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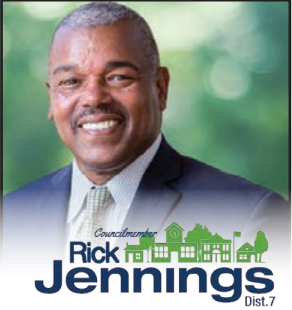


# Pocket News

VOL 33 • ISSUE 20 *Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years* OCTOBER 25, 2024

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INSIDE**

**BEAUTIFUL LEAVES  
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AND BUSY STREETS**



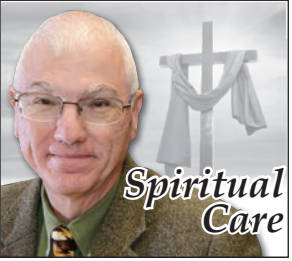
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**WORRIED ABOUT  
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## JFK Time Capsule Unearthed

*By Gayle Hilleary Bourtoul  
JFK alumna and retired  
JFK teacher*

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Gazing at the rectangular, oxidative, copper box on the conference table, the 1969 alumni committee suddenly had an epiphany: We had become “time travelers.” Metaphorically speaking, of course.

From the original 1967 construction of John F. Kennedy High School to its recent reconstruction, the embedded time capsule had been hidden in a school wall and unopened all these years.

What treasures would the committee find? Kennedy’s first classes (1968-70) of sophomores, juniors and seniors were derived from Burbank and McClatchy, and actively involved in establishing a myriad of clubs, activities and sport teams in pursuit of creating school spirit and what it meant to be a Kennedy Cougar: our legacy. Needless to say, this time capsule held special historical importance for the committee. With much anticipation the committee delved into the copper box, which revealed a manila file folder encased in a plastic waterproof bag that permeated the room with a pungent odor but thankfully no harm to the contents therein.

Slowly, yet methodically, the capsule revealed numerous documents and photos (some yellowed from time) of JFK’s building site plan, and construction features, budgets, finances, board meeting minutes, photos of district personnel (the district president, superintendent and

*Continued on Page 9*



**John F. Kennedy Class of 1969 alumni committee members survey the time capsule contents.** Photo by Karl Okamoto



**It's Election  
Season**

**Make Your  
Plans to Vote**

**Sacramento County  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - We are days away from the Nov. 5 General Election and ballots should be in hand (and hopefully already filled out and on their way back to the Elections Office, either by mail or Drop Box).

But never fear; if you haven’t yet returned your voted ballot, you still have plenty of time.

For those voters or soon-to-be voters that need to register or update their voter registration file, Monday, Oct. 21 was the last day to make those changes or register online. While that deadline has passed, you can still visit the Elections Office in person or visit one of the Vote Centers that opened, starting Oct. 26, to conditionally register and vote.

**Vote: Pick a Way,  
Any Way**

Choose how, when and where you want to vote.

**By mail:** All registered voters received a ballot in the mail. Place the voted ballot inside the envelope provided, sign the envelope and return; your postage is paid! Ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 5 to count.

**Vote Center:** With the passage of the California Voter’s Choice Act, traditional polling places were replaced with Vote Centers that are open for up to 11 days, including Election Day. This means that voters can choose when, where and how they want to vote at any Vote Center in the county. Avoid the lines, vote early.

At the Vote Center, you can drop off your completed ballot or vote in person. There is even weekend voting.

Eighteen Vote Centers are open for 11 days, beginning Oct. 26.

An additional 70 Vote Centers are open for four days, beginning Nov. 2.

Eligible residents can

*Continued on Page 9*

## Community Comes Together for Spooky Fun



**Scary costumes abounded at the seventh annual Haunted House and Trunk-or-Treat event.** Photo by Jason Lee

**iYa Taekwondo News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - On Saturday, Oct. 19, more than 400 community members gathered for an evening filled with thrills and laughter at the seventh annual Haunted House and Trunk-or-Treat event, organized by

iYa Taekwondo. This year’s event was the biggest and scariest yet, highlighting the neighborhood’s Halloween celebrations.

Attendees were greeted with a spooky haunted house, known for being the most terrifying in the area. From eerie sound effects to unexpected jump scares, participants of all ages braved the haunted halls, with many leaving with a mix of adrenaline and excitement.

In addition to the haunted house, the event’s trunk-or-treat brought a fun, festive atmosphere. Dozens of

*Continued on Page 10*



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*Continued on Page 12*



# Larger-Than-Life Animal Statues Now on Display at Sacramento Zoo

**Sacramento Zoo News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Zoo is excited to unveil Critters Near & Far, a new limited-time installation featuring larger-than-life animal statues created by Little Ray's Exhibitions.

Officially open now, this outdoor display offers a fun, hands-on adventure that brings the wonders of wildlife to life!

Each climbable sculpture represents an animal from around the globe, inviting visitors, especially children, to touch, interact and explore.

With imagination meeting adventure, Critters



A little girl enjoys a red panda statue at the Sacramento Zoo.



Little ones are bound to enjoy the limited-time animal statues.



Created by Little Ray's Exhibitions, this giant frog is on display for a limited time. Photos courtesy of the Sacramento Zoo

Near & Far offers more than just photo opportunities. Each statue is paired with educational

information panels, making this exhibit not only visually captivating but also a journey through the

diverse animal kingdom. The goal is to spark curiosity, foster learning and inspire a deeper

appreciation for wildlife. This installation is free with regular zoo admission, so add it to your next

zoo trip. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity, available for a limited time! ★

# Wraparound Services Positively Impact Youth

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The dedicated efforts of Sacramento County's Division of Behavioral Health Services (BHS), in partnership with community-based providers, continue to positively impact youth with High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) Services. Zavion and Serenity are two inspiring teens whose stories exemplify how support services can positively change lives.

Think of Sacramento County's High Fidelity Wraparound Services, more commonly referred to as the Wraparound Program, as a personalized support system that helps kids and families when they are most vulnerable. It's a team of caring professionals who "wrap" around these youth and their families during tough times.

Whether it's to help foster youth or youth who have been involved with law enforcement, or providing a family with the tools they need to stay together, the Wraparound Program makes a real difference.

For Zavion, he faced more challenges than many could even imagine. He frequently encountered obstacles that left him feeling lost and uncertain about his

future at a young age. With the help of the Wraparound Program, he found the strength to turn his life around.

"You know, I've been through some really rough times, but I got through it by challenging myself," said Zavion with a sense of accomplishment while reflecting on his journey. "It's been rough, but I've accomplished something."

Zavion completed his high school credits, graduated and was recently offered an internship at a wellness center where he now supports other young people in his community. This fall, he's preparing for a new milestone – starting community college.

Serenity's story is equally inspiring. She was initially referred to the Wraparound Program with significant challenges, including a difficult home environment and struggles with aggression but embraced the help offered to her. She quickly dove deep into therapy and learned new ways to cope, and her hard work paid off.

Serenity graduated from high school early and earned a scholarship to a college in Vermont. She has volunteered her time at a wellness center, traveled to Africa and is writing a book about her experiences

to share with others who might be facing similar challenges.

"It is gratifying to watch these kids get the opportunity to change the trajectory of their futures," said Brian Olden, Wraparound Program Monitor for Sacramento County. "Zavion and Serenity illustrate the combined effort of clients who make good use of services, as well as the dedication, persistence, and hard work of the providers who steadfastly adhere to the HFW principles."

Much of the success seen with Sacramento County's High Fidelity Wraparound services comes from its focus on giving families a voice in their care, working collaboratively with other services and supporting children in stable, loving environments. To help keep kids from bouncing around from home to home, the Wraparound Program's primary objective is stability and permanency, which reduces the need for group home placements and institutional care.

