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# AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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AUGUST 9, 2024

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## Giving Construction Opportunities



Julian Aguilar works on an electrical installation at a Taylor Morrison home in the Vineyard neighborhood in Sacramento County. Photo courtesy of The Write Stuff Communications

**The Write Stuff  
Communications News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Julian Aguilar has wanted to be a construction worker for a long time; he just didn't know what trade he wanted to pursue.

To learn more, Aguilar, 18, participated in a four-week hands-on construction internship last summer between his junior and senior year at Casa Roble High School in Orangevale. The program, sponsored by the North State Building Industry Foundation, exposed him to a wide range of building trades. This year, for the first time, selected interns from last year were invited to come back for another session to see if they were ready for job offers.

Aguilar jumped at the opportunity.

"The program exposed me to everything, and it's helped me find what trade I want to be in," Aguilar said during a break at the new home community under construction in the Vineyard area of Sacramento County. "At first when I got into the program, I wanted to be a framer, then I wanted to be an HVAC worker. And now, I want to be an electrician."

At the conclusion of the internship, he got his wish. He's been hired by Republic Electric and will begin work on July 30.

According to Shaun Ruddy, vice president of field operations for homebuilder Taylor Morrison, the senior interns worked hard.

"You can see the effort they're putting in," Ruddy said. "They're trying to prove themselves to the trades like, 'Hey, hire me when this four-week

period's done.'"

Aguilar was one of 52 Sacramento-area high school students participating in a program this summer that demonstrates there are good careers that don't require them to go to college and incur large amounts of student debt.

"This is a career you can do without going into debt, going into college very easily and making \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year in an entry-level position," said Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Poff. "If you love to work with your hands and you love seeing something come together, figure out piece by piece how it comes together, then this is a great career for you. And you don't have to worry about incurring college debt in order to get a degree to do something when

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## PAWS Mobile Clinic: Lifeline for Pets of Unhoused



Pet Aid & Wellness Services (PAWS) Mobile Clinic has made an effort to care for the pets of the unhoused. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County's Bradshaw Animal Shelter and its dedicated team are making remarkable strides in improving the lives of pets and their unhoused owners. Through the innovative Pet Aid & Wellness Services (PAWS) Mobile Clinic, led by veterinarian Dr. Cynthia Metcalf, and an extensive network of community partners, they are providing much-needed veterinary care, resources and support to a vulnerable population that needs it most.

Recently, Pet Aid & Wellness Services received a generous \$100,000 grant from UC Davis California for All Animals. This funding is specifically aimed at enhancing access to veterinary care for pets of the unhoused, covering critical resources that will significantly enhance the program's reach and services.

To ensure unhoused pet owners and their furry friends receive the care they deserve, a collaborative effort called the Compassionate Pet Care Alliance (CPCA) was created. Established in September 2023, the Compassionate Pet Care Alliance brings together various organizations working with the pets of the unhoused in Sacramento County. Members include PAWS (Bradshaw Animal Shelter), Front Street's Homeless Outreach and Assistance Program (HOAP), Sacramento SPCA, Elica Health Services, Animals of the Homeless, Mercer Veterinary Clinic, 4R Friends and Street Dog Coalition. Meeting bi-monthly, these groups share resources, tackle challenges and support each other's missions. The collaboration has been invaluable, leveraging each organization's unique strengths.

With summer in full swing, Pet Aid & Wellness Services, along with the Homeless Outreach and Assistance Program and Sacramento SPCA, has shifted its focus to spay/neuter services to address the surge in puppy and kitten populations.

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## NCOA Plays a Vital Local Role

**By Ornella Rossi**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA), a military service organization established in 1960, plays a vital role in supporting members across all United States Armed Forces branches and their families from Rancho Cordova and the greater Sacramento area through programs and initiatives.

With a mission focused on enhancing quality of life and supporting the professional development of non-commissioned officers, the association operates under the motto "Strength in Unity." Throughout the year, the organization raises funds through various programs and allocates them to area veterans in need.

The Non Commissioned Officers Association also collaborates with the



Retired Chief Master Sergeant Sullivan presents Noncommissioned Officers Association Vietnam Medallions. Photo courtesy of Tammy Sullivan

Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce to promote community recycling events, enhancing environmental sustainability efforts.

A cornerstone of the association's support is the partnership with Volunteers of America for the Sacramento Stand Down,

a multi-day event providing critical services such as legal aid and medical and psychological treatments to homeless veterans. The Non Commissioned Officers Association contributed more than 500 towels for veterans in need at the event.

"It's an opportunity

to help those veterans to be cared for," said Non Commissioned Officers Association International Auxiliary President Tammy Sullivan. "It happens all over Sacramento. Some of our most recent locations include Placer County and Elk Grove."

*Continued on page 3*



# Strike Up the Band with Tague Band Instrument Services

Story and photos by Thomas J. Sullivan

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - It's a busy time of the year for Tague Band Instrument Services in Citrus Heights as its four repair technicians and owner Kris Tague inspect, service and repair more than 1,200 brass band instruments to get them ready for the start of a new school year.

Inside Tague's shop at 8091 Greenback Lane in Suites H and I in the Greenfair Plaza, a busy workday began to take shape.

Tague and his four service technicians arrived before 8 a.m. with plenty of brass to polish, valves to adjust and replacement pads to install before the store opens at 10 a.m.

The front lobby and adjacent storage racks were filled with cases of school band instruments of all types, each tagged and ready for service, with many more in a storage unit, Tague said.

The deep sound of a baritone saxophone punctuated the quiet air as its valves and pads were examined by a tech completed a final service inspection.

Band students from about 40 schools in the Roseville Joint Unified School District, San Juan Unified School District, Twin Rivers Unified School District, and Folsom Cordova Unified, to name a few, rely on Tague Band Instrument Services to rent and service brass band instruments during the school year.

Members of the all-ages Citrus Heights Community Marching Band (CHCMB), which performs in parades, festivals and field competitions throughout the greater Sacramento area, are also regular customers, according to Tague.

His firm, Tague Band Instrument Services, offers rentals, repairs and instrument cleaning services. Music lessons in bass, clarinet, flute, guitar, piano and violin are available.

Tague, an Orangevale resident, took time for a brief interview



Guitar technician Jacob Koss restrings an acoustic guitar recently brought in for service.

and to introduce his four repair techs before returning to his work bench to service a recently-arrived clarinet. The full-line service shop offers repairs of all band and orchestral instruments as well as percussion repair.

Tague's start in the instrument repair business began in 1993 with Northridge Music, previously based in Citrus Heights. Tague was responsible for the high quality of repairs provided at Northridge for more than 20 years and now continues this tradition at Tague Band Instrument Services.

"We had a very strong local following at Northridge servicing the school districts in the surrounding area and it was a natural choice when I bought the repair shop from them in Citrus Heights," he said.

Tague is actively looking to expand his repair business and his sales floor as well as offer his teachers a larger practice and rehearsal space. It's a priority that he wants to accomplish by the end of 2025.

"We're located in two suites here," Tague said. "Our repair business has continued to grow and I'd like to add more workstations to handle that demand."



Robert Dolan has a baritone saxophone in pieces on his workbench.

