

Is there someone you

want to share your faith with? If so, ask yourself how that sharing might look if it starts with respect. Dare to hear their story before blurting into yours.

The result will, I hope, surprise you.

Readers: I’m in Honduras this week finishing the 86th library for Chispa Project.

Currently, the library is just over half funded. Please consider helping by giving online at Chispaproject.org/chaplain or make check to “Chispa Project.”

Send to 10556 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. Email comment@thechaplain.net or message at (843) 608-9715. Read more at www.thechaplain.net ★

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

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



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

Education/G.I. Bill benefits are significant for veterans. Serve for three years and you can earn four years of free college.

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. ★

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.

SMUD’s Shine Program Accepting Applications

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The SMUD Shine Awards’ application period opened for nonprofit organizations June 1 and runs through July 31. The Shine Awards program is designed to improve and revitalize communities in the Sacramento region.

Proposals should focus on projects that support zero carbon workforce development, environmental justice and equity, inclusive economic development and STEM education. Shine projects align with SMUD’s Clean Energy Vision, which is to eliminate all carbon emissions from the power supply by 2030.

Shine awards I range from \$5,000 to \$100,000 and are very competitive. Any incorporated nonprofit organization within SMUD’s service area is eligible to apply. Shine awards are available at three funding levels: Spark (up to \$10,000), Amplifier (up to \$50,000) and Transformer (up to \$100,000). Applications will be accepted through July 31.

While SMUD will consider a broad variety of potential projects, it is primarily interested in proposals that promote the 2030 Clean Energy Vision. That includes utilizing clean energy solutions, advancing zero carbon workforce development and training, promoting energy efficiency, energy conservation and

greenhouse gas reduction particularly in diverse and under-resourced communities (environmental justice and equity), supporting inclusive economic development and involving clean energy education related to energy efficiency, renewable energy or related Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields.

SMUD will host multiple technical assistance webinar sessions about Shine and the application process.

A registration link and application can be found on smud.org/Shine.

This past year, SMUD awarded more than \$583,000 in Shine funding to 29 local nonprofits. SMUD received a wide range of applications, and the selected projects were able to successfully demonstrate collaboration and the potential for broad community impact.

Each year, SMUD contributes approximately \$3 million in financial support and in-kind services to community-based organizations. SMUD will continue to support healthy, vibrant, and economically sustainable neighborhoods for all customers, with a special focus toward improving equity in the region through SMUD’s Sustainable Communities program.

For more information about the SMUD Shine program, including a list of previous winners, visit smud.org/Shine. ★



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ABOUT TOWN

Elks Lodge Calendar of Events

Farmer’s Market, 9 am-1 pm every Saturday.

Elks Lodge Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am every Sunday. 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. Guests are VERY welcome!

Water Aerobics, Monday 10 am, Wednesday 2 pm, Friday 10 am

Yoga, Monday 12 pm, Wednesday 3:30 pm. Lodge members free.

Martial Arts, Monday 5 pm

Pickleball, Mon & Wed 9 am-12 pm, Thu 4:30-7:30 pm, Sun 4-7 pm

To sign up or confirm schedule, join

playtimescheduler.com

Improv Night, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm

Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 pm

See above and elks6.net for weekly menu.

Karaoke

Thursday 7 pm

Saturday 7:30 pm

Friday Happy Hour, Friday 4-7 pm

Line Dancing, 2nd and 4th Fridays

Friends of Sutter’s Fort Discounted Admission Rates

Friends of Sutter’s Fort, in partnership with Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park, is proud to present a series of family-friendly events and activations this fall highlighted by holiday themed movies, an all-ages concert, and adventurous self-guided evening tours by flashlight or

lantern light.

For those interested in visiting inside Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park (that is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily), all Fort admission fees will be waived for the duration of a major roof replacement and seismic stabilization project that is currently underway.

Visitors can observe the rehabilitation project firsthand and tour the Central Building, which remains open.

