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# Land Park News

VOL 34 • ISSUE 6 *Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years* MARCH 21, 2025

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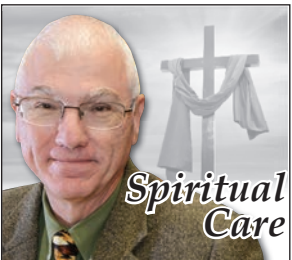
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**PLAYOFFS NOT  
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**YOU CAN ASK  
AND THEY  
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## Always Ready to Serve



Stephen Cooper, lead service director for Calvary Cemetery, loves helping his community.

**Story and photos  
by Kristina Rogers**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento residents pass businesses daily and might think, “I’ll have to stop by there sometime.” It could be a restaurant or a cute boutique. It’s not the same when they pass a funeral home.

When there isn’t a service, Klumpp Chapel of Flowers at 2691 Riverside Blvd. sits quietly, waiting patiently for the time when

you need it.

“It’s been my dream to be a funeral director,” said Jessyciah Shoemaker who grew up with a large Sacramento family where funerals were as common as weddings and baby showers. When she was 17, her 11-year-old cousin passed away suddenly. The moment helped seal her decision.

Shoemaker graduated from Valley High School and eventually made her way to Decatur, Georgia,

to receive a degree from the Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Services. She’s been working for Klumpp Chapel of Flowers for two years as a funeral services manager.

As one can imagine, grief can be different for each person. “There are five stages of grief,” Shoemaker explains, “denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. When people come to see us, they’re normally at stage two, anger. The

reality can be jarring. They are mad a loved one has passed, and now they’re planning services with me.”

Shoemaker softly approaches the emotional turmoil from her own foundational faith reminding people that their loved ones are still with them. She also found it helps to provide options for the bereft to focus on. And there are many options today.

Statistics from the  
*Continued on Page 2*

## Jimmy Kvarme Tribute Tourney Set for October



Jimmy Kvarme plays tennis at Park Terrace Swim and Tennis Club at age 11. Courtesy photo

**By Park Terrace Swim  
and Tennis Club Staff**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The annual Jimmy Kvarme Tribute Tournament returns on Oct.18 to Oct. 19 at the Park Terrace Swim and Tennis Club.

The tournament brings together tennis players, families and the local community for a weekend of competition and giving back.

More than just a United States Tennis Association (USTA) Gold Cup Series event, the Jimmy Kvarme Tribute Tournament honors the memory of Jimmy Kvarme, a passionate young tennis player, while raising funds for meaningful causes.

Since its inception in 2017, the tournament has raised more than \$50,000 for various charities, including the V Foundation for Cancer Research and has supported local high school tennis programs by providing funding, tennis balls and equipment to schools such as Christian Brothers, River City, John F. Kennedy and C.K. McClatchy.

This year, the Jimmy Kvarme Tribute Tournament is proud to partner with Mama Bears Fighting Childhood Cancer, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting families facing pediatric cancer. Founded by mothers who have been through the battle firsthand, Mama Bear provides caregivers with essential hospital supplies through their Hospital Wagon program, ensuring they have

*Continued on Page 4*

## SPCA Doggy Dash Returns for 32nd Year

**By MPG Staff**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), open to all dogs, their owners and dog lovers, will hold its 32nd Doggy Dash on April 12.

Northern California’s largest 2K/5K dog walk and pet festival, according to the SPCA, brings together animal lovers to raise funds for the Sacramento SPCA’s lifesaving programs.

In addition to the 2K/5K dog walk, event participants will enjoy Bark at the Park Festival activities including food trucks, a beer and cocktail garden, games, demos, prizes and most importantly the opportunity to meet adorable, adoptable dogs.

The funds raised through the Doggy Dash registration fees help to provide direct care to more than 40,000 animals in the community each year. The Sacramento SPCA also assists cats, bunnies and other small animals in need.

“The Doggy Dash offers a wonderful opportunity to have fun with your dog while also supporting the animals in our community,” said Sarah Varanini, Sacramento SPCA



Leash up your pup for a 2K/5K walk through William Land Park at the 32nd Annual SPCA Doggy Dash on April 12. Photo courtesy of Sacramento SPCA

communications manager. “Whether your dog is athletic or prefers to be carried or pushed in a stroller, there is fun to be had for all!”

The 2025 Doggy Dash will take place at William Land Park (near Village Green) at 3800 W. Land Park

Drive, Sacramento on April 12. Event day registration starts at 8:30 a.m.

The 2K/5K walk is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., and the Bark at the Park Festival will immediately follow the walk.

*Continued on Page 3*

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# Sacramento Zoo Celebrates Giraffe Birth



On March 1, Amirah the giraffe gave birth to a female calf at the Sacramento Zoo. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Zoo

## Sacramento Zoo News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Zoo is thrilled to announce that Amirah the giraffe gave birth to a female calf on Saturday, March 1, at 2:56 p.m.

Amirah's calf is healthy and nursing well from mom. The pair will be given bonding time but may be visible at their habitat's side yard periodically beginning in the next few weeks.

The official debut date will be dependent on the health and welfare of mom and calf. Keep an eye out on Sacramento Zoo social media pages for when this new addition to our herd will be visible.

Sacramento Zoo is now home to five female Masai giraffes, Shani, Amirah, Glory, Cheyenne and the new calf. This is the 22nd calf born at the Sacramento Zoo going back to 1954 when giraffes were first housed in Sacramento.

Senior Manager of Animal Care, Melissa McCartney, said "Our entire team is thrilled by how well Amirah and her new baby are doing. We are thankful this was a textbook labor and delivery, with a strong and healthy calf on her feet within two hours of her birth and nursing shortly thereafter. Mom and calf are bonding behind the scenes and the entire herd is

enjoying looking on and greeting the newest member of our zoo family."

The Masai giraffe is the largest giraffe subspecies and is found in southern Kenya and Tanzania. Gestation is 14 to 15 months. When a calf is born, it can be as tall as six feet and weigh as much as 150 pounds. Within minutes, the calf is able to stand on its own.

Sacramento Zoo is one of 34 institutions managing 136 Masai giraffes in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums population. The zoo partners with and supports the Wild Nature Institute, a field research organization that is currently studying Masai giraffe demographics and the African Savanna ecosystem with photo recognition software.

The zoo's partnership with Wild Nature Institute is critical to giraffe research and conservation efforts.

Wild giraffes are experiencing a silent extinction as their populations continue to plummet due to poaching and habitat loss. It has been estimated that the mammals' numbers have fallen by more than 50 percent over the last 30 years.

In 2018, the International Union for Conservation of Nature moved giraffes from "Vulnerable" to "Endangered" on its Red List of Threatened Species. ★

# Capital Stage Apprentice Applications Accepted



Capital Stage Apprentice Company participants will experience everything from casting, rehearsals and directing to technical production, design and marketing. Photo courtesy of Capital Stage

## Capital Stage News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Capital Stage, Sacramento's innovative and professional non-profit theatre company, is accepting applications for its 2025/26 Apprentice Company. This program offers aspiring theatre artists a valuable opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the professional theatre world while learning from industry experts.

The Apprentice Program at Capital Stage is designed to bridge the gap between academic theatre and the professional world, offering practical training and exposure to all aspects of theatre production and administration.

Apprentices will be fully immersed in the production process, taking part in everything from casting,

rehearsals and directing to technical production, design and marketing. Opportunities also include assisting with dramaturgy, stage management, props and costume building, public relations, and more. Apprentices will also participate in the production of the annual Apprentice Showcase, a public presentation that highlights the skills and creativity developed throughout the program.

The program runs for a minimum of six months, with a 12-month commitment preferred. Apprentices will receive a weekly stipend of \$250 to \$350, although housing is not provided. The schedule is flexible, accommodating apprentices' availability, and will include a mix of daytimes, nights and weekends. While Capital Stage cannot guarantee a

job offer after the apprenticeship completion, this experience provides a strong foundation for those pursuing a career in theatre.

Capital Stage is seeking passionate, self-motivated candidates who are eager to learn and contribute to the company's diverse productions. Ideal applicants should be dedicated, able to work in a fast-paced environment and have the ability to collaborate with a wide range of personalities.

The deadline to apply is May 31.

