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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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JUNE 13, 2025

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Bob's Cycle Center Turns 70



Wayne Hill (on right) is with some of Bob's Cycle Center employees, daughter and shop dog Rocky. In the front row from left are Chris Pauley, Chris Townzen, Aubrey Hutcheson, Greg Montanez, David Canary and Solange Quevedo. In the back row from left are Mark Henley, Shawn Remy, David Dill and Eric Alley. Photo by Judy Andrews

By Judy Andrews

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Few local businesses have endured as long as Bob's Cycle Center in Fair Oaks. Established in 1955 by Robert "Bob" Horne, this family-owned bike shop has delighted generations of customers for 70 years.

Horne's first store, Bob's Shop, was a hardware and sporting goods store in the Fair Oaks Village. Horne sold some bicycles and provided repair services for bikes, lawnmowers and outboard motors. In 1959, local mechanic William Hill joined Horne to help with the repair side of the business.

At that time, the American Schwinn Bicycle



Bob's Cycle Center owner Wayne Hill and General Manager Eric Alley stand inside the 6,000-square-foot warehouse adjacent to the store. Photo by Judy Andrews

Company had become the leading bike brand in the U.S. and Horne couldn't restock them fast enough. The boom was driven by the launch of Schwinn's classic Sting-Ray, designed to resemble a "chopped"

motorcycle with banana seats and ape-hanger handlebars. Every boy in America wanted one!

Horne and Hill found themselves at the forefront of a new era in the bike industry, and in 1960,

Bob's Shop was renamed Bob's Cycle Center.

That same year, they moved the store to a larger building at the corner of Fair Oaks Boulevard and New York Avenue (current home to Mother's Automotive Machine), where they could display more bikes. Horne retired a few years after the move and Hill purchased the business, preserving the shop's well-known name.

Bob's Cycle Center quickly outgrew its second location, prompting Hill to acquire a prime corner property at Fair Oaks Boulevard and Pennsylvania Avenue. This site provided ample space to construct a larger store

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FORPD Board Discusses Electric Vehicle Charging Fees

By Shaunna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - During its May 21 meeting, the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) Board of Directors discussed potential policy guidelines for the new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the Fair Oaks Village.

Seven spaces will be specifically designated for electric vehicles and the stations will provide Level 2 charging at 6 to 10 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per hour. Each kWh will cost the district between 12 to 20 cents, so to cover the cost of operation as well as ongoing maintenance of the stations, a customer fee of 30 cents per kWh was proposed.

Title Aho said that cost aligns with those throughout the region for electric vehicle charging.

"It's not a money maker. It's going to be, at best, a break-even," said Aho.

Most customers would not be charging from zero but rather topping off their battery while they shop, dine or attend events in the Fair Oaks Village. Aho estimated that most electric vehicle drivers would use the spaces for two to four hours, with the cost averaging between \$6 and \$12, depending on charging time and vehicle model.

The fees would be collected through a charging station app, which would reimburse the district minus a usage fee. The app would also send notifications to the customer to let them know when their vehicle is fully charged. Customers would then have a 15-minute grace period to move their vehicle to a non-electric vehicle space or pay an idling fee, proposed at \$2 per hour. Signage at each electric vehicle station would clearly explain the pricing and time limits.

Aho said the idling fee is intended to "ensure turnover and support equitable access" to the spaces.

Director Darren Mounts said there will be parking challenges in the Village when the improved facilities open this summer, so he asked how the district would address non-electric vehicles parking in those spaces.

Aho said, "Yeah, that's going to be a challenge."

Staff is working on a parking management plan, which could include authorizing a staff member to issue citations to vehicles parked in restricted spaces. Until a policy is put in place, the district will have

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Keeping Trails Safe

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County Regional Parks staff reminds residents and visitors that enjoying the county's trails safely and respectfully is a shared responsibility.

Whether you're walking, biking, running or riding horseback, three key groups work behind the scenes, and on the trails, to keep everyone safe and informed.

Sacramento County Regional Parks Rangers serve as the lead law enforcement agency for the trail system. Rangers patrol the American River Parkway, Dry Creek Parkway and other regional parks, enforce trail regulations, respond to emergencies and ensure the safety of all trail users.

Joining the Rangers are two volunteer organizations that help serve as the eyes and ears of the community: the American River Bike Patrol and the



Whether you're walking, biking, running or riding horseback, Sacramento County Regional Parks Rangers, the American River Bike Patrol and the American River Equestrian Patrol work behind the scenes, and on the trails, to keep everyone safe and informed. From left are Ranger Avendano, Ranger Commander Spencer, JeanLaurie Ainsworth (Equestrian Patrol) on Song Singer, Michelle Canfield (Equestrian Patrol) on Duke, Rich Fowler (Bike Patrol) and Vic Massenkoff (Bike Patrol). Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

American River Equestrian Patrol.

The American River Bike Patrol volunteers use their own bicycles to patrol the paved multi-use trails, offering first aid, assisting with mechanical issues and educating users about trail rules. Their presence provides both reassurance and

support, especially in busy areas or during community events.

The American River Equestrian Patrol provides a similar service on horseback. These volunteers patrol designated equestrian trails, assist fellow riders and help ensure that these more natural and

sometimes remote areas remain safe and serene for horse and rider.

A growing issue that these groups are seeing is mountain bikers using equestrian-only trails. These trails are designed specifically for horseback riding and are not built to

Continued on page 5

San Juan Unified Names Teachers of the Year

San Juan Unified School District News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The San Juan Unified School District is proud to recognize Shannon Faltermier and Haley Zerr as the 2026 Teachers of the Year.

Teachers at San Juan Unified are the foundation of education for the next generation of post-secondary students and professionals. Their passion and dedication drive them to provide enriching learning experiences and a positive classroom environment for all.

Both teachers have made significant contributions to the district and are committed to setting their students up for academic success.

With 15 years of service at San Juan Unified School District, Faltermier began her teaching journey in the district as a student teacher at Kingswood K-8. She is now a transitional kindergarten teacher at Thomass Kelly Elementary School in Carmichael.

"I've always loved to work with the little ones. I knew this is what I wanted to do," Faltermier said. "When I ended up here, it was meant to be. It's my dream job."

Among a group of four teachers, Faltermier played a vital role during the roll-out of Transitional Kindergarten throughout San Juan Unified. She contributed to the establishment of a networking group for Transitional Kindergarten teachers to share ideas and support one another, as well as create curriculum for Camp Kinder and develop the TK report card.

"It's been great to mentor new (Transitional Kindergarten) teachers as they come on," Faltermier said.

Faltermier said that she appreciated her mentors throughout her career. Her mentors, Faltermier said, supported her growth and helped her become the teacher she is today, including Cultivating Leaders mentor Cheryl Dultz.

"She is my biggest



Shannon Faltermier helps students at Thomas Kelly Elementary School in Carmichael. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified School District

mentor. She was my mentor when I student taught and she's followed me through this journey," Faltermier said. "I was with her during her last years in the classroom. She makes teaching so much fun."

Through challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, Faltermier said that she persevered through it all. While the experiences allowed her to grow, Faltermier remained focused on her priority: the students.

"We have to remember that in the end, the students are the reason why we are here," Faltermier said. "Also, as a teacher, you have to remember to take time for yourself. If you're not at your best, you are not at your best for your students."

Zerr has been a part of San Juan Unified since she was an elementary school student and is now completing her ninth year of teaching for the district at the same school she once attended. She is a U.S. history and drama teacher at Will Rogers Middle School in Fair Oaks.

When entering her classroom, you'll either find Zerr completing a fun and competitive activity or reviewing the learning goals with her students. With a diverse group of students, Zerr adapts her lessons for all, including English Language Learners.

"One of my favorite things to teach about is the U.S. Constitution. Also, that everyone in my classroom has a voice, that they feel represented and that they find themselves somewhere in history," Zerr said.



Haley Zerr is a drama teacher at Will Rogers Middle School in Fair Oaks. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified School District

Zerr said that teaching has been a space to connect with other educators and shape a positive environment for her school. Through cultivating relationships with her peers, Zerr has not only fostered friendships but also found individuals who share her values and vision.

"We have aligned goals on making sure that our students see themselves in history, that they see themselves as safe and valued," Zerr said.

Zerr strives to create a welcoming and safe learning environment for all her students, emphasizing growth over perfection. When it comes to grading, Zerr said she provides students with second chances, ensuring that they have an opportunity to show that they are trying.

"Growth is huge. A little bit of progress is better than nothing at all," Zerr said. "I see so much growth with my English Learner students because they gain practice in academic skills along with historical skills."

With a passion for learning, Zerr is currently pursuing a master's degree in U.S. History. For her students, Zerr serves as a role model and encourages them to advance academically.

"It is a constant reminder to my students that I am also in school and that I know that they can do it because I can," Zerr said.

Zerr will proceed in representing San Juan Unified at the Sacramento County Office of Education's 2026 Teacher of the Year competition. ★

District Attorney's Office Holds Youth Shadow Day

By Seth Henderson

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - High school students in Sacramento County can shadow an array of positions within the criminal justice system through a pairing process at this year's Criminal Justice Shadow Day and Crime Lab Shadow Day, according to the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office. The one-day events are on July 11 and July 25. Spaces are limited and the deadline to register for both events is June 27.

The DA's office partnered with different programs agencies to coordinate a comprehensive and engaging learning experience and has offered the program for many years.

According to the DA's office, the DA's Youth Academy has had great success and an overwhelming positive response from the thousands of students reached from schools and neighborhoods across the county.

The program's goal is to encourage students to pursue a career within the criminal justice system and steer them away from criminal conduct, according to the DA's office.

The Criminal Justice Shadow Day takes place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 11 at the Jan Scully Training Center on 906 G St., Sacramento, according to a flier from the DA's office.

For the Criminal Justice Shadow Day, prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys, probation officers, law enforcement

officers, investigators and judges will provide students with first-hand experience regarding different processes in the criminal justice system, according to the DA's office.

The Crime Lab Shadow Day classes will take place on July 25 from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., with lunch provided between noon and 1 p.m.

Two sessions will be offered for the Crime Lab Shadow Day with one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Registration for each session will take place 30 minutes prior to the start of the class and lunch will be provided during both sessions, according to the DA's office.

During the Crime Lab Shadow Day, students can expect to learn the importance of evidence preservation and the chain of custody, observe bullet trajectory and presumptive blood testing, review crime scene investigations and see real drug chemistry in play, according to the DA's website.

The programs are free and representatives are provided by partnering agencies. They benefit high school students, the criminal justice system and the community at large, according to the DA's office.