For more, please visit www.suttersfort.org

Elks 6 Volunteer Opportunities

PM Crew - We welcome anyone willing to work but especially if you have experience in mechanical, electrical, general contracting, painting, or plumbing the lodge really needs you.

- Bar Back - Help out the paid bartenders for large events.

- Bartender - Riverside bar for Elks events

There will be a meeting for volunteer bar tenders some time this week. email or text Sue Hill if you want to be on the meeting list

- Sunday Breakfast - Cook, Serve, bus tables

- Wednesday Night Dinners - Help or adopt a night one time or once a month.

- Join the membership committee. Attend events and be available to give tours

- Help at membership booth at Farmers Market

- Man a membership booth at the Craft Fair

or Parking Lot Sale

- Make phone calls to members

If any of the above sound like something you would enjoy doing, please text Kathy Smith, 916-606-9313.

★

County's 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

★

County Supports Housing for Veterans and Homeless

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On June 11, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved the transfer of 2.2 acres of land and \$3 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the City of Rancho Cordova for the development of Mather Veterans Village Phase 4, located on the former Mather Air Force Base. This project will provide new affordable housing

and services for homeless and disabled veterans and homeless families at very low incomes.

Mather Veterans Village is collaborative effort between Sacramento County, the City of Rancho Cordova, Mercy Housing California and Nation’s Finest. This initiative builds upon the success of three previous phases, which serve more than 160 formerly homeless veteran households. Phase 4 will include a three-story building with 70 apartments,



Sacramento County approved the funding to Mather Veterans Village Phase 4. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

58 one-bedroom units, 12 two-bedroom units, a community building and parking for 45 cars.

Sacramento County has more than 75,000 veterans. The latest point in time count shows there are nearly 600 veterans currently homeless and more than 60% are unsheltered. The Mather Veterans

Village Phase 4 project aligns with ongoing efforts to expand access to housing and supportive services within the county.

“This project is a significant step forward in providing much-needed support to our homeless and disabled veterans,” said Emily Halcon, director of Sacramento County’s

Department of Homeless Services and Housing. “We’re proud to contribute land and create additional permanent supportive housing and affordable units for our veterans that are exiting homelessness.”

The conveyance of the land and allocation of American Rescue Plan

Act funds to the City of Rancho Cordova is being coordinated by Sacramento County’s Office of Economic Development and the Real Estate Division.

For more information, visit the Veterans Housing Development Corporation website at housingvets.org.

★

Hearts for Healing Boosts Community

Continued from page 1

eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer?”

The girls are members of Troop 569-36. Their handout explains that one form of treatment is having a surgery called a mastectomy.

Sydney notes, “The pillows we’re making protect the patient’s surgery site from various things, like the pressure from a seatbelt, and reduce any discomfort they might feel.”

The girls are proud to

claim that another aspect of their project is to raise awareness and share the importance of these pillows with the community. Visitors to their booth at the GHP Farmers Market learn how to make a pillow themselves, which they can donate to a hospital or give to a loved one. Sydney and Hannah said in unison, “This way, people can continue to make pillows to help breast cancer patients recover faster.”

While Sydney and Hannah were manning

their Hearts for Healing booth on Saturday, June 8, the Sacramento Girl Scouts Council was holding their summer lifeguard training in Elks 6 Lodge’s swimming pool. Bob Van Gundy, who is Elks 6’s scouting chair, beamed with broad and happy smile that the Lodge was helping Girl Scouts in more than one way.

A Girl Scout Cadette in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade can find an issue they care about and then make a difference in their

community. They can earn the Girl Scout Silver Award — one of the highest awards in Girl Scouting.

Barbara Cherry, who is a former Chaplain of Elks 6, is extremely proud that GHP is playing a role in these two young girls making the Greenhaven Pocket community a better place. Barbara, who is a breast cancer survivor, is the webmaster for the GHP Farmers Market located at Elks Lodge 6.