Interested candidates should submit their application materials to Logan Germano Heller, education manager, at [lheller@capstage.org](mailto:lheller@capstage.org). Interviews will be scheduled for select applicants. For more information, visit [capstage.org](http://capstage.org) or email Logan Germano Heller. ★

# Always Ready to Serve

Continued from Page 1

National Funeral Directors Association showed that in 2024, 61.9% chose cremation compared to 33.2% that chose burial. The statistics also showed that 68% preferred eco-friendly or green options.

"We are the first green-certified funeral home in Sacramento," Shoemaker explains.

"Embalming practices can be green, and we have caskets made of willow and seagrass. There's no metal allowing everything to break down in the earth faster."

Urns are green, too. Shoemaker points to a biodegradable sand "scattering urn" with footprints. When it hits water, it dissolves. Many people choose these urns for oceanic services (and if you didn't know, you must be three miles away from a coastline to scatter). Traditional vase-type urns are still popular, and there are other choices: angelic statue urns, cases with poetic inscriptions, and locally made artisan pieces. Shoemaker points to a book urn on a shelf with the inscription *Gone Fishing*. Whether people want poetry or a little humor, it's all about serving the community.

Shoemaker and the staff at Klumpp Chapel of Flowers do everything they can to accommodate requests. For instance, a dog's ashes are in a nearby room, waiting to be mixed with the ashes of its beloved owner. Mariachi bands have played at the services and family members have helped finish preparing their loved ones



Jessycah Shoemaker, Klumpp Chapel of Flowers' funeral service manager, leads with faith and empathy.

for viewing. These efforts help people remain connected as they mourn.

In general, the focus has shifted from mourning to a celebration of life. And the funeral home supports all communities however they wish to celebrate. Families from the Buddhist Church at Riverside and X Street frequently visit, and there is a large following from the Hispanic community. Also, there are the varied cultures and traditions of the Land Park community.

George L. Klumpp was a passionate community member himself. Elected mayor of Sacramento in 1947, he belonged to several local organizations. In 1972, new owners

A.L. Bernard and Robert W. Oehler carried on his vision and relocated the funeral home to Riverside Boulevard from its 8th and O streets location. Today the Klumpp Chapel of Flowers is managed by the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento.

Jessycah Shoemaker continues to find ways to connect to Land Park and the wider Sacramento community.

The Klumpp site also hosts a neighborhood blood drive each quarter. They have a Toys for Tots drive in December. And they host a Christmas service of love and remembrance with refreshments.

The on-site chapel is

cheerful, with polished pews, vaulted ceilings and a large garden window allowing light to stream in. The funeral staff reflects the same warmth and calm making it clear it's a "calling" to be in this career.

Stephen Cooper is the lead service director for Calvary Cemetery in Citrus Heights. He shuttles between Klumpp and Calvary often. And he didn't begin as a funeral professional.

"I was tired of my business and sold it. I didn't know what to do next, so I prayed about it. The next day, there was a buyer for my business. Then, I stopped by the cemetery to visit my parents' graves



The new popular "book urn" on display with *Gone Fishing* inscription.



Eco-friendly urns for ocean services are gaining interest.

and was offered a job as a funeral director. I found it odd, but I went with it. This is about helping a family walk through one of the most challenging things they'll do. I landed in the right spot. I love it."

For the living, Cooper believes it's always cathartic to "Remember your person, find the laughter and share your stories."

To learn more, go to [klumppsfuneralhome.org](http://klumppsfuneralhome.org). ★



# SacSewer Offers Tours



Sacramento Area Sewer District's Echo Water Resource Recovery Facility (Echo Water Facility) public tours are educational and free for adults and children 12 and older. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Area Sewer District

By MPG Staff

**SACRAMENTO REGION** - Reservations are now being accepted for the Sacramento Area Sewer District's free EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility (EchoWater Facility) public tours from April to October.

The Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer) provides service to residential, commercial and industrial customers throughout unincorporated Sacramento County; the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento; West Sacramento; and the communities of Courtland, Locke and Walnut Grove. The district is governed by a 17-member Board of Directors: five Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, five Sacramento City Council members, two Elk Grove City Council members, and one representative each from Yolo County and the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Rancho Cordova and West Sacramento.

According to the Sacramento Area Sewer District's website, it is the second largest sewage collection utility in California,

and owns the Echo Water Resource Recovery Facility, the second largest water resource recovery facility of its kind in the nation.

Beginning next month, the public will have an opportunity to learn more about the water resource recovery facility, where an average of 151 million gallons of sewage is treated daily.

Located near Elk Grove, the Echo Water Facility Public Tour offers a behind-the-scenes look at how the recovery facility collects and treats sewage, manages and recovers natural resources, and protects the environment for the 1.6- million people it serves.

"Our public tours offer the community a unique opportunity to experience firsthand how we're setting the bar for excellence in utility management and environmental sustainability," said SacSewer's communications director Nicole Coleman.

"We invite everyone to join us for a tour, ask questions and learn how the critical work we do is shaping a more sustainable future."

SacSewer's free

public tours run from April through October and are open to anyone interested in learning about sewage collection and treatment, sustainability and environmental stewardship. Children under 12 are not permitted on public tours and adults must accompany tour participants who are minors.

The three-hour tour includes a 60-minute classroom presentation and a 120-minute walking and bus portion.

Tour participants will gain a deeper understanding of what happens after they flush their toilets, wash their dishes or do laundry and how these everyday actions connect to a vast, sophisticated treatment process designed to protect the environment and public health.

Closed-toed shoes are required as tour groups will walk through industrial areas.

For more information about the Echo Water Resource Recovery Facility public tours, including tour dates and registration details, visit [SacSewer.com/tours](http://SacSewer.com/tours).

To experience a virtual tour, visit [sacs sewer.com/virtual-tours](http://sacs sewer.com/virtual-tours). ★

# Pittador Brews Funded in Business Incubator Program

**Downtown Sacramento Foundation News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)**

- On March 5, the Downtown Sacramento Foundation announced Pittador Brews Specialty Teas & Coffees was the winner of the 12th annual Calling All Dreamers business incubator program.

The coveted \$20,000 cash prize will help Pittador Brews open a storefront on the Old Sacramento Waterfront.

Pittador Brews was chosen as the winner due to their successful business model, large market and event-based following, passion for bringing the local community together, and creativity in crafting unique tea and coffee beverages. All finalist concepts completed months of workshops and worked with Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) mentors to refine and pitch their business models to industry leaders.

To provide greater support to finalists of the incubator, this year Downtown Sacramento Foundation has chosen a runner-up awardee to receive \$15,000 in cash. The runner-up is Haus of Comedy, an improv comedy theater.

Additionally, three other finalists are eligible to receive \$5,000 if they lease a downtown storefront by March 1, 2026. The three other finalists are Cà Phê Diêm, Nacho House and Style For It.



Co-owners of Pittador Brews, Liliette and Stephen Freeman, stand outside their new Old Sacramento location, made possible by the Calling All Dreamers business incubator program. Photo by Downtown Sacramento Foundation

The winning business, Pittador Brews, has been in operation for nearly five years. The business has regular appearances at various farmers' markets throughout the region as well as the California State Fair and Cosumnes River College.

Also operating as a wholesale vendor, the owners are eager to open a brick-and-mortar location to better serve the community in-person. The business name is based on their love of their two favorite things: dogs and a freshly brewed hot beverage. They roast coffee beans from a variety of counties including Malawi, Sulawesi, and Nicaragua and source dozens of unique teas from across the world.

"The Calling All Dreamers program has been an incredible opportunity for Pittador Brews," said Liliette and Stephen Freeman, co-owners of

Pittador Brews. "It has given us the mentorship, resources, and support needed to take our vision from dream to reality. With our lease secured in Old Sacramento, the funds we receive will go toward staffing and upgrading to an all-electric coffee roaster, allowing us to roast in-house. This investment will help us deliver the freshest, highest-quality coffee and tea while creating a welcoming space for the community to gather and connect. We're so excited to bring this dream to life in the heart of Old Sacramento."

Pittador Brews Specialty Teas & Coffees is expected to open this summer at the Old Sacramento Waterfront.

More about Pittador Brews is available at [pittadorbrews.com](http://pittadorbrews.com) and more details about Calling All Dreamers is at [downtownsac.org/do-business/calling-all-dreamers](http://downtownsac.org/do-business/calling-all-dreamers). ★



Participate in PUP Show competitions – including best costume – at the 23rd Annual SPCA Doggy Dash on April 12. Photos courtesy of Sacramento SPCA



Grab your pack to help the animals at the Sacramento SPCA at the Doggy Dash on April 12.