To register for the Criminal Justice Shadow Day event or the Crime Lab Shadow Day event, visit sacda.org, under the "In the Community" tab. Spaces are limited and the deadline to register for both events is June 27.

The DA's Youth Academy will begin accepting applications in the fall. ★

Roadwork Limits Ancil Hoffman Park Use

By Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Most Ancil Hoffman Park facilities will remain open during a June-to-August project to repave roads and parking lots in the county park.

With families parking in a nearby meadow, the Effie Yeaw Nature Center last weekend hosted nearly 1,000 NatureFest patrons. At the park's 18-hole course, it was business as usual.

Recent commencement of the "Park Overlay" project has spawned some community misunderstanding.

"The parks not closed; our golf course and the Nature Center are open. If you're headed to the Nature Center or to play golf, you'll be waved in and told where to park," said Sacramento County senior civil engineer Spencer Ord. "If you're just out for a drive, the kiosk attendant will suggest another of our beautiful parks to enjoy. We're trying to reduce day users until our parking lots are completed. When we repave Tarshes Drive, we'll detour all traffic via the San Lorenzo entrance."

During a two-week period when road pavement is torn up this month, pedestrian access to roadways will also be limited. Perimeter Park trails will still be accessible.

The county construction time frame has been criticized. Excavators dug in as schools recessed; as the rafting season launched; as park wildlife birthed its young and golfers hit the greens.

"When our funding was in place, we wanted to get started as soon as possible," said Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond. "Timing was determined by the contractor's schedule and the weather. With a May start, work will be finished in time for people to enjoy the results while it's still summer. Any inconvenience now is a small price

to pay for decades of benefit."

More than 30 years beyond normal road lifespan, park routes have long been a county improvement goal. Thousands of vehicles per day (up to 2,500 on summer weekends) have degraded road asphalt. Pitted with potholes, Tarshes Drive is a rocky road. Tree roots have opened huge cracks in parking areas.

The project includes landscaping and barriers to contain tree roots and preserve surfaces. Four-foot bollards will define Tarshes Drive pedestrian and bike lanes. Road bumps will curtail speeding. ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) amenities will be improved. As Operation Overlay wraps in August, fresh striping will ice the cake.

Granite Construction and five county agencies are involved.

"This project's an example of our departments working as a team," Ord said. "This includes environmental planners. We're glad 60-year-old asphalt grindings will be recycled to form new road base. This saves time, emissions and money."

Totaling almost \$3 million, Park Overlay costs are funded by Sacramento Regional Parks, with a contribution from golf course proceeds.

Park users should exercise caution during construction, advised Ord.

"There'll be excavators, graders, loaders and water trucks on the roads," Ord said. "Some big vehicles have restricted vision. We can still enjoy the park but we'll all need to take care."

Learn about Ancil Hoffman Park improvements at sacdot.saccounty.net/Pages/Ancil-Hoffman-Park-Overlay-Project.aspx. ★

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bobscyclecenter.com

San Juan Unified Names Two New Leaders to District

Bob's Cycle Center Turns 70

San Juan Unified School District News Release

SACRAMENTO AREA, CA (MPG) - The San Juan Unified School District has appointed two experienced leaders to key positions on its executive leadership team following a robust search and selection process.

Timothy "Chip" Dale, Ed.D., has been named the district's next deputy superintendent of schools and student support, and Daniel Thigpen has been appointed as chief of human resources, pending board approval.

"We are thrilled to welcome Chip and to continue working alongside Daniel in his new role," said Superintendent Melissa Bassanelli. "Both leaders bring a deep commitment to equity, student success and people-centered leadership. Their experience and values will be critical as we continue advancing the goals of our strategic plan and empowering every student to succeed."

Dale currently serves as a community superintendent at Hamilton County Schools in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and has previously held leadership roles in Denver Public Schools and the San Diego Unified School District. He is



Timothy "Chip" Dale, Ed.D., has been named the district's next deputy superintendent of schools and student support. Courtesy photo



Daniel Thigpen has been appointed as chief of human resources, pending board approval. Courtesy photo

scheduled to begin with San Juan Unified District on June 23, overseeing and supporting elementary and secondary education and educational services. He will directly supervise special education, professional learning and curriculum innovation and assessment, evaluation and planning.

"I am looking forward to joining San Juan Unified and excited to be part of a district that leads with purpose and puts students at the center," said Dale. "I look forward to working alongside dedicated educators, staff, families and the broader community to support every student's success and build on the district's strong foundation."

Thigpen has served as the district's acting chief of human resources since

March and previously led labor relations and government affairs. He also brings state-level experience as the former deputy superintendent of public instruction, communications branch, at the California Department of Education. In his new role, Thigpen will continue to oversee labor relations in addition to leading the district's human resources department.

"I'm honored to continue serving San Juan Unified in this new role and to support the incredible people who make our schools thrive," said Thigpen. "Our team is committed to building strong partnerships, advancing equity and ensuring every employee feels valued and empowered to do their best work on behalf of students." ★

Continued from page 1

for displaying hundreds of bikes on the showroom floor and a 6,000-square-foot warehouse for storage.

The new store, located at 9920 Fair Oaks Blvd., opened in 1971. Approximately 95% of Hill's inventory consisted of Schwinn bikes, establishing Hill as one of the top Schwinn dealers in the nation.

In 1978, Hill opened a second bike shop in Citrus Heights called Citrus Heights Schwinn Cyclery, which enjoyed tremendous success during the BMX craze of the late '70s and early '80s. In 1985, Hill moved the store to a larger location in Roseville, renaming it Bob's Cycle Center Roseville. Recognized as a cycling institution in Roseville, the bike shop is now at 378 N. Sunrise Ave. across from the auto mall entrance.

William Hill and his wife, Margaret, raised three children, William Jr., Wayne and Kristine, in their home behind the Fair Oaks store. Hill was a civic-minded business leader in the community, serving as president of the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club. He operated Bob's Cycle Center for more than 30 years until his death in 1995.

William Hill's second son, Wayne, took over the bike shops and today continues to uphold many of the same traditions and values that his father held years earlier.

"I've always been involved with the store to some degree," said Wayne Hill. "A little boy in a bike shop just kind of went hand-in-hand. It was a great time to be a kid."

Hill has many memories of growing up in his father's shop.



Bob's Cycle Center moved to its current location at 9920 Fair Oaks Blvd. in 1971. The photo was taken shortly before opening. Courtesy of Bob's Cycle Center

"It was my job to empty all the ashtrays after school," Hill said. "At the end of each row of bikes stood a tall black ashtray that customers used. All the adults smoked in public back then. Cleaning ashtrays was just one of the many jobs I was tasked with as a kid in the early '70s."

Hill remembers how Christmas at the store was a big event.

"Dad received shipments of bikes twice a year, in time for spring and the holidays," Hill said. "The bikes came in on a train and we'd head to the tracks (near where American River Raft Rentals in Gold River is today) to get them from six to eight padlocked cars. We stacked the bikes high in the trusses of our warehouse roof. There were so many bikes that you couldn't even walk through the warehouse. It was nuts."

Before the warehouse was constructed, Hill described how neighbors used their garages to store bikes, with inventory lists clipped outside each garage door. When the warehouse became available, the garages continued to serve as storage for bikes on layaway at Christmas time.

"Christmas Eve was our biggest day of the year when customers showed up to pick up bikes," Hill said. "Lions Club members served chili in a bowl to every customer. People were everywhere. Cars were backed up to

Sunrise Avenue, blocking the intersection."

Schwinn eventually went out of business and today, Bob's Cycle Center carries a variety of top-tier bicycle brands in various price ranges and styles.

"It's unusual to see 400 bikes on the floor in any bike shop," Hill said. "We've got something for everyone from first-time kids' bikes to high-end mountain and road bikes."

Hill and his general manager, Eric Alley, have adapted the business to meet the evolving trends and technology of the bicycle industry, including the growing popularity of e-bikes.

"Thirty percent of our sales come from e-bikes, which is about the norm for the industry," Alley said. "We've watched the demand really take off in the last three years."

Alley joined Bob's Cycle Center in 2006, shortly after relocating his family from the Bay Area to Sacramento. His extensive experience in Bay Area stores made him highly qualified for a management position with Hill.

Hill credits Alley and his employees for the bike shop's success.

"We're in the business of selling 'fun' and our employees do a great job of that," Hill said. "We take pride in what we do and it shows. I'd like to think that's one of the reasons we're still here." ★



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Bike Shop Celebrates and Mayor's Race Takes Off



Judy Andrews

By Judy Andrews, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

In this issue of the American River Messenger, we reflect on Bob's Cycle Center and how the bike shop has survived and thrived for seven decades.

Last month, I had the pleasure of speaking with Wayne Hill, the store's third and current owner, and his general manager, Eric Alley, who has worked with Hill for 19 years. Wayne shared what it was like to grow up in the bike shop during the 1970s, his father, William, ran the store for 30 years until 1995.

Wayne has followed in his dad's footsteps with a generous spirit and a deep commitment to this community. Bob's Cycle Center is one of the chamber's longest-established business members with a long history of giving back. Today, Wayne lives with his wife, Regina, their daughter, Solange, and their dog, Rocky, in the Carmichael Ancil Hoffman Park area.

On Wednesday, June 18, the chamber and local dignitaries will honor Hill and recognize the iconic bike

shop with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate its 70th year in business. The event starts at 5 p.m. at Bob's Cycle Center, 9920 Fair Oaks Blvd. RSVP is required to attend. For more information about the event, visit FairOaksChamber.com.

Honorary Mayor Campaign Underway

The battle has begun! The chamber's 2025/2026 Honorary Mayor candidates, Heather Ford and Noah Wright, are actively raising funds for the community by hosting fun events around town that you can support. The candidate who raises the most in donations will become the chamber's 47th Honorary Mayor. Katie Yount has done a great job serving as Honorary Mayor since 2023. Thank you, Katie!

Heather and Noah both have personal ties to the community and the chamber. Their dads, Jim Cralle and Keith Wright, previously competed in a spirited and friendly contest in 2018, raising more than \$50,000.

Heather Ford owns The Restful Roost, a mattress and bedding store in Fair Oaks. Thanks to her parents, Jim and Diana Cralle, Heather's commitment to serving the community "runs in her blood." She became involved in fundraising at a young age and continues to fundraise. As a business owner and native of Fair Oaks, Heather is dedicated to

helping local youth and seniors through her chosen charity, the Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation, which funds projects like park improvements, library renovations, and educational supplies. Heather wants to continue her parents' legacy.

