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in Roseville

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# East Sacramento News

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JULY 26, 2024

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to Fix Shelter Overpopulation  
and Mismanagement

Officer Jessica Solano is holding her award with her public servant colleagues, who each also received an award. Photo by Kristina Rogers

By Kristina Rogers

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Those who do the thankless job of saving animals from conditions most couldn't stomach are in a special class. Some animal shelters might rely on this help too much and now expect volunteers to carry the bulk of rescue work. On June 24, "Show up for Animals" brought a coalition of animal rescue groups from all over California to the State Capitol to advocate for shelter animals. They told legislators their stories and asked for help. Elena Gaffney, founder of Animal Rescues for Change in San Jose, co-organized the event. Gaffney said, "Legislators must recognize we are in a crisis. Too many healthy, adoptable

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Hume  
Covers  
'Wall  
Time,'  
Water,  
Roads

By Matthew Malone

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume delivered the annual State of the County address on July 19, covering the county's actions in areas such as timely hospitalizations, water management and road maintenance. Speaking during a luncheon at the District 56 community center in Elk Grove, Hume discussed "wall time," the amount of time first responders wait with a medical patient until a hospital can admit the patient. The first-responder crew is unavailable for other calls until the hospital accepts the patient, and Hume said long wall times tie up emergency-response resources. Hume pointed to state Assembly Bill (AB) 40, signed into law last year, which requires local emergency medical services agencies to come up with plans to reduce wall time to 30 minutes or less, in 90% of cases. Hospitals with emergency departments are required to develop wall time reduction protocols. A bill still being considered by the state Legislature, AB 1180, would allow emergency response agencies to be reimbursed for transportation to medical facilities other than hospitals. Hume pointed to county funding in support of Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District's Mobile Integrated Healthcare program, which assesses patients in the field to avoid an emergency room visit. Hume announced that the county would commit \$100,000 in COVID-19 relief funds to Cosumnes Fire Department, to bolster its telehealth program, in which a patient can consult

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\$25 Million for Upgrades  
to Grant Line Road Safety

Congressman Ami Bera presents a \$25-million check to the Capital SouthEast Connector representatives on July 17 at a Teichert Aggregates plant on Grant Line Road. From left are El Dorado County Supervisor John Hidahl, Bera, Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume, Rancho Cordova City Councilmember and Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority Chair Garrett Gatewood, Capital SouthEast Connector Executive Director Derek Minnema, Elk Grove City Councilmember Sergio Robles, State Sen. Roger Niello and Folsom City Councilmember Mike Kozlowski. Photo by Gail Bullen

By Gail Bullen  
Messenger Publishing  
Group

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Regional leaders celebrated the United States Department of Transportation's (DOT) allocation of \$25 million to the Capital SouthEast Connector project at a July 17 news conference held at the Teichert Aggregate Plant on Grant Line Road. The federal grant will address long-standing safety issues on a three-and-a-half-mile segment of Grant Line Road between White Rock and Douglas Road in Rancho Cordova by transforming it into a four-lane roadway with a separate lane for bikes and pedestrians. After all segments in the 34-mile-long connector are constructed, it will link Interstate 5 at the town of Franklin to Highway 50 in El Dorado Hills by transforming Kammerer, Grant Line and White Rock roads into an expressway.

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# \$25 Million for Upgrades to Grant Line Road Safety

Continued from Page 1

Rancho Cordova Councilman Garrett Gatewood, who chairs the Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board of Directors, was the emcee at the press conference. He described Congressman Ami Bera, D-Elk Grove, as the driving force behind the grant.

“This is a huge milestone for our region,” Gatewood said. “I want to say thank you to Ami Bera because he really led the effort in so many ways. He is such a blessing to the city.”

Bera told the crowd he has been seeking grants for the Connector from the federal Department of Transportation (DOT) since his election in 2012, but he didn’t get any good news until about a month ago. “To get this \$25 million is really a catalyst for us to finish the entire project,” he said. “We’ve got a real opportunity to do this right, to grow and really do this right.”

Bera is also seeking another \$10 million for Rancho Cordova as part of the congressional appropriations process, he said.

In addition to Bera and Gatewood, six other regional leaders spoke at the celebratory event. They included Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume, who represents Rancho Cordova; Construction & General Laborers Local 185 Business Manager Doyle Radford; Rancho Cordova Vice-Mayor Siri Pulipati; Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper, who lives in Rancho Cordova; Sacramento Metropolitan



Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume describes the section of Grant Line Road receiving the grant money as one of the most dangerous stretches of a non-highway road within Sacramento County.

Fire District Assistant Chief Jon Rudnicki; and Congressman Kevin Kiley, R-Rocklin.

During their remarks, the glaring safety issues on Grant Line Road and politicians working across the aisle were reoccurring themes.

### Safety

Gatewood said using the grant money to make Grant Line Road improvements will make Rancho Cordova safer.

“If you look behind me, this is literally the most dangerous road in the region,” Gatewood said. “This road is what we call death alley. There are more accidents than anywhere else in the region.”

Kiley provided the grim statistics. He said 125 accidents and three fatalities had occurred within a four-year time span.

Rancho Cordova Vice-Mayor Pulipati shared her personal experience

with the dangerous conditions on Grant Line Road. One day, while driving along the road, she saw a wide-bodied truck approaching from the opposite direction and moved a little to the right.

“The next thing I know, my tire hits the edge of the road. (My vehicle) blew through the fence and rolled over a couple of times in the middle of a field,” she said. “I walked away without any major injuries but not everybody got that lucky.”

The grant “is a big step” in making Grant Line Road safer, more connective, and more sustainable, Pulipati said.

Cooper described Grant Line Road as a critical route to the South County. “This is kind of late in coming but we need it,” the sheriff said. “It’s a safety issue for our motor-ing public and for your first responders.”



Congressman Ami Bera says the grant could serve as a catalyst for completing construction of the Capital SouthEast Connector. Photos by Gail Bullen

Rudnicki, who heads the fire district’s emergency medical services, said that flooding and frequent wild-land fires compound the problems along Grant Line Road.

“What we are celebrating today is an engineered solution to solving many problems,” Rudnicki said.

### Political Teamwork

Hume thanked Bera for his extensive work securing the grant.

“He and I may not have the same letter in the parentheses behind our names and we may disagree on policies from an ideological standpoint,” the county supervisor said.