## SPCA Doggy Dash Returns for 32nd Year

*Continued from Page 1*

Participants do not need to have a dog to participate. Everyone is welcome to walk and support the Sacramento SPCA with or without a dog and/or attend the festival.

Registration fees are \$35 for individuals and \$45 for teams in advance of the event day. Day-of-the event registration is \$50. The registration fee includes an event short-sleeved T-shirt, access to the 2K/5K walk route and admittance into the Bark in the Park Festival.

To register prior to the event day, visit [www.sspca.org/dash](http://www.sspca.org/dash).

For more information about the event, call special events coordinator Gina Guerriere at 916-504-2868 or email [gguerriere@sspc.org](mailto:gguerriere@sspc.org).

The Sacramento SPCA mission is to foster a loving and compassionate community for companion animals and people by providing assistance, creating lifelong relationships and saving lives. ★



**Sue Olson**  
916-601-8834  
[sue@sueolson.net](mailto:sue@sueolson.net)  
CalBRE# 00784986  
[landparkhomes.com](http://landparkhomes.com)



### SOUTH LAND PARK

Top of the hill on South Land Park Drive with lots of potential both inside and out. Spacious rooms. Living room has brick fireplace with insert. Gathering room has second fireplace and a wall of windows that open to a spacious backyard with older built-in pool. The hallway and bedrooms have hardwood floors. Other living and dining areas had carpeting which was removed, exposing plywood underneath. Three bedrooms and two baths. Original kitchen and bathrooms need updating. Separate pool house with one-half bath. 4705 S. Land Park Drive



### LAND PARK

Charming Tudor in the heart of Land Park. Amenities include a formal entry, living room with vaulted beamed ceiling and fireplace. Kitchen/dining room combination. Kitchen with stainless steel appliances including gas range, microwave, refrigerator, dishwasher and wine refrigerator. Quartz counters, tiled back splash, pretty white cabinets, breakfast bar, built-in hutch with leaded-glass window. The kitchen also boasts a bay window overlooking the backyard with seating that serves as an additional dining area. Updated hall bathroom features tiled floors, granite counters, dual sinks, large stall shower and storage. Stairway off hallway leads upstairs to large primary bedroom. Primary bath has granite vanity, stall shower and claw-foot tub. Inside laundry room, central HVAC, mostly dual paned windows and quarter basement. Garage with finished flooring, two European-style heating and air units, sink, toilet and stairway to a loft hideaway. Backyard with mature landscaping, patio areas and a gazebo for your backyard entertaining. Don't miss this one! 1570 11th Avenue



**Teresa Olson**  
916-494-1452  
[teresa.olson@cbnocal.com](mailto:teresa.olson@cbnocal.com)  
CalBRE# 00784986





# Jimmy Kvarme Tribute Tourney Set for October



Sam Lee, Torrey Sullivan, Monica Padilla, Austin Velasquez, Mark Sandy and Jason Wagner are among those displaying a donation check for the nonprofit Mama Bears Fighting Childhood Cancer. Courtesy photo

Continued from page 1

what they need during their child’s treatment.

“Mama Bear was founded to fill the gaps we experienced firsthand as caregivers,” said Monica Vera Padilla, Director of Advocacy for Mama Bear. “We’ve supported more than 500 local families to date, and thanks to community events like JKTT, we can continue helping kids and caregivers through their fight against cancer.”

During the 2025 Jimmy Kvarme Tribute Tournament player-sponsor barbeque, organizers will shine a spotlight on the tournament’s growing impact and the strong community partnerships that make it possible. The event will recognize local businesses, sponsors, and individuals who have contributed to the tournament’s success, ensuring its mission of supporting youth tennis and charitable causes continue.

With the FITT Foundation and Park Terrace already presenting a \$1,000 donation to Mama Bears Fighting Childhood Cancer on March 3, this year’s player-sponsor barbeque will also serve as a moment to reaffirm the tournament’s commitment to giving back.

FITT Foundation Chief Financial Officer Jason Wagner emphasized the ongoing support, stating, “We plan on giving another donation after this year’s event in October.”

The tournament has grown into more than just a United States Tennis

Association Gold Cup Series competition; it has become a celebration of philanthropy and sportsmanship, drawing players and supporters from across the country.

For Matt Bult, a longtime tournament participant and a major donor, the event holds deep meaning.

“My wife, Maria, and I have supported this memorial tournament since its inception, and it’s an event my son, Nick, and I look forward to playing in every year,” Bult said. “However, it’s bittersweet: the bitter being the heartbreaking reality of childhood cancer makes this tournament necessary. The sweet is the opportunity to come together with like-minded tennis players and philanthropists, united by a shared purpose. We’ve been friends with Jimmy’s parents, Julie and Michael Kvarme, for many years, and being part of this event is a reward in itself.”

Among the many events he has organized in his 33-year coaching career, the Jimmy Kvarme Tribute Tournament holds a special place for tournament director Monty Basnyat. “I’ve run everything from junior tournaments to USTA professional events but JKTT is one of my favorites. It truly brings the whole community together.”

Beyond the competition, Basnyat is passionate about the tournament’s larger mission, which is fighting cancer.

“Getting cancer is absolutely tragic in this day and age,” he said. “It’s not enough to just put a

Band-Aid on the disease; we need to eradicate it,” Basnyat said.

Park Terrace Swim and Tennis Club has been an essential partner in making the Jimmy Kvarme Tribute Tournament a success, donating its facility to host the event and reinforcing its commitment to giving back.

“We are proud to open our courts for a tournament that blends competition, camaraderie and charity,” said Megan Bossemeyer, general manager of Park Terrace. “It’s about more than tennis; it’s about supporting a cause that impacts families right here in our community.”

The tournament continues to grow, drawing players from across the country, including Georgia, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and San Jose. Tennis players of all levels are encouraged to sign up and compete, with the opportunity to play great tennis while making a real impact.

Those who can’t compete can still be part of the mission by donating to the Jimmy Kvarme Tribute Tournament, supporting Mama Bear and ensuring that families battling pediatric cancer receive the help they need.

For more information, contact tournament director Basnyat at [mbasnyat@fitt10s.com](mailto:mbasnyat@fitt10s.com) or 916-316-7577.

The Park Terrace Swim and Tennis Club is at 5500 Parkfield Court, Sacramento. Let’s serve up hope, one match at a time. ★

# Sac State Partnership Aims to Guarantee Admission for Underserved Youth



Arik Armstead, the 2024 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year, co-founded the Armstead Academic Project to advocate for education equity and increase graduation rates for youth in underserved communities. Photo by Christian Navarro/Sacramento State

By Jennifer K. Morita  
Sacramento State University

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento State President Luke Wood announced a new partnership with beloved Elk Grove native and NFL star Arik Armstead’s nonprofit Armstead Academic Project to guarantee admission for underserved youth.

Wood and Armstead signed a memorandum of partnership commitment during a ceremony on March 3 in the University’s Welcome Center.

“We believe that partnerships like this help to strengthen our community,” Wood said. “They help to make it so that every single student who grows up in Sacramento or the surrounding area knows that they have an opportunity to attend a high-quality institution that’s affordable and dedicated to students and to student success.”

Armstead said this partnership will open doors for young people who may not otherwise see themselves attending college.

“I feel like this is long overdue,” Armstead said. “I literally owe my life to Sacramento State. My parents met here back in 1980. So it’s an honor to be here today to celebrate the collaboration between two organizations that share a deep commitment to improving outcomes for students who have historically been overlooked in traditional pathways to higher education.

“... This collaboration is about more than just access—it’s about empowerment. By creating opportunities to accelerate our shared goals for student success, we are

building a stronger, more inclusive community where students can see higher education as an attainable and realistic future.”

In addition to guaranteed enrollment for eligible students, the agreement will identify local students historically overlooked in traditional pathways to higher education. The agreement will also increase exposure and access to Sacramento State for all local youth through year-round college tours, wellness events, career campus and educational enrichment activities.

Armstead, the 2024 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year, is a Pleasant Grove High School graduate and defensive end for the Jacksonville Jaguars. He played for the San Francisco 49ers between 2015 and 2023.

