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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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Beavers Celebrate 60 Years



Kaiya Uyimoto, Lily Buttry, Maya Schwartz and Morgan Puentes hang out after practice. Photo courtesy of Carmichael Beavers

**Carmichael Beavers
Swim Team
News Release**

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - A beloved local institution, the Carmichael Beavers are celebrating a monumental milestone this year, marking 60 years of inspiring youth, building confidence and fostering community through the sport of swimming. Founded in 1965, the team has grown to become a cornerstone of Carmichael's swimming culture, developing young athletes while creating a tight-knit network of families who support each other both in and out of the water.

From its early days at the community pool at Carmichael Park to its current home at Del Campo High School,



Sheldon Coley does the butterfly stroke. Photo courtesy of Carmichael Beavers

the Carmichael Beavers have seen their fair share of change and growth. Throughout these six decades, the organization has remained true to its mission: to teach children, ages 4 to 18, the four competitive strokes of swimming while helping

them develop confidence and self-improvement in a friendly yet competitive environment.

The Beavers' influence extends beyond the pool deck, with families supporting swimmers and each other through every twist and turn of their children's

athletic journeys. This spirit of community and dedication to young athletes has solidified the Carmichael Beavers as the heart of the local swim scene.

**Celebrating 60 Years:
A Birthday Bash to
Remember**

As part of the 60th anniversary celebration, the Carmichael Beavers will host a Birthday Bash at the Foothill Skate Inn from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25. The event invites all past, present and future team members, as well as their families, to join together for a night of fun, nostalgia and community spirit. Tickets for the event are available for \$10, with proceeds benefiting the Beavers' 2025 season.

Tickets can be purchased online through the event link

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New Home Sales Surge in New Year

**North State Building
Industry Association
News Release**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - New home sales in the Greater Sacramento region saw their typical January surge as buyers returned to new home communities after the holiday lull, the North State Building Industry Association reported Feb. 11.

Building Industry Association members reported selling 598 homes during the month, a 50% increase from December, 3% more than January 2024 and 30% higher than the monthly average dating back to 1997.

Tim Murphy, the Building Industry Association's president and CEO, said the stronger-than-average sales figures bode well for robust sales during 2025 despite stubbornly high mortgage interest rates.

"There remains a strong demand for new homes in the region, driven by the constrained amount of existing homes for sale and the fact that most homebuilders are able to provide incentives that make buying new more affordable," Murphy said.

"In addition, the regional economy remains solid and Sacramento remains a great place to live and work. The BIA will continue working closely with local governments in the region to reduce regulatory barriers to new housing and help our members provide additional homeownership opportunities in 2025."

Roseville (Placer County) recorded the highest number of sales during the month (127), narrowly edging out Rancho Cordova where 123 sales were reported. Sacramento and Elk Grove tied for third-place with 65 sales each and Folsom saw 31 sales.

Plumas Lake reported 30 sales, followed by Natomas and Lincoln (Placer County) with 29 each, Rocklin (Placer County) with 28 and El Dorado Hills with 18.

On a county-by-county basis, new home communities in Sacramento County reported 324 sales, followed by Placer (188), Yuba (39), El Dorado (24), Yolo (19), Sutter (3) and Amador (1) counties.

Building Industry Association statistics include sales by members in Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. ★

Soup Lovers Raise \$10,000 for Historical Society

By Judy Andrews

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Nearly 200 soup lovers turned out on Feb. 8 to support the Fair Oaks Historical Society at its 18th annual Premier Soup Night and Auction.

Held at the Faith Lutheran Church, the event raised more than \$10,000 for the Fair Oaks Historical Society, which will help improve and maintain the History Center and grow its collections. The historical society is a volunteer-based organization celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

"This year's Soup Night was the most successful one ever," said Fair Oaks Historical Society President Claudia Thorn,



Meraki High School student volunteers were a big hit at Soup Night. Senior Mihret Gregory and 8-year-old Faith Bebout, the principal's daughter, are shown here. Photo by Judy Andrews

who also served as the event chair. "Many thanks to the event committee, volunteers, restaurants who donated soup and everyone who donated prizes. I'd especially like to thank the community for your continued support."

Thorn praised volunteer Carolyn Spotts for her exceptional coordination and planning efforts, Meraki High School Youth Employment tech Clarissa French and Meraki High School Community Outreach Committee chair Toby Adams.

More than 40 Meraki High School students, parents and staff, plus two Bella Vista students, volunteered to serve soup and homemade desserts, sell

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**WE SUPPORT
OUR MILITARY**

\$2.5 Million Approved for Permanent Housing



This permanent supportive housing project will create 88 housing units for older adults who are at risk of homelessness. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County took additional steps to address homelessness on Jan. 28. The Board of Supervisors approved allocating \$2.5 million in Mental Health Services Act funds through its partnership with Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency and project sponsor Hope Cooperative for a permanent supportive housing project at Auburn Oaks.

This project will create 88 housing units for older adults who are at risk of homelessness. By early spring, 50 older adults are expected to live at Auburn Oaks.

Auburn Oaks is located on Sunrise Boulevard in Citrus Heights. Once an 81-room assisted living facility and a 48-unit apartment complex, the site has fallen into disrepair. Most recently, it was used by Sacramento County’s Roomkey program to provide temporary housing for individuals at high risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19. Approximately 20 Roomkey residents remain and will continue receiving shelter and support during rehabilitation.

With funding secured, including a \$24.8 million grant from the California Department of Social Services, the Auburn Oaks site will be transformed into 88 permanent supportive housing units. These units will include 40 studios converted from shared assisted living rooms, 44 additional studios and four one-bedroom apartments. Rehabilitation will also enhance the lobby, kitchen and shared spaces while integrating energy-efficient designs.

HOPE Cooperative, a nonprofit organization with more than four decades

of experience providing services for unhoused and at-risk individuals, owns and operates the Auburn Oaks project. The nonprofit organization will work closely with Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services and Behavioral Health Services to ensure that residents receive support.

Key services will include:

- Intensive case management for 30 residents at risk of homelessness, funded by Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services
- Mental health-focused support
- Residents will benefit from 24-hour support and a robust security system to ensure a safe and stable environment.

Other funding for Auburn Oaks comes from grants from the California Department of Social Services, Sacramento County Behavioral Health Bridge Housing and the City of Citrus Heights. Additional funding for rental subsidies will be pursued as the project progresses.

The collaboration between Sacramento County, SHRA and Hope Cooperative makes it possible to serve residents at Auburn Oaks with dignity, respect and compassion.

Other Homeless Services and Housing initiatives can be found online at the schs.saccounty.gov/Pages/default.aspx.

For information on how Behavioral Health Services is serving clients, visit dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/Pages/BHS-Home.aspx.

For information on how Sacramento County’s Department of Child, Family and Adult Services supports housing initiatives, visit dcfas.saccounty.net/Pages/Home.aspx. ★

Rachel Griffith Named Businessperson of the Year



Katie Yount, left, ran for Fair Oaks Honorary Mayor in 2023 and won after raising more than \$34,000. Rachel Griffith was her campaign manager that year. Photo by Michelle Massaro

By Judy Andrews

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The 2024 Best of Fair Oaks winners were recently announced at the ninth annual gala. Hosted by the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce, the Jan. 16 event brought the community together for a night of fun and camaraderie as favorite businesses, organizations and individuals were recognized.