Sacramento County partners with, and funds contracts for, three local non-profit agencies to provide High Fidelity Wraparound Services – River Oak Center for Children, Sacramento Children's Home and Stanford Sierra Youth and

Families. In addition to Probation and Child Welfare, Behavioral Health Services and wraparound provider agencies collaborate with various child-serving systems and individuals including schools, regional centers and health care providers. Child Protective Services (CPS) and Sacramento Probation departments refer youth to the Wraparound Program. With the referral, Behavioral Health Services County staff coordinate the implementation of care and together all agencies work to ensure every child has a chance to thrive. An estimated 90% of youth are referred by Child Protective Services and 10% by probation. Not all families and youth referred are ready to engage but the impact of Sacramento County's High Fidelity Wraparound Services remains clear. In the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024, 80% of the youth who completed the program were able to successfully move forward, ready to embrace a brighter future. Visit Sacramento County's Behavioral Health Services website to learn more about Sacramento County's High Fidelity Wraparound services. ★

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# Skunks Test Positive for Rabies within Land Park

**Sacramento County News Release**

**LAND PARK, CA (MPG)** - A Sacramento Zoo visitor was bitten by a skunk on Oct. 15.

The skunk was behaving aggressively. Sacramento Zoo officials captured and euthanized three skunks within the area after the incident and submitted

them to the Sacramento County Public Health Laboratory for rabies testing. On Oct. 17, confirmation was received that two of the three skunks tested positive for rabies.

Sacramento Zoo officials captured and euthanized a fourth skunk on Oct. 17. That skunk will be sent for rabies testing.

Rabies is a severe

infection of the nervous system caused by a virus that is most often transmitted through the bite from an infected animal. Rabies can infect all mammals, including humans.

Preventative treatment is available for humans after exposure but must be started promptly. Once clinical signs of rabies are seen, the disease is almost

always fatal.

If you are bitten by an animal believed to have rabies, contact Sacramento County at 3-1-1 or (916) 875-4311.

In California, rabies is identified in about 200 animals every year, most often in wildlife like bats and skunks. Domestic animals such as dogs, cats, and horses can also get rabies,

but this is not as common due to legal requirements for rabies vaccination. For more information, see California Department of Public Health’s website.

With Land Park having popular destinations for families, such as the Sacramento Zoo, visitors should take these steps to minimize exposure to rabies:

Avoid contact with wild animals; call animal control if you see sick or injured wildlife.

Report unusual behavior of wildlife or domestic animals (e.g., stumbling, seizures, aggressiveness) to local animal control.

Immediately wash all animal bites with soap and water and seek medical attention.

## County’s Favorite Pet Festival Returns Nov. 2

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The four-legged friends of Sacramento County have something to wag their tails about as the third Annual Roy C. Marcum Animal Care Faire returns to Bradshaw Animal Shelter on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3839 Bradshaw Road.

This free-admission pet festival is open to the public and promises a day of fun for animal lovers of

all ages. Attendees can explore pet-related booths, support local small businesses and makers, savor treats from a variety of food trucks, try their luck at raffles and enjoy Pet Photos by Olin. Plus, there will be adorable adoptable pets to meet.

Dogs on a six-foot leash or shorter are welcome at the event.

Thinking about adopting a furry friend? Bradshaw Animal Shelter will be open to the public from noon to 5 p.m., with waived adoption fees for

dogs and cats. Included in each pet’s adoption is their spay/neuter surgery, microchip, up-to-date vaccinations, monthly preventatives and a one-year license for Sacramento County residents.

Festivalgoers will receive an official event tote bag filled with goodies while supplies last.

Food trucks will include Señor Burger, Pinorrito, The Fry Boys, Daisy's Desserts and Softy Star Sweets.

The Roy C. Marcum Animal Care Faire was



**Adopted pets will be available at the Nov. 2 Pet Festival.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

established in 2022 to honor fallen Sacramento County animal control officer Roy C. Marcum, who was killed in the line of duty on Nov. 28, 2012.

The event commemorates Officer Marcum’s legacy while promoting responsible pet ownership and animal welfare.

Special thanks sponsors

Sky River Casino, Kim Pacini-Hauch RE/MAX Gold Sierra Oaks and Berg Injury Lawyers. Their generous support makes this event possible!

## SacRT Launches Survey on Rider Safety, Street Harassment

**Sacramento Regional Transit News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - As part of a statewide initiative to improve public transit safety, the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is launching a comprehensive customer survey to better understand and address the safety concerns of transit riders. This effort is part

of California's commitment to creating safer and more inclusive public transportation systems.

The survey, developed by the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University, was mandated by California Senate Bill 1161 (2022) to gather detailed information on the prevalence, locations, and characteristics of street

harassment faced by public transit passengers. In addition, California Senate Bill 434 (2023) requires the state’s 10 largest transit agencies, including SacRT, to use this tool to specifically engage riders from underrepresented communities, whose experiences may have been historically overlooked, and collect their insights on transit safety.

“Understanding the rider experience is essential to ensuring that all SacRT passengers feel safe when using public transportation,” said Henry Li, SacRT General Manager/CEO. “This survey will help us take action where it matters most to improve the overall transit experience for everyone.”

The survey will focus on various aspects of transit

safety, such as the types and frequency of street harassment, how perceptions of safety influence riders' decisions to use transit, and other related topics. The collected data will help SacRT and other transit agencies develop strategies and implement measures to create a safer environment across the entire transit network.

SacRT will conduct the

survey throughout October 2024, with outreach at stations, on buses and light rail trains and via an online survey platform. All transit riders are encouraged to participate.

As an incentive, riders who complete the survey will receive a \$10 credit applied to their Connect Card or ZipPass account.

To learn more, visit [sacrt.com/ridersurvey](https://sacrt.com/ridersurvey).

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# The Chaplain’s Day Off

Long before the 1986 movie “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off,” I, too, imagined a day off work of fun and frivolity.

After all, who hasn’t feigned illness to take a day off from work?

This was my self-justifying question as I called the Baylor University Bookstore one Friday morning in the fall of 1978. When my manager picked up the line, I winked knowingly at my new girlfriend sitting beside me.

“I’m not feeling well today.” Cough, cough. “I can’t come in until Monday.”

“Then you’re fired!” he said.

I wasn’t expecting the finality in his answer. I could hear a pulse in my



BY NORRIS BURKES

ears.

“Don’t come back,” he added before slamming down the phone receiver.

My face flushed and my eyes suddenly felt overhydrated. I was having a grief reaction, anticipating the loss of the prestige I’d enjoyed interacting with university professors and freshman co-eds.

How had I miscalculated this scenario? Was my boss aware of the love-struck

hormonal illness with which I was afflicted? How would I afford to take my girlfriend to the back-to-school dance?

I had to make this right for many reasons. The bookstore was the center of university life and I didn’t want to be dodging my boss for the next year. I needed to apologize.

How does one apologize for such bald-faced lying?

First, it’s always good to allow a cool-down period. I waited a few weeks for the back-to-school rush to end and called for an appointment.

Once inside the manager’s office, I kept it simple. I admitted that I hadn’t been sick. Plain and guileless. “I’m sorry for lying.”

I didn’t excuse my action

or bring my girlfriend into the picture.

Second, I expressed understanding for his situation. I admitted that I abandoned my colleagues, causing them to be short-handed at his busiest time of the year.

Third, I asked for forgiveness. He granted that.

Finally, I think I surprised him when I asked his help to clarify the lessons I needed to learn.

That question brought his deepest thought.

“Who is it you want to be?” he asked.

“Pardon me?”

