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Land Park News

VOL 33 • ISSUE 18

Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

**SEE
INSIDE**

**NEW HOME
SALES REBOUND
IN AUGUST**



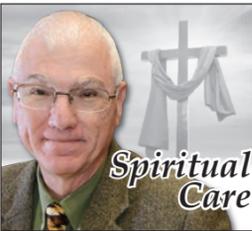
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BY V.G. HARRIS**



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**DON'T TRY THIS
VERSE AT HOME**



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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 8



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).

Continued on Page 6

'Destination Aviation' Inspires Next Generation



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

**Story by Omella 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 programming, 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

Continued on Page 2



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CalPERS Gets 7.1% Average Annual Return

**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." ★

'Destination Aviation' Inspires Next Generation

Continued from Page 1
provide education, exposure and access through engaging, year-round events focused on STEM, aviation and aerospace, all designed to empower the region's future workforce, as stated on its website at 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 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



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

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. ★

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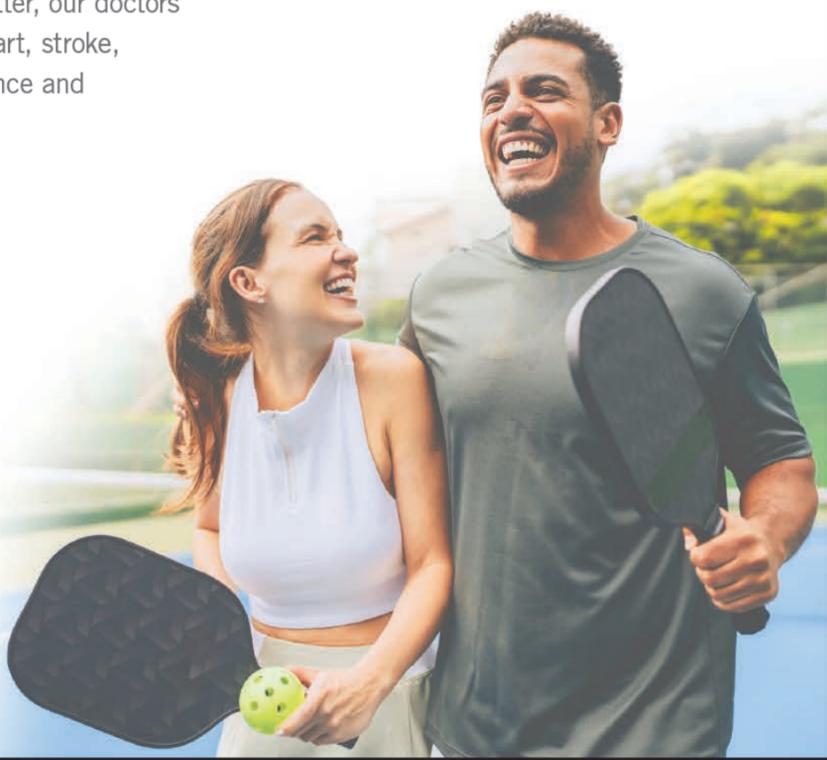
CalPERS members, choose a plan that gives you access to Dignity Health.

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.



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Sacramento County Celebrates Food Safety Excellence



District 2 Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, left, presents Samosa Garden with an award of 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. ★

Del Rio Trail Bridge Update

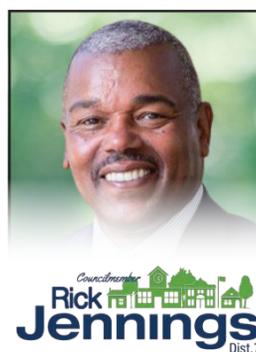
The opening of the Del Rio Trail provided our community with a Class 1 bike trail that connects to the Sacramento River, bringing much-needed alternative transportation options.

The wonderful reuse of the abandoned train tracks was a collaborative partnership that brought together community groups, alternative transportation, and bicycle advocates in support of this spectacular amenity. So many people are enjoying walking, jogging, running, and biking on the trail each and every day.

One of the major benefits of the Del Rio Trail is its connection over Riverside Boulevard and Interstate 5. This protected crossing eliminates the need to navigate along busy Sutterville Road to access the Sacramento River Bike Trail, greatly increasing ease of access and safety.

Due to the project length, the City designed the contract to open in two phases so the community can enjoy the trail while the bridge was finalizing construction. Unfortunately, the bridge over Riverside Boulevard and Interstate 5 was not able to be opened.

Many of you have



reached out to the City asking a simple question: When will the bridge open?

As has been publicly released, the City of Sacramento has rejected the bridge and is requiring the contractor to remove and replace the entire bridge expansion. This decision was not made lightly.