Barbara emphasized that, “All charity at GHP is for

local events and organizations. GHP stands for a better community.”

Everyone is welcome to leave a message for the girls at the GHP Farmers Market information booth on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The message will be forwarded to the girls.

Sydney and Hannah have a flyer that details how to make a mastectomy pillow. All you need are the following materials:

Two 15” x 15” pieces of a soft fabric like cotton or linen

Fiberfill stuffing

A needle and thread

A sewing machine

Scissors

Instructions:

1. Trace a heart on your fabric. You can freehand it or print out a pattern.
2. Cut out both layers and flip out one layer so that the colored sides face each other.
3. Sew the two layers together. Leave a 2 to 3” gap on one side of the heart to stuff it.
4. Clip the edges of the middle of the heart to avoid puckering.
5. Turn the heart right side out and stuff it. Then hand-sew the gap closed. We recommend using a ladder stitch because the stitches will be harder to see.

★

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Malik Monk Signing Huge Move for Team



By V.G.Harris

And the winner of this year’s most popular basketball player in Sacramento — Malik Monk!

Well, he’s my most popular player, and from the people I’m talking to it appears to be a consensus.

Yes, a \$78-million contract represents a lot of money, but by many accounts, Malik left up to 10 million in additional free agent money on the table, to sign and stay with our very own Sacramento Kings.

I have not the adjectives to describe how critical this signing is to the Kings team, but let’s take a moment to congratulate Monte McNair. This

was no easy proposition for a young NBA GM, but just like the Donantas Sabonis acquisition, this is a huge signing for the Kings, and will finally allow this talented guard to start every night in the NBA.

As I have expressed, having Malik in the starting lineup, as opposed to coming off the bench, will add a minimum of five points a game to the scoring tally, and adding five points a game represents a monumental leap forward.

Fifty wins is what this signing means, and I can’t wait to witness the standing ovation Malik Monk will receive when on opening night I will hear the words, “and now starting at guard from the

Kentucky Wildcats, welcome Sacramento’s own Malik Monk!”

If you don’t already have a ticket for opening night, start looking now, because regardless of who the Kings add in the draft on Wednesday night, the first game of the 2025 season is going to be something special.

I think back to the many years, now over 35 years for me, that I sat on the sidelines shaking my head as the Kings made mistakes that cemented their fate as a team looking in, and rarely on the court at playoff time.

True, the Bibby, Webber years brought a lot of hoopla and excitement to

Kings Korner

the Sacramento region, but I can assure every Kings fan, that the team assembled now, by adding just one more piece, can supersede the achievements of those teams.

The Kings are so close it’s tantalizing, and now that Monte McNair has proven his value in the signing of Malik, I’m on the edge of my seat to see what the #13 pick in the draft will bring to this already talented and competitive NBA team.

It’s definitely a time to celebrate Kings fans! Anytime one of your own kicks the rest of the league to the curb, and signs with the hometown team, it pulls just a little at your heart strings, and it certainly brings a tremendous level of admiration for this journeyman that has finally

found a home!

Today’s NBA draft has changed considerably from decades ago when nearly every player chosen, certainly in the first round, came from one of America’s college ranks.

Thanks in large part to the Euro league, NBA scouts are perusing the globe, in areas not even considered just a few short years ago.

It makes the draft all that more compelling, and I almost feel like I should be buying a ticket to watch this level of entertainment.

So, I’m not attempting to artificially build a false confidence, but rather remind fans of the many prior 13th picks, and beyond, that have gone on to highly successful NBA careers.

Robin Lopez would be

a welcome addition to the Kings front line, and it’s interesting to note that he was drafted #15 in the 2008 draft.

The reigning NBA Celtics boast a player by the name of Jrue Holliday who had a tremendous Finals and was drafted 17th in the 2009 draft.

Can anyone forget that perennial all-star and future hall-of-famer Kawhi Leonard was drafted #15 in the first round?!

