



Amazon Fresh Set to Open in Sunrise Marketplace

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Citrus Heights Messenger

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Serving the City of Citrus Heights & Sacramento County

NOVEMBER 1, 2024

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Permanent Veterans Memorial Approved



Citrus Heights Veterans Memorial Project members pose with Citrus Heights City Council during the Oct. 23 City Council meeting. Courtesy photo of City of Citrus Heights

By Shaunna Boyd

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - At the Citrus Heights City Council's Oct. 23 meeting, councilmembers held the final public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program allocations for 2025. Each year, the city receives these federal funds to help support public services and capital projects.

The city expects to receive about \$600,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding for the upcoming year. The maximum allocation for public services is 15% of that total, so \$90,000 was recommended to be split between the following programs: \$20,000 to Campus Life Connection for the Sayonara After School Program, \$16,000 to Meals on Wheels for the Senior Nutrition Program, \$24,272 to Community Link Capital Region

and Project Sentinel for the Renters Helpline and \$29,728 to Sunrise Christian Food Ministry for the Emergency Food Closet.

For capital projects, \$390,000 of the 2025 Community Development Block Grant funds were recommended for the city's 2025 Pavement Preservation Improvement Plan. In addition, \$381,394.65 of the 2024 Residential Street Resurfacing Project funds will be reallocated to the 2025 Pavement Preservation Plan for a total of \$771,394.65 available for the project.

The council voted unanimously to approve the recommended Community Development Block Grant allocations.

The council then considered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Citrus Heights Veterans Memorial Project, which will construct a permanent 80%

scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial here in Citrus Heights.

Citrus Heights City Manager Ashley Feeny explained that a city grant helped bring The Wall That Heals to Rusch Park in Citrus Heights in 2023. The traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. was very well-attended, which started the idea of building a permanent replica in the city, which would be the first on the West Coast.

The nonprofit Citrus Heights Veterans Memorial Project (CHVMP) will handle fundraising to support the design, construction, and maintenance endowment. Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services of the Diocese of Sacramento, Inc. has agreed to provide the location at Calvary Cemetery in Citrus Heights, as well as project management, construction

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General Election's 11-Day Vote Center Locations Open



Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Vote Centers in 18 convenient locations throughout Sacramento County opened Oct. 26 for the Nov. 5, 2024 Presidential General Election.

At a Vote Center, any Sacramento County resident can register to vote, request a replacement ballot, vote their ballot in person or use the assistive ballot-marking device. Operation times vary prior to Election Day, so check the times and location details carefully.

Voters wishing to return their mail ballot still have time to use a Ballot Drop Box. Visit the Ballot Drop Box page on the county website at elections.sac-county.gov under the How To Vote dropdown menu for more information on locations and times.

Each Ballot Drop Box location has specific hours of operation. Those preferring to mail their ballot can use their pink postage-paid envelope that came with their ballot. Mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 12. Voters must sign their ballot envelope for their ballot to be counted.

For more information, contact the county's Voter Registration and Elections Office at 916-875-6451 or use the toll-free voter assistance hotline at 800-762-8019. The hotline can connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone).

Key Election Dates

Ballot Drop Boxes are open through Election Day, until no later than 8 p.m. See the Ballot Drop Box list at the county's elections.sac-county.gov for locations, days and hours of operation.

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HomeGoods Opens in Birdcage

Story and photos by Thomas J. Sullivan

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Eager customers lined up early outside the new HomeGoods store in the Market Place at Birdcage, at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 24 to celebrate its grand opening and to buy opening-day specials, just in time to kick off the holiday shopping season.

HomeGoods at 6130 Birdcage Center Drive opened its doors to customers after almost a year of construction. The national chain, which sells a variety of household wares, announced last December that it would be joining the



HomeGoods, now open to the public, is known for its affordability and wide range of items.

Market Place at Birdcage, according to CBRE leasing documents. Official signage for the storefront was

installed in mid-August. The Framingham, Massachusetts-based retailer HomeGoods sells

items such as home décor, furniture, rugs, kitchenware, bedding and storage

Continued on page 2

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- Citrus Heights Mayor Jayne Karpinski-Costa
- Citrus Heights Councilman Tim Schaefer

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Permanent Veterans Memorial Approved

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oversight, and ongoing care and maintenance. The City of Citrus Heights will provide expeditious project approvals and fee waivers, and make formal requests to obtain fee waivers from other agencies as needed throughout the process.

Citrus Heights resident and Vietnam veteran Paul Reyes first requested the original grant for The Wall That Heals. Now as a Citrus Heights Veterans Memorial Project Board member, Reyes said this “great venture” will be “a feather in this city’s hat, as it will draw people from all over the state.” The wall will increase tourism and enhance the local community, and most importantly, Reyes said, the project will “honor 58,291 whose names are on the wall and who paid the ultimate price.”

“They were all the true heroes. ... Years from now, when we’re all gone, that structure will still be here honoring those individuals and reminding people of

what true American heroes are all about,” Reyes said.

Citrus Heights resident and Vietnam veteran Kermit Schayltz also serves on the Citrus Heights Veterans Memorial Project Board and on the project committee. Schayltz personally served with soldiers whose names are on the wall, and he said seeing the memorial really does help to heal: “I know this council and this city are going to support this project, and I can’t thank each of you enough for that support.”

Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services of the Diocese of Sacramento, Inc., Chief Operating Officer Scott Miller is serving on the Citrus Heights Veterans Memorial Project Board and as project committee chair. Miller said everyone involved is deeply passionate about the project. Local partners are donating time and services, including Stones Gambling Hall, Rotary Club of Citrus Heights, Capitol Public Affairs and PHPR. Bids for the design were more

than \$200,000 but EDA Land Planning has offered to do the work for an amount not to exceed \$6,000.

Missouri’s National Veterans Memorial, the first approved replica, has shared all its construction plans, which saves a significant amount of money for this project on design and development. And the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (which is responsible for the original memorial in D.C., as well as The Wall That Heals) is also partnering on this project, donating the official naming files, for a savings of \$50,000.

Miller shared a tentative timeline, with the design process expected to be completed by the end of November and construction drawings finalized by the end of January 2025. The review and permitting process should be completed by the end of April 2025, and if the funding has been secured by that time, construction could start that spring/summer, with completion

in 2026. The estimated total cost for the project is \$3.5 million, and fundraising is already underway—with more than half a million dollars currently secured in financial and service donations.

Miller said they will be removing an ornamental vineyard at Calvary Cemetery to make space for the memorial wall, and the location will be visible from east-bound Hwy 80, making it a focal point of the region. There will also be ample space around the wall for future memorials as well as room for burials for veterans and their families. The memorial will be open to the public every day of the year.

Many members of the Rotary Club of Citrus Heights attended the meeting to show their support for the project and share the significant impact the memorial will have for the community to permanently honor these veterans.

The council voted unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding

for the Veterans Memorial project. For more information or to donate, visit <https://chvmp.org>.

Next, the council considered a request from the Citrus Heights Veterans Memorial Project for \$20,000 from the city’s History and Arts Grant program to help fund the memorial wall project. The total amount available in that fund each year is \$20,000, so when considering the request, the Quality-of-Life Committee (currently Mayor Jayna Karpinski-Costa) suggested awarding \$10,000 now and leaving the other half available for other eligible requests.

However, staff identified additional funding in the Economic Development Fund that could cover the other \$10,000, allowing the city to meet the full request.

The council voted unanimously to approve the \$20,000 grant award for the memorial wall.

The next Citrus Heights City Council meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Nov. 13 at City Hall, 6360 Fountain Square Drive. ★

HomeGoods Opens in Birdcage

Continued from page 1
accessories at discounted prices. Its nearest stores are in Folsom, Rocklin, Roseville and Arden-Arcade. The parent company of HomeGoods, TJX Companies, also owns the retail brands of TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Sierra and HomeSense.

The 25,000 square-foot retailer shares frontage with Best Buy and Michaels. Previously, the building was home to Stein Mart.

A separate 6,729-square-foot space, labeled “6130B” in leasing materials, is situated just behind the newly opened HomeGoods, next door to Cost Plus World Market where a grove of tall trees stands. This space has yet to be leased, according to CBRE leasing



Pictured here is the interior of the new HomeGoods store at Birdcage.

materials.

In addition to Michaels and Best Buy, Home Goods joins anchor tenants Walmart Neighborhood

Market, Barnes and Noble, Old Navy and Chuze Fitness, among other national chains, with a retail presence in the Marketplace at

Birdcage.