“But I know in my heart of hearts that he represents his constituency from his

heart of hearts.”

Kiley also referred to the political divisions in the country. He said one way to overcome them is through regional projects that tangibly affect people’s lives.

“That is why I think that ‘Connector’ is the perfect name,” Kiley said. “This is all about connecting people, connecting regions and connecting communities.”

Bera was asked his thoughts following the ceremony.

“With all the dysfunction in Washington, D.C., that is now going on around the election, it feels good to be home,” he said.

“It reminds me that my most important job is actually representing folks in Sacramento.”

### Background

The funding request was submitted by the Connector JPA, the Sacramento County Department of Transportation and the City of Rancho Cordova.

The Grant Line Road Safety Improvement Project was one of 148 road construction projects that received funds as part of the \$1.8 billion Federal Administration Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainable and Equity (RAISE) grant program.

The RAISE goal is to fund surface transportation projects that will have a significant local or regional impact that advances the federal priorities of safety, equity, climate and sustainability and workforce development. ★

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Thousands of railfans viewed Union Pacific's 4014 Big Boy during its July 12-13 stop in Roseville. Photos by J.G. Wirt



Extra tenders carry water for Big Boy's steam boiler.



Union Pacific's 4014 Big Boy, an oil-burning 4-8-8-4 locomotive, is 132 feet long and weighs 1.2 million pounds.

# Thousands Turn Out for Big Boy in Roseville

By J.G. Wirt

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Thousands filled Downtown Roseville for the July 12-13 stop of Big Boy 4014, the largest steam locomotive in the world. This stop was the west end of the Westward Bound Tour, which began June 30 and crossed Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and California.

Staged along Atlantic Street on the south side of the Union Pacific railyard, the Roseville event allowed

close-up views of the locomotive, with its 68-inch driving wheels and massive running gear.

Visitors also could line up for walk-throughs of the Experience the Union Pacific Rail Car, a rolling exhibition that provides a glimpse at the past while telling the story of modern-day railroading.

Locomotive visitors and street fair patrons in Downtown Roseville totaled about 30,000 for the two days, said Erin Dunlay, Roseville's public affairs and communications manager. ★

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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Summer league is drawing to a close, and the Kings are putting together the pieces that will become the 2024/25 team.

Keon Ellis looks like a man among boys as he has thrashed opposing defenses and is tearing up the summer league. Keon is showing why coach Brown used him extensively last season, and finally made him a Kings starter. Ellis, out of Alabama, was undrafted in 2022, and had to painstakingly work his way through the G League to eventually find favor with coach Brown and the Sacramento Kings. His tenacity on defense was noted early on, and with the departure of Davion Mitchell he will undoubtedly be called upon to stop some of the top guards in the NBA this season.

The maturation of Ellis gives credit to coach Brown and his patience with young players with promise, and he is hoping to see that same maturation in rising star Keegan Murray.

The acquisition of DeMar DeRozan has hit the team like a thunderbolt, but it's the supporting cast that will need to give the Kings quality minutes off the bench if the team is to return to the playoffs.

Monte McNair receives high marks in my book and has shown a degree of patience rarely seen in young GMs. He has refrained from the knee-jerk reaction trades and is showing himself to be a tough negotiator. Resisting numerous offers for Keegan Murray needs to pay off this season, and I for one am more than ready for Keegan to take a leap forward.

Murray's defense improved last season, as did his mid-range game, and if he can effectively use his three-point prowess that compliments his other skills, the 2024/25 season could be a breakout year for Keegan.

Gone is veteran Harrison Barnes, but the Kings picked up 6'9" Jalen McDaniels in his stead.

McDaniels, out of San Diego State, was drafted 52nd overall by the Charlotte Hornets in the 2019 draft, and like Keon Ellis has had to prove his mettle by working his way through the G League, and now opportunity has finally knocked.

The Kings need someone to fill the

role left by Harrison Barnes, and the only question is whether McDaniels can prove to coach Brown that he is that guy.

The summer league has given the Kings a glimpse of Drew Timme, and although he's received mixed reviews, Timme is a heady player with a big body on a team that is short on big bodies. He remains a long shot to make the team, but the competition is good to see, and I would love to see Timme get some G League opportunities if he doesn't make the big club.

First-round draft choice Devin Cater underwent successful shoulder surgery but won't be available for the start of the season. That means offseason acquisition Jordan McLaughlin from the Minnesota Timberwolves will likely be called on to back up the Kings all-world point guard De'Aaron Fox, and with the absence of Davion Mitchell, the presence of McLaughlin could be vital if the Kings want to get off to a hot start. Like Fox, McLaughlin is lightning quick and a competent ball handler.

The starting lineup is anything but certain at this point, but I am convinced Malik Monk needs to be one of the five every night.

Trey Lyles has been an underused big body for the Kings, and if Sacramento is to return to the playoffs, this diamond in the rough needs to log considerably more minutes than last season, and if this occurs, I believe good things will happen. The starting lineup could look something like this: De'Aaron Fox with Malik Monk and Keon Ellis in the back court, with Keegan Murray and Domantas Sabonis carrying the load down low.

That represents a small lineup, but with Trey Lyles and Jalen McDaniels coming off the bench, and the scoring punch of six-time All-Star DeMar DeRozan, I expect to see the Kings production return to the high temperature we enjoyed two seasons ago.

It's still very early, so let's wait and see if Monte McNair has more surprises in store for us.

All the best! ★  
Your thoughts are always welcome at [vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com](mailto:vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com)

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# YOLO with the Yolo High Wheelers



Phil Swimley Field at James M. & Ann Dobbins Baseball Stadium has room for 3,500 spectators. Photo courtesy of Yolo High Wheelers

By Mitch Barber

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - It takes little effort to find baseball in its purest form, somewhere multi-million-dollar salaries don’t lure players into a money game. One has only to look at a Little League diamond, a high school ballpark or a college’s personal-sized stadium; these places are where athletes participate for the love of the game.

In the city of Davis, on the University of California, Davis campus, such an environment exists on a competitive level: elite-level players throw baseballs and swing bats for little more than spare change.

The Yolo High Wheelers play in the Pioneer League, where the squads have no affiliation with Major League Baseball teams. Their stadium is spacious — with a 3,500-fan capacity — but on a blisteringly hot Wednesday this summer only 18 fans occupied the seats in the first inning for a game against the equally wet-behind-the-ears Oakland Ballers, the other first-year professional organization in a league considered just a rung below Single-A ball.

