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## Story and photos by Kristina Rogers

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Judith Johnson has had many titles, a wife, mother and career woman but she has always been an artist. After retiring in 2016, Johnson sold her Austin, Texas, home and moved to Sacramento.

"There were certain things I wanted in a new place," Johnson said. "I prefer to walk and cycle. The climate is great for gardening and Sacramento is close to Lake Tahoe and so much natural beauty. And of course, there is the art community."

She found a Land Park home that met the checklist, plus the spot had incredible natural light for an artist studio. She didn't know anyone but quickly fixed that problem by volunteering at The Crocker and Verge Arts. Today, art is the center of her world and clearly displayed in *Continued on Page 2* 



Judith Johnson is in front of her outdoor piece "Front Street Promenade" commissioned by Kaiser Permanente for an ICU breakroom.



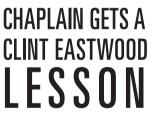
# Free Museum Weekend Returning in March



Sacramento Area Museums News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** -More than 20 Sacramento Area Museums are collaborating to present a Free Museum Weekend on March 1-2. This is the 27th consecutive year the local museum community has presented a free museum experience.

Similar to the past few years, the popular community event is free but requires advance registration and capacity will be limited for each museum. Nearly 30,000 tickets will be available across all participating destinations but will fluctuate by museum and/or by day. To make the event accessible to underserved community members, pre-selected nonprofit organizations will have the opportunity to secure tickets early in mid-February. Then, free ticket registration for the general public will be available on February 24 beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing until all tickets have been secured To reserve free entry on either day, interested community members should visit the user-friendly webpage at sacmuseums.org/ free-museum-weekend.





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The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has, for the first time, recognized Sac State for its "high research activity" and number of awarded research doctoral degrees by designating the University as an R2 institution. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State University

#### By Cynthia Hubert, Sacramento State University

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento State has joined a prestigious group of universities across the country that boast a significant commitment to research and scholarly activities.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has, for the first time, recognized Sac State for its "high research activity" and number of awarded research doctoral degrees by designating the University as an R2 institution.

The recognition is a point of pride for the university, one that signals its ongoing commitment to scholarly work and that will help it attract and retain top faculty, provide students with valuable research opportunities and impact the larger community.

Research is nothing new at Sac State, which annually is awarded millions of dollars in funding for such projects. But in recent years the University has increased the number of doctoral degrees necessary to earn the coveted Carnegie designation.

"In many ways, the R2 designation is a natural progression for us," said Lisa Hammersley, interim associate vice president for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development. "This is recognition of the level of scholarship that our faculty has engaged in for quite some time," she said. "I'm very excited *Continued on Page 2*  With limited availability, event registration is expected to be secured quickly.

Local museums participating in the 2024 Free Museum Weekend include:

Aerospace Museum of California, 3200 Freedom Park Drive, McClellan

California Automobile Museum, 2200 Front St., Sacramento

California Museum, Archives Plaza, 1020 O St., Sacramento

California State Library, Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building, 914 Capitol Mall, Sacramento

Continued on Page 9



## EastSacramentoNews.com

# A Colorful Mind

## Continued from Page 1

rooms all over her home and also hiding in closets, the garage and under her bed.

Johnson's style is an orderly medley of color, pattern and memory. She gives common items with cherished memories new meaning in bright acrylics and assemblages. An assemblage is a collage of repurposed items creating a new image. Her kitchen table is where Johnson sketches her ideas in winter.

She points to a sketch, "Barnicle Betty's Heart." The high relief piece contained in an emergency first-aid box hangs in her living room. She added her grandmother's gloves, rusty pliers and other items.

"I call it 'do it yourself heart surgery.' The barnacles look like a heart to me. It reminded me of an old song; Hey girls bring rusty pliers and pull this tooth because all men are liars and that's the truth. "

Johnson has a series of assemblage-type work involving discarded junk she finds along the local paths she cycles with her boyfriend. A sculpture, part of the "Bike Lane Series" is a whimsical treat; "The Snake Goddess's" backside is a spine-painted bike seat and she is adorned in bottle caps, wires and snakeskin patterns. "Bike Lane #3" is a woman's face with discarded CDs for glasses.

Johnson is also an outdoor enthusiast and completed a piece inspired by her frequent walks along the tree-lined river. It was commissioned



"The Snake Goddess" assemblage is next to a prior sketch.

by Kaiser Permanente and will hang in an ICU breakroom.

"I think it will be a nice colorful piece for the doctors who work in ICU, which must be terrible at times," Johnson said.

After receiving an arts degree at the University of North Texas, Johnson painted murals for restaurants. A minor in technical theater had her freelancing at the Performing Arts Center in Austin.

"When you get an art degree, you end up doing weird jobs," she chuckled.

Johnson also worked as a cartographer before computers were used in the field.

"Map making was done with India Ink on Mylar film back then," Johnson said. "If you made a mistake, you started over."

When Johnson married and began a family, her priorities changed: "I cobbled together an existence but I didn't want my kids to have to live with the

bohemian lifestyle"

She found a steady career as a criminal investigator in financial crime at the Texas Attorney General's Office, which lasted 30 years. During that time, her family found out her son had a brain tumor and worked through several emotionally draining and expensive surgeries. The good news is that her son is an adult and doing well today.