“Well, I know you’re a ministerial student, so I know WHAT you want to be. But beyond that, WHO do you want to be?”

I thought I got his drift,

but I wasn’t entirely sure.

“I think above all,” he said, “you want to be a person who people trust. I think you want to be a person who keeps his word.”

“I see three lessons,” he continued.

“First, don’t lie. Lying demonstrates that you don’t believe you’re capable of being who you want to be. Don’t sell yourself short. I know you are capable of being who you want to be.”

“Second, if I’m not mistaken, Jesus said, ‘Let your yes be yes, and your no, no. Whatever is more than these is from the evil one.’”

In other words, my ex-boss was telling me to be sure of what I want before I commit to

something. And when I do commit, I should keep my word.

“Third.” He cleared his throat, trying to remember his third point.

He gave up on that. “Just remember those two for now. Don’t lie and keep your word.”

The bookstore manager was OK in my book ... even if he didn’t give me my old job back.

Fortunately, he gave me a good reference to a better-paying job as a night watchman in a local bank. Good thing, too. I could afford to take the girl to the dance.

Unfortunately, since I can’t dance, she broke up with me.

Happily, I met and married my wife Becky a few years after that. But that’s a story for another day. ★

Email comments to comment@thechaplain.net.

## Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Preseason games don’t matter. No one cares about preseason games. Preseason games are just about getting the players in shape. Coaches and fans don’t care about wins and losses in preseason games.

Wrong! Wrong! Wrong!

The truth is losing matters, and unfortunately it creates a tone and can be contagious.

Preseason games show teams what they have, and winning creates positive habits that more often and not carry over into the regular season.

So, if I’m right, what do Kings fans make of a zero-win preseason record?

You should be concerned, but not worried. There’s a difference, so don’t wring your hands just yet.

The good news is the Kings starters overall looked pretty good. In the first two preseason games against the Golden State Warriors, the Kings starters played the Warriors to a standstill for the first half of both games.

The starters did not participate in the second half of either game, and the Kings were forced to take a long look at their bench strength.

I’m not certain how deep coach Brown intends to go as it relates to bench players, but my guess with the recent signing of Doug McDermott, he will probably play 10 or even 11 players.

What we know is that due to injuries to Trey Lyles and Kevin Huerter, the Kings have yet to see a true picture of what their regular season bench will look like.

Both Lyles and Huerter are experienced NBA players, and both can have an immediate impact when they enter a game. Both are good passers, can drive effectively to the hoop and have a better than average three-point game.

What we also know is that Malik Monk is likely to be the first player off the bench, so when Lyles and Huerter return, we can see with some certainty who the first three off the bench will undoubtedly be.

Although in a pinch Lyles can play the five, it is more likely that veteran Alex Len will be called on to give Domantas Sabonis a blow every game, and at times

in the preseason Len has been a bright spot. I have long believed that Len may have another level to his game, and I’m hopeful that if he sees consistent playing time, his game will demonstrate the kind of NBA confidence the Kings have longed for. Seven footers with skills are in short supply, so giving Len every opportunity to shine just makes lots of sense. At age 31 Len is still in his prime, and with every season he brings much needed veteran experience to the lineup and represents a rim protector when Sabonis is off the floor.

So, with Huerter, Lyles, Monk, and Len coach Brown is nine deep, so who do the Kings have that could also make a contribution?

I would hope that the signing of Doug McDermott is not just ceremonial, so this veteran sharpshooter should be seeing 10 to 15 minutes nightly.

If last season proved anything to me it was that coach Brown is anything but predictable as it relates to his bench rotation, and I believe his frenetic experiments last year were a contributor to the Kings missing the first round of the playoffs.

Settling into a bench rotation builds confidence in players and gives the team an opportunity to gel. I’m crossing my fingers that any experiments have concluded in the preseason, and the regular season will bring a level on continuity that was missing last year.

Do I think the preseason matters? Of course I do. But I also know the Sacramento Kings have yet to lose a game in the regular season, and I believe in the players we have.

I hope you will all join me in applauding our gladiators as they step on the hardwood for the first time on Thursday night (Oct. 24) and open the regular season against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The NBA schedulers did the Kings no favors as they will face the number one ranked defensive team in the NBA, but I say bring them on.

Put a smile on your faces Kings fans, and let’s celebrate on Thursday night!

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

## ABOUT TOWN

### ‘Think You Can Belt’ Song Event Nov. 16

Time to get all dressed up and celebrate SARTA’s 40th Anniversary at Howe Ave Theatre (in Howe Park, Sacramento) on Saturday, November 16 from 7:30 -9:30 pm.

Enjoy an evening of fabulous singing, a delicious dessert bar, sparkling beverages, and exciting drawings! An incredibly talented cast of a dozen singers will delight audiences with songs from the present and days gone by!

Tickets for this amazing event are \$30 for SARTA members and \$35 for non-members. To purchase tickets in advance, please visit [www.sarta.com/cabaretickets](http://www.sarta.com/cabaretickets).

For more information, please contact [sarta@sarta.com](mailto:sarta@sarta.com) or call 916-443-8229. SARTA is a 501(3) non-profit theatre arts service organization.

### Shredding Event Nov. 16 Benefits Scout Troop

Elks Lodge 6 and Scout Troop 259 will co-host a document-shredding event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16 in the lodge’s front parking lot, 6446 Riverside Blvd.

Donation is \$15 per banker’s box.

### Cook Realty Shred Event Nov. 16

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 16 at Cook Realty, 4305 Freeport Blvd.

Donation is \$5 per grocery bag and \$10 per banker’s box. Proceeds benefit the YMCA Children’s Fund.

Checks can be made to Cook Realty.

### 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:** 10 a.m. Mondays, 2 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. Fridays. Lodge members free.

**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](http://playtimescheduler.com)

**Improv Night,** 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm

**Wednesday Night Dinner,** 5:30 to 7 pm. See [elks6.net](http://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

### October Events at JLA Comics

Halloween Comicfest, Friday, Oct. 26-Thursdays, Oct. 31: Celebrate Halloween for a whole week at JLA Comics! 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.

Witness Frawgboy’s Comic Art Magic LIVE!, Saturday, Oct. 26: See Sacramento-native artist Frawgboy in action as he completes one of his iconic comic cover reproductions live at JLA Comics!

JLA Comics is at 374 Florin Road.

### 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.

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

California Automobile Museum – Take a ride in a museum car during Sunday Drives, the third Sunday of every month,. With paid museum admission, take a ride from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Details at [calautomuseum.org/](http://calautomuseum.org/)

California State Railroad Museum & Foundation – The California State Railroad Museum & Foundation are proud to offer the Polar Express Train Ride – Enjoy this magical family event!

For more details and/or to book a train ride, please visit [www.californiarailroad.museum](http://www.californiarailroad.museum). ★

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Halloween Safety Tips

County ROAR Program Receives Funding

Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Halloween is upon us and Sacramento County has important tips for parents to help make sure children have safe trick-or-treating adventures. Follow the tips below and have a fun and safe Halloween every year!

**See and Be Seen**

Pick out costumes that don’t interfere with vision, add reflective tape on the front, back and sides and use accessories that are soft or flexible.

**Before Going Out to Trick-Or-Treat**

If your child has food allergies, it’s important to remind teachers and supervising adults about what they cannot eat. Just before going trick-or-treating, give your kids a healthy snack or light meal. On your way out the door, bring a flashlight, take safe routes, use sidewalks and crosswalks and have children look both ways before crossing the street. If you are driving in residential areas on Halloween, slow down and be extra alert for children crossing the street.

**When You Get Home**

Inspect treats for tampering, unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes, or tears in wrappers – throw away anything suspicious and do not eat any

homemade treats unless you know the person who made them.

