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# East Sacramento News

VOL 33 • ISSUE 18 *Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years* SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

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## 'Destination Aviation' Inspires Generations



U.S. Air Force ROTC was one of the many hands-on STEM exhibits at the event.

**Story by Ornella Rossi,  
photos by David Blakeney**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - A day filled with fun, science, hot dogs and aviation excitement captivated more than 700 attendees at the California Capital Airshow's "Destination Aviation" STEM event on Sept. 21 at Mather Airport, where local youth explored career opportunities in aviation and other STEM

fields. The event, held in partnership with Women in Aviation International, had a series of engaging activities and discussions. "We have a lot of different programs that we weren't able to do this summer, so we decided to combine some of those topics and career opportunities into something called Destination Aviation," said California Capital Airshow Executive Director Darcy Brewer. "We thought, let's

invite a couple hundred kids and show them what's possible. What we found in our programing, which we have been doing for about 14 years now, is that it's about the people you meet and you talk to that inspire you and show you how to find your way." California Capital Airshow aims to provide education, exposure and access through engaging, year-round events focused on STEM, aviation  
*Continued on Page 3*



**A New  
Route for  
Medical  
Response  
in County**  
**Sacramento County  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County Emergency Medical Services Agency is proud to announce the forthcoming launch of the Triage to Alternate Destination (TAD) program, following approval from the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) on Aug. 16. This innovative program is set to transform local emergency medical services by improving patient care, optimizing resource use and easing the burden on emergency rooms. "Our goal is to get the patient to the right place for their medical needs the first time," said Sacramento County EMS Agency Medical Director Dr. Gregory Kann. Starting Jan. 1, 2025, the TAD program will direct patients in need of behavioral health services, sobering services and mental health support to specialized facilities rather than conventional emergency departments. This will ensure that they receive timely and appropriate care tailored to their specific needs. A robust training program scheduled to commence in mid-November will help prepare local EMS providers for the successful implementation of the TAD program. Participating agencies include Folsom City Fire Department, Sacramento City Fire Department, Cosumnes CSD Fire Department, Alpha One Ambulance Medical Services, Medic Ambulance Service and potentially Sacramento Metro Fire Department. Three approved alternate care locations will serve as destinations for redirected patients including Sacramento County Behavioral Health Treatment Center (behavioral health services), Sierra Vista Hospital  
*Continued on Page 6*

## Bazaar Celebrates Food and Community



The annual Food and Cultural Bazaar at the Buddhist Church brought thousands of guests.

**Story and photos  
by Kristina Rogers**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Every August, Sacramentans look forward to the annual Japanese Food and Cultural Bazaar. And once again, it did not disappoint. Crowds of families and friends trekked their way

to the Buddhist Church on 2401 Riverside Blvd. and into the church's expansive patio. They quickly found themselves in a line for delicious Japanese food favorites. Guests could choose from dishes such as chicken teriyaki, pork curry and ramen. Other food lines inside the church provided more offerings such as poke, hot mochi, bean buns, California rolls and udon noodles. Even as the daytime temperature reached 95 degrees, the crowds didn't waver. The event's popularity is no surprise to Erin Komatsubada, who serves as chairman for the Bazaar. Komatsubada has been volunteering at the Bazaar

since she was a child. A fourth-generation temple member, Komatsubada's great-grandfather was a founding member of the Buddhist Church, which opened in December 1899. It is considered one of the oldest Buddhist Temples in the United States. Komatsubada explained  
*Continued on Page 2*

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## A group of performers in purple and black uniforms are playing large taiko drums on a stage under a white tent. A banner in the background reads "WELCOME to Buddha Food &amp; Culture Festival". The performers are in various dynamic poses, some with arms raised. The stage is decorated with colorful lanterns. In the foreground, there are large black speakers and some equipment.

*Continued from Page 1*  
the Bazaar's origins came at the end of World War II, when the interned Japanese Americans were released from the American internment camps and came home. They wanted to reconnect with each other so the community decided to host a Japanese cultural bazaar. That was 1946, making this the event's 78th year.

The Bazaar, along with other yearly events, helps fund the church's site expenses, programs and charitable work. The Buddhist Church provides a plethora of weekly programs for various ages, including basketball programs, Japanese language classes, workshops and retreats. They also host Girl and Boy Scout meetings and activities. In fact, the Boy Scouts volunteers were working hard at the Bazaar, helping to serve food, assist guests and clean up tables.

participates in citywide events as well. Members flew the Buddhist Church banner during Sacramento Pride and the Martin Luther King Jr. March for the Dream parade. The Buddhist Church also supports nonprofits such as My Sisters House, which helps families affected by domestic violence.

Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, established more than 800 years ago, guides the church's philanthropic work. Like other religions, Buddhism has different factions of its faith. Jodo Shinshu follows a path of self-reflection and gratitude through wisdom and compassion. Church members practice living in the moment while focusing on gratefulness and recognizing we are all connected. The word Buddha means, "One who is awake."

Besides local efforts, the church collaborates with other Buddhist temples throughout the world. Komatsubada gave a



few examples: “When the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission burned down during the Maui fires, they lost everything; it was devastating. Our church worked hard. We set up a donation fund and passed around the plate on Sundays. When Rev. Hironaka visited Sacramento from Hawaii, the church presented him with a sizable check to help rebuild. He was very grateful.”

for Japanese tsunami victims and sent donations to war victims in Ukraine. All this good work requires a lot of fundraising. The Buddhist Church has a few main fundraisers annually: The Cherry Blossom Festival called Sakura Maturi, the Cultural Bazaar, a golf tournament and the Bon Odori Festival, also known as Obon.

“Obon is similar to Latin America’s Day of the Dead. It sounds dark, but it’s a happy occasion

and a time to show respect for loved ones who have passed.” Komatsubada explained.

Also known as the Feast of the Dead, Obon has been celebrated since the 7th century. The souls of Japanese ancestors are believed to return home for three days. Families lay out fruits, vegetables and rice wine for the spirits. People respectfully sweep and clean gravesites. The living savor Japanese food, drink and music while connecting with those who have passed on.