Johnson found a way to combine her experiences in her artwork. Investigating stacks of stale financial data honed her ability to see patterns and pinpoint the one aspect that didn't fit to create a successful case. Her cartography past is reflected in a series of paintings of California's central coast. "Morrow Bay" hangs in her studio. Another piece of Yosemite Falls was displayed and sold at the Crocker Kingsley Blue Line Exhibition in Roseville.

Johnson keeps boxes

of bits and bobs of family mementos to draw from. These often give her ideas for new works. An example is a painting of Johnson looking into a mirror where her mother and grandmother look back. Patterns associated with wallpaper and fractured images of her childhood float about the piece.

Who doesn't have a nondescript, cherished item from someone they loved, an item that brings back a feeling or a pattern emerging in their own dreams at times? Maybe this is what viewers can relate to the most.

As she gazes at the grey retaining wall outside her studio, Johnson said, "I see floating people on the wall in an ocean or something."

Judith Johnson will get to painting the wall when the flotsam drifts in place in her colorful mind. Follow Judith Johnson and where her art will be exhibited at www.judithjohnson-artist.com.



Here is Judith Johnson's self-portrait with her mother and grandmother gazing back from a mirror called "Reflecting."



Shown here is "Bike Lane #3," subtitled "Be the Motor."

# Sac State Lauded for High Research Activity

*Continued from Page 1* about the designation."

President Luke Wood said the recog-

university joins 138 other institutions, including 16 in California, that have achieved R2 status.

working on meaningful projects that benefit the region and beyond.

Among many examples, Chemistry Professor Katherine McReynolds and her students study agents capable of slowing the spread of deadly viruses. In collaboration with UC Davis, graduate students in Biology are studying stem cells and their potential to treat and cure devastating illnesses including cancer. Psychology students led by Professor Erin Rose Ellison are working with elementary school children to research ideas for improving a creek that runs behind their campus. The ability to engage in high-impact research at an institution that still prioritizes teaching can be attractive to prospective students who are considering where to attend college.

experience for our students, from undergraduates working alongside professors in laboratories to doctoral candidates developing groundbreaking research of their own. This synergy between teaching and scholarship creates a dynamic learning environment where students don't just learn about discoveries; they help make them." The designation is a catalyst for advancing Sac State's fundamental commitments to student success; diversity, equity and inclusion; innovation and wellness, Nevarez said. Practically speaking, he added, it opens doors to expanded funding opportunities, enhanced industry partnerships and deeper community engagement. "This recognition will expand opportunities for our diverse student population to engage in meaningful research that addresses real community challenges," he said. "It strengthens our ability to support innovative research that promotes health equity, social justice and community well-being.

nition marks a "pivotal moment" for the University.

"It's a testament to the exceptional work of our faculty, students and staff who have taken our research and creative activities to new heights," Wood said. "Their dedication to engaging in critical research focused on solving real-world problems and to creating new knowledge has transformed our campus into a hub of innovation and discovery."

Carnegie classifies academic institutions as either R1, R2, or "Research Colleges and Universities" to illuminate the depth of their research footprints and resources.

Sac State has been classified in the R2 category, putting it among institutions that spend at least \$5 million on research and development and produce at least 20 research doctorates in a single year.

In fiscal year 2023, Sac State received \$28 million in research funding and awarded 26 research doctorates. The

R1 institutions are those that spend at least \$50 million on research and development and produce at least 70 research doctorates each year. The third category, where Sac State previously resided, focuses solely on research activity.

Even as it celebrates the milestone, however, Sac State will continue to prioritize teaching.

"We already have been recognized as a high-quality teaching institution," Hammersley said. "Our graduation rates have increased. We have a diverse student body with great support programs. We are a caring institution that supports mental health and wellness. Now we are being recognized for our research, which we really have been doing all along."

"It's all part of the student success story."

Students play an active role in many research programs at the University, allowing them to build their resumes while "The R2 designation beautifully complements Sacramento State's longstanding reputation for teaching excellence," said Carlos Nevarez, interim provost and vice president of Academic Affairs.

"When our faculty engage in highlevel research, it enriches the learning "Most importantly, it will help us create more inclusive pathways into research careers, ensuring that tomorrow's researchers and innovators will reflect the rich diversity of California."





ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

# **Ranadivé to Keynote State** of Downtown Event Feb. 25

**Downtown Sacramento** Partnership News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Produced by Downtown Sacramento Partnership and presented by Kaiser Permanente, the annual State of Downtown breakfast will take place from 8 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25 at SAFE Credit Union Convention Center.

This landmark event welcomes speakers that include Mayor Kevin McCarty, Sacramento State University President Dr. Luke Wood, Athletics Interim President Sandy Dean, and Downtown Sacramento Partnership Executive Director Michael Ault.

Kings Owner and Chairman Vivek Ranadivé will deliver a special keynote presentation.

This year's theme, "Progress Through Partnership," continues the story set forth at last year's event that defined the vision and goals for downtown's future. The focus now shifts to laying out the framework for achieving that vision, emphasizing the collaborative efforts that drive meaningful change, even in unpredictable times.

