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Pocket News

VOL 34 • ISSUE 7

Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

APRIL 11, **2025**

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Elks Honor Sixth-Grade Essay Winner

Story and photo by Stephen B. Clazie

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Rob Moore was installed as Exalted Ruler of Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 on March 16. As he started his acceptance speech on that sunny Sunday afternoon, he paused and introduced his Loyal Knight, Nicole Holton-Alvarado. It was as though they were trying to get a jump on the leprechaun, pulling a surprise on St. Patrick a day early.

Holton-Alvarado had just been sworn in as Lodge Loyal Knight. She had also been Lodge 6's Americanism Chair this past year. As Loyal Knight, she is like the second vice president. She announced to the audience that there was a special guest in attendance, Phoebe Collier, a sixth-grade student in Christine Ewing's class at Didion K-8 School. She was accompanied by her parents and her brother.

Phoebe was recognized as the first-place winner in the Americanism essay contest, California Elks North Central Division Awards, Division 2.

As part of her firstplace award, she received



Nicole Holton-Alvarado presents Phoebe Collier as the Americanism essay contest winner for the California Elks North Central Division.

an Amazon gift card for \$75 and moved on to the California-Hawaii Elks Association Americanism essay contest.

Holton-Alvardo told Phoebe, "It was your vision of what patriotism is to you that won you first place in this contest, congratulations."

Moore summarized the afternoon affair, saying, "It was a great ceremony, drama, suspense, and comedy. What more could you ask for?"

The answer to that

question is simple. Elks Lodge No. 6 has announced that Phoebe has won first place in the California-Hawaii competition. Holton-Alvardo said, "Phoebe has been invited to the

been invited to the Continued on Page 4

Rep. Bera Responds to General Mail Theft Report

U.S. Representative Ami Bera, M.D. News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On March 27, U.S. Representative Ami Bera, M.D. (CA-06) responded to a newly released U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit report on mail theft, a report he formally requested following widespread complaints from Sacramento County residents about ongoing theft and vandalism of their mail.

The audit uncovered serious deficiencies in how local postal facilities track, secure and inspect mailboxes, particularly highlighting severe gaps in oversight of arrow key

"Despite extensive collaborative efforts from my office with USPS and USPIS to address the persistent concerns raised by constituents, the findings of this audit are completely unacceptable," said Representative Bera. "The audit identified serious systemic issues including missing and unaccounted-for arrow keys, inadequate oversight and a troubling lack of mandatory inspections. The Postal Service must immediately implement the Inspector General's recommendations to restore public trust and ensure that Sacramento County residents have the secure and reliable mail services they

The Office of Inspector General audit focused on three postal facilities in Sacramento County: Sacramento Main Post Office (Royal Oaks Drive), Fort Sutter Station (Alhambra Boulevard) and Rancho Cordova Post Office (Progress Court).

deserve."

Key findings include: "The Sacramento Main

Post Office, Fort Sutter Station and Rancho Cordova Main Post Office did not properly track their arrow key inventories."

"There is no tracking mechanism in place that distinguishes whether a Cluster Box Unit (CBU) is postal-owned or privately owned."

"Local management at the Sacramento Main Post Office, Fort Sutter Station

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Easter Bunny to Arrive a Week Early



Sweetbrier bakery will have some special items for Easter at the April 13 GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market.

Story and photos by Stephen B. Clazie

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Elks Lodge No. 6's brand-new Exalted Ruler, Rob Moore, is introducing an innovative idea. The Easter Bunny will make a special appearance this year, a week before Easter.

Moore announced, "This Sunday, April 13, we will feature a special Elks Lodge No. 6 Easter Breakfast with Easter Bunny photos and an outdoor egg hunt."

The breakfast will be from 8:30 to 11 a.m. The GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market will be open for their second Sunday of their fourth season, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The market used to be on Saturdays but switched to Sundays this year to get better fruits and veggies.

According to Vic Cima, GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market general manager, "Rather than competing for the Easter Bunny's time, we are supporting Elks Lodge No. 6's Sunday breakfast to offer a better Easter event for the community."

The Elks Easter egg hunt will start at 11 a.m. Glen Smith, who oversees the Elks Breakfast, said, "It will be outdoors, weather permitting; otherwise, we'll move indoors." Smith also said, "The egg hunt is open to the public, and breakfast participation is not necessary."

Continued on Page 3

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2 • Pocket News

Three Major Events at Elks Lodge No. 6

Story and photos by Stephen B. Clazie

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)
- Elks Lodge No. 6's brand-new Exalted Ruler, Rob Moore, kicked off his first weekend in charge of

Rob Moore, kicked off his first weekend in charge of the lodge's social calendar as the ringmaster of a three-ring circus of events, all happening on Sunday, April 6.

The GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market (GHP) launched its fourth season with a 9 a.m. grand opening ceremony featuring Councilman Rick Jennings. At the same time, the Elks No. 6 Spring Fling Craft Fair showcased vendors offering Easter gift ideas. Additionally, Elks No. 6's Sunday breakfast was served from 8:30 to 11 a.m. for \$16 per person.

Robert "Rob" Moore, the lodge's new president as of April 1, said, "Besides enjoying a great breakfast, it's a great time to take a tour of the lodge and learn about the benefits of being a member."

Moore, a 1991 graduate of Kennedy High, was in the Marine Corps junior ROTC at Kennedy. Growing up here, he was surprised that many community members were unaware that the Elks lodge had a full athletic department, including handball courts and an indoor swimming pool.

His experience as the captain of the Kennedy High junior ROTC drill team probably helped him as the ringmaster of this Sunday's three events.

Moore was busy but he was happy he got a chance to thank City Councilman Jennings for supporting the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market.

"In 2022, as a City Council member, Jennings worked with Vic Cima and an Elk committee to establish a farmers' market aimed at strengthening the community," Moore said.

Cima expressed gratitude for the support received from the beginning, particularly from Councilman Jennings and his Chief of Staff, Dennis Rogers. Cima said, "Their efforts were instrumental in securing funding to launch the market."

The farmers market opened its fourth season on Sunday, April 6, with a special ceremony featuring Sacramento City Councilman Richard 'Rick' Jennings.

After his NFL career, Jennings served as a Sacramento City Unified School District Board Member. First elected in 1996, he spent 12 years advocating for better schools and quality education for all students.

Jennings' assistance helped the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market strengthen the community, Cima said. "The GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market believes the value of a life is determined by the lives it touches. If we desire to live purposefully and successfully, then we must contribute to enhancing the lives of others."

ophy, the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market, as a community service, provided a booth to the 4-H Club. Karena Crowley is the president of the local club in the Greenhaven-Pocket area. She and her mother Mona were talking to visitors at the April 6 grand opening.