Doug Greenwald, son of the famed San Francisco Giants commentator Hank Greenwald, met Messenger Publishing Group at Phil Swimley Field at James M. & Ann Dobbins Baseball Stadium — the official name of where the UC Davis baseball team plays its home games — for a daytime contest on July 11. Doug is the High Wheelers’ livestreaming broadcaster, and someone who always has a



Coach Billy Horton’s son, Bryce, is in town for Yolo High Wheelers games. Here, father and son smile in the clubhouse. Photo by Mitch Barber

quick joke.

His enthusiasm toward the Yolo High Wheelers isn’t a surprise; Doug indicated that the team has some 16 former Division I college baseball players who weren’t drafted, yet still have major-league aspirations.

Doug arranged an interview with High Wheelers manager Billy Horton, who was about a five-minute power-cart ride from the stadium, stationed in the team’s clubhouse.

The driver of the cart was Horton’s son,

Connor, an outgoing young man with an eye for safety. He was visiting Davis from Arizona to be with his dad while his high school is on summer break.

The older Horton was a tall, imposing presence in what could be described as the team’s locker room (what looked like former classrooms); he was clothing his chiseled body, complete with six-pack abdominal muscles, when this reporter arrived at the clubhouse in the cart.

Horton’s favorite position as a player was third base, but he had more success as



Jack Zalasky kicks his leg high in a game on July 16 against the Oakland Ballers at Dobbins Baseball Stadium. Photo courtesy of Yolo High Wheelers



Jack Zalasky delivers from the mound on July 16 against the Oakland Ballers at Dobbins Baseball Stadium. Photo courtesy of Yolo High Wheelers

a catcher. He said, “I only started catching because I didn’t hit with enough power.”

The High Wheelers had a winning record at 27-25 at the time of publication, but Horton humbly stated, “I believe our team is better than what our record shows.”

One of Horton’s players is especially local. Jack Zalasky played varsity baseball for Elk Grove High School, and later Sacramento State University. He was happy to be met in the clubhouse hallway on that Wednesday afternoon.

Zalasky is tall and lanky, with a dark-brown head of hair that was somewhat disorganized, and he was full of competitive energy. When asked where he saw himself in a couple of years, Zalasky said, “I don’t know. I’m just kind of going day by day.”

Zalasky has a tie to catching like his manager; he has a pug/chihuahua named Posey, after legendary San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey.

But there was a game to be played that summer Wednesday.

The bottom of the first inning included a home run by Yolo High Wheeler Braedon Blackford.

During that same inning, a song by Common and Kanye West played over the public address system. (West made the term “YOLO” famous.) Divine intervention? Or something planned by the PA announcer, Shiloh Roiss-Hume, who has a voice that brings to mind Samuel L. Jackson’s radio broadcasting in “Do the Right Thing?” ★

## Animal Rescuers Advocate to Fix Shelter Overpopulation and Mismanagement

*Continued from Page 1*

animals are euthanized before the public even has an opportunity to see them.”

In addition, there is a new trend in which many shelters don’t accept animals. Gaffney explained, “People call and say they found a dog or cat, and the shelter won’t take it. The shelter gave them my number instead.” The extra work has become overwhelming. She already rescues animals from Apple Valley (outside San Bernardino), which is what is referred to as a high-kill shelter.

From the perspective of these animal saviors, the problems are clear: lack of funding transparency, shelter mismanagement, illegal breeding and fewer spay/neuter programs.

Morgan Leskody was shocked over how mismanaged Modesto’s kitten foster program was, saying, “I was on the foster list but never once got called. Then I’d see shelter postings on social media with photos of kittens saying they would be euthanized if they weren’t picked up.” She continued, “The shelters argue it’s about bandwidth. I believe it’s about red tape instead of being focused on acceptable solutions like spay and neuter.”

Shelter mismanagement also concerned Julie Virga and Elyse Mize, who founded Fix Front Street in Sacramento. They hired an animal rights attorney, Jennifer Mouzis, who explained, “When you notice lots of money being poured into shelters and don’t see results, that’s a problem. The burden is shifting from people who are paid to do the work to those who are not. If the money were going where it should be going, there wouldn’t be conflict with the animal rescue groups. There would be synergy.”

Fix Front Street members want Sacramento City’s shelter to follow a better model, like the Bradshaw Animal Shelter run by Sacramento County.

The sentiment from other marchers was the same; they wanted to be part of the solution. And

they know pushing for humane animal control legislation is the answer. Lisa Kirk with Fix Our Ferals noticed a drop in spay and neuter program funding around 2020.

At the time, Gov. Gavin Newsom allocated \$50 million to make the state a no-kill haven for shelter animals. Rescue groups may have believed most of these funds would be distributed among shelters for spay and neuter programs. Instead, much money went toward developing strategies to reduce animal euthanasia. Kirk said, “We thought there would be robust funding, but Contra Costa County only received \$100,000. ...When it costs \$150 to \$200 to fix an animal, that doesn’t go too far.”

Backyard breeding is also rising. Gaffney said, “You see dogs for sale on



Elena Gaffney, right, smiles with her daughter who is snuggling a rescue kitten. Photo by Kristina Rogers

NextDoor and Facebook Marketplace. Many of them get into the hands of irresponsible owners. A year later, we get calls to pull these breeds from the shelters.

More than 54% are left-over puppies that illegal breeders can’t sell.” She continued, “I was looking

at the root causes of this and found lobbyists block breeder control bills, even though these bills would not affect licensed breeders.”

Following the march on the Capitol, comedian and animal advocate Elayne Boosler joined Julie Virga to hand out awards to

recognize individuals.

One recipient was Officer Jessica Solano, an animal control officer for Sacramento County. Solano and her colleagues support shelter transparency and collaboration with animal rescues. She also shared a few things the public should understand: “People get upset when we don’t rush to their call, but there’s a reason. Sometimes, I’m down the street dealing with an animal in a backyard for weeks without food, water or shelter.”

The public servants address hundreds of animal calls daily, and the public’s patience and kindness are appreciated.

Solano also offered ways the public can help. She said, “If you see something, say something. Contact 311 to report. We can press criminal felony charges against people who abuse and neglect animals. People can also call 311 to report illegal breeders.” Solano concluded, “Fostering and adopting is the best the public can do for us.”

Many on her team have a passel of their foster pets.