HomeGoods at the Market Place at Birdcage 6130 Birdcage Center Drive is open from 9:30

a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays. Call 916-536-9953 for more information. ★

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- Beef T-Bone Steak \$5.99/lb
- Beef Porterhouse Steak \$6.49/lb
- Pork Loin Roast Boneless \$2.99/lb
- Pork St. Louis Ribs - Single Pack \$3.99/lb
- American Lamb "Grain Finished" \$9.99/lb
- Boneless & Skinless Chicken Thigh Meat \$2.69/lb
- American Lamb Loin Chops \$9.99/lb
- Pork Loin Chops Boneless \$3.49/lb

FRESH PRODUCE

- Russet Potato 10 lbs \$2.99
- Lime 5 for \$1
- Cranberry 12 oz \$2.29
- Raspberry Driscoll's 6 oz 2 for \$5
- Fuyu Persimmon 99¢/lb
- Pomegranate 99¢/lb
- King Oyster Mushroom \$1.99/lb
- Taiwan Cabbage 99¢/lb

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

- Maseca Corn Flour Gluten Free 4 lbs \$4.99
- Hawaiian Punch Fruit Juices 125 L oz \$2.99
- Honey Nut Cheerios Family Size 18.5 oz \$5.99
- Air Heads Candy Bites 2 Flavors 6 oz \$2.69
- Gain Detergent Orig. Wash Pack 154 L oz \$2.09

ASIAN GROCERY

- Oishi Cracklings w/ Vinegar 31.7 oz \$1.69
- Dynasty Thai Jasmine Rice 20 lbs \$19.99
- 100% Soybean Juice 16.9 L oz \$1.99
- Jan's Late March Strawberry 1.45 oz 2 for \$0.99
- Dragonfly Premium Coconut Milk 13.5 L oz \$1.29

EUROPEAN GROCERY

- Organic Raw Linden & Wildflower Honey 450 gr \$6.99
- Roquefort Condensed Milk Halal 350 gr \$2.99
- Sadal Special Blend Tea with Cardamom 20 T/B \$3.49
- Sadal Moroccan Sardines w/ Lemon 125 gr \$1.29
- Brew Dr Kombucha 3 Kinds 14 L oz \$2.39

KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

- Premium Sushi Rice 44 lbs \$6.99
- Jim Ramen Spicy & Mild 4 x 120 g \$2.99
- Coro Silk & Menta Tea 1.5 liters \$1.99
- Rice Snack 240 g \$3.99
- Roasted Sesawed Snack 2 Kinds 9 x 5 g \$2.99
- Oh Yes! Choco Cake 12 x 30 g \$2.99
- Sempu Sesame Oil 1 kg \$4.99
- Datog Sesame Oil 4 x 150 g \$7.99
- Samsilja Yule Yuen 616 g \$2.99
- Kokumam Curry Sauce 2 Kinds 140 g \$2.49
- Ungad Sushi Sauce 610 g \$2.99

HOUSEWARES

- BIGEN SPEEDY HAIR COLOR (REFILL ONLY) \$5.99
- ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL \$39.99
- ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (4 CUPS) \$4.99
- ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (10 CUPS) \$5.49
- ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (10 CUPS) \$5.99
- MODAMODA SHAMPOO 300 G \$2.99
- KAIZEN WOK PAN 30 CM \$14.99
- WATERMELON SLICE KNIFE \$3.99

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

- Tuna Poke 1 lb \$8.99
- Frozen Broiled Eel 12 oz \$11.99
- Swiss Roll Cake 2 kinds 200 g \$3.99

EUROPEAN DELI

- Columbus Pan Roast Turkey \$11.99
- Columbus Pepper Breast Turkey \$12.49
- Sirilian Style Olives \$6.99
- Pitted Green Olives \$4.99

Advised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 05, 2024.

Amazon Fresh Set to Open in Sunrise Marketplace

By Thomas J. Sullivan

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Citrus Heights' newest grocery store, Amazon Fresh, opens 8 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 7 with an 8 a.m. public ribbon cutting ceremony in the Sunrise Village shopping center at the corner of Sunrise Boulevard and Madison Avenue.

Construction crews of the general contractor, W.L. Butler, headquartered in Redwood City, have been completing a range of pre-opening finishing touches within portions of a fenced-in area of the parking lot marking designated pick-up parking spaces where customer orders will be picked up. New green shopping carts are also now lined up outside the store's main entrance in anticipation of opening day customers.

The grand opening ceremony will feature music, samples, games and a chance to win \$500 toward groceries. The first 100 customers in line receive an Amazon.com gift card and a free exclusive Citrus Heights themed tote bag while supplies last, according to the company.

Amazon Retail LLC, which is doing business as Amazon Fresh, is the company's third grocery store location in the region, according to the company's website. Online, the company also



Amazon Fresh of Citrus Heights will open to the public Thursday, Nov. 7. Photo by Thomas J. Sullivan

lists Amazon Fresh locations in Elk Grove and Roseville.

The new grocery store will open at 5425 Sunrise Blvd., features its latest brick-and-mortar design. Customers will be able to find national brands, produce and protein, as well as Amazon's private-labeled brands, such as Aplenty, Amazon Fresh, Amazon Saver and 365 by Whole Foods Market.

Amazon Fresh opened its first retail location in Woodland Hills in September 2020 and has since been joined by more than 40 locations in California, Illinois, New York, Maryland,

Pennsylvania, Washington State and New Jersey, as well as the Washington, D.C. area.

The Citrus Heights grocery store will feature a wide assortment of "national brands and high-quality produce, meat, and seafood," as well as a range of prepared foods made fresh in store every day, according to the company.

In select stores where Amazon's "Just Walk Out" shopping is available, customers who opt for Just Walk Out Shopping can enter the store in three ways: they can scan the QR code in their Amazon app, use Amazon

One to scan their palm to enter or insert a credit or debit card linked to their Amazon account.

For a more traditional shopping experience, customers can enter the store through designated gates and use one of the checkout lanes staffed by Amazon store employees. When they're ready to check out, customers then have the option to pay with cash, credit or debit card, Amazon One or the Amazon app.

According to a submitted letter by Amazon Fresh to the City of Citrus Heights, the grocer, Amazon Retail LLC, doing business as Amazon Fresh, will also

sell beer, wine, and spirits and provide "limited alcohol instructional tastings" in a designated alcohol sampling area.

Amazon Fresh had filed a public notice of application with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to sell alcoholic beverages at its new Citrus Heights location on May 28.

Tastings will be small samples and be offered by trained beverage suppliers or employees to customers 21 years and older, in accordance with Alcoholic Beverage Control regulations.

Sunrise Village Plaza at the corner of Madison Avenue and Sunrise Boulevard in Citrus Heights is owned by the San Francisco-based Merlone-Geier investment company. The center is undergoing a \$15-to-20 million remodeling and expansion project, which also includes new landscaping and upgraded signage.

Redevelopment of the 150,000-square-foot Sunrise Village shopping center has been ongoing since the first quarter of 2021.

The grocery store hours have been listed as 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. For more information, visit: www.amazon.com/grocerystore/citrusheights. ★

One-of-a-Kind Record and Bookstore Opens in Rancho Cordova

Grand opening celebration Nov. 2

Story and photos by Annie Kerr

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Music and book lovers rejoice!

At 2707 Cordova Lane, near KP International Market, a new record store and bookstore has recently opened to the public: Fat Elephant Records, Books, and Music.

This is the only combined record store and bookstore in the city of Rancho Cordova, offering a curated collection of affordable vinyl records, cassette tapes, books, CDs, DVDs and more.

The store's owner and founder is Charles Lago, the executive director of the Rancho Cordova Film Office, who also helps run Black Box Theater and Old Mills Winery. Currently, he works alongside Jose Ruiz, also an employee of the film office, and Rafael Portillo, but plans to hire more store employees as business grows.

"We came across all these records and we kept acquiring them," Lago said. "I thought, 'let's just open a store.' I have a background in bookstores, so why not just do both?" So, Lago negotiated a lease



From left, Fat Elephant employees Rafael Portillo, Charles Lago and Jose Ruiz pose in front of the Fat Elephant logo, designed by Ruiz.

with the property owners and the rest is history.

Customers walking into Fat Elephant are greeted at first with the current, popular records, such as Taylor Swift and Morgan Wallen albums. But the further into the store, the more interesting it gets.

Many Sacramento residents will remember The Beat, a former downtown

record store off of J Street that closed in 2013. Lago and Ruiz acquired its sign and now it proudly lights up the back wall, paying homage to a beloved Sacramento novelty.

Customers can find records and CDs ranging from all types of genres, including classical, which is rare for record stores to carry, according to

Lago. Movie soundtrack records are also available, including a rare original "Tarzan" record.