Armstead and his wife, Dr. Melinda Armstead, co-founded the Armstead Academic Project to advocate for education equity and increase graduation rates for youth in underserved communities. Yje organization has helped more than 4,500 underserved youths in Sacramento, the Bay Area, and Jacksonville, since launching in 2019.


Sac State’s agreement with the Armstead Academic Project is the latest in similar partnerships over the past year with dozens of high schools and community colleges to create a seamless pathway for students to continue their education.

Due in part to these programs, enrollment has increased significantly, and Sac State welcomed the largest incoming spring class in university history this year. ★



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**916 840-2147**  
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Funeral Director FDR3709



# TY Johnson Named to All-Big West First Team

University of California Davis News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The University of California (UC), Davis senior guard TY Johnson, one of the most dynamic two-way players in college basketball, was named to the All-Big West First Team on Tuesday, March 11, as announced by the conference.

-Johnson's selection marks the fourth consecutive year the Aggies have placed a player on the First Team. A model of consistency, Johnson has earned conference recognition in each of his three seasons at UC Davis: an Honorable Mention in his debut 2022-23 campaign, a Second Team nod in 2023-24 and now a First Team honor in 2024-25.

-The Chicago native has been the cornerstone of the Aggies' success this season, starting all 31 games while averaging 21.2 points, 4.2 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 2.3 steals per game. Johnson has led UC Davis in assists 15 times this season and recorded three or more steals in 12 games, including a season-high six in a record-breaking performance against Cal Poly, where the Aggies forced 33 turnovers—the most in program history.

-Johnson's statistical profile this season places him in elite



UC Davis senior guard TY Johnson was named to the All-Big West First Team on March 11. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

company, as he is the first qualified player since Vanderbilt's Scotty Pippen Jr. in 2021-22 to rank in the 99th percentile in points per 40 minutes while also ranking in the 95th percentile or higher in steals per 40 minutes.

-Johnson burst onto the national scene early this season, leading the country in scoring at one point and earning a spot on the "Early Season" watch list for the Lou Henson Award, which honors the top mid-major

player in college basketball. His 21.2 points per game currently rank sixth nationally, and he has scored in double figures in 29 games, including 21 performances with 20 or more points and five games with 30 or more.

-Defensively, Johnson has been equally impactful, ranking 10th nationally in total steals (72) and 15th in steals per game (2.3), both of which are second among Big West leaders.

Johnson solidified himself as

the conference's premier two-way standout, slotting in as the only player in the Big West this season to rank inside the top five in both points per game and steals per game.

Johnson notably opened the season with a career-high 35 points against Washington, followed by a 30-point outing against Idaho. Those efforts earned him Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week honors, one of the most prestigious

weekly awards in college basketball.

In Big West play, Johnson elevated his game even further, averaging 21.8 points per game. He matched his career-high with another 35-point performance at UC Santa Barbara on Jan. 18 and dropped 33 points against Long Beach State on Feb. 6.

His was recognized throughout conference play twice with Big West Player of the Week honors this season, bringing his career total to three.

Johnson also has etched his name throughout the UC Davis record books this season. He currently ranks fourth in program history in scoring (1,686 points, including 1,675 at UC Davis) and is one of only 26 Aggies to reach 1,000 career points. He needs just 19 points to tie for third all-time.

Defensively, Johnson is second in career steals at UC Davis and holds the program's Division I single-season record with 72 steals and counting this year. He also set a single-game program record with 18 free throws made against Long Beach State on Jan. 11, breaking the previous mark of 17 held by Fowzi Abdelsamad. Additionally, Johnson now holds every UC Davis free throw record, including most in a single season (175 and counting) and most in a career (464). ★

# Hornets Receive Crew of the Week Honors



On March 8, The Hornets' Varsity Eight was named the West Coast Conference Crew of the Week. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State University

Sacramento State university News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The Hornets' Varsity Eight was named the West Coast Conference Crew of the Week for the team's performance on March 8 at the season-opening Sacramento State Invitational.

The Hornets joined the West Coast Conference this season, and took home the honor in their first week in the conference.

At the Sacramento State Invitational on Lake Natoma, the Hornets took home first place in a five-boat field, which included three other West Coast Conference teams.

Despite racing with a crew that

consisted of just two seniors, the Hornets finished with a winning time of 6:53.4, followed by Saint Mary's (6:57.5), Portland (7:04.3), Santa Clara (7:28.3) and Orange Coast College (7:43.5). The Hornets raced with 4-6 mph cross winds on the course.

Sacramento State's lineup in that race was, cox - Emma Goldsmith, stroke - Nieka Marais, seven - Valarie Reed, six - Kaylee Godwin, five - Daria Okhremtchuk, four - Ella Holmes, three - Mackenzie Murray, two - Ruth Brooks and bow - Harper Waring.

Sacramento State is scheduled to be back in action for the Hornet Invitational March 15 on Lake Natoma at 8:30 a.m. ★

# Using Tech to Improve Anglers' Experience

California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is excited to announce the launch of a web-based platform called the California Inland Recreational Angler Survey (CIRAS), that will provide the public with helpful fishing information driven by data submitted by anglers. The platform can be found at CIRAS.wildlife.ca.gov.

The California Inland Recreational Angler Survey is powered by anglers for anglers. It allows anglers to submit data regarding their fishing trips and provides immediate access to aggregated sport fishing data through an interactive “Ready to Fish” dashboard.

As a crowdsourcing platform, California Inland Recreational Angler Survey requires a high level of participation among the full spectrum of California inland anglers’ fishing interests to drive the quality of fishing information it provides.

This new technology expands the reach of the state’s Angler Survey Boxes, a network of more than 200 metal angler survey boxes located throughout the state where anglers can record their fishing experiences on paper survey slips.

While the Angler Survey Boxes system is typically used to evaluate trout fisheries, the modern California Inland Recreational Angler Survey platform will provide anglers with an opportunity to submit and interact with information about any sport fish from any fishable inland or anadromous water in the state.

This means data on additional locations and fish species will be more accessible to the public than ever before.

Historic data from the survey box program will also be uploaded into the California Inland Recreational Angler Survey providing immediate utility for those



The California Inland Recreational Angler Survey is a new web-based platform created by the state to provide helpful fishing information. Photo courtesy of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

fisheries while anglers begin to populate new locations and species data.

The web platform debuts its first phase for waters within CDFW’s North Central Region and will later be expanded statewide. While the new survey can be accessed using mobile devices, the platform currently requires internet connectivity to submit angling data. However, the state plans to incorporate off-line functionality in future phases.

“The CIRAS project represents a new opportunity for the state to better understand angler preferences and performance of fisheries, while also allowing anglers to access information to plan their next fishing trip,” said CDFW Fisheries Branch Chief Jay Rowan.

“By giving access to information that other anglers have entered into CIRAS, people will be able to see what species are present, catch rates, size distributions, and the time of year others are out catching fish. CIRAS also provides an opportunity for anglers to contribute directly to scientific work at CDFW, which will help us better manage the lakes and streams and improve fishing opportunities.”

The state uses fishing survey data submitted by anglers to inform management actions to protect fisheries and improve angling opportunities. These surveys collect data directly from anglers about the fish they catch (or don’t catch).

Data collected from angler surveys can include the species of fish caught, general fishing location, and overall angling experience from a single fishing trip. This information can also serve as an alert for state scientists when more robust surveys are necessary. This new technology will complement, rather than replace, more intensive assessments conducted by trained staff.

The state encourages anglers fishing in California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s North Central Region to contribute their catch information using this new platform. California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s North Central Region encompasses all or parts of 17 counties, including Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento (east of Interstate 5), San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo (north of Interstate 80), and Yuba. ★

# Mulumba Led the Nation in Rebounding



Sacramento City College sophomore Joyce Mulumba led the nation in rebounding at the collegiate level, for the 2024-2025 season. Photo courtesy of Sacramento City College

Sacramento City College News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Congratulations to Sacramento City College sophomore Joyce

Mulumba for leading the nation in rebounding for the 2024-2025 season!

Joyce Mulumba was the only player in the country to secure 500+ rebounds during the regular season

of competition on any level of college basketball. This includes National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division-1, NCAA Division-2, NCAA Division-3, NAIA, NJCAA and 3C2A.

Mulumba totaled an astonishing 516 rebounds for the 2024-2025 season and reached the 1,000-rebound milestone for her young college career.