As part of that philos-



From left, Judge Rudolph "Barry" Loncke (Ret.), Exalted Ruler Robert "Rob" Moore, GHP Chair Vic Cima, City Councilman Rick Jennings, and GHP Board Member Jay Riddell cut the ribbon to open the GreenHaven-Pocket Farmers Market's fourth season.

For the farmers market grand opening Susan Riddell arranged for the Celtic Charms Band to perform. The Celtic Charms Band is a local trio founded by Christina Newport in 2023. They play Irish and Scottish music.

The GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market switched from Saturdays to Sundays to offer a better experience for customers.

The Nuno Family Farms in Los Banos could offer a better product to their customers on Sundays. The Nuno Family Farms could provide a larger quantity of their "very sweet" items on Sunday mornings, doubling the amount of fresh-picked fruits and vegetables available for the market's fourth season.

Another vendor that had been at the market since the beginning was Sweetbriar's Bakery. Owner Daniel Gomez started at GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market with just a table. Gomez was recently at the Elks No. 6 parking lot showing off his new painted van to Exalted Ruler Moore and market General Manager Vic Cima.

The GHP board of directors also believed Sundays were more convenient for families, allowing them more time to visit the market. Additionally, the new schedule aligned with the Elks' Sunday breakfast, creating a complementary experience for attendees.

Elks Lodge No. 6's Glen Smith, chair of the Elks' Sunday Breakfast, boasted, "It's the best value in town: omelets made to order, pancakes, French toast, waffles, toast, fried rice, biscuits and gravy, hash browns, and two pieces of bacon or sausage."

He added that customers also received one glass of orange or tomato juice and unlimited coffee.

Exalted Ruler Rob Moore chimed in, "And I know it's hard to believe, but all of that, with tax and gratuity included, was only \$16.00!" The breakfast price went to \$16 temporarily because of egg prices.

Moore had his wife and two children having breakfast with him before the GHP opening.

Moore noted that while the lodge frequently hosted multiple events, they were

Daniel Gomez and his Sweetbrier Bakery started at GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market with just a table. Now he was making improvements to his deluxe trailer.

City Councilman Rick Jennings had an opportunity at the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market to talk to Mona Crowley, and her daughter Karena, who is the president of the local 4-H

usually private rentals. He couldn't recall the last time three major Elk events took place simultaneously.

place j before Eat to color before Ea

Club located in the Greenhaven-Pocket area.

Moore praised Pam Zanze, who had chaired Elks No. 6's craft fairs for over five years, calling them "very popular and successful."

"So successful," Moore added, "that they were now both indoor and outdoor events to accommodate all the vendors who wanted to be a part of the Elks' outstanding craft fairs."

Zanze was especially excited about this Spring Fling Craft Fair as it took

place just two weeks before Easter.

She had been working hard to coordinate the craft fair with the farmers' market and Sunday breakfast.

"This was the perfect time for a spring craft fair," Zanze said.

Zanze noted that they would, of course, have popular vendors like Tupperware, Pampered Chef, and Press-On Nails, but only one of each to ensure variety.

"These craft fairs,"
Zanze emphasized, "featured some of the top crafters around."

★

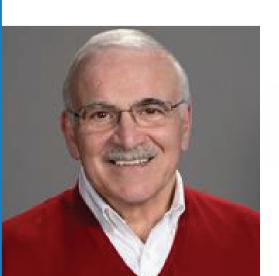
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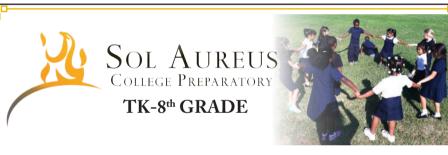




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Easter Bunny to Arrive a Week Early

Continued from Page 1

The special Elks Lodge No. 6 Easter breakfast will have a ham carving station, cinnamon rolls, and an egg casserole.

Smith said, "We will not have our regular breakfast, and no omelets."

The price for the breakfast is \$20 for adults and children aged 11 and older. Kids ages 5-10 are \$10, and kids under age 5 are

Smith was excited to emphasize that, "There is also a farmers market that day since it has moved from Saturday to Sunday."

The GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market will have all its regular vendors.

Daniel Gomez said, "Sweetbriar's Bakery will have some special items for Easter." Gomez had



Joan and Steve Clazie are looking forward to the Elks Easter egg hunt, which starts at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 13.

a huge smile when he a worthy addition to any described his classic "Hot Easter dessert spread. Cross Buns" with a light lemon glaze that turns have to have a variety of these buns into not only a delicious breakfast but also

Gomez also said, "We frosted Easter cookies for the kids."

Metro Chamber CEO Joins Committee of 100



Robert Heidt is president and CEO of the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce

Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Metro Chamber announced that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has named Robert Heidt, president and CEO of the Sacramento Metro Chamber, as one of 16 new executives to its distinguished Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100 (CCC100).

"On behalf of the Sacramento Metro Chamber, I proudly congratulate our president and CEO, Robert Heidt, on his appointment to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100," said Keri Thomas, vice president of Sutter Health External Affairs and chair of the Sacramento Metro Chamber Board of Directors. "This

prestigious honor reflects his leadership and commitment to strengthening our region's business community; and his voice at the national level will elevate our region ensuring our businesses are well represented in key economic discussions."

With two decades of proven leadership and experience in the chamber industry, Heidt joined the Sacramento Metro Chamber in January 2024. This important new role will help to elevate the voice of the Sacramento Metro Chamber on a national level. Heidt will collaborate with other experienced leaders to network, build partnerships, discuss current issues, share expertise, advise the U.S. Chamber's board of directors, enhance lobbying and coalition work, recommend programming and strengthen outreach to

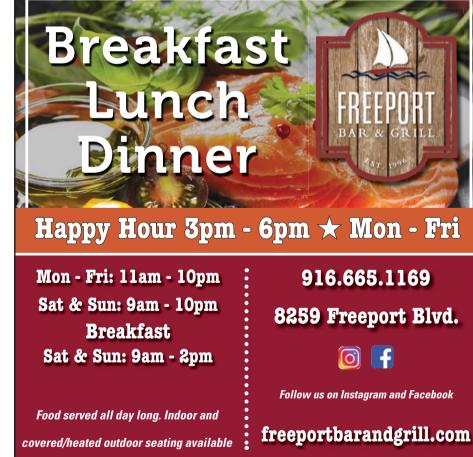
the business and chamber communities

"It is truly an honor to join the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, a group that brings together some of the most experienced and dedicated chamber leaders in the country," Heidt said.