The store also boasts a large world music collection, which includes Latin, French, Italian, German, Indian, Russian and Island music in both records and CDs. Lago, from Europe, noted how someone from another country might be delighted to find an album from an artist that is popular overseas but not necessarily popular in America.

There are even comedy and poetry records for sale but it would take all day to peruse the extensive collection of records at Fat Elephant.

Though the store's records are mostly used, excluding the new releases, Lago emphasized that all books for sale are new, featuring bestsellers, fiction, nonfiction, self-help, children's and more. What makes Fat Elephant special? Lago started with the obvious.

"Record stores in Sacramento rarely carry books," he said. "We have stuff that other record stores won't carry because it might be outdated or rare but what I've noticed is that people buy it." Lago used an example of a young male customer

who Lago assumed wouldn't find anything he liked. To his surprise, the young man bought three vintage Frank Sinatra records, proving that young people are still interested in buying classic records.

"At Fat Elephant Records, we pride ourselves on curating a wide-ranging inventory that spans genres, time periods and continents," Lago said. "There are very

Two lucky raffle winners will receive a \$100 and a \$50 gift card, according to Lago. The Mexican restaurant next door to the store, El Puerto Restaurant, will be serving tacos and beer, as well.

According to Lago and Ruiz, Fat Elephant is aiming to be an "events-based" venue and a "cultural hub" for the arts, and they will aim to hold one to two events per month.



Hundreds of 45's are available for purchase, most for \$3.

few records above \$40."

Customers can also shop a collection of board games and trinkets, such as journals and coasters made to look like records.

Despite its soft opening six weeks ago, Fat Elephant Records, Books, and Music will have its grand opening celebration from 2 to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2. The celebration will feature live music, complimentary wine and a 20% discount at the store.

The live music will take place inside, featuring two soloists and one band: TIP Vicious, a local Sacramento hip-hop artist; Linden Wood, a country solo artist; and Lab Rats, a locally based hip-hop band, according to Ruiz.

Anyone interested in selling their vinyl collection and "making sure it ends up in the right hands" can contact Fat Elephant, who might buy or exchange the records, according to Lago.

Fat Elephant Records, Books, and Music is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays, but after its grand opening, will be open on Wednesdays. After Thanksgiving, the store will aim to be open every day, except Mondays.

To learn more, visit www.FatElephantRecords.com. Follow the store on Instagram, @fatelephant-recordss. The store phone numbers are 310-663-4226 or 279-599-5350. ★

General Election's 11-Day Vote Center Locations Open

Continued from page 1

Eleven Day Vote Centers opened on Saturday, Oct. 26.

Tuesday, Oct. 29 was the last day a Vote by Mail ballot was mailed to voters. After this date, Vote by Mail ballots are only available at the county's Voter Registration

and Elections Office or at a Vote Center.

All Vote Centers are open, starting Saturday, Nov. 2 through Election Day until 8 p.m. See the Vote Centers list at elections.saccounty.gov for locations and hours of operation.

Tuesday, Nov. 5 is Election Day. ★

8th Annual

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Funding Approved for Homeless Hospice Program

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - At its Oct. 22 meeting, the Board approved up to \$1,137,788 in funding to complete construction on Joshua's House, a facility that provides end-of-life comfort care for homeless individuals with terminal illnesses, after being discharged from an acute care hospital.

Joshua's House specifically provides a location for homeless patients to receive home-like hospice services when they, by definition, do not have a home to receive such care and may otherwise be unsheltered at the time of passing.

Joshua's House provides shelter, food, clothing and certain volunteer comfort services. In addition, YoloCares will provide licensed expert/specialized end-of-life care for individuals and families facing a life-limiting illness. Yolo Cares has provided high-quality hospice care across the six-county region for nearly 50 years. YoloCares also recently became an enhanced Care Management and Community Supports provider through CalAIM.

"Joshua's House is a natural expression of our community-grounded mission. YoloCares has been a safety-net provider for nearly 50 years," said Craig Dresang, CEO at YoloCares. "We already routinely provide care and support for unhoused individuals, so we see the addition of Joshua's House as a normal evolution for our agency."



More than \$1 million was approved in funding for Joshua's House, a facility that provides hospice care for homeless individuals. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Joshua's House has been a long-standing passion project of Marlene Fitzwater, whose grandson Joshua died on the street, while homeless. In his honor, she has envisioned a place that provides shelter and care to people in the most need at the end of their life. Marlene's compassion is evident when she talks about the project: "This project has been my passion and motivation ever since I lost my grandson, Josh, who died on the street in Omaha, NE of an overdose. As I learned more about homelessness and the prevalence of it in our community, I knew that all my professional experience had prepared me to do this - to provide

shelter, meals, comfort care, love and dignity to the poorest of the poor, and the sickest of the sick - the terminally ill, homeless men and women in our community."

Anthem Blue Cross is investing \$400,000 to support the expansion of Joshua's House Hospice. The investment will help close a funding gap to bring on additional beds to serve more individuals experiencing homelessness dealing with a terminal illness who need a safe and secure environment.

"Anthem is proud to support and partner with the City and County of Sacramento on expanding the Joshua's House Hospice program to be able

to serve more terminally ill homeless people who do not have the ability to cope with their tragic circumstance in their own home," said Les Ybarra, President of Anthem Blue Cross CA Medicaid Plan. "Anyone who is facing an end-of-life circumstance deserves the right to be comfortable and safe, regardless of housing status."

A Service Missing from the System

One of the Board of Supervisors' priorities is to identify and fill gaps in local and regional homeless programs and services. The opportunity to help Joshua's House fill its funding shortfall and offer a service not yet available in the Sacramento region

was an easy decision. With more than 20 percent of the homeless population aging over 55 and nearly half of those self-reporting a chronic illness, these services are needed more than ever. Furthermore, project proximity to the Parkway made using this particular funding source, granted by the state of California to address the needs of people exiting homelessness coming off the Parkway, another smart decision.

Joshua's House is located in Sacramento County's First Supervisorial District, represented by Supervisor Phil Serna. The Board is proud to make a meaningful and compassionate investment in this program.

"Hospice care is a compassionate and critical element of our healthcare system, yet its availability to those suffering homelessness has been inconsistent at best" said First District Supervisor Phil Serna. He continued, saying, "Joshua's House hospice care is the first of its kind not only in Sacramento, but in the entire state, and I'm proud to be associated with its mission and to help bring it to fruition, especially in the district I serve. I challenge anyone to convince me those without shelter deserve something less than what we all deserve: a dignified and compassionate experience, one with commensurate care and comfort nearing the end of our lives."

The Balance of Parkway Funding

Staff have worked with the Board and other community partners to identify other projects that can provide shelter and housing opportunities for people exiting the Parkway for the remaining approximately \$6.9 million in ARP that is unallocated. In addition to the Joshua's House project, staff recommends an allocation of \$1.9 million in ARP funding to support the construction of the Watt Avenue Safe Stay project and to allocate the balance (approximately \$3.8 million) to on-going operational needs and/or expansion of ARP shelter programs.

For more information on what Sacramento County is doing to respond to homelessness, visit our website at <https://schs.saccounty.gov/pages/default.aspx>. ★

Empowerment For a Better Future

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - With tears spilling over her eyelids and down her cheeks, Falisha recalled buried details of her rocky childhood – responsibilities no child should've shouldered, experiences no child should've had. One poignant memory that surfaces is her, standing on a milk crate at five years old, leaning too close to the hot stove, trying to cook dinner for her two younger siblings, one just a baby, as her mother had yet again left them alone for hours with virtually no food in the house and no promise that she'd be back.

Falisha cannot remember a time in her life when she wasn't responsible – for her own wellbeing, making sure others were taken care of. She never had the childhood most imagine – carefree, fun and full of joy. Even with her eyes full of tears, you can see the determination in her eyes, "it is going to be different for my kids," she said. "They deserve a better life than I had."

Homelessness wasn't a slow burn for Falisha, it happened all at once – in one day, with one life-changing event. Falisha and her two kids, just seven and one at the time, lived with her grandfather. She was his fulltime caretaker – an In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) worker. Not only was she able to provide care for her grandfather, but through the In-Home Supportive Services program, was able to get paid as his caretaker and provide for her family.

In 2022, her grandfather passed away, somewhat unexpectedly, despite his prolonged illness. While spiraling from the emotional trauma of losing her grandfather, Falisha lost a lot more – her income, her housing and every other pillar of stability she had in one fell swoop.