For young children, consider choking hazards such as the size and texture and remove gum, nuts, hard candies or small toys.

**Handing Out Treats**

Be sure to turn on your outside walkway lights, and use battery flicker lights for carved pumpkins instead of lighted candles. Give out only factory-wrapped treats and consider handing out healthier treats like mini-boxes of raisins or crackers.

You could also give out non-food items, like stickers, bookmarks, coloring books and crayons.

**Don’t Forget Your Pets**

While Halloween is fun for children, it can be spooky for your fur children. Keep these tips in mind to ensure your pet feels comfortable and safe. Dressing up pets might be fun for you, but some pets get truly distressed and may even bolt to try to get the costume off. Keep pets safely indoors and put on their I.D. collars with up-to-date license tags – do not take them trick-or-treating.

Consider setting up shop on your driveway so that your doorbell does not continuously ring and further distress animals. Lock candy safely away, a dog’s keen sense of smell will lead them right to the treats that can be life-threatening. ★

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento County Department of Health Services (DHS) has received an \$8 million grant from the California Board of State and Community Corrections, funded through Proposition 47, to launch a new program focused on helping formerly incarcerated individuals reintegrate into society. The Reentry Opportunities and Access to Resources (ROAR) program will address core challenges like recidivism, homelessness and unemployment for individuals reentering the community after incarceration. The grant, which was awarded in October 2024 will fund efforts through June 1, 2028.

ROAR aims to reduce recidivism rates by 35% by connecting individuals with community-based resources and support

before they are released. The program plans to expand eligibility for reentry services and establish partnerships with correctional facilities to provide “warm handoffs” for those reentering the community. By connecting individuals with community providers who can help them find housing, job training or mental health services, DHS hopes to offer a fresh start for those reintegrating into society.

Homelessness is a significant barrier for individuals leaving incarceration, and ROAR is set to address this challenge with re-housing funds and access to shelter beds. The program’s objective is to reduce homelessness among its participants by 60% and lower unemployment by 50%, with job training and workforce development as core components of the strategy. Data from the Homeless Management Information System and reports from community-based organizations will be used to track these efforts.

Substance use and mental health issues are common among justice-involved individuals, with nearly 25% of Sacramento’s incarcerated population affected by substance use disorders alone. ROAR will work to increase participation in mental health and substance use treatment programs by 50%, helping participants build a foundation for stability. By recruiting more service providers and strengthening referral networks, ROAR seeks to offer targeted, timely support to those in need.

With funding secured, Sacramento County will begin developing an implementation plan and budget for ROAR and is aiming to create lasting change and reduce the barriers faced by formerly incarcerated individuals in Sacramento. ★

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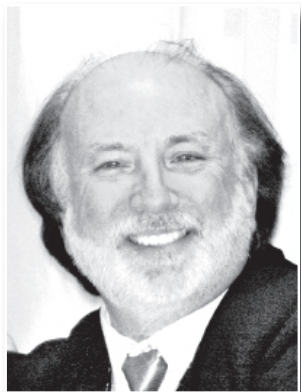
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# Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association’s Statewide Ballot Measure Information, Voting Recommendations

## Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association News Release

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (MPG)** - Below are Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association’s (HJTA) statewide ballot measure information and voting recommendations. For more information, visit the association’s website at [www.hjta.org](http://www.hjta.org).

**NO on 2**  
**Why we’re against it**

Proposition 2 is \$10 billion of bonds, new state debt, to pay for school facilities. It is almost certain to result in higher property tax bills, because school districts must provide a “local match” of funds in order to receive money from the Prop. 2 state bonds. That will lead to districts issuing new local school bonds, which are paid for by adding new charges to property tax bills. Enrollment is declining in both K-12 district schools and community colleges and the declines are projected to continue. But Proposition 2 commits California to pay an estimated \$18 billion, including interest, for school buildings that may not even be necessary. VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 2.

**Proposition 3**  
**HJTA takes no position on this measure**

Proposition 3 removes language from the state Constitution that defines marriage as between a man and woman. It adds the language, “right to marry is a fundamental right.” This measure has no effect on the current law, because the U.S. Supreme Court held that the federal Constitution protects the right to marry.

**NO on 4**  
**Why we’re against it**

This is the \$10 billion “climate bond” that state politicians have long planned. California already has too much bond debt, over

\$78 billion outstanding as of Jan. 1. Then \$6.38 billion was added with Proposition 1 in March. Proposition 4 would add another \$10 billion in bond debt to pay for climate “programs.” It’s reckless to use borrowed money, an estimated \$18 billion with interest, to pay for “programs,”



## Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

*established in 1978*

including salaries for all the groups that receive the money. Bond financing only makes sense for necessary projects that will last more than the 30 years it takes to repay the debt. The governor has already declared a budget emergency because the state spends more than it takes in. Spending even more “on the credit card” is a bad idea. VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 4.

**NO on 5**  
**Why we’re against it**

Proposition 5 is ACA 1, a direct attack on Proposition 13. It makes it easier to raise taxes by eliminating the longstanding two-thirds vote of the electorate required to pass local bonds (borrowed money that must be repaid with interest). All new bond measures for “infrastructure” (nearly everything is “infrastructure”) and for public housing projects would pass with just 55% approval instead of the current 66.7%. Local bonds are paid for with extra charges on property tax bills, adding to the tax burden on homeowners and businesses, leading to higher rents for tenants and higher consumer prices for everyone. If Proposition 5 is

not stopped, property tax bills are likely to go up after every election, forever. Proposition 5 will raise the cost of living in California, which already has the highest poverty rate in the country when the cost of living is taken into account. VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 5.

**NO on 6**  
**Why we’re against it**

Proposition 6 bans mandatory work requirements for state prison inmates. It doesn’t seem fair to further increase the burden on taxpayers by creating the conditions to negotiate higher wages for inmates who are paying off their debt to society by serving their sentences in state prison. VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 6.

**NO on 32**  
**Why we’re against it**

Proposition 32 would raise California’s hourly minimum wage from \$16 to \$18 and then adjust it annually for inflation. Unfortunately, raising the hourly minimum wage has sometimes reduced weekly wages as businesses cut hours and lay off workers. The best way to raise incomes in California is to stop driving job-creating businesses out of the state or into the ground. Raising the minimum wage is counter-productive. It also increases the state’s expenses by raising government labor costs. VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 32.

**NO on 33**  
**Why we’re against it**

Proposition 33 is a rent control measure that would lead to a reduction in the supply of rental housing. It repeals a sensible 1995 law, the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, which put limits on rent control laws to ensure that

housing providers could make a fair return on their investment and stay in business. Repealing Costa-Hawkins would mean cities could enact radical rent control, even on single-family homes and condos, and prevent property owners from resetting the rent to the market rate after a tenant voluntarily moves out. Proposition 33 would lead to a sharp reduction in new apartment construction as lenders evaluate financial risk due to potential rent control laws. That will worsen the housing shortage in California. Voters have already rejected this proposal twice before, in 2018 and 2020. VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 33.

**YES on 34**  
**Why we’re for it**

Some nonprofit healthcare organizations that receive federal funds to provide health care services have abused the system to spend large amounts of money on political causes. Proposition 34 would end this practice and require that healthcare providers spend most of the money they receive from a federal prescription drug discount program on direct patient care. VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 34.

**Proposition 35**  
**HJTA takes no position on this measure**

California currently taxes managed care organizations (MCOs) such as Anthem Blue Cross and others. The MCO tax is set to expire in 2026, and we expect the Legislature to make it permanent. Proposition 35 would also make it permanent but would require the revenue from the tax to fund Medi-Cal, the government health insurance program for low-income residents, instead of being used to close gaps in the state budget. About 14 million California residents rely on the Medi-Cal program for their health care needs.