"Uncertainty is an opportunity for us to define what comes next," said Michael Ault, executive director of Downtown Sacramento Partnership. "We want history to reflect that despite financial constraints and the weight of complex social challenges, we rose to the occasion as a united front. This is about setting future generations up for success."

As the owner and chairman of the Sacramento Kings, Vivek Ranadivé has been a driving force behind the revitalization of downtown Sacramento, highlighted by the development of the Golden 1 Center. He will share his insights on the power of community collaboration and his vision for strengthening Sacramento's position as a premier sports and entertainment destination.

The State of Downtown will feature the annual JVance Stewart Award for Community Service, recognizing individuals and organizations passionate about improving the quality of life in downtown



Vivek Ranadivé is owner and chairman of the Sacramento Kings. Photo courtesy of Downtown Sacramento Partnership

through service. Attendees will also hear from key downtown stakeholders including Kaiser Permanente, Sacramento Kings and SMUD.

The 2025 State of Downtown program is presented by Kaiser Permanente and sponsored by Sacramento Kings, SMUD, Tsakopoulos Investments, the Athletics, Stantec, Dignity Health, CBRE, Golden 1 Credit Union, Sutter Health, MarketOne, SAFE Credit Union, Delfino Madden O'Malley Coyle & Koewler, Hensel Phelps, LDK Ventures, F&M Bank, Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Colliers, California State University Sacramento, KFBK News Radio, Sactown Magazine and Comstock's Magazine.

For more information about the State of Downtown, go to downtownsac.org/downtown-sac-experiences/state-of-downtown.

# **Museum Exhibit Honors WWII Women Veterans**

## California Museum News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -The California Museum is pleased to announce the opening of "Our War Too: Women in Service", a groundbreaking special exhibit from The National WWII Museum honoring the nearly 350,000 American women who answered the call to serve their country during World War IL

On view at the California Museum from Feb. 4 to May 5, the exhibit explores these brave servicewomen's efforts, struggles, and accomplishments, the impacts of which extend into the present day. The popular and historical narrative of American women during World War II has often focused on those who worked on the home front, while stories of women who volunteered for vital roles in the uniformed services have been largely underrecognized.

This exhibit salutes the hundreds of thousands of women who served in the women's component branches of the US Army, Coast Guard, Navy and Marine Corps, and with the civilian Women Airforce Service Pilots, as well as the additional 73,000 women who served in the Army and the Navy Nurse Corps.

"Our War Too" is unique because it presents a history that isn't often told," said the exhibit's curator, Kimberly Guise, Senior Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs at The National WWII Museum. "We are proud to be able



to share the stories of these women and how their valuable military service opened doors for the many women who came after them. I hope visitors learn something new and see something unexpected, and I hope young women in particular feel empowered by the women they see represented in this exhibit."

The exhibit features over 200 unique and colorful artifacts from The National WWII Museum's collection that highlight the personal stories and motivations of individual servicewomen. The exhibit's digital elements include an interactive scrapbook that allows visitors to explore wartime albums and memory books curated by women to remember their time in service. Film pieces examine women's service in the war and their legacy today, featuring interviews with women who served in the footsteps of WWII volunteers.

A standout feature of the exhibit is the interactive video stations, where cutting-edge AI technology enables visitors to hear from three WWII servicewomen in their own words. Stations feature "We Were There" interactive biographies of: Romay Johnson Davis, a Women's Army Corps driver in the segregated African American 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion; Virginia Leeman Wilterdink, a US Army nurse with the 314th General Hospital Unit; and SPAR Florence Smith, a baker for the US Coast Guard Women's Reserve. "We Were There" allows guests to converse with these women, drawing from extensive interviews about their lives and wartime experiences.

The California Museum, home of the California Hall of Fame, focuses on the state's rich history, its diversity and its unique influence on the world of ideas, innovation, art and culture. Located at 1020 O St. in the March Fong Eu Secretary of State complex, the Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is \$8-\$10. Plan a visit at CaliforniaMuseum.org. ★



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# **City Council Approves** Leaf Season is Over **R Street Development**





The final day to put out leaf piles for collection was Feb. 3. Photo courtesy of Pixabay

Here is an architectural rendering of the mixed-use affordable housing project planned at 805 R St. Photo courtesy of Capitol Area Development Authority

## City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -On Feb. 4, The Sacramento City Council approved \$3.3 million in funding for a mixed-use affordable housing project with 241 units on state excess property at 805 R Street.

The Monarch Project, a five-story affordable housing development led by the Capitol Area Development Authority and Mutual Housing California, will transform a former State of California storage warehouse into housing within the R Street Corridor in downtown Sacramento.

The development will offer studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments for low-income households earning between 30% and 70% of the area median income. Twenty units will be designated for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. "The Monarch Project expands affordable housing in Sacramento while bringing new economic and creative opportunities to the R Street Corridor," added the City's Housing

Manager Ya-yin Isle. In addition to housing, the project will include 3,428 square feet of commercial space for art-related or neighborhood-serving businesses and 16,369 square feet of private and public outdoor areas.