"In general, our turn-around repair time for the school instruments we're now working on tends to be rather quick but it varies by the job and the scope of work required," he said. "Bent or dented horns do take a bit more time to straighten out."

Tague Music is a licensed Yamaha instrument dealer and services everything from entry level instruments to professional state-of-the-art instruments and offers services ranging from routine maintenance to custom fabrication, modification and complete mechanical restorations.

Staff welcome walk-in customers daily for service, lessons and



A wide variety of ukeleles and acoustic guitars are on display.

instrument repairs. It's especially gratifying, Tague said, to see the children of many of

his long-time customers now taking up a musical instrument.

Tague has been a National Association of Professional Band Instrument Repair Technicians member since 1993.

The trumpet is Tague's area of professional expertise. Tague started playing the instrument in fifth-grade with Jim Culbertson in Decatur, Illinois. Culbertson was a world-class trumpeter and is the father of jazz artist Brian Culbertson. Tague then moved to Sacramento to attend Sacramento High School.

After graduating, Tague attended Point Loma Nazarene College in San Diego, which led to an opportunity to study for a year with Alan Siebert, the San Diego Symphony principal trumpet. Tague later transferred to and then graduated from Sacramento State University.

Outside of work, Tague is an active semi-professional musician and enjoys playing vintage brass instruments with a Civil War reenactment band that performs at the Alcatraz historic former federal prison in San Francisco. He also plays with Joyous Brass, a British-style brass band.

Once the school year starts and the racks of instrument cases are back in the hands of their players, Tague and his repair techs will take to the road to many of the outlying school districts to demonstrate band instrument field repairs which they typically demonstrate in-house.

"School music departments are often overwhelmed and can't travel to us, so we'll come to them," he said. "It's good for everyone involved and it speeds up the time needed for repairs."

Tague Band Instrument Services at 8091 Greenback Lane in Suites H and I in Citrus Heights is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays. Call 916-721-0295 or email contact@playtague.com for more information. ★

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## NCOA Plays a Vital Local Role

*Continued from page 1*

Another significant program involves the association's partnership with the Veterans Administration (VA), where representatives actively assist in securing homes and furniture for homeless veterans. The association operates four warehouses in Rancho Cordova for storing donated items. Members meticulously maintain a list of veterans' needs and available resources, ensuring efficient matching and furnishing of homes with appliances and furniture. Additionally, they facilitate direct delivery of these essentials to veterans' residences, further enhancing their support efforts.

Association members also plan to increase outreach efforts to connect with the Veterans Village residents in Sacramento.

The Non Commissioned Officers Association members had an informational booth June 20 at the annual Rancho Cordova Business Expo & Job Fair.

"As a result of the business expo, we were able to start a partnership with JumpKing to acquire used, yet functional beds and mattresses for donation," Sullivan said. "We see a huge demand for these items when it comes to this program."

The Non Commissioned Officers Association also collaborates with Move America Forward, a nonprofit military charity based in Sacramento, to assemble and send care packages for troops overseas, showcasing the organization's commitment through practical, community-driven initiatives.

"I'm proud of our collaboration with the Veterans of Foreign Wars where we raise money to buy appliances such as grills and commercial toasters," said Scott

Rodowick, the auxiliary chapter treasurer, reflecting on some of the association's initiatives. "These items are integral to our participation in barbecues, which serve as outreach programs aimed at keeping everybody connected."

Sullivan highlighted unique challenges faced by veterans in the region, including the need for stronger peer-to-peer connections due to the absence of active military bases nearby. To address this, the Non Commissioned Officers Association organizes events such as the Irreverent Warrior Silkie Hike, an annual veteran-only hiking event in Rancho Cordova, fostering camaraderie and support among veterans. Additionally, members emphasize support for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment and aim to improve coordination among veterans' organizations for more effective outreach.

Area residents, businesses and volunteers interested in supporting the Non Commissioned Officers Association's mission can engage through volunteering opportunities listed on the association's website at [ncoausa.org](http://ncoausa.org) or by following its social media presence. Sullivan emphasized the importance of community awareness and involvement in bolstering their efforts to assist veterans effectively.

"There are so many ways and varying levels of degrees to get involved," Rodowick said. "It's a great group of wonderful people and the greatest gift is when you are helping others. Especially those that put their lives on the line to give us the freedoms we enjoy today."

The Noncommissioned Officers Association meets regularly in Rancho Cordova and other locations

throughout Sacramento, with monthly gatherings aimed at fostering community and support among members. Two local chapters include the Central Valley and the Spirit of Sacramento Auxiliary Chapters comprising about 90 members in the Sacramento area.

When asked why residents should join the Non Commissioned Officers Association, Sullivan emphasized the organization's responsibility to veterans and the community.

"We enjoy the freedoms of today because of those veterans and sometimes this gets lost," Sullivan said. "We all have someone or know someone that has put that uniform on and that uniform represents this country and everything this country stands for. We should honor that."

Rodowick said that members do not have to be connected to the military to join. Anyone can be a part of the organization.

Active Noncommissioned Officers Association members are throughout the greater Sacramento region, according to Sullivan, including in Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, Placerville, Lincoln, Plumas Lake and Elverta.

The Noncommissioned Officers Association Central Valley Chapter Number 1551 and Spirit of Sacramento Auxiliary Chapter Number 270 host meetings at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4647, 3300 U St. in Antelope. All are welcome to attend.

For more information on the Non-Commissioned Officers Association and how to get involved, visit its website at [ncoausa.org](http://ncoausa.org). ★

## PAWS Mobile Clinic: Lifeline for Pets of Unhoused



Their efforts not only save lives but also foster a sense of compassion and unity within Sacramento County. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County



The Pet Aid & Wellness Services Mobile Clinic is a full-service veterinary clinic on wheels. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

*Continued from page 1*

"PAWS has a waitlist for these procedures and is fully booked for July underscoring the high demand for these critical services," said Dr. Metcalf.

"A touching example of PAWS' impact is the story of Bellamy, a six-year-old neutered male cat suffering from severe oral pain due to stomatitis," explained Dr. Metcalf. Initially treated with pain management and antibiotics by Pet Aid & Wellness Services, Bellamy was later referred to Mercy Pet Hospital for a full mouth extraction thanks to the Cal 4 Animals Grant. Today, Bellamy is thriving, much to the relief and gratitude of his owner, Elizabeth Osgood.

"Bellamy came to be with me two and a half years ago after being taken to the shelter (Happy Tails) as a kitten where he spent the next three and a half years before I met him," said Bellamy's owner Elizabeth. "We connected right away. Though he was really shy for a long time, we've become very close. His favorite things are kisses and walks in nature at sunrise, and he's such an amazing friend who brings me so much comfort and strength."

Elizabeth, who has been unhoused for more than a year, shared how Pet Aid & Wellness Services has been a lifeline for her and Bellamy. Despite her challenges, she continues to support herself by teaching online English lessons and remains devoted to


Bellamy, her loyal companion.

Pet Aid & Wellness Services' success and success stories like Bellamy's wouldn't be possible without partners like California for All Animals and Mercy Pet Hospital. These collaborations have been pivotal in extending the clinic's reach and effectiveness.