Fair Oaks Chamber CEO/President Kimberley Pitillo presented local Realtor Rachel Griffith with one of the night’s top honors: Businessperson of the Year. Griffith is a Realtor at Windermere Signature Properties on Madison Avenue in Fair Oaks.

“Rachel has been an integral part of the Fair Oaks chamber since joining in 2015,” said Pitillo in a heartfelt introduction. “She consistently demonstrates a passion for her work, commitment to her business and love for the chamber. Her selflessness, dedication, leadership and tireless efforts to give back have significantly impacted the community.”

Griffith is highly-respected by her colleagues, friends and those she has mentored and touched, according to Pitillo. Griffith’s desire to “pay it forward” shows in everything she does.

“Taking the time to invest in others always comes full circle,” Griffith said. “It’s through these individual connections we can make a bigger impact on the community as a whole.”

Connections Matter

In 2023, Griffith founded a networking group appropriately named Connections. Based in Fair Oaks, Connections began with a core team of 12 business professionals from different fields. Today, the group has grown to 21 members who meet twice monthly and host community mixers.

The group hosted its second annual fundraiser in December at Martin’s Famous Street Tacos in Gold River. Ticketholders were invited to “Fill the Limo” with donated toys for a local nonprofit, Single Mom Strong. The event, which included a silent auction, raised more than \$5,000 for Soroptimist of Citrus Heights.

Recently, Connections was voted Best Networking/Social Group of Fair Oaks, an honor attributed to Griffith’s vision of “creating a space where business professionals could connect, collaborate, and support each other’s growth.”

Explained Griffith, “We are more than just a social group. Our community outreach events create opportunities for members to network, share leads and referrals and get to know the community. Success isn’t just about what we know but also the relationships we build.”

Changing Careers

Before getting her real estate license in 2020, Griffith owned Polkadot Dinners, a successful local catering company that provided private chef services for many clients,

including Sacramento Kings players. She landed the Kings after meeting the team’s nutritionist at a culinary school event.

As COVID-19 ramped up, Griffith’s son and mother-in-law (both Realtors) encouraged her to get her real estate license as a backup. After 11 years in the catering business, Griffith knew a career change would require hard work, sacrifice and 100% commitment.

“The only way to reinvent myself was to jump in with both feet and I did,” Griffith said.

It turned out to be a smart move. Griffith passed her real estate test right before the lockdown. She joined Windermere (formerly Lyon Real Estate) immediately after getting her license.

“Real estate gives me a platform to help people in meaningful ways,” Griffith said. “I like connecting people to their goals.”

Following every sale, Griffith donates a portion of her commission to Little League teams in honor of her father.

“My dad had a big heart for baseball, particularly Little League,” Griffith said. “He never missed my children’s or brother’s games and always showed up with a glove in one hand.”

Chamber and Community

Griffith is passionate about the community and frequents many smaller events hosted by area chambers and community partners. She joined the Fair Oaks Chamber in 2015 while working in the catering business. A year later, she became the chamber’s Honorary Mayor after raising nearly \$9,000 for Bella Vista High School’s Culinary Department to upgrade its kitchen equipment.

Griffith has won numerous awards in her 10 years with the chamber and has held several leadership positions, including chamber president for two terms in 2020 and 2021. Griffith is currently a chamber board director and “deeply appreciates the support” she receives through the chamber.

Family Life

Griffith grew up in North Highlands and has two children, Morgan and Sarah, from a first marriage. In 2009, she moved to Fair Oaks and met her current husband, Ryan, who is also active with the chamber and shares her love for Fair Oaks. Ryan is a software developer and founder of VoterFly, an online voting app.

The couple enjoys entertaining and celebrating special occasions with their large family, where Griffith can cook for everyone. She is a ferocious reader and started a book club last year. Griffith also loves to write poetry and short stories.

When asked how she finds the time to do everything, Griffith responded, “I’ve learned to rely on help a lot. Ryan and I support each other in every venture. I could never do everything without leaning on others for help.” ★

Striking the Right Balance



Rosario Rodriguez
By District 4 Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez

Last week, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors took a big step forward: we unanimously passed new regulations for sidewalk vendors. It wasn’t an easy decision but it was an important one. These rules are all about finding that sweet spot: supporting the hardworking folks who run these small businesses while making sure our neighborhoods stay safe, clean and fair for everyone.

This is an issue that hits me close to home. As the owner of a taqueria in Folsom, I’ve seen both sides of the coin. I know what it’s like to pour your heart into a small business, trying to make ends meet. And I also know how tough it can be for brick-and-mortar shops when the rules aren’t applied evenly. That’s why I’ve worked so hard to make sure this ordinance works for everyone.

So what’s changing? Starting soon,

sidewalk vendors will need to get a county permit, follow health and safety rules, and stick to guidelines about where and when they can operate. If someone breaks the rules, we’re starting with warnings, because everyone deserves a chance to fix a mistake. But if it keeps happening, there will be consequences. It’s all about creating a system that’s fair and works for everyone.

Some may question the need for this ordinance. The truth is, unregulated vending has caused some real headaches, blocked sidewalks, trash piling up and even safety concerns in crowded areas. This ordinance tackles those problems while making sure vendors can still thrive. We’ve also made sure the permitting process is straightforward and affordable. No one should be shut out because of red tape or high fees.

Throughout this process, we received valuable feedback from community members. While some worried the regulations might not go far enough, others expressed concerns about unintended impacts on small businesses. By approving this ordinance, we found a balance that maintains public safety while fostering opportunity for local entrepreneurs.

I want to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts, because your input made a difference. If you have more questions or ideas, I’m always here to listen. You can reach me at 916-874-5491 or email supervisorrosario@scaccounty.gov. Let’s keep working together to make Sacramento County safe, fair and full of opportunity for everyone.

Sacramento County Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez represents the 4th District, which includes the communities of Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, North Highlands, Rio Linda, Elverta and Rancho Murieta. ★

Soup Lovers Raise \$10,000 for Historical Society

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raffle tickets, pass out prizes and clean up. They also set up all the guest tables ahead of time.

“When the students were asked to help, they rose to the occasion,” French said. “They never get tired of signing up to volunteer in the community and were eager to help out.”

Tips were collected at the end of the evening and donated to the Meraki Booster Club.

Soup Night organizers gave a “big thank

you” to Mike Maddox, who led the silent auction and raffle drawing giveaway. More than 100 prizes were handed out.

The organizers also thanked all the restaurants that contributed soup: O Café Bakery Bistro, Bodega Biondi, Fair Oaks Brew Pub, Caffè Italiano, and Brahma Bar and Grill. Sprouts contributed greens and candied pecans for salads.