"The Monarch Project is an important step in addressing Sacramento's housing needs, creating safe and stable homes while contributing to the vibrancy of the R Street Corridor," said Councilmember Phil Pluckebaum, who represents the district. "I'm proud to support this investment in affordable

housing. Turning underutilized land into a thriving, mixed-use development is essential to building a stronger, more inclusive community."

Planned amenities include an exercise studio, event courtyard, private resident courtyard, small corner plaza, laundry rooms on each floor, bicycle racks and vehicle parking at the ground level.

The city's investment will support predevelopment and construction costs for the project, including \$3 million from the American Rescue Plan Act and \$300,000 in State Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Round 4 funds.

The development is expected to be completed in spring 2027, with marketing efforts focused on local Sacramento artists in need of affordable housing.

## News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -The final day to put out leaf piles for collection was Feb. 3. The City of Sacramento's leaf season crews are completing their final round of claw collections, covering more than 93 city zones and collecting over 10,000 tons of yard waste during this leaf season. Wondering what to do with your yard waste now that leaf season is over?

As leaf season concludes, residents still have options to recycle yard waste. The easiest way to dispose of yard waste and organic material is by filling your organics container. Starting this month, the same claw crews will collect waste piles as part of scheduled household junk pickup appointments.

City customers are eligible for two free junk pickup appointments between February and October to dispose of bulky waste. Appointments can be scheduled by calling City Customer Service at 3-1-1 (or 916-264-5011 for those outside city limits), using the Sac311 app, or visiting Sac311.org.

While yard waste that doesn't fit in the organics container can be included in a junk pickup appointment, it must be separated from other items. Branches should be cut to three feet in length and no more than four inches in diameter. Entire piles should not exceed four feet wide, four feet high, and nine feet long.

Residents should place materials out no more than 24 hours before their scheduled pickup. Piles placed out too early may be tagged as illegal to help ensure safe street access for city crews and traffic.

For proper disposal of household hazardous waste, such as batteries, paint, and

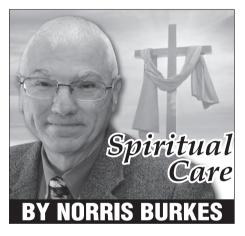
pesticides, residents can use the Waste Wizard online sorting tool at, https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/public-works/ recycling-solid-waste/ waste wizard.

"We aim to offer multiple resources for getting rid of junk in our Waste Wizard," said Jesa David, spokesperson for the Recycling and Solid Waste Division. "Before sending items to the landfill, we encourage residents to explore options for repurposing, recycling, or donating them."

In addition to household junk pickups, residents can schedule separate appointments for appliances or electronic waste. Special instructions apply to the placement of these items, which should not be included in household junk piles.

For more information, visit the city website at https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/public-works/ recycling-solid-waste. ★

## **Chaplain Gets a Clint Eastwood Lesson**



you're doing?" he demanded. "Morale visit, Sir. Just chatting up our cops."



## City of Sacramento

OK, folks, today I'm asking for your best Clint Eastwood impression by repeating these words aloud: "A man's gotta know his limitations.'

If Eastwood was doing his portrayal of "Dirty Harry," today, he'd need to be more inclusive. "Everyone's gotta know their limitations.<sup>3</sup>

Nonetheless, the maxim still gives solid guidance. However, it's advice I neglected 15 years ago when I was deployed to an undisclosed location far out onto the sand dunes.

It was a blisteringly hot afternoon when I decided to take a stroll toward our perimeter defenses in hopes of making a morale visit with our Security Forces personnel.

As I walked into their camp, I found a group of cops anxiously unpacking ammunition boxes.

"What's up, guys?" I asked, a little short of situational awareness.

"We're a little too busy to chat, Chaplain," said a perturbed sergeant.

I must have looked a little hurt because their lieutenant appeased me with an explanation.

"Intel reports suggest an attack tonight, so we need to load ammunition magazines for our M-16s."

"In that case, you'll need all the help you can get," I said.

"Agreed," said an airman offering me a stool and a short tutorial on handling ammunition.

Gratefully, I was soon multitasking loading magazines and facilitating the chat session I'd come for. I was a happy chappy talking with folks about food, families and weather.

After about 20 minutes, I heard someone loudly clearing their throat. I turned around to see an orange-vested officer standing on our perimeter.

"Chaplain, just what the hell do you think

"I mean with your hands!" he said pointing to the magazine I was loading.

Note: This is the moment where I disclose my previously undisclosed location – on the dunes of Malabar, Florida. This was a military exercise, a dress rehearsal for combat.

The irritated officer was an inspector.

"Captain Burkes," he growled. "You KNOW chaplains are non-combatants and forbidden by the Geneva Convention to have anything to do with weapons - most especially during an inspection."

Wowzer, I can tell you that a superior addressing a chaplain by rank is like hearing your mom using your middle name.

He was right, of course. Chaplains who violate this rule in a real deployment are subject to court martial.

I knew the rule applied to guns but hadn't given thought to magazines. Obviously I'd lost sight of my limitations.

As a military chaplain, I had to abide by certain rules of engagement that limited my religious freedoms. For instance, in addition to being unarmed, I couldn't proselytize, nor could I bring parochial prayers to mandatory formations.