Mulumba led the state (3C2A) in rebounding consecutively for two years and the BIG-8 Conference at 18.4 rebounds per game for the 2024-2025 season.

Joyce Mulumba is the first player in program history at Sacramento City College to lead the nation in rebounding. ★



# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



The past week for the Sacramento Kings may very well be poorest stretch in a helter skelter season that saw the Sactown boys lose games to the New York Knicks, Golden State Warriors and Phoenix Suns by a combined total of 71 points.

Many Kings fans turned their TV sets to another channel in the fourth quarter of these games to avoid the agony of watching another beatdown. No lighting the beam last week and probably the last thing on anyone’s mind.

Most fans agree that watching a seesaw battle in which your team is giving the best they have will always keep them watching to the very end but what we witnessed in the past week was hard for even the most ardent fan to lay eyes on.

Thrust into the position of point guard with the trade of DeAaron Fox, Malik Monk has struggled in his new role. Most glaring are the constant turnovers and it appears to be contagious as usually reliable ballhandlers DeMar DeRozan and Zach Lavine have suddenly joined the turnover turnstile. Forty-eight times, the Kings have turned the ball over in the past three games and that means 48 missed opportunities to put a shot up.

Entering Monday night’s game against the Memphis Grizzlies, Sacramento sits in the number 9 position in the Western Conference with a 500 record of 33-33.

At no time entering the 2024/2025 season did I believe the Sacramento Kings were a 500 team.

After the firing of Mike Brown and the trading of DeAaron Fox, newcomers Zach Lavine, Jonas Valanciunas and Jake LaRavia gave hope to Kings fans that the playoffs were not a pipe dream.

The bench is stronger but the starting lineup is putting the team in a hole in the first quarter of nearly every game. The past three games saw the Kings down by double digits at the end of the first quarter and climbing out of a hole every game is not a recipe for success.

So what is the answer Kings fans? How does this newly-assembled squad put together a winning stretch that allows Sacramento fans to witness post-season basketball?

With 16 games remaining, there’s no more trading or adding to the team, so coach Christie will have to move the chess pieces he has.

Sadly, although Malik has wanted to be a starter for some time, he has not thrived in his new role. Coming off the bench and adding a spark seems to be the logical move for coach Christie to make.

Jake LaRavia has added much needed defense but Markelle Fultz has failed to add much to the point guard position. Coach Christie might be faced with using rookie Devin Carter who has proven himself to be a skilled ball handler and surprisingly a good rebounder as well.

Perhaps the time has come to give Isaac Jones some more court time, as this team could use his length and rebounding. Jones has received too little time on the court but seems to make an impact when given the opportunity.

Trey Lyles and Keegan Murray need to live up to their billing and add 3-point shooting to a team that is in sore need.

Cross your fingers, Kings fans, that Domantas Sabonis will stay healthy and former all-stars DeMar DeRozan and Zach Lavine will be the players we know they can be the rest of the way.

Many of the senseless turnovers come from players trying to do too much and what the Kings need is to get back to basics and keep it simple. Move the ball, make good passes and allow teammates to shoot the basketball in rhythm.

Make no mistake about it, there is plenty of talent on this team.

Play-in appears to be the logical prescription, so take your medicine Sacramento Kings and see where the Play-in might take you.

King’s fans want postseason basketball and what you call it matters little. Magical things can happen when given a chance and that’s what the play-in brings, a chance.

Stay positive, Kings fans, and keep those TV sets on for the fourth quarter. These guys might surprise you yet!

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

# Social Security Matters

## Can I Avoid Paying the Medicare Premium?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** Is there any way I can get out of paying the \$185 I am told will be taken out of my Social Security for Medicare Part B when I turn 65? We pay for Medicare all our working lives, and now I have to pay a monthly premium for insurance that only covers 80%. **Signed: Disheartened Senior**

**Dear Disheartened:** For clarification, the money you paid into Medicare while working during your lifetime was for Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage). The Medicare taxes paid while working entitled you to FREE Medicare coverage for Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage, but they do not entitle you to Medicare coverage for outpatient services (coverage for doctors, medical tests, etc.). For that coverage from Medicare, you must enroll in Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium (\$185/month for 2025). If you wish to have Medicare Part B coverage, you must enroll in Medicare

Part B at age 65 - unless you have other “credit-able” healthcare coverage from an employer.

The Medicare Part B premium will be automatically deducted from your Social Security payment when you enroll in Medicare, and there is no way to avoid it if you wish to have Medicare healthcare coverage for outpatient medical services. But, if you currently have “creditable” healthcare coverage from an employer, you can delay enrolling in Medicare Part B (thus avoiding the premium) until your employer coverage ends. If you don’t enroll in Medicare Part B during your initial enrollment period (at 65), or in a Special Enrollment Period following the end of your creditable employer healthcare coverage, then you will incur a penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B outside of the prescribed enrollment periods. That penalty is a permanent increase in your Medicare Part B premium. FYI, “creditable” is an employer group plan with at least 20 participants.

We do not advise going without outpatient healthcare coverage, so you should carefully consider enrolling in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. If you are already collecting Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled, but you can opt out of Part B if you wish – it’s

just not advisable, unless you have current credit-able healthcare coverage from an employer.

So, to recap: the Medicare taxes you paid while working only entitled you to free Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage. You must enroll in Medicare Part B (for which there is a monthly premium) to have Medicare healthcare coverage for outpatient healthcare services. Both Medicare Part A and Part B have deductibles and copayments, for which you may wish to consider getting either a supplemental insurance plan or a Medicare Advantage plan. But, in either case, you must still have both Medicare Part A and Part B to obtain such additional healthcare coverage.

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# California’s Cities and Schools Face Big Budget Gaps, Few Options



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California’s state budget is mired in what fiscal authorities call a “structural deficit,” meaning its revenues cannot keep up with spending mandated by current law.

For several years, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature have papered over the chronic gap between income and outgo with gimmicks, including on- and off-budget borrowing and creative accounting, plus dips into “rainy day” funds set aside for emergencies.

Those maneuvers merely postpone the day of reckoning, because the administration and the Legislature’s budget analyst, Gabe Petek, project yearly multibillion-dollar shortfalls indefinitely.

The state’s dilemma has several roots, most notably an erroneously high multi-year revenue forecast in 2022 that led to a belief that there would be an immense budget surplus and to sharply increased spending. The administration later pegged the revenue error at \$165 billion over four years.

That factor was exacerbated by what Petrek dubbed “a sluggish economy.”

“Outside of government and health care, the state has added no jobs in a year and a half,” Petek noted in a November fiscal overview.

“Similarly, the number of Californians who are unemployed is 25% higher than during the strong labor markets of 2019 and 2022.”

State government is not alone in facing chronic budget deficits. The state’s major cities and many school districts are also feeling the pinch of stagnant revenues and inflation, especially with rising worker salaries. Add the horrendous Los Angeles wildfires and President Donald Trump’s potentially huge federal spending reductions and the budget gaps could become even wider.

A few days ago, Matt Szabo, the City of Los Angeles’ chief administrative officer, and city Controller Kenneth Mejia bluntly warned the city council that LA is several hundred million dollars short of covering its budgeted expenditures — not even counting the likely effects of wildfires on revenues and spending.

“The city is facing significant headwinds,” Szabo said, adding “immediate spending reductions required.”

“The city of L.A., financially, we are in trouble,” Mejia told the council in a letter. He added, “The city is estimated to overspend by \$300 million over budget. So when you have less revenues compared to your budget, and you have more expenses over your budget — that’s a big gap that we have to fill.”

San Francisco’s new mayor, Daniel Lurie, says he wants to “eliminate \$1 billion in overspending” over the next three years to cover an \$876 million deficit over two years. “The era of one-time or Band-Aid solutions is over,” Lurie told other officials after taking office in January.

A number of smaller cities, including Sacramento, are also dealing with significant deficits.

Meanwhile many school districts are also facing big budget gaps due to declining enrollment and chronic absenteeism that reduce state aid based on attendance, in addition to the expiration of federal grants meant to cope with COVID-19 and employee union demands for raises to offset inflation-hampered personal budgets.

The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, a state agency that monitors school district finances, recently issued a report on school systems in various degrees of fiscal difficulty, with those in Oakland and San Francisco on the list of the most troubled.