For more information on the Fair Oaks Historical Society and the History Center, visit its website at fairoakshistory.org. New members are always welcome. ★

New Ordinances to Better Regulate Sidewalk Vending

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted on Feb. 4 to approve new ordinances to better regulate sidewalk vending in the unincorporated parts of the county, aiming to enhance public health, safety and compliance. These rules will take effect in March.

These ordinances were introduced in response to the significant rise in sidewalk vending following the enactment of Senate Bill 946 in 2019 and Senate Bill 972 in 2023. While these state laws decriminalized sidewalk vending and eased compliance requirements for mobile food vendors, Sacramento County has faced increasing challenges related to vendor compliance and enforcement.

The newly-adopted ordinances introduce specific permitting and operational guidelines. The Department of Finance will oversee the issuance of sidewalk vending business licenses in the county’s unincorporated areas and will work with other county departments to ensure that vendors adhere to business licensing requirements, and avoid restricted locations such as school zones, bike paths and emergency facilities. Vendors must also comply with federal Americans with Disabilities Act regulations and local health codes. A



The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted on Feb. 4 to approve new ordinances to better regulate sidewalk vending in the unincorporated parts of the county. Image by Markus Winkler from Pixabay

one-year sidewalk vending license will cost \$61.

Additionally, the Environmental Management Department has set new standards for compact mobile food operations, including permitting, sanitation, temperature control and approved commissary use. These regulations will apply countywide, including in the incorporated cities. It’s important to note that these rules apply to compact mobile food operations, not mobile food trucks.

These new regulations do not apply to vending on private property. However, the county is looking into ordinances that address this issue.

In Sacramento County Regional Parks, sidewalk vending will be restricted to designated areas and times to preserve public access to natural and recreational resources. A Request for Proposal process is being

developed for concession agreements for stationary vending. Stationary vending will be limited in parks where exclusive concession agreements exist. Park Rangers will be authorized to enforce these regulations, ensuring vendors operate in compliance with county codes.

To ease the transition, the county will initially focus on education, partnering with the Office of Economic Development, Code Enforcement, Park Rangers and the Sheriff’s Office to inform vendors about the new rules. Two public information sessions were held in January to educate vendors and stakeholders on the upcoming changes.

As these new regulations take effect in March, Sacramento County aims to create a balanced approach that supports small businesses while maintaining public safety and order. ★

MEMORIAL

PATRICIA MARIE VOGEL • 1938 - 2025

It is with profound sadness that we share Patricia Vogel, known to her friends and family as Pat or Patty, passed away on Friday, Feb. 7 with her husband of 62 years, Robert by her side. Pat is survived by her husband, Robert; her three sons, Chris, Michael and James; her daughter-in-law, Kris; and her four grandchildren.

Born in New York City in 1938, Pat moved to California as a child to West Los Angeles. She graduated from University High School in 1958 and worked at Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica before marrying and moving to San Diego and raising her three sons with her husband. Pat and her family moved to Fair Oaks in 1979. She worked for the San Juan School District and the State of California for many years. Pat was a dedicated community member, always generous with her time and energy. She volunteered at local schools and many organizations such as the Women’s Thursday Club of Fair Oaks, Fair Oaks InnerWheel, Fair Oaks Historical Society, Fair Oaks Theater Festival and served as a



trustee of the Fair Oaks Cemetery District since 2005. Pat was a true friend to so, so many and had some friendships lasting more than 70 years.

Pat was an avid gardener taking immense pride in her backyard rose garden and actively keeping up on the activities of her sons and her four grandchildren. Bob and Pat road tripped to nearly all 50 states in their RV and traveled the world with recent trips to Mexico,

Thailand, Hong Kong and Japan and took river cruises from the Snake and Columbia River and from Budapest to Amsterdam. While her friends and family will mourn her passing, her love of life brought joy to everyone she met. She will be deeply missed.

In lieu of flowers or other gifts, the family requests donations be made online to the Fair Oaks Historical Society at fairoakshistory.org/join/contributeonline.html

Beavers Celebrate 60 Years

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on our Facebook page CBSWim, and those interested in sponsorship or donation opportunities can contact the Beavers’ fundraising team at CBSWimFundraising@gmail.com.

“This event is not just a celebration of our history but a chance for us to thank everyone who has supported the Beavers over the years,” said board President Jenn Pope. “It’s the people who make this team so special and we look forward to many more years of success.”

Recognizing the Spirit of Carmichael

On Feb. 6, the Carmichael Beavers received a heartwarming recognition when they were awarded the 2025 Spirit of Carmichael Award. Board members, along with a current swimmer, accepted the award on behalf of the entire organization. This honor acknowledges the Beavers’ long-standing impact on the community and the heartfelt show of support underscores how deeply the team is woven into the fabric of Carmichael.

“It was an incredible moment to stand in

front of the community and receive such an honor,” said one of the board members. “It’s humbling to see how far we’ve come and how much the community values our mission.”

As the team looks ahead to another exciting season, the Carmichael Beavers are more committed than ever to offering a place where young swimmers can thrive. The Beavers’ swim season runs from April to July, and the team encourages families with children aged 4 to 18 to visit and see if the program is the right fit.

“Whether your child is an emerging or a seasoned swimmer, we welcome everyone,” Pope said. “Our team is about more than just swimming; it’s about creating a sense of belonging and making memories that last a lifetime.”

With the support of families and local residents, the Carmichael Beavers look forward to continuing to inspire and develop young athletes for many years to come.

For more information or to get involved with the Carmichael Beavers, visit online at CBSWIM.com or stop by the pool deck 6 to 9 p.m. Mondays to Fridays after April 1. ★

Special Services

MIKE SHROCK MINISTRIES Comes to Fair Oaks



Although he was preparing for a career as a professional trumpet player, God had different plans and called Mike into the ministry. He first served as youth pastor and song leader in his local church in East Longmeadow, Mass., before being called to serve as youth pastor and music pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Windsor, Conn. he also attended Northland Baptist Bible College (Dunbar, Wis.) earning a master of ministries degree in Bible. During the ministry at Calvary, Mike and Lori adopted their son, Drew. He also attended Northland Baptist Bible College (Dunbar, Wis.) earning a master of ministries degree in Bible. Mike next served under Dr. Frank Bumpus at Bethel Baptist Church in Schaumburg, Ill., before being called to serve the next 17 years as a school representative and staff evangelist for Bob Jones University. During his time on University staff, Mike traveled the United States, speaking at countless churches, camps, and retreats.

Today, Mike travels as an independent evangelist, preaching and playing his trumpet at ministries across the United States and around the world.

**Special Services are Sunday, Feb. 23rd
10am; 11am; and 6pm**

Mon., Feb. 24th thru Wed., Feb. 26th at 7pm

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Remembering Delores ‘Dolly’ M. ‘Dee’ Rouse-Huth

By Thomas J. Sullivan

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Simply “Dee” lightful.

Delores “Dolly” M. “Dee” Rouse-Huth might have been flattered by the reference to the famous Cole Porter tune to describe the remarkable life she lived.