Elena Gaffney and Julie Virga welcome the public to review their websites and join their efforts.

Their websites provide plenty of information to help. The coalition plans to conduct Show up for Animals again in the fall and reach out to legislators.

Websites to visit include-fixourshelters.com, animalrescuesforchange.org and tailsofjoy.net. ★



Animal Rescues for Change marched at the California State Capitol on June 24. Photo courtesy of Animal Rescues for Change



# Republican National Convention Most Energized in Decades



Tim Riley  
**A special article by Tim Riley**

Once again, Messenger Publishing Group was on the scene of another national political convention, this time in heavily guarded Milwaukee in an atmosphere fraught with uncertainty as the result of the assassination attempt on the Republican party’s nominee.

Unlike the unfolding drama of the incumbent pulling the plug on his campaign, the nomination of Donald J. Trump was never in doubt, with the only surprise to come on the first day being the nomination of Ohio Senator JD Vance for the vice presidency.

Political conventions draw the party activists and volunteers, elected officials, and newcomers to the convention scene, while old guard party hacks seemed to be scarce. Most delegates and alternates across several states appeared to be first-time participants.

Forget the 2020 election season where the party conventions were listless, preordained virtual affairs about as exciting as watching paint dry or waiting for a load of clothes at a laundromat. This Republican convention was the most energized in decades, and the feeling was palpable inside the hall.

It may be easy to overlook the underlying tension of the 2016 convention which nominated Trump for the first time.

Remember that Texas Senator Ted Cruz, having run in the primaries, could not bring himself to endorse Trump in his convention speech back then.

On Tuesday night, Cruz took to the podium and the first thing he said was “God Bless Donald J. Trump,” and then thanked God Almighty for protecting Trump during the assassination attempt. This sentiment would be expressed by many speakers.

As the senator representing the largest state bordering Mexico, Cruz delivered a blistering attack on the Biden administration for allowing “a literal invasion” of 11.5 million people illegally crossing the border, which he noted is larger than the population of all but eight states.

Not surprisingly, the immigration crisis proved to be a pivotal issue. Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin addressed a breakfast gathering of the California delegation, and in regards to the immigration issue he said that it was “too bad” Texas Governor Greg Abbott was not the governor of the Golden State.

Youngkin pointed out that “every state is a border state,” and aside from the invasion of illegals, the flow of fentanyl is unprecedented. As for people crossing the border, the most daunting problem is that these are people “we know nothing about.”

With “American sovereignty and the crisis at the border as the top concerns,” Youngkin observed that the “top solution is leadership,” because just passing a bill in Congress is “naïve” if the rule of law is not restored.

Echoing a theme that is more apparent at this convention as opposed to the old establishment way of business, Youngkin noted that “we have a giant tent, let’s fill it.” He pushed the idea of townhalls that connect with people outside the corridors of power.

Trump’s former Ambassador

to the United Nations Nikki Haley, a fierce opponent in the primaries, offered her “strong endorsement” of the former president, noting that “you don’t have to agree with Trump 100 percent of the time to vote for him.”

Long ago, an axiom of politics was that “half a loaf was better than no bread,” so Haley’s sensible approach is taking the view that what’s important is that “we agree more than we disagree.”

Perhaps being prescient, Haley observed that “a vote for Joe Biden is a vote for President Kamala Harris. After the debate, everyone knows it is true,” a point to which Haley added “for the sake of the nation we have to go with Donald Trump.”

With her background in foreign policy, Haley made astute observations that under Obama, Putin invaded Crimea, and under Biden, Putin invaded all of Ukraine. Most importantly, Putin “did nothing” under Trump. There was no invasion and no wars, because Putin “knew Donald Trump was tough.”

Ronald Reagan’s maxim was “Peace Through Strength.” Arguably, the corollary to that was Haley claiming “a strong president doesn’t start wars. A strong president prevents wars.”

Rounding out the field of serious contenders from the primaries, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis offered a few witticisms, as he claimed we cannot “afford four more years of the Weekend at Bernie’s presidency.”

Following up on revelations of Biden’s workload, DeSantis pointed to national security concerns when observing that “our enemies do not confine their designs to between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.”

Aside from delivering a stirring upbeat speech in the convention hall, Vivek Ramaswamy spoke to the California delegation’s “Wheels to Victory”

luncheon at the Harley-Davidson Museum.

Vivek offered two tasks for the party. One is to revive our national identity by turning to the ideals of our founding fathers. The second is to shut down the shadow government of the administrative state, by “dis-mantling the nanny state” to save the Republic.

“We may not have a country left if don’t get it right in November,” said Vivek, noting that “it’s not morning in America right now,” as once Ronald Reagan was able to proclaim. “The American Dream is hanging on by life support.”

The political speeches stirred the delegates to enthusiastic responses. But the best may have emanated from a variety of everyday Americans. A standing ovation came for Madeline Brame who lost her son to violent criminals as she attacked soft-on-crime prosecutors.

Who could not get teary-eyed when the Gold Star families expressed their feelings of being let down when the Biden-Harris administration could not even mention the names of their soldiers who died during the withdrawal from Afghanistan?

Another hero was 98-year-old World War II veteran William Pekrol who said, “America is still worth fighting for,” and that if Trump were commander-in-chief, also said “I would re-enlist today” if asked by President Trump.

During an acceptance speech unlike any other, Donald Trump most notably came across as more somber and subdued than usual in large part, of course, for having survived an assassin’s bullet only days earlier.

In a moment that’s never happened before, speaking about the attempt on his life, Trump recounted details about the shooting, saying “I will tell you exactly what happened, and you’ll never hear it from me a

second time because it’s actually too painful to tell.”

If there’s an iconic image that resonates with the crowd in the hall, it has to be the photo that captures Trump with a raised fist and the American flag fluttering above. The shout of “Fight! Fight! Fight!” punctuated speeches many times.

While the national convention operated smoothly and efficient in all facets, the media coordination for the California delegation was lacking, as we made a request to interview attendees from Solano County and even adjacent counties.

What we ended up with was a conversation with Jason Clark, the Bay Area Regional Vice Chair, based in San Francisco. Clark focused on party registration numbers that don’t favor Republicans in California.

According to Clark, the focus will be on trying to pick up two or three seats if this proves to be a good year, while acknowledging that there will be a challenge to hold seats won by slim margins by Congressmen Ken Calvert and John Duarte.