As the 78th annual Food and Cultural Bazaar wound down, Taiko drum players

entertained the crowd while adults gambled at the Super Wheel and children won prizes at the ping pong toss. Everyone was in good spirits, using their paper fans to remain cool under the colorful tent as evening temperatures dropped to around 80 degrees. The East Wind Band played rhythm and blues tunes until closing.

For Erin Komatsubara, it was another successful event. Right after the event ended, she began working on next year's. ★

To learn more about the  
Buddhist church on 2401  
Riverside Blvd., go to  
[www.buddhistchurch.org](http://www.buddhistchurch.org).

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# Sacramento County Celebrates Food Safety Excellence



District 1 Supervisor Phil Serna, right, presents Yume Gelato with recognition. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

### Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - To honor the remarkable food safety efforts of local restaurants and food facilities that protect the public from foodborne illnesses, and to celebrate National Food Safety Month, the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department recognized Sacramento County operators during the Board of Supervisors meeting on Sept. 10.

The recipients of the 19th Annual Environmental Management Food Safety Award of Excellence all achieved three consecutive health inspections without major violations.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimate that 48 million people get sick, 128,000 people are hospitalized, and 3,000 people die from foodborne diseases in the U.S. each year.

With the help of Environmental Management Department's (EMD) food protection program and free food safety classes, Sacramento County food facility operators are trained that most foodborne illnesses are preventable, by teaching the

principles of food safety and focusing on preventing food contamination and learning facility sanitation, time/temperature control and personal hygiene.

Of those 673 food facilities recognized, one establishment from each of the five Sacramento County supervisorial districts was chosen to receive their award from their respective county supervisor.

**Awards Of Excellence District Representative Honorees**

District 1 – Supervisor Phil Serna: Yume Gelato, located at 5921 Folsom Blvd in Sacramento

District 2 – Supervisor Patrick Kennedy: Samosa Garden, located at 6608 Florin Road in Sacramento

District 3 – Supervisor Rich Desmond: Del's Pizza, located at 11711 Fair Oaks Blvd in Fair Oaks

District 4 – Supervisor Sue Frost: Mas Taco Bar, located at 450 Palladio Parkway in Folsom

District 5 – Supervisor Pat Hume: Full Moon Palace, located at 1000 C Street #50 in Galt. ★



An interactive "Mad Science" show took place at the event.

## 'Destination Aviation' Inspires Next Generation

*Continued from Page 1*

and aerospace, all designed to empower the region's future workforce, as stated on its website at [californiacapitalairshow.com](http://californiacapitalairshow.com).

The day featured a panel discussion with some of the nation's leading professionals in the aviation and aerospace sectors. Panelists included Lt. Col. Merryl Tengesdal, the first Black female U-2 Dragon Lady pilot in the U.S. Air Force; Elizabeth Lewis, Ph.D., a space engineer at X-bow Systems; Manu Mann, an artificial intelligence expert at Micron; and Ryan Bankerd, who specializes in sustainable fuels at UPS.

"We have a truly incredible panel here today," said Bankerd. "One thing we all have in common is the efforts we put into doing what we love."

The event included more than a dozen hands-on STEM exhibits from organizations such as the Aerospace Museum of California, Sacramento City College and the U.S. Air Force ROTC. Youth explored various career opportunities, engaged with professionals in those fields and discovered the latest technological innovations.

"It's about getting kids involved in something fun and exciting that encourages aviation," said Anthony Elder, the co-founder of Red Tail Drone Academy and Sports, one of the exhibits at the event where youth had the opportunity to explore "drone soccer."

Attendees also enjoyed a Mad Science show and a display of various aircraft and vehicles. Winners of an essay contest also had the chance to experience an introductory flight before the main event.

"Today was so cool," said attendee Ava Chang. "I want to be an astronaut when I



Various aircraft and vehicles were on display at the event, allowing youth to get up close and personal with them.

grow up and I learned so much today."

Tengesdal highlighted the significance of representation, saying, "I think events like this are great for people that are like-minded to meet people that have been there and done that. To show kids the diverse backgrounds we bring to the table helps them see that they can do it, too."

Lewis stressed the importance of hands-on learning, stating, "Any kind of STEM event is really good, especially ones like this with hands-on activities. It gives kids a chance to discover something new and fosters a one-on-one connection."

Offering advice to aspiring young professionals, Lewis said, "Be determined; don't give up. It's hard work getting into these fields, but if you are willing to be determined and not give up, that spark of innovation and curiosity will lead you to success."

The California Capital Airshow continues to make strides in inspiring the next generation, showing that with education and exposure, the sky is truly the limit.

For more on programs and events, visit [californiacapitalairshow.com](http://californiacapitalairshow.com). ★