In personal remembrances, Rouse-Huth is described with love and fondness by her children and surviving spouse Mel Huth, as a devoted wife, a “soulmate,” a wonderful mother, grandmother and a pioneering entrepreneur in the field of jewelry appraisal, who created an internationally recognized master value (MV) program. That program is still widely used today.

She died last Aug. 14. To her three surviving children, Robyn Kleinhans, Raina Palombi and Ryan Rouse and Cheryl Rouse Demetre, widow of Rip Rouse, Rouse-Huth’s deceased son, all affectionately remember Rouse-Huth as “a force of nature, full of love, laughter and generosity.”

“I miss my very best friend. We enjoyed quite a life together and I feel her with me every day,” said Huth, her husband. “She was an absolute joy to be with.”

Rouse-Huth’s love for her family was immense and she found her greatest joy as a grandmother, where she was affectionately known as “Gramma Dee,” “Dolly” or “Grandma Barbie.” She cherished her 11 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and so many others she embraced as family.

“My mom had a remarkable ability to bring out the best in everyone around her,” said her daughter, Raina Palombi. “She had a relentless, passionate energy for living.”

Faith, joy, love and purpose were qualities that helped her mother live her life to the fullest, Palombi said.

One of Rouse-Huth’s granddaughters described “Gramma Dee” in her eulogy this way: “Grandma’s house was a special place because she made it that way, she welcomed us with open arms and loved us unconditionally, and where she made her home a safe space for everyone. For that, I am so very grateful.”

“It was always a comforting house where world of make believe could come to life,” she continued.

In her eulogy the granddaughter fondly remembered “hundreds of sleepovers, and so many birthdays celebrated, where lasting, cherished family memories were made.”

Rouse-Huth’s leadership in the community also extended to her service as the first woman president of both the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce and as president of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce.

Born in Hannaford, North Dakota, on Oct. 9, 1936, the eldest of 10 children, Rouse-Huth was a natural leader who inspired those around her from an early age. Rouse-Huth’s strong work ethic was evident from her youth, earning her an honors scholarship to Western Montana College of Education in Dillon.

In 1956, she married Donald Rouse, and together they moved between Anaconda, Montana and various cities in Idaho and Utah, chasing their dreams and building a future.

Rouse-Huth held leadership positions throughout her career, including deputy county treasurer in Anaconda, Montana. She also achieved professional success in sales for several large jewelry companies.

She and Rouse’s adventurous spirit led them to manage a property in Nevada, where Rouse-Huth honed her skills as an independent business owner. She bought and sold land and raw materials for fine jewelry, all while hosting events for local families and children. The couple later settled



Delores “Dolly” M. “Dee” Rouse-Huth is with her daughter-in-law, Cheryl Rouse Demetre, on the left, and daughters, Robyn Kleinhans and Raina Palombi, in 2016. Photo courtesy of Raina Palombi



Delores “Dolly” M. “Dee” Rouse-Huth and her husband, Mel Huth are at a family holiday gathering in fall 2015.

in Sacramento.

Here, Rouse-Huth opened several businesses, including D’s Jewelry Supply in Carmichael and Nighthorse Studios in Old Sacramento.

After separating from Rouse in 1976, Rouse-Huth met U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mel Huth at the Officer’s Club at the former Presidio of San Francisco in 1987. The two married in 1990.

Rouse-Huth then purchased Bramble’s Fine Jewelry and the couple opened the Arden Town Mail & Business Center together.

Rouse-Huth and Huth owned the California Institute of Jewelry Training (CIJT) in Fair Oaks, until their retirement, which trained more than 3,500 students from across the globe in jewelry design, manufacture and repair before retiring and shifting to an online certification.

Rouse-Huth created one of the first in the industry’s gem and jewelry appraising home study courses. Her work grew to include a substantial amount of global travel, helping to establish jewelry trade schools and offering Master Valuer (MV) workshops in multiple countries.

This comprehensive appraisal program which Rouse-Huth created includes learning appraisal methodology for writing appraisals of all types: insurance, estate, donation and probate. Huth said he remains busy evaluating the work of students now enrolled in the course.

The course is recognized by leading gem and jewelry organizations, including the American Society of Appraisers and the International Society

of Appraisers which give professional development (re-certification) credits to their members who take the program.

“She was an exceptional teacher,” Huth said.

Huth said his late wife’s memory will continue to be felt in the many lives in the greater Carmichael community whom they have met and



Delores “Dolly” M. “Dee” Rouse-Huth is shown with all five of her grandsons. From left are Kole, Andrew, Tyler, Jason, Charles and Rouse-Huth. Photo courtesy of Raina Palombi

professionally mentored.

Rouse-Huth is survived by her loving husband, Huth; her children, Robyn Kleinhans (Steven), Raina Palombi (Michael), Ryan Rouse (Cara), and Cheryl Demetre (Greg); her grandchildren, Hailey Kleinhans (Bryan), Kole Kleinhans (Jessica), Jennifer Spinner (Brandon), Tyler Rouse (Kayla), Jason Rouse (Kamryn),



Samantha Palombi, and her grandmother, “Dee” Rouse-Huth, share some smiles in 2020.

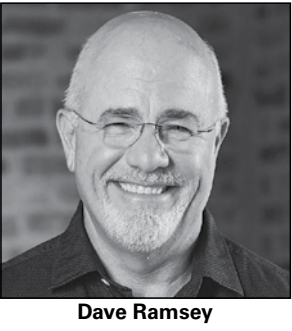


Delores “Dolly” M. “Dee” Rouse-Huth is with Dee Corbett, her long-time administrative assistant at California Institute of Jewelry Training.

Charles Palombi (Kyra), Andrew Palombi, Samantha Palombi, Claire Rouse, Anna Rouse, Grace Rouse; her great-grandchildren, Jack Spinner, Cole Spinner, Maya Rouse, Roman Rouse, Liam Zablotny, Waylon Kleinhans, and Kayce Rouse; and her siblings, Lorraine Martin (George), Richard Ohman (Brenda), and Sandi Duncan (David).

She was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Myrtle Ohman; her brothers, Vernon, David and Don Ohman; her sisters, Myrna Shockley, Karen Schorzman and Nancy Morrison; her first husband, Donald Rouse; and her beloved eldest son, Ripley Rouse.

A memorial service was held Sept. 27, 2024, at Carmichael Presbyterian Church. ★



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

My mom is 76, and the only debt she has is about \$60,000 left on her mortgage. She has \$600,000 in retirement accounts, plus a long-term care insurance policy. But she has just \$25,000 in a money market account with check-writing privileges for everyday bills and purchases. To be honest, this worries me. She has always lived within her means, so am I wrong to be concerned? She has also been talking about paying off her mortgage, and I'm not sure how I feel about that, either. I'd love your opinion.

– Kelly

Dear Kelly,

You sound surprised that she'd still be in the stock market at her age. In my mind, that's not a bad thing at all. It might not be what the typical financial planner would tell you to do, because for the most part they'll try to get you to be super-conservative with your money as you get older. But from the way you've described things, it sounds like she's not planning on using this money, but using the income from the money. If

Dave Ramsey Says

She'll Be Just Fine and The Best Laid Plans

that's the case, she won't whittle it all down to nothing. So, if she's in good mutual funds—not single stocks—I think she'll be just fine.