Picking Senator Vance was a smart move, as Clark observed his working-class background and pulling himself up from being dirt poor, and then joining the Marines, going to an elite law school and being editor of the Law Review were admirable achievements.

With only two years in the Senate, Vance is not unlike other politicians who ascended to high office. Keep in mind that Barack Obama, once an obscure state legislator, only served four years in the Senate, while Richard Nixon had two years in the Senate before his election as Vice President.

Next up is the Democratic National Convention on Aug. 19, and we’ll soon see whether Kamala Harris is coronated or the convention devolves into a contentious repeat of 1968. ★

# We Must Protect Veterans' Access to Mental Health Treatments

Commentary by  
**Anthony J. Principi**

As a nation, we have a sacred duty to support the men and women who put their lives on the line to defend our freedoms. That responsibility doesn't end when their service does. Once military members return home, we must ensure they have the health care they need to live their best lives -- including treatments for mental health conditions.

Bipartisan majorities in Congress have made a priority of this issue, notably with their overwhelming support for the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019.

Unfortunately, though, a single provision in the



**Anthony Principi**

2022 Inflation Reduction Act threatens to undermine this progress. The law is inadvertently discouraging the development of next-generation psychiatric medications that could benefit countless veterans. The good news is that an easy, bipartisan fix is now in the works.

Mental health challenges remain heartbreakingly common among our

nation's heroes. Rates of PTSD are higher among veterans than civilians. Sadly, it is estimated that 17 veterans die by suicide every day, and over half of veterans living with mental illness aren't receiving treatment.,

These painful statistics reflect the unique stresses and traumas of military life. Combat exposure, family separation, reintegration into civilian life -- each can take a heavy psychological toll.

Drug researchers have responded to mental illness with an expanding arsenal of treatment options. The United States is currently responsible for about half of all new medications developed worldwide.

But affordability is also an important issue. To address it, the IRA gave

Medicare the authority to negotiate with drug makers for lower prices. To help ensure pharmaceutical developers have time to recoup their investment costs, lawmakers wisely granted newly approved medicines a period of exemption from price negotiations.

But oddly, this exemption period isn't the same for all drug types. Under the law, new "large molecule" biologic medicines are exempt from government price negotiations for 13 years after FDA approval, whereas small-molecule drugs receive only nine years of exemption.

Unsurprisingly, this disparity is already leading drug companies to deprioritize or abandon small-molecule treatments.

In a recent survey of over two dozen prominent biopharmaceutical firms, 63% said they plan to shift investment away from small molecules because of the IRA.

This alarming trend could have serious consequences for veterans seeking treatment options for mental illness. Small molecules have a key advantage when it comes to treating mental health conditions: they're tiny enough to cross the blood-brain barrier. That's why small molecules make up virtually all psychiatric medications, from antipsychotics to antidepressants.

The IRA's bias against small molecules will also worsen existing inequities in care access. Small-molecule medications usually come as

easy-to-use pills, while biologics typically require injections or IVs administered by a healthcare professional.

Thankfully, a straightforward, bipartisan fix has already emerged. The Ensuring Pathways to Innovative Cures (EPIC) Act would align price negotiation timelines for small molecules and biologics, giving each category 13 years of post-approval protection.

As millions of veterans struggle with mental health or behavioral conditions, we need to protect their access to innovative therapies. That starts with passing the EPIC Act.

*Anthony Principi served as Secretary of Veterans Affairs from 2001-2005. This column first appeared in Stars and Stripes.* ★

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# Property Tax Roll Sets New Record

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County Assessor Christina Wynn announced on July 8 that the annual assessment roll reached a new record high of nearly \$243 billion, a 5.18% increase over last year. The assessment roll reflects the total gross assessed value of locally assessed real, business, and personal property in Sacramento County as of January 1, 2024. After the deduction of property tax exemptions for homeowners, disabled veterans, and charitable organizations, the net assessed value is just over \$233 billion. The annual increase is

primarily attributed to the sustained increase in average home prices over the last few years and ongoing new housing development and construction projects. The 2024-25 assessment roll will generate approximately \$2.3 billion in ad valorem property tax revenue. This year's roll growth will yield an additional \$115 million in gross revenue over last year. Property tax revenue funds over 175 local government agencies, including schools, special districts such as fire, park, and community service districts, as well as cities, and redevelopment agencies and is one of the largest sources of discretionary revenue

for Sacramento County's General Fund. While the total assessed value for the County increased by 5.18%, the assessed value of most properties increased only 2% due to the protections of Proposition 13. Most of the roll growth resulted from assessed values established at current market levels for properties that changed ownership or experienced new construction in 2023. Properties appraised and assessed at market value each year include properties impacted by decline in value conditions (Prop 8), mobile homes, and personal property not subject to Proposition 13 such as boats, aircraft, and

business personal property. The values of these properties may fluctuate more than 2% each year. The 2024-25 assessed values of secured real property are viewable at <https://assessor.saccounty.gov/DeclineInValue/Pages/Prop8Viewer.aspx> to access the Assessor's "Assessed Value Look-Up" and "Parcel Viewer" website tools. Property owners who disagree with their assessed value should contact the Assessor's office to discuss their concerns. If the market value of a property is less than the assessed value, property owners can request a review online, by mail, or in-person. This free service

is available now through Dec. 31, 2024. Any corrections to annual secured real property values processed by Sept. 1 will appear on the annual property tax bill issued in October. Corrections processed after Sept. 1 will require the issuance of a revised annual secured real property tax bill. The Tax Collector will mail 2024-2025 unsecured property tax bills beginning July 12. For questions regarding business personal property and fixtures, taxpayers can contact the Business Personal Property Division at (916) 875-0730 or [PPdutyapr@saccounty.gov](mailto:PPdutyapr@saccounty.gov). Taxpayers can contact

the Marine and Aircraft section to get assistance with vessels and general aircraft valuations at (916) 875-0740 or [ASR-marine@saccounty.gov](mailto:ASR-marine@saccounty.gov). Leased equipment questions can be referred to (916) 875-0745 or [ASR-leasing@saccounty.gov](mailto:ASR-leasing@saccounty.gov). Visit the Assessor's website at <https://assessor.saccounty.gov> to learn about property tax savings programs or contact us at [assessor@saccounty.gov](mailto:assessor@saccounty.gov) or (916) 875-0700. Technical staff and duty appraisers are available in-person weekdays 8-5, no appointment necessary, at 3636 American River Drive, Suite 200, Sacramento (free parking).