**YES on 36**  
**Why we’re for it**

Proposition 36 is the “Homelessness, Drug Addiction and Theft Reduction Act,” backed by law enforcement groups and retailers. It makes thoughtful changes to Proposition 47 (2014), which reduced some theft and drug felonies to misdemeanors. Proposition 36 would get tougher on third offenses and also offer drug and mental health treatment as an alternative to incarceration. It would allow judges to sentence some individuals to state prison instead of county jail. The surge of retail theft, vehicle break-ins and open drug use on California’s streets has increased the burden on first responders, and on taxpayers, as well as raising insurance costs throughout the state. VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 36.

**Local Measures**  
**In Folsom**  
**No on Measure G**

A sales tax increase of 1%, sponsored by “citizens.”

**In Yuba City**  
**No on Measure D**

A 1% sales tax increase. ★

# Stop Criminals, Drugs, Theft

By John McGinness

California voters will have several very important decisions to make as they complete their November 2024 ballots. One that has the potential to reverse a decade of deterioration of the state’s criminal justice system is Proposition 36.

To adequately analyze the merits of Proposition 36, a quick review of history is in order. Ten years ago, voters approved Proposition 47 based upon assurance that it would improve public safety. The voters were deceived – Proposition 47 eliminated compounding consequences for several theft and possession and use of dangerous drugs. Many crimes were reduced from felonies to misdemeanors, eliminating the deterrent value of discipline.

The results have been devastating for the state of California. Urban, suburban, and even rural areas once used for recreation have been taken over by critically addicted people living like walking zombies. Retail businesses have become so frequently victimized by “smash and grab” thieves that merchants have been forced to lock up much of their merchandise out of reach, inconveniencing legitimate customers and staff. Fentanyl poisoning has become the leading cause of death for Americans 18-45-years-of-age. On average, over 200 deaths by fentanyl poisoning occur in the United States every day. Consider the tolerance

society would have in an environment in which 200 people were killed in a commercial airline crash every day – public outcry would be extreme and warranted; change would be mandated by an outraged public. Yet persons in positions of leadership seem oblivious or apathetic to the plight of our youth.

Proposition 36 will restore the ability of the criminal justice system to impose compounding consequences on chronic habitual offenders for the sake of discouraging unacceptable behavior. Specifically, offenders convicted not once, but twice of possession of hard and dangerous drugs will be eligible for felony prosecution or completion of a court-supervised treatment for addiction. This course of action was common before the passage of Proposition 47, when drug court was a viable option for those first charged with felony drug possession. The impetus for treatment is now gone by virtue of chronic drug offenders suffering through addiction and only being cited for misdemeanor violations of law. That means no time in custody in California, and no incentive to participate

in court supervised treatment. Those cited typically ignore their citations, fail to appear in court and continue to live their destructive lifestyle, wreaking havoc on the streets, parks and public facilities throughout the state. Proposition

consequences be brought against those who habitually violate the law for the sake of discouraging habitual lawlessness.

Critics have asserted that Proposition 36 represents a reversion to days of mass incarceration. It does not! Proposition 36 is a bipartisan concept created by elected attorneys of diverse political and philosophical affiliation, supported by big city mayors from California’s diverse communities, to provide incentive for treatment for those chronically addicted to dangerous drugs, as well as common sense solutions to those who habitually break the law and diminish the quality of life for law abiding Californians.

If concern for law abiding citizens and those seeking to safely pursue their dreams in this state is insufficient to motivate voters to support this thoughtful proposition, consider the wellbeing of the people directly adversely impacted by the results of the horrific current state of law. Since 2014, when Proposition 47 passed, the number of chronically addicted people living on the streets of California has exploded. Failing to recognize the wellbeing of those

lost to drugs on the streets represents an apathetic disregard for our fellow human beings. Swift, lawful action taken to put these lost souls on the path to a vastly better existence is the compassionate and appropriate action to be taken by the electorate of this state.

Ten years ago, the political leadership of the state of California misled the voters, assuring them that Proposition 47 would enhance public safety, that eliminating thoughtful punitive consequences for lawlessness would somehow make the schools and neighborhoods safer. Many of those same people are again describing Proposition as something vastly different than what it is. Proposition 36 is a plan to reduce homelessness, drug addiction, and theft in California. Law-abiding taxpayers deserve better, future generations of Californians deserve better and those in the grip of addiction need our help. Please do not be fooled by the same people who misled the voters to pass Proposition 47.

Please help save California. Vote “Yes” on Prop.36.

*John McGinness, MS, is the retired sheriff of Sacramento County, an adjunct professor of criminal justice and host of the John McGinness Show on KFBK. He can be reached at 916-924-3901*

Paid for by Messenger Publishing Group. Not affiliated with any political campaign.





# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Marks 10 Years

**California Department of Water Resources News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sept. 16 marks the 10th anniversary of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), a landmark law that is driving reductions in the overuse of groundwater, protecting drinking water supplies, and making communities, agriculture and ecosystems more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was signed into law on Sept. 16, 2014, midway through the historic 2012-2016 drought. Driven by the need to address declining groundwater supplies, the law created a state-wide framework to protect this critical resource in California, which provides 41 percent of the state's total supply in a normal year and up to 60 percent during droughts. About 85 percent of Californians rely on groundwater for some portion of their water needs.

In the 10 years since its passage, remarkable accomplishments have been achieved under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act:

More than 250 local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) have been formed to protect drinking water wells, reduce land sinking and improve groundwater supplies.

These Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are implementing over 100 Groundwater Sustainability Plans, using creative solutions like recharging groundwater supplies, limiting usage, and other

management actions that will help create a resilient and sustainable water supply for California.

California is now collecting more groundwater data than ever before, providing a better understanding of groundwater conditions and ultimately leading to better management decisions.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act has raised public awareness about the importance of protecting groundwater and has encouraged more cooperative management efforts.

Water supply reliability is improving with efforts to recharge groundwater. In 2023 alone, 4.1 million acre-feet of water were added to underground aquifers through managed efforts.

The State has invested nearly \$1 billion in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in 10 years, including more than \$100 million through the Department of Water Resources for local groundwater recharge projects.

"It has been impressive to see that through the tireless efforts of local groundwater sustainability agencies, every ambitious SGMA milestone has been met so far," said Paul Gosselin, Department of Water Resources (DWR) Deputy Director of Sustainable Water Management. "A foundational part of SGMA is that groundwater is best managed locally, by the people that know their groundwater basins and depend on the resource. As a result, over 95 percent of groundwater pumping is subject to a locally adopted, enforceable groundwater



California Department of Water Resources employee Katy Janes, Groundwater hydrogeologist in the Geology and Groundwater Investigations Section of the Division of Regional Assistance North Central Region Office, installs new telemetry equipment in groundwater monitoring wells in Colusa County on July 24. Photo courtesy of California Department of Water Resources

sustainability plan."

The State's goal is to help Groundwater Sustainability Agencies reach sustainable groundwater conditions in their basins while maintaining local control, for the benefit of sustainable agriculture, drinking water supplies, and healthy ecosystems.

Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, local agencies are responsible for the sustainable management of their groundwater basins. However, state agencies — namely the Department of Water Resources and State Water Board — are responsible for ensuring local groundwater management achieves the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act's goals.

The Department of Water Resources is the primary technical assistance and oversight agency responsible for assessing and evaluating basin compliance with the

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The State Water Board acts as the state "backstop" and will temporarily intervene in the management of a groundwater basin when the Department of Water Resources determines that the basin is not in compliance, working with local agencies to resolve failures and end state intervention.

