



**Grand Jury  
Addresses Missile Site  
Contamination**

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for 17 Days**

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# Arden Arcade News

VOL 01 • ISSUE 07

Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

JULY 12, 2024

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INSIDE**

**LIBRARIES HAVE  
FREE MEALS  
FOR YOUTH**



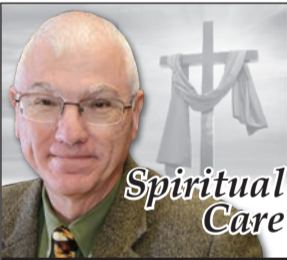
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**INVASIVE FRUIT  
FLY QUARANTINE  
LIFTED**



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**BACK TO  
THE GRIND**



PAGE 6



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## Youth Offered Free RydeFreeRT Cards

**Sacramento Regional  
Transit News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Area youth can enjoy more freedom this summer to get to jobs, shopping centers, restaurants and more via Sacramento Regional Transit District's RydeFreeRT, the fare-free transit program for students/youth.

The cards are valid for transitional kindergarten through 12th-graders.

New RydeFreeRT cards with a valid date of June 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, are now available for students to ride for free the entire SacRT transit network, including Sacramento Regional Transit District fixed-route buses, light rail and SmarT Ride on-demand micro transit service.

RydeFreeRT is available daily during regular SacRT service hours.

To ride free, students/youth need a valid RydeFreeRT card. Youth who are experiencing homelessness or taking part in foster programs



Youth from transitional kindergarten through 12th-grade can ride free for the summer with the RydeFreeRT card. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Regional Transit District

can participate in the program, regardless of their current residence or school address.

Students and youth who do not have a RydeFreeRT card can visit Sacramento Regional Transit District's Customer Service and Sales Center at 1225 R St. (adjacent to the 13th Street Station) or a participating Sacramento library. For more information, visit rydefreert.com or call 916-321-BUSS (2877).

Launched in 2019,

RydeFreeRT was the first unrestricted youth fare-free ride program in the country, according to Sacramento Regional Transit District. The 265,000 youth living in Sacramento Regional Transit District's service area, from transitional kindergarten to 12th grade, including home-schooled students, foster and unhoused youth, can ride all buses and light rail trains for free, all day, any day of the year.

The RydeFreeRT program has helped boost student ridership, which now accounts for nearly 25% of all Sacramento Regional Transit District bus and light rail rides over the last year. In fact, student ridership is on pace to carry 4.2 million youth in Fiscal Year 2024, double what it was in 2019 pre-pandemic.

Note: The RydeFreeRT program does not apply to those over 18 years old that are pursuing their GED. ★



**Unhoused  
Homeless  
Down 41%  
in Latest  
PIT Count**

**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

Continued on Page 2

## Art and Fun at Effie Yeaw Gala



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

**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 wine, 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

Continued on Page 9



In recognition of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's location on what was tribal land, gala ceremonies begin with a native American song by flutist Al Striplen. At right is Nature Center CEO Rachael Greve.

# 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.

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



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

**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. ★

# Amid Wildfire Smoke, Take Steps to Protect Health

California Department of Public Health News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - With wildfire smoke and reduced air quality affecting many California communities, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is urging Californians to take steps to protect themselves from air pollutants. Wildfire smoke can affect anyone’s health, but some people are at higher risk, including pregnant people, children, older adults, first responders, and people with chronic conditions like asthma, COPD, diabetes, kidney disease or heart disease.

“All Californians should be aware of the risks of wildfire smoke and ash inhalation and take steps to avoid breathing in pollutants, including reducing outdoor

activity and staying indoors when possible,” said Dr. Tomás J. Aragón, California Department of Public Health Director and State Public Health Officer. “Wildfire smoke can make anyone sick, but it’s particularly unhealthy for vulnerable individuals, including children, people who are pregnant, and those with chronic health conditions.”

To avoid possible health problems due to wildfire smoke and poor air quality, California Department of Public Health recommends taking the following steps:

Stay informed. Check the air quality and sign up for updates. Californians can check their local air quality index (AQI) at AirNow.

Stay indoors. If the air quality is bad, stay inside as much as possible and close all windows, doors and vents.

Adjust your A/C. Change the settings on your A/C unit to re-circulate or close outdoor air intakes to avoid drawing in smoky outdoor air. Running an air purifier can also help.

Wear a mask. If you must go outside, wear a well-fitting N95 mask. This is especially important for those who must work outdoors for long periods, in areas with heavy smoke.