The agency cited not only enrollment declines, but the jolts of losing federal pandemic aid and rising costs, particularly for fire insurance and electric power, as factors.

In theory, local officials could seek tax increases as they ponder ways to balance their budgets. However voters facing rising living costs of their own are not likely to approve of that solution.

Therefore the options are either make real spending reductions, which might mean laying off workers and closing schools, or emulate the state’s gimmickry and hope the problems solve themselves.

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

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# SacSewer Receives Two Prestigious Awards

**The Sacramento Area Sewer District News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer) has earned two National Environmental Achievement Awards from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA).

SacSewer received the

Community Leadership Award for its Confluence Regional Partnership Program and the Public Information and Education Award for its Stop the Clog Campaign. Recognized for outstanding contributions to environmental protection and the clean water community, these awards highlight SacSewer’s commitment to environmental stewardship and

community education.

“We are extremely honored to receive national recognition from NACWA,” said General Manager Christoph Dobson. “These awards are a testament to the dedication and collaborative efforts of our team and community partners. Through innovation, education, and a shared commitment to

sustainability, we are proud to contribute to protecting our water resources.”

The Confluence Regional Partnership Program is a distinctive grant program that uses non-rate, non-fee revenues to fund community programs that expand the Sacramento region’s environmental, educational, and economic vitality.

It showcases SacSewer’s

collaborative efforts with regional partners to address water quality challenges, provide rate assistance, promote public education, restore ecosystems, and ensure long-term sustainability.

By uniting diverse stakeholders, this program develops solutions that benefit the environment while strengthening SacSewer’s community

relationships.

Additionally, the Stop the Clog Campaign is designed to educate the public about the impact fats, oils, grease, and commonly flushed items can have on the sewer system.

Through dynamic content and captivating videos, the campaign promotes proper disposal practices, and issues compelling calls to action—leaving customers with a lasting impression and promoting behavior change. ★

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# Two Join Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera

## Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera received a fresh injection of artistic talent with the appointment of two new musicians to the orchestra: Dr. Laura Arganbright, Second Oboe, and Harry Hwang, Second Clarinet. The new Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera musicians will begin playing later this spring.

“I continue to be impressed with the quality of musicianship in this orchestra, and I know that the addition of Laura and Harry in their new positions will make the orchestra even stronger artistically and more consistent,” Sacramento

Philharmonic & Opera Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor Ari Pelto reflected. “I congratulate each of them and look forward to working with them to bring the best in orchestral music and opera to this community.”

In addition, six musicians were granted tenure in the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera, which offers musicians musical and artistic stability. The following musicians are now fully-tenured members: Tingting Gu, Assistant Concertmaster, Tammie Dyer, Section Violin I, Shawyon Malek-Salehi, Section Violin I Matthew Vincent, Section Violin II, Jacob Joseph, Principal Viola and Jordan Farber, Principal Bassoon.

Dr. Laura Arganbright,

Second Oboe, thrives in Los Angeles with a portfolio career encompassing performance, education, and reed-making.

Laura is the principal oboist with the Bakersfield Symphony, with whom she performed Oscar Navarro’s Oboe Concerto “Legacy” in 2022.

Laura has also appeared as a soloist in the world premiere of Viet Cuong’s double oboe concerto “Extra (ordinarily) Fancy” and with the Arizona Philharmonic in Marcello’s Concerto in D minor.

Passionate about inspiring the next generation of musicians and music lovers, she currently serves as oboe teaching artist for LA Phil’s YOLA program in addition to maintaining a robust private teaching studio.

An enthusiastic reed-maker, Laura has operated a handmade reed business since 2015 and derives joy and pride and supplying reeds to oboists throughout California and beyond.

Based in the Bay Area, Harry Hwang, Second Clarinet, has maintained an active orchestral career, having performed with orchestras around the country such as the Houston Symphony, New World Symphony, Merced Symphony, New York State Ballet, and Ann Arbor Camerata.

He was featured on the Chicago Tribune Magazine for his role as principal clarinet in a new rendition of Porgy and Bess, which was subsequently commissioned for the Metropolitan Opera in New York. In addition, he participated



Dr. Laura Arganbright, Second Oboe, will join the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera in spring 2025.



Harry Hwang, Second Clarinet, will join the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera in spring 2025.

as a clarinet fellow for summer festivals, such as Sewanee Summer Music Festival and Pacific Region International Summer Music Festival, where he was a semifinalist in the annual Concerto Competition.

He completed his studies at the University of Michigan, Eastman School of Music, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

As an educator, he maintains a small, private

teaching studio.

A special thank you to William O. Morris for underwriting Dr. Laura Arganbright and Harry Hwang’s chairs, in loving memory of Susan Woodbury Morris.

The Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera 2024-2025 Season and Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor Ari Pelto, for the 2024-2025 season, are generously underwritten by the Nancy and Hank Fisher Family Fund. ★

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# Scouts Collect for Local Food Closet



From left, Sam Daniels, Aaron Daniels (assistant scoutmaster), Alexander Avery, Bennett Nurmi, Alyssa Weir-Gonzalez (committee chair), Matthias Gonzalez and Cohen Hawkinson look over some of the 1,700 non-perishable food items they collected in their drive-thru food drive at Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 on March 8.

### Story and photos by Stephen B. Clazie

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - On Saturday, March 8 the Boy Scouts conducted a drive-thru food drive at Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6. The scouts were collecting non-perishable food items to support the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership Food Closet.

Troop 5010 Committee Chair for the food drive, said, “I am very happy to share that Boy Scout Troop 5010 and Cub Scout Pack 259 combined their efforts and were able to collect more than 1,700 food items as well as \$65 to bring to the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership Food Bank.”

Weir-Gonzalez also added, “Thank you to Elks

Lodge No. 6 for allowing us to collect and sort at their site and for getting the word out to their members and the community.”

Elks Lodge No. 6 encouraged its members to support the food drive efforts.

The Elks Lodge’s incoming Exalted Ruler Rob Moore said, “We are making this a very easy opportunity for our

members to help our community. Online companies deliver the food to our houses. We will just put those items in the back of our car and drive to Elks Lodge No. 6 on Saturday, March 8. The Scouts unload the boxes. That is easy.”

Elks Lodge No. 6’s Scout liaison, Bob Van Gundy, said the Lodge is happy to have the Troop



Assistant Scoutmaster Aaron Daniels of Troop 5010 lifts a heavy box of food that was collected on Saturday, March 8.

5010 meeting there every Monday evening. He also said, “Scouts will help make a difference in the fight against hunger. Scouting for Food is the leading service program for the Boy Scouts of America and is part of the national BSA program Good Turn for America.”

Scouting for Food is a council-wide service project aimed at caring for people in our local communities who are hungry or in need.

Community members are encouraged to recycle an old grocery bag and fill it with donated canned goods.

A Boy Scout promises

“to help other people at all times.”

The Food Closet has been rooted at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 5625 24th St., since 1969. It was part of the many services offered by the South Sacramento Ecumenical Parish, which was formed with representatives from seven faith congregations.

Brian Chin, a long-time resident of the Greenhaven-Pocket neighborhood and the president of the Meals on Wheels Sacramento County Board of Directors, said, “This was a great opportunity for the Scouts to help and learn about people needing help obtaining food.” ★

## California Awards Millions to Support Cannabis Industry

### GO-Biz News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - On March 4, the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) announced \$18.4 million in grant funding through the Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions.

The grant funding will assist 18 local jurisdictions as they eliminate barriers to entry in the regulated cannabis industry, thereby promoting equitable economic opportunities for local applicants and licensees.

Offering these types of assistance also supports statewide efforts to reduce and eliminate the illicit cannabis market by bringing more people into the legal marketplace.

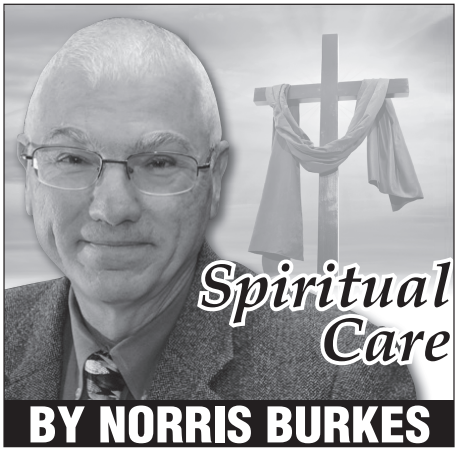
The 18 cities and counties will use this funding to support a range of activities,

including the support of program applicants and licensees who face financial barriers to entry into the cannabis industry by providing low/no-interest loans or grants, reduced licensing fees or waived fees and technical assistance, including one-on-one consulting and training and navigation assistance with cannabis licensing and regulatory requirements.