Some of my pastor colleagues balked at such restrictions. However, by knowing and accepting my limitations, I was rewarded the high honor of being present with servicemembers as they walked into harm's way.

These limitations aren't much different for many of you who carry your faith into workplaces. A teacher can't preach to his students. An executive can't thump her employees with biblical proclamations. A foreman can't limit his hiring to those from his faith preference. These rules of engagement are about respect, not political correctness.

However, these limitations needn't keep you from becoming a light in your field. The contrary is true. Keeping the rules of engagement should mean that your light shines ever brighter as it shows your esteem for co-workers.

By the way, I ran afoul of one other limitation that day. The Florida heat index shot up so high that 10 people dropped from heat exhaustion. When Slap Happy Chappy became No. 11, the orange vest yelled into his megaphone, "ENDEX." (End Exercise.)

All together now — "A man's gotta know his limitations!"

This column was excerpted from my book "Tell it to the Chaplain."

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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.



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.

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 bigband jazz, setting the stage for a journey into Sacramento's West End. 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 lifelong 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.



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."

SACRAMENTO

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 vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.

# **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-securityadvisory) or email us

programs/social-securityadvisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

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



ruled that the measure vio-

SB 54 survived one court

## SACRAMENTO CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA

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 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 Pfaelzer lated 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 Pfaelzer'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. 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 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. DONALD KENDRICK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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## **ABOUT TOWN**

## **Jazzercise Open House** Feb. 22-23

Promenade Jazzercise Studio will host an open house from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 22-23.

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9:20-9:50 a.m.: Sculpt

10:05-10:35 a.m.: Stretch

There also will be sign-up specials,

refreshments and door prizes.

Promenade Jazzercise Studio is at 7485 Rush River Drive Ste. 630 (next to Device and Goodwill). For more information, call916-410-8651 or visit jazzercise.com.

## **Area Museums Offer Plenty** of Experiences

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

California Automobile Museum - Take a ride in a museum car during

Sunday Drives, the third Sunday of every month,. With paid museum admission, take a ride from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Details at calautomuseum.org/

California State Railroad Museum-The Chinese Railroad Workers' Experience offers visitors a view of the Chinese workers who built the western portion of the nation's first Transcontinental Railroad. Marginalized by history, the Chinese workers were more than a nameless group of laborers. Details at californiarailroad.museum/.

## **Elks Lodge Calendar of Events**

Elk's Lodge Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am every Sunday; \$15 tax included. Best deal in town.

Yoga, Monday 12 pm, Wednesday 3:30 pm. Lodge members free.

Martial Arts, Monday 5 pm

Pickleball, Mon., Wed. 9a-12p, Thur. 4:30-7:30p,Sun. 4-7p.

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

Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 pm. See elks6.net for weekly menu.  $\star$ 

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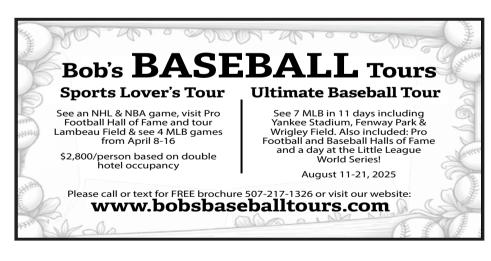
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## **City Hosting a Small-Scale Development Workshop**

### City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -The City of Sacramento is partnering with PLACE Initiative and the Incremental Development Alliance to pilot a Small Developer Incubator Program. A full-day workshop on the program is scheduled for March 8 and registration is now open.

The goals of the Small Developer Incubator Program are to create a network of developers and contractors who are invested in the economic health of local Sacramento neighborhoods and build local capacity to develop smaller-scale housing solutions using missing middle housing concepts, design/ zoning supports, and financing.

City of Sacramento staff introduced the Small Developer Incubator pilot program at a lecture on Feb 5. Lecture attendees also received a presentation from the Incremental Development Alliance and learned about how everyday people can get involved in small-scale real estate development or support and build local capacity for such projects in their neighborhoods and cities. If you missed the lecture or would like to dive deeper into the topic, you can access a free course on the topic through this website, https://academy.strongtowns.org/p/

incremental-development-alliance.

The next step in the process is a full-day program workshop taking place on March 8. The City of Sacramento invites you to register for the workshop to continue learning about real estate and community development. This full-day, in-person workshop will provide deeper insights and hands-on experience in the world of small-scale development.

The workshop is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Oak Park Community Center, 3425 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Sacramento. Registration for the event can be accomplished through the program website at www.



The City of Sacramento is presenting a full-day workshop on the Small Developer Incubator Program on March 8. Photo courtesy of City of Sacramento

incrementaldevelopment. org/events/sacramentoworkshop.

If you have any questions about the scholarship application, please feel free

to reach out via email to training@incrementaldevelopment.org.

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# Stage Nine Welcomes Voice of Minnie Mouse on March 8

## Stage Nine Entertainment News Release

OLD SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Coinciding with Women's History Month, Stage Nine Entertainment is excited to welcome Disney's Kaitlyn Robock, the voice of Minnie Mouse, along with eight "leading ladies" of Disney Fine Art, for a fun and free community event on Saturday, March 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is Robrock's first visit to Stage Nine at the Old Sacramento Waterfront and she will be joined by talented artists that include Michelle St. Laurent, Liana Hee, Jennifer Lanna, Heather Edwards, Elena Penkova, Denyse Klette, Arienne Boley and Jean Salvatore.