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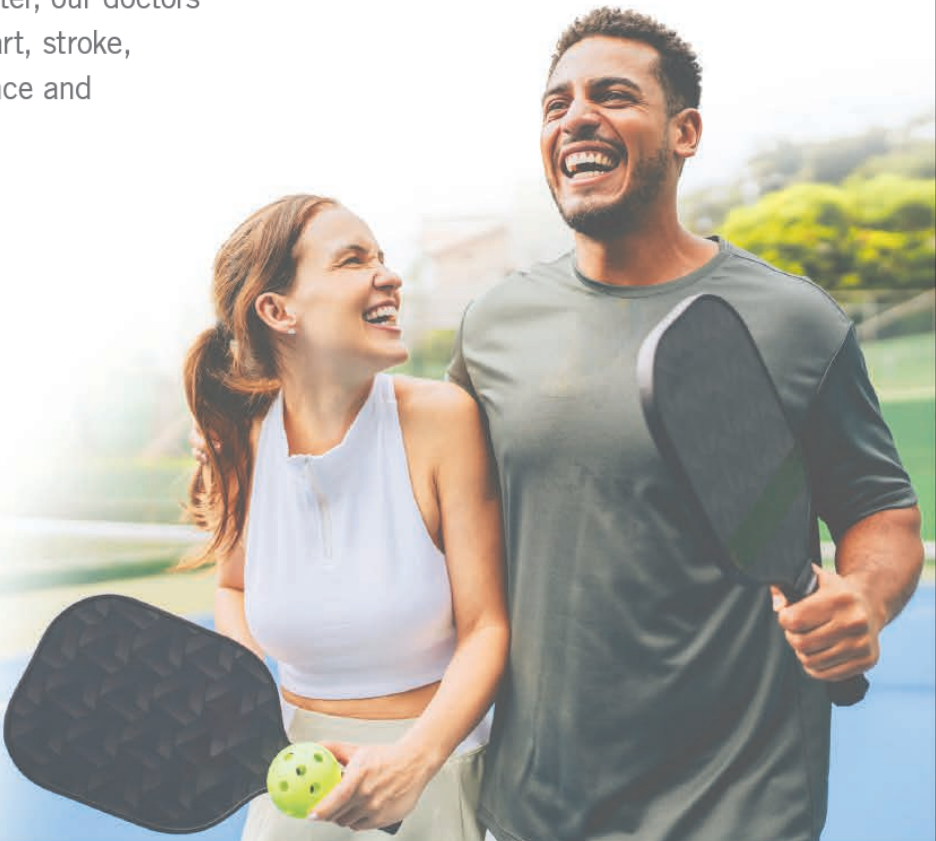
Life is full of surprises and choices. And when it comes to your health care, those choices matter. This year during Open Enrollment, choose a health plan that connects you to Dignity Health Mercy Medical Group's top doctors. You can see them online or at one of our more than 20 clinics throughout Greater Sacramento, which offer many services in one place. Even better, our doctors are backed by nationally recognized hospital programs for heart, stroke, cancer care and more. Learn about the Dignity Health difference and the plans we accept at [DignityHealth.org/CalPERSOE](http://DignityHealth.org/CalPERSOE).



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# CalPERS Generates 7.1% Average Annual Return Vs. 7.9% for Typical Portfolio

**Pacific Research Institute News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) – which adheres to a politicized Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) agenda – is generating lower returns in its investment strategies compared to a more typical investment strategy, finds a new brief released Sept. 4 by the Pacific Research Institute, a non-partisan California-based free market think tank.

The California Public Employees’ Retirement System generated a 10-year average annual return of 7.1% through June 30, 2023.

By comparison, Pacific Research Institute’s research shows that a typical diversified investment portfolio of 60 percent stock investments, 20 percent U.S. Treasury bonds and 20 percent corporate bonds would have returned 7.9% average annual returns over the same period.

“As our report shows, there are legitimate concerns that CalPERS’ political views are conflicting with its fiduciary

responsibilities. By adhering to ESG and other politicized investment strategies, CalPERS is securing lower returns while setting up financial roadblocks to future strong returns,” said Dr. Wayne Winegarden, Pacific Research Institute (PRI) senior fellow in business and economics and the brief’s author. “Ultimately, it is retirees and taxpayers who bear the risks from the underperformance we’re seeing from CalPERS’ politically driven investment strategies.”

The Department of Labor has said of private pension funds that their primary responsibility is to act “solely in the interest of participants and beneficiaries and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits and paying plan expenses.”

The California Public Employees’ Retirement System claims that its commitment to invest \$100 billion in “climate solutions” by 2030 promotes its financial responsibilities.

The numbers, however, tell a different story. As Pacific Research Institute’s research shows, California Public Employees’ Retirement System has earned sub-par returns both in the short and

long-term, raising questions that they are acting to promote political biases rather than encouraging investment opportunities that offer diversification and higher returns.

In addition to questionable investment decisions, California Public Employees’ Retirement System is also engaged in ideological battles with its shareholder activism, such as the recent push opposing ExxonMobil’s current board and chairman over a twice-defeated shareholder resolution on emissions. In effect, it was asking Exxon for a third time to act on climate change that a majority of shareholders had twice voted down.

Winegarden’s calculations, based on Pensions and Investment and other data, show that:

The California Public Employees’ Retirement System ranked 67 out of 83 major public pension funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

Comparing returns through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, California Public Employees’ Retirement System current year returns (9.3% vs. 22.6%), five-year returns (6.6% vs. 16.5%) and

ten-year returns (6.2% versus 11.3%) ranked lower than S&P 500 returns in every instance.

Its politicized investment strategy is especially troubling given the latest figures showing that California Public Employees’ Retirement System has just 72% of the funds on hand required to meet its full retiree benefit obligations as of June 30, 2024.

A previous Pacific Research Institute study by Winegarden estimated that the states entire unfunded public pension obligations were close to \$1 trillion using a more honest accounting method.

“The worse CalPERS’ performance, the larger the state’s public pension crisis will be,” Winegarden said. “With taxpayers ultimately on the hook to cover these shortfalls, retirees will have to make up the difference through an implicit tax that could run into the billions of dollars. That’s why it is so important for CalPERS to meet its most important social responsibility and maximize shareholder returns, to guarantee our promise to retirees without imposing huge costs and taxes on taxpayers.”

# Small Business Survey: It's Getting Bleaker on Main Street

**National Federation of Independent Business News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sept. 10 release of NFIB’s monthly Small Business Economic Trends report (aka the Optimism Index), the gold standard measurement of the nation’s Main Street economy, raises an important question for state and federal policymakers to consider deeply and fast: how many more consecutive months can small businesses endure being under the Index’s 50-year average? Last month was

the 32nd.

“Before allowing our small business economy to burrow any deeper into a permanent state of malaise, two things need to happen right now,” said Tim Taylor, policy director for NFIB in California. “One is Congress needs to pass the Main Street Tax Certainty Act to keep the 20% Small Business Deduction alive past its 2025 end date. A second thing that would be helpful is Governor Newsom should veto a dozen bills sent to him increasing regulations on small business, including one taking away the free speech rights

of employers to talk to their employees. The First Amendment applies to small business owners just as it applies to everyone else.”

From NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg: “The mood on Main Street worsened in August, despite last month’s gains. Historically high inflation remains the top issue for owners as sales expectations plummet and cost pressures increase. Uncertainty among small business owners continues to rise as expectations for future business conditions worsen.”

Highlights from the

Report

The frequency of reports of positive profit trends was a net negative 37% (seasonally adjusted), seven points worse than in July and the lowest since March 2010.

Twenty-four percent of owners reported inflation as their single most important problem in operating their business, down one point from July.

The net percentage of owners expecting higher real sales volumes fell nine points in August to a net negative 18% (seasonally adjusted).

A seasonally adjusted net 20% plan to raise

compensation in the next three months, up two points from July.

On Sept. 4, NFIB released an industry-specific Small Business Optimism report measuring the construction, manufacturing, retail, and services sectors. A noteworthy highlight (page 12 of the full report): Seventy percent of all small business owners reported being impacted by supply chain disruptions (significant, moderate, or mild).

NFIB’s monthly (SBET) report is the gold standard measurement of America’s small business economy. Used by the Federal



**OCTOBER 12th**  
**WINE STROLL 2024**  
Wine Tasting Fundraiser Event

The Wine Stroll is back! Come join us for an evening of wine tasting featuring local wineries all in one location under our beautiful outdoor pavilion. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres as you sample wines from several local regions.

Tickets are \$45.00 pre-sale and \$50.00 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Elevation of the Holy Cross Building Fund to help build our future house of worship.

Email [holycross.oca@gmail.com](mailto:holycross.oca@gmail.com) or contact Claudia at 916-704-0264 to purchase tickets.

A VARIETY OF RAFFLE PRIZES WILL BE AVAILABLE!

**Saturday, Oct. 12th**  
**5:00– 8:00 PM**

**Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church**

**9000 Jackson Rd.**  
**Sacramento, CA 95826**

**Tickets \$45 pre-sale**  
**\$50 at the door**

**Includes 6 tasting pours and hors d'oeuvres**



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**Sat, October 19 7:30 pm**

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*Te Deum* Jean-Baptiste Lully  
*Requiem* Gabriel Fauré  
*Romance* Camille Saint-Saëns

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Salvatore Atti, Tenor Joshua Simka, Tenor  
Chris Mackey, Bass

**INSTRUMENTALISTS**

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Beverley Wesner Hoehn, Harp  
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ABOUT TOWN

**Kennedy High 1969 Reunion Oct. 19**  
The John F. Kennedy Senior High School Class of 1969’s 55-year reunion is set for Saturday, Oct. 19 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Dante Event Center, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.  
Registration is \$75.69; after Sept. 19, \$85.69. Includes dinner, no-host cocktails. Questions? Text or call Ruth Trubschenk Lundsten, 916-718 -8826.

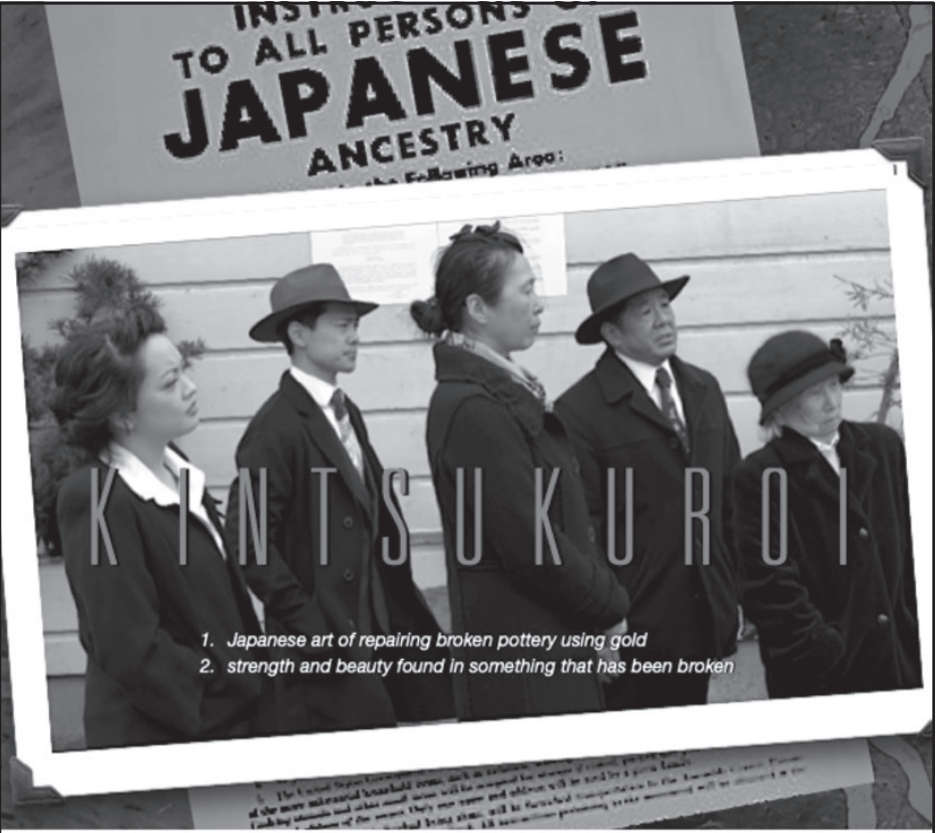
**Elks Lodge Calendar of Events Farmer’s Market, 9 am-1 pm** every Saturday.  
**Elk’s Lodge Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am** every Sunday.  
Bring your friends and family; \$15 tax included. Best deal in town. Made to order Omelets or eggs any way you want. Bacon, sausage, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, waffles, coffee large parties should call for reservations. Guests are VERY welcome!  
**Water Aerobics, Monday and Thursday 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, Multiple days each week.** Noon Monday, 3:30 p.m. Wednesday 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 elks6.net for weekly menu.  
**Sactown Swing: lessons 7 p.m.;** swing social 8 p.m.  
**Karaoke** 7 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays  
**Friday Happy Hour, Friday 4-7 pm**

**Sacramento Area Museums Offer Plenty of Experiences**  
The Greater Sacramento region is rich with museums and popular destinations that offer plenty of must-see and must-do experiences to explore. 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 include the following:  
**California State Railroad Museum & Foundation** – Always a 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.  
Through the end of September, week-end 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).  
**Sacramento History Museum** – Through Jan. 7, 2025., 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.SacHistoryMuseum.org](http://www.SacHistoryMuseum.org).  
For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, visit [SacMuseums.org](http://SacMuseums.org).