Now, let's talk about the mortgage. I would absolutely recommend she go ahead and pay it off. If she can do that at age 76 and still have \$540,000 left, that's the way to go. Let's pay off the house, and then she can start taking her income off a percentage of the remainder. She won't need much with the house payment out of the way, because she won't be sending money to the bank to pay the anymore.

– Dave

The Best Laid Plans

Dear Dave,

My wife and I have been talking about paying off our mortgage in the next two or three years. Do you think we should make this happen by paying extra toward the house, or invest that money on top of the 15% we're putting into retirement?

– March

Dear March,

If I were in your shoes, I'd pay extra on the house. On the other hand, you're

not really doing a bad thing by putting the extra cash it into retirement, either.

But here's the deal. No matter how well you plan, you never know exactly what will happen over the upcoming years of your life—or the life of your investments. You might think you know. You may even believe you've taken every possibility into account. The hard, cold truth, though, is even the best and smartest plans don't always work out the way we think they will—or the way we want them to.

And if something unplanned or unforeseen happens, it sure would be a nice thing to own your home free and clear, wouldn't it?

– 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. ★



By Patsy McGavock
JustServe.org

ORANGEVALE/FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - On Feb. 11, I gave public comment at the San Juan Unified School District Board meeting, speaking to feelings of disconnect, disillusionment and even distrust some feel toward their district. I hoped to inspire dialogue, understanding and an expectation of goodwill in the public square – principles needed well beyond one school district.

I write to anyone feeling disillusioned, divided, angry or afraid, offering thoughts on the fear's impact and the power of our expectations.

The public square can seem dangerous, complex or exclusionary, even in conversations with our neighbors. We often feel safe speaking openly only with those who share nearly our exact view. We speak of “the government” as a distant entity set on argument, rather than individuals who entered public service to support their communities while navigating the same divide we feel.

How have we become this way, when locally I regularly witness government staff, district staff and community - people from various backgrounds - accomplishing tremendous good with creative solutions?

Cognitively speaking, creative collaboration thrives when we feel safe. Fear shuts it down. Fear is the mind's reactive, not proactive, self-talk — it isn't truth. It is the mind creating ideas that trigger fight or flight, anger or anxiety, leaving only two

Creating Civil Voice in the Public Square

options: us versus them. The third, and perhaps most effective, alternative never surfaces.

We are divided by the belief, the fear, that the “other side” will take away what we value. We stand with iron fences defending our own place on the hill, never lifting each other to the higher, unobstructed view only seen from the top of the mountain. Solutions are at the mountain's peak, visible only because of the many perspectives we gain through the climb.

Brain scans show that learning is the direct opposite of fear. With a learning mindset, we see others not as threats but as sources of insight and growth.

Assuming good will can help us move from fear to learning.

Psychology, sociology and communication studies all affirm that we treat our perceptions as reality and our expectations are self-fulfilling.

Which means that we have great power to change outcomes by challenging our own expectations. Yes, it is hard. It is uncomfortable. But every cycle of growth begins with discomfort.

As human beings, it takes courage to assume goodwill. It takes courage to heal any divide. Someone must be the first person to challenge the expectation of conflict. Will you accept the challenge?

Principals of collaboration (in the public square or the dinner table):

Begin with the end in mind. Seek solutions that uphold your values. Stay focused on the core purpose, returning as needed. What is at the heart of the matter?

Assume goodwill. Expect collaboration, even if your prior experience tells you not to. Fear perpetuates fear; be the one who brings goodwill.

Listen to understand, then speak to be understood. Listen first, slow down and respond as you would to a friend. Revisit the purpose often to stay on track.

Bring actionable suggestions. A concern without a suggestion sounds like a complaint. Offering solutions shows commitment to collaboration.

Seek the third alternative. The best, most workable solutions often haven't been thought of yet. You're creating something new, not just debating limited existing options.

Remember, disagreement is not conflict. It's a vital part of dialogue and problem-solving. It is a good thing. Embrace it as an opportunity to learn from one another.

There are no perfect words: only honest, respectful ones. Speak from the heart.

We can heal our divide, one person, one community, maybe even one school district or one county at a time.

To understand these principles and tools better, I recommend the following books:

“The Fearless Mind” by Craig Manning

“The Anatomy of Peace” by The Arbinger Institute

“The 3rd Alternative” by Steven R. Covey.

Patsy McGavock is a volunteer writer seeking to inform, empower and engage readers with their community. She can be reached at PatsyMcGavock.JustServe@gmail.com. ★



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A 1995 California Court Ruling That Restored Immigrant Rights Could Backfire Now



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California has the nation's largest population of undocumented immigrants with roughly 1.8 million people. Over the last three decades, Californians' attitudes about that fact have undergone an astonishing swing. Hostility reached a peak in the early 1990s, demonstrated by passage of Proposition 187 in 1994 by a 3-2 margin. The measure would have required police to check the legal status of people they encountered and barred public services, including education, to those who could not prove citizenship or legal residency. It was the centerpiece of Republican Gov. Pete Wilson's campaign for a second term, contending that undocumented people were overwhelming the state's budget. However, support for a crackdown was not confined to GOP voters. Not only did many Democrats — then as now the largest bloc of voters — vote for the measure, but a Legislature dominated by Democrats passed anti-immigrant laws, such as banning driver's licenses. Soon, however, public sentiment and the political atmosphere began to change. Undocumented immigrants and their advocates scored a big win a year after Prop. 187's passage when federal Judge Marianna Pfaltzler

ruled that the measure violated the federal government's exclusive power to regulate immigration. "The California voters' overwhelming approval of Proposition 187 reflects their justifiable frustration with the federal government's inability to enforce the immigration laws effectively," she wrote at the time. "No matter how serious the problem may be, however, the authority to regulate immigration belongs exclusively to the federal government and state agencies are not permitted to assume that authority. The state is powerless to enact its own scheme to regulate immigration or to devise immigration regulations which run parallel to or purport to supplement the federal immigration laws." A few years later, after Democrat Gray Davis succeeded Wilson, the state abandoned an appeal of Pfaltzler's ruling. In subsequent years the Legislature repealed other laws, such as the one on driver's licenses, and has done whatever it could to treat undocumented immigrants as if they were legal residents, such as expanding health care benefits. When Donald Trump was elected president in 2016 and promised a crackdown on illegal immigration, California reacted with legislation to make it more difficult for federal immigration authorities to capture and deport undocumented Californians. The most important was Senate Bill 54, introduced a month after Trump won the election. Dubbed the California Values Act, it essentially bars California police from aiding in any way federal efforts to identify and deport undocumented immigrants.