"Improving groundwater management practices to achieve sustainable aquifers is essential for the future of California and the ability of agriculture to continue food production in a hotter, drier future," said Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture. "The State of California has made significant investments to support local authorities with financial investments, policy development to accelerate groundwater recharge, sharing of data and technical assistance to chart a pathway forward

to successfully implement this historic law."

"Ten years ago, when SGMA became law, all of us took on the responsibility of bringing about sustainable management of our groundwater basins for the benefit of everyone who relies on them," said Joaquin Esquivel, board chair of the State Water Resources Control Board. "A lot of progress has happened since then to meet this challenge, and we have more work to do to achieve sustainability for California's groundwater basins."

The next 10 years of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act will focus on implementing the plans developed so far. Projects and decisions aim to bring California's groundwater basins to sustainable conditions by the early 2040s. Weather extremes, especially drought, make this work even more critical, as the state must store and capture as much water as

possible during wet years.

To celebrate this milestone anniversary, the Department of Water Resources will host an event on Nov. 18.

Featured speakers and panelists will include Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth, and Department of Water Resources Deputy Director of Sustainable Water Management Paul Gosselin, as well as representatives from Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, community organizations, state leaders and others in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act community.

More information will be announced soon.

For updates from the Department of Water Resources, visit <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/30770> and select the 'Sustainable Groundwater Management' topic. ★

## BERC Awards Honor Eco-Friendly Businesses

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - On Sept. 26, Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC), a division of the Sacramento County Office of Economic Development, presented the 18th Annual Sustainable Business Awards in partnership with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). Eight businesses were recognized as part of the Sacramento County Sustainable Business Program.

The ceremony recognized the top contenders in eight unique categories whose work practices demonstrate an outstanding commitment

to enhancing sustainability in Sacramento County.

**Sacramento County Sustainable Business Award Recipients**

- Energy Conservation: Teichert Materials
- Water Conservation: Meristem
- Solid Waste Reduction: GreenWaste Florin Perkins
- Green Design: ReIMAGINE Mack Road Community Venter
- Pollution Prevention: Badfish Coffee and Tea
- Transportation & Air Quality: Community Resource Project
- SMUD Clean Power City: Sustainable Building: Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center
- SMUD Clean Power



Eight businesses in Sacramento County were recognized Sept. 26 for their commitments to sustainability. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

City: Carbon Free Transportation: Folsom Cordova Unified School District

the Sacramento County Sustainable Business Award Winners for 2024! Throughout the year, Business Environmental

Resource Center conducts community outreach to identify business participation in the Sustainable Business Program.

This no-cost membership platform provides the business community with marketing toolkits, educational opportunities, community engagement events and connections to grant or incentive opportunities in the space of environmental sustainability.

Business Environmental Resource Center's Sustainable Business Program is the region's benchmark for businesses considering or already engaged in eco-friendly practices.

Since the Program's inception, Business Environmental Resource Center has issued more than 800 certifications and has awarded more than 200 unique businesses. ★

## CALLING ALL JAMES MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1975 50-YEAR REUNION

**WHEN: MAY 31, 2025**

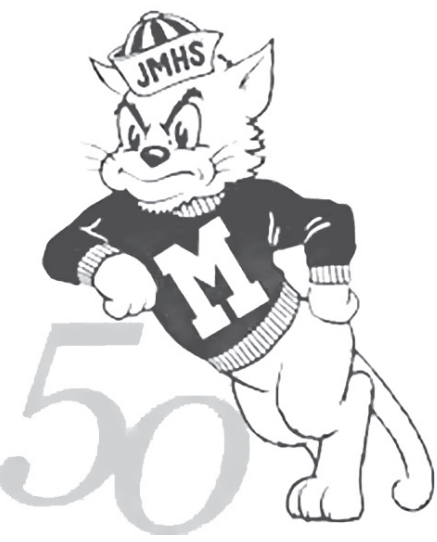
We will be holding our 50th Reunion on May 31, 2025!

If you are a member, or if you know any members, please call Cindy Boyd at (916) 802-8847

Sign up on Facebook Page "James Marshall High School Class of 1975 Reunion"

Or join Classmates.com as soon as possible.

We would love to have everyone attend this evening of fun!



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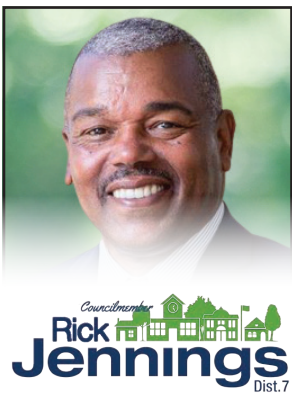


# Beautiful Leaves Mean Fall Colors and Busy Streets

As the beautiful colors of fall begin to surround us, I wanted to take a moment to remind you about an important service our city offers to keep our streets clean during this time of year—Leaf Season.

Each year, from November through January, residents in Sacramento who receive solid waste collection from the city can place excess yard waste, including leaves, branches, and Christmas trees, in piles on the street for collection.

This is a great service that ensures we all enjoy cleaner streets and neighborhoods during the busiest leaf drop season.



However, it is important to note that this service is only available for properties on public streets.

The city’s claw truck will make multiple sweeps through each street during leaf season.

Starting in late October

2024, you can use the SacRecycle Collection Calendar or the SacRecycle app to get an estimate of when your next collection will take place.

In the early part of the season, pickups may happen more frequently, but as more leaves drop and weather conditions like rain and windstorms occur, it may take longer for the crews to rotate through the city.

To keep our streets cleaner and to ensure parking availability, please continue to use your green yard waste container for smaller amounts of yard waste.

Weekly container

collections will continue throughout Leaf Season, so it’s always a good idea to fill your container first. And remember, the schedule is updated daily based on the previous day’s collection volume, weather, and equipment availability.

To make sure we all benefit from this service, please follow these important guidelines for placing yard waste piles on the street:

- Piles should be no more than five cubic yards (four feet high, four feet wide, and nine feet long).
- Limbs must be no longer than three feet and no thicker than four inches in diameter.

- Keep piles at least six feet away from any obstacles, such as parked cars, basketball hoops, or other obstructions.
- Make sure there is space between the curb and the pile to allow water to flow into storm drains and avoid placing piles in bike lanes whenever possible.
- Food waste belongs in the organics container, not in yard waste piles. Similarly, pet waste should be placed in the garbage, not in the yard waste piles or containers.

No plastic bags! Organic waste or recycling should never be placed in plastic.

— Christmas trees will also be accepted in the

yard waste piles after the holiday season—just make sure to remove all plastic, glass, or metal decorations.

Sacramento’s leaf season is a time to come together to keep our neighborhoods clean and safe while enjoying the beauty of fall.

Your cooperation helps make the process smoother for everyone.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our streets clear, and please don’t hesitate to check the SacRecycle app or website for the latest updates on your street’s collection schedule.

★

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

## It’s Election Season — Make Your Plans to Vote

*Continued from Page 1*

also register to vote, update their registration and cast their ballot at a Vote Center, even on the day of the election.

**Drop Boxes:** Voted/signed ballots may be placed in any of the 60 secure Drop Box locations throughout Sacramento County.

When using a Drop Box, ensure that it is an official, secure box provided by the Sacrament County Election’s Office. All official county drop boxes have the Sacramento County wave logo on them.

A complete list of Vote Center and Drop Box locations can be found at [elections.saccounty.net](https://elections.saccounty.net).

For more election and voter information, visit the Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections website at [elections.saccounty.gov](https://elections.saccounty.gov).

To register to vote, visit the California Online Voter Registration website at <https://registertovote.ca.gov>.