Noah Wright is a fourth generation "Fair Oakian" who has been involved with the chamber since he was 13. He expresses a deep passion for giving back to the community that has shaped him into who he is today. Noah is a full-time college student studying enology and viticulture to become a winemaker. He is raising funds for the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Community Foundation, which oversees several programs, including the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank, the Food Farm, the Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART), and Treat Our Teachers, among others. Noah takes pride in running for Honorary Mayor to uphold his family's long-standing tradition of service, hoping to inspire his peers and the youth of tomorrow.

Check out Heather and Noah's exciting summer events and remember that every dollar raised counts as a vote. The contest runs from June 1 to Sept. 30.

For more information about the Honorary Mayor program and to view all upcoming events, please visit fairOaksChamber.com. See you in Fair Oaks!

Celebrating Student Achievement Across San Juan Unified

San Juan Unified School District

Dear San Juan Unified community,

As we approach the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year, I am filled with pride as I reflect on the remarkable achievements of our students. Their dedication, creativity and resilience embody the core values of our district's Strategic Plan, focusing on voice, resilience and innovation.

This spring, our high schools celebrated hundreds of students who improved their grade point average (GPA) by at least 0.25 points from the previous year. These recognitions speak to the power of progress and the determination it takes to achieve academic goals.

We also honored students who lead with empathy, inclusion and exceptional character at our annual Spirit of San Juan awards and You Light the Way awards. Celebrations like these remind us of the strength found in character and community.

More than 600 students completed Career Technical Education pathways this year, gaining hands-on experience and industry-recognized certifications that prepare them for life after high school. Our two newest pathways include the education pathway at Encina High School and the animation pathway at Del Campo High School.

Through our partnership with American River College, hundreds of high school students are getting a head start on college by earning transferable credits through dual enrollment courses, many



Melissa Bassanelli

of which meet California's general education requirements. These opportunities not only build confidence but also save students time and money on their journey to a degree.

These stories reflect the commitment across our district to help every student thrive. As we continue to implement our Strategic Plan, we remain focused on creating learning experiences that empower students to grow, lead and succeed.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in this journey.

In community,

Melissa Bassanelli
Superintendent

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Lee Soup Base Mixes 1.6 oz **4/\$1**

EUROPEAN GROCERY

Vegan Raw Peanuts (uncooked/unsalted) 3.5 lbs **\$5.99/lea**

Goodwill Altay Buckwheat 1.5 kg **\$6.69/lea**

McVities Digestives the Original 360 gr **\$1.99/lea**

Zolotoi Vek Sunflower Vanilla Halva 550 gr **\$3.99/lea**

Zergut Zucchini Spread Russian Style 19 oz **\$3.29/lea**

KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

Roasted Seaweed (Laver) 1.7 OZ 48 gr **\$3.49/lea**

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ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (6 CUPS) **\$8.99/lea**

ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (10 CUPS) **\$5.99/lea**

ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL **\$39.99/lea**

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Sweet Rice Dumpling Skin 10 oz **\$1.99/lea**

EUROPEAN DELI

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Cergnola Olives **\$6.69/lb**

German Head Cheese **\$15.99/lb**

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Magnetic Allure

Do you let the fear of rejection trip you up, and if you do, why? Can that fear hold you back from some great opportunities? According to **Malia Rogers**, it can really hinder you from aiming at a promotion or thinking of switching to a new career or finally texting that person you haven't done for fear of rejection. **Malia** is founder of Medi-Gap Pros, and in her book "**Magnetic Allure**," **Malia** shows you how to ditch self-doubt and step into your next big thing with courage and charisma. It's The Blueprint to Building a Network of Referral Partners. She wants to rewire the way we think about self-worth, confidence, and connection so we can stop second-guessing and start showing up. We got into some of the ways we can accomplish that magnetic allure on my POPPTALK Radio Show. So I asked her to give me her top ten favorite strategies to face the Fear of Rejection. And I want to share them with you.

1. **Flip The Script on Rejection.** Rejection is not failure. It's redirection.
2. **Know Your Why.** Your why needs to be bigger than your fear.
3. **Build "Rejection Muscles" With Exposure Therapy.** Train your nervous system to realize: rejection doesn't break you; it builds you... you didn't die!
4. **Build Grit + The Power of "One More" (Ed Mylett).** Push yourself to do "one more." Grit is about persistence. Your breakthrough might be on the other side of one more try.
5. **Reframe the Narrative.** Rejection doesn't mean you're not good enough. It might just mean the tim-

ing, audience, or opportunity wasn't aligned or was a mismatch. Sometimes it's business, not personal. But we make it to be personal.

6. **Talk Back to Your Inner Critic.** Tell yourself, "I've done hard things before, so I'll do it again." Shift your mindset from self-doubt to self-trust.
7. **Lean into Your Circle.** Call someone who reminds you who you are. Connection rewires discouragement into perspective.
8. **Stay in Your Lane.** Comparison is a thief. Just because someone else got a "yes" doesn't mean your journey is off track. Their win is not your loss. Keep your eyes on your WHY.
9. **Feel the Fear and Do it Anyway (Dr. Susan Jeffers).** Courage is not the absence of fear. It's forward motion despite it.
10. **The 5-Second Courage Boost.** Mel Robbin's 5-second rule: count down 5,4,3,2,1 and then start taking action before your brain starts talking you out of doing the thing!

To be honest with you, it doesn't seem that difficult to do. My favorite is the countdown. Seems logical before you talk yourself out of believing. Better to just DO IT! Hopefully, you won't regret it. If you want to know more about for to get rid of that pesky fear of rejection, check out **Malia Rogers** at her website www.MaliaRogers.com. And, of course, her book gives you all the details... "**Magnetic Allure**." Good Luck, and from yours truly... **Believe in Yourself! You are the Best!** ★

FORPD Board Discusses Electric Vehicle Charging Fees

Continued from page 1

to rely on enforcement by Sacramento County.

Director Raymond James Irwin suggested any vehicles not following posted parking restrictions should be towed and signage at each space should warn drivers of the rules. He also said the idle fee was too low and would not encourage drivers to move out of those spaces. After the 15-minute grace period, Irwin suggested, a rate of 50 cents per minute should be charged to align with the typical cost at other charging stations.

Aho said that he will bring this item back with an increased idle fee and contract details for board consideration at a future meeting.

The board then considered three logo options for the new Fair Oaks Performing Arts Center. Designed by GreyDot Media, the logos were intended to be dynamic and versatile, so the colors could be changed to reflect different seasons or specific events.

Option one was a modern take on an oak leaf that also evoked chat bubbles on a cell phone. Option two featured a circle under a bold "F" symbol taken from the f-hole on a violin. Option three was an oak leaf outline, interspersed with geometric lines. A sub-committee comprised of directors Ralph Carhart and Vice-Chair John O-Farrell recommended option three, and Carhart said he liked the design's shape and versatility.

Director Irwin said that option three looked too busy and preferred option one, calling it clean and modern.

Chair Delinda Tamagni asked staff whether there was time to request minor changes to the logo options and make the final decision at a future meeting. Staff explained that waiting would delay the

ability to begin using the logo in website design and marketing materials but they would make it work if that was the board's decision.

Irwin motioned to approve option one and it was approved 3-0, with Carhart abstaining and O'Farrell absent.

Parks and Facilities Manager Sean Ventura presented the board with the feasibility report regarding a potential disc golf course at Bannister Park, which was conducted by a professional disc-golf consultant. Ventura said that the report found the park did not score well for disc golf, due to size, current use and terrain.

The study cost \$1,000 and Ventura said the findings will be helpful as the district moves forward with public outreach and a master plan to decide future uses at Bannister.

Construction is continuing in the village improvement project, with the installation of new chairs for the amphitheater. Aho said that Bobo Construction is working well on coordinating the road paving, despite various challenges.

Aho said that staff are still working on a parking management plan, which will come to the board in either June or July. Based on public outreach, Aho said, there was "not a lot of support for paid parking," which was "unsurprising." Currently being considered is a contract with Fair Oaks Village Enhancement Committee (FOVEC) to offer the AT&T lot for paid reserved parking for district events and activities.

After the Village facilities reopen, now expected at the end of July, the district will have a better sense of the long-term parking issues and how to best address them, according to officials.

The next Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District meeting is scheduled for June 18. ★



Dave Ramsey Says Love Your Enthusiasm, but That's Not an Emergency

Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

What do you think about the idea of taking money out of your emergency fund in order to pay off your home early?

- Evans

Dear Evans,

Trust me, I understand how it can be very tempting to throw a bunch of money at your house, get rid of the mortgage payments and own it outright. Especially if you're plowing through the Baby Steps, and you feel like you're making great progress in terms of gaining control of your money.

But, I wouldn't drain my emergency fund to make it happen—even if it meant being completely debt-free sooner. To be honest, I wouldn't even deplete it to pay off the house. You know how life always seems to

throw a curveball at you when you least expect it? The moment you write that big check and weaken your emergency fund, your car will develop transmission issues, the central unit will go out and your roof will spring a leak.

Okay, so maybe I'm having a little fun with you in order to make a point. But the truth is the only time I would even consider dipping into your emergency fund—for anything that isn't an actual emergency—is if your emergency fund has become way too big, and you have a very small amount left to pay on the house. Keep in mind, your emergency fund should be three to six months of total household expenses, not three to six months of income. Besides, paying off the house is nothing even close to an emergency. The fact that you have to make payments

on your home every month doesn't catch anyone with a mortgage by surprise.

Remember Murphy's Law, and how it says if something can go wrong it will go wrong? Evans, when you do things like your suggesting, you're just begging for Murphy to come visit for long, long time. And buddy, that's not my definition of financial peace!

- Dave

Dave Ramsey is a nine-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

Keeping Trails Safe

Continued from page 1

accommodate bicycles. Riding on them not only violates trail rules but it also creates hazards for riders and horses alike.

Sacramento County asks all cyclists to stay on designated paved or multi-use trails and respect posted signs and trail restrictions. If you would like to ride off-road, a designated off-road cycling trail is available in the Woodlake/Cal-Expo area.

To promote safety and shared enjoyment of the trail system, Sacramento County has established multi-use trail rules and regulations as described below.

Always yield to pedestrians and equestrians.

Pass on the left side and return to the right side after you've passed. Don't forget to call out "passing on your left" so you

don't startle the person you are passing.

Maintain a safe speed, not exceeding 15 mph.