"The conversations within CCC100 have the power to shape policies and initiatives that not only impact our region but also communities across the nation and around the world. Just recently, we were engaged in discussions on international relations at the ambassador's home in Washington, D.C., a testament to the global reach and significance of the work. I look forward to contributing to these critical conversations and ensuring the voice of our Capital Region's business community is heard at the highest levels."









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Rep. Bera Responds to **General Mail Theft Report**

Continued from Page 1 and Rancho Cordova Main Post Office did not perform the annual safety inspections for the condition of blue collection boxes, CBUs, and green relay boxes."

The report outlines why these failures occurred, their impact on the

community and specific steps for corrective action. The Office of Inspector General has also issued implementation deadlines and will require proof of compliance.

Representative Bera's office will closely monitor the U.S. Postal Service's progress in addressing these critical issues and will continue advocating on behalf of Sacramento County residents to ensure their mail is delivered securely and on time.

The full report, "Mail Theft Mitigation and Response: Sacramento, CA," can be viewed at uspsoig.gov/reports.

Sacramento Golf **Council News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -A new Sacramento City Junior Fall Classic tournament for golfers ages 7-11 years will be played Oct. 4 and 5 at William Land Golf Course. Tom Bacon has been named tournament director. This brings the total to 26 city and county golf tournaments that the Sacramento Golf Council sponsors each year.

Headed by Mark Perry, the Sacramento Golf Council is a nonprofit, the only one of its kind in California. The annual tournaments bring together all skill levels, ages and genders to compete in both team and individual championships. City tournaments are played at Bing Maloney, Bartley Cavanaugh, William Land and Haggin Oaks golf courses. The County tournaments are played at Mather and Ancil Hoffman golf courses.

Golf Council Adds

Junior Tournament

According to Perry, "Golfers travel from all over Northern and Southern California to compete in our championships. We had junior golfers from other countries. Golfers consistently rate the SGC Championships as the bestrun tournaments in the state."

In addition to tournament management, in 2024 the council offered \$11,000 in college scholarships for deserving junior golfers. They were the Peggy Dodds Memorial Scholarships, \$3,000 each for a boy and girl; the Sacramento Golf Council Scholarship, \$2,500; and one \$2,500 Morton Golf Foundation Scholarship.

The Council conducts six junior tournaments with the mission of keeping the entry fees affordable and accessible to junior players.

Visit the website sacgolfcouncil.org for tournament schedule and golfing news.

Elks Honor Sixth-Grade Essay Winner

Continued from Page 1

California-Hawaii Elks Association convention held in Anaheim, where the Elks will have her read her essay aloud."

Phoebe's family's travel and stay are paid for, and she has won \$1,000 for winning the state competition. Her essay will now go on to nationals.

Phoebe's winning essay reads as follows: "What does patriotism mean to me?

To me, patriotism runs deep; it's more than just a word or a simple feeling of loyalty to my country. It captures an emotional bond to America, which I proudly call home. It's the warmth I feel during the Fourth of July celebrations, the pride in our national anthem, and the respect I hold for the diverse tapestry of people that make up our nation.

When I think about what patriotism means in my life, I reflect on the sacrifices made by those who came before us-those whose grandparents immigrated here in search of a better life, the veterans in my family who fought for our freedoms, and the civil rights activists who stood up against injustice. Their courage resonates with me and reminds me of my responsibility as a member of this society.

True patriotism means being committed to my country-not turning a blind eye to its flaws but engaging with them. It's about recognizing and celebrating our achievements while also grappling with our past and seeking to understand the experiences of others. I believe it involves having the strength to speak out against injustices and advocate for change, so we can work towards a more just and equitable society.

Patriotism is not just an allegiance; it's a call to be active in fostering the ideals of freedom and equality for all. It reminds me that the journey to a better America continues and that I as well as the generations before and after me create a 'more perfect union."

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Ferreros Named Big Sky Player of the Week



Sacramento State senior Maddy Ferreros was named women's tennis Big Sky Player of the Week on April 2. Photo courtesy of

Sacramento State University News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION. CA (MPG) - For the second straight week and the fifth time overall this season a Sacramento State women's tennis player has taken home weekly honors from the Big Sky Conference with senior Maddy Ferreros doing the most recent honors for the Hornets on April 2.

It is the fourth career weekly honor from the league office for Ferreros, whose last award came on April 5, 2023. She joins teammates Emilija Pranyte (twice), Lou Baudouin and Reese Walker as Sacramento State winners this spring.

Ferreros finished last week with a 3-0 record, winning both of her singles contests in three sets and taking home a doubles victory alongside teammate Irene Riva. The tandem was also leading their other doubles match before the Hornets clinched the point early, ending the bid for a perfect 4-0 weekend.

The duo opened with a 6-4 win over Weber State's Jessica Hill and Sydney Schnell before switching to singles where Ferreros defeated Schnell for a second time on the day with a 6-7 (5), 6-0, 1-0 (10-8), victory at the No. 1 spot in the lineup, helping Sacramento State to a 7-0 shutout of the Wildcats.

Two days later, Ferreros rallied for another singles victory at the top spot in the lineup, outlasting Idaho State's Asem Shoybek, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2, en route to a 5-2 team victory over the Bengals.

Ferreros' two singles triumphs extended her winning streak to six straight matches and improved her to 10-4 overall at the top spot in the lineup this year, the most wins in the Big Sky at that position.

As a team, the Hornets have a 15-2 overall record and a 5-0 mark in Big Sky play, having won their last eight straight matches. ★

2025 Aggie Football Schedule Announced



The University of California Davis football team will be opening the 2025 season on Aug. 23 in the Football Championship Series Kickoff Classic in Montgomery, Alabama. Photo courtesy of UC Davis

UC Davis News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) -

With a nationally broadcast game to open the season and five home games, including the Causeway Classic, University of California (UC) Davis football is set for an exciting 2025 with 12 games and eyes on a Big Sky Championship following a historic 2024 season.

The Aggies will host Southern Utah (Sept. 20), Weber State (Sept. 27), Northern Arizona (Oct. 11), Idaho State (Nov. 1) and Sacramento State (Nov. 22) at UC Davis Health Stadium.

On the road UC Davis will head to Utah Tech (Aug. 30). Washington (Sept. 6), Cal Poly (Oct. 4), Northern Colorado (Oct. 25), Idaho (Nov. 8) and Montana State (Nov. 15).