Wildfire smoke contains fine particles which are respiratory irritants, and when inhaled deeply, can affect the lungs and the heart. Exposure to high concentrations of fine particles can cause persistent cough, runny nose, phlegm, wheezing, and difficulty breathing.

Smoke from wildfires can also cause eye irritation, reduced lung function, and bronchitis. Those with asthma or another

lung disease should keep at least a seven-day supply of medication on hand and call a health care provider if nearby wildfires worsen breathing issues.

Knowing the “Ps of Preparedness” can help you react quickly if a wildfire threatens your area:

People (help children, older adults and people with disabilities)

- Pets
- Papers (important documents)
- Phones
- Prescriptions (and glasses)
- Pictures
- PCs (computers) (for the information stored)
- Plastic (credit cards and cash)

More information can be found at the California Department of Public Health’s Extreme Heat site. ★

# Unhoused Homeless Down 41% in Latest PIT Count

*Continued from Page 1*  
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 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 emergency shelter beds.

The partnership agreement signed by the County and City in 2022 increased street outreach to homeless encampments with teams that include county behavioral health workers.

A sizeable increase in emergency shelter and homeless housing capacity.

The number of shelter and transitional housing beds in the city and county has increased by 84 percent from 2020 — to a total of 3,527 beds. The number of permanent supportive housing units has risen 30 percent, an 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 report and view infographics, go to [www.sacstepsforward.org](http://www.sacstepsforward.org). ★

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- Foreclosures
- Unclaimed property
- School Board issues
- Elections/Polling places, initiative petitions
- Tax assessments/proposals

***By Carol Feineman***

"Many thanks to the members of the Placer County Grand Jury for succinctly and clearly putting the issues on the table for all to see," Birge said. "And, for the Water Board and United States Army Corps of Engineers to know, there are others watching them." ★

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 <b>\$1.99/ea</b> REG. \$6.99 Schar Baguette 12.3 oz			

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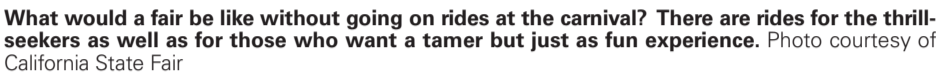
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**By Carol Feineman**

And the always popular Junior Livestock competition spotlights the dedicated youth FFA members with their beef cattle, sheep, swine, goats, dairy cattle and



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Tickets can be bought online at <https://calexpostatetfair.com/tickets> or at the fair's box office. Several ticket prices and packages are offered. Daily tickets to the fair and food festival start at \$16 for adults (\$14 in advance), \$12 (\$10 in advance) for seniors 62 and older and \$10 (\$8 in advance) for children 12 and under.



For more about the State Fair, go online to [calexpostatefair.com](http://calexpostatefair.com), call 916-263-3000 or email [INFO@CALEXPO.COM](mailto:INFO@CALEXPO.COM). ★

visitors should take these steps to minimize exposure to rabies:

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# Back to the Grind

If I say “1492,” chances are it’ll bring to mind that old school rhyme, “In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.”

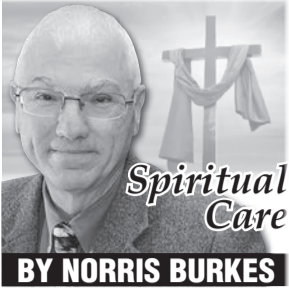
But now I suspect I’ll remember 1492 in a different light. That’s because last month I flew to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to sharpen 1,492 pencils.

You say, “That’s an expensive trip for such a menial chore.”

Yes, I get your point, but if you’re a regular reader of this column, you know that Chispa Project needed those pencils for the inauguration of their 88th Honduran library at Pedro Nufio Elementary School.

I know I’m not the sharpest stick in the pencil box, but still I expected the project director to match me to something more in line with my talents.

After all, the director is my daughter, Sara Brakhane. She knows that I’ve spoken to dozens of U.S. audiences. I thought she might arrange a



speaking gig in a Honduran soccer stadium.

At the very least, she should have arranged for me to mentor the school’s principal and share the B.F. Skinner Psychology of Education I learned in seminary.

I mean, what’s the harm in a little nepotism?

A lot, apparently.

She assigned me to count pencils, sharpen them, and drop said writing instruments into 421 of the new school backpacks.

Of course, I wasn’t the only volunteer that arrived on the Dallas connection. The less jet-lagged and talented ones were slotted for important jobs.