"They Came Knocking"

Falisha moved herself and her small children into her car, doing



Women's Empowerment was able to help Falisha get back on her feet. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

everything she could to get them safe, fed, clean, get her oldest to school, find a new job, find daycare for her youngest all while making sure her car didn't get towed. "The police would come knock on our window and tell us we couldn't stay where we were parked. It was so stressful, constantly moving the car."

Falisha used her phone to google every possible resource she could find to help her. She found Women's Empowerment (WE). Women's Empowerment is a local organization, run by women, created to provide counseling, education, resources, services and empowerment to women escaping domestic violence, experiencing homelessness or dealing with extreme poverty. The goal is to break generational cycles of homelessness and poverty and graduate to stability, growth, education and housing. Sacramento County invested \$1.45 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds into Women's Empowerment to help support its mission.

"I Put in Twice as Many Applications"

Women's Empowerment served lunch every day, Falisha stopped by and collected the food to keep for her kid's dinner that night. Falisha

started braiding hair to make money while she looked for a job.

Falisha and her kids had lived in her car for nearly four months when Women's Empowerment was able to get her into shelter. Falisha started a series of programs offered by Women's Empowerment to help with job readiness and training, education on renting housing, finding childcare and more. Falisha graduated from Carrington College and put in dozens of applications. The job training kit provided by Women's Empowerment had a recommended number of applications applicants should aim for every week; Falisha put in twice as many applications.

Because of her technical and hands on training at college, Falisha was able to get a job as a pharmacy technician at a local drug store. Through a consistent hard work, Falisha has promoted and been at her job the past two years. With the slow increase in income, Women's Empowerment was able to place Falisha and her kids at Trellis Gardens – a transitional workforce housing program that provides subsidized housing and support to working graduates of Women's Empowerment's Job-Readiness & Empowerment Program and their children who

cannot yet achieve market-rate rent.

"I Am Going to Leave My Kids Something, They Deserve That"

Falisha's goal isn't to work as a pharmacy tech forever. Her hands-on work in the science and technology field has given her a love of compounding and in her very scant spare time, she has been experimenting with sugar scrubs. She has perfected her recipe, secured her own LLC, designed the packaging and thought through how to ship product. Now she needs to learn how to create her very own website!

But finding the time to run a side business while still scrapping just to make ends meet is her daily struggle. "It is so hard to do it all as a single mom. I get up early to make sure everything gets done. Making breakfast, getting the kids clean, getting my son to daycare, my daughter to school, I work until 5 p.m., then it's dinner, homework, showers, cleaning, bedtime. If I am lucky, I find time to exercise to keep myself healthy and then start all over again the next day." Falisha looks away as her eyes fill with tears. "But my kids are worth it. I am going to leave them something – a piece of land, some inheritance of some kind – something. I will keep fighting for that." ★

The Blessing of Trellis Gardens

"Trellis Gardens has been amazing. It is like our own little house, but we didn't have to pay our full rent at first, just a little bit. And the house came with everything we needed."

Trellis Gardens fully furnishes the cottages, and provides all housing wares like pots/pans, sheets, furniture and more for incoming residents. Every household has children. Staffing includes specialists in employment, housing, increasing income, schooling, a case manager, safety monitor and admin staff. The National Council of Jewish Women fills the food pantry weekly, as well as helps with car repairs to keep residents' cars running to avoid the high cost of car payments for newer cars.

Residents can stay for up to 24 months, with their rent slowly increasing as they prepare to enter the rental market at market rate prices. When they exit, their first three months of paid rent at Trellis Gardens are returned to them.

Ready to Fly Soon

Falisha and her kids will be ready to leave Trellis Gardens soon. It is bittersweet – it means she has graduated from all the programs, grown her income and is ready to rent a place of her own. But it also means she is responsible for herself and her kids – by herself. Her case workers have all the faith in the world in her ability to succeed.

She knows she likely won't stay in Sacramento forever – it is too expensive to live here. To reach her ultimate goals, she needs a better balance for herself and her kids, but for now, Sacramento is home.

"I am just so grateful to be here – I shouldn't be here after everything I've been through. I have come so far. I've reached every goal I ever set for myself. I graduated from college. I got my job as a pharmacy tech. I lost 100 lbs. I'll be a millionaire one day, I know it. I am going to get there – just wait." ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Is there panic in Sactown? Angry fans? How about just plain dismay?

My response would be no one should panic two games into the regular season.

Do you have the right to be angry? Of course you do, but dismay is probably better and it's a practical emotion when you consider that the hometown ballers lost every preseason game and have now opened the season with a dismal 0-2 record.

More puzzling than the zero-win Kings, however, is trying to figure out what is going through the mind of former coach of the year Mike Brown.

After losing to the Timberwolves in a game that, by my estimation, the Kings should have won, coach Brown relegated his protégé Keon Ellis to the end of the bench. Arguably the Kings best defender sat out the entire game with no explanation from the head coach.

While the Lakers ran off 21 unanswered points to start the fourth quarter, and the Kings allowed LeBron James to literally take over the game by himself, defensive standout Keon Ellis cooled his heels and watched LeBron show the Kings how to shoot 3-point baskets.

From a fans perspective it was hard to watch, but by all accounts, the game was ostensibly over. But no, the Sactown boys came roaring back to make the game a dogfight, and with less than a minute remaining, Sacramento needed only a stop, and a 2-point shot to tie the score.

Sadly, as in the Minnesota game, this one would slip away too, but the question remains, why was Keon Ellis conspicuously absent when defense was so sorely needed.

After being awarded coach of the year two seasons ago, Mike Brown had arguably one of his worst coaching performances last season, as the Kings were eliminated in the play-in series.

What contributed to the abrupt ending was in large part the frenetic way coach Brown managed his bench all season.

Previously much heralded Davion Mitchell never received consistent minutes off the bench, and like Keon Ellis just discovered, was listed as did-not-play (DNP) in the box score too many times.

This should be perplexing for any fan,

but in fairness to coach Brown, I simply want to hear from him the reasoning behind these moves.

Surely there is a cogent reason for starting Keon Ellis in the first game of the season, and then putting him on the bench for the entire game against the Lakers.

It was obvious the Kings had no answer for defending LeBron James, so why not let Mr. defense Keon Ellis have a try?

In the past I have given coach Brown a lot of credit for bringing Ellis along, and certainly taking a player from the G league to starting on an NBA squad is worthy of praise.

But please answer the question. Why is Keon out, completely!

This is exactly what happened to fan favorite Davion Mitchell, and now he plays for another NBA team.

I don't expect coach Brown to reveal every element of his coaching strategy, but lineup changes make for obvious questions.

At the end of the day, the fans are poised to forgive it all for a win Monday night over the Portland Trail Blazers.

As I said before, this is not the time to panic, but it is time for the coaching team to make some practical decisions, which should include playing the best players we have.

Inserting newcomer Doug McDermott into the Minnesota game to start the fourth quarter was a real head scratcher, and although like most Kings fans, I'm curious to see what he can do, bringing in a new player in the heat of the fourth quarter seemed questionable at best.

I would love to see McDermott get some minutes off the bench but getting him some playing time earlier in the game seems like a more practical approach, so let's keep our fingers crossed that we'll see Doug on the hardwood sometime soon.

King's fans let's bring our A game to the arena Monday night (after press time) and root our gladiators onto their first win of the season. Positivity is the name of the game, so let's enjoy this one together!

All the best Kings fans!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

California Reservoirs Are Flush, But Water Politics May Trump Hydrology



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Most of us operate on the calendar year — the 12 months that begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

Many governments and major corporations use the fiscal year — typically beginning on July 1 and running until June 30 of the following year.

However the federal government's fiscal year, which began on July 1 for 132 years, was shifted in 1974 to an October 1 start to accommodate federal officials' insistence on a month-long escape from Washington's steamy summer weather.

In California, the most important calendar may be the "water year," which also begins on October 1, because how much the state's reservoirs have in storage and how much nature provides in the form of rain and snow are existential factors in the lives of nearly 40 million people.

The water year begins on October 1 because historically, the state's roughly six-month-long rainy season begins in the fall.

Federal and state managers of California's extensive system of dams, reservoirs and canals that capture, store and distribute water count how many acre-feet (each one 326,000 gallons) they have in the water bank. They then project how much more they can anticipate over the

next half-year and plan on how much and when they will deliver water to dozens of local agencies, especially those serving agriculture.

The current water year begins with healthy water savings. After two relatively wet winters, including the blockbuster 2022-23 season that ended several years of drought, major reservoirs have close to 100%, or above, of historic October levels.

Shasta Lake, the largest federal reservoir, has 107% of historic October storage this week, while Lake Oroville, the state's biggest, is at 96%.