It's the second-straight season that the Aggies will play 12 games, with their season opener being the Football Championship Series Kickoff Classic in Montgomery, Alabama. The Aggies will face fellow National

Collegiate Athletic Association Football Championship Series Playoff qualifier Mercer on Aug. 23 in the Week 0 event set to be broadcast on ESPN's linear networks.

"We're excited about the opportunity to play on national television to start the year against a great opponent in Mercer," said head coach Tim Plough. "Every year in the Big Sky is a tremendous challenge and we look forward to the opportunity to grow as a program in 2025."

"We will work hard as a team to create a group that the Davis community and university is proud of. Hopefully that leads to some great crowds in Shredville next fall where we all can find joy every Saturday," Plough said.

The game in Seattle, Washington against the Big Ten's Huskies will be the first time that the two sides have met on the gridiron and the lone Football Bowl Subdivision squad the Aggies will see in 2025. UC Davis will also make its first trip to St. George,

Utah and the game in Montgomery will be the first time the Aggies play south of the Mason-Dixon Line since 2008 when they visited Central Arkansas.

In conference, the Aggies will visit Northern Colorado and Montana State for the first time since 2022 and host Northern Arizona and Idaho State for the first time since that same season. UC Davis will host Sacramento State to end the season, looking to win its third-straight Causeway Classic.

Athletics Option LHP Harris to Las Vegas

Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On March 31, The Athletics optioned left-handed pitcher Hogan Harris to Triple-A Las Vegas. The move clears a roster spot for left-handed pitcher Angel Perdomo, who was claimed off waivers from the Los Angeles Angels on

March 30. Harris pitched in one game in the season-opening four-game series at Seattle, allowing one hit and one walk while

striking out one in 0.1 innings. Harris had no decisions, a 0.71 ERA and .485 opponents OPS in nine games, including one start, this spring. Harris held the opposition to a .105 batting average but walked a team-leading 12 batters, which was second most in the

Cactus League.

Perdomo began the spring with the Atlanta Braves, was traded to the Angels for cash considerations on March 17 and was designated for assignment on March 25. He combined for a 1.80 ERA and .624 opponents OPS in 10 spring training appearances. The 30-year-old left-hander held the opposition to a .200 batting average but walked six batters in

10.0 innings. Perdomo spent the entire 2024 season on the Braves injured list as he continued his recovery from Oct. 6, 2023

"Tommy John" surgery. He last pitched in the majors in 2023 with Pittsburgh when he was 3-2 with 3.72 ERA in 30 relief appearances. Perdomo is 4-2 with a 5.55 ERA in 52 relief appearances in the three seasons

in the majors with the Brewers (2020-

21) and Pirates (2022).

Cosumnes River College News Release

(MPG) - Cosumnes River College (CRC) sophomore Kalani Hernandez earned California Community College Fastpitch Coaches Association (CCCFCA) Player of the Week honors on March 31.

Hernandez a force at the plate for the week beginning March 24, hitting

safely in eight of her 11

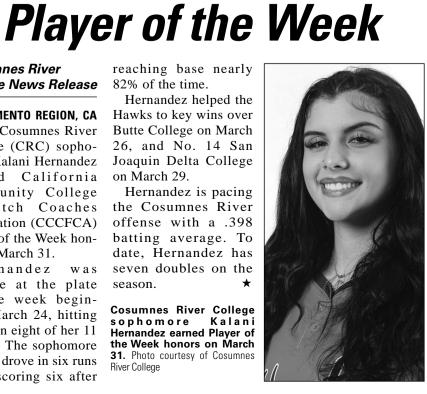
at-bats. The sophomore

catcher drove in six runs

while scoring six after

on March 29.

season.



reaching base nearly 82% of the time. SACRAMENTO REGION, CA

Hernandez helped the Hawks to key wins over Butte College on March 26, and No. 14 San Joaquin Delta College

CRC Hawk Selected

Hernandez is pacing the Cosumnes River offense with a .398 batting average. To date, Hernandez has seven doubles on the

Cosumnes River College sophomore Hernandez earned Player of the Week honors on March 31. Photo courtesy of Cosumnes River College

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Kings Korner By V.G. Harris



For the Sacramento Kings, life is like a box of chocolates, you never know you're going to get.

After a blowout loss to the Orlando Magic, the Kings sustained back-toback close losses to the Indiana Pacers and the lowly Washington Wizards. For many Kings fans, it was their darkest

Radio talk shows lambasted the Kings, and many even suggested the team was playing to opt out of the playin, in favor of securing a first-round draft pick.

I would never accuse the Kings of tanking, because I don't believe it's in their DNA. There is far too much pride in these gladiators for any of them to take a night off.

True, at times they look like they've never seen a basketball before, but I see effort on the court every night, and I believe in this eccentric group that has captured the hearts of so many fans.

With negativity abounding the Kings drubbed the Charlotte Hornets 125-102 in a game that was never in question, but looming ahead was the indomitable Cleveland Cavaliers.

No one gave the Kings a chance and considering that the Sactown boys had just handed the Cavaliers a shocking loss in Sacramento just three weeks earlier, the Cav's were just waiting for payback.

In a game that was thoroughly entertaining, the Kings played like a team on a mission, and outplayed the Cavaliers for 48 minutes, handing the Eastern Conference leader only their 16th loss of the season.

Domantas Sabonis came to play and made a statement early, scoring 15 of his 27 points in the first quarter. Zach Lavine showed off his offensive prowess by adding 37 huge points in a 120-113 win over the Cavaliers and making the potential for postseason basketball a very real possibility for the Sacramento Kings.

But this win doesn't just portend postseason basketball, it sends a message to every negative pundit, and every Kings fan, that on any given night this newly assembled group of ballers, can beat the best that the NBA has to offer.

Hope is a fleeting emotion, but on this night in Cleveland, the Kings gave every fan a reason to play on. No more nonsense about playing for draft picks. Instead watch the movie "Hoosiers" again, and while you're at it why not plug in "Miracle on Ice".

I remember the 1976 Warriors that with only one star, went on a run that saw them winning four straight games over the Washington Bullets and shocking the basketball world.

These things happen, and they're the very reason we watch basketball.

We as fans are blessed with an eclectic group that have come together under difficult circumstances, and with a rookie coach, are trying to do what every supposed expert believes they can't do.

Well call me Pollyanna, because I decide what I believe, and I'll be rooting until they turn the lights out.

For many fans, your favorite player isn't even a member of the starting five, and that is what drives you. Bench rotations are ever so critical, and whether it's Malik Monk, Isaac Jones, or even Doug McDermott, fans live and die with every shot.