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# Bible Will Inspire Our Olympians

With the Olympics set to begin today, it may be a good time for a Bible study.

No, I'm not going full Jerry Falwell on you. I just thought you might be interested in the biblical etymology of expressions used in the heat of sports competition.

According to the Online Etymology Dictionary, "Etymologies are not definitions; they're explanations of what our words meant and how they sounded 600 or 2,000 years ago."

However, I'm going to take you a bit farther back because, as a spiritual columnist, I'm somewhat amused to hear people unwittingly quote the Bible.

So today, and just for trivial fun, I present some biblical sayings which might be inadvertently



quoted by athletes at the Paris games.

For instance, when weightlifters talk about their "hard work and sweat" that brought them to the Olympics, they are making a veiled reference to Genesis 3:19.

It's here that God tells Adam and Eve that because of their transgression, there will be no more free lunch. Their survival will require hard work because it'll only be "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food. ..."

When a gymnast

stumbles over his answers in a news interview, the reporter might suggest a favorable answer to his own question. Journalists call those questions "softballs" and will often add, "I'm not trying to put words in your mouth." That news reporter is trying to evoke a printable quote as he unknowingly plagiarizes 2 Samuel 14:3: "And Joab put the words in her mouth."

In sports competition, a cyclist might revel in his rival's failure by saying his competitor "bit the dust." Those words convey the vengeful spirit expressed in Psalm 72:9 "... and his enemies will lick the dust."

"Rise and shine!" is an admonition a few coaches may use to awaken their Olympians for an early morning training routine. They do so without realizing they are quoting the

prophet Isaiah, who said, "Arise, shine, for your light has come. ..." (60:1).

Or a swimmer in a tight race might modestly describe her win "by the skin of my teeth." She is quoting Job 19:20, "I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth."

And when a track star tells us they are "just going to concentrate and run the race before them," they make a vague reference to Hebrews 12:1: "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

When a high diver speaks in resigning tones of the poor scores received from international judges, they may choose their comment from two different verses.

"I have to trust 'the powers that be,' they may say, without thought to Romans 13:1: "... the powers that be are ordained of God."

Or as the diver looks to his poor showing on the scoreboard, he may unknowingly quote Daniel 5 as seeing "the writing on the wall."

The humble relay racer knows hers is a team competition with no "I" in the word "team." So, when asked about her chances in an upcoming race, she resists the temptation to brag saying, "Pride comes before a fall." She perhaps knows she's quoting Proverbs 16:18: "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."

Of course, the one I expect to hear most often will be from coaches trying to lift the spirits of those athletes going home without gold medals. "You can be proud to have competed for the USA because 'You fought the good fight!'"

Those words should

inspire them just as they may motivate the rest of us couch potatoes to get up and move. After all, they are the words that inspired Timothy when the Apostle Paul told his co-pastor to, "Fight the good fight for the true faith" (I Timothy 6:12).

Go, Team USA!

I owe inspiration for this column to Steve Prokopchak's list of 30 Everyday Sayings That You Didn't Know Originated from the Bible. See [steveprokopchak.com](http://steveprokopchak.com).

Join Norris' mailing list at [www.thechaplain.net/newsletter](http://www.thechaplain.net/newsletter). Comment by voicemail or text message (843) 608-9715 or email [comment@thechaplain.net](mailto:comment@thechaplain.net). Snail mail occasionally checked at 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. All his books are also available on his website.

★

# Hume Covers 'Wall Time,' Water, Roads

*Continued from Page 1*

with a doctor remotely before deciding whether to request transport to an emergency room.

Hume, who won the District 5 board seat in the 2022 election, said he responded to the Cosumnes River flooding that struck the area in winter 2023.

"I have convened of stakeholders, land owners, land conservation groups, reclamation districts and water districts to resurrect efforts that had been undertaken the last time the river overflowed its banks in 1997," Hume said, explaining that his goal is to develop projects focused on flood attenuation, improved water management and ground-water recharge.

He said the county is studying the matter and gathering information on the area's hydrology.

In one setback, Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Sacramento, secured \$2 million to allow the Army Corps of Engineers to participate in the studies but the Army Corps didn't accept the appropriation. Hume said "they did not have the ability to accept the funding because they didn't have the capability or the capacity to do that work in this area at this time."

"We were very



Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume speaks at the State of the County Luncheon on July 19. Photo by Matthew Malone

displeased by that news," Hume said, "and we are all committed on circling back and figuring out what we can do better position ourselves, and beter position the Corps, so that they would be able to accept that funding."

Managing water in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is another major concern for Hume. He represents the county on a coalition of counties that touch the Delta, which he said exists "to

hold the state accountable in their pursuit of the Delta Conveyance Project."

He said the coalition had representatives of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a major backer of the project, take a tour of the Delta to learn about the impacts the coalition foresees. Hume and other coalition members visited Southern California to understand the water needs there.

"And so our ask of them

is that we allow the water to flow through the Delta before they take it out, so that they are not condemning the Delta into permanent drought status, and really causing the tipping point for what is a precarious situation already for our fisheries as well as our flyways and of course, certainly, our farmers," Hume said.

The Harvest Water Project, under construction along Bruceville Road, will install pipelines that will

take treated wastewater to the south county, where it can be used for irrigation.

Hume said the county will have the roads affected by the construction fully repaved.

"So that will at least be one section of unincorporated Sacramento County that will have fresh roads," Hume said.

Hume said maintenance backlogs and increasing costs mean the county now has more than \$1 billion in deferred roadwork.

With the county receiving just half of the money it needs to maintain the current state of the roads, Hume said he saw "no realistic way" of addressing the issue other than continuing to bring it up.

A \$25-million grant will improve a dangerous section of Grant Line Road as part of the planned SouthEast Connector Expressway.

On homelessness, Hume noted that the Sacramento Steps Forward Point in Time Count suggests that the county population of unsheltered homeless people had decreased.

He also spoke about a recent Supreme Court decision that allows local governments to impose penalties for camping on public land.

Hume noted recent changes in leadership, including David Villanueva's appointment in December last year as county executive.

The board of supervisors on July 9 approved Joshua Green as the director of general services.

Green is currently vice president of government and community affairs at Sky River Casino and he previously served as the general manager of Cosumnes Community Services District.