The community's frustration with this situation is understood and justified. We have all been waiting for this safe crossing over Riverside Boulevard and Interstate 5 for a long time. The ability to reach the river without navigating Sutterville Road and the I-5 interchange is a significant safety and access improvement. Coming up to the bridge and seeing it blocked off is a cruel reminder that the bridge is not yet open.

When building any infrastructure project, the

City provides detailed plans and specifications that its contractor is required to follow. In this case, the City's contractor failed to comply with the plans and specifications when constructing the Del Rio Trail bridge over Riverside Boulevard and Interstate 5. The deficiencies in the construction and materials were discovered through the City's standard inspection process, which functioned as intended. The City identified the problems and demanded its contractor make the repair.

While there is no immediate threat to public safety, the non-compliant work must be removed and replaced in compliance with the City's plans and specifications.

We understand the frustration and desire for greater communication and transparency, but we also need to manage legal risks in disclosing information prematurely. As soon as possible, we will share more details, including potential timelines for the bridge's replacement and eventual opening. ★

Sacramento City Councilmember Rick Jennings Represents District 7, which encompasses the Pocket and Land Park areas of Sacramento.



Wow! Single Owner, 1956 Vintage Home



SOLD!

Meticulously maintained and so much to offer. This home sits on a .28-acre lot, park like landscaping, grass front and back plus large mature evergreen trees. Stunning in-ground pool is the visual focus from the time you step into the entryway. Living room complete with fireplace, original hardwood floors, generous family room, dual-pane windows offer comfort and ease of use. Fresh paint inside and out 2024, new electrical panel 2023, New roof 2019. Welcome Home.
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Sue Olson

916-601-8834

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landparkhomes.com



SOLD

LAND PARK

Seller believes this home was built by Squeaky Williams. This Land Park Tudor features formal entry, formal living room w/ fireplace, coved ceilings, exposed wood beams & French Doors to backyard deck. Kitchen / Gathering room combination with windows overlooking backyard. Kitchen has built-in double oven, sub-zero refrigerator, dishwasher, and gas cooktop. Downstairs den and hall bath with tiled floor and shower. Laundry room with shelving, cabinets and doors to garage and backyard. Upstairs has two bedrooms and bath. Front bedroom has walk-in closet. Primary bedroom has windows overlooking the backyard, and two walk-in closets. Upstairs bath has shower, double sinks and steps down to jetted tub with grab bars. Backyard has trek type patio with trellis and a small storage shed on the side yard. Attached two car garage and basement. 1118 Vallejo Way



SOLD

LAND PARK

One of the most distinguished properties in all of Land Park! This beautiful and spacious Tudor has all the charm & artisan details of a bygone era. Located on a lg. corner lot it features an expansive front portico with two sets of French doors to living room. Spacious formal entry, magnificent living room w/cathedral ceilings, lg. brick frplce, many windows and rich in woodwork. Spacious formal dining room w/wainscoting & Dutch doors to brick patio & bkld. Beautiful kitchen w/marble counters, custom island w/sink, dish cabinet w/leaded glass doors, pantry and eating area w/bay window. Two downstairs bdrms, one a guest bdrm w/bath. The other bdrm is set up as an office. Lg. hall bathroom featuring vintage tile. Detailed staircase leads upstairs to a large landing with storage closets. Two spacious upstairs bdrms share a bath w/shower. The oversized primary bdrm has French doors to a balcony. Primary bath has closets, tub, shower & storage. Random planked and hardwood floors throughout, laundry room w/sink, mudroom, basement, two car garage and new shake roof. Bkld features multiple patio areas, fountain & mature landscaping. Studio apartment above garage with kitchenette and bath. 1901 11th Avenue



Teresa Olson

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teresa.olson@cbnocal.com

CalBRE# 00784986



Celebrate City Event Gets an A+



The campus celebrates the Sacramento City College event on a lovely spring day.

Story and photos by Kristina Rogers

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento City College has been a stepping stone for higher education for over 100 years. Now that remote learning has once again been scaled back after the pandemic, Albert Garcia, president of SCC, wants to ensure the campus is also a fun and dynamic community hub.

He said, "Before COVID, around 15% of our classes were online; during the pandemic, almost all our classes were. As a result, driving by, you'd see empty parking lots and buildings with very few people around. It looked as if we were closed. What I feared was we were losing touch with the community. And that's important because we are a community college, open to all." That was the inspiration for Celebrate City. He added, "I wanted to create an event that would be enjoyable not only for prospective students, but also for younger families. We want them to consider SCC being a part of their lives years from now."

University life can be terrifying to a high school kid. Many imagine monster-sized campuses where they feel like a number in a class of hundreds. And it's pricey too. Events like Celebrate City show higher education is welcoming and affordable.