I was astounded to hear that Vegas has the Detroit Pistons as 6 1/2 favorites over the Sacramento Kings Monday night, and every player on the Kings should take that as an insult. Put a chip on your shoulder and show the Pistons how they just defeated perhaps the best team in the Eastern Confernce the night before.

Look for anything that brings motivation and let's end this season on a high

Will the Kings finish 500 or better? I don't know, but I'll be watching, and I know anything is possible.

The offseason and its moves will take care of itself. It's time to put the hammer down and play basketball the way every fan knows this team is capable of.

Stay tuned Kings fans because the playoffs are more than just a pipe dream!

All the best!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.

Social Security Matters

When is the Best Time for Me to Claim Social Security?



AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I will be 66 ½ in June and would like to discuss when would be the best time for me to start taking my social security benefits. I am still employed full time and don't want to be penalized because of that. Please let me know what I need to do to set up an appointment with you. I got your information from the AMAC website, and I look forward to hearing from you. Signed: Ready to Claim

Dear Ready: You can certainly call us on 1.888.750.2622 during normal EST business hours for a personal conversation. But to facilitate that conversation, be aware that deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit normally depends on just a few factors, including your financial need, your health and expected longevity, and your marital status. A few things to be aware of:

• Born in 1958, your "full retirement age" is age 66 years and 8 months. If you were born in October 1958, you will reach you FRA in June 2025, and that is the point you can get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

• Once you reach your FRA in June, Social Security's "annual earnings test" no longer applies. Thus, you can continue working after you start your SS benefits and your earnings will not negatively affect your monthly benefit amount. If you claim any earlier than your FRA, you will get a smaller benefit and also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test (which for you this year - your FRA year is \$62,160, or \$5,180/month after you start your SS benefits). If you decide to claim before your FRA, your benefit will be reduced by .556% for each month early (a permanent reduction). · You can also wait

beyond your FRA to claim and earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% per month (8% per year of delay), in order to get an even higher benefit later. If financially feasible, you can delay up to the age of 70 when your monthly benefit will reach maximum - about 27% more than it will be in June of this year.

• If you are single and will not be eligible for a spousal benefit, then you should make your claiming decision based only on your own needs. If, however, you are married and your spouse's FRA benefit is more than twice your FRA amount, you may be entitled to a "spousal boost" (a supplemental amount added to your own SS benefit).

• Your life expectancy should be considered when deciding when to claim your SS retirement benefits. If you expect to enjoy at least "average" longevity (about 87 for a woman your current age), then you might also consider delaying your claim (if financially feasible) and that is often a prudent choice. If you don't expect to achieve a long life, or if you need the money sooner, or if you are entitled to spousal benefits, then claiming at your FRA of 66 years and 8 months is likely your best option. In the end, only you can

decide when you should claim your Social Security, but we're always here to answer any additional questions you may have. You can feel free to call us at any time (1.888.750.2622) during normal EST business hours to discuss your options directly with one of our certified Social Security advisors. Or you can also ask any additional questions via email, which we will be most happy to respond to promptly.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation. org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation org

In California's Capitol, Some Political Fights Span Decades



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Were we able to transport ourselves back in time 50 years and into California's Capitol, we would find a governor seeking and enjoying massive attention by national political media as he eyes some greater office. We'd also find a Legislature dealing with conflicts among influential interests with heavy financial impacts.

In other words, the Capitol's dynamics in 1975 were pretty much what they are today.

The resemblance even extends to specific issues. For instance, then-Gov. Jerry Brown was touting a "peripheral canal" in 1975 to carry water around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Gavin Newsom was seven years old then, but now as governor is waging the same campaign for a tunnel to do the same thing and is facing the same opposition.

Other conflicts that confronted Brown and legislators a half-century ago can be found again among the hundreds of bills introduced so far in the 2025 legislative session.

On Tuesday, for instance, the Senate Judiciary Committee took up Senate Bill 29, a measure that would extend indefinitely the ability of survivors of people who died as a result of medical malpractice to sue for "pain, suffering, or disfigurement." provides income and med-During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legislature provided a temporary window for such suits because the court system was in pandemic-induced turmoil.

Insurers and other opponents of the measure contend that it violates a 2022 compromise on the limits of malpractice damages, a deal that seemingly ended a 47-year-long political battle that began when Brown signed the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act in 1975.

A half-century ago, doctors and other health care providers were also skirmishing over "scope of practice," the body of state law that defines in great detail which medical professionals can perform which procedures on which parts of the human body.

The hardest-fought battle pitted orthopedic surgeons against podiatrists over the legal right to perform ankle surgery, and it raged for years until the latter prevailed. Ever since, there have been similar conflicts too numerous to list, such as psychologists vs. psychiatrists over the right to prescribe drugs, optometrists vs. opticians over eye treatment - and even veterinarians vs. dog groomers over who could legally brush a dog's teeth.

The current version of this perennial turf battle is Assembly Bill 876, which would allow nurse anesthetists to provide their services more independently — the latest in a years-long string of legislative efforts by nurses to bolster the scope of their

practices. Soon after becoming governor, Brown pledged to reform workers' compensation, the system that

ical care to those with work-related illnesses and injuries. That effort failed, but as one of the last acts of his first governorship, Brown signed a bill to increase payments to such workers by about \$3 billion a year, angering employers who must provide coverage.

That touched off a predictable cycle in which a majority of the workers' compensation interest groups would work out some sort of systemic overhaul once each decade and get it enacted over objections of groups left out of the negotiations.

The last such instance occurred in 2012 when Brown, once again governor, negotiated and signed legislation to raise benefits again, but impose new rules on eligibility and medical care to save enough money to pay for the benefits.

The Capitol is overdue for another workers' compensation deal and a newly introduced measure, Senate Bill 555, could be the vehicle. It would increase benefits to workers with partial but permanent disabilities, which have been capped at \$1,256 a month for the last decade.

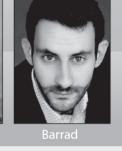
The bill would provide automatic cost of living increases and is certain to draw fire from employers - another chapter in what has been one of the Capitol's longest running high-dollar conflicts.

Dan Walters is one of the 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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Fraudulent Invoices Hit County's Planning Customers

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) -Sacramento County officials have been made aware of a fraudulent email scheme targeting both current and former planning customers.

The scam involves sending fake invoices using the names of county officials and the official Sacramento County logo, instructing recipients to wire money. The current reports of this scam utilize an email address of "planning-applications. saccounty.gov@usa.com."

Customers are urged to be cautious and not respond to these emails or send any payments. Anyone who receives a suspicious email of this nature should forward it to sacplan@saccounty.gov for review.