That should be enough to carry the state through a relatively dry 2024-25 winter, which is possible because meteorologists see a 71% chance that the season will be dominated by a La Niña condition in the Pacific Ocean. It often — but not always — tends to push the jetstream to the north, bringing heavier precipitation to the Pacific Northwest but reducing rain and snow to the south, meaning California.

"California experienced record heat and dry conditions this summer, drying out the landscape and putting our hydrology behind before the water year even starts," state climatologist Michael Anderson said in a statement issued by the Department of Water Resources to mark the 2024-25 water year's onset. "While there is still a lot of uncertainty around how La Niña could impact the state this year, we know we can count on it to include extreme conditions."

California's weather is notoriously difficult to forecast more than a week or two in advance, so the only

certainty about the new water year is that it begins with strong storage numbers. That said, how much water is actually delivered to downstream users will depend not only on storage and precipitation but on California's ever-shifting regulatory climate.

Official state water policy is to become more resilient to the long-term effects of climate change, assumed to be less precipitation in the form of snow and more in rain. That indicates a need for more storage to capture winter rains, such as the pending construction of Sites Reservoir on the western side of the Sacramento Valley.

However, the state also wants San Joaquin Valley farmers, who receive the bulk of water deliveries from federal and state reservoirs, to take less, thus providing more water for wildlife in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump is promising that if he returns to the White House, he'll help farmers resist reductions that the state wants.

In California, tricky water politics are as important as hydrological factors such as precipitation and storage.

That would have been a far more important topic for the nothingburger special legislative session that Gov. Gavin Newsom called on gas prices.

Dan Walters is one of most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★

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Preparing for Extreme Weather Swings as New Water Year Approaches

California Department of Water Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) on Sept. 26 previewed the new Water Year, which started on Oct. 1, by highlighting preparations for more extreme weather events this season following a record hot summer across much of California and a looming La Niña pattern.

Over the past decade, climate extremes have posed significant challenges to water managers, especially the extreme hot and dry conditions that frequently persist well past summer months and into the fall. California is seeing that right now with above-average temperatures forecast into October and no rain in the current forecast. At the same time, the water that California does receive will arrive from more powerful storms, and hotter temperatures will mean less winter precipitation falls as snow and more will arrive as rain, increasing flood risk.

“California has experienced the full range of climate challenges in recent years from extreme drought to severe flooding and we will be seeing more of that in the future,” said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth. “To meet these dramatic challenges, California is starting this water year with more accurate forecasting and additional investments in flood protection and groundwater recharge.”

The Department of Water Resources and partner agencies are making California more climate resilient, taking actions to protect and boost California’s water supplies by taking an all-of-the-above approach to creating a



Pictured here is a drone photo of Lake Oroville taken Sept. 5. Photo courtesy of the California Department of Water Resources

resilient water supply in the face of a changing climate.

Investments in Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations and improved data collection on hydrological conditions across the state through the Department of Water Resources’ \$7 million California Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP) will allow California to incorporate the best available science and data into its water management decisions.

California is also investing in protecting Californians from extreme weather events. Floodplain restoration and flood infrastructure projects such as the Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project and the Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback Project will work with nature to improve wildlife habitat while reducing flood risk to hundreds of thousands of Californians.

California is also starting this water year with significant progress in bringing groundwater basins across the state closer to long-term sustainability, protecting drinking water supplies against the impacts of climate change. Last winter, the Department of Water Resources launched the Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement Initiative, which supports local groundwater recharge efforts that increase the volume of flood flows diverted from local waterways to recharge areas and expand local capacity to divert and receive future flood flows. The Department of Water Resources has invested over \$100 million in groundwater recharge projects since the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was signed into law in 2014.

While Lake Oroville, the State Water Project’s largest reservoir, is currently 101 percent of average for this date, the latest outlook

from NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center shows a 71 percent chance of La Niña conditions emerging this fall. While seven of the 10 La Niña events this century resulted in dry years, research also suggests that even as the climate grows hotter and drier overall, the precipitation that California does receive will arrive in stronger storms, increasing the risk from flooding.

“California experienced record heat and dry conditions this summer, drying out the landscape and putting our hydrology behind before the water year even starts,” said State Climatologist Dr. Michael Anderson. “While there is still a lot of uncertainty around how La Niña could impact the state this year, we know we can count on it to include extreme conditions.”

The record dry conditions this summer broke multiple records across the state for consecutive days of triple digit temperatures. In the critically important Sierra Nevada watersheds, precipitation this fall will be vitally important to ensure the winter snowpack can translate into runoff that fills our reservoirs, which provides a third of the water used in California.

In addition to today’s preview of the new Water Year, the Department of Water Resources released the 2024 Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment Summary Report on Monday, Sept. 30. The summary report, which includes water shortage information at the supplier level, as well as regional and statewide analyses of water supply conditions, finds that all suppliers have assessed that they will have adequate supplies to meet demand in the coming year. ★

Newsom Vetoes Legislation that Would Have Supported News Publishers

California Newspaper Publishers Association News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California News Publishers Association (CNPA) is disappointed with Governor Gavin Newsom’s decision to veto AB 2095 (Maienschein), which would have taken important steps to modernize the publishing of public notices while maintaining the print protections for notices.

AB 2095 would have expanded

digital access for the public in one central location. Under the bill, which took into account minority newspapers who were already in compliance with AB 2095, public notices would have to be placed in the newspaper’s print publication, on the newspaper’s internet website or electronic newspaper and on a statewide website that is a repository that would have been free to the public and searchable in expanding the reach of these important notices.

“Public notice remains a vital service to the residents of California as

they not only rely on print editions of newspapers for public notices regarding governing body activities and other information, but on issues that may also impact them, including environmental hazards, financial matters, and many other issues that impact communities,” said Charles Ford Champion II, president and CEO of the California News Publishers Association. “While we had some important legislative wins this year, including AB 224, we are disappointed with the Governor’s decision to not see the urgency and importance

of this vital bill. We want to thank our bill author, Assemblymember Maienschein for this commitment to news publishers and local communities statewide.”

The California News Publishers Association remains committed to the protection and promotion of adjudicated newspapers across California, while ensuring that the more than 10 million Californians who rely on home-delivered print newspapers or their e-editions for news remain intact and viable into the future for all communities including ethnic, minority,

elderly, and rural populations.

About CNPA

The California News Publishers Association represents hundreds of publications throughout the state of California and has been established since 1888. For years, the California News Publishers Association has protected the interests of newspapers through member services, a legal helpline for members, and legislative advocacy on behalf of the industry, from the smallest weekly to the largest metropolitan daily. To learn more, visit <https://cnpa.com/>. ★

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 costumers 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

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**YES
ON
36**

36 will give incentive to those who badly need treatment. Those who complete the treatment and graduate from the program will have the opportunity to have their record expunged and avoid incarceration, liberating them to live rich full lives.

Proposition 36 will also reclassify fentanyl as a hard drug, and provide enhanced penalties on those who possess fentanyl while armed with a firearm.

As or thieves, Proposition 36 will impose the potential for felony consequences for persons twice convicted of petty theft and charged with a subsequent theft case. It simply demands that

Social Security Matters

About Taxation of Social Security Benefits



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am past my Social Security full retirement age, and I am still working. I am married and we file our income tax jointly. My husband is 64 and is not working now, but he may, or may not, be able to work in the next year or so. At what point will my Social Security benefits be taxed, if I decide to take them now? **Signed: Worried About Taxes**

Dear Worried: Many Social Security recipients are surprised to find that their benefits may be considered taxable by the IRS, so I welcome the opportunity to clarify this topic for you.

Whether or not your Social Security benefits are taxable depends on your overall combined taxable income for your IRS tax filing status. Taxation of Social Security benefits for a married couple (filing jointly) depends on your combined income as

a couple, which is called your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income" (MAGI) by the IRS. Your MAGI consists of your normal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on your IRS tax return, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had.

If your MAGI (filing jointly) exceeds \$32,000, then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes taxable, but if your MAGI as a couple exceeds \$44,000 then up to 85% of your received SS benefits becomes taxable (at your standard IRS tax rate). Note that these tax thresholds are less for those who file their taxes as a single – e.g., for someone whose IRS filing status is "single," half of their Social Security benefits become part of their taxable income if their personal MAGI is over \$25,000, and up to 85% of their SS benefits are taxable if their individual MAGI is over \$34,000.