★

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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

### Nashville Hit Songwriters at Miner’s Leap Aug. 9

Nashville songwriters Sarah Buxton and D. Vincent Williams will perform their hit compositions as part of The Sac Song & Wine Series on Friday, Aug. 9 at Miner’s Leap Winery in Clarksburg.

Buxton’s songs include “Stupid Boy” by Keith Urban, “PrizeFighter” by Trisha Yearwood, “For Her” by Chris Lane and “Sun Daze” by Florida Georgia Line. Williams penned such hits as “Four Walls” by Randy Travis, “The Last Ten Years (Superman)” by Kenny Rogers, “I’m Moving On” by Rascal Flatts and “Hands of a Working Man” by Ty Herndon.

Attendees will be treated to a live DJ set by DJ Louie Giovanni, food truck options, lawn games and more.

Future Sac Song & Wine shows are Sept. 20 and Oct. 11. For tickets and more

information, see <https://sacsongandwinerieseries.com>.

### Friends of Sutter’s Fort Discounted Admission Rates

Friends of 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](http://www.suttersfort.org).

### Sacramento Area Museums Offer Plenty of Summertime Experiences

The Greater Sacramento region is rich with museums and popular destinations that offer plenty of must-see and must-do experiences to explore during the long and lazy days of summertime. The community is encouraged to show support for local museums by making plans to visit favorite locations (or discovering new ones).

A sampling of must-see and must-do experiences and special activations offered by local museums this summer include the following:

**Aerospace Museum of California** – Due to popular demand, the museum’s Math Alive! exhibit has been extended to Labor Day (Sept. 2) with games, music, fashion, robotics, movie making, and more. Museum visitors have the opportunity to ride in a live- action snowboard race, control a Mars rover, record a weather telecast, design a video game, or try out systems engineering for a city. For details, visit [www.aerospacemuseum.org](http://www.aerospacemuseum.org).

**California State Railroad Museum & Foundation** – Always a summertime

favorite experience, the California State Railroad Museum & Foundation are proud to offer the only train ride experience behind an authentic, historic locomotive in the Sacramento region.

Weekend excursion train ride guests delight in the sights, smells, and sounds of an authentic, historic locomotive as it rolls along the levees of the Sacramento River for a six- mile, 45-minute round-trip excursion.

Appealing to all ages, the experience offers guests the chance to enjoy train travel from an earlier era. For more details and/or to book a train ride, please visit [www.californiarailroad.museum](http://www.californiarailroad.museum).

**Crocker Art Museum** – The community is invited to celebrate local hometown heroine Greta Gerwig with “Movies Off the Wall,” the Crocker’s summer film series screened in the outdoor courtyard against the Teel Family Pavilion’s iconic architecture.

Guests are encouraged to arrive early to grab a seat and a bite to eat from Majka at the Crocker while grooving to film-inspired DJ sets. Then, attendees can sit back and relax under the stars for iconic films screened at larger-than-life scale. Films start at sundown and include “Lady Bird” on Thursday, Aug. 15. For more details, visit [www.CrockerArt.org/events](http://www.CrockerArt.org/events).

**Museum of Medical History** – Filled with medical artifacts and curiosities (such as a working iron lung!) that demonstrate the evolution of the health care industry and how quickly advances in medicine have taken place, the Museum of Medical History will be open on Second Saturdays in July and August from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free for all visitors, more information is available at <https://museumofmedicalhistory.org/>

**Sacramento History Museum** – Debuting Aug. 9, the museum is proud to present a limited-time exhibition titled “America’s Monsters, Superheroes and Villains: Our Culture at Play” from SuperMonsterCity. The engaging exhibition will be filled with 400+ vintage and original toys, comic books, games, posters, packaging, TV commercials, movie trailers and more. For details, visit [www.sacramento-history-museum.org](http://www.sacramento-history-museum.org)

[SacHistoryMuseum.org](http://SacHistoryMuseum.org).

**SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity (MOSAC)** – The museum is excited to present a new exhibition, Health Connections presented by UC Davis Health. Health Connections showcases a variety of hands-on interactive activities that engage guests of all ages in many aspects of health, from the wonders of the latest medical discoveries happening in our community to topics ranging from muscles to mindfulness. Health Connections is the first exhibition at the museum to be featured in English and Spanish. For more details, visit [www.visitmosac.org](http://www.visitmosac.org).

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

## Sacramento Native Continues 124-Year Sub Tradition

**By Ashley Craig, Navy Office of Community Outreach**

#### SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Petty Officer 2nd Class Austin Eckard, a Sacramento native, is one of the sailors serving aboard USS Henry M. Jackson, continuing the U.S. Navy’s 124-year tradition of service under the sea to help ensure Americans’ safety.

Eckard graduated from Highlands High School in 2020.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Sacramento, according to Eckard.

“The lessons I carry with me came from when I was becoming an Eagle Scout, are the importance of perseverance and hard work,” Eckard said. “I put in hundreds of hours of work on my own for my Eagle project. The wooden cross at Citrus Heights United Methodist Church, my Scout troop’s charter organization, was vandalized, so I replaced it with a steel one that couldn’t be vandalized. I’m a nuke and nukes have one of the hardest, if not the hardest, schools to go through and the longest. Being a mechanic has the shortest variant of nuke school

and it was still a year and a half. That’s long hours and lots of studying. Pressing through all that and all of the hard work was definitely attributed to the perseverance I gained while working toward Eagle Scout.”

Eckard joined the Navy four years ago. Today, Eckard serves as a machinist’s mate (nuclear).

“I joined the Navy because I was figuring out something to do out of high school,” said Eckard. “In 2016, I had the chance to go to Pearl Harbor for the 75th anniversary of the attack. We toured all the Navy stuff out there and heard a lot of inspiring speeches. One of the speakers was Lou Conter, a USS Arizona survivor who was on the ship when it got hit. He retired from the Navy as a lieutenant commander. He was kind of an inspiration for me to do this. A lot of my family had been in the Air Force as well but I always liked the Navy more.”

Known as America’s “Apex Predators,” the Navy’s submarine force operates a large fleet of technically advanced vessels. These submarines are capable of conducting rapid defensive and offensive operations around the world, in furtherance



**Austin Eckard of Sacramento is currently serving in the Navy.** Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Josiah Trombley

of U.S. national security. A major component of that maritime security is homeported at Naval Base Kitsap, in Washington.