Under the direction of

Lester Reconco, an artistic Chispa employee, volunteers helped paint a large mural onto the library wall. It was no Banksy or Wyland Whale, but in quick time, our fledgling artists brought the room to life with bright primary colors.

Designed to inspire, the drawing features a Honduran boy in an oceanside scene. He’s reclined on a wave of books while reading. On a field of blue, volunteers added a sailboat, a swan, and multiple fish.

Other artists meticulously painted a line of books that encompassed the room.

Meanwhile my pencil sharpener overheated and forced Sara to assign me to the painting team. However, it was still not the fame I sought.

My job was to pour various paints into red Solo cups, lug them to the talent, and wash their brushes. My nickname was

Pour-Pour-Norris.

Suddenly, I became a truly irreplaceable member of the team.

I know this because I begged others to replace me.

They would not.

But finally, after two days of painting, the moment came to shelve the books in the new library.

From the school parking lot, our volunteers worked an assembly line offloading 850 new books from our bus. We carried the books through a playground of kids playing soccer and girl-chase-boy games.

Still, several stopped to hug us, sharing broad and cheeky smiles that stretched for miles and miles. Suddenly we were surrounded by a gaggle of schoolgirls and boys, all grinning with unrehearsed wonder. They weren’t subtle. They wanted to see the new books we were shelving.

If you know the excitement U.S. children express

over a new video game, you can conceive the enthusiasm building in these students as they saw their first children’s picture book.

On the final two days, Chispa volunteers hosted the library inauguration, a sort of all-day birthday party. Students rotated among classrooms for hands-on-fun that included puppets, science experiments and storytelling.

I never did get to deliver my Skinner lecture. But I can share with you that, like Skinner, Chispa believes that changing the environment can make education enjoyable and effective for all students.

Books are used to affect that change.

And the school where we were is definitely an environment that needed changing.

This rural school sits near the city’s landfill where many parents work to collect trash, operate the landfill’s incinerator, or

commute by bus to a day laborer job.

When we left Honduras, the new library we had painted and filled with rows of new books had changed their environment for the better.

Chispa’s challenging slogan suggests we all “Help change the story.” I like to think that sometimes their stories can be changed, and a sharpened pencil can write that new story.

So, with more libraries coming soon, shall I “pencil you in” for the next volunteer trip? In the meantime, I guess you can say, it’s back to the grind for me.

*You can be a part of the change by sending a check made to “Chispa Project.” Or give online at [Chispaproject.org/chaplain](http://Chispaproject.org/chaplain) Send to 10556 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. Email comment@thechaplain.net or message at (843) 608-9715. [www.thechaplain.net](http://www.thechaplain.net).* ★

# Invasive Fruit Fly Quarantine Lifted

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Thanks to the cooperation and diligence of County residents and our 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, has 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



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

remove potentially infested produce.

Determine if your property is located within an active quarantine area by visiting [CAFruitFly.com](http://CAFruitFly.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 CDFA’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 — please Don’t Pack a Pest when traveling or mailing/receiving packages. ★

# Prepare for Boating Hazards

**U.S. National Weather Service News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Before you go out on the water, check the forecast at your local National Weather Service coastal office. You should also check for the latest National Weather Service buoy observations from the National Data Buoy Center.

You should also make sure your boat has essential -- and in some cases, required -- safety equipment and communications tools.

**Life Jackets:** Before you and your family get out on the water this year, grab a life jacket and “Wear It!” Nearly 85 percent of those who drown while boating

were not wearing a life jacket. Wearing a life jacket is one of the most effective and simple life-saving strategies for safe recreational boating. Boaters are required to have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket on board for every passenger on their vessel.

Today’s life jackets are available in a wide variety of shapes, colors and sizes. They are comfortable, lightweight and perfect for any boating activity.

The most important thing is this: remember to grab a life jacket and “Wear It!” To learn more, visit the National Safe Boating Council online at [www.safeboatingcouncil.org](http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org).

**Fire Extinguishers:** U.S. Coast

Guard-approved, marine-type fire extinguishers are required on boats where a fire hazard could be expected from the engines or fuel system. When required, boats less than 26 feet must carry at least one B-I, Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher. Boats 26-40 feet must carry two B-I or one B-II Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher(s). Boats 40-65 feet must carry three B-I or one B-II and one B-I Coast Guard approved extinguishers.