Leading up to the event, the "leading lady" artists will each paint their favorite



Image is of an original by Elena Penkova, courtesy of Disney Fine Art, by Collectors Editions

woman character, heroine, villainess, etc. from Disney and Pixar Films that will

be on display and available for purchase. Also, all eight will paint Minnie Mouse, in their own unique way, representing differing styles, all of which will be available in a collage print that can be purchased and signed by all eight artists and the voice of Minnie Mouse.

For the one-day public event on March 8, the special guests will be available for storytelling, meet & greet opportunities, and autograph signings on-site at Stage Nine.

The pioneering "leading ladies" will be located throughout The Vault on the store's main level and downstairs in The Underground Vault as well.

Plus, special artifacts of pioneering women throughout Disney and Pixar Films history will be on limited-time display for the weekend in The Underground

Vault, many of whom paved the path and inspired future generations of artists.

Stage Nine Entertainment is well known as the area's premier entertainment retail destination that showcases approximately 20,000 unique items related to movies, television, toys and pop culture.

Stage Nine is well known for hosting retail events attended by celebrities, artists, and entertainers.

Plus, the on-site art gallery The Vault, is California's #1 independently owned retailer of Disney Fine Art.

Located in a building known as "What Cheer House" at the corner of Front & K Streets (102 K St.) at the Old Sacramento Waterfront, the Stage Nine retail stores are open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more about this special event, call 916-447-3623 or visit stagenine.com. \*

# **Fairytale Town Celebrates Read Across America**

## Fairytale Town News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Children and their families can enjoy a day of literacy-inspired fun at Fairytale Town's Read Across America Day Celebration event on Sunday, March 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., weather permitting.

Fairytale Town's Story Center will be buzzing with literacy-based fun and hands-on activities and crafts, and families can stop by the Mother Goose Stage for a unique nonstop reading of cherished children's books.

Ignite young imaginations through the magic of books at Fairytale Town's Read Across America Day Celebration.

The Read Across America Day Celebration is free with paid park



admission. Admission is \$10 for adults and children ages two and older. Children under two are free.

Fairytale Town's Read Across America Day Celebration is sponsored by South Sutter Charter School.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit Fairytale Town's website at, https://www.fairytaletown.org.

# Free Museum Weekend Returning in March

Continued from Page 1

California State Railroad Museum, 125 I St., Sacramento

Capitol Park at California State Capitol Museum, 1315 10th St., Sacramento

Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sacramento

Don & June Salvatori California Pharmacy Museum, 4030 Lennane Drive, Sacramento

Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park, 800 N St., Sacramento

Locke Boarding House Museum, 13916 Main St., Locke

Sacramento Sacramento History Museum, 101 I St., Old Sacramento

Sacramento Regional Fire Museum, 3650 Industrial Blvd., West Sacramento

SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity, 400 Jibboom St., Sacramento

Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum, 2251 Florin Road, South Sacramento

State Indian Museum, 2618 K St., Midtown Sacramento

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, 2701 L St., Midtown Sacramento Verge Center for the Arts, 625 S St., Downtown Sacramento.

# **Library Helps Teens** Shine on Prom Night



The Sacramento Public Library is hosting 17 free prom giveaway events across the region. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Public Library

## Sacramento Public Library News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Starting Feb. 15, Sacramento Public Library is hosting 17 free prom giveaway events across the region.

Teens ages 13 to 19 can browse the library's free formalwear collection and take home an outfit to keep for their special night.

dresses, shoes and accessories in a variety of styles and sizes, were donated by community members.

Upcoming prom giveaway events include March 6 at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library and March 8 at Arden-Dimick Library, Fair Oaks Library and Belle Cooledge and Rio Linda Library on March 15.

On March 22, the prom giveaway event will be at Rancho Cordova Library, Valley Hi-North Laguna Library, South Natomas Library and Orangevale Library.

March 29 will feature prom giveaway events at Carmichael Library and Franklin Library. The final giveaways will be on April 5 at Sylvan Oaks Library and on April 19 at Arcade Library.

Maidu Museum & Historic Site, 1970 Johnson Ranch Drive, Roseville

Museum of Medical History, 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento

Roseville Utility Exploration Center, 1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville

Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, Enter on Broadway at 10th St.,

All participating museums will be open at 10 a.m. both days and the last entry is one hour prior to museum closing time (which could differ slightly by museum). Free tickets are available only for regular admission during March 1-2, 2025.

More than 900 teens benefited from the library's prom giveaways last year.

Formalwear, including gently-worn jackets, ties,

Library.

On March 13, the event will be at North Natomas Library, followed by March 14 at Walnut Grove Library.

The event will also be at Walnut Grove Library

Visit saclibrary.org/prom for times and details.

## **Newsom Names Sacramentans to State Leadership Posts**

### Office of Gov. Newson News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -Governor Gavin Newsom announced the following appointments.