There are three basic types of submarines: fast-attack submarines (SSN), ballistic-missile submarines (SSBN) and guided-missile submarines (SSGN).

Fast-attack submarines are designed to hunt down and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships; strike targets ashore

with cruise missiles; carry and deliver Navy SEALs; conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions; and engage in mine warfare. The Virginia-class SSN is the most advanced submarine in the world today. It combines stealth and payload capability to meet combatant commanders’ demands in this era of strategic competition.

The Navy’s ballistic-missile submarines, often referred to as “boomers,”

serve as a strategic deterrent by providing an undetectable platform for submarine-launched ballistic missiles. SSBNs are designed specifically for stealth, extended patrols and the precise delivery of missiles. The Columbia-class SSBN will be the largest, most capable and most advanced submarine produced by the U.S. – replacing the current Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarines to ensure continuous sea-based strategic deterrence into the 2080s.

Guided-missile submarines provide the Navy with unprecedented strike and special operation mission capabilities from a stealthy, clandestine platform. Each SSGN is capable of carrying 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, plus a complement of heavyweight torpedoes to be fired through four torpedo tubes.

Strategic deterrence is the nation’s ultimate insurance program, according to Navy officials. As a member of the submarine force, Eckard is part of a 124-year history of the U.S. Navy’s most versatile weapons platform, capable of taking the fight to the enemy in the defense of America and its allies.

The Pacific Submarine Force maximizes the

Navy’s strengths of knowledge, stealth, agility, firepower and endurance.

“The men and women of the Pacific Submarine Force are among our best and brightest Americans,” said Rear Adm. Richard Seif, Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet. “The pace of activity across the force is eye-watering and our ability to remain on-scene unseen is only possible due to their hard work and critical thinking. We are lethal, far-reaching and incredibly capable, and we deter aggression through our demonstrated advantage in the undersea domain.”

Eckard takes pride in serving the country through military service.

“For me, serving in the Navy is just a job,” said Eckard. “However, being on a ballistic-missile submarine also means I am directly part of protecting the country. Strategic deterrence is the No. 1 Department of Defense mission and we are the most survivable leg of the nuclear triad.”

Eckard is planning for the future after his service with the Navy.

“I want to be an engineer when I get out of the Navy,” Eckard said. “My dream job is working at NASA.” ★

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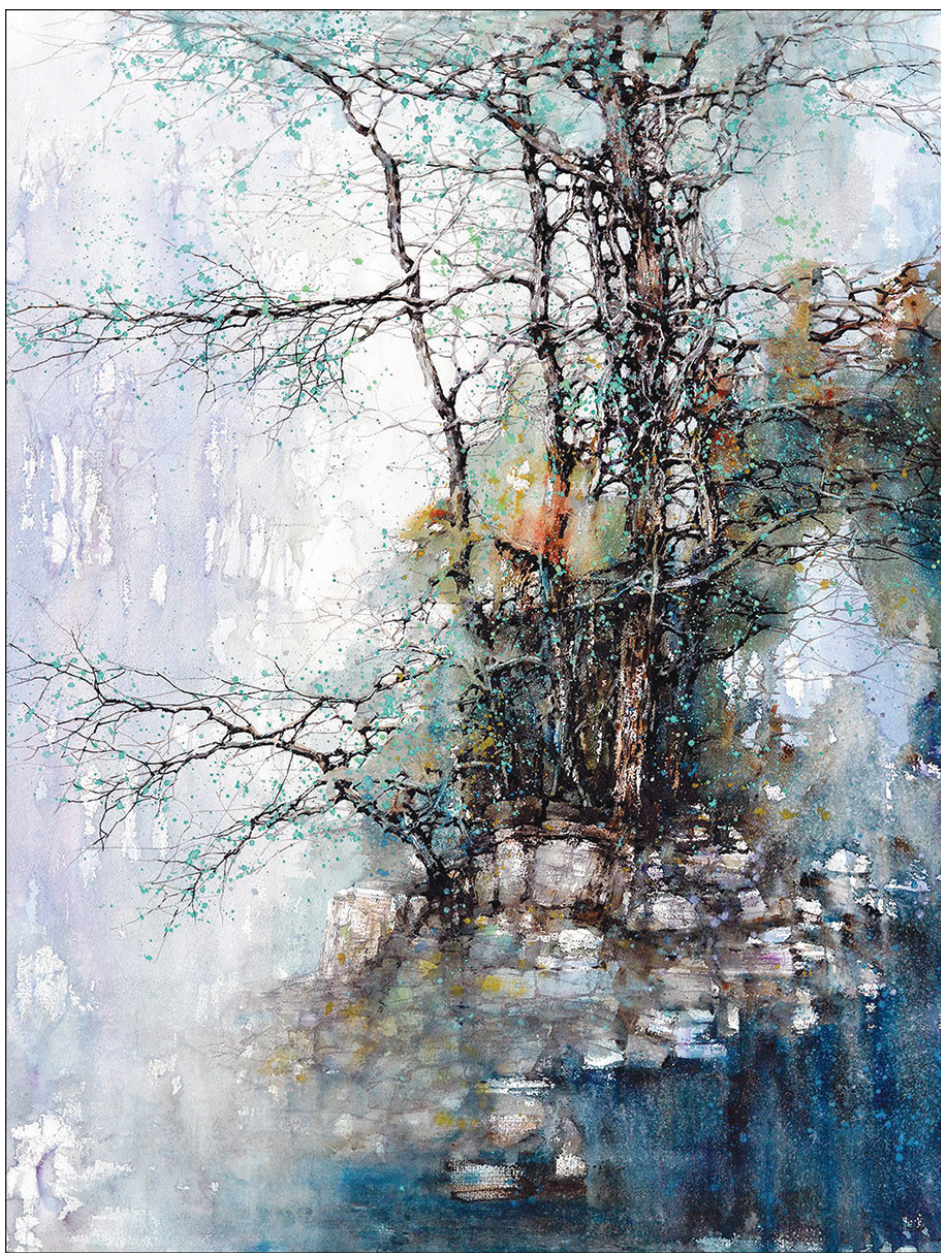
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The Sacramento Fine Arts Center, founded in 1986, is composed of artists



The Sacramento Fine Arts Center is at 5330-B Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. For more information, call 916-971-3713 or email [angelia@sacfinearts.org](mailto:angelia@sacfinearts.org). ★

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