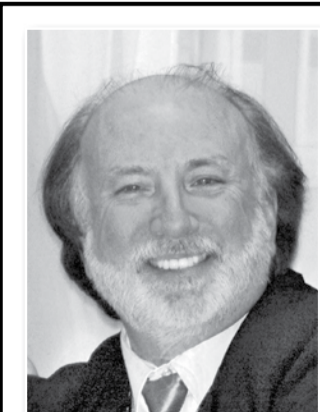
Keep pets on a leash no longer than six feet.

Stay on designated trails and obey posted signage.

Pedestrians should use the left shoulder when it is accessible.

Visit [online regionalparks.saccounty.gov/Parks/Pages/Multi-useTrailRulesandRegulations.aspx](http://online.regionalparks.saccounty.gov/Parks/Pages/Multi-useTrailRulesandRegulations.aspx) for the full list of trail rules and regulations.

The county thanks all trail users and the dedicated public safety and volunteer patrol teams for helping to keep the American River Parkway and other Sacramento County trails safe, clean and welcoming for everyone. ★



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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Thing must change in Kingstown, and in truth they have already begun.

Replacing Monte McNair with Scott Perry was a beginning, but it marked a moment that says to every Kings fan that the organization realizes that their leadership is not cutting the mustard. That is an understatement, and much must change if the pathway to success is going to be realized.

What is the goal of the fans, and do the fans have the same goal as that of the organization? I'm not entirely sure, but I'll give you my goal for this organization.

I want to see a perennial playoff team. Not the team that made the playoffs once in the past 18 years. If there's anything that must change it's the mindset that the Kings can be competitive but just miss the playoffs, and that somehow that equates to an acceptable season. That should not and cannot be the mantel for a successful franchise.

The Kings need leadership, on and off the court that hate's losing and won't stand for it. That means the front office, the players and it certainly means ownership.

First, can we all stop for just a moment and watch what's taking place on national television right before our eyes?

Two small market teams that are facing off in the NBA finals.

Aside from Shai Gilgeous-Alexander I'm not sure there is another superstar on either of these two teams, yet they both have outlasted the best the NBA has to offer, and one of these small market franchises will soon hoist the Larry O'Brien trophy.

Both franchises embody the "slow and steady wins the race" philosophy, but there's more to it. They stay true to basketball's team concept, relying on role players who excel at their specific tasks. It's about selfless play and finding players who buy into that can be tough.

Although both teams have won a game, and the series is currently tied, OKC remains as overwhelming favorite.

No question Shai Gilgeous-Alexander is a difference maker, but if one player on OKC stands out, it's Chet Holmgren. This 7-foot multi-talented big man continues to get better year over year and is giving fans and organization alike reason to smile and applaud the fact that he was taken #2

overall in the 2022 draft by OKC.

Yes, teams can get better by judging talent accurately and building a team from within.

Trading for talent and building a playoff team isn't a crime. Recognizing and selecting the right players is crucial for any NBA franchise. For the Sacramento Kings, the biggest challenge remains overcoming this and that means getting ownership out of the drafting combine.

Everyone understands that owners have input, but they must trust the experts they've hired. It's unfair to both the staff and fans when an owner overrides those dedicated to building a playoff team. This must stop and should never have been the case.

Currently the Kings have no first round draft choice in what many consider to be a rich draft class, and general manager Scott Perry is not giving any indications as to whether he will orchestrate a trade to join the party.

Mark your calendars Kings fans for June 25 as all eyes will be on the Dallas Mavericks as they kick off the 2025 NBA draft.

Do the Kings absolutely need to have a first-round pick. No, and if they must wait for the 42nd pick it won't be the end of the world.

What is more important is how Scott Perry and his staff envision the current team as it's assembled.

My hope is that Domantas Sabonis and his comrade Jonas Valanciunas will be wearing Kings jerseys when the regular season begins. Build around these two big men that have already proven their worth as NBA players. Go out and find a point guard that can mentor the Kings first round pick of a year ago, Devin Carter, and start the process of building from within just like OKC and the Pacers have done.

Enjoy the NBA finals Kings fans but pay close attention. Superstars in not the order of the day, so don't lose heart. There is talent on the squad of the Sacramento Kings. Now it's time to access it with clear eyes and not be too impatient.

All the best!

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

Social Security Matters

Social Security Questions

Asked Over Coffee



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My coffee conversations among a group of friends have resulted in several questions about Social Security:

1. What happens to the Social Security account of someone who dies before retirement age. What happens to that money and where does it end up?

2. How does the decreased birth rate of the USA affect future Social Security benefits?

3. Is a person who has never contributed to the Social Security System entitled to any benefits from the Social Security Administration?

4. Is there a central location online that a person can access that explains the history and current status of the Social Security System, that explains all of it in simple terms. I would like to be able to give this location to people I talk with about Social Security.

Most of the articles we read are like slogging through mud! I enjoy AMAC articles and am college educated, but the average reading level in the US is less than 6th grade. Thank you for considering these questions. **Signed: Curious Reader**

Dear Curious: Thank you for your readership, and I'll be happy to tackle your "over coffee" questions about Social Security:

1. Social Security is a "pay

as you go" program, where all money collected from workers is used to pay benefits for all those who are currently receiving Social Security. In other words, all money contributed is used to pay benefits to others already receiving benefits. It is not put into a separate account for each person, and that is a good thing. Most people get more from Social Security than they ever contributed, but benefits are paid for life, regardless of how long one lives. The specific answer to your question is that if someone dies before retirement age, the money contributed has already been used to pay benefits to others. Keep in mind though, that a surviving spouse or minor or disabled adult child may also collect benefits on a deceased person's Social Security record.

2. The decreasing birth rate in the US hurts Social Security. That's because fewer babies mean fewer future workers contributing to the Social Security program. FYI, in 1950 there were about 15 workers contributing to SS for every one person collecting benefits, but today there are less than 3 workers for each SS beneficiary. That problem is exacerbated by the steadily increasing U.S. life expectancy. Beneficiaries are now often collecting SS benefits for decades from a program designed to pay benefits for only a few years.

3. Only those who have worked and contributed to Social Security through payroll taxes for about 10 years (40 quarters of SS credit) are eligible to collect SS Retirement benefits. However, some dependent spouses and/or dependent minor or dependent disabled children who have never worked might also be eligible for benefits from the worker's Social Security record. Along

with each U.S. state, the SSA also administers another program, known as Supplement Security Income (SSI), on behalf of the federal government. However, federal "SSI" benefits are not paid with Social Security funds. "SSI" is a separate government benefit program, with federal benefits paid from the general U.S. Treasury.

4. There are lots of places to get information about Social Security, but I suggest you start at our AMAC Foundation Social Security information website, which can be found at www.socialsecurityreport.org. Here you will find numerous articles about Social Security, retirement, Medicare, etc., as well as all the Ask Rusty articles I have published weekly over the last 8 years. You can also find excellent Social Security information on our AMAC Foundation main website, www.amacfoundation.org. And, of course, you can always ask any questions you have via email to ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Or, if you prefer, you can just call us on 1.888.750.2622 if you have questions about Social Security or about Medicare enrollment.

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California's Economy Is Just Limping Along



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Gavin Newsom loves to boast about the state he governs, claiming that California is No.1 in some category or that the state is leading in some economic or cultural activity.

Sometimes his boasts crumble in the face of reality, such as his 2022 declaration that the state budget had a \$97.5 billion surplus and "no other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this."

It was later revealed that the surplus claim was based on revenue estimates that were wrong by \$165 billion over four years, leading to multibillion-dollar budget deficits.

Undeterred, Newsom has continued his boastful ways. A few weeks ago bragged that California, were it a nation, now has the world's fourth-largest economy at \$4.1 trillion, edging out Japan.

"California isn't just keeping pace with the world — we're setting the pace," Newsom cheered. "Our economy is thriving because we invest in people, prioritize sustainability and believe in the power of innovation."

Actually, California's edge over Japan is more the result of currency exchange

calculations rather than productivity, but \$4.1 trillion is still a big number. Unfortunately, its size masks the darker reality that, by many measures, California is doing no better than treading water.

As the Legislature's budget analyst, Gabe Petek, said in a report on California's budget situation late last year, "California's economy has been in an extended slowdown for the better part of two years, characterized by a soft labor market and weak consumer spending."

"While this slowdown has been gradual and the severity milder than a recession, a look at recent economic data paints a picture of a sluggish economy. Outside of government and health care, the state has added no jobs in a year and a half."

What Petek described six months ago is still true, as recent employment data indicate. In April, the state's unemployment rate, 5.3%, was higher than all but two other states, Michigan and Nevada, and it's been stuck at that elevated relative position for several years.

"Since February 2020, the state's labor force has grown by just 126,100 workers, a 0.6% increase," Beacon Economics said in an analysis of the April data, adding, "This slower growth is being driven largely by the state's chronic housing shortage and the retirement of aging workers."

Justin Niakamal, Beacon's research manager says "it's difficult to see how California will be able to break out of its slow-growth cycle when there has been virtually no increase in housing production. This is

an elemental problem that is impacting the state's ability to grow its population, industry and economy."

A major indication of California's relatively moribund economy is what has been happening in the San Francisco Bay Area's technology industry, a sector that, in essence, has been propping up the entire state in recent years.

Having expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic to serve those confined to their homes and working remotely, the industry has been shedding jobs month by month.

While Newsom cited numbers from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics in claiming that California now had the globe's fourth-largest economy, he didn't trumpet a recent bureau study that underscores the state's poor employment picture. California has more than a million unemployed workers. The new bureau report reveals that the ratio of jobless workers to job openings is the highest of any state, 1.6 jobseekers for every one open job.

To put that data point another way, if every job opening in California were to be filled, we'd still have hundreds of thousands of Californians on the unemployment rolls.

That's nothing to brag about.

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. ★



Don't fear AI

ChatGPT is coming for your job.

That's the fear about the rapid advances in artificial intelligence.

In a headline the other day, Axios warned of a "white-collar bloodbath." The CEO of the artificial intelligence firm Anthropic told the publication that AI could destroy half of all entry-level, white-collar jobs in the next one to five years and drive the unemployment rate up to 10-20%, or roughly Great Depression levels.

This sounds dire, but we've been here before. In the 1930s, John Maynard Keynes thought that labor-saving devices were "outrunning the pace at which we can find new uses for labor." Analysts thought the same thing in the 1960s, when John F. Kennedy warned "the automation problem is as important as any we face," and in our era, too.

If a prediction has been consistently wrong, it doesn't necessarily mean that it will forever be wrong. Still, we shouldn't have much confidence in the same alarmism, repeated for the same reasons. If technological advance was really a net killer of jobs, the labor market should have been in decline since the invention of the wheel.