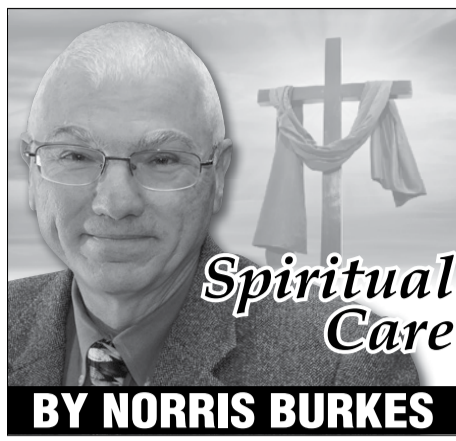
Another factor often misunderstood is that only a portion of SS benefits are added to your income amount taxed by the IRS. The amount added – somewhere between 50% and 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year (depending on your MAGI) – becomes taxable

income at your normal IRS tax rate.

So, in your case, if you claim your SS benefits now, and your combined income (your MAGI) exceeds the above levels for a married couple, then a portion (either 50% or up to 85%) of your SS benefits received during the tax year will be included in your income taxable by the IRS. Note, too, that it is possible to have income tax withheld from your Social Security benefits by submitting IRS form W-4V to your local Social Security office. You can download this IRS form at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf.

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Rolling with Power – Or Rolling with Jesus?



BY NORRIS BURKES

Tell me, did you have a frightening Halloween? Were you visited by a slew of goblins and ghosts?

If you thought that day was frightening, brace yourselves for the election next Tuesday. A good many of us are absolutely terrified who might win. I'll admit, I'm scared too.

Fortunately, I found some clarity about our elected power in an incident recorded in the eleventh chapter of Mark's Gospel, v. 31 and following.

In the accounting, you read that Jesus lead his parade of followers toward Jerusalem, when he decides to share with them a prediction of absolute terror.

Jesus prophesizes, he's about to be mocked, flogged and killed. And three days later he will rise.

What follows is a request from two of his main men, James and John. The request seems to be the perfect example of a non sequitur speech – a conclusion or statement that does not logically follow from the previous argument or statement.

James and John, interrupt Jesus's ghoulish talk with, "Can we get a seat in your Kingdom cabinet, one on the left of you and the other on the right?"

These guys are all about me. Me. Me. Can't it be me in power with you?

Jesus is like, sure, you'll get a piece of this too. For following me, you'll be

"drinking out of the same cup."

Jesus wasn't talking about happy hour here. He was saying, following me has a cost you might not want to pay.

But here's where Jesus speaks the truth to James and John as they seem to seek the power then being held by only the influential rulers and religious leaders.

Jesus gets in his disciples' face and tells them. "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around," he said, "and when people get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads."

He points out that Christ-followers have to be different. "It can't be the same with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant.

"That's what I've done," he explains, "I came to serve, not to be served."

Power is not the model we follow. Instead, Jesus is showing we wield ultimate power only when we set ourselves aside.

We employ true power by serving. But if we serve only to climb a ladder, we will fall. We must serve only for the sake of service—even to the point of giving our lives away.

Jesus was patient with James and John in their misguided search for power. And as one who sometimes follows the fame, I count his patience as good news for me. I just might have a chance as well.

So, if you count yourself as a servant this election day, let your ballot fall silently into the ballot box and return to service.

And, I must point out, if you're voting to bring Jesus into power, he doesn't want that power. If all we seek in this election is a shortcut to Christian power, we only do damage to ourselves or those around us.

The winners this election year will be the ones who serve. Not the ones who demand they be served.

That's not how Christians roll. We don't roll with power, we roll with Jesus. ★

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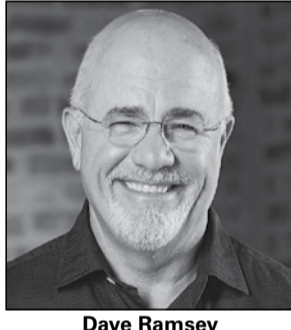
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Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

I just finished paying off all my consumer debt in Baby Step 2. It took a long time, but I finally did it. Now, it's time to grow my \$1,000 beginner emergency fund to a full-funded emergency fund. I've been working on this for a while, and I'm glad I'm doing it. But I was wondering at what point can you spend, and have a little fun, when you're following the Baby Steps plan.

– Mark

Dear Mark,

Congratulations, buddy! The first couple of steps can be the hardest. I'm really proud of you for sticking with it and making it happen.

I recommend completing the first three Baby Steps before you start thinking about spending money on fun stuff. In my mind, that positions you on pretty solid ground, financially speaking. So, at that point it's okay to

Dave Ramsey Says

Spend, Save and Give

have a little fun going on a vacation or buying something—reasonably priced, of course—that you've had your eye on.

Like you said, Baby Step 1 is saving \$1,000 for a starter emergency fund. Baby Step 2 is where you pay off all debt—except your home—using the debt snowball method. In Baby Step 3, you go back and fully fund your emergency fund with enough cash to cover three to six months of expenses.

But don't have so much fun that you forget about the other Baby Steps. Baby Step 4 means putting 15 percent of your income into pre-tax retirement plans, like mutual funds and Roth IRAs. Don't neglect saving for college if you have kids. That's Baby Step 5. And Baby Steps 6 and 7 are paying off the house early and building wealth and being outrageously generous. Live like no one else, so that later you can live and give like no one else.

Everyone likes having

fun. And there's nothing wrong with spending some cash if you can afford it. I just want people to make sure they have their finances in order first. Remember, there are only three things you can do with money. You can spend it, save it and you can give it away. Following my plan will allow you to do all three without putting yourself in a financial bind.

Keep up the good work!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★

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International Railfair Returns to Cal Expo

By Thomas J. Sullivan

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Celebrate the opening of National Model Railroad Month at the 46th Annual International Railfair (IRF), which returns to Building C at Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd. in Sacramento, Saturday, Nov. 2 and Sunday, Nov. 3.

The annual International Railfair show is run by members of the Sacramento Modular Railroaders, the Sacramento chapter of the European Train Enthusiasts, Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Association and the Sierra Division of the Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), according to IRF spokesperson Tom Campbell.

The two-day event is described as a county fair of model railroad clubs and activities in the greater Sacramento area.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://calexpostatfair.com/event/international-railfair-model-train-show/>.

Show guests will see 28,000 square feet of model railroads, featuring over 10 different layouts from Z to G scale, some 100 vendor tables, how-to clinics and much more.

The popular annual two-day model railroad show is called "International Railfair" because one of its participating sponsor clubs, European Train Enthusiasts (ETE), specializes in building and operating European model railroads, Campbell said.

"We display operating model railroads to the public each year at the IRF to educate the public about model railroading, railroad history, and prototypical railroad operations," Campbell said. "We want to share the best family hobby in the world with you and your family."

Upcoming show highlights include the returning holiday-themed "Square Foot Challenge" diorama contest, and a children's model railroad layout where kids, and those especially young at heart, can earn a Junior Engineer badge and operate a real train layout.

Attendees are invited to vote for their favorite "Square Foot Challenge" contest entrant with the highest number of votes being named a People's Choice winner. The winning diorama builder receives a custom trophy based on a machinist's square and a \$50 gift card to RC Country Hobbies.

Kids can also have fun at a special coloring station with a twist where they can color a 3D paper 'layout' of Sacramento featuring the Tower Bridge, the Delta King and the Southern Pacific train station (now the



The International Railfair will take place the weekend of Nov. 2 and Nov. 3. Photo courtesy of the International Railfair



The International Railfair will feature 28,000 square feet of model railroads. Photo courtesy of the International Railfair

Sacramento Valley Station).

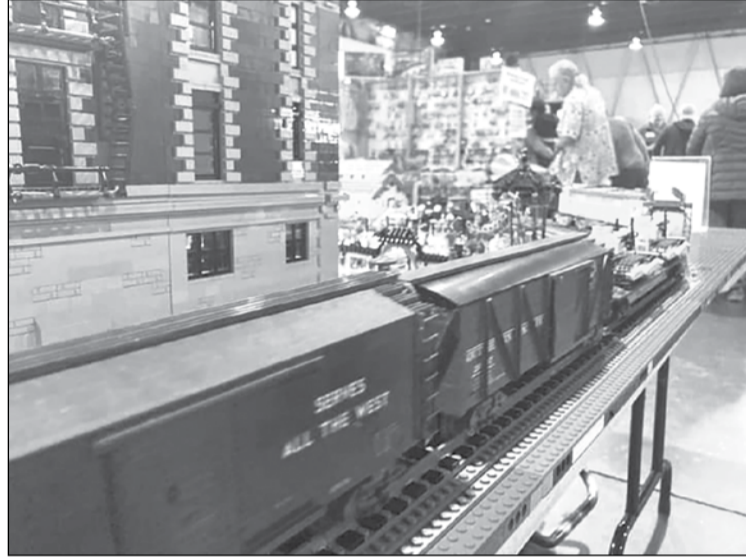
Many of the individual model railroad layouts which are seen at the International Railfair are modular railroads. A typical modular layout consists of transportable individual modules which are clamped together to create a single model railroad, Campbell said.