Rudy Gobert is another player that would look good in a Kings uniform, and he was drafted in the 27th spot back in 2013.

Perhaps there really is reason for anticipated celebration to make a pick at #13.

Let’s all collectively cross our fingers and watch with anticipation as the Sacramento Kings add a new member to their already stellar family of players!

All the best! ★

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Highest New Home Sales in May Since 2005, Association Reports

North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sales of Sacramento-area new homes maintained their rapid pace during May as North State Building Industry Association (BIA) members reported selling 666 new homes in the seven-county region.

That is the highest number of new homes sold during May since 2005 during the peak of the housing boom. The total is also 200 sales higher than the average number sold during the month.

North State Building

BIA President and CEO Tim Murphy said the continued strong sales volume reflects the advantages that new homes provide to buyers.

“Besides the fact that new homes come with extended warranties, the latest in technology and the opportunity for buyers to customize their homes, in today’s market, homebuilders are able to offer incentives that buyers can’t get when purchasing existing homes,” Murphy said. “Simply put, builders can offer creative solutions to today’s higher interest rates and help make buying a new home possible.

“And with June being



New home sales in May 2024 are up 115 homes over May 2023 in the Sacramento area. Graphic courtesy of North State BIA

National Homeownership Month, I’d encourage anyone thinking of buying a home to explore the nearly

200 new-home communities in our region to find the home and lifestyle they’re looking for,” Murphy said.

As has been typical, the highest number of new homes were sold in Placer County’s Roseville (137)

and the next four highest sales volumes were reported in Sacramento County: Rancho Cordova (98), Elk Grove (87), Sacramento (74) and Folsom (63). The Top 10 was rounded out by Lincoln (29), Plumas Lake (26), Woodland (26), Natomas (23) and El Dorado Hills (21).

Building Industry Association statistics include sales by members in Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties.

The North State BIA represents more than 500 members.

For more, visit www.northstatebia.org. ★

Annual Emerge Summit at The Sofia

T-Rock Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Tickets are available now for the young professionals’ event of the year that brings together hundreds across the region. Spearheaded by Metro EDGE, a program of the Sacramento Metro Chamber Foundation, the annual Emerge Summit is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 5 at The Sofia in Midtown Sacramento. Celebrating growth and development, the Emerge Summit is the largest young professionals conference on the West Coast. The high-energy daylong event is the result of a collaborative effort of regional organizations committed to supporting young professionals and their growth in the community. Each year, hundreds of Sacramento’s emerging young professionals participate in

the personal and professional development conference, which includes inspirational speakers, educational breakout sessions and coveted opportunities to network with peers.

The annual Emerge Summit is designed to inspire young professionals to dream big, do the work and achieve their greatest potential. Participants will engage with a diverse network, develop critical business skills, focus on giving back to the community and learn the importance of an empowering leadership mindset. The Emerge Summit will provide young professionals with a sense of belonging and encourage them to work together to explore individual and community needs.

“It’s inspiring to see the multiple generations that have attended Emerge Summit over the years, been members of Metro EDGE and have

now contributed to shaping this community,” said Joaquin Razo, chair of Metro EDGE. “The Metro Chamber Foundation is very proud to offer this inspiring annual program to young professionals who gather, connect and collaborate as they pave the way for a successful career path and are crucial to our region’s inclusive economic success.”

The Emerge Summit is unique in that it activates the local business community for the conference. While the morning session is hosted at The Sofia, Home of B Street Theatre, attendees then change locations for different breakout opportunities and for lunch, activating various locally owned Midtown businesses within walking distance.

Breakout sessions are led by business and community leaders to develop both personal and professional skillsets. Topics

range from how to conquer your fears to learning about search engine optimization. Throughout the one-day conference that runs 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., attendees will be exposed to a variety of interactive experiences that represent the creative economy.

Then, the event will conclude with a happy hour at a popular and walkable venue, Harlow’s Restaurant and Nightclub, celebrating young professionals and the endless opportunity of impact they have within their futures.