Last March, colorful displays lined the Sac City campus while live music played in the background. Friendly teachers and students were eager to share their passions for subjects like anthropology, sociology, criminal justice,

cosmetology, and science. There was no pressure to commit to anything; just discover the variety of career paths and degrees available. And that alone can help.

"If you don't have college in your background, or the expectations were to just get a job after high school, it's a huge thing to know you can do this," said Garcia

Career opportunities are abundant with next-level resources. For instance, SCC's nursing program includes cutting-edge robotic mannikins for students to train with. One robot even gives birth (although it's a requirement to get practical training). Albert Garcia says 99.9% of students who finish the nursing program quickly get jobs after graduation. There's also a robust dental technician program. Other healthcare programs include a community health worker certification, which teaches students how to help patients navigate the bureaucratic healthcare world.

Trades are trending, and Los Rios Community College is positioned to deliver. "We offer a degree in HVAC commercial and residential," said Garcia. "We also collaborate with industry representatives. Students can complete the entire program, earn a certificate quickly, and get to work."

While SCC offers a path to HVAC, Consumnes River College provides a construction program. Los Rios Community College District is also developing other trade options throughout the college system, such as plumbing and



President Albert Garcia smiles in front of a Gregory Kondos original painting in his office.

electrical programs.

And SCC has a strong dual enrollment program. Motivated teenagers can receive an AA degree and a high school degree simultaneously. Several McClatchy high school kids attend both schools, which gives them a jump start on college credit. They also gain confidence by experiencing college-level courses early.

Garcia encouraged me to stop by the new natural science building, where students show off their research. I met Jake, a chemistry major. He's interested in becoming a professor and has already taught at SCC. I asked about the benefits of the natural science program. He said, "Students can fast track and get an AA to become a lab tech." He also loves the camaradery between students and teachers and access to state-of-the-art equipment. He added, "Other colleges don't allow students the freedom to run their own samples and do the hands-on work. That's what's unique here." Garcia explained how rare it is to do research within the first two years, so

what's happening there is phenomenal.

Walking around the campus, I noticed students of all ages painting new murals on the walls. Megan Bernards, an art teacher, was laid off from a local school after



Art students Consuelo Aguila (green shirt) and Brianna Wong help paint a new mural on campus.



A welcoming student hosts an anthropology table at the event.

pandemic funds dried up. Being in between jobs, she decided to take some classes. Megan enjoys working alongside students from ages eighteen to seventy. She said, "It's nice to practice and acquire new techniques. And it's wonderful to be the student again!" She looks forward to applying her new skills to the next teaching job.

Albert Garcia is also learning something new; he just finished his first

year as SCC's President. Yet, he's been on campus for ten years as an English teacher, dean of instruction, and vice president. Garcia has many plans for the future. He wants the campus to be as diverse as the neighborhoods that surround it. But for right now, he's pleased to know word is getting out about Sacramento City College being the community's heart for higher learning. ★

Saturday, Oct. 12th
5:00- 8:00 PM

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

Includes 6 tasting pours and hors d'oeuvres

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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 now \$85.69. Includes dinner, no-host cocktails.

Questions? Text or call Ruth Trubschenk Lundsten, 916-718-8826.

Elks Lodge Calendar

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. 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

Land Park Volunteer Corps Gardening Days

Wear your gardening gear and join LPVC at Base Camp behind Fairytale Town's parking lot. All ages welcome.

Volunteers receive free coffee and donuts in the morning. A hot lunch is served after work.

Arrive Saturday morning for the following dates and times: Oct. 5, 9 a.m.; Nov. 2, 9 a.m.

Depending on weather, dates and times may change.

Enchanting Adventures Await at Fairytale Town's Safe & Super Halloween

Fairytale Town News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Children and their families are invited to Fairytale Town for its 38th annual Safe & Super Halloween on Oct. 12 and 13 and Oct. 19 and 20 from 5 to 9 p.m.

This year, the beloved park will be magically transformed into the whimsical world of Neverland for an enchanting Halloween celebration that promises fun and festivities for the entire family.

Visitors will embark on a thrilling journey through a land filled with pirates, pixies and lost boys while exploring Captain Hook's pirate ship, wandering through the mystical Mermaid Lagoon and experiencing a host of family friendly activities.

Highlights of the event include: Trick-or-Treating: Sweet treats from various stations throughout the park, making every corner of Fairytale Town a

sweet adventure.

Magical Performances: Enchanting magic shows that will leave visitors spellbound.

Costume Parade: Families can show off their Halloween spirit in a grand parade celebrating creativity and imagination.

Creative Crafts: Aspiring young artists can explore themed crafts and unleash their artistic talents.

Pirates' Lost Treasures: Opportunities to unearth hidden treasures for a chance to win prizes.

Advance tickets are \$12 for Fairytale Town members and \$15 for non-members until Friday, Oct. 11 at 11:59 p.m. After this date, ticket prices will increase to \$18 per person.