Fire extinguishers are classified by a letter and a number symbol. The letter indicates the type of fire the unit is designed to extinguish, and the number indicates the size of the extinguisher.

A type B extinguisher, for example, is intended to extinguish burning liquids such as gasoline, oil or grease, all of which are common on a boat.

You shouldn’t have to travel more than

half the length of your boat to get to the fire extinguisher. Check your fire extinguishers at least once a year to ensure they are properly charged, stored and are undamaged. Start your boating season with this vital safety check.

**Communications:** Cell Phones, Weather Radios and Other Options

If you have a smart phone, get weather news at [mobile.weather.gov](http://mobile.weather.gov).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio All Hazards will sound an alert when the National Weather Service issues a weather advisory. Weather radio is a vital tool for a mariner.

There are many other communications options available to mariners on the U.S. National Weather Service marine site: <http://www.weather.gov/marine/> ★

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ABOUT TOWN

**Help Your Child to Read**

Are you at your wit’s end because your child can’t read?

I am seeking one student, 2nd to 6th grade, for a free, one-on-one intensive reading program/day camp over the summer. I used the Science of Reading to design the program, which is three days per week, four hours per day. It is much more fun than school, and it can make a big difference for a struggling child.

For more information, please email lindavw@sonic.net.

**Your Elks 6 Lodge Needs Your Help!**

Help is needed in the office from 9 - 3 Monday through Friday to answer phones, sell event tickets etc.

We also need help in the Rental office to answer the phone.

If you can lend a hand even if it is half a day or one day per week, please contact me and I will get your information to the appropriate person.

For questions or to volunteer call or send text message to Sue Hill 215-327-7712.

**Elk’s Lodge Calendar of Events**

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

**Elk’s 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

role agriculture continues to play in the region, many local museums offer special exhibits, experiences and activations that highlight ever-enduring Farm-to-Fork connections. A sampling of some of the Farm-to-Fork offerings at local museums includes the following:

**California Agriculture Museum** – Woodland is home to an entire museum focused on agriculture, filled with a unique collection of harvesters, wheel and crawler-type tractors, combines, trucks, art, artifacts, rotating interactive exhibits and much more.

In all, the museum tells the history of Farm-to-Fork, dating back to the Gold Rush era and how the industry evolved from horse drawn to steam driven to fuel powered machines to harvest and transport California’s bounty.

**California State Railroad Museum & Foundation** – A Fruit Growers Express refrigerated rail car is on permanent display inside the Museum’s Roundhouse. Museum visitors can explore this historic rail car and exhibit, “Farm to Fork: A Public History,” and learn about how refrigerated rail cars enabled California farmers, growers, and producers send farm-to-fork freshness all over the country.

Visitors can step inside the historic Fruit Growers Express rail car to see how the ice-cooled rail cars transported produce and built an agricultural system that exports more wealth than the California Gold Rush.

Plus, the popular weekend excursion train, Sacramento Southern

the region’s commitment to sustainable living and resource conservation.

Nestled in the heart of a region renowned for its Farm-to-Fork movement, the UEC acts as an educational hub, encouraging residents and visitors alike to delve into the intricacies of energy and water conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable practices. By fostering an understanding of how we use and preserve resources, the UEC underscores the importance of our agricultural roots.

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, “like” them on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SacMuseums, follow them on Instagram and Twitter @SacMuseums or visit the user-friendly website at www.SacMuseums.org.

**Elks 6 Volunteer Opportunities Available**

This is just a partial list of ways you can be of service to the Lodge and by extension the community.

- 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

**Friends of Sutter’s Fort Announces 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

- 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.

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

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Celebration time, come on! Yes, it really is celebration time in Sac Town, and for the naysayers in the group that were waiting that the free agents were flying by and Monte McNair wasn’t pulling the switch, it’s time for some credit and accolades.

The most recent acquisition, albeit not yet complete, of free agent DeMar DeRozan, has a 50-plus win season written all over it for our hometown team.

DeRozan, without question one of the most coveted free agents in this year’s mix, has apparently chosen the Sacramento Kings over other contenders such as the L.A.

Clippers and L.A. Lakers. What makes this exceptional is that DeRozan is from Southern California, and he chose Sacramento over his hometown.

Sacramento has received criticism over the years that the Kings can’t attract big free agent names, and the signing of DeRozan may spell an end to that rhetoric.

One of the shortcomings of last year’s team was their inability to close out close games, and that they were somewhat too one-dimensional with their late-game methodology.