Instead, we live in a time of technological marvels, and the unemployment rate is 4.2%. Rob Atkinson of

the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation points out that the average unemployment rate in the United States hasn't changed much over the last century, despite productivity -- the ability to produce more with the same inputs -- increasing almost 10 times.

Technology increases productivity, driving down costs and making it possible to invest and spend on other things, creating new jobs that replace the old. This is the process of a society becoming wealthier, and it's why nations that innovate are better off than those that don't.

The rise of personal computers collapsed the demand for typists and word processors. These positions were often held by women. Did this decimate the economic prospects of women in America? No, they got different, and frequently better, jobs.

Spreadsheets drastically reduced the demand for bookkeepers and accounting clerks. Did this end the profession of accounting? No, there was an increase in more sophisticated accounting roles.

The job market has never been stuck in amber. The MIT economist David Autor co-authored a study that found that the majority of current jobs are in occupational categories that arose since 1940.

It's true that artificial intelligence is projected to affect white-collar jobs -- computer programming, consulting, law and the like -- more than prior waves of technological change. But these kinds of jobs shouldn't be immune from the effects of automation any more than factory

work has been. AI will end up augmenting many jobs -- helping workers become more efficient -- and there will be a limit to how much it can encroach on human work.

It's hard to imagine, say, Meta ever giving over its legal representation in an antitrust case to artificial intelligence. Lawyers handling such a case will, however, rely on AI for more and more support, diminishing the need for junior lawyers.

This will be a significant disruption for the legal profession, yet legal services will also become cheaper and more widely available, in a benefit to everyone else.

There's no doubt that the changes wrought by technology can be painful, and it's possible that artificial intelligence eventually gets so good at so many tasks that people have no ready recourse to new, better jobs, as has always happened in the past.

The potential upside, though, is vast. After strong productivity growth for about a decade beginning in the mid-1990s, we shifted into a lower gear in the mid-2000s. It will be a boon if artificial intelligence puts us on a better trajectory. An era of high productivity growth will, among other things, make it easier to deal with the budget deficit and the fiscal strain of retiring baby boomers.

Like anything else, AI will have its downsides, but it's not an inherent threat any more than computers or the internet.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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State Legislators Name Their Nonprofit of the Year

California Association of Nonprofits News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- In recognition of California Nonprofits Day on May 21st, the California Association of Nonprofits announced on May 20 the 2025 California Nonprofits of the Year. These organizations were each selected by a state senator or assemblymember to be honored for the difference they are making in their communities. From food banks and youth programs to arts collectives and veteran support, this year's honorees reflect the depth, diversity and impact of California's nonprofit sector.

"Whether they are inspiring us through the arts, working to empower vulnerable communities, serving our veterans, or simply offering a meal to someone in need, nonprofit organizations are the heart and soul of our communities," said Geoff Green, chief executive officer of Cal Nonprofits. "In the face of the federal government's recent attempts to de-fund and weaken our sector, we celebrate the fact that California's elected leaders from across the political spectrum honor the role nonprofits play in all our lives."

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the California Nonprofit of the Year program, which has now honored a total of 1,009 nonprofit organizations across California. The selected nonprofits were recognized at a luncheon on the Capitol Mall at the state Capitol on May 21 which has been officially proclaimed "California Nonprofits Day."

The nonprofits that were



The California Nonprofits of the Year program helps increase awareness about the critical role nonprofits play in our communities. Photo courtesy of California Association of Nonprofits

honored in the Sacramento region include Center for Land-Based Learning, nominated by Senator Christopher Cabaldon of District 3 which includes the counties of Sacramento, Solano and Yolo. Nonprofit Silver Wishes was honored and nominated by Senator Roger Niello of District 6, covering the counties of Sacramento and Placer. Angelique Ashby of District 8, representing the areas of Elk Grove, Florin, Vineyard and Rio Linda/Elverta, nominated the Armstead Academic Project nonprofit organization.

Assemblymember Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry of District 4, which covers the counties of Colusa, Yolo and Sonoma, honored the nonprofit organization Empower Yolo. The Placer Justice Foundation was nominated by Assemblymember Joe Patterson of District 5 covering El Dorado and Placer County.

Representing the Sacramento County, which includes the areas of Arden-Arcade, Carmichael and Rio Linda/Elverta,



Nonprofit organizations throughout California were each selected by a state senator or assemblymember to be honored for the difference they are making in their communities. Photo courtesy of California Association of Nonprofits

Assemblymember Maggy Krell of District 6 nominated Saint John's Program for Real Change. Assemblymember Josh Hoover of District 7, representing Fair Oaks, Gold River, Carmichael and Orangevale, nominated nonprofit organization Althea Canines. The Elk Grove Food Bank Services was honored by District 10 Assemblymember



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the California Nonprofit of the Year program, which has now honored a total of 1,009 nonprofit organizations across California. Photo courtesy of California Association of Nonprofits



Healthy Valley Foundation was among the more than 100 nonprofit organizations honored for the work they do within their respective communities. Photo courtesy of California Association of Nonprofits

Stephanie Nguyen, who represents Elk Grove, Florin and south Sacramento County.

More than a one-day celebration, the event helps to increase awareness about the critical role nonprofits play in our communities. When legislators recognize the nonprofits in their districts, they gain a deeper understanding of community needs and build relationships with the individuals

working to address those needs.

"These organizations are on the front lines," said Assemblymember Gregg Hart, chair of the Assembly Select Committee on the nonprofit sector. "The California Nonprofits of the Year recognition provides a meaningful opportunity to spotlight the work they do every day."

"As Chair of the Senate Select Committee on the Nonprofit Sector, I have seen the impacts nonprofits make on millions of Californians every year," said Senator Monique Limón. "As our state navigates the challenges ahead, we must work together to ensure that California nonprofits can continue to serve our communities. It is my honor to recognize this year's Nonprofit of the Year honorees and thank them for their service to the Golden State."

California Association of Nonprofits is proud to lift up this amazing community of change-makers and are grateful to the legislators who see, value and stand with the nonprofit sector. ★

Grand Jury: Schools Can Improve Arts Education Funding Practices

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Grand Jury recently released reports on this year's investigations. These reports include findings and recommendations, which must be addressed by the agency involved. In most cases, the entity has 90 days to respond.

In one of its investigations, the Sacramento County Grand Jury addressed public schools' flaws with arts education funding.

Public schools in Sacramento County receive nearly \$40 million each year to increase instruction in visual and performing arts as a result of Proposition 28, passed overwhelmingly by voters in November 2022. Because of the importance of arts education, the strong support for the bill and the significant amount of money at stake, the grand jury investigated the extent to which schools are taking advantage of this funding, a multi-million-dollar opportunity that could greatly benefit students.

"In Sacramento County, Proposition 28 was approved by 65% of the voters, underscoring the importance of ensuring that our schools take full advantage of this funding," said Elizabeth TenPas, grand jury foreperson for 2024-2025. "This strong support reflects a growing awareness that arts and music education is not merely a 'nice to have' addition to the school day; rather, it is increasingly seen as an important part of the core curriculum."

The report stated that studies show arts and music education play a critical role in helping children succeed in school and later in life. With arts and music education, students do better in math, reading and other academic subjects; learn to think creatively and critically; and have better attendance, self-confidence and mental health. Increased participation in arts and music education is also associated with fewer behavioral and disciplinary problems.

The newly-published report outlines clear findings: Governing boards can do a better job of implementing both the letter and the spirit of law, especially in areas of program planning and hiring, transparency in reporting and parent involvement.

The grand jury also found some technical violations of Proposition 28 that could result in the loss of funding if not corrected. In addition, one budget practice common among schools that undermines the intended effect of Proposition 28 could expose schools to legal action and have significant

negative fiscal consequences.

Another jury investigation report recently released was on the Batterers' Treatment Program. For more than 30 years, California Penal Code section 1203.097 has required defendants who are convicted of and granted formal probation in felony domestic violence cases to complete a 52-week certified Batterers' Treatment Program (BTP).

However, the Sacramento County Grand Jury investigation found that the Batterers' Treatment Program of the Sacramento County Probation Department (Probation), which is housed in the Family Violence Unit, is not fulfilling its mission due to inadequate management and an outdated, ineffective approach to treatment.

In California, the funding for domestic violence programming relies primarily on the individual who committed the crime; the state provides no funding to the Batterers' Treatment Program. This approach derives from the retribution goal of the "Offender Pays Model" as identified by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Domestic violence offenders are expected to pay for the program on a sliding-scale pay model.

The "Offender Pays Model" has been found to contribute to sporadic attendance and a high dropout rate. From a program management perspective, state law requires that the Probation Department oversee and supervise the Batterers' Treatment Program and establish standards for batterers' treatment providers to ensure that they comply with state law and operate effectively.

The grand jury has found that supervision of offenders and contracted providers by the Family Violence Unit is severely lacking, undermining the program's goals and effectiveness. Probation officers are not performing provider site visits and the process of collecting, storing and analyzing data is deficient, resulting in unreliable data that cannot be trusted to provide a true picture of how the program is doing.

Conversely, a pilot program is currently underway in six California counties (Sacramento County is not included) to assess the effectiveness of alternative approaches to the standard Batterers' Treatment Program methodology. The pilot program emphasizes risk assessment for more accurate direction of services, treatment, courses and monitoring.

The full investigations are available for public review on the grand jury website at sacgrandjury.org. ★

United Way Wins Two Telly Awards



Shown is the crew working on one of the shoots for the winning "Future Forward" commercial. Photo courtesy of United Way California Capital Region

United Way California Capital Region News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - United Way California Capital Region has been honored with two Telly Awards for its brand launch commercial, "Future Forward."

The commercial earned a Silver People's Telly Award in the General Local TV category and a Bronze Telly Award in the General Local TV Not-for-Profit category.

"Future Forward" debuted in October 2024 as part of United Way's new brand launch. The commercial was conceptualized, directed, filmed and edited by Nick Marchuk, videographer and media manager for the local United Way, to bring to life United Way's refreshed mission: Mobilizing our community to action so all can thrive.

The video aired on KCRA and KOVR and streamed locally on Paramount+ and Pluto TV.

"This commercial was about showing our community who we are and how we're working to make sure everyone in the Capital Region has the chance to thrive," said Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO of United Way California Capital Region. "I'm incredibly proud of my team for creating such a powerful piece. To see it recognized alongside work from some of the best marketing firms from across the country is a true testament to their talent and dedication."

Now in its 46th year, the Telly Awards celebrate excellence in video and television across all screens. Winners are selected by a panel of industry leaders from top video platforms, television networks, streaming services and production companies.