**Elks 6 Volunteer Opportunities**  
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Doors open at noon for check in. Q&A with cast and crew follows the movie.

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BUDDHIST CHURCH OF SACRAMENTO

**Kings Korner**  
By V.G. Harris



For the true basketball fan this time of year is challenging. There are only so many reruns or NBA classics you can watch, and other sports can be a sober replacement if you’re anticipating the upcoming Kings season.  
With the acquisition of DeMar DeRozan, many fans are already drawing comparisons of this year’s team from those of the past.  
The 2001/2002 Sacramento Kings will never be forgotten, and many believe it was the best overall in Sacramento Kings history.  
Names like Mike Bibby, Chris Webber and Vlade Divac come to mind and were the cornerstone players from a team that won a franchise record 61 games. Great players for sure, but how do the big three from that storied team compare with those from our current roster. Let’s see if the stats can shed some light.  
In the post, Vlade Divac, albeit a shade past his prime at age 32, turned in 30 minutes per game, scored 11.1 points, grabbed 8.3 rebounds and added 2.9 assists.  
Our current big man is none other than Domantas Sabonis, in his prime at age 28. Domantas was on the hardwood for an average of 35 minutes per game, scored 19.4 points, led the NBA in rebounding with 13.7 boards per game, and added a team high 8.2 assists. All this is in addition to leading the league in double-double and triple-doubles for the season.  
No comparison here. Sabonis wins in a landslide.  
Chris Webber becomes the most difficult matchup for the current Kings as he represents the missing piece that the current team has been looking for, a true power forward.  
Chris’ stats are largely why the 2001/2002 team garnished 61 wins.  
Chris was on the court each game for just over 38 minutes, scored 24.5 points, secured 10.1 rebounds, and added 4.8 assists. Seasons like this and gaudy stats like these would go on to put Chris Webber in the NBA hall of fame.  
Without a true power forward, the current team would have to pose Keegan Murray as the comparison player.  
In his second season Keegan logged just under 34 minutes per game. He averaged 15.2 points per game, 5.5 rebounds and 1.7 assists.  
No contest here, Chris Webber wins going away.  
So, let’s examine the point guards. From the past the 2001/2002 team was led by fan favorite Mike Bibby.  
Mike turned in 33 minutes per game, scored 13.7 points on average each contest, secured 2.8 rebounds, and added five assists.  
The current Sacramento Kings are led by De’Aaron Fox. Last season De’Aaron led the team in scoring with 26.6 points per game, pulled down a career high 4.6 rebounds, and dished out 5.6 assists per contest.  
Not even close, and as much as I loved Mike Bibby, De’Aaron wins this comparison hands down.  
It can be argued that the 2001/2002 team had one of the most potent benches of all-time, and few would argue that Bobby Jackson, Doug Christie and Scot Pollard represented a bench any coach would be proud of.  
Their combined bench stats were 29.5 point per game, 14.8 rebounds, and 6.9 assists.  
The current team would counter with Malik Monk, Trey Lyles, and Davion Mitchell.  
The 2023/2024 team produced 27.9 points per game, 8.6 rebounds, and 8.2 assists per contest.  
The edge goes to the 2001/2002 Kings team, but the stats were closer than I expected.  
Last season Kevin Huerter was a starter, but with the addition of De’Mar De’Rozan, it is likely that Kevin will be relegated to the bench where I expect to see him add some scoring power that will undoubtedly strengthen the bench overall.  
I hope you enjoyed this walk down memory lane and comparing stats.  
As much as I thoroughly enjoyed the team from yesteryear, I am excited beyond measure for what the Kings are about to present this season. Just a few short weeks from pre-season games and then the real fun begins.  
As with every season, health will be a key component, but as you consider what the 2001/2002 team did in winning 61 games, we should all be imagining what the win total will look like this year!  
All the best Kings fans!  
*Your thoughts are always welcome at [vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com](mailto:vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com).* ★

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# New Home Sales Rebound in August

North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - New home sales in the greater Sacramento area rebounded sharply in August to the second-highest total in 20 years after a July lull likely caused in part by the historic heat wave that month, the North State Building Industry Association reported Sept. 11.

Building Industry Association (BIA) members reported selling 605 homes during the month in the region. That was up 40% from the 433 sales reported in July and 6% higher than the unusually high 573 homes sold



New homes continue to provide the widest selection along with the latest features, said Tim Murphy of the North State Building Industry Association. Image by Paul Brennan/Pixabay

in August 2023. The average number of sales for the month regionwide is just 406. This year's monthly sales were the most during an August since 633 sold during the pandemic year of 2020 and were the second highest since 874 were sold in 2004 during the height of the turn-of-the-century housing boom.

North State President and CEO Tim Murphy said the rebound in sales was due to the continued demand for new homes, the continued scarcity of

resale homes and the fact that mortgage interest rates have been trending lower in anticipation that the Federal Reserve would begin cutting interest rates.

"While the number of resale homes on the local market is increasing, it's still well below normal levels, meaning that new homes continue to provide the widest selection along with the latest features," Murphy said. "With 180 new home communities in the region, there's a new home that meets virtually

every need."

Sacramento County again saw the most sales (372) followed by Placer County with 151.

Sales in Roseville rebounded nicely to 114 from just 62 the previous month to regain the lead. Rancho Cordova was just behind at 112, followed by Elk Grove (77), Sacramento (74) and Folsom (56).

Statistics include sales by members in Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. ★

# A New Route for Medical Response in County

Continued from Page 1

(mental health services) and Wellspace (sobering center and addiction services).

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The TAD program represents Sacramento County's commitment to advancing emergency medical services and ensuring every patient receives optimal care in the most suitable setting.