Modules are typically lightweight, and are about 30" wide and four feet long, and packed with a lot of scenic detail. Legs fold out from underneath the module and the required electrical wiring drops down at both ends of the module.

The annual International

Railfair at Cal Expo is presented by Sacramento Modular Railroaders, Sacramento Chapter European Train Enthusiasts, Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Association and Sierra Division Pacific Coast Region (PCR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA).

Saturday General Admission (13 and up, good for both days) is \$12. Sunday General Admission per adult is \$10. Children aged 12 and under are free both days. Active and retired military members receive a \$2 discount on event admission at the gate. Cal Expo does charge for parking.



Train enthusiasts will not want to miss the International Railfair at Cal Expo. Photo courtesy of the International Railfair

The California Exposition and State Fair has a clear bag policy to reduce security screening interactions and expedite entry to the Cal Expo fairgrounds.

For more information email Tom Campbell at tom.c.irf@gmail.com. To purchase advance tickets, visit www.international-railfair.com. ★

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2024
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INTERNATIONAL
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A railroad engineer holds a model of the C.P. Huntington locomotive, symbolizing the historical Sacramento roots of the International Railfair. Courtesy photo

Domestic Violence Suspect Arrested Following Shooting

Citrus Heights Police Department News Release

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)

- On Oct. 21, shortly before 4:40 p.m., Citrus Heights Police Department (CHPD) officers responded to the report of a domestic violence incident in the 7500 block of Tiara Way.

The victim reported that her boyfriend had physically assaulted her and threatened her with a knife. Officers arrived and located the victim, who suffered from a laceration to her head. The suspect, identified as 41-year-old Justin Phillips, had fled on foot prior to the officers' arrival, according to the Police Department. Police searched the area but Phillips was not located.

Around 7:45 p.m., witnesses reported Phillips was recently seen in the 7500 block of Sunrise Boulevard. Officers located Phillips, who they said immediately fled on foot inside a senior living facility and eventually onto the facility's roof. Officers

surrounded the area and opened dialogue with Phillips to convince him to peacefully surrender. Phillips acted erratic and appeared to be under the influence of a controlled substance, according to the Police Department.

While Phillips was on the rooftop, officers on the ground said he was holding a black firearm (later determined through investigation to be a replica firearm). This observation was confirmed by live camera feed from an overhead unmanned aerial unit (drone) and police air units.

Phillips threatened to detonate an explosive device and pointed the firearm at multiple officers on the scene, according to the Police Department. Three Citrus Heights Police Department officers fired at Phillips, wounding him and causing him to drop the firearm. Phillips remained uncooperative and threatening for the duration of the approximately two-hour standoff, according to the Police Department.

Just before 10:15 p.m., Citrus Heights Police Department's Crisis Negotiation Team and SWAT team convinced Phillips to come down from the roof. Once on the ground, he still refused to comply with officers' instructions, according to the Police Department. Officers used several less-lethal munitions and a police canine to overcome Phillips' resistance and take him into custody. Phillips was taken to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, including a dog bite.

Phillips is on CDC Parole for burglary, and Sacramento County Probation for possession of controlled substances and burglary tools. He was booked into the Sacramento County main jail for armed robbery (PC 211), domestic battery (PC 273.5) and assault with a deadly weapon (PC 245). Additional charges might be added resulting from the ongoing investigation.

The Citrus Heights Investigation team, along

with investigators from the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office and the Sacramento County Crime Lab, are investigating this officer-involved shooting. Numerous pieces of evidence have been collected and are currently being processed, including a replica firearm, ammunition, narcotics and a knife.

Per Citrus Heights Police Department policy,

the three officers have been placed on paid administrative leave and their identities will not be released at this time while the incident is under investigation. No officers were injured as a result of this incident.

The Citrus Heights Police Department thanks its allied agency partners for their support and assistance during this incident.

Anyone with information

about this crime or any Citrus Heights crime is encouraged to contact the Citrus Heights Police Department Crime Tip Line at 916-727-5524. If you would like to remain anonymous and share information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of a crime, you can be considered for an award by contacting the Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers tip hotline at 916-443-HELP. ★

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o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Alex J. Phoong, 2725 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818; 916-993-8220, ext. 118.
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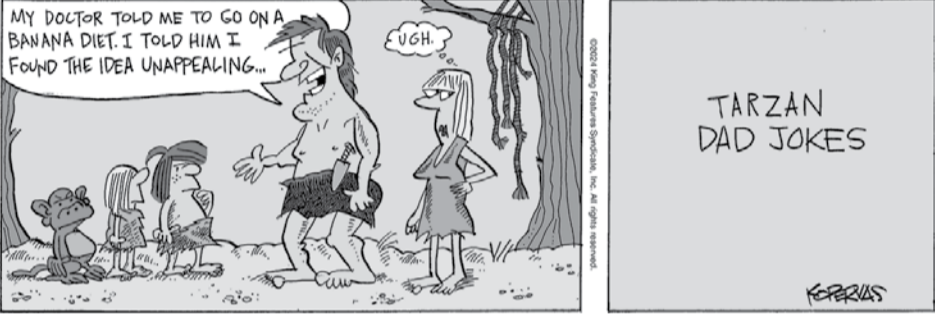
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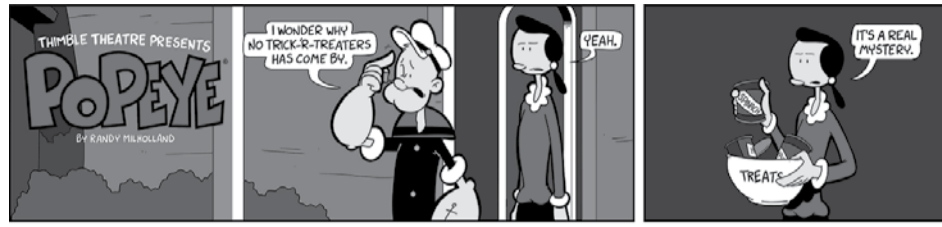
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- ACROSS**
1. Performer's time to shine
 5. Selfie, e.g.
 8. One of five Ws
 11. Très ____ or very stylish
 12. Mandolin's cousin
 13. Knitter's unit
 15. Aren't, colloquially
 16. Mimicked
 17. *Like House with Oval Office
 18. *The Hunchback's home (2 words)
 20. Listening devices
 21. Flirtatious stares
 22. Salt, in Spanish
 23. * ____ State Building
 26. TV shows, e.g.
 30. Will Ferrell's "Funny or ____"
 31. Steve McQueen's "The Great ____" (1963)
 34. Toss a coin
 35. ____ & Young financial services company
 37. Kimono tie
 38. Sweating room
 39. Short skirt
 40. Batter (2 words)
 42. Lake, in French
 43. Anise seed (1 word)
 45. * ____ of Versailles or Buckingham ____
 47. ____ of war
 48. Sinbad the Sailor's home
 50. Not good
 52. *St. Basil's in Moscow or St. Paul's in London
 56. *The Parthenon in Athens is made of this
 57. Capital of Norway
 58. Aeneas' lover
 59. More slippery
 60. Animal protein
 61. Independent chieftain
 62. High degree
 63. TV program interruptions
 64. Retired, abbr.
- DOWN**
1. CAT or PET, e.g.
 - *Key Tower, tallest building in this Buckeye state
 - Laundry room fire hazard
 - Type of local tax
 - Pupa, pl.
 - Things
 - Give up a state
 - Dam-like structure
 - Not misses
 - Football's extra point
 - Soup scoopers
 - Make a solemn promise
 - *Burj ____, tallest building in the world
 - Wading bird
 22. "Monkey ____, monkey do"
 - Bodily swelling
 - Rice wine
 - 1/100th of Finnish markka
 - Rotisserie skewer
 - Spurious wing
 - Cancer-treating machine, acr.
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California Takes Bold Step to Revolutionize Youth Sports with 25x25 Coaches Challenge

Collaborative Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Governor’s Advisory Council on Physical Fitness and Mental Well-being is teaming up with the Susan Crown Exchange’s Million Coaches Challenge (MCC) to launch 25x25: The California Coaches Challenge. This initiative aims to train 25,000 coaches in positive youth coaching across California by the end of 2025.

Physical activity and sports participation rates are declining nationally, and California is no exception. Today, many children in California are not meeting daily physical activity recommendations, and only half of California’s youth participate in sports. With around 70% of children discontinuing organized sports before reaching high school, the 25x25 California Coaches Challenge aims to create a more positive and inclusive sports and fitness

culture that keeps youth engaged in sport and helps them develop the skills needed to thrive.