★

*Continued from Page 1*

our first JFK principal) along with personnel rosters.

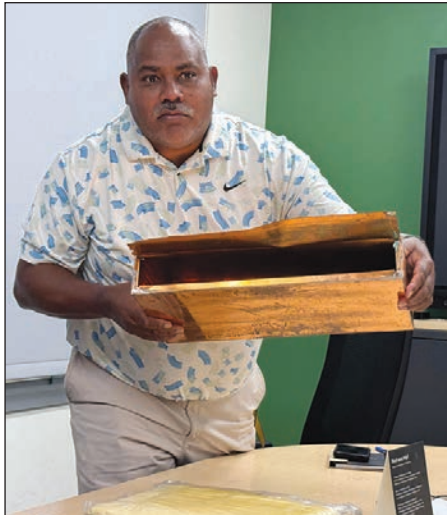
There were articles from district newsletters, our local newspapers, The Sacramento Bee and the Sacramento Union, which discussed the Vietnam war and the Middle East conflict.

Also, articles detailing the laying of Kennedy’s cornerstone by the Masons. We even uncovered a masonic roster, which was a sign of their importance during this era.

Additionally, an interesting article included the observance of the 100-year anniversary of the founding of Sacramento public schools. There was even a treasured coin in the coffer: a newly minted silver half-dollar, depicting President John F. Kennedy, our school’s namesake.

Finally, the committee added some highlights from our baby boomer years: Sacramento Bee archive photos and stories regarding the JFK cornerstone from researcher James Scott, Sacramento Downtown Library; New York Times articles; a front page from the Times (internet version), current events concerning Artificial Intelligence rules, Climate

## JFK Time Capsule Unearthed



A JFK High School Class of 1969 alumni committee member displays the opened time capsule. Photo by Karl Okamoto

2024. Note: A McDonald’s hamburger cost 18 cents in 1969.

The committee extends thanks to past principal David VanNattan, who originally notified the committee of the time capsule, and to current JFK principal Reginald Brown, who graciously participated and allowed us the opportunity to partake in the unveiling.

The 1969 alumni committee members present were Karl Okamoto; Lynette (Greenslate) Bell and son Aaron Bell, our video logger; Barbara (Lee) Beattie; Gerry Mamola, Darlene Carlson; and Gayle (Hilleary) Bourtoul and husband Francis. Also in attendance alumni Dawn and Dale Young and Linda (LaBella) Pohl, alumna and advertising executive for The Pocket News.

Although unable to attend, our remaining alumni members, Mary (Renfree) Bartron, Debbie Martin, Julie (McLaine) DuLaney and Ruth (Trubshenk) Lundsten, also share with us this momentous occasion.

What a great kickoff to our 55th class reunion celebration. Any alumni wishing to watch the time capsule video can do so through the class website at [www.jfk69.com](http://www.jfk69.com).

★

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# Local Athletes Compete at Moo Doo Tournament

**iYa Taekwondo  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - On Oct. 3 through 6, iYa Taekwondo’s young athletes made our local community proud with an extraordinary performance at the Moo Doo Tournament. The tournament was held at the Capital Sports Center in Sacramento.

Competing with skill, heart, and determination, they brought home 11 gold medals, five silver, and three bronze—an achievement that reflects both their talent and the strong support they receive from the iYa family and the community at large.

These students exemplified the true spirit of Taekwondo, showcasing the values of discipline, perseverance, and respect that are at the core of iYa Taekwondo’s mission. It was a weekend that showed what they could achieve as athletes and as growing individuals, representing our community with pride.

At iYa Taekwondo, their mission is to empower growth and confidence through core principles, and this was on full display throughout the tournament. The young competitors



Young athletes compete at the 2024-2025 Moo Doo Tournament.

faced tough opponents, but their determination and teamwork carried them through. Many parents, neighbors, and local supporters were in attendance, and you could feel the energy and pride in the air as these students cheered for one another and pushed through every challenge. Their success was a reflection of their hard work, and it also reminded us all how martial arts can shape young minds and strengthen community bonds.

A standout moment for our community was the achievement of Doctor Edwards, age 63, who



Young athletes display their skills at the 2024-2025 Moo Doo Tournament.

earned her second-degree black belt and captured the 2024-2025 national title in her division. A longtime member of the iYa Taekwondo family, Doctor Edwards has shown an incredible dedication to the sport and to personal

growth, embodying the resilience that Taekwondo helps foster. Her success was an inspiring moment for everyone who knows her, and a reminder of how far dedication and community support can take you.

These young athletes



Second-degree black belt Doctor Edwards, age 63, captured the 2024-2025 national title in her division at the Moo Doo Tournament. Photos courtesy of iYa Taekwondo

are not just learning how to kick and block; they are developing lifelong skills that will help them grow into confident and resilient individuals. iYa’s vision is to create a community of resilient individuals making a positive impact on the world, and this weekend showed that they are well on their way. The way these students conducted themselves, not just in competition but in supporting each other, was a beautiful representation of that vision.

The success of iYa

Taekwondo at the Moo Doo Tournament is something that the whole community can celebrate. It’s a reminder of what can be accomplished when we work together, support one another, and stay committed to our shared values. These young athletes have made us all proud, and their victories will resonate throughout our community as they continue to grow, learn, and give back. Their resilience, growth, and teamwork inspire s all, and we can’t wait to see what they accomplish next. ★

## Community Comes Together for Spooky Fun



Haunted house staff take a break from scaring attendees.

*Continued from Page 1*  
decorated trunks lined the area, each one showcasing a unique Halloween theme. From the Adam’s Family to Harry Potter, the creative

designs added excitement for trick-or-treaters of all ages, who collected candy and enjoyed the playful atmosphere.

Safety was a priority,

and with careful planning, families were able to enjoy the event in a secure environment.

The sense of community was evident, with



Trick or treaters enjoy the seventh annual Haunted House and Trunk-or-Treat event, organized by iYa Taekwondo. Photos by Jason Lee

neighbors coming together to celebrate the spirit of the season.

Now in its seventh year, the event has become a beloved tradition, bringing

both scares and smiles to the neighborhood. As iYa Taekwondo continues to grow this annual Halloween festivity, it looks forward to providing

more fun, fright, and community engagement in the years to come.

Thank you to everyone who made this year’s event such a success! ★

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# Hospital Guild Back Open to Volunteers

By Carol Barr, Mercy General Hospital Guild

*Editor's note: Mercy General Hospital offers many services, including heart and vascular care, a family birth center and cancer care. The Sacramento hospital, part of the Dignity Health network, is dedicated to delivering high quality, compassionate care and access to Sacramento and nearby communities.*

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Mercy General Hospital Guild is back open to all volunteers since the pandemic years.

We are hoping that some will want to give back to your community by volunteering. The address for Mercy General Hospital is 4001 J St., Sacramento.

Volunteers only work in four-hour shifts, which are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 12:30 to 4 p.m. or in some cases, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The basic requirement is only two shifts a month. The yearly fee for membership is \$20. There are many



The Mercy Hospital Guild volunteers served 608 hospital staff members tea sandwiches and baked goods at the annual personal tea in May.

departments where volunteers can work.

The AlexGSpanos information desk is located in the main lobby. Patients are directed to registrars so they can have their

procedures completed from that desk. We also direct patients and their families to see loved ones or find the locations of their procedures.

The Mercy Medical

Plaza Information Desk is located in the doctors' offices building next door, and patients are directed to their doctors' offices or outpatient surgery there.

The Surgery/Cardiac

Waiting Area is located on the second floor of the main hospital.

We keep families informed of their loved ones' surgery and its completion.