Learn more by visiting <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/Pages/PUB-Home.aspx>. ★

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# What to Know About Valley Fever

## A Soil Fungus That Can Kill is on The Rise in California



Valley fever cases are on the rise in California, especially in Kern County. Several infections were traced to an outdoor music festival there. Photo by Julie Leopo for CalMatters

By Ana B. Ibarra  
CALMatters.org

It’s shaping up to be a bad year — possibly the worst yet — when it comes to Valley fever, a fungal disease marked by cough and fevers. More than 5,300 cases have been reported in California through June, that’s 63% more infections than the same period last year.

Valley fever is caused when people inhale microscopic spores of a fungus found in soil. This fungus typically affects the lungs. Many cases are mild and resolve on their own, but the infections, which are not contagious, can become serious enough to require hospitalization. About 80 Californians die every year from it. Moderate cases may last months and require antifungal medication.

Earlier this week the California Department of Public Health announced that at least a handful of people became sick with Valley fever after traveling to Kern County for an outdoor music festival at Buena Vista Lake in May. Three attendees were hospitalized, the department said. Health officials are encouraging people who attended the Lightning in a Bottle festival to contact their medical provider if they have been feeling sick and not improving.

Historically, the majority of

Valley fever cases have been reported in Kern County, but a significant number have also been identified in Los Angeles, Fresno and in Central Coast counties.

As cases rise across the state, here are four things to know about Valley fever.

### Valley fever fungus can travel long distances

A fungus known as *Coccidioides* is responsible for Valley fever. Fungus spores can be rustled from the soil and into the air by activities such as farming and construction, but winds also stir them. In rare cases, infection can spread from the lungs to other parts of the body, including the heart and brain.

Valley fever is most common in the dry, hot southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico. In California, the majority of cases have been concentrated in the San Joaquin Valley — in fact, the region is the disease’s namesake. However, cases have been reported throughout the state.

The fungus can travel quite far in the air. “So even if you don’t live in the region, you still might be exposed,” said Katrina Hoyer, an immunologist and professor at UC Merced.

Avoiding dust is the best protection, said Kimberly Hernandez, an epidemiologist and division director of health

services with the Kern County Public Health Department. That means avoiding going outside on especially windy days, if possible. People who have to be outdoors on a dusty day could benefit from wearing an N95 facemask.

### Valley fever cases in California tripled over the last 10 years

Just over 2,300 people were diagnosed with Valley fever in 2014, according to the state’s data. By 2023, annual cases had more than tripled to more than 9,000. And in just the first six months of this year, 5,370 people were reported to have contracted Valley fever. About a third of this year’s cases have been reported in Kern County.

This growing number of reported infections could be attributed to a few different factors, experts say.

“There’s a lot more construction happening up and down the San Joaquin Valley, as we continue to grow in this region. More roads, more solar panels, more homes, all of that is disturbing the soil,” Hoyer said.

Also, more providers and patients are becoming aware of the disease and testing for it.

“We are hopeful in Kern County, given our history of having lots of Valley fever, that our health care providers are really good at looking for it,” Hernandez said. “That’s sort of

the bright spot, even though we do have a lot of cases. We want people with Valley fever to get diagnosed, because if they need medication, we want them to be on that medication and to be monitored by their healthcare provider.”

### Symptoms may resemble COVID-19

Some people may never develop symptoms, but those who do may experience a cough, fever, chest pain, headaches and fatigue. A rash and night sweats also may develop.

Valley fever symptoms typically show up one to three weeks after exposure and may last for a month or more.

Because it shares many of the same signs as COVID-19, health officials recommend that people first test for COVID-19. If COVID is ruled out, a blood test can check for antibodies to the fungus that causes Valley fever. Unlike COVID-19, Valley fever is not contagious.

In Kern County, the disease has hit close to home for public officials. Last week, the county’s own public health director, Brynn Carrigan, shared her own struggles with Valley fever. The Bakersfield Californian reported that Carrigan’s case developed into meningitis, a swelling of the tissue surrounding the spinal cord and brain, that can be fatal if left untreated.

“I knew I was sick, but I was shocked to hear how sick I really was,” Carrigan told the newspaper.

### Climate change plays a role

Research has shown that cases of Valley fever tend to go up during dry seasons following a rainy period. “They call this the grow-and-blow hypothesis,” Hernandez said. “As a fungus, it likes moisture, and when it’s dark and it’s moist, that’s when it grows.”

“And then when we get the next summer months, when it’s dry, there is more Valley fever fungus that can go into the air.”

Hernandez said *Coccidioides* is a hardy fungus that can survive even in severe droughts.

Some research has linked the increasing number of cases to the growing incidence of dust storms in the southwest. As the Earth warms, the region is becoming drier and that means more dust storms blowing fungal spores into the air.

Ana B. Ibarra covers health care for CalMatters. Her reporting largely focuses on issues around access to care and affordability. She played a leading role in CalMatters’ coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic. She was part of a CalMatters team whose pandemic coverage was recognized by the California News Publishers Association in 2021. ★

## California Aims to Improve Ability to Measure How Much Water Is Flowing Throughout the State

### California Department of Water Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Aug. 15, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced a new partnership opportunity to support the state’s ability to measure stream and river flows through the California Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP) as climate extremes continue to impact the state’s water supply.

As part of the approximately \$7 million program, the Department of Water Resources is seeking to partner with public agencies to install, upgrade and/or reactivate existing stream gage stations. This effort will expand California’s ability to access critical data

that can inform important water management decisions during both flood and drought conditions.

“California can’t manage what we don’t measure. Expanding our network of gages in rivers and streams helps us all make better decisions about managing our precious water supply while protecting vulnerable communities from flooding and drought,” said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth.

“It also benefits our natural environment, improving our understanding of the needs of salmon and other native fish especially during drought conditions.”