The Silver People's Telly Award recognizes over-the-air or cable commercials produced specifically for the Sacramento market. After being shortlisted by judges, "Future Forward" was selected as a Silver winner by public vote. The Bronze Telly

Award honors outstanding local television commercials created to promote nonprofit organizations or events. For the full list of winners, visit TellyAwards.com/Winner.

The production team for "Future Forward" was led by Amber Lovett, chief resource development and marketing officer; Brandon Kisker, senior director of marketing and communications; Michaela Garcia, marketing manager; Diana Solorio, former social media manager and Marchuk. Early lent her voice to the video, which also featured appearances by other United Way team members.

"Our industry is experimenting with new technologies like never before, shaping truly compelling stories to draw attention to some of the world's most pressing issues," said Amanda Needham, Telly Awards managing director. "The Telly Awards is uniquely positioned to meet the industry where it's actually making work, be that on television or TikTok."

United Way California Capital Region has been a driving force across the region for more than 100 years, listening, responding and taking comprehensive action to meet local needs. From advancing youth opportunities and helping kids excel in school, to strengthening local communities and investing in families' financial security and health, United Way mobilizes communities to build a future where everyone can reach their full potential and thrive.

Working across Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties, the local United Way provides books and literacy tutoring, addresses housing and food security, leads the region's largest tax preparation initiative, works with foster youth across school districts, launched the region's first guaranteed income program and leads the Community Schools initiative in West Sacramento. To make a donation, visit YourLocalUnitedWay.org. ★

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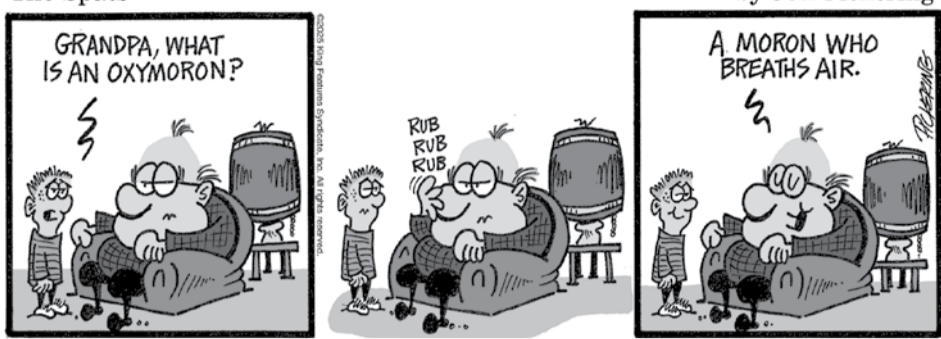
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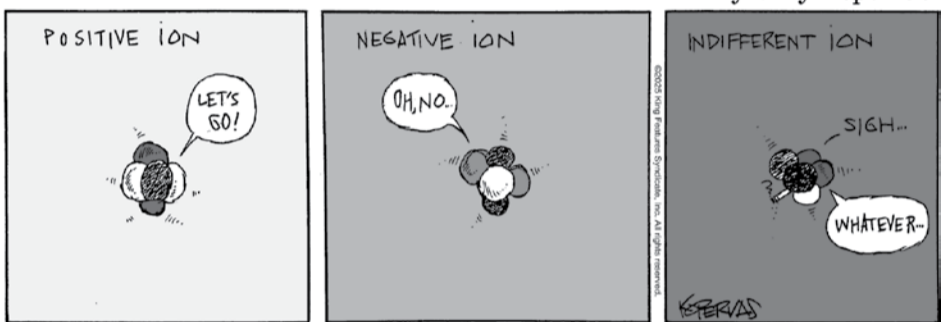
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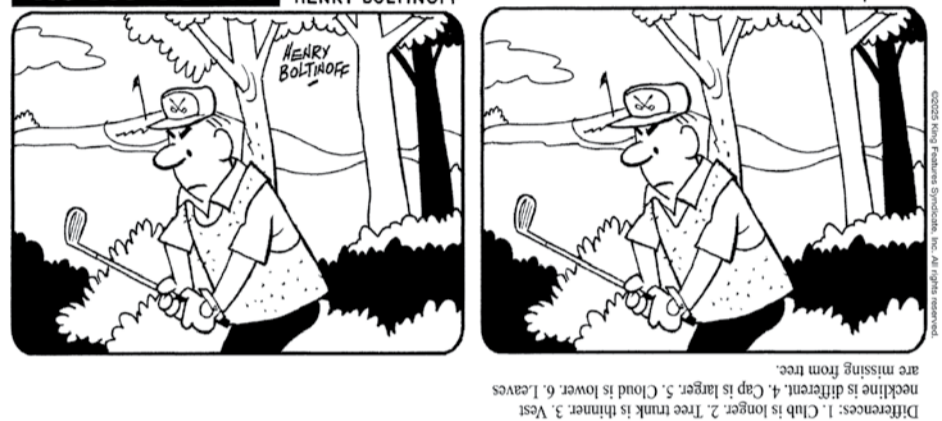


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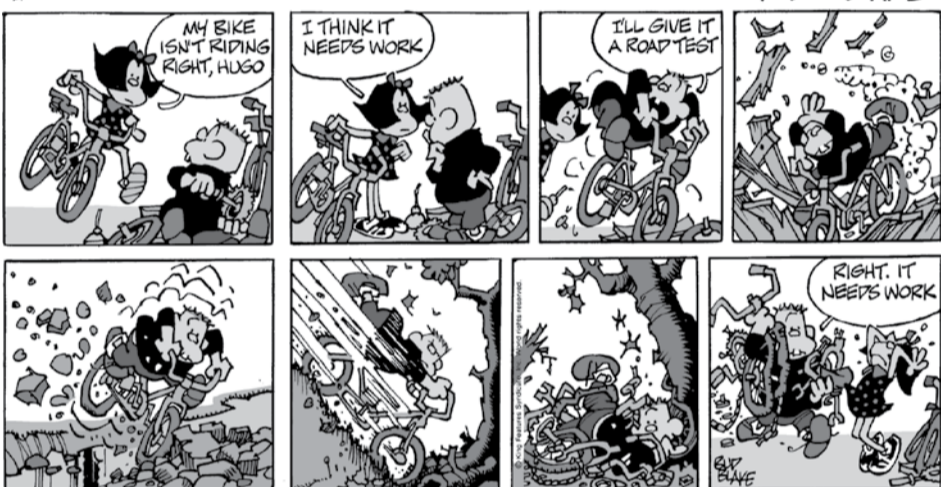


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- *Summer thirst quencher
- Same as tsar
- Subside
- Tierra Fuego
- Taken without consent
- Even greener, as in fruit
- Dot follower
- Largest hot dessert
- Australian palm
- Evian, backwards
- A in FANBOYS
- *Like a lightning bug
- Prima donna
- *Midsummer's maypole dance, e.g.
- *William Blake's "To Summer," e.g.
- Any voting citizen
- *Sun to ice cream
- Feeling of veneration
- Two-door
- *Beach bag, usually
- *Summer rays
- Rock bottom
- Altar location
- Milk candy
- Small stream
- Turned to the right, like a horse
- Starchy tuber
- *It's knee-high by the 4th of July
- Ctrl and Delete partner
- Type of tide

DOWN

- *-kissed
- Birthstone after sapphire
- Nod off
- Kind of instinct
- Diamond weight unit
- Bluenose
- Climber's destination
- *Intensely hot
- Greenish blue
- Make like a cat
- *"Monkey ____, monkey do"
- Sometime in the future
- Indianapolis basketball player
- With BMI over 30
- Piece of evidence, acr.
- Type of probe
- *Summer hiking path
- Nose of a missile
- Pakistani tongue
- Sitcom trial
- Lyric poem
- Less experienced
- *Boat ____, don't care!
- *Uninvited picnic guest
- *Break from summer routine
- First in Hebrew alphabet
- Fish eggs
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- Twist plus jerk
- City in Netherlands
- Precious metal ex-

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Breaking Barriers to Employment 101

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Job hunting is stressful, even under the best of circumstances.

Imagine if you had limited access to a shower, no professional clothing choices and your transportation to and from work was intermittent, at best.

Add to that a gap in your work history, a lost social security card and no access to a computer to submit applications or access email consistently.

Sounds impossible, right?

Let's throw one more (and the hardest to overcome) wrench in the cog: the stigma of being homeless.

Unfortunately, this is a very harsh reality for many people experiencing homelessness who desperately want a job. Lack of identification and limited access to a computer make the application process nearly impossible.

At the Sacramento County's Mather Community Campus adult singles shelter, operator Next Move is breaking down barriers one program participant at a time.

With the newly-created Employment Development Program, Shelby Greenhill works tirelessly on behalf of her program participants to address the challenges of being job-ready and finding and keeping a job. It is an uphill battle, with the stigma of hiring a homeless person at the top of the list.

"In my research, I came across a 2020 study involving more than 600 employers. More than half of them mistakenly believed it was illegal to hire a homeless person for employment," said Greenhill, the program's sole manager. "Furthermore, 20 percent expressed concerns that hiring a homeless person would have a 'negative' effect on their non-homeless employees."

If you've ever had the thought, "If people would just get a job, they wouldn't be homeless," keep reading; this is for you.

Many folks experiencing homelessness are hired for swing shift or night shift work, making transportation a critical factor in maintaining stable employment.

Unfortunately, that means they might be working outside the hours public transportation operates (5 a.m. to 11 p.m.), leaving many folks without a reliable method of getting to and from work. One program participant reported she spends nearly \$400 a month on Uber/Lyft fees, representing nearly half her monthly income.

If the program had a large van(s) and staffing to drive, these clients could be transported to/from work and ensure they do not lose job opportunities due to transportation concerns, as well as



At Sacramento County's Mather Community Campus adult singles shelter, Next Move is breaking down barriers one program participant at a time. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

open night shift/off-hours opportunities. Even those working traditional hours need transportation to and from work every day. The program provides bus passes but many folks are walking a significant distance to the bus stop or their place of employment because they do not own a car.

Documentation is a major barrier for people experiencing homelessness, as essential items such as a photo identification (ID) and Social Security card are often required for both employment and housing. When you don't have a file cabinet, safe deposit box or even a folder to keep your vital documents, keeping track of those items is a challenge.

The Next Move employment program provides vouchers and transportation to appointments for participants to replace lost photo identification cards.

Access to technology is a critical issue, as applying for a job at nearly any business requires internet access, a phone and potentially a printer. The employment program helps participants secure a phone, has a computer lab and personal assistance searching for jobs, as well as it offers help with the application process.