"Sacramento County takes this matter very seriously and we are actively working to educate our customers so that they don't fall victim to this scam," said Sacramento County Planning Director Todd Smith. "We urge our customers to remain vigilant and verify any financial requests directly with the county before taking action. If vou're unsure whether an invoice is official, contact us to verify."

The Sacramento County Department of Technology is investigating the incident and will collaborate with law enforcement if necessary.

The Sacramento County Department of Finance issues planning customer invoices through the U.S. mail and does not instruct

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customers to wire funds as a method of payment. Payments are only accepted by mail to P.O. Box 1587, Sacramento, CA 95812, in person at county locations, and certain payments are accepted online.

If you have received an invoice from Sacramento County Planning and Environmental Review and would like to verify its authenticity, email sacplan@ saccounty.gov or call Planning and Environmental Review at 916-874-6141.

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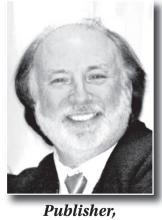
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SchoolsFirst FCU Sponsors Heroes of Arts Gala

SchoolsFirst Federal **Credit Union News** Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union (FCU), the largest credit union in California and the largest serving school employees and their families, served as the lead sponsor of the third annual Friends of Sacramento Arts Heroes of Arts Education Gala, which recognizes community leaders and local arts educators for their role in supporting and bringing arts education to local schools. The event was held on March 12 at The Sofia, Home of B Street Theatre in Sacramento.

Friends of Sacramento Arts works to ensure equitable access to

comprehensive arts education in K-12 public schools. The nonprofit organization advocates for increased access to arts education for K-12 public school students in El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties, serving as a capacity builder for arts organizations and school districts, and provides information, resources and connections to advance these goals. The Heroes of Arts

Education Gala showcases local student talents and shines a spotlight on the arts educators and supporters of arts education in Sacramento, including the presentation of awards to extraordinary teachers from 12 Sacramento region school districts who have brought arts education into K-12 public school



The Heroes of Arts Education Gala included the presentation of awards to extraordinary teachers from 12 Sacramento region school districts. Photo courtesy of SchoolsFirst Federal

classrooms in creative and impactful ways.

"Arts leaders and educators inspire and engage our school children through music, dance, theater and fine arts," said Allison Cagley, executive director of Friends of Sacramento Arts. "Our organization believes every child deserves arts education to support academic and social-emotional learning, yet there are significant gaps in access.

We're proud of our partnership with SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, and we're grateful for their generous support to help connect schools with arts education resources and provide information to support arts program expansion in Sacramento's K-12 schools."

Josh Smith, vice president, school and community relations, at SchoolsFirst FCU, added, "It is an honor to partner with Friends of Sacramento Arts to work toward their stated mission of 'Arts Every Day for Every Child in Every School.' We know support for this initiative makes an impact not only on the lives of educators, but also on the lives of their students. Allison and her team have done an

outstanding job in organizing this Gala and drawing attention to the importance of arts education in our public schools."

In addition to recognizing arts teachers from schools in the region, the 2025 Heroes of Arts Education Gala recognized Letty Kraus, Arts Initiative Director for California County Superintendents, as an outstanding leader in the field of arts education. Tony Thurmond, Superintendent of Public Education for the State of California, attended the gala and delivered remarks to the audience. Also in attendance were Sacramento City Councilmember Roger Dickinson and Vice Mayor Karina Talamantes.

Local Classifieds Advertise in your local community newspaper Call 916-773-1111

Announcements

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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 fairytaletown.org.

Fairytale Town is home to more than 25 three-dimensional play sets based on favorite fairytales and nursery rhymes, a family of 22 rare and miniature breed animals, three interactive learning gardens, and two performing arts stages.

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.

Holy Spirit's Tri-Tip-to-Go April 27

Holy Spirit's Knights of Columbus council is holding its annual Tri-Tip-to-Go dinner on Sunday, April 27. Pre-orders are required and can be made at hs-knights.

Proceeds benefit Horses for Healing, a nonprofit that provides therapy for children and adults to help facilitate growth, learning and healing.

Don't miss out on this excellent, affordable meal.

Cinco de Mayo Party May 3 at Elks Lodge 6

Mariachi music, salsa dancers, and

dining and dancing are on the menu for Elks Lodge No. 6's Cinco de Mayo celebration from 5 to 11 p.m. Saturday, May 3 at the lodge, 6446 Riverside Blvd.

Mariachi Nuevo Continental and Yemaya Dance Group will entertain, and Los Elegantes will provide the dance

Tickets are \$40 per person, Call 916-422-6666 for tickets.

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 Museum - Our War Too: Women in Service is a groundbreaking special exhibit honoring the nearly 350,000 American women who answered the call to serve their country during World War II.

Made up of unique and colorful artifacts from The National WWII Museum's collection, the exhibit explores the efforts, struggles, and accomplishments of these servicewomen, the impacts of which extend into the present day.

Through May 4. Details at californiamuseum.org.

California Automobile Museum –

Sixty Years of Mustang. A comprehensive history of the Mustang, from when it first hit the roads in 1965 to the current era of Mustangs.

Highlighting stories from prolific names in Mustang history like Saleen, Shelby and Iacocca. In addition, interactive experiences and digital displays showcase the iconic image of the Mustang over the decades.

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 for weekly menu. ★

Messenger Publishing Group

Youth Orchestra's 'Harmony **Across Time' Plays April 26** at State Railroad Museum



Purple Silk musicians perform at the California State Railroad Museum. Photo courtesy of Purple Silk Music Education Foundation Chinese instruments,

Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- The California State Railroad Museum & Foundation are proud to welcome the Great Wall Youth Orchestra for special live musical performances on Saturday, April 26.

The "Harmony Across Time" concert uses music to connect railroad history with the present and future for an immersive cultural experience. With a visual backdrop surrounded by historic locomotives, railcars and railroad stories that have lasted through the ages, the multi-sensory concert experience inside the museum is in partnership with the Purple Silk Music Education Foundation.

Student musicians will perform on traditional adding an extra layer of cultural immersion to the The live performance

and public schedule for April 26 is as follows:

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Small "spot" performances at various locations throughout the museum.

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.: Main performance in Roundhouse.

2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Audience and museum visitors are invited to meet the talented students and see the instruments after the conclusion of the live performance.