The City of Sacramento is set to receive \$1,680,777, as part of this round of cannabis grant funding.

To date, the Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions has granted a total of \$123.4 million to 34 local jurisdictions across California. As of December 2024, the cities and counties that have received these grants have licensed 1,446 Californians who faced barriers to the industry across California. ★

## You Can Ask and They Will Tell



*Note to readers: The woman in this column is a composite character representing the conversations I’ve had with those seeking chaplain jobs.’*

Not long ago, I was working for a hospice group when a woman stopped by my office seeking chaplain employment. Touting her recent graduation from a five-week “chaplain course,” the 70-year-old had questions.

She showed her assumptions early. “I’ll bet you get to lead a lot of people to Jesus in this job.”

“Not really,” I said. “Our patients are from many religious and nonreligious backgrounds that I must respect.”

“Oh,” she said, “So do you have an understanding all religions?”

I shook my head, “Honestly, there are far too many religions to learn them all. I simply ask the patient to share their beliefs. I call this strategy ‘Ask. They’ll tell.’”

She tilted her head like a dog trying to track a high-pitched sound. I kept talking, as I tend to do.

“When you meet a person from an unfamiliar religion, you merely ask them what they believe or how they practice their religion.

“If you are willing to wait for the answers, most folks will tell you all you need to know.”

I took her silence as an invitation to continue.

“But I caution you to ask questions with respectful curiosity. You must show a sincerity that outweighs your determination to convert them.

“If they sense that you are willing to honor their beliefs, they will be forthcoming.

“This process involves a two-way discourse I call ‘Listening Love.’

The strategy serves me well as I often ask patients, “How does your faith inform you about dying?”

“The answers that sprout from these

questions has provided me an impromptu course in world religions.”

“For instance?” she asked.

I told her about a Hmong couple who asked me to help them retrieve a placenta after they lost their newborn. The grieving couple said they would bury the placenta under a tree so the baby’s soul could journey back through the past and become reborn.

When I asked a Muslim father what we could do for his dying child in a combat hospital in Iraq, he asked me to place a Koran in bed with the child.

When I asked my question of two brothers at the bedside of their dying mother, they described a New Age belief quite foreign to me. Nonetheless, I listened for what they found comforting, and together, we tied a crystal around their mother’s wrist.

When I asked a Chinese man what his faith taught him about consoling his dying wife, he suggested we move the hospital bed in the healing direction of feng shui. He saw this movement as the best way to use energy forces to harmonize individuals with their surrounding environment.

I know, these practices seem a bit odd to our Western sense of mainstream religion. Believe me, these encounters pushed me far out of my Christian comfort zone, too.

When a chaplain begins a dialogue with someone of a different religion, he or she must ask themselves-- “Am I seeking the information because I’ve targeted them for conversion – or am I seeking the information I needed to show respect for them?”

Concluding my conversation with the woman, I said “If you really want to become a chaplain, you’ll need to adopt an approach that opens the faith dialogue.

Listen to those of other faiths. Only when you show them respect will you be given the opportunity to demonstrate the love taught by your own faith.”

The woman rubbed her chin, releasing some thoughtful tones, but I’m really not sure what her thoughts were.

But next time I see her, maybe I’ll employ my own advice and simply ask her. After all, “listening love” is probably a strategy for most all circumstances.

*Sign up to receive this weekly column in your email box at <https://thechaplain.net/newsletter/> or send me your email address to [comment@thechaplain.net](mailto:comment@thechaplain.net).*

*All of Norris’s books can be ordered on Amazon. Autographed copies can be obtained on his website [www.thechaplain.net](http://www.thechaplain.net) or by sending a check for \$20 for each book to 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. ★*

## ABOUT TOWN

**Fairytale Town Spring Eggstravaganza April 19-20**

Families are invited to hop into Spring at Fairytale Town’s Spring Eggstravaganza on Saturday and Sunday, April 19-20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (weather permitting). Spring Eggstravaganza activities include all-day egg hunts on the Mother Goose Lawn, egg-finding games, creative crafts, engaging scavenger hunts, fairy visits and exciting prizes.

Advance tickets for Spring Eggstravaganza are \$12 for Fairytale Town members and \$15 for non-members. Fairytale Town is 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento 95822.

Buy tickets at [fairytale-town.org](http://fairytale-town.org).

**Pocket Community Day Train Ride April 26**

The Pocket community

can reconnect with friends and neighbors while traveling through the scenic Yolo countryside aboard the River Fox Train at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26.

Enjoy open seating in indoor cars, equipped with climate control and restrooms, or in outdoor patio cars, which feature flaps and heaters during cooler months.

Adult tickets are \$59.95, excluding fees. Two children under 13 are free with one Adult paid admission. Pets are welcome at an additional fee.

Get tickets and information at [riverfoxtrain.com/pocket](http://riverfoxtrain.com/pocket).

**Area Museums Offer Plenty of Experiences**

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

**California Automobile Museum** – Take a ride

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

**Elks Lodge 6 Calendar of Events**

Elks Lodge 6 Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am every Sunday; \$15 tax included.

Good time and place to connect with friends and family.

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

Martial Arts, Monday 5 p.m.

Pickleball, Monday, Wednesday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; Thursday, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 4-7 p.m.

Karaoke Nights, Thursdays and Saturdays, 7 p.m.

Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 p.m. See [elks6.net](http://elks6.net) for weekly menu. ★



# Aquatic Invasive Plants’ Control Efforts Begin

**California Department of Parks and Recreation News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - California State Parks’ Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) began its 2025 control efforts for invasive aquatic plants in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and its southern tributaries (Delta) this month.

Starting March 20, after press time, the Division of Boating and Waterways began herbicide treatments on water hyacinth, South American spongeplant, Uruguay water primrose, alligator weed, Brazilian waterweed, curlyleaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, coontail, fanwort, and ribbon weed in the Delta. The treatment start date can change, depending on weather conditions and plant growth/movement.

“DBW continues to work with the public and our local, state and federal partners to control these aquatic invasive plants to reduce or eliminate the negative impacts on people’s daily lives and businesses,” said Division of Boating and Waterways’ Deputy Director Ramona Fernandez. “The continued use of monitoring and technology allows the division to focus on the areas that best help us manage wthe challenges.”

These aquatic invasive plants have no known natural controls in the Delta, the West Coast’s largest estuary. They negatively affect the Delta’s ecosystem as they displace native plants that are essential to the area’s biodiversity while negatively impacting the economy, environment and public health. Continued warm temperatures help the plants proliferate at high rates.

The plants are also known to



**Starting March 20, the Division of Boating and Waterways will begin herbicide treatments.** Photo courtesy of California State Parks’ Division of Boating and Waterways.

form dense mats of vegetation, creating safety hazards for boaters and obstructing navigation channels, marinas and irrigation systems. Due to their ability to spread rapidly to new areas, the plants will likely never be eradicated from Delta waters. Therefore, Division of Boating and Waterways operates control programs as opposed to eradication programs. The division works with local, state and federal entities to better understand the plants and implement new integrated control strategies to increase efficacy.

Funding for Division of Boating and Waterways’ aquatic invasive plant control programs comes from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund, which receives revenues from boaters’ registration fees and gasoline taxes.

All herbicides are registered for aquatic use with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Treated areas for submersed aquatic vegetation (Brazilian waterweed, curlyleaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, coontail, fanwort, and ribbon weed) will be monitored to ensure herbicide levels do not exceed allowable limits and follow EPA-registered label guidelines. The public can view the public notices and sign up to receive weekly updates on this year’s treatment season at the Division of Boating and Waterways’ website at [dbw.parks.ca.gov](http://dbw.parks.ca.gov).

Below is a list of proposed area control actions for the 2025 treatment season.

Floating Aquatic Vegetation

Control Program is to control water hyacinth, South American spongeplant, Uruguay water primrose and alligator weed. Herbicide control treatment period is for all sites from March 20 to Nov. 30. Types of herbicides are Glyphosate, Imazamox, 2,4-D or Diquat.