SB 54 survived one court challenge but Trump is once again in the White House, declaring his intention to rid the nation of undocumented immigrants, and is taking aim at California and other states with sanctuary laws. The U.S. Department of Justice has filed suit to overturn Illinois laws quite similar to California's SB 54, and its contention in the Illinois suit could — with great irony — convert the federal court decision against Prop. 187 three decades ago into a hammer to smash SB 54. If California was illegally interfering with the federal government's exclusive power over immigration in Prop. 187, the suit implies, sanctuary laws also interfere with that power. The 23-page complaint, filed in federal court in Chicago, alleges that Illinois laws "have the purpose and effect of making it more difficult for, and deliberately impeding, federal immigration officers' ability to carry out their responsibilities in those jurisdictions." California officials are aware that the Illinois suit will not be the only challenge to local and state laws meant to protect undocumented immigrants. Were the Illinois suit's argument to prevail, the situation in California could come full circle. A legal principle that protected California's immigrants from Prop. 187 in 1995 might make identifying and deporting them easier in 2025. 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. ★

Social Security Matters About Claiming Social Security when I have a Health Savings Account (HSA)



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I have reached my full retirement age (66 plus 8 months) and plan to apply for Social Security this month, but I've seen articles which say that when I apply, I must also take Medicare Part A. This, even though I am continuing to work and am covered by my employer's health insurance (a high deductible plan). I contribute bi-weekly into an HSA (Heath Savings Account). I've read that Medicare back dates Part A coverage by 6 months, which suggests I would have had to stop contributing to my HSA six months ago. If this is true, will I need to pay penalties and such to the IRS? I'm not able to find anything else about this topic, and I'm wondering what you might have to say. I have my wife and two children on my employer's HDHP. We contribute \$6,000 annually to our HSA and my employer contributes \$1,250 on January 1st each year. We can live

without the HSA, but the taxes and IRS penalties concern me. Signed: Wanting to Claim SS (but concerned) Dear Wanting to Claim: I'm afraid that what you've read is correct — it is mandatory for you to take Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) when receiving Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part A is free to you, and even though you are still covered under your employer's creditable high deductible healthcare plan and can delay taking Medicare Part B, you must take Medicare Part A to collect Social Security after 65. Medicare and your employer's plan will coordinate healthcare benefit payments. That does, however, also mean your Health Savings Account (HSA) will be affected because, as you have found, Medicare will backdate your Part A coverage by 6 months. And because Part A is not a high deductible plan (a requirement for HSA), any contributions you make after the effective date of Part A will be subject to an IRS penalty, and your HSA contributions won't be considered tax-exempt. This will mean the IRS will likely assess a 6% excise tax on any contributions made after your Part A effective date, and you'll need to pay income tax on those

contributions. What you may wish to consider is stopping your HSA contributions now and waiting an additional six months or so to claim your Social Security benefits (to get beyond the HSA penalty phase). This would have the advantage of avoiding the IRS penalty on your HSA contributions and would also increase your Social Security benefit due to Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs). You earn DRCs at the rate of .677% for each month beyond your FRA that you wait to claim, which means an SS benefit about 4% higher if you wait six months longer to claim SS. This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Well, the all-star break is upon us, and if ever there is a time of reflection needed for Sacramento Kings fans, the time is now. A beloved member of the Kings family is no longer with the team, and there are some fans that are simply not getting over it. For others, they understand that at the end of the day, the NBA is a monstrous business, and even the most electric of players at times, must be moved for the good of the franchise. Make no mistake about it, Zach Lavine is no slouch, and he may not be as fast as DeAaron Fox, but this former all-star has game. Zach has already impressed fans with his mid-range game, and as his 3-point prowess kicks in, Sacramento fans will get a look at the true foray of talent that this baller has to offer. The acquisition of Jonas Valanciunas is not only welcome, it is long overdue. I have been writing about this big man for over a year, and my only consternation is why he wasn't acquired over the off season when he was available? Valanciunas will prove his value as the Kings strive to come down the home stretch healthy, and with a team that is just now finding its rhythm. Amazingly, as the newly assembled Kings have yet to have a single practice with the bevy of new players and that includes newcomer Markelle Fultz. Markelle was drafted No. 1 overall in the 2017 draft, ahead of players like Jason Tatum, Donovan Mitchell, and yes, Sacramento's former point guard DeAaron Fox. Ironic, I would say so, but the NBA is a league of second chances, and if anyone ever needed one, it's Markelle Fultz. After a storied college career with the Washington Huskies, Markelle leaped to the front of the class and was drafted No. 1 overall by the Philadelphia 76ers. Sadly, his NBA career would get off to an abysmal start, as he suffered a debilitating shoulder injury and the 76ers gave up on their No. 1 pick. Fultz was traded to Orlando Magic but after 5 uneventful and injury riddled seasons, the Magic did not resign Markelle. I smiled from ear to ear when I heard that Markelle was quoted as saying on his signing with the Kings, "I haven't felt this good since I came into the league. I never had the opportunity to take my time and get healthy, so being able to do that last summer has been great for me. I'm super excited for this opportunity and I'm thankful for it." I love hearing that kind of talk, and just as the Kings have had No. 1 draft choice busts in the past, perhaps a real opportunity to turn back the clock has finally come their way. Our starting five is full of talent, but with departure of Alex Len, Kevin Huerter, Jordan McLauglin, Jalen McDaniels, and most recently Colby Jones, the real question has been the quality and depth of the bench. Recently acquired Jake LaRavia and Jonas Valanciunas will bring a sturdier presence to front line, and with a healthy Markelle Fultz coming off the bench to give malik Monk some much-needed rest, it's entirely possible the Kings bench is in its best posture all season. Isaac Jones remains a diamond in the rough, and I'm hopeful coach Christie hasn't lost sight of him. Dynamic, athletic, and able to jump out of the gym, Issac is in his rookie season, and has still to get anything resembling a real shot at playing time. Don't miss on this guy, because I see an enormous upside, and just as we've seen Keon Ellis rise to new heights, so can Isaac Jones. So, imagine Valanciunas, Keon Ellis, LaRavia, Fultz, Trey Lyles, and Isaac Jones as the key bench players, with Devin Carter and Doug McDermott in the wings. I believe this is overall the strongest bench the Kings have had in the past three seasons, so hold onto your seats Kings fans, because it's just possible the fun has just begun. There are stories yet to be written, and it's my hope that players like Markelle Fultz and Isaac Jones will soon take center stage! Playoffs, NOT Play-in! Enjoy the home stretch Kings fans, it could be a real barn burner! Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharris@kingsfan@gmail.com. ★

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Use Your Library Card to Reach Goals

Sacramento Public Library News Releases

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - If you're losing steam on your New Year's resolution or need fresh inspiration to kick-start your goals, your library card will come in handy.

Library-goers can browse the library's catalog for books and materials, and also have free access to a wide range of digital resources including videos, tutorials and apps.

For example, the online Craftsy has video courses on healthy cooking and eating and a full collection of fitness classes on stress management, sleep, supporting immunity, and exercise for all fitness levels.

Get Healthy U TV is a newer addition to Hoopla BingePasses and includes a diverse range of workouts for all fitness levels including yoga, circuit training, kickboxing, and barre.

The Great Courses on Kanopy has a Healthy Living collection featuring full courses on a range of health topics for physical, mental and emotional well-being including mindfulness, strength training, healthy cooking, yoga and building resilience. Kanopy also provides free access to thousands of movies with a library card.