Visitors who come to experience the concert may also want to explore and tour the world-class museum. Of particular interest, the "Chinese Workers' Experience" exhibit in the first-floor Transcontinental

Gallery showcases and shares stories of the of Chinese railroad workers who were essential in the building of the Transcontinental Railroad. In addition, the Railroad Museum is home to the priceless "lost" Gold Spike and precious artifacts cast at the same time as the gold spike used at the Promontory Summit ceremony, plus the famous "Last Spike" painting by Thomas Hill that illustrates the scene of the famous joining of the Union and

The concert is included with the price of museum admission. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regular admission is \$12 for adults, \$6 for youth (ages 6 to 17), and free for children 5 and

Central Pacific Railroads.

For more, visit californiarailroad.museum.

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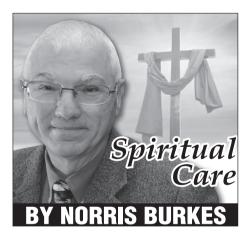


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FOR A QUICK QUOTE.

Is it Ever Too Late to Talk to God?



During my career as a healthcare chaplain, I would often feel like I was pastoring a parade. That's because, by definition, my chaplain relationship with patients was a temporary one.

I suppose that's why I am relieved when a patient asks if they can call me "Pastor" instead of "Chaplain." I hear their request as an invitation to assume the more personal role of their family pastor. However, that's not quite how it started

with a patient I first knew as "Mr. Penny." I call him "mister" because that's how he introduced himself when I entered his hospital room at Houston Northwest Medical Center in 1992.

I reciprocated his formality by introducing myself as "Chaplain Burkes." At first, I thought he was using titles in rec-

ognition of our age difference. But eventually it seemed like it was more about him wanting to distance himself from the three-piece-suited chaplain who matched his stereotypical idea of the "preacher." Doctors told Penny he had inoperable brain

cancer, but he didn't want to talk about that. The balding, bony man just wanted to chat. During his next several hospitalizations we

talked sports – either the Houston Oilers or my lunchtime basketball games with local clergy. For Penny, the greater the emotional distance

we could maintain from reality, the better. Finally, though, on his last hospitalization,

his nurse summoned me from lunch to tell me Penny had a favor to ask. Thinking this sounded like the call to a

deathbed confession, I made a quick exit from the cafeteria toward the ICU.

I walked into his room to find his wife stroking his fevered head. "Oh good," she said. "I'm glad you're here

today and not playing basketball.' "Knee problems," I said.

"He wants to ask you something." I looked at the figure on the bed, twisted and ghostly. His raspy breathing suggested conversation, so I leaned over the bed and called to him as if announcing my presence through a dense fog.

"Mr. Penny, it's Chaplain Burkes," there something you want to ask me?" He nodded. "Teach me..." he said, his voice

He took a fuller breath and added, "Teach me

to pray." Confused by his sudden approach to an inti-

mate moment, I searched his wife's face for She was chewing on her thumbnail. "He's

embarrassed." "Embarrassed?" I asked.

"He's afraid he's being hypocritical to wait until his death to talk to God," she added. I nodded. It's a common reasoning I hear

from patients. Jesus summarily dismissed this poor logic in

his conversation with two insurgents occupying crosses on either side of his. The first man spent his last hours mocking

Jesus and goading him to use his power to save But the other guy was quite the opposite. He felt shame for his past life, so he asked Jesus,

"Remember me when you enter your kingdom." Jesus swiftly responded. "Today you will be with me in paradise.

Instead of disqualifying the dying man for being hypocritically tardy, Jesus assured him that he would be rewarded in the promptest

"Mr. Penny," I said. "I think you'll find that God cares very little about your past.

He mostly cares about what you'll do with the next minute of your life."

Penny nodded. "Prayer is just talking to God," I added. "It's

not theologically complicated. Just talk from Penny closed his eyes and began moving his

lips. I couldn't hear what he was saying, but when he opened his eyes his expression told me that he'd heard God's voice. I know this because the "mister" who had

been so dependent on titles to gain distance from spiritual matters shifted his heart to say one last thing to me. "Thank you, Pastor. Thank you."

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. All of Norris's books can be ordered on

Amazon. Autographed copies can be obtained on his website www.thechaplain.net or by sending a check for \$20 for each book to 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. ★ he wouldn't have much strength for this

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More Than a Meal



The solutions-focused partnership between Meals on Wheels and Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services helps ensure that no senior is left without food or a safety net. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

meals.

that seniors don't have to choose between

feeding themselves and their beloved pets.

Many participants consider their pets to

be family and AniMeals provides food for

these furry companions, allowing seniors to

care for them without sacrificing their own

Despite their name, Meals on Wheels

is about far more than just meals: "This

is about making sure our seniors are

safe, cared for and not forgotten," Klick

To help achieve these goals, Meals on

Wheels Sacramento County also equips

seniors with essential home items such as

microwaves for easy meal prep, shower

chairs for safer bathing and bedside com-

modes for added convenience. Regular

wellness checks and emergency support

add another layer of safety, ensuring help is

help seniors stay in their homes safely,'

"We try to provide whatever we can to

A key part of this safety net is the bond

between seniors and their delivery drivers.

Assigned to regular routes, drivers provide

consistency which builds trust and famil-

iarity. For many homebound seniors, they

might be the only human connection that

If something seems off such as changes

"If we see a situation that concerns

us, we're able to reach out to DCFAS

(Department of Child, Family and Adult

Services) and either get advice, coach-

ing on how to handle it or have Adult

Protective Services step in and assist," said

Child, Family and Adult Services team.

Klick spoke highly of the Department of

I have not met a nicer group of peo-

ple with the biggest hearts, trying to do the

right thing," she said. "I can pick up the

phone and say, 'This is the challenge we're

facing, what are your thoughts? How can

is left without food or a safety net.

we partner?"

in behavior, health or routine, the driver ini-

tiates the chain of support by alerting their caseworker who can respond as needed.

always within reach.

day or even that week.

Klick explained.

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On a routine Monday meal delivery, a volunteer driver with Meals on Wheels (MoW) Sacramento County made a frightening discovery. A senior had been trapped in a collapsed bed since Friday, without food, water or a way to call for help. Staying calm, the driver called 911 and remained at the scene until the emergency contact

Reflecting on moments like these, Mindy Klick, executive director of Meals on Wheels Sacramento County shared, "I want to say these are success stories but they are more like life-saving stories."

Although often mistaken for a public agency, Meals on Wheels Sacramento County is a program of the private nonprofit called ACC Senior Services, formerly known as The Asian Community Center of Sacramento Valley.

Meals on Wheels Sacramento County partners with Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services to tackle senior hunger and isolation head-on.

Department of Child, Family and Adult Services' support has helped shrink the growing waitlist by providing funding, vehicles and equipment to make meal delivery safer and more efficient.

"We try to provide whatever we can to help seniors stay in their homes safely," Klick said.