“Sacramento Metro Chamber Foundation’s Metro EDGE Young Professionals Program provides an opportunity for our next generation of leaders to foster their professional growth, expand their networks and help shape the future of our region,” said Jennifer Ablog, Sacramento Metro Chamber Foundation chair and



The annual Emerge Summit is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 5 at The Sofia in Midtown Sacramento. Photo courtesy of T-Rock Communications

community & government relations manager for Kaiser Permanente.

The 2024 Emerge Summit is proudly presented by engaged sponsors and partners, including UC Davis Graduate School of Management, UC Davis Health, Sutter Health, SMUD, Safe Credit Union, Kaiser Permanente and Raley’s.

There are still sponsorship, venue and entertainment plus speaking opportunities available contact Savannah Fox:

sfox@metrochamber.org.

Each Emerge Summit attendee will receive an experience swag bag with goodies from local businesses to use for networking opportunities. Individual or group tickets are available, ranging in cost from \$60 (Metro EDGE members) to \$130 for single tickets, or \$115 each when purchasing five or more tickets.

Emerge Summit tickets are available now via Eventbrite. More details are available at emergeyp-summit.com. ★

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K-ZAP Radio Launches ‘Feed the Kitty’ Donation Drive

K-ZAP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento's beloved K-ZAP, the all-volunteer LPFM rock/blues radio station broadcasting 24/7 at 93.3 FM in the metro Sacramento area, on the K-ZAP apps and streaming at k-zap.org, launched its “10 To Feed the Kitty” donation drive on June 9. The station is calling on its listeners to donate just \$10 each to help keep the lights on and the tunes rolling.

Founded by former staff members of the legendary Sacramento radio station KZAP, Dennis Newhall and Tom Cale, K-ZAP has been a staple in the Sacramento community since its return to



Peter Rizzo is the promotions director and underwriter at K-ZAP. Photo courtesy of K-ZAP

the airwaves on July 4, 2015. Now, as the station approaches its ninth anniversary, it is looking to the community for support to continue its mission

of providing quality rock/blues music to Sacramento and the world.

“We’ve been rocking Sacramento for nine years now, and we want to keep the party going,” said Newhall, station general manager and owner. “With the ‘10 To Feed the Kitty’ campaign, we’re asking our listeners to help us reach our goal of raising \$100,000 by July 4. It’s a small amount that can make a big difference.”

The “10 To Feed the Kitty” donation drive will run from now until July 4. Listeners can donate online at k-zap.org/donate using their credit, debit card or Venmo. In addition to the online campaign, K-ZAP

will be promoting the drive at various events in the community, including the Carmichael Concerts in The Park on June 15 and the Red White & Blue Celebration at La Sierra Community Center on June 29.

“We’re not asking for a lot, just \$10 from each of our listeners,” said Peter Rizzo, promotions director and underwriter. “We know that a little can go a long way, and we’re hoping that with the support of our community, we can continue to provide the best rock/blues music to Sacramento and the world.”

For more information, contact Newhall at dnewhall@k-zap.org or Rizzo at prizzo@k-zap.org. ★



K-Zap has been a widely beloved radio station in the Sacramento area for many years. Photo courtesy of K-ZAP

Celebrate July 4 at Area Events

By Ornella Rossi

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Get ready to celebrate Independence Day with a lineup of exciting events across the region. Whether you're craving carnival rides, live music, delicious food from local vendors or simply a stunning fireworks display, these events promise something special for everyone.

Join the two-day festival in Rancho Cordova on July 3 and 4. The festivities kick off with the All-American Mile Road race at 9:30 a.m. on July 4 along Coloma Road, followed by a vibrant parade at 10 a.m. featuring floats and the energetic All American Youth Marching Band. Throughout both days, from 4 to 11 p.m., enjoy carnival rides and indulge in treats from more than 30 food and beverage vendors at Hagan Park, 2197 Chase Drive.