Through the Council’s Move Your Body, Calm Your Mind campaign, Million Coaches Challenge partners Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) and the Center for Healing and Justice through Sport (CHJS) will spearhead a statewide effort to instill the principles of positive youth development, social-emotional learning, healing-centered practices, and culturally responsive coaching in youth coaches. Coaches will learn a range of youth-centered strategies, including creating safe spaces for all young people, fostering a sense of belonging, and coaching with empathy. The American Institutes for Research (AIR), who leads the multi-year implementation study of the Million Coaches Challenge, will provide research support for the 25x25 California Coaches Challenge.

“A positive and empowering youth sports culture is critical

to the mental health and overall well-being of our children,” said First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom. “When coaches are trained to prioritize character development, teamwork, grit, and emotional resilience, young people are more likely to stay engaged in sports and build essential life skills. The partnership between the Governor’s Advisory Council on Physical Fitness and Mental Well-being and Million Coaches Challenge will ensure that our youth not only experience the physical benefits of sports but also gain the social and emotional support they need to thrive on and off the field.”

Through existing relationships with parks and recreation systems, schools, community-based organizations, and club teams, Positive Coaching Alliance and Center for Healing and Justice through Sport will provide training to at least 25,000 coaches across California by December 2025. The Governor’s Advisory Council will promote the

initiative statewide, reaching communities with significant need and underrepresentation in youth sports. The Center for Healing and Justice through Sport has existing coach training partnerships across the state.

Notable examples include the Dodgers Foundation, the Los Angeles Clippers, the YMCA of Greater Los Angeles, and, together with Nike, the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department. Positive Coaching Alliance, with its robust statewide infrastructure, also has planned trainings this fall with the LA Jr. Clippers, USTA Southern California, Boys and Girls Club of Burbank, Irvine Ice Foundation, Santa Maria Swim Club, and numerous high schools across the state.

“California is setting a powerful example for the country,” said Kevin Connors, Managing Director of the Susan Crown Exchange, funder of the Million Coaches Challenge. “This initiative will help ensure that hundreds of thousands of young

athletes experience sports in ways that promote physical, emotional, and mental well-being.”

Coaches and organizations interested in joining the 25x25 California Coaches Challenge can learn more or sign up for training by visiting <https://moveyourbodycalmyourmind.org/> or emailing Info.AdvisoryCouncil@cdph.ca.gov.

Trainings will be available both in-person and virtually. Organizations will be able to schedule specific training sessions for their coaches or join publicly available options. The Center for Healing and Justice through Sport will host a public virtual training focused on healing-centered sport on Nov. 12, 6:30 to 8 p.m. A self-paced online option is also available for the public through Positive Coaching Alliance. Both opportunities will be available at no cost.

To learn more about the Million Coaches Challenge, visit millioncoaches.org. ★

Cohen Announces Opening of the Property Tax Postponement Program Filing Period

California State Controller’s Office News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - State Controller Malia M. Cohen announced Oct. 7 that the filing period for applications for property tax deferral are now being processed.

California’s Property Tax Postponement (PTP) Program, administered by Controller Cohen, allows homeowners who are seniors, are blind, or have a disability, and who meet income and other requirements to postpone payment of property taxes on their primary residence.

In the 2023-24 tax year, California homeowners were able to postpone over \$6.2 million in residential property taxes. Over the last few years, eligibility for tax deferral has been expanded several times by the addition of manufactured homes and adjustments to the income limit. This year, the household income limit has been raised to \$53,574, making Property Tax Postponement available to even more seniors and Californians with disabilities. Household income for the upcoming Property Tax Postponement cycle will be based on the 2023 calendar year.

Funding for Property Tax Postponement is limited, and applications will be

processed beginning Oct. 1 in the order they are received. The final filing deadline for the current tax year is Feb. 10, 2025. Participants must reapply each year and demonstrate they continue to meet eligibility requirements. When an applicant is approved, a lien will be placed on the real property or a security agreement be filed with the Department of Housing and Community Development for a manufactured home, until the account is paid in full.

Applications and additional program details can be found online, by calling (800) 952-5661 or email at postponement@sco.ca.gov.

As the chief fiscal officer of California, Controller Cohen is responsible for accountability and disbursement of the state’s financial resources. The Controller has independent auditing authority over government agencies that spend state funds. She is a member of numerous financing authorities, and fiscal and financial oversight entities including the Franchise Tax Board. She also serves on the boards for the nation’s two largest public pension funds. Follow the Controller on X @CACController and on Facebook at California State Controller’s Office. ★

New Resources Help Promote Teacher Prep Programs

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -The State Collaborative for California’s Educator Workforce has released a new suite of tools to make high quality teacher preparation programs more accessible and affordable to prospective teachers across the state.

California faces persistent teacher shortages that force many districts to hire substitutes or teachers who have not completed a preparation program. These shortages are greatest for early childhood educators as well as those who specialize in teaching students with disabilities and who are multi-language learners.

Despite the state’s unprecedented investments to strengthen the teacher pipeline, high quality preparation programs are often inaccessible or unaffordable for many prospective teachers.

To address this challenge, education leaders from state agencies, public, and private teacher preparation programs developed a suite of resources to help prospective teachers identify preparation pathways that best meet their needs given their individual experience and education, as well as guidance on available financial resources to make preparation affordable.

“All students need and deserve well-prepared, credentialed teachers. This resource toolkit will help California attract, grow, and retain the number of talented teachers needed to educate the next generation,” said Mary Vixie Sandy, Collaborative lead and executive director of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing along with Commission Chair Marquita Grenot-Scheyer.

The toolkit, available on the Commission on Teacher Credentialing’s Roadmap to Teaching website, features:

Funding Your Future in Teaching, which offers financial planning steps for every aspiring educator along with sample funding packages for those considering a California-based teacher residency program; and

A Teacher Candidate Funding Explorer database of resources to help prospective teachers offset the cost of earning a teaching credential.

In addition, the site includes a set of similar resources for teacher preparation program leaders that provide guidance on funding programs that pay teacher candidates a living wage while they earn their credential. The resources include:

A Teacher Preparation Program Funding

Explorer, a searchable database of federal and state funding sources that can be used to improve teacher preparation programs; and

A series of Teacher Residency Program Funding Scenarios that describe strategies for combining funding to develop and sustain a teacher residency program.

“Teacher preparation programs are available and can be affordable, but too many prospective teachers are unaware of the pathways available into teacher education. We have come together to increase awareness of those pathways and to give teacher candidates the information they need to select the pathway that’s best for them,” said commissioners and higher education representatives, Annamarie Francois, University of California, Shireen Pavri, California State University, and Kimberly White-Smith, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.

A new state law allows for individuals who hold a qualifying bachelor’s degree or higher in any subject to be considered for admission to most teacher preparation programs.

“Teacher shortages are a nationwide issue that must be addressed by tackling barriers to equitable access and the affordability of teacher preparation programs,” said Daisy Gonzales, executive director of the California Student Aid Commission. “These new tools will not only help prospective teachers identify high-quality teacher preparation programs, but also allow them and higher education institutions to participate in designing regional educational pathways to meet California’s urgent need for teachers.”

The resources were created through the State Educator Workforce Collaborative – a collaboration between state agencies and teacher preparation programs including the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, California State Board of Education, California Department of Education, California Student Aid Commission, California State University Chancellor’s Office, University of California Office of the President, California Community College Chancellor’s Office, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, and Department of Finance and Office of the Governor – with research and support from WestEd.

For more information on the program visit the Commission on Teacher Credentialing at www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/roadmap-to-teaching/financial-resources-for-teacher-candidates. ★

County ROAR Program Receives Funding

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.

What is the Proposed ROAR Program?

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.

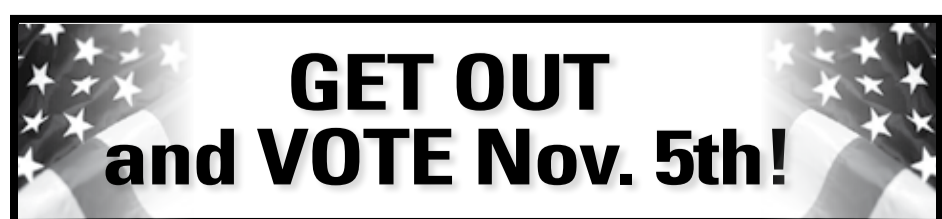
Homelessness is a significant barrier

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.

For more information on the ROAR program contact Sacramento County Public Information Officer Elizabeth Zelidon via email at, zelidone@sac-county.gov. ★





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