In partnership with the Department of Homeless Services and Housing, Pet Aid & Wellness Services also distributes water to the unhoused and their pets, ensuring hydration and well-being during Sacramento's hot summer months. Water for pet owners is available at all Pet Aid & Wellness Services mobile events. This initiative will continue throughout the next year.

The Bradshaw Animal Shelter and the Pet Aid & Wellness Services team continue to inspire and uplift the community through their unwavering dedication to animal welfare and support for the unhoused. Their efforts not only save lives but also foster a sense of compassion and unity within Sacramento County.

The Pet Aid & Wellness Services Mobile Clinic is a full-service veterinary clinic on wheels, serving the pets of unhoused owners across Sacramento County. The clinic offers spay/neuter services, medical treatments, vaccinations, microchipping and pet supplies. For more information and a calendar of upcoming clinics and locations, visit the Pet Aid & Wellness Services Mobile Clinic website or call (916) 876-5215. ★



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# Monster Jam Roars into Sacramento

## Monster Jam News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Experience big-time family fun at Monster Jam. An unexpected, unscripted and unforgettable motorsports experience for families and fans returns to Sacramento for an adrenaline-charged weekend at Golden 1 Center on Aug. 16 to Aug. 18.

At Monster Jam, world champion athletes and their 12,000-pound monster trucks tear up the dirt in wide-open competitions of speed and skill.

The excitement begins at the Monster Jam Pit Party held in Sacramento prior to the events on Saturday, Aug. 17 and Sunday, Aug. 18. Fans can see the massive trucks up close, meet their favorite drivers and crews, get autographs and take pictures. Activities include the Sand Box play area, UNOH tire demonstration, coloring and temporary tattoo station, and new photo ops, including the chance to take a photo with the Series trophy. This fun-filled experience is the only place that allows people to get up close access to the Monster Jam teams and get an insider's look at how these trucks are built to stand up to the competition.

Fans will be on the edge of their seats as the world's best drivers show off massive stunts, big air, backflips, crazy skills and all-out racing in fierce head-to-head battles for the Event Championship. Engineered to perfection, the 12,000-pound Monster Jam trucks push all limits in Freestyle, Skills and Racing competitions.

Fans are encouraged to get to their seats early to experience Monster Jam Trackside approximately one hour before the event start time. Featured festivities include competition previews, driver interviews, giveaways, opening ceremonies and power rush truck introductions.

Monster Jam drivers are



Driver Fernando Martinez returns to Monster Jam at Golden 1 Center as the El Toro Loco driver from Aug. 16 to 18. --

trained, world-class male and female athletes. They have mastered the physical strength and mental stamina needed to compete, and the vital dexterity to control 12,000-pound machines capable of backflips, vertical two-wheel skills and racing at speeds up to 70 miles-per-hour to produce jaw-dropping, live motorsports action seen throughout the world.

Enjoy big-time family fun at Monster Jam. The competitions start at 7 p.m. Aug. 16, 7 p.m. Aug. 17 and 1 p.m. Aug. 18.

Also on Aug. 17 is a pit party from 4:30 to 6 p.m., which

requires an event ticket and pit pass for entry.

On Aug. 18, the pit party from 10:30 a.m. to noon requires an event ticket and pit pass for entry.

Golden 1 Center is at 500 David J Stern Walk, Sacramento.

Tickets are affordably priced for the whole family. Tickets and pit passes are available for purchase at the Monster Jam website at [MonsterJam.com](http://MonsterJam.com), which will direct you to [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com). If not sold out, tickets will be available at the door.

For more info about a Monster Jam event near you, follow Monster Jam on its social media

channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok. Subscribe to the Monster Jam YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/MonsterJam>.

### About Monster Jam

Monster Jam features world-class athletes competing for championships on perfectly engineered dirt tracks that push these ever-evolving, state-of-the-art trucks to the limit. Beyond the 350 global live events each year, the Monster Jam brand extends off the track into the home through products, content and merchandise that keeps the

fun alive year-round. For more information, visit [MonsterJam.com](http://MonsterJam.com).

### About Feld Motor Sports

Feld Motor Sports, Inc. produces and presents specialized arena and stadium-based motorsports entertainment. Properties include Monster Jam, Monster Energy AMA Supercross and the SuperMotocross World Championship. Feld Motor Sports, Inc. is a subsidiary of Feld Entertainment, Inc. Visit [monsterjam.com](http://monsterjam.com), [SupercrossLIVE.com](http://SupercrossLIVE.com) and [feldentertainment.com](http://feldentertainment.com) for more information. ★

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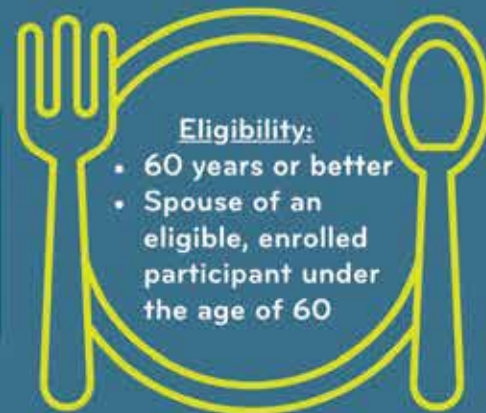


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# UC Davis Health Breaks Ground On 14-Story California Tower



UC Davis representatives celebrate at the July 22 ceremony for the California Tower, expected to be ready in 2030. Photo courtesy of UC Davis

## UC Davis Health News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - UC Davis Health hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the medical center's California Tower on July 22. The expansion project includes a 14-story hospital tower and five-story pavilion that will deliver superior care for Northern Californians and adapt to meet the evolving needs of the community.

"The addition of the California Tower to UC Davis Medical Center is a testament to our innovative forward thinking across our health system and main campus," said UC Davis Chancellor Gary S. May. "This project will position our researchers, students, faculty and staff to meet and adapt to regional health care needs for the next 50 years."

May spoke in the construction zone to an energized audience of UC Regents, university leaders, elected officials, project collaborators, and construction and facilities management workers.

### California Tower Construction

Approved by the UC Board of Regents in January 2022, the California Tower will be part of the region's most advanced medical center. The new hospital and pavilion will be in addition to the medical center's existing University and Davis Towers.

The new tower will add nearly one million square feet of space to the eastern side of the existing medical center. It will include new operating rooms, an imaging center, leading edge facilities for pharmacy and burn care units, and about 334 private rooms for patients.

More than 250 of the rooms are being designed for greater flexibility in the event of a patient surge such as a pandemic, massive wildfire or other disaster. These will easily convert into intensive-care-unit rooms with air isolation to treat patients of any level of hospitalization.

"With the California Tower, we are building a new paradigm of patient care, centered around how a health system can deliver tomorrow's health care today," said David Lubarsky, CEO of UC Davis Health. "We are building into this new tower some of the lessons we learned from the recent pandemic. As an example, three out of four of the rooms in this new tower can be easily converted to fully functional ICUs if needed, tripling our ICU capacity."

When the California Tower is open for patients in 2030, Lubarsky added, it will continue the hospital's 150-year legacy of "caring for those who need it most, delivering superior patient outcomes while becoming more sustainable, and keeping our focus on improving health outcomes and equity."

The \$3.74 billion tower will replace parts of the hospital that must close due to state seismic regulations. Hospitals across California are in the process of upgrading their existing facilities or constructing new buildings that can withstand major earthquakes.

The current, 646-bed hospital, the largest in the Sacramento region, will have a total of 675 to 700 inpatient beds when the project is expected to be completed in 2030.

### Supporting the Community

The California Tower project is expected to create hundreds of construction jobs and thousands of new health care positions for the surrounding community. It's one of many benefits of being home to an anchor institution such as UC Davis Medical Center.

Anchor institutions are place-based, mission-driven entities such as universities and hospitals that leverage economic power alongside human and intellectual resources to improve the long-term health and social welfare of surrounding communities.

"The hospital tower we're breaking ground on today represents another pivotal investment in our city by UC Davis," said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. "Both this tower and the new Aggie Square innovation campus will create thousands of new, high-quality jobs and expand our ability to meet the health care needs of our residents."

UC Davis Health plans to help fuel the economic health and overall wellbeing of the neighborhoods surrounding its Sacramento campus by hiring and developing local workforce talent, purchasing more goods and services from local vendors, investing in local projects that support vulnerable communities and engaging employees to volunteer in local neighborhoods.

"This project further harnesses the advantages of UC Davis Medical Center being Sacramento's No. 1 hospital and delivering nationally-ranked care," Lubarsky said. "UC Davis Health is Sacramento County's second-largest employer and we're making sure we are bringing not only health care but jobs and community wealth-building to our surrounding neighborhoods."

"I am so grateful for the collaborative planning effort that has spanned years and required so much hard work and coordination to bring us to this point of breaking ground for this new hospital tower," Lubarsky said.

Learn more about the California Tower project by visiting the Vision 2030 website at <https://health.ucdavis.edu/facilities/vision-2030>. ★

# Hot Jazz Jubilee 2024 to Sizzle

## MPG Staff

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The ninth annual Hot Jazz Jubilee will feature four days of music and entertainment over Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30 to Sept. 2, under one roof.

Five rooms will offer music, ranging from the large Grand Ballroom to the more intimate Garden Terrace and RJ's. Dancers will want to be in the three ballrooms that offer a dance floor.

The annual extravaganza will feature more than 20 bands and guest artists.

"We are excited to offer some new featured performers, plus some bands returning by popular demand," said Hot Jazz Jubilee festival director Pat Jones. "And the variety can't be beat. We have jazz, swing, zydeco, rock 'n' roll and R & B. Something for everyone."

Performers include Brian Casserly, Todd Morgan & The Emblems, San Lyon, Katie Cavera & the Lost Boys, and many more. Some exciting special sets are "Boogie Woogie Extravaganza" on Saturday, Aug. 31 and a "Back to the Future" Old Time Rock 'n' Roll set on Sunday, Sept. 1.

In addition, Shaymus Hanlin will present his "Tribute to Frank Sinatra" and High Street Band will honor Veterans with their "Salute to the '60s" on Friday, Aug. 30. There will be two gospel sets on Sunday, Sept. 1, one set with Yve Evans and Company, and the other set with High Street Band. Special guest pianist, Nicole Pesce will perform two sets, "Two Pianos, Six Hands," with Stephanie



Brian Casserly is a regular featured All-Star at jazz festivals throughout the country; and a session musician for commercials, professional recordings and musicals in the U.S. and Canada. Photo courtesy of Hot Jazz Jubilee



High Street Band plays jazz, Motown, R&B, blues and funk tunes that bring their audiences to the dance floor. Photo courtesy of Hot Jazz Jubilee

and Paolo.

For the full performance schedule, check online at [hotjazzjubilee.com/venues-scheduled-events](http://hotjazzjubilee.com/venues-scheduled-events).

The family-friendly event is in air-conditioned comfort at the newly-remodeled DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento at 2001 Point West Way. Admission is free for children 18 and under.

Sacramento Jazz Education Foundation

will sponsor Youth Clinics where young musicians can perform with the pros. Food and drink and a jazz vendor fair will also be on site.

Single-day tickets are \$65 for Aug. 30, \$85 for Aug. 31 or Sept. 1 and \$65 for Sept. 2. A four-day event pass is \$155. Tickets are available online at [hotjazzjubilee.com/purchase-tickets](http://hotjazzjubilee.com/purchase-tickets). For special group rates, visit [info@hotjazzjubilee.com](mailto:info@hotjazzjubilee.com). ★

# Senior Health Fair

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# Driving to a Sustainable Future with its New Electric School Buses



Everyone was all smiles as the ribbon was cut. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified School District

## San Juan Unified School District News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - San Juan Unified School District Board members, transportation staff and community partners cut the ribbon to a greener future for the district on July 25.

Six new electric school buses were recently added to San Juan Unified's fleet, marking a step towards reducing diesel emissions and fuel costs. Nearly identical to its fuel-operated counterparts, these fully electric vehicles are also quieter than traditional school buses, allowing drivers to better monitor passenger conversations and behavior during routes.

After concluding the ribbon cutting ceremony, attendees hopped onto one of the electric school buses for a mini field trip to Arcade Middle School.

These new school buses are a long-awaited sustainable addition to San Juan Unified's fleet. In beginning the switch to electric buses, San Juan Unified School District is taking steps towards cleaner air for



A San Juan Unified representative speaks at the July 25 ribbon cutting introducing the new buses. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified School District



Attendees got the chance to view the inside of the buses. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified School District

everyone in the community by reducing diesel emissions.

These buses were made possible through the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation grant, and collaboration with community partners including SMUD,

Sacramento Air Quality Management District, Model 1 Bus Sales and KMM Construction. The district looks forward to continuing sustainable operations through "greener" energy sources. ★

# Nonprofits Awarded Nearly Half Million Dollars from Bank of America

## Bank of America News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Bank of America recently announced it recently awarded nearly \$500,000 in grants to 20 local nonprofits across the Greater Sacramento region and San Joaquin Valley to drive meaningful and sustainable progress to help tackle society's biggest challenges. This first round of grants the company awards to local nonprofits throughout the year was focused on health-related and workforce development programs.

Two of this year's grant awardees include Digital NEST and Sunburst Projects. Digital NEST, serving Stockton and Modesto, among other California cities, creates scalable technology learning centers for Latino youth, providing culturally relevant and age-appropriate programs to help members of underserved communities explore career pathways, build confidence and pave the way for careers in tech and tech-adjacent industries. Sunburst Projects, located in Sacramento, has supported the Northern California HIV/AIDS community and their loved ones for nearly 40 years, helping clients access medical care and lifesaving medications, so they can live their healthiest lives and reach their highest potential.

"Partnerships are how you accelerate and amplify impact. We are proud to consider Bank of America, as a partner of the Digital NEST," said Jacob Martinez, founder and CEO of Digital NEST. "With the support of Bank of America, we have been able to provide programming that allows our youth to build a foundation of the professional and technical skills and experiences every young person needs to thrive in today's workforce." "Sunburst Projects is dedicated to

enhancing public health by providing free HIV and STD testing. Thanks to the generous support of Bank of America, we can expand our outreach and better serve communities disproportionately affected by these health crises. Together, we are making a transformative impact," shared Jake Bradley-Rowe, executive director of Sunburst Projects.

Other organizations receiving grants include: Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento, California Restaurant Association Foundation Inc., Center for Employment Opportunities Inc., Food Literacy Center, GRID Alternatives North Valley, Juma Ventures, Junior Achievement of Sacramento, NPower Inc., Pride Industries, Sacramento Food Bank, Sacramento Loaves and Fishes, Saint John's Program for Change, Second Harvest of the Greater Valley, Sierra College Foundation, Soil Born Farms, Women's Center-Youth & Family Services, Women's Empowerment and Yolo Food Bank.

"As demand for nonprofit services continue to rise, businesses can play a role in creating real change for people and families in need," said CP Parmar, president, Sacramento. "Investing in the region's nonprofits that help remove barriers to economic stability is one way Bank of America can help make financial lives better."

These grants build on the \$9 million Bank of America provided to Greater Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley organizations and the 56,000 hours of employee volunteerism to local causes since 2019.

Additional background about Bank of America's Charitable Foundation giving can be found at <https://about.bankofamerica.com/en/making-an-impact/charitable-foundation-funding>. ★

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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



The NBA summer league is over, but changes to the Kings ultimate roster for the upcoming season are not nearly over.

GM Monte McNair has earned his stripes by consistently making solid moves that will give Sacramento Kings fans potentially the best NBA team they've seen since the Webber/Bibby era, in which the Kings won a gaudy 61 games in 2021/22.

At this juncture, making predictions that would rival that season seems ludicrous, but make no mistake about it, McNair has his sights on a 60-win season, and he's scouring the NBA and beyond to find components that will get this franchise to that end.

The power forward position continues to be a point of focus, and although the Kings recently acquired Orlando Robinson, the search continues for a true rim protector that can play defense and add even a modicum of scoring while he's on the hardwood.

Potentially, that player could be a bench player for the Portland Trailblazers by the name of Robert Williams III. At 26 years of age, Williams' best playing days are still in front of him, and his seven points and six rebounds a year ago for the Trailblazers doesn't tell the full story. At 6'9" and 250 lbs., Williams is a true shot blocker, and the thinking here is given more playing time, this young man could become a true double-double threat.

The Kings are all too familiar with a double-double threat, as big man Domantas Sabonis has led the NBA in double-doubles the past two seasons, while leading the entire NBA in rebounding at the same time. Imagine if the Kings could surround this stevedore with just a little more support around the rim!

The only Sacramento King currently playing basketball in the Paris Olympics is none other than Trey Lyles, and although he's had a less than stellar performance so far for his home country of Canada, I remain convinced that if used correctly for the Kings, Lyles not only could give the Kings a boost in the upcoming season, he could actually break into the starting lineup.

Most pundits think I'm crazy, but I have

always seen a higher ceiling in Trey, and the only way we will ever know if I'm right, is to increase his playing time.

Trey is a consistent three-point shooter and solid rebounder behind Domantas, and I believe as the Kings continue to search for power-forward solutions, they should look no further than their own bench.

I have to believe that Monte McNair shares some of my zeal for this talented big man, or we would have already seen him in either a trade or trade rumors.

The real question is not McNair, but coach Brown. During last season's campaign, there was no consistent rotation for Lyles coming off the bench, and he went through stretches in which his minutes were sparing to say the least.

For any player, and particularly a big man, there must be that vote of confidence, that is demonstrated by his consistent time on the court, and that includes hardwood time during the last five minutes of a game. Show him that you trust his game when it means the most, and watch his confidence grow.

I give Mike Brown high marks for understanding how to bring along Keon Ellis, but his reluctance to use Trey Lyles when the Kings are starving for front-court players, remains a mystery to me.

The summer league did reveal that the Kings have a burgeoning star in your Boogie Ellis, who did pretty much what he wanted to against opposing summer league players. Boogie has been invited to training camp, and although the Kings remain guard heavy, Boogie's instant offense and frenetic defense means he deserves a closer look. At only 23 years of age, the Kings want to make sure they don't pass on a guard that may very well portend happy times for their future.

The big man/power forward rumors are ubiquitous, but I'm convinced that Monte McNair has at least one more notable move to make, and it's my educated guess it will come in the form of a power forward.

Stay tuned this off-season as its roster moves aren't over yet!

All the best, Kings fans! ★

Your thoughts are always welcome at [vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com](mailto:vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com)

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# California Has Seen Many Towns Created, But as Population Drops a Big Project Has Stalled



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When California emerged from its colonial beginnings nearly two centuries ago and began coalescing into a distinct society, its towns and villages tended to be located either on navigable rivers, such as Sacramento, or around the 21 missions that Spanish explorer priests had established, such as San Diego.

In the late 19th century, with California having experienced a massive population boom during the Gold Rush and become a state, entirely new communities sprung up. These settlements were often carved out of farm and ranch land by developers and railroads, the small San Joaquin Valley city of Hanford being one of the latter.

For example, the small villages south of San Francisco, such as Hillsborough, were designed as refuges for the wealthy from the noise, pollution and violence of San Francisco — and eventually led to the formation of San Mateo County as a protective bulwark.

The creation of new towns continued for most of the 20th century. In Orange County, the descendants of 19th century ranchers converted chunks of their vast holdings into new towns to absorb the region's massive post-World War II population growth.

The most spectacular example was — and still is — the City of Irvine, named for a

ranching family, and home to a quarter-million people and a major University of California campus. Dick O'Neill, heir to a huge Orange County cattle ranch, created two cities — Mission Viejo and Rancho Santa Margarita.

On the outskirts of Sacramento, along the Cosumnes River, another ranching family successfully created a stand-alone community called Rancho Murieta.

Creating new towns can be a risky endeavor. Developers can spend millions to plan their new communities and install infrastructure but may wait decades to see a profit.

California City, in the Antelope Valley 100 miles north of Los Angeles, was founded in 1958, but its remote location and somewhat inhospitable terrain and climate made attracting residents difficult. It's still there and has about 15,000 residents, but that's way short of the original ambition.

Mountain House, created three decades ago in a corner of San Joaquin County to attract commuters to Bay Area jobs, also struggled, particularly during the collapse of the housing market during the Great Recession. However, it survived: Today it has about 25,000 residents and on July 1 became an incorporated city.

The Tejon Ranch, an immense cattle ranch in the Tehachapi Mountains, has been trying for decades to create a new residential community, but it has faced massive opposition from environmental groups. It is finally beginning construction on an apartment complex.

That brings us to California's latest effort to carve out a new community, this one in a rural portion of Solano County.

California Forever, a

company backed by Silicon Valley billionaires, quietly — even sneakily — bought more than 50,000 acres of ranchland, after which it finally revealed plans for a new community that would eventually have 400,000 residents.

The secrecy and scope of the project generated immediate opposition, particularly after the company said it would seek approval via a November election ballot measure, bypassing hurdles such as the California Environmental Quality Act.

With approval by Solano County voters in doubt, California Forever has shelved its ballot measure. Company officials say they now will strive to gain popular support before proceeding.

The explosive growth that California experienced in the first 170 years of its existence as a state has now abated, probably for good. California has been losing population in recent years and at best it will probably see population stagnation in the future.

That said, California still has a housing shortage, and state policy is to encourage infill projects in or near cities rather than developing open spaces, which California Forever would do.

The chances for California Forever to join the ranks of new town developers are slim at best.

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

# Giving Construction Opportunities

Continued from page 1

you can do this right out of high school.”

Ruddy agreed.

“We tell them, if you're not interested in college, that's OK, you can make a good living, you can support your family. We brought in representatives from the trades to talk about their story of like, ‘Hey, I don't have a degree, you know? Now after 15 years, I'm the foreman of this company making six figures, making a good living. I have a boat. I have a house. I have my big truck,’” he said.

Ruddy said it is crucial that the homebuilding industry recruits new workers, and soon.

“It's important for us to keep the workforce in place. In the next five to 10 years, this workforce is aging out. For this next generation, it's a great career to have. You can come into the workforce right out of high school, be trained at your career, something you can be proud of. Building the American dream is what we've always thought this was. And it's something these kids coming out of high school can be successful at and move up in the world.”

Students participating this year came from the Sacramento City, Twin Rivers, Natomas, Elk Grove and San Juan unified school districts. Besides Taylor Morrison, Lennar, Toll Brothers and USA Properties offered internships in several developments around the region.

Aguilar said the hands-on internship was a great experience.

“Honestly, I think this program is great because it exposes you to every trade. Maybe you want to work in an office, maybe you want to do paperwork, but the program gives you a glimpse of everything you would do, all hands-on. I think anyone that's able to take advantage of this program should absolutely take it, because it's phenomenal, man. Love it,” he said.

Fortunately, the program is likely to continue into its eighth year as well, Ruddy said.

“As long as I'm here, we'll definitely keep participating,” he said.

Applications for the 2025 internship program will be available early next year. For more information about the program, visit <https://bit.ly/4cWjTAX>. ★

# Fair Oaks Summer Events Almost Over

MPG Staff

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - As summer winds down and the weather slowly begins to cool, outdoor events will be less and less frequent. So, while it's still warm, come join the community for several exciting events taking place in August and September.

Aug. 22 – Concerts in the Park, 8 to 10 p.m., Fair Oaks Park Softball Field, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. Jim Anderson and The Rebels will be performing. This is a free event. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. No glass or dogs are allowed. Visit [fairoakschamber.com](http://fairoakschamber.com) for park rules.

Aug. 23 – Comedy Under the Stars, 8:30 to 10 p.m. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. at Fair Oaks Park Softball Field, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. Join the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District and Laughs Unlimited for a night of laughs this summer. Advance tickets are \$15 per person or \$20 at the door.

All shows are open to anyone 18 and older. Visit [forpd.org](http://forpd.org) for more information.

Sept. 5 – Classic Car Meetup, 5 to 8 p.m., Fair Oaks Park, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. The first 70 cars are guaranteed a spot in the event area. This is simply a cars & dinner event. Hang out with friends, have some food and check out some beautiful cars. This event is in conjunction with Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District and SactoMoFo Food Truck Mania. Drop by Fair Oaks Park every first Thursday to grab something delicious from the food trucks. Free event.

Tuesdays - Fair Oaks Farmer's Market Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Fair Oaks Park, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. Shop for freshly picked produce and support your local farmers. The market is open every Tuesday, rain or shine.

For more information on these events, visit [fairoakschamber.com](http://fairoakschamber.com). ★

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**Office Administration** - We are seeking a full-time administrative support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Office Manager. Work hours are between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office experience is required. Primary duties are working with customers and assisting with weekly legal advertising filings. We also have a part-time position available in West Sacramento available in August.

**City Reporter** - We are seeking a full-time City Reporter for our newspaper group. This position may be assigned to work in the Carmichael office or another area office and works directly with the Managing Editor. Work hours are flexible depending on assignments. Previous reporting experience is required.

**Copy Editor** - We are seeking a part-time copy editor for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Managing Editor. Work hours are flexible between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous editing experience is required.

**Delivery Driver** - Weekly Hauling to Marysville- We are seeking a part-time Delivery Driver for our newspaper group. This position would transport newspapers from our Carmichael office to our offices in Marysville and Gridley. Work hours are from 8:30 to 4:00 every Thursday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. Must have your own reliable cargo van. This is an independent contractor position and pays a flat rate for your service.

**Newsstand Delivery Driver/Local** - We are seeking a part-time Newsstand Deliver Driver for our newspaper group. This position works from the Carmichael office and delivers to our locations in the West Sacramento/Sacramento Region. Routes also available in Elk Grove, Pocket, East Sacramento, Arden Arcade. Work hours are from 8:30 to 5:00 Thursday and/or Friday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. You must have a reliable vehicle. This is an independent contractor position. Previous experience preferred.

To find out more or to apply:

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## Be a Dog with a Bone

You may not be the biggest or the prettiest dog in the pack, but if you want the secrets to success, fulfillment, and happiness, then Peggy McColl says you grab it all with gusto. Her bone is her dream, and you can have yours too with her book "Be A Dog With A Bone." Peggy says dogs can teach us a lot about reaching our goals, so roll over the following tips and find out how to grab your own goals and dreams and roll in the bliss of success and contentment.

- 1. What is your bone...your goal?** A dog knows a good bone when he sees one and goes for it. Chomp on your goal, chew it over, then grab hold and ignore that little voice that says you can't.
- 2. Be a little dog with a big attitude.** Don't think small. Dream big! Be excited about your goal, feel entitled to achieving it, and experience the feelings you'd feel if you'd already reached it. Think little lap dogs barking at a big German Shepard,
- 3. Get out of the dog house.** Be courageous and believe in yourself. See challenging times as a terrific opportunity to leave behind the security of what you once knew and look again at what you might create for yourself.
- 4. Only ingest things that are good for you.** A little poison, or negativity, can strongly affect you. If looking at all the obstacles facing you is making you sad, angry, or scared, stop!
- 5. Learn new tricks.** We're always

having to learn something new. Stop thinking "it's too late" or "I'm too old."

**6. Bark for what you want.** Don't be shy. Speak up for yourself. If you want people to help you, approach them and ask.

**7. Don't chase your tale.** Let go of behaviors that are not serving you anymore. Take a look at your habits that are holding you back, and let go of them.

**8. When you think you've reached the end of your leash, give yourself a little more leash to work with.** Think positive thoughts and stretch past your comfort zone. Stop believing that your power to change your life is limited.

**9. Wag your tale!** The more you feel happiness and appreciation for what you have, the easier it will be to achieve your goal. Look at all that's working in your life already.

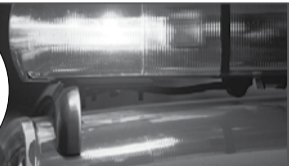
**10. Keep your nose wet.** Stay healthy. You'll need to feel good

and have stamina if you want to reach your goals. Eat well, exercise, and get your rest. Even take a nap.

Peggy has a final thought for us. **Lap us your success.** Get excited and celebrate your successes! If you do, it will lead to more successes! A dog can be deliriously happy over a bowl of water, and he'll lap it up eagerly!

Check out Peggy and her dog Pablo on YouTube for some fun. Oh, and hang on to that bone with much relish and **WOOF to your SUCCESS!** ★

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# COMICS & PUZZLES

## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

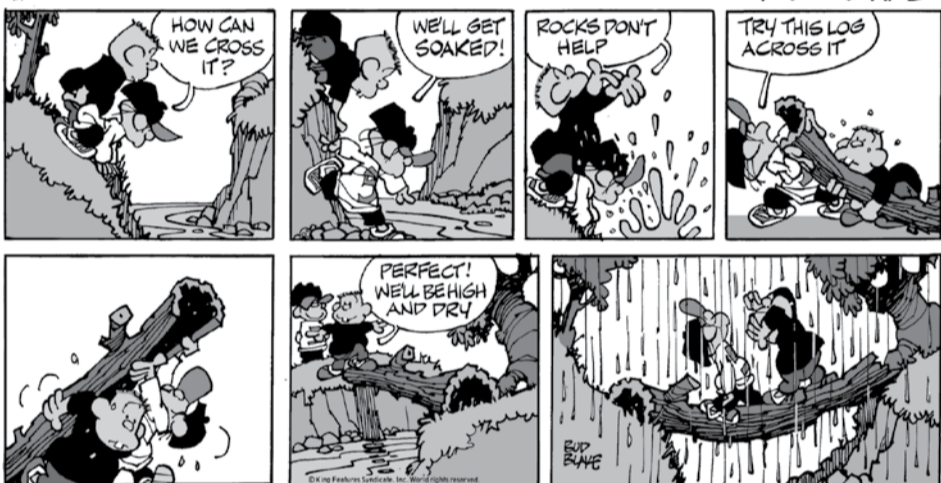
## HOCUS-FOCUS



BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

## TIGER



by Bud Blake

## GRIN & BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

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- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Soothing concoction
  - \*The Magic School ride
  - Mama's husband
  - Dwarf buffalo
  - Moneyed one
  - \*"M\*A\*S\*H" extra
  - Soon, to Shakespeare
  - Sheltered, nautically
  - \*Abacus user, e.g.
  - \*School jacket-wearer
  - TV classic "Happy ..."
  - What hoarders do
  - Speech-preventing measure
  - \*Pencil end
  - Deep regret
  - Indian restaurant staple
  - What cobblers often do
  - Mother Earth, to Ancient Greeks
  - Embedded design
  - \_\_\_ Khan
  - Contending
  - \*Don't forget to cross them
  - Plural of flora
  - Rolodex abbr.
  - Sultry or carnal
  - \*Rydell High School movie
  - Defensive one on the gridiron
  - Oodles
  - \*Some PTA members?
  - \*It involves elements
  - Cuban dance
  - Burkina Faso neighbor
  - Opera solo
  - Boot-shaped European country
  - Oil org.
  - Review a service
  - Say "No!"
  - Animal's nose
  - Perceives with an eye
- DOWN**
- Jezebel's idol
  - Beheaded Boleyn
  - Plunder
  - Certain rays
  - Plural of #1 Across
  - Part of an eye, pl.
  - Witnessed
  - \*Field of education
  - \_\_\_ Walker, American Girl doll
  - \*Inspiration for circular charts, pl.
  - Acronym, abbr.
  - Zimbabwe's capital
  - Address to a woman
  - Nail salon file
  - Toothpaste type
  - \*Marks in English
  - Hindu queen
  - "Hannah and Her Sisters" director
  - End of line
  - Yogurt-based dip
  - \*Opposite side over hypotenuse, pl.
  - Bald symbol
  - \*\_\_\_ monitor
  - Bigheadedness
  - \*All-school get-together
  - Giuseppe \_\_\_ of opera

**CROSSWORD**

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# Bipartisan Effort by California Congress Members Drives Modern Multi-Modal Transportation Project Forward

By Derek Minnema, Connector JPA Executive Director

While Congressional bi-partisanship is an endangered species these days, three members of Congress from California are demonstrating how diverse political perspectives can unite to support a road project that will literally save lives and greatly alleviate traffic congestion in the state's capital city. Democratic Representatives Ami Bera and Doris Matsui, along with Republican Kevin Kiley, are collectively pushing for federal funding to support the Capital Southeast

Connector project. This multi-modal transportation project represents a new way of thinking about transportation. Recently, the United States Department of Transportation allocated \$25 million to the Capital SouthEast Connector project. This funding will play a pivotal role in transforming a segment of Grant Line Road into a 4-lane expressway in Rancho Cordova, addressing longstanding safety concerns and improving traffic conditions on this route traveled heavily by commuters and commercial vehicles. Bipartisan collaboration enhances public trust and

confidence in the project, highlighting it as a community-centric initiative rather than a politically motivated endeavor. This approach sets a positive precedent for future infrastructure projects, emphasizing the importance of cooperative governance in long-term strategic planning. By working together, these three representatives have created a model for effective governance that might inspire similar collaborations on other critical issues. The next step to fully fund the Connector improvements in Rancho Cordova will be to secure matching funds from the State of California. Federal support

creates the opportunity to leverage the funding for more dollars by the State, potentially amounting to over \$50 million in federal and state funds to greatly improve traffic flows and safety throughout the entire Sacramento region. "This project is really a testament to what is possible when everyone in our region is working together," Congressman Kevin Kiley said recently. "When you think of the political divisions that exist in this country, one of the ways we can overcome them is through local regional projects that affect people's lives in a tangible way." The Capital Southeast

Connector project aims to improve access and connectivity for all users and modes of transportation. It includes an all-weather bike and pedestrian trail connecting communities, a wildlife crossing, roundabouts and other improvements to dangerous intersections, and generally modernizes an old and dilapidated road. The project has already received 50-year environmental permits approved by federal resource agencies. The goal is to create a comprehensive transportation network in California's capital, including non-motorized transportation options that encourage eco-friendly

commuting, reduce traffic congestion, and promote healthier lifestyles. More importantly, the modernized roadway will eliminate dangers that have already led to deaths. The Capital Southeast Connector project is more than just a roadway; it is a testament to the power of collective thinking to meet shared community needs and promote smart regional development. To learn more about the work underway visit [www.ConnectorJPA.com](http://www.ConnectorJPA.com) or visit our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/@southeastconnectorexpressway](https://youtube.com/@southeastconnectorexpressway) ★

## What Everybody Ought to Know... About Transportation and Traffic in Sacramento County

### Why Are We Publishing This Information

The Capital SouthEast Connector is the largest and most significant road project in Sacramento and El Dorado Counties, but its value to the region is often unknown to residents. The Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority (the agency responsible for designing and building the expressway) hopes to change that through a series of ads appearing over the next several weeks. The ads will explore the Connector's history and future, its financing, its challenges, and its successes. Please send your comments about these ads, or any questions you might have, to [ConnectorSupport@SacCounty.gov](mailto:ConnectorSupport@SacCounty.gov). For more information or to sign up for our newsletter, visit our website at [ConnectorJPA.com](http://ConnectorJPA.com) or go to our YouTube channel [@southeastconnectorexpressway](https://youtube.com/@southeastconnectorexpressway)

**Q** What is the Capital SouthEast Connector Expressway?

**A** The planned Connector is a four-lane expressway that will link Interstate 5 and Highway 99 near Elk Grove to Highway 50 in El Dorado County, by-passing downtown Sacramento and alleviating traffic congestion on existing highways, especially Highway 50. The expressway will greatly lessen traffic congestion during commute hours and re-route many commercial trucks away from the metropolitan area. The Connector will also link communities along the route with a parallel 30-mile regional bike and pedestrian trail that connects residents to recreational, entertainment and retail facilities, and to each other.