Hygiene plays a crucial role in self-presentation. Imagine going on a job interview without consistent access to a shower or professional-level, clean clothing and shoes that fit. For those living in shelters, they can at least shower and do laundry leading up to an interview but what about folks still living on the street?

Even for those in shelter, accessing professional clothing that fits well and is appropriate for their job interview can feel insurmountable. Next Move is collecting professional-level clothing and shoes in all sizes, for both men and women, to build a closet for participants to shop

from leading up to an interview. Every single person deserves to search for work with dignity.

A criminal record is another significant barrier. For those program participants who can overcome all the aforementioned challenges, this one often stops them in their tracks.

Most job applications ask if someone has been convicted of a felony, some even a misdemeanor. Check no, risk the job for lying. Check yes, you probably never make it out of "the pile."

People make mistakes and bad choices. And people change. Marquies was in prison for 17 years for a crime he committed when he was 18 years old. He knows that he screwed up; he did his time, and after he was released, he chose homelessness over re-offending. Marquies is desperate for a job, pounding the proverbial pavement daily in search of a job he can be proud to work. He is bright, well-mannered, well-dressed, passionate and motivated. And it's still not enough because of his ancient past. The desperation and hopelessness show in his voice; not only does he want a job for income and stability but he also needs a job to improve his self-image.

Greenhill is working closely with Marquies and leveraging the relationships she has built with businesses that are "felon-friendly," meaning they will hire people with a conviction if the circumstances are right. Given a chance, Marquies is going to be a great employee.

The stigma of homelessness is perhaps the highest mountain that Greenhill's program participants have to climb, as they face societal prejudice and stereotypes that paint them as lazy, unclean, on drugs or thieves. Even when they are clean, educated and ready to rebuild their lives.

Kayla is a trained pharmacy technician. After relocating to California and finding herself homeless, the fees associated with getting relicensed in a new state were a huge barrier to her working in her field. Fortunately, the employment program at Mather has paid for her licensing and background check fees and provided her with ongoing vocational training to keep up her license requirements. It has also given her access to clothing and transportation options needed to get a job.

But Kayla knows that isn't the end of her challenges. She talks with passion and conviction about overcoming the stigma of "being homeless," even though in no way could anyone tell she's homeless by looking at her.

"It shows up in subtle differences as you integrate into a workplace, with coworkers. You don't have lunch to bring, you always take the bus and you only have two to three different outfits to rotate through," Kayla said. "People notice and start asking questions. And unless you're a good liar, eventually people find out you live in a homeless shelter. They immediately start judging you, treating you differently."

And constantly trying to present as "normal" is exhausting and mentally taxing.

Homelessness, particularly unsheltered homelessness, is a crisis in our society. It is a community problem that requires a community solution. People want change, both systemically and visually. While access to employment and income can't solve everything, it's a vital first step toward self-sufficiency.

The community can provide tangible assistance to these societal issues. If you have usable, clean professional clothing, donate. If you have a working vehicle you're no longer using,

donate it to someone who desperately needs it. If you own a business or manage hiring, hire people who are unhoused but stable, hard-working and reliable. If you have no means to donate or hire, advocate for those who do.

Most importantly, remember that these are real people with real history and real feelings. Committed to changing their circumstances, passionate, driven people who were just like you at one point. Life slapped them down; we can lend them a hand back up.

Greenhill and the employment program are doing an incredible and tireless job of advocating for their program participants. Cold calling businesses, collecting donations and supplies, following up with businesses that said "no" and providing practical and emotional support for people who feel hopeless. Barriers are being broken, slowly but surely.

The program has already helped 21 participants obtain jobs since Jan.13 and enrolled 20 participants in training and schooling.

Current participants are on the brink of graduation to become nurse's assistants, obtaining guard cards to become security guards, and a few are working with Northern California Construction Training to become electricians and welders!

Kayla appreciates having an advocate, someone who knows everything, knows the barriers and is shattering them one at a time. She'll have her pharmacy tech job soon enough.

Marquies, still baffled about how hard it is for him to find a job, is appreciative.

"This program is saving my life. I want to work and I know it is just a matter of time before I find my place, thanks to Shelby and their support. But this truly is saving my life." ★

'No Address' Debuts

Robert Craig Films News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Robert Craig Films' award-winning debut feature film, "No Address," and "Americans With No Address," a companion documentary, are available for digital purchase and rental, including Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Fandango at Home, YouTube and more.

Some of the scenes were filmed in the Sacramento Region.

Additionally, "No Address" will be available to purchase on DVD at Walmart and Amazon. The purpose-driven purchase will benefit those it highlights, people experiencing homelessness in America, with 50% of net profits pledged to nonprofits making a positive impact in local communities nationwide.

"No Address," starring Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter and actress, Ashanti, shares the personal journeys of individuals experiencing homelessness. This powerful and heartfelt film weaves together stories of resilience, compassion and human dignity. It has won numerous awards and



The cast and director of Robert Craig Films' "No Address" are in front of the Jimmy's House set at 2409 Capitol Ave. in Sacramento. Clockwise from the top upper left are Patricia Velasquez ("Gabrielle"), Xander Berkeley ("Harris"), Ashanti ("Violet"), Alisa Schulz ("Liz"), Julia Verdin (director), Isabella Ferreira ("Lauren") and Lucas Jade Zumann ("Jimmy"). Courtesy Photo

audiences have reacted with a 98% Popcornmeter score on Rotten Tomatoes.

"What drew me to 'No Address' was its raw honesty. This film doesn't just tell a story, it gives people experiencing homelessness their dignity back," remarked TV host Ty Pennington. "Being part of it

reminded me how powerful a second chance can be and how just believing in someone can change everything."

"Americans With No Address," a shocking documentary unraveling the truth of America's homelessness crisis, was filmed as a companion piece to the feature film. The Robert

Craig Films' team traveled the United States for a hands-on look at the harsh realities of the nationwide homelessness crisis, while also uncovering effective solutions being implemented and providing hopeful insights. It was awarded "Best Documentary" at the 2025 Movieguide Awards.

"The overwhelming response

to both the feature film and the documentary shows that Americans are not only connecting to these stories but also searching for a deeper understanding and real solutions to this crisis," said Jennifer Stolo, CEO and producer of Robert Craig Films. "With the streaming releases, we'll reach more with our message of hope and urgent call to action."

For streaming, rental and purchase information for the feature film, "No Address," visit www.NoAddressMovie.com. For streaming, rental and purchase information for "Americans With No Address," the documentary, visit www.NoAddressMovie.com/ Documentary.

Based in Northern California, Robert Craig Films develops, creates and produces films that inspire audiences to engage with greater empathy, compassion and generosity in the communities they live in. The company's mission is to create impactful films that spark meaningful conversations and drive social change. For more information, visit www.RobertCraigFilms.com. ★

Celebrating Five Over 50 Award Winners

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Each May during Older Americans Month, Sacramento County honors older adults who are making a meaningful difference in their communities. This year, five inspiring individuals have been recognized with the Five Over 50 Volunteer Award, presented by the Sacramento County Adult and Aging Commission. These honorees exemplify the power of volunteerism, and the role older adults play in building stronger communities.

The 2025 award recipients, representing each of the county's five districts, were formally recognized during the May 20 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Nearly 15 years ago, Gene Inderkum, from district one, started volunteering as an ambassador at Sacramento International Airport (SMF), helping travelers navigate the terminals.

"I love the airport, I love the activity there, I love being in the airport's atmosphere," said Inderkum.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, Inderkum stepped up even further by training new volunteers. Inderkum can often be seen greeting passengers and helping those who have questions.

"I enjoy helping the people here and it's just something that makes you feel good,"



The 2025 award recipients, representing each of the county's five districts, were formally recognized during the May 20 Board of Supervisors meeting. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

said Inderkum.

Barbara Heinrich, from district two, has been a driving force behind Sacramento County's Gifts from the Heart program for more than 20 years. Heinrich's work has touched thousands of lives over the last two decades. Heinrich packages dolls and action figures for foster kids, designing clothes and decorating boxes for each individual doll.

"I got started because a friend of mine wanted me to make Barbie clothes for her daughter. Then I started putting the boxes together and didn't have any place to give them to. My sister worked for the Child Protective Services program and

she told me about this program," Heinrich said.

Heinrich said that Gifts from the Heart is always looking for volunteers and donors, and there are several different ways to get involved.

"The people are great and there's something for everyone, really. You can deliver gifts and get to see people's faces when they receive the gifts. You can wrap," said Heinrich.

With more than two decades of service on the Carmichael Homeless Assistance Resource Team board, Barbara Farley, from district three, has shown dedication to supporting individuals experiencing homelessness.

Her work has helped establish transitional housing projects such as Charlotte House, providing much-needed shelter to those in need. Farley's advocacy continues to inspire real change in her community.

Bonnie Shewchuk, from district four, is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta, where she embodies the club's mission to "change the world, one community and one child at a time." Whether organizing local events or supporting youth programs, Shewchuk's contributions uplift the Rancho Murieta community and reflect a commitment to service.

Tony Rutchena, from district

five, brings energy and enthusiasm to his volunteer work with students at Lake Canyon Elementary and Arocho School.

"I had an unhappy childhood in elementary school, long story short. As an adult, I said you know what, no child should be unhappy and that's why I'm here," Rutchena said.

As an instructor for chess, checkers, dominoes, sports and gardening, Rutchena plays a big role in school-wide and after-school activities. Rutchena said his theme is "living the dream," something he encourages the youth to do by finding what makes them happy.

"I think at the end of the day, we should all try to give back in some kind of way. Everybody has their own niche, and once you retire or even if you're not retired and you've got a lot of time on your hands, I think giving back is a good thing. It makes you feel good about yourself; it makes others feel good," said Rutchena.

As Sacramento County celebrated Older Americans Month, the Five Over 50 Volunteer Award winners remind us that age is no barrier to meaningful contribution. These five volunteers are not only role models in Sacramento County, but they are also a reminder that when you combine your passion with helping others, you can make a lasting impact. ★

Governor Newsom Announces Appointments

Office of Governor Gavin Newsom News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Governor Gavin Newsom announced on May 23 the following appointments.

Andrew "Tristan" Peery of Sacramento has been appointed senior product manager at the Office of Data and Innovation. Peery has been director of web and interactive communications at University of California, Davis since 2020, where he was previously web applications development/web designer from 2014 to 2020.

Peery held multiple positions at Oregon State University from 2006 to 2013, including researcher/web applications developer and graduate research assistant. Peery was a staff scientist at Woods Hole Group from 2001 to 2005. He earned a Master of Science degree in physical oceanography from Oregon State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in marine science from Texas Agricultural and Mechanical

(A&M) College of Texas University at Galveston. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$150,348. Peery is registered without party preference.