Kate Hoit, o f h a s Sacramento, appointed been Deputy Secretary of Communications at the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Hoit has been the PACT Act Enterprise Program Management Office Communications and Outreach Lead at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs since 2023. She was a Communications Lead in the Veteran Experience Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs from 2021 to 2023.

Hoit was the California State Director at the Vet Voice Foundation from 2018 to 2021. She was the Military Marketing Manager at National University from 2017 to 2018. Hoit was the Director of Content and

Your 6 from 2014 to 2017. She was a Public Affairs Specialist at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs from 2011 to 2014. Hoit served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 2001 to 2009. She is a Pat Tillman Scholar and a member of the Truman National Security Project.

She earned her Master of the Arts Degree in Non-Fiction Writing from Johns Hopkins University, and a Bachelor of the Arts in Journalism from the University at Albany, State University of New York.

This position does not require Senate confirmation, and the compensation is \$154,860. Hoit is a Democrat.

Karen Morrison, of Sacramento, has been appointed Director at the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Morrison has held multiple positions at the Department of Pesticide Regulation since 2018, including Chief Deputy Director

Communications at Got and Science Advisor since 2022, Assistant Director and Chief Science Advisor from 2019 to 2022, and Environmental Program Manager and Science and Policy Advisor from 2018 to 2019.

> She was a Senior Environmental Scientist and Policy Advisor at the California Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery from 2014 to 2018. Morrison was a Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the California Council on Science and Technology from 2013 to 2014. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Chemistry from the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, and she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Harvey Mudd College.

This position requires Senate confirmation, and compensation is \$213,651. Morrison is registered without party preference. Εd Perez, o f Sacramento, has been appointed to the Physician Assistant Board. Perez was a manager at Labor **Relations and Performance** Management, California Department of Water Resources from 2019 to 2024. He was a Labor Relations Specialist, Department of Water Resources from 2015 to 2019. Perez was a Labor Relations Specialist & Labor Relations Analyst at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from 2013 to 2015.

This position does not require Senate confirmation, and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Perez is a Democrat.

Khalil "KC" Mohseni, of Sacramento, has been appointed Commissioner of the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, where he has been the Chief Deputy Director since 2023. Mohseni was the Chief Operating Officer at the State Controller's Office from 2022 to 2023. He was the Deputy Director of Administration at the California Department of Housing and Community Development from 2020 to 2022.

Mohseni was a Project Director of Business at the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency from 2018 to 2019. He was the Chief Fiscal officer at the Board of State and Community Corrections from 2015 to 2018. Mohseni earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Davis School of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Irvine.

This position requires Senate confirmation, and the compensation is \$224,868. Mohseni is registered without party preference.

Janus Norman, of Sacramento, has been appointed to the California Workforce Development Board. Norman has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Broadband and Video Association since 2022. He was Senior Vice President at the California Medical Association from 2013 to 2022. Norman was a Field Representative at the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees - AFL-CIO from 2010 to 2013. He was a Government Analyst at the Judicial Council of California from 2008 to 2010. Norman was a Senior Consultant for the California State Assembly from 2002 to 2008. He earned a Master of **Business Administration** degree from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies from California State University, Sacramento.

This position does not require Senate confirmation, and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Norman is a Democrat.



# **Running for Cancer Research**

## Dana-Farber Cancer Institute News Release

**SACRAMETNO REGION, CA** (**MPG**) - On April 21, Maria Amparo Haynes of Elk Grove is running to defy cancer as a member of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team in the 129th Boston Marathon.

Along with more than 500 Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge teammates from across the United States and around the world, they will run Massachusetts' historic marathon route from Hopkinton to Boston to collectively raise \$8.5 million for cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

This year marks the 36th annual running of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge. One hundred percent of the money raised by the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team benefits Dana-Farber's Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research, which supports promising science research in its earliest stages. The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge has raised more than \$132 million for the Barr Program to date.



Maria Amparo Haynes of Elk Grove along with more than 500 Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge teammates from across the United States will be running in the 2025 Boston Marathon. Photo courtesy of Pixaby

In 1990, Dana-Farber was among the first charity organizations to be recognized by the Boston Athletic Association, which organizes the Boston Marathon. The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team offers its

members extensive fundraising support, training guidance from 1976 Boston Marathon Men's Open Division Champion Jack Fultz, and team training runs. Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge runners who are

not time-qualified for the Boston Marathon receive an invitational entry into the race.

Runners include cancer survivors and patients, and family and friends of those who have been affected by cancer.

Each team member must fulfill a basic fundraising commitment of \$10,000 for runners who receive their entry from Dana-Farber and \$4,000 for runners who have obtained their own race entry.

To contribute to the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge, visit RunDFMC. org or contact the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge office at 617-632-1970.

# Pranyte Named Player of the Week



# Athletics Storming into Spring Training

## By Martin Gallegos, MLB.com

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - There was a different energy as Athletics pitchers and catchers took the field at Mesa Arizona's Hohokam Stadium on Feb. 12 for the first day of spring training, one that has not been felt around these parts in quite some time.