Make sure to stick around for live music starting at 8 p.m. showcasing different bands on each day leading up to the big fireworks display at 9:45 p.m.

In Citrus Heights, the Stars and Stripes celebration in Citrus Heights begins at 6 p.m. on July 1 at Van Maren Park, 6601 Thalia Way. Enjoy live music by local bands from 7 to 9:30 p.m., explore numerous food trucks and bring the children to the fun Kids’ Zone. Cap off the night with the fireworks show starting at 9:45 p.m.

Carmichael, on June 29, will host the Red, White & Blue celebration at La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road from 6 to 9 p.m. Enjoy live music by Hipper than Hip while indulging in various options of food trucks hosted by Food in the Hoods. Don’t miss out on the firework display at 9:30 p.m.

Celebrate with Elk Grove Salute to the Red, White, and



An attendee at the 2023 Salute to the Red, White and Blue in Elk Grove. MPG file photo

Blue on July 4 from 5 to 10 p.m. at 9950 Elk Grove Florin Road. Enjoy the festivities with a bike parade at 6 p.m., opening ceremonies at 7 p.m., and rock out to Agents of Rock in concert at 7:30 p.m. The night ends with a firework show at 9:40 p.m. Free shuttle rides by the Sacramento Regional Transit will be available starting at 4:30 p.m., running every 15 minutes, with return services from 10 to 11 p.m. Admission is free, with parking available for \$10. ★

Fireworks and July 4: Keep it Safe; Keep it Legal

Continued from page 1

adults. Parents are responsible for any property damage or injuries caused by all fireworks.

Keep it Legal

All legal fireworks in California are called Safe and Sane Fireworks and must bear the State Fire Marshal’s seal. Safe and Sane Fireworks can only be sold from noon June 28 through 9 p.m. July 4.

Safe and Sane Fireworks can only be used between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. from June 28 to July 4. Any firework that goes up in the air or explodes is illegal and dangerous.

Keep it Safe

Always have a non-combustible bucket of water to dispose of fireworks and leave in the water overnight before disposing. Always have an available hose connected to water in case of fire. Do not use fireworks near dry grass or other flammable materials. Do not use fireworks while under a canopy, covered balcony, covered patio or under a tree or bushes.

How to Report Illegal Fireworks Sale and Usage

Unincorporated County of Sacramento: 916-874-5115 or reportfireworks@saccounty.gov

City of Sacramento: 916-808-FIRE or the Sacramento Fire Department App

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Fighting Through Homelessness to Housing

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Keri and Sandra look fondly at each other with a bond forged by two people who have shown up for each other during some hard times. Sandra went through other case managers but somehow when she met Keri, she knew that Keri would be the one to help her change her life.

“She loves her clients; you can just tell,” Sandra said. “And she always tells the truth. I appreciate that.”

Keri lowers her head in acknowledgment; it’s true, she does love her clients. But she’s quick to return the compliment: “Sandra always showed up. She always does the work. She is on it.”

The mutual respect they have for one another might seem trivial, but it isn’t. Missed connections and opportunities are the top reasons folks don’t get housed. Lost paperwork, lost phones, lost and broken relationships.

Keri is a Community Health Worker with Community Health Works (CoHeWo), an outreach organization contracted by Sacramento County to do encampment outreach in the parkway, unincorporated county and with the multi-disciplinary teams in the City of Sacramento. CoHeWo outreach staff provide support and services ranging from helping to get an I.D. to rehousing, furnishing a new apartment or helping with a deposit. But more than anything, CoHeWo staff relentlessly

show up with compassion and a drive to make a difference in the lives of their clients.

Sandra lost her job driving for Lyft at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. After 20 years as a security guard, she decided to make a change to a job that allowed her to set her own hours and income, and also pay for an apartment and a steady rotation of leased cars. When the pandemic hit, Lyft fired her. She sued for wrongful termination but the case was tied up for years. Her income vanished. Her ability to pay for her apartment and car: gone. She lost her home and her car within a matter of months and had very little money to live on. Sandra spent a few weeks on her daughter’s couch, but the strained relationship wore out her welcome faster than expected.