Madelynn McClain of Sacramento has been appointed director of the Division of Administrative Services at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. McClain has been assistant deputy director of the Division of Adult Institutions at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation since 2024.

McClain held several positions at the Department of General Services from 2023 to 2024, including deputy director of the Real Estate Services division and chief financial officer. She held several positions at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from 2020 to 2023, including deputy director at the Office of Fiscal Services and associate director of the Budget



Governor Gavin Newsom announced the appointment of Martin Tejada to the Sacramento Superior Court bench on May 15. Courtesy photo

Management Branch. McClain was a principal program budget analyst at the California Department of Finance from 2017 to 2020. She was a judicial fiscal supervisor at the Judicial Council of California from 2015 to 2017. McClain was a finance budget analyst at the Department of Finance from 2003 to 2015. This

position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$208,440. McClain is a Democrat.

Governor Newsom announced Martin Tejada's appointment to the Sacramento Superior Court bench on May 15.

"Martin Tejada's appointment to the bench is a testament to his commitment to justice and

his exceptional skill in navigating the complexities of the legal system," Sacramento Superior Court Presiding Judge Bunmi O. Awoniyi said.

Tejada of Yolo County has served as a commissioner at the Sacramento Superior Court since November 2022.

"Throughout his time as commissioner, he has been an invaluable asset, expertly managing some of our most challenging calendars with grace and dedication," Awoniyi added. "His extensive experience in criminal law will undoubtedly continue to be a vital asset to our court, ensuring fairness and integrity in every decision he makes."

Prior to joining the bench, Tejada worked as a defense attorney out of his own law practice from 2005 to 2022. He previously served as a deputy public defender at the Sacramento Public Defender's Office from 2001 to 2004 and as an attorney at the Law Office of James Kuppenbender from 2000 to 2001.

Tejada received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and his Juris Doctor from McGeorge School of Law. He was admitted to the state bar in 2000.

Tejada took the judicial oath on May 8, filling the vacancy created by Judge Dena Coggins's appointment to the federal court.

Newsom announced on May 7 that Mary Kennedy of Sacramento was appointed to the Committee on the Revision of the Penal Code. Kennedy was chief counsel for the California State Senate Committee on Public Safety from 2017 to 2024 and previously counsel from 1996 to 2017. Kennedy earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in mass communications from Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame.

This position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Kennedy is a Democrat. ★

SMUD to Issue \$300 Million in Revenue Bonds

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- SMUD (Sacramento Municipal Utility District) proudly announces that it plans to issue approximately \$300 million of Electric Revenue Bonds and Subordinated Electric Revenue Bonds during the month of June.

These bonds will be spread across several separate series, including approximately \$200 million of Green Bonds with a second party opinion provided by Kestrel.

The preliminary official statements and/or official statements for the bonds are or will be available at smud.org/investors and at munios.com.

SMUD currently anticipates that the bonds will be priced and sold on June 10, with priority given to California individual retail investors. Pricing and sales, however, could occur earlier or later depending upon market conditions.

SMUD anticipates that the proceeds of the bonds will be used for various purposes, including to finance and refinance certain additions and improvements to its electric system, to pay the outstanding principal of its commercial paper notes, and to refund certain outstanding obligations of SMUD.

The sale of the bonds will be managed by Barclays Capital Inc. For more information, please contact Kristina Huhn at (415) 274-5395, kristina.huhn@barclays.com.

This news release is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any bonds. Any such offer or solicitation will only be made pursuant to the applicable preliminary official statement and/or official statement that prospective investors should review in entirety before making any investment decision.

As the nation's sixth-largest, community-owned, not-for-profit electric service provider, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity to Sacramento County for more than 75 years.

SMUD is a recognized industry leader and award winner for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment.

In 2023, SMUD's power supply was, on average, 78 percent carbon free, and SMUD has a goal to reach zero carbon in its electricity production by 2030.

SMUD's rates and customer bills are consistently among the lowest in California, and are today, on average, more than 50 percent lower than its neighboring investor-owned utility. For more information on SMUD's Zero Carbon Plan and its customer programs, visit smud.org. ★



SMUD is anticipating issuing approximately \$300 million of Electric Revenue Bonds and Subordinated Electric Revenue Bonds on June 10, separating across several separate industries. Photo courtesy SMUD

Sac State's Kade Brown is a National Finalist

California State University,
Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State sophomore closer Kade Brown was named as one of 13 finalists for the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association's Stopper of the Year award given to the nation's top reliever in NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Division I baseball.

The award is in its 20th season and this year's winner will be announced via a new conference on June 13, after press time, prior to the College World Series start at Charles Schwab Field in Omaha, Nebraska.

Brown, who was also named a preseason All-American by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association and a semi-finalist for the organization's Dick Howser Trophy given to the nation's Player of the Year, becomes the first Hornet reliever to be named an award finalist. Past Sacramento State greats Sutter McLoughlin (2013-14), Tyler Beardsley (2016) and Jack Zalasky (2023) had all been named to the award's midseason list during their careers but were never finalists.

The right-hander from Elk Grove is one of four



Kade Brown, a right-hander from Elk Grove, is one of four underclassmen on the list of 13 finalists for the 2025 National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association's Stopper of the Year award. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

underclassmen on the list of finalists for the 2025 honor, joining Louisiana State University freshman Casan Evans, University of California, Irvine sophomore Ricky Ojeda and Texas freshman Dylan Volantis. Brown joins Ojeda as the only two representatives from the West Coast and the duo is joined by Creighton's Garrett Langrell as the only three finalists not from a "Power 4" conference.

All told, six conferences are represented with finalists, with the Southeastern Conference leading the way with five. The Big 12 Conference (three finalists) and the Atlantic Coast Conference (two finalists) are the other conferences featuring multiple finalists. The Big East Conference, the Big West Conference and the Western Athletic Conference each had one representative. Ten of the 13 finalists were on the National

Collegiate Baseball Writers Association's Midseason Stopper of the Year watch list.

A first-team All-Western Athletic Conference selection at the end of the regular season, Brown helped lead Sacramento State to a share of the league's regular season title, its third all-time, and the top seed for the conference tournament, finishing the year with a 32-26 overall record and a 15-9 mark in Western

Athletic Conference play.

The Hornets won 30 or more games for the 12th time in the last 13 seasons, one of the longest streaks on the West Coast, and their highest overall and conference win totals since 2022.

Brown finished his second year in the green and gold with a 3-2 overall record and a 2.93 ERA, ranking among the Top Three in the nation in saves at the end of the regular season with 14 in 22 appearances on the season. Over 43 innings of work, Brown allowed just 14 earned runs on 32 hits, striking out 49 hitters and holding opposing batters to a .204 average.

In only his second appearance of the season, Brown struck out a career-high eight hitters over 3.1 innings against San Francisco on Feb. 17 and finished with multiple strikeouts in a game 13 times. Brown earned either a save or a victory in each of his first seven appearances of the year and finished 2-0 with seven saves over his final nine appearances.

Brown's 14 saves on the year rank second on the school's all-time list behind only McLoughlin's record of 17 in 2013, while his 22 career saves are currently fourth in program history, 11 back of McLoughlin's record of 33 from 2013 to 2015. ★

UC Davis Celebrates Annual Aggie Awards

University of California, Davis
News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - University of California, Davis Athletics celebrated its student athletes with the annual Aggie Awards on June 1. A total of 12 awards, six departmental and six voted on by the student athletes, were given out.

"This was our highest performing year across the board athletically and among the highest GPAs in Aggie history," said Director of Athletics Rocko DeLuca. "I am proud to celebrate all our student-athletes achieved and highlight the importance of the relationships they built between teams, on campus and in the community that will pay off far into their futures."

The Sarah Sumpter Perseverance Award is given to a current student athlete who has overcome a significant obstacle to return to varsity competition.

This year's recipient, Kylie Jacobson, suffered a terrible riding accident last summer. After finishing a great ride, her horse was unexpectedly spooked. When thrown off her horse, Jacobson got caught in the horse's legs and her face was trampled.

Jacobson shattered her upper jaw, orbital bone, nasal spine and lost three teeth. After a week's stay in the hospital and facial reconstructive surgery, Jacobson was sent home with her mouth wired shut for six weeks. At the beginning of the season, Jacobson got back in the saddle, regained her confidence and quickly returned to being a fierce competitor.

Jacobson participated in 10 meets this season and took home five wins. Her season included two ECAC Horsemanship Rider of the Week awards and she was named to the ECAC Horsemanship All-Tournament Team and earned an ECAC All-Academic Honorable Mention.

The Marya Welch Award is an award bestowed to the women's team with the highest GPA, celebrating the outstanding work



UC Davis Athletics celebrated its student athletes with the annual Aggie Awards. Courtesy photo

done by the program in the classroom. This year's honors goes to the Women's Water Polo team with a 3.48 GPA.

The Lysle Leach Award is bestowed to the men's team with the highest GPA, celebrating the outstanding work done by the program in the classroom. The Men's Basketball team received this year's honors with a 3.29 GPA.

The W.P. Lindley Award celebrates the best of both worlds by naming the year's outstanding Scholar Athlete who can balance and excel at the classroom and the field. This year's recipient is Niko Rocak (Men's Basketball). Rocak led the Big West in blocks per game and led the Aggies in rebounds as an elected team captain. Rocak is an active member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Team Impact. After completing an undergraduate degree in chemistry, Rocak pursued his MBA through the Graduate School of Management.

The Dr. Hubert Heitman Award is bestowed upon the Aggie Female Athlete of the Year. This year's recipient is Sam Tristan of women's soccer. The Fresno native earned her first career United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division I Women's All-West Region team honors and was the first Aggie to be recognized as the Big West Offensive Player of the Year. Tristan started in all 20 contests

for the Aggies in 2024, earning first team All-Big West honors leading the league with 24 points and 26 shots on goal, and becoming one of only two student-athletes to record double-digit scores (10) this season.

The Colby E. "Babe" Slater Award is bestowed upon the Aggie Male Athlete of the Year. This year's recipient is football player Lan Larison, who ended the year among the best in the country in numerous categories. Larison racked up four All-American honors, was named first team All-Big Sky Conference and was named a Walter Payton Award finalist.

Larison finished the year with a national leading and school record setting 2,387 all-purpose yards racking up 1,465 total rushing yards and 874 receiving yards during the season. Larison added 17 rushing touchdowns and six receiving touchdowns and finished ranked nationally second in total touchdowns, third in rushing yards and total scoring per game, sixth in rushing touchdowns and ninth in