Fairytale Town's Safe & Super Halloween is sponsored by PeopleFinders and SMUD.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit fairytaletown.org/ ★

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 – Through

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

For more details and/or to book a train ride,

please visit 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. For details, visit www.SacHistoryMuseum.org.

For more, visit SacMuseums.org.

October Events at JLA Comics

Halloween Comicfest, Friday, Oct. 26-Thursdays, Oct. 31: Celebrate Halloween for a whole week at JLA Comics, 374 Florin Road. Get recommendations for spooky comics and enjoy family friendly Halloween movies.

Plus, bring your little ones in costume for free goodies, including Pokemon cards, comics, stickers and candy. Free while supplies last.

Also: Witness Frawgboy's Comic Art Magic LIVE!, Saturday, Oct. 26. Plus: Magic: The Gathering Trick or Treat! Spook-tacular, Sunday, Oct. 27. \$25 per player, limited spots available. ★

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.

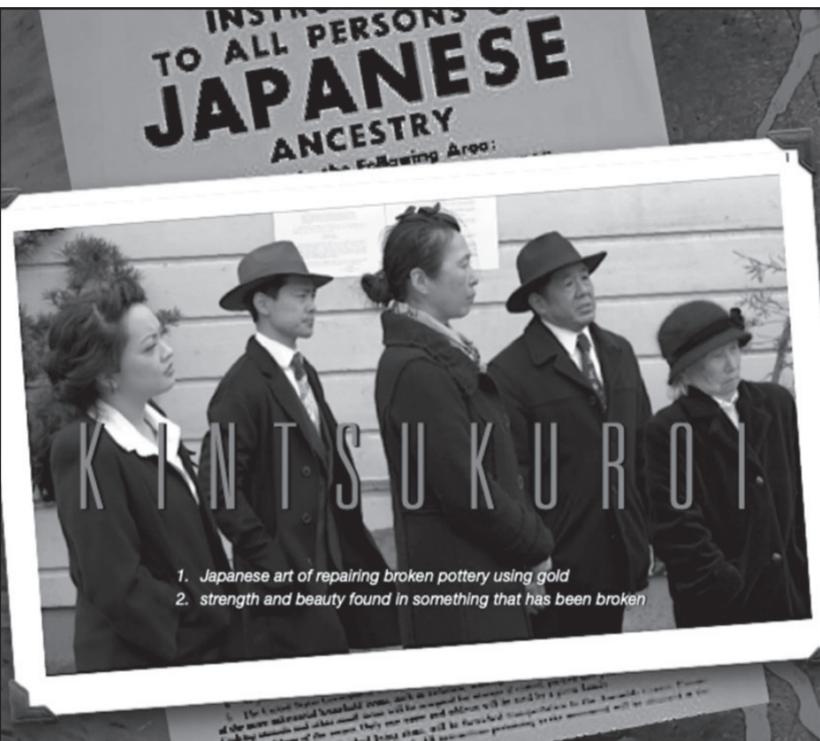
Last season Kevin Huerter was a starter, but with the addition of De'Mar De'Rozan, it is likely that Kevin will be relegated to the bench where I expect to see him add some scoring power that will undoubtedly strengthen the bench overall.

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. ★



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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 Sierra Vista Hospital (mental health services) and WellSpace (sobering center and addiction services).

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efficiency.

Improved Patient Satisfaction: Provides faster, more appropriate care, leading to better patient experiences.

Community Health Benefits: Enhances public health by directing patients to the appropriate care settings and improving health literacy through educational components.

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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Bazaar Celebrates Food and Community



Taiko Drum Players entertain guests.

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.

The church regularly

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



Church volunteers are busy selling shirts, fans and other merchandise to raise money.

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."

The church also helped gather clothes and supplies

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



Erin Komatsubara works in the background to make the event a success.



Guests try their luck at the Super Wheel.

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.

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.



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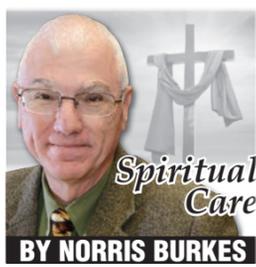
Don't Try This Verse at Home

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 BURKES

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. ★

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 Reserve, Congressional leaders, administration officials, and state legislators across the nation, it's regarded as the bellwether on the health and welfare of the Main Street enterprises that employ half of all workers, generate more net new jobs than large corporations, and gave most of us the first start in our working life. The SBET (aka the Optimism Index) is a national snapshot of NFIB-member, small-business owners not broken down by state. More about the Uncertainty Index can be read here. The typical NFIB member employs between one and nine people and reports gross sales of about \$500,000 a year.★

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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.

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

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