Mango Languages,



Having a library card provides access to more than just books and magazine on shelves in the library; the card also gives you access to digital access to resources impacting our daily routines as well as our long-term goals. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Public Library

Pronunciator and Transparent Languages are perfect for anyone wanting to learning a new language or brush up on language skills.

LinkedIn Learning, Gale Courses and GetSetUp are all learning platforms covering a broad range of skills including staying safe online and building technical, creative, and interpersonal skills for professional and personal growth.

Creativebug in the Hoopla BingePasses collection offers video classes taught by top artists

and downloadable resources that teach you how to crochet, knit, paint, draw, sew, quilt and more.

Consumer Reports has reliable and unbiased reviews and buying advice on products ranging from household appliances to money products like insurance and personal finance.

Valueline offers investment ratings, research, statistics and forecasts for thousands of stocks and mutual funds.

Weiss Financial Ratings are trusted guides to stocks, mutual funds and exchange-traded funds

(ETFs), banks, credit unions and insurance companies.

Browse Craftsy's collection of courses covering landscape design, floral arrangement and vegetable gardening.

Or get garden design ideas and inspiration with the renowned British horticulture broadcaster and writer, Monty Don, new on Hoopla BingePasses.

For reading ideas, look at staff picks and book lists curated by Sacramento Public Library librarians for readers of all ages on the Libby app. Or check out one of

the library's book groups led by library staff in branch and online. There's something for all reading interests, from romance to mystery to graphic novels.

Get Ready for College Entrance Exams

For students who want to prepare for the SAT, ACT and AP exams, the Sacramento Public Library also provides free test prep, tutoring and college essay help. Your library card gives you free access to a wide range of online tools to help you prepare for college entrance exams and essays.

Peterson's Test & Career Prep offers free GMAT, GRE, MCAT and LSAT online practice tests. You'll also find info on scholarships and financial aid.

Tutor.com offers online test prep and tutors who will work individually with students on AP, International Baccalaureate (IB), ACT, SAT, and college admissions and scholarship essays. Students can select a tutor based on their profile and subject expertise and schedule a tutoring session at a time that works for them.

To find a Sacramento Public Library Branch near you, go online to saclibrary.org. Or call 916-264-2700 or toll free 800-561-4636. ★

History Museum Offers Exciting Ways to Celebrate Black History Month

Sacramento History Museum News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento History Museum officials are excited to offer two engaging ways for the community to celebrate Black History Month: by experiencing a limited-time exhibit of triumph and by enjoying a lively night of Sacramento jazz and blues blended with Black history.

In proud partnership with the Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum, the Sacramento History Museum has a special exhibit on display, "A History of African American Educators," through March 30.

The culturally-rich exhibit features two 19th-century teachers who prevailed against racial discrimination by breaking down discriminatory barriers to equal education. The exhibit provides a unique opportunity for visitors to experience what it might have felt like sitting in an early 20th-century classroom, to discover the challenges of segregated schools, and to learn about the triumphs of educators. The educators include Elizabeth Thorn Scott Flood and Sarah Mildred Jones, who broke barriers to provide free public education to all ages and races. This limited-time exhibit is included with museum admission.

To close out Black History Month, the



Here is part of the Sacramento History Museum Black History exhibit. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento History Museum

Sacramento History Museum will present "The West End Blues," a night of entertainment from the Harley White Jr. Orchestra, offering a blend of history and

music. The event is from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 27. Guests will enjoy the sounds of big-band jazz, setting the stage for a journey into Sacramento's West End.

In addition to the powerful music, Sacramento historian William Burg will weave in captivating tales from the lost neighborhood, bringing the stories of its vibrant community to life. With a mix of live music, captivating narratives and historic photos, "The West End Blues" event will highlight the triumphs, struggles and untold stories of Sacramentans who have faded from memory.

"The West End Blues" tickets cost \$50 for adults; \$35 for members and \$35 for youth (under 21) and include appetizers and nonalcoholic drinks plus adults (ages 21-plus) will receive two free drink tickets for wine. Tickets are limited and available at sachistorymuseum.org/events/a-sacramento-jazz-story-west-end-blues.

The Sacramento History Museum, located at 101 I St., Old Sacramento, is managed by the Sacramento History Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making Sacramento's history accessible to all. In partnership with the City and County of Sacramento, the Sacramento History Alliance operates the Sacramento History Museum and its programs, including the Underground Tours, educational school programs and community cultural events.

For more information about the Sacramento History Museum and/or the Sacramento History Alliance, visit SacHistoryMuseum.org. ★

Bike and Pedestrian Safety Grant Awarded to County

Sacramento County Office of Education News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Thanks to a new \$188,000 grant awarded to the Prevention and Early Intervention Department at the Sacramento County Office of Education by the California Office of Traffic Safety, students at seven middle school campuses across Sacramento County will lead program activities to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety.

"The safety of people walking and biking on our roads is a top priority for our office," California Office of Traffic Safety Director Stephanie Dougherty said. "Everyone moves, and not always by car. It's important that we invest in efforts to protect people walking,

biking, and rolling that help establish a strong traffic safety culture where everyone on California roads can travel to and from places safely."

The Sacramento County Office of Education has been a recipient of this grant since 2015 and looks forward to continuing the important countywide project. The goal is to help middle school youth develop attitudes and habits that promote life-long traffic safety values, building a foundation that helps students make safe decisions when they become teen drivers. Working with Safety Center Incorporated and other community partners, the county Office of Education will use the grant to increase bicycle helmet compliance for youth (ages 5 to 18).



The Sacramento County Office of Education received grant funding to provide middle schoolers with program activities to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety. Photo courtesy of Pixaby

Funding for the grant comes from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and runs through this September.

Students will complete a pre- and

post-observational survey, identify safety concerns in their school community and advocate for changes to be made. They will also educate their peers and families

about bicycle and pedestrian safety and helmet use through school-based activities, contests, public service announcements, social media posts, newsletters and the distribution of safety equipment.

School sites will also receive crossing guard kits, including stop signs, electronic whistles, sandwich board signs and reflective vests.

The Sacramento County Office of Education's Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program is a comprehensive safety program that teaches valuable skills for all types of road users. It includes classroom education, community-based presentations and workshops, plus the distribution and proper fitting of bicycle helmets for students and families in need.

Bike "rodeos" and family

events at Safety Center in Sacramento will encourage safe riding skills. Walking field trips and on-foot safety trainings will also be conducted, allowing students to practice safe habits with adult supervision.

The Sacramento County Office of Education and its partners have seen positive results from the safety education efforts. Last school year, classroom and community presentations reached more than 900 individuals. The program distributed more than 225 helmets at seven participating schools and community events, and more than 100 students participated in on-foot safety trainings. Survey results also demonstrated that the number of students wearing bicycle helmets at school sites increased as did safe walking practices. ★

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY KIMMY HILGOLD

HEADS UP WE JUST CAUGHT A HERO SKULKING IN THE DUNGEON.