Since the roster teardown of their previous playoff-contending team took place just before the start of the 2022 season, the A's have entered camp each spring operating in rebuild mode. This year, however, the messaging has shifted, no longer is this a rebuilding period. The A's believe they are years. Sure, there might be a couple of roster battles on the pitching side and at backup catcher. But for the most part, 2025 Spring Training is going to focus less on configuring the 26-man roster and more on sharpening up the tools for a year in which the A's expect to be in playoff contention.

"Everyone in this game wants those expectations," Kotsay said. "We haven't necessarily had those over the last [three] seasons. We've had our challenges, and we're still going to have our challenges. Our improvement of 19 games still was only 69 wins. We recognize that. We understand it's going to take a great season to improve on 69 [wins] to get to the playoffs. We're preparing ourselves for that and those are expectations that we want to have.' JP Sears certainly sensed a different vibe inside the clubhouse from his previous two springs with the A's. Whereas in the past, the room was filled with a bunch of players who were just fighting to establish themselves as big leaguers, there is now a true sense of camaraderie amongst a group that has been through the ups and downs of a Major League Baseball season together. "The past two years of Spring Training, you kind of just came in hoping to survive at times," Sears said. "Now it feels like we can be a little bit more expecting of things. We have a lot of the same guys that have been here the last two years. The overall outlook is that we're going to be more on the attack and know we're going to be really competitive throughout the year. We're going to hang with every team and be better than a lot of teams that we face."

Hornet freshman Emilija Pranyte was awarded Big Sky Conference Player of the Week honors on Feb. 12, after the Hornets posted a thrilling victory over Saint Mary's. Photo courtesy of Sac State Athletics

### Sacramento State University News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - An undefeated record and a historic team victory for the Sacramento State women's tennis team helped lift freshman Emilija Pranyte to Big Sky Conference Player of the Week honors on Feb. 12, after the Hornets posted a thrilling victory over Saint Mary's in their lone match of the week.

It is the first career weekly honor for Pranyte and the first for a Sacramento State student-athlete since Irene Riva earned the second award of her career on March 27 of last season.

Extending their unbeaten start to the 2025 campaign to four straight matches, the program's best since opening 4-0 in 2008, the Hornets handed the host Gaels a 4-2 defeat on Super Bowl Sunday, posting the program's first win over Saint Mary's

since a 4-3 win at home in 2011 and its first win in Moraga since a 6-0 shutout in 1992. Pranyte played a key role in that victory, getting Sacramento State its first win of the day alongside partner Palina Saulevich in their season debut at No. 1 doubles with a 6-3 victory as the Hornets went on to clinch the doubles point for a 1-0 lead in the match.

Shortly thereafter, Pranyte put her team on the brink of victory with a 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (5), win over Juliette Daries at No. 3 singles, breaking a 2-2 tie and setting up teammate Maddy Ferreros to clinch the contest with a three-set win at No. 1 for the final score.

Pranyte's victory improved her to 2-1 in three-set singles contests this season as the Lithuanian improved to 3-1 overall in singles — playing at the No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4 spots in the lineup — and 2-0 in doubles play. ready to win now.

"There is definitely a higher level of expectation," manager Mark Kotsay said. "You look at the progress we made in the second half and the group that came together, that nucleus of guys, I think they've built a culture in there that they believe in each other and know that they belong."

That belief system was established over the second half of last season, when the A's finished 39-37 over their final 76 games. That second-half success led to an improvement upon their 2023 win total by 19 games (69-93), ending the year having identified a talented group of players that have solidified Major League roles such as Brent Rooker, Lawrence Butler, Mason Miller, JJ Bleday, Shea Langeliers and Zack Gelof.

Through the discovery of that core group, as well as the additions of veterans such as Luis Severino, Jeffrey Springs, José Leclerc and Gio Urshela, this spring is going to be atypical from the past few

# Hornet Freshman Named Player of the Week

## Sacramento State University News Release

#### **SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)**

- On Feb. 12, Hornet freshman Gur Libal was named the Big Sky Conference Player of the Week after leading the Hornets to a 3-1 record over the previous week. That included a Big Sky season-opening road win at Portland State.

Those four matches came over a seven-day span, and the Netanya, Israel, native went 4-0 in singles play, and 3-1 in doubles. He won three of the four singles matches in straight sets, including a 7-5, 6-3 win over Portland State's Edoardo Cravanzola at No. 2.

Libal played his first match of the week at No. 3 in the singles lineup, but moved up to No. 2 for his final three matches. He played at positions 1, 2 and 3 in doubles (twice at No. 1).

At No. 3 against American River College on Feb. 5, he won his match by a 6-1, 6-4 score. He followed up that effort with a 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-3 win at No. 2 against Seattle on Feb. 7. He won in straight sets on Feb. 9 at Portland State and dropped just one game in the home-opening victory over Jessup 6-1, 6-0, on Feb. 11.

Libal played with two different doubles partners, including a 6-3 win at No. 1 in the victory over Portland State. It was that match that clinched the all-important doubles point in a 4-3 victory against the Vikings. He also won his match at No. 2 by a 6-3 score against American River, and 6-1 at No. 1 vs. Jessup.



Sacramento State University freshman Gur Libal was named the Big Sky Conference Player of the Week on Feb. 12. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State University Athletics