No question De’Aaron Fox can’t be called upon to provide all of the late game heroics, and that was

Kings had to shed the \$18 million per year they were paying to veteran Harrison Barnes, and Harrison was dealt to the San Antonio Spurs, who are apparently looking for veteran leadership amid their current youth movement.

For many Kings fans that have enjoyed watching Harrison bring his slashing style of offense and the mid-range shooting he has become known for, it’s bittersweet. Harrison was a fixture in the Kings starting lineup since February of 2019, and his durability was one of the unquestionable qualities the Kings will miss.

For a team that led the NBA in scoring just two seasons ago, Sacramento dropped 13 spots last year, and even a stronger defensive presence wasn’t enough to make up the difference. Missing the playoffs after making the playoffs just one year ago was a gut punch, and it put a bull’s eye on

the backs of players that were too inconsistent with their scoring. Harrison, as a starter, was at the top of the list.

So, we wish Harrison well, and usher in a different looking starting lineup that will hopefully include fan favorite Malik Monk, as well.

Without question, DeRozan brings a veteran strength that will show itself in additional wins this season, but the Kings still need help for their all-world center and NBA leader in rebounds, Domantas Sabonis.

While Monte McNair could run for mayor of Sacramento and probably win right now, other potential moves are still in the offing. Drew Timme, 6’ 10” center from Gonzaga, was just signed to the Kings’ summer league team, and although not drafted, there is something about this 23-year-old that will make you look twice. Could he be a diamond in

the rough? It’s possible, but for much needed up front help, let’s not forget that already secured on the Kings roster are little-heralded Alex Len and veteran Trey Lyles.

At times, coaches have a tendency to overlook what they already have, and I for one do not believe that we’ve seen the best basketball that these two Kings have to offer.

For the Chris Duarte fans out there, sadly Chris was sent to Chicago along with two second-round draft picks and money to conclude the DeRozan acquisition. We will miss Chris and his spark off the bench, but like Harrison, the fans wish Chris all the best in Chi Town.

Stay tuned, Kings fans, for more magic from your intrepid GM, and thank you Monte McNair for having the patience to wait for the right player to surface for the Kings.

Welcome, DeMar DeRozan! ★

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# Mayor Steinberg's Legacy: A Tale of Broken Promises and Declining Civic Trust

Commentary  
by W. Bruce Lee

Disappointment. That’s the best way to sum up Mayor Darryl Steinberg's tenure. Despite the high expectations when he was first elected and his political clout as the former California State Senate leader, Sacramento has taken a sharp downward turn for the worse during his time in office. Many of us are ready to say goodbye and good riddance.

Mayor Steinberg’s legacy is perfectly encapsulated a few weeks ago by a viral online video, showing Sacramento police officers casually moving past a person who was breaking into a local historic diner – the fourth break-in since September. While the suspect was later arrested, this glaring instance of inaction underscored a troubling breakdown of law and order that has spread across our city, leaving residents feeling vulnerable.

The Sacramento mayor has limited power so the City Manager and Council share some of the blame for the current problems. However, after being the second most powerful person in a state that rivals the size of many countries, Steinberg’s

inability to effectively lead a group of local elected officials and staff shows his failures as a leader.

Sacramento’s decline isn’t because of the lack of money. In 2018, voters approved Measure U, a sales tax increase that raised approximately \$100 million annually and was pitched as a way to "protect and enhance essential public safety services." Mayor Steinberg promised the revenue would not be diverted to public employee pensions, claiming it would be a “true game changer” to fund affordable housing, homeless shelters and job training.

Once passed, Mayor Steinberg failed to lead the Council and uphold his commitments. Instead of reinforcing public safety, Sacramento now has an understaffed police force with over 100 vacancies, where many residents receive a text message in response to their 911 calls unless it’s a severe crime. Police officers privately tell me they quit as soon as they could as it was so frustrating. In the words of one officer, “It is sad to see what used to be a somewhat great city diminish right before our eyes. It certainly isn’t the city I started working for many years ago.”

Despite the Measure U sales tax and \$110 million in federal aid during the pandemic, Sacramento’s budget faces a daunting \$66 million deficit, a testament to the city’s fiscal mismanagement. Ironically, the city predicted that the deficit would reach \$85 million by 2024 without Measure U.

To address the budget shortfall, Mayor Steinberg and the Council pitched another tax (Measure C), this time it was aimed at Sacramento’s business community, including doctors and dentists. Measure C was resoundingly rejected by voters and drew a scathing for avoiding transparency requirements. The whole episode deepened public distrust in Steinberg’s leadership.