Potential treatment areas are initially in and/or around but not limited to the following areas: San Joaquin River, Old River, Middle River, Fourteen Mile Slough and Snodgrass Slough.

The submersed Aquatic Vegetation Control Program is to control Brazilian waterweed, curlyleaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, coontail, ribbon weed, and fanwort. The herbicide control treatment period from March 20 through Nov. 30, based upon Division of Boating and

Waterways field survey data, water temperatures and fish surveys, uses Fluridone, Diquat or Endothall herbicide. Potential Sacramento-area treatments will be at French Island, Hogback, Long Island Slough, Sacramento Marina, Snug Harbor and Washington Lake.

Last year, Division of Boating and Waterways treated a total of 2,649 acres of floating aquatic vegetation and 1,115 acres of submersed aquatic vegetation. No mechanical harvesting was conducted. A combination of herbicide, biological and mechanical control methods will be used to help control invasive plants at high-priority sites in the Delta.

In 1982, California state legislation designated Division of Boating and Waterways as the lead state agency to work with other state, local and federal agencies in controlling water hyacinth in the Delta, its tributaries and the Suisun Marsh. The Egeria Densa Control Program was authorized by law in 1997 and treatment began in 2001. In 2012, spongeplant was authorized for control upon completion of the biological assessment. In 2013, Division of Boating and Waterways’s jurisdiction expanded to include other invasive aquatic plants, and since then, other aquatic invasive plants such as Uruguay water primrose, Eurasian watermilfoil, Carolina fanwort, coontail, alligator weed and ribbon weed have been added to the Aquatic Invasion Plant Control Program.

To report sightings, subscribe for program updates or for more information regarding the control program, connect online at [dbw.parks.ca.gov/AIS](http://dbw.parks.ca.gov/AIS), email a [AIS@parks.ca.gov](mailto:AIS@parks.ca.gov) or phone at 888-326-2822. ★

## Los Rios Chancellor Brian King to Retire



**Chancellor Brian King**  
**Los Rio Community College District News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA** - Los Rios Community College District Chancellor Brian King will retire at the end of the 2025-26 academic year.

“Serving as the chancellor of the Los Rios Community College District has been the professional honor of my lifetime,” King said in a video message to faculty, staff and administrators at the four Los Rios colleges and district office. “I’m so proud of what our district has accomplished over the past 13 years.”

King joined Los Rios as chancellor in February

2012 after an extensive national search by the Los Rios Board of Trustees. He is the ninth chancellor in the 60-year history of the district.

Under King’s leadership, Los Rios has raised more than \$60 million through grant-seeking and fundraising efforts and seen marked improvements in student success. In the last 13 years, Los Rios has built or significantly renovated more than a dozen major campus facilities, seen enrollment grow to beyond pre-pandemic levels and expanded programs for students and employers in the Capital region.

During his time at Los Rios, King has served in leadership roles in a number of significant local and statewide organizations, including serving as past president of the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges Board. King has been a member of the Sacramento Metro Chamber Board of Directors and the Greater Sacramento Economic Council

Executive Committee. King also served as co-chair of the Sacramento Metro Chamber’s Cap-to-Cap 50th Anniversary and the past president of the Global Community College Leadership Network.

“The Board of Trustees is grateful for Chancellor King’s 13 years of skilled service,” said Los Rios Board of Trustees President Kelly Wilkerson. “Chancellor King has shepherded our district through tumultuous times, always keeping students at the forefront of his decision-making. His leadership and deep commitment to creating opportunity throughout the Sacramento region has left a lasting mark on Los Rios and the students we serve.”

The Los Rios Board of Trustees expects to immediately begin the process of selecting a search firm to coordinate the recruitment and hiring of King’s replacement. The search process will begin this spring and continue into the 2025-26 academic year with significant engagement from

faculty, staff, students and the community.

“Though I’m announcing a timeline for my retirement today, this is far from goodbye,” King said. “Fifteen months is a long time and we’ve got a lot of work to do to expand access to our colleges and help students, especially first-generation students and students of color, realize the promise of a college degree for their family and community.”

The Los Rios Community College District is the second-largest community college district in California, according to the college district, serving the greater Sacramento region. American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City colleges; six major education and outreach centers; and specialized workforce and economic development programs for regional businesses, governments and organizations are in the district.

For more information, go online to [www.losrios.edu](http://www.losrios.edu). ★

## SMF Invests \$2 Million in Public Art



**Here is a rendering of “Riparian” by HUA Design Studios, one of the new permanent art installations planned at Sacramento International Airport.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento International Airport

**Sacramento International Airport News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento International Airport (SMF) continues its public art program with a \$2-million investment in three permanent art installations as part of its SMForward expansion.

The artwork will be featured in the new pedestrian walkway, offering travelers an immersive and inspiring experience that reflects the region’s natural beauty, history and culture.

“These installations are a reflection of Sacramento’s vibrant history and commitment to public art, which has the power to transform spaces and create a sense of place,” said Sacramento County First District Supervisor Phil Serna. “These installations will celebrate Sacramento’s identity and enhance the journey for millions of travelers who pass through SMF each year.”

The selected works explore themes of migration, movement and connection, featuring large-scale sculptures, intricate designs inspired by local landscapes and celestial-inspired imagery.

One installation is “Preserved Flight Path” by David Brooks, showcasing avian flight paths in aluminum and endangered local bird sculptures in the Pedestrian Walkway Hub. ★

The second installation is “Riparian” by HUA Design Studios (Huameng Yu & Louis Chinn), evoking the Natomas Basin’s habitat with thousands of suspended glass rondelles forming a murmuration, geographic brass inlays and native plant motifs.

The third installation is “Blue Moon (Theia)” by John Roloff, transforming the walkway into a cosmic-inspired space with translucent lunar imagery and meteorite-inspired flooring.

“Our goal in this art program is to cultivate an unforgettable experience for every traveler,” said Sacramento County Director of Airports Cindy Nichol. “The artists will create a welcoming, inspiring environment for travelers while celebrating our region’s culture, ecology, and spirit of innovation.”

The new selections join iconic sculptures such as “Leap,” the red rabbit in Terminal B and the giant whimsical luggage carts, “Samson,” in Terminal A.

The public art program is a key component of SMForward, the airport’s \$1.4-billion expansion plan, which includes new parking, a pedestrian walkway and terminal improvements. The installations are expected to be completed alongside the new facilities, further establishing Sacramento International Airport as a gateway to Northern California’s creativity and diversity. ★

## New Home Sales Rebounded in February

**North State Building Industry Association News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION (MPG)** - Sacramento - area new home sales slowed during the first three weeks of February before coming back strong during the last week of the month, according to the North State Building Industry Association on March 11.

Tim Murphy, the Building Industry Association’s president and CEO, attributed the late-month surge in part to mortgage interest rate trends.

“As markets adjusted to the presidential transition, interest rates ticked upwards to a little over 7% in mid-January and then gradually eased downward,” Murphy said. “That decline accelerated in the latter part of February, which likely accounted for higher sales at the end of the month.”

Building Industry Association member builders sold 521 new homes in the seven-county region in February, which

was above the average for the month (505 sales) but below February sales totals reported in recent years.

Sales were down 32% from February 2024 (partly because that year was a five-week month) and down 21% from January (again, partly because that, too, was a five-week month).

As mentioned, however, sales rebounded from 114 in the third week of February to 148 in the last week of the month, which was the best weekly sales total since the end of last August.

New home communities in Sacramento County reported the highest number of sales in February with 269, due largely to the fact that there are far more open communities there than in other parts of the region. Placer County finished in second-place with 154, followed by Yuba County with 49. Including adjacent Sutter County, the region reported 57 sales in all.

As is often the case, Roseville reported the most sales of any submarket

with 80, followed by Rancho Cordova and Elk Grove, tied with 56 each. Sacramento was fourth with 33 and Plumas Lake fifth with 27. Rocklin came in sixth with 21, followed by Folsom with 20, Natomas with 17, and Lincoln and Antelope, which each saw 14 sales.

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

Representing more than 500 members who provide 55,000 industry jobs, the North State Building Industry Association is committed to preserving and furthering the economic interests of its members, while working to enhance the industry’s standing as a significant contributor to the regional economy. The association, founded in 1944, is comprised of builders, developers, subcontractors, suppliers and related professionals.

For more information, visit online [www.northstatebia.org](http://www.northstatebia.org). ★