Sandra bounced around between living in a tent on the river and near Township 9, living in the City Safe Ground, and eventually living in her car after winning her wrongful termination suit. She went through and graduated from several programs, including Salvation Army, Women’s Empowerment and Mather Community Campus.

“Being homeless is a fight, every day,” Sandra said. “People slashed my tent and stole my stuff. I try to keep to myself; I don’t want trouble. It is dangerous out here as a woman alone.”

One day, a border collie dog jumped into the back of her car. The dog



Sandra finds lots of happiness through her canine companions. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

refused to get out and had no collar. Sandra took her to the nearest vet to scan her for a chip. With no chip detected and a seemingly instant bond, Sandra decided to keep her and name her Lady. Sandra scheduled her for spay surgery, but Lady got pregnant before that day came. Sandra was able to rehome all the puppies, except one: a spirited, split-nosed mix that stole her heart and captured the attention of everyone he met! Lucky became quite an attraction. His nasal cavities formed independently, creating a unique look.

When Keri took over

Sandra’s case, Sandra knew that somehow, this community health worker was different. She would be the one to get her into housing. Keri and Sandra looked for places to get shelter, but Sandra’s situation proved difficult. Because of her two big dogs, Sandra’s options were very limited. While some shelters now accept pets, pets have historically been a huge barrier to people getting shelter. Sacramento County has been working to change those restrictions with its Safe Stay shelter model that allows people to shelter, with their pets, in

individual units. No one should have to choose between the safety of shelter and their pet.

Keri worked with Sandra for nearly six months before she was able to get her a referral into the Wong Center, now known as Mutual Housing’s project “The Boulevard.” The Boulevard is an affordable housing project with 127 units, 50 of them funded by the Sacramento County Division of Behavioral Health to be used as Permanent Supportive Housing for clients exiting homelessness who also have behavioral health challenges. Applications can be extremely competitive, given the incredible need for affordable housing in the region.

Keri and Sandra worked tirelessly to get all the documents Sandra needed to qualify for her apartment: financial receipts, EBT documentation and Chime receipts. She was able to get into the lottery system for a unit.

“Getting an affordable housing unit requires so much work. You have to jump through a lot of hoops. So many people don’t want to do it, but I was willing to. I did the work. That is why I got in. I met so many people out on the river who really just want winter housing. But I was desperate for permanent housing.”

On March 19, 2024, Sandra, Lady and Lucky moved into their brand-new apartment at The Boulevard. The County’s contract with CoHeWo paid for furniture, towels,

a microwave and cleaning supplies to get her started.

“I know I am lucky to be here, but I also know I earned this,” Sandra said. “I did the work I needed to do. I showed up. I checked in every week. I never gave up. And I had Keri. She helped me so much.”

Sandra is the supervisor of the Garden Club at the Boulevard. She is responsible for making sure the garden is watered and the children stay out of it. At night, she volunteers her time as their security guard. She hopes that she will one day have another paid job doing what she enjoys. Sandra loves to draw, paint and make jewelry.

Making skull jewelry is her favorite design. Everyone loves Lady and Lucky. Lucky, with his bizarre nose, is a great conversation starter.

For now, Sandra can stay at The Boulevard, but one of her main barriers to long-term housing is that she doesn’t have any source of income. Focused on stabilizing her life, with a strong emphasis on her health, is her No. 1 priority.

Sandra has had various forms of cancer for more than 30 years. Establishing a healthcare provider through CalAIM Enhanced Care Management (ECM) will get her the help she needs. Sandra’s referral has been approved and she is just waiting for a primary care provider to be assigned.

“I’m positive God still has a plan for me,” Sandra said. “I am not through yet.” ★

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