Even as Steinberg’s false promises have become apparent, he has been able to avoid difficult questions about his leadership as the city’s main daily newspaper, the Sacramento Bee, has been mostly unwilling to voice criticism of the mayor. It’s no coincidence that the Bee’s readership continues to plummet as residents can clearly sense the city’s declining services and growing problems even if the paper omits coverage of these issues.

As the mayor’s tenure nears its end, he has one final insult to taxpayers. Steinberg is vocally opposing the Taxpayer Protection Act, a statewide ballot measure that empowers voters to approve all state and local taxes and improve accountability for our tax dollars. Unsurprisingly, Steinberg’s response to giving voters more of a say in their government is, “Are you kidding me?” He is leading a coalition who falsely claim it would stifle cities’ ability to raise taxes when the initiative has no impact on taxes proposed by a city council.

Steinberg ascended to the Mayor’s office with high hopes and big promises, but his leadership leaves behind a city marred by crumbling public trust, declining public services, and a massive budget deficit.

Given his lofty expectations, it’s not hyperbole that Steinberg has been Sacramento’s worst mayor in recent history. Whoever wins the Mayor’s race in November, they should learn from Steinberg’s example of false promises and failed governance.

W. Bruce Lee is the Sacramento Taxpayers Association president. ★

# California Expands Access to Naloxone

Office of Governor  
Gavin Newsom News  
Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA, (MPG) -** On June 21, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that CalRx-branded over-the-counter naloxone HCL nasal spray, 4 mg, will be available for free to eligible organizations through the Naloxone Distribution Project.

This follows the state’s contract with Amneal Pharmaceuticals to purchase an over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray product through CalRx’s Naloxone Access Initiative

at a significantly lower price.

“The CalRx brand is more than a logo; it’s a way to show that the state cares. CalRx is proof positive of California’s innovation, business acumen, and most importantly, our heart. California is spending smarter by making life-saving drugs more affordable so that we stretch our dollars further – and make that same low price accessible to more people,” Newsom said.

Eligible entities can obtain CalRx over-the-counter naloxone HCL nasal spray, for free

through the California Department of Health Care Services Naloxone Distribution Project. CalRx is also working on an option for individuals to buy CalRx over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray directly.

Additional details will be shared on the Naloxone Distribution Project website as they become available.

Qualifying California business entities and organizations seeking to purchase CalRx over-the-counter naloxone HCL nasal spray, for \$24 per twin-pack can

do so by visiting CalRx’s Get Naloxone website at <https://calrx.ca.gov/get-naloxone>.

In May alone, the state purchased approximately 24,000 units, leading to \$415,000 in savings. Since the Naloxone Distribution Project was created, more than 4,433,700 units have been distributed, and more than 277,000 lives have been saved.

“By making naloxone widely available and affordable, we are empowering communities and saving lives,” said California Health and Human Services Agency

Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly. “This is a crucial step in our ongoing efforts to tackle the opioid crisis head-on.”

The overdose epidemic claims thousands of lives each year throughout the nation – and California is combatting this through an all-hands-on-deck approach. A critical component of that is through harm reduction services and methods like naloxone, which can reverse opioid overdoses swiftly and effectively.

By making CalRx-branded over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray

readily accessible, and maximizing the state dollars used to purchase it, California is taking a significant step toward reducing the number of opioid-related deaths and ensuring that over-the-counter naloxone is available when and where it is needed most.

Following recent meetings with the US FDA, CalRx’s partner Civica has a clear path forward. California is using its market power as the fifth largest economy in the world to save lives and make health care and medication more affordable. ★



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# Art and Fun at Effie Yeaw Gala



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



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



Supervisor Rich Desmond (left) supports the fundraiser with wife Lisa, Jim Ison, Janie Desmond Ison and Heidi and Brad Sanborn.

Continued from Page 1  
and s'mores dessert 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.  
2024 sponsors included CBEC Eco

Engineering, Charles Dailey, Helen Diepenbrock, Marcy Friedman, Bob and Deborah Moskowitz, Drs Kevin Tanner and Gabrielle Rasi, Supervisor Rich Desmond, and Girl Scouts Heart of Central California Council.  
Proceeds are not known, as of press time.  
For Nature Center information, visit <https://www.effieyeawnature.org/>. ★



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



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

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