In the current fiscal year, Meals on Wheels Sacramento County is serving an average of about 1,500 meals to seniors each month, with flexible meal options designed to fit their lifestyles:

Home delivery gives participants a choice of daily hot meals or weekly frozen meal packs.

Restaurant meal vouchers provide flexibility and the opportunity to dine out at local partner restaurants.

Community Cafés, located in community centers and other sites across the county, provide more than just a meal; they offer a space for seniors to connect, socialize and combat loneliness. For many participants, the opportunity for conversation is just as important as the food itself.

AniMeals, a pet food program, ensures

Comprehensive Update on Response to Homelessness Sacramento County

News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -

The Sacramento County departments of Homeless Services and Housing, and Health Services presented their biannual report to the Board detailing outreach efforts to the homeless population in the unincorporated region of Sacramento and along the American River Parkway from July 1 to Dec. 31, 2024.

This is the third such report out since the start of the city/county partnership agreement was signed in December 2023. In addition to reporting on joint outreach efforts in the City of Sacramento, county staff also report on similar activities in the unincorporated county.

Looking at the county outreach items by the numbers starting from July 1 to Dec. 31, 2024, 10 parkway staff, 10 encampment services staff and six community-based outreach staff provided 25,274 services to 810 unduplicated individuals and supported 184 unduplicated individuals with transitioning out of unsheltered homelessness (which includes shelter and housing). On average, that is 31 services per participant.

Examples of service numbers and types include:

General case management: 16,397

Housing search/placement: 1,206

Vital document support: 1.024 Healthcare Services:

CalAim services: 294 Coordinated Access System (CAS) Referrals:

More than 70% of unsheltered individuals served were between the ages of 25 and 61, 53% were male and 53% were Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).

What about individuals in shelters? In county-funded shelters,



More than 70% of unsheltered individuals served were between the ages of 25 and 61, 53% were male and 53% were Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). MPG file photo

45% of individuals are between the ages of 45 and 64, 64% report a disabling condition, 40% have no income, and on average, have experienced nearly four years of homelessness.

From July 1 to Dec. 31, 2024 county shelters enrolled 1,137 unique households.

Taking a look at behavioral health services by the numbers indicate that from July 1 to Dec. 31, 2024, 1,360 unhoused residents were referred to behavioral health services and 947 individuals were successfully admitted and linked to services.

During the same period, HEART Team efforts included 1,607 individuals engaged, 342 referrals to behavioral health services and individuals linked to and served by outpatient programs.

From July to December 2024, the Full-Service Partnerships (FSPs) served 2,631 (95% of total capacity) unduplicated individuals out of which 76% of those individuals are housed, 11% are in shelters, 9% are unsheltered and 4% are unknown.

The Department of Homeless Services and Housing continues to update its data dashboards, reflecting its commitment to providing clear, accessible information to support data-driven decision-making and continuous improvement in addressing homelessness.

Data presented in the dashboards is organized into two general categories: program performance data and demographic insights data.

Program performance data helps track key performance metrics, including program reach, services provided to program participants, program utilization and connections to shelter and housing.

Demographic insights include data on age, gender, race/ethnicity and vulnerability factors such as lengths of homelessness, disability conditions and financial resources.

homelessness, disability conditions and financial resources.

Explore the dashboards

at https://schs.saccounty. gov/Pages/Sacramento CountyHomelessnessData Dashboard.aspx and discover how the collective efforts are making a difference in our community. Currently, the dashboards only reflect demographics and outcomes from Department of Homeless Services and Housing funded programs.

For more information on what Sacramento County is doing to address homelessness, visit schs.saccounty.

Elk Grove authors George

East Sacramento authors Anara

Land Park authors Ron Javor,

Jennifer Morita and Michele Drier.

Pocket authors Eileen Hook and

Arden Arcade/Arden authors Lynda Smith Hoggan, Amy

Rogers, Brenda Davis and Gloria

South Sacramento authors Pat

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Henshaw and Maryalice Tomoeda.

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Justine Villanueva.

and Lisa Montanaro.

Butcher and Kate Moore.

Guard and Brian Reisinger.

Hahn, Rosemary Covington, Betsy Schwarzentraub, Nafisa Kahn and

Bryan Hill.

Dorothy Rice.

Galloway.



Sacramento Book Festival Welcomes Big Names

Sacramento Book Festival

News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 31, the California Writers Club Sacramento Branch will launch the second annual Sacramento Book Festival at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, next to McKinley Park, in East Sacramento.

As part of the free festival's focus on literacy, organizers will run a book drive for new and gently used children's books for the Mustard Seed School. This Sacramento Loaves & Fishes program is a free private school for children ages 3 to 15 years old who are currently homeless. The Sacramento Book Festival

committee will also welcome the Sacramento Literacy Foundation to the event, an organization whose mission is to help all children in the community read at grade-level. Also, there will be 916 Ink, an arts-based creative writing and literacy nonprofit organization helping Sacramento youth discover a love of reading.

The festival will feature more than 125 local authors reading, participating on panels and introducing themselves to Sacramento

readers. Black Women Write, Capital The roster includes New York Books on K, Capitol Crimes, Elk



panels and introducing themselves to Sacramento readers. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Book Festival Grove Writers Guild, Friends of Times bestselling thriller author and Sandra Navarro.

James Rollins, award-winning mystery author Catriona McPherson, crime fiction writers Claire Booth and James L'Etoile, among many others who recognize.

Sacramento-area readers will In addition, there will be children's activities, a food truck and a

scavenger hunt with prizes. Event sponsors include 916 Ink, Amatoria Fine Art Books, Avid Reader on Broadway,

the Sacramento Library - Book Den, the Mustard Seed School, Northern California Publishers and Authors, Northern California Romance Writers, Paper Lantern Writers, Sacramento Literacy Foundation, Sacramento Public and Underground Books. The authors, by neighborhood,

Library, A Seat at the Table Books

are as follows: River Park authors Scott Coatsworth authors Ann Naimark Gold River author Luanne

and Ann Da Vigo. Fair Oaks authors Tim Schooley

Jill Davis.

Curtis Park/Downtown Sacramento authors Michael Gorman, Grete Brewer-Bakken, Brian Buhl, Melissa Buhl, Chance Knight, Linda Townsdin and Jeff Galvin.

Carmichael author Ann Chehak

and Antelope author Candice West Sacramento author Jeyzel

Rossi and American River author Bonnie Blue.

Oleas and Rancho Cordova author

El Dorado Hills authors Jenifer Kemper.

Rowe, James L'Etoile and Bitsy Folsom author Joanne Kwan

and Winters author Catriona McPherson.