The gift shop is located on the first floor of the main hospital. There are always beautiful clothes, jewelry and gifts, and seasonal art pieces to purchase as well as books, candy and snacks.

If a volunteer would rather work from home, pillowcases that are made for all our cardiac patients, plus there are creations made for our seasonal sales throughout the year.

The fun activities are planned for the staff at the hospital. These include bake sales, ice cream socials, vendor sales and the annual personal tea held each May.

There is office work available in the new Guild office located in the main hospital basement.

The staff organizes hours and keeps information like addresses and requirements current for all volunteers.

If you are interested in getting an application, please call 916-453-4699. The requirements will be explained to you and an application will be available. ★

# Court, Law School Support Guardianship Assistance

Sacramento Superior Court News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento Superior Court has partnered with Lincoln Law School of Sacramento to provide in-person courtroom assistance to individuals representing themselves in guardianship cases.

“This endeavor improves the public’s access to justice while providing law students with valuable hands-on experience,” said Presiding Judge Bunmi O. Awoniyi.

A guardianship is a legal arrangement in which a court appoints a family member

or other interested person to make decisions for a minor whose parents have passed away or are unable or unwilling to care for the minor. A guardianship may also be to obtain legal status in the United States for an immigrant under 21.

In these cases, the person being cared for is called the ward, and the person appointed to care for them is the guardian.

Guardianship can involve making decisions about housing, medical care, legal issues, financial issues and services, and education. There are two types of guardianships:

Guardian of the person: The guardian

has the right to make legal decisions in the ward's life, such as where the child goes to school and their medical care.

Guardian of the Estate: The guardian manages the ward's resources.

In California, guardianship suspends a parent's rights but does not terminate them. The guardianship continues until the ward is emancipated, adopted, turns 18 (excluding legal status for immigrants), passes away, or until further court order.

Each Friday, Lincoln Law School student volunteers are available in Department 129 in the Probate Division at the William R. Ridgeway Family

Relations Courthouse to help litigants representing themselves complete the required forms to obtain the orders they need on the same day as their hearing. This allows parties to leave with orders in hand rather than having their hearings continued.

This new partnership between Sacramento Superior Court and Lincoln Law School of Sacramento has resulted in fewer delays for the litigants and children needing care and support, has reduced the caseload for the Court, and has provided law students with an opportunity to gain valuable experience. ★

# Safetyville Hosting Trick or Treat Event

By Daniel Canfield

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - This Halloween season, Safetyville will be hosting “Trick or Treat Safetyville,” which will provide a safe environment for kids of all ages to trick or treat. The event is planned for Saturday, Oct. 26, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Messenger Publishing Group reached out to Safetyville Executive

Director Mindy Johnston for comment on the upcoming event.

Johnston explained, “Trick or Treat Safetyville is Safetyville’s largest fundraiser of the year and this year we are also celebrating our 40th birthday. Events like Trick or Treat help to keep our costs low for the school field trips and help ensure that our youngest citizens are safe out in the real world.”

Johnston went on to describe the planned events.

“We’ve got an amazing day of trick or treating, sweet treats, games, activities, music and more, including a magician performing during the 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. sessions. A mascot parade with regional mascots, including SafetyBill and the River Cats mascot Dinger, will happen during the 1

p.m. session and a family costume contest during the 3 p.m. session with a great family day outing as our grand prize.

We will also feature a pumpkin patch for pictures and purchases along with a hay maze to wind through in our Old Sacramento Patio.”

Admission to the Trick or Treat event is \$7.50 per person and free for children under age 2. This



event will take place rain or shine; no refunds.

Safetyville is located at 3909 Bradshaw Road, Sacramento.

When not hosting community events such as Trick or Treat Safetyville, Safetyville offers field trips for kindergartners through

second graders that focus on bike and pedestrian safety as well as fire safety and how to call 911.

Visit the Safetyville website for tickets and more information on the event and Safetyville programs at [safetycenter.org/trick-or-treat-safetyville](http://safetycenter.org/trick-or-treat-safetyville). ★

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The Native-Tribal Traffic Education grant will support a series of programs focused on safety, education and cultural understanding. Photo courtesy of California Highway Patrol

# CHP Receives Native-Tribal Traffic Education Program Grant

California Highway Patrol  
News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is honored to announce its receipt of the Native-Tribal Traffic Education Program (TTEP) grant, a transformative initiative to build stronger relationships and improve outreach with Native American communities throughout California.

This grant will support a series of programs focused on safety, education and cultural understanding.

The Native-Tribal Traffic Education Program grant provides resources to create specialized training, community outreach and educational events that increase awareness of tribal sovereignty and respects cultural traditions. The program also aims to address the unique challenges that Native American communities face.

“This grant is a significant milestone for our department and the communities we serve across California,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “It allows

us to enhance safety and foster cultural understanding through essential resources and educational programs.”

Grant funds will be used to conduct workshops and training sessions for CHP personnel, emphasizing culturally-informed law enforcement practices and the historical context of Native American relations. The program will also support the development of educational materials that provide safety information and resources tailored to Native American communities.

This initiative aligns with the CHP’s commitment to improving community relations and enhancing public safety through education and outreach. By working closely with tribal leaders and members, the CHP seeks to address specific concerns and provide meaningful support to Native American communities throughout the state.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ★

# Volunteers Can Help with Tax Prep, Literacy

Kristin Thebaud  
Communications  
News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Local residents can help end poverty for families in the capital region by volunteering with United Way California Capital Region in its Free Tax Prep and literacy tutoring programs. From teens to seniors, volunteers can receive valuable experience while making an impact on their community.

“Whether they’re more into numbers or letters, math or reading, our volunteers of all ages provide a critical human touch to our programs as they develop relationships and directly empower local families with tools to rise from poverty,” said Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. “Our literacy volunteers work with children to help them excel in school so they can succeed in college and career. Our Free Tax Prep volunteers work with families to ensure they receive every dollar possible in tax credits so they can increase the amount of money in their bank accounts and support their families and their children’s education.”

Local residents who are interested in education, child development or literacy and have a couple of hours to commit each week can become literacy volunteers, either virtually or in person. These volunteers facilitate



A volunteer works with a child through United Way California Capital Region’s literacy tutoring program. Photo courtesy of Kristin Thebaud Communications

tutoring sessions at local elementary schools and implement engaging literacy activities. Volunteers receive hands-on experience as they network and gain skills in tutoring, teaching, mentoring and volunteer management, all while making a meaningful impact on children’s lives. To learn more about becoming a literacy volunteer, visit the United Way website at [www.yourlocalunitedway.org](http://www.yourlocalunitedway.org).

Volunteers looking to dedicate four to eight hours each week and learn valuable tax filing information can sign up to help with United Way’s Free Tax Prep program. Free Tax Prep volunteers directly impact individuals and families as they work to help them file their taxes and apply for the maximum tax credits possible. Commitments span five to six months, with 40 hours of tax training between November and January, and tax season running January through May.

To learn more about becoming a Free Tax Prep

volunteer, visit the United Way website at [www.yourlocalunitedway.org](http://www.yourlocalunitedway.org).

Founded in 1923, United Way California Capital Region has been a transformative force in the Sacramento community for more than a century, serving Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties. The local United Way’s Square One approach to ending poverty is grounded in a public health model and uses a threefold strategy to address community needs from birth and beyond: helping children excel in school, investing in families and strengthening schools.

United Way supplies books to young children, provides literacy tutoring, addresses housing and food security, leads the region’s largest tax preparation initiative and launched Sacramento’s first guaranteed income program.

For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.YourLocalUnitedWay.org](http://www.YourLocalUnitedWay.org). ★

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