PERFECT TIMING!

BE PATIENT PRETTY, LUNCH IS ON THE WAY.

RELEASE ME, SEA HAG!

I DEMAND MY FREEDOM!

JUST 'CUZ THIS IS AN EVIL LAIR DOESN'T MAKE BREAKING AND ENTERING ANY MORE LEGAL.

VILE CUR, I WAS LOOKING FOR THE LOST EYE OF THE BASILISK, AN ARTIFACT YOU STOLE—

I USED TO HAVE A CAT NAMED 'CUR'.

HUH?

A LIT TUXEDO!

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

WHY WOULD I CARE ABOUT YOUR PETS?

I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS INTERESTING.

LISTEN, YOU DOTTY OLD BAT—

YOU DON'T GOTTA BE RUDE.

ZAF!

DISINTEGRATING HIM SEEMS RUDE.

WHO KEEPS DUMPIN' HEROES IN ME TRASH CAN?!

HE'S FINE. I JUST SENT HIM WHERE HE BELONGS.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Vest is shorter. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Chair is taller. 4. Foot is different. 5. Chart is different. 6. Curtain is not as wide.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

GRIN THE BEAR IT

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"Figby, we've had reports that you've been combative. Congratulations!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

TENTH VAT ZOLA

ADIEU EGO VINIC

MESAS ION ENTER

NICKEL GASCON

HER CAMP

FAB DIDO TEASED

OGRE COLA RUNNY

ALOT ANORA LEAL

MEDAL ASCI DATA

STYLES SHOD KEN

SAKI LEA

OBRIEN WICKED

CURIO ORE OREAD

ASEAN LAV DOLBY

MEWL LYE ENSUE

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THE OSCARS

CLUES

ACROSS

1. 1/10

6. European tourist tax, acr.

9. "Germinal" author Emile

13. Bye, in Paris

14. Bigheadedness

15. Relating to wine, arch.

16. Tabletop mountains

17. H+, e.g.

18. Large key on the right

19. "___ Boys"

21. "Emilia Pérez" leading actress

23. H in HMS, some-times

24. Kids' get-away

25. Like certain Four

28. Queen of Carthage

30. Razzed

35. Scary fairytale creature

37. Soft drink

39. Like certain egg order

40. Sir Mix-___

41. "Sean Baker's original screenplay

43. Loyal, arch.

44. Caldecott award

46. Ascus, pl.

47. AI's learning material

48. Harry ___, once of One Direction

50. Wearing footwear

52. "At 2024 Oscars, Ryan Gosling sang "I'm Just ___"

53. Sushi restaurant libation

55. Unit of length of yarn

57. "This year's Academy Awards host

60. "Elphaba and Galinda story

63. Antique shop item

64. Metal-bearing rock

66. Mountain nymph

68. Southeast Asian org.

69. Lavatory, abbr.

70. * ___ Theatre

71. Whimper

72. Sodium hydroxide

73. Follow

DOWN

1. Scottish cap

2. Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"

3. Not yet final, at law

4. Mold a mind

5. Like ear of corn that is ready to cook

6. Bride's cover

7. Opposite of hence

8. Polynesian kingdom

9. Zn

10. "I'm ___ you!"

11. Property right

12. Acronym, abbr.

15. Evening worship

20. "All My Children" vixen

22. Invoice qty.

24. Colossus, pl.

25. Fizzes

26. End of a shoelace

27. "The Brutalist" leading actor

29. Spanish lady

31. Old, in Scottish

32. Go stealthily

33. Related on mother's side

34. *Chalامت's role

36. Et alibi, abbr.

38. St. Louis' Gateway

42. Garlicy mayonnaise

45. Acne, technically

49. Famous frat house

51. Crack

54. Grassy mound

56. Ohio metropolis

57. Yorkshire river

58. Tea or beer

59. Iranian money

60. We have

61. Mature elvers

62. Dabu-___, chili pepper condiment

63. Operator's equip.

65. *Jamie Foxx won Best Actor in 2005 for this biopic

67. Yellow #5, e.g.

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Crabs, Community and Champions

Del Campo's Annual Feed Supports Student Athletes

**Story and photos
by Ornella Rossi**

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - The Del Campo High School Booster Club hosted its 37th Annual Crab Feed on Feb. 8, bringing together families, alumni and local businesses to support the school's athletic programs. The event, which ran from 5 to 10 p.m., was the biggest of the year, featuring music, a selection of raffles, silent auctions, a dessert auction, and a grazing table stocked with food and drinks.

"We are working hard at getting the large gym updated with all of the championship pendants displayed," said a Del Campo Booster Club staff member. "We continue to fundraise to be able to give back to all of the programs at Del Campo. We are working especially hard this year because of the break-in we experienced over winter break. It caused a loss of \$2,800 in Cougar wear."

The event, organized by the Del Campo Athletic Booster Club and the Crab Feed Committee, aimed to raise funds for athletic programs, equipment and facility improvements. The Booster Club, which supports not only sports but also band, cheer, dance, AVID and PFO, works to provide resources that help students thrive.

"Our mission is to assist the Del Campo High School athletic community by providing financial, advisory, and volunteer resources to assist in the improvement of athletic programs, equipment, and facilities," said the Del Campo Booster Club staff member. "We market and promote Del Campo High School athletic programs in which the lifelong values of sportsmanship, teamwork, integrity, honesty, and commitment are emphasized. We support school spirit and participation,

which enriches the mental, physical, and emotional well-being of students."

Del Campo student athletes were heavily involved in the evening's activities, from serving guests to sharing their personal connections to the event. CB, a junior on the water polo team, reflected on her love for the sport.

"I really like water polo. I don't really like running that much, so the pool is my happy place," CB said. "I started water polo my first year of high school and have stuck with it ever since. From this event, I would love to see things that would help the team."

Joel Nelson, a coach for varsity football and freshman baseball,



Attendees at the Del Campo Crab Feed enjoyed all the crab available at the feed.



Del Campo High School students were excited to help serve the attendees that participated in the Annual Crab Feed on Feb. 8.

also attended the event, expressing his appreciation for the sense of community it fostered.

"I like this event because it brings the community together," Nelson said. "It gives a chance for all the coaches to be around parents and for them to see we are just people too. Every athletic program is pretty much self-funded, so the boosters funnel

the money back for jerseys and equipment for every sport, and that's nice because it's divided up for all programs."

The support from the Del Campo community was also evident to Spencer Cady, a senior on the baseball team.

"I really appreciate playing for Del Campo because we have a very strong culture and I'm really



The Grazing table as made possible by United Wholesale Mortgage and Dr. Injector of Sacramento.

happy to be playing this year," Cady said. "I just love the sport. It's great to see how much community members support our team and all these people that are willing to spend their money on us."

Football coach Matt Costa added that the involvement of students in the event was crucial.

"I think it's important that the

kids are involved in this event," Costa said. "It allows them to go out and serve the people that are helping them. Public schools today don't fund athletic departments like they used to, so being able to have a fundraiser that brings money into the program is important. The kids understand the importance of it too." ★

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