A stream gage is a set of instruments installed along a river or stream that measures, records,

and transmits data on flow, water temperature, and dissolved oxygen levels. Water agencies and the public rely on the essential information these gages provide for multiple purposes including:

Planning, forecasting, and warning about floods and drought conditions

Managing and informing reservoir operations

Monitoring environmental conditions to protect aquatic habitats

Planning for safe and enjoyable recreational activities

Assessing groundwater and surface water interaction

Monitoring stream flow impacts due to long-term changes in weather patterns

While there are approximately 1,000 active stream

gages across the state sharing information publicly, many watersheds lack vital information on their surface water resources. Users of this data include emergency responders, water managers, environmental and transportation agencies, universities, utilities, recreators, researchers, and Tribes.

“Filling gaps in our stream gage network is essential for protecting life and property from flooding, improving water supply forecasting now and into the future amidst an ever-changing climate, and enhancing recreational opportunities like rafting and fishing,” said Teresa Connor, the California Stream Gage Improvement program manager with the Department of Water Resources.

The Department of Water Resources is now accepting interest forms, which will be reviewed and evaluated monthly to identify eligible projects through Dec. 31. The funding will allow approved entities to purchase and install stream gage equipment as well as operate and maintain stations through June 30, 2027. Local entities will need to operate and maintain the gage and can elect to perform the operations either with staff or hire an experienced consultant to perform the installation and operations of the gage if the operation is consistent with industry standards. Real-time stream data transmitted from these gages will then be publicly shared on the California Data Exchange Center website at [https://](https://cdec.water.ca.gov)

[cdec.water.ca.gov](https://cdec.water.ca.gov).

Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Additional information on eligible agencies, how to apply, and application deadlines can be found in the program guidelines.

This work is funded by the Budget Act of 2023 and is part of a larger effort authorized by Senate Bill 19 to address gaging information gaps in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the California Department of Conservation.

For more information about the program and how to apply for technical assistance, visit the California Stream Gage Improvement Program webpage. ★



# Don't Try This Verse at Home

During the two years I was stationed in Izmir, Turkey, I made several visits to the nearby ancient ruins in the seaport of Ephesus. In the Christian world, this city is famous for the letter the Apostle Paul wrote to the fledgling church.

However, in all the years I've preached from this letter, I can tell you that there are no ruins more disastrous than when husbands misuse the words Paul wrote in the fifth chapter of that letter we call the book of Ephesians.

In fact, I suspect that there is no verse in the entire Bible that has given marriages more trouble than Ephesians 5:22. Spoken by a seemingly clueless bachelor, Paul urged, "Wives submit yourselves to your husbands."

(Warning, husbands:



*Spiritual Care*  
**BY NORRIS BURKUS**

DO NOT try this verse at home without chaplain supervision.)

My first run-in with the mandate came in the home of a deacon who'd invited his 26-year-old pastor and wife for dinner after church.

Our deacon, Dan, was a 40ish-year-old family man with three daughters who hung on his every word. But a few hours into our meal, it was his wife, Joanne, who was making the biggest impression on us.

Joanne was an incredibly personable woman

who exuded confidence in everything she did. Nevertheless, with Dan she seemed almost subservient. She waited on him hand and foot, bringing him what he needed before he'd ask.

As Joanne served dessert, Becky dared a nervous laugh at how Joanne fawned over Dan. The deacon's wife responded to Becky's ribbing with the submission verse, telling us it was her Christian duty to serve Dan.

With lips pursed, we nodded in feigned agreement, even though our first impressions told us that the arrangement seemed more like servile compliance than a Christian marriage.

On our drive home to the parsonage, my young bride made a few declarations.

"I hope you're not expecting our marriage to be like that. I'll be your wife, but I won't be your

maid or your waitress."

Of course, this was no major development. On our wedding day, Becky veered away from traditional roles by refusing to be "given away" by her father. Instead, both our parents began the ceremony by announcing their affirmation of our marriage. After our wedding, Becky spent the next four years supporting us through my seminary education.

Now that she was ready to start her teaching career and plan our family, she wanted to be sure I knew that I was expected to do an equal share of home upkeep, diaper duty and cooking included.

Of course I wanted to keep this girl, so I always nodded in perfect agreement.

We remained with that church for 4½ years, just long enough to realize that Joanne wasn't the mousy,

subservient wife we first mistook her for. Their marriage wasn't so easily judged.

Actually, I was privileged to witness how they'd built a marriage of great love and mutual respect. I saw many moments in which Dan also submitted to Joanne's wishes and lavished her with every bit of love he could muster.

Bottom line was that their marriage worked for them and I had no call to judge that.

I met up with Dan and Joanne a few years back and I can tell you that Dan achieved a wonderful life — not by misusing the verse to domineer Joanne, but by cherishing her. Joanne achieved a wonderful marriage, not by losing who she was in Dan's shadow, but by honoring the man God made Dan to be.

Together, they found the secret that precedes the noisy verse about wives submitting. Ephesians 5:21 makes it clear that both

the husband and wife must "submit to one another."

That simply means that couples must work it out. Usually, a good marriage involves the couple taking turns in leading in their relationship. Typically, healthy couples lead together.

Izmir was a very short tour of duty, just a temporary home. Fortunately, my assignment with Becky has been a permanent one.

I don't think she'll tell you that our marriage has always been equal because I know it hasn't.

But I also know that, as we near the 45-year mark, submitting to one another continues to work for us.

*For an autographed copy of "Tell It To The Chaplain," order from my website or send a check for \$20 (per book) to 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. Email comments to comment@thechaplain.net or by text or voicemail to (843) 608-9715. See other books and past columns at thechaplain.net.* ★

# Board Revises Approved 2024-25 County Budget

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Sept. 4 to revise the Approved Budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

The \$9.2 billion Revised Recommended Budget included an increase of \$340 million in total appropriations from the \$8.8 billion Recommended Budget the Board approved in June. The increases included \$68 million in General Fund appropriations, \$272 million in other funds: \$249 million base budget changes resulting

primarily from re-budgeting of capital projects and other contractual expenditures and \$23 million in non-General Fund growth.