The route follows Grant Line Road and White Rock Road south of Highway 50 from El Dorado County to Kammerer Road west of Highway 99 in Elk Grove. The new roadway will eliminate dangerous curves and properly drain areas prone to frequent flooding. Existing roads along the Connector's path are poorly designed with sharp curves and narrow or no shoulders. During flood or fire emergencies the roads are frequently closed or greatly congested,

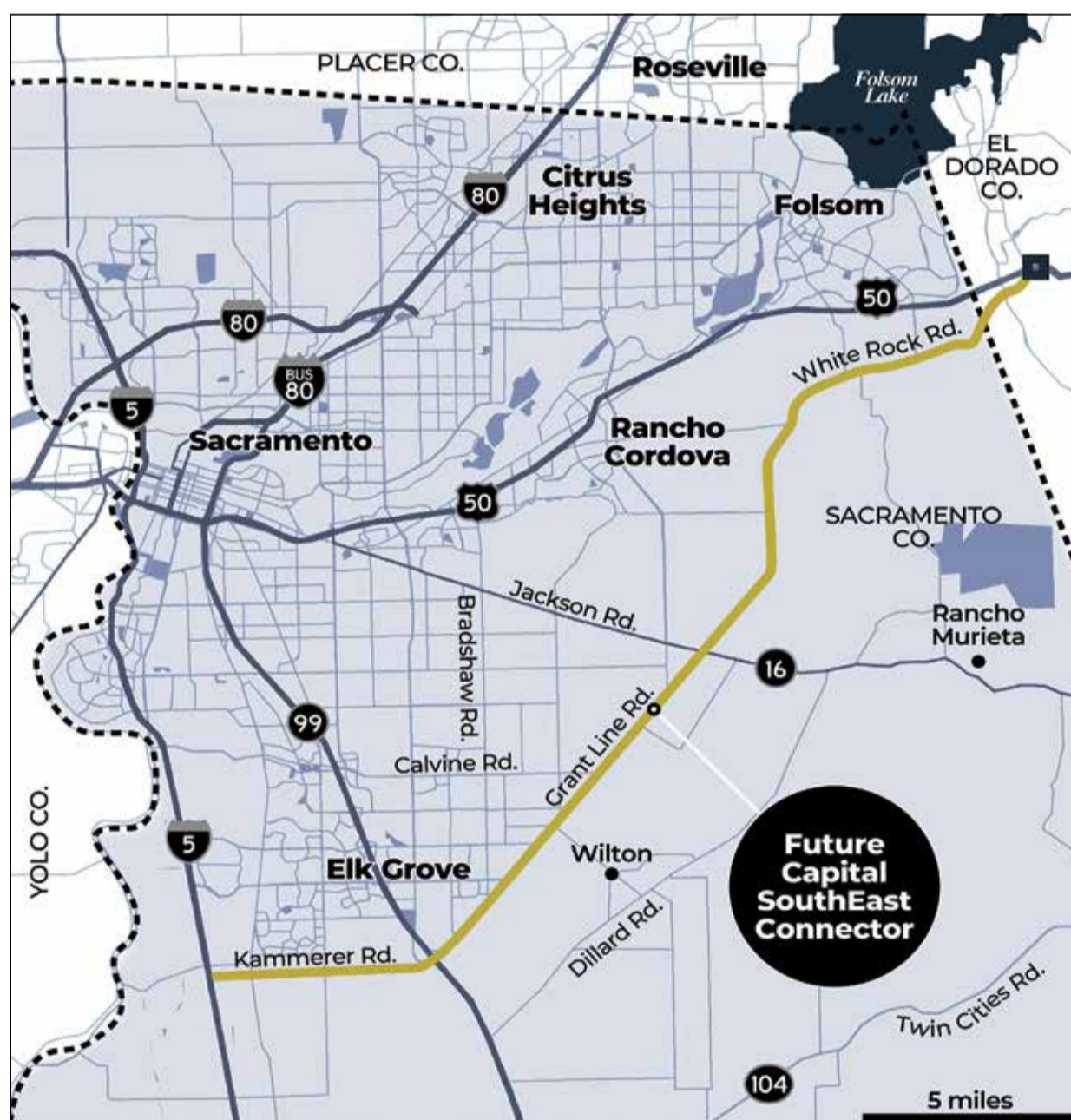
hindering access for first responders and evacuation efforts.

**Q** What has been done to date, and what remains?

**A** At this point, about 11 miles of the Connector have been completed, including two highway interchanges and a railroad grade separation, at a cost of approximately \$200 million. Highway projects in California require extensive environmental approvals, permits, and mitigation, and often face legal challenges, adding to the difficulties of completing construction. It is estimated that the entire expressway will be completed by 2035 with a total cost of \$500 million.

**Q** When was the Capital SouthEast Connector first envisioned?

**A** Back in 1975, the state studied traffic in the Sacramento region and recommended a beltway around the city of Sacramento due to the area's rapid growth and inadequate transportation corridors. The southern section of that beltway is what is now becoming the Capital SouthEast Connector. At that time, Sacramento County had about 697,000



Map showing the location of the future Capital SouthEast Connector

residents and only four cities. Since then, three more cities have formed while the county's population more than doubled along with associated traffic headaches.

**Q** When did taxpayers first get asked to fund the project?

**A** In 2004, residents voted overwhelmingly to tax themselves to build the SouthEast Connector Expressway and other transportation projects. Since then, only approximately \$60 million of \$1.62 billion generated by those taxes have been allocated to the Connector project.

Meanwhile, residential and commercial development along the route continued to expand much faster than road construction needed to service the area. Thousands of new homes have been built along the route, and at least 32,600 more have been approved for construction in the near future.

**Q** When was the Capital Southeast Connector Joint Powers Authority formed and what does it do?

**A** The Capital Southeast Connector Joint Powers Authority was formally established in 2006 to design and construct the expressway after voters approved its construction in 2004. Elected officials from Sacramento and El Dorado Counties and the cities of Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, and Folsom (the jurisdictions directly affected by the Connector project) comprise the JPA's board of directors. The JPA's Fiscal Year 2025 budget is approximately \$7 million, which largely funds engineering design services and right-of-way acquisitions. Construction funding comes from state and federal transportation resources.

**Q** How has the affected community been involved in the project's planning?

**A** From its inception, project planning has emphasized public input and participation to ensure that the completed expressway reflects the needs and desires of the communities it serves. Over the years, countless community outreach meetings, agricultural focus groups, and presentations to civic groups and the Sac-

ramento County Community Planning Advisory Councils have occurred. The JPA board of directors meets quarterly, and the meetings are open to the public. The endeavor has received widespread support from government officials and residents seeking to alleviate traffic problems and improve safety along the route.

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