The following prioritized General Fund growth identified in June is funded in the Revised Recommended Budget: \$20 million General Fund contribution to the Roads Fund for roadway rehabilitation and maintenance, approximately \$300,000 for upgrades to the County's Emergency Operations Center and approximately \$17,000 to reallocate a position within Animal Care Services.

Additional recommended growth in the

Revised Recommended Budget included \$900,000 to the Sheriff's Office to fund four Deputy Sheriff positions responsible for escorting inmates and medical staff to health appointments in compliance with the Mays consent decree, \$200,000 to Probation to restore one full-time equivalent position to maintain service levels in Treatment Courts, in compliance with the Mays consent decree, \$500,000 to restore positions in Probation and the Public Defender's office to maintain service levels associated with SB 823 Juvenile Justice Realignment and \$400,000 to Human Assistance to fund the County's

required cost of the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS).

The Board of Supervisors approved the following growth during the hearings: \$62,500 to Human Assistance to fund CalFresh operations at the Florin Certified Farmers' Market.

The Board is scheduled to formally adopt the Budget Recommended for Adoption on Sept. 24.

For details, read the Budget Letter to the Board of Supervisors or view all budget documents at <https://bdm.saccounty.gov/FY2024-25BudgetInformation/Pages/default.aspx>. ★

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# Former Teacher Advocates for Using White Canes

**Kristin Thébaud  
Communications  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Ed Marin of Fair Oaks was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa (RP) 20 years ago but he didn't start using a white cane until this year.

"That's not good," Marin said. "I should have started using the cane five years ago but I didn't know it could help me navigate easier."

The 63-year-old now considers himself an advocate for the white cane, often explaining to others that the length of the cane helps people see that much farther without vision.

Marin was first diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa in his 40s when he realized he could no longer see his hands at night. As his vision slowly declined, Marin continued his teaching career until retiring a couple years ago due to more substantial vision loss. Marin then wondered what was next.

"I thought, I'm going to be one of those people who stay home and get forgotten now," Marin said.

Instead, Marin decided to walk through the doors at the nonprofit Society for the Blind in Midtown Sacramento.

"I walked over to Society for the Blind and saw people working with even less vision than me," Marin said. "I realized the world was not ending."

Marin decided to begin by volunteering with

Society for the Blind's senior program.

"I thought that since I had more vision than a lot of the folks there, I could be of help," Marin said. "I chuckle now because I learned quickly that people with no vision can often do more than people who have partial vision."

Marin also began participating in Society for the Blind's senior Coffee and Connect calls and found them to be a powerful way to meet individuals with vision loss. He enjoyed senior events out in the community and classes such as woodworking at the training center.

But Marin still refused to use a white cane.

"I couldn't see so I was walking slowly down the street like an old guy," Marin said. "Society for the Blind staff was insistent on me learning to use a cane, so a few months later, I started mobility lessons. I really freaked out putting on the learning shades. It was a picture of what my future would be like. But they walked me through it and started the process of teaching."

When Marin started using a cane, his wife would remind him to bring it everywhere. She pointed out that when Marin bumped into chairs in restaurants without a cane, no one knew why but if he had it, then the diners understood.

"The cane is good for telling people that I really can't see," Marin said. "It gives me a little room and a little grace."



**Ed Marin, who started using a white cane this year, is just as active as ever.** Photo courtesy of Kristin Thébaud Communications

Marin now has taken a variety of classes at Society for the Blind, including orientation and mobility, introduction to braille, daily living skills and assistive technology. Marin said he plans to stay with the senior program "as long as they will allow me to hang around" and he wants to learn braille. He also says getting to know the instructors has been lifechanging.

"They've taught me that the only thing I can't do now is drive," Marin said. "They've all had a big impact on me with how much they've accomplished, and continue to accomplish, on a daily basis. They give you a view into what you can do, not what you can't

do. I can just continue life as normal. Everything's maybe done a little slower but I can still do it."

This summer, Marin and his wife traveled to France and Italy with one of his sons. Marin credits the staff and students at Society for the Blind for showing him that he can still travel with vision loss.

"It's fascinating how many people at Society for the Blind have gone to Hong Kong, Ireland and other places in Europe," Marin said. "They don't have to limit their mobility in traveling. Now hanging out with them, I realize nothing is off the table, whether you're going outside the country or traveling to Tahoe, Monterey, San Francisco

or wherever."

Marin also credits his wife for helping him to stay active. The couple recently went on a six-mile hike around Lake Tahoe. Together, they used tools that Marin learned at Society for the Blind, such as holding onto a cane together through rocky areas so he would not stumble.

Marin has also learned to use public transportation around Sacramento, including Light Rail and RT, as well as Uber and Lyft, and he takes Amtrak to visit his father in Fairfield. Marin looks back on when he stopped driving and wishes he had started sooner at Society for the Blind.

"I thought I had to rely on my wife to drive me around, so I even changed teaching jobs to accommodate that," Marin said. "I didn't know all the options available. I now have no issue getting around. It's just a matter of what you're exposed to."

When they aren't traveling, Marin and his wife volunteer with Society for the Blind's Access News program that records someone reading aloud a wide variety of publications for individuals without vision. Marin makes the introduction and then his wife reads the publication.

Marin says that Access News is just one of the ways he is impressed with Society for the Blind for reaching out to individuals with vision loss, also noting that the nonprofit makes home visits and

presents at small groups in suburbs and rural areas to ensure everyone has access to the latest tools and information.

"You think that losing your vision could make you dependent and isolated," Marin said. "It's refreshing to be part of Society for the Blind, where people are living their lives, having families and traveling, never having had vision during their entire existence. To me, it's like, what did people do 70 years ago before Society for the Blind?"

Celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, Sacramento-based Society for the Blind continues to create innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential.

Since 1954, Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers to a nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of Northern California and Nevada. The nonprofit organization provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship and access to tools to maintain independence for more than 5,000 youth, working-age adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year. To learn more or donate, visit [SocietyfortheBlind.org](http://SocietyfortheBlind.org).

The Society for the Blind's address is 1238 S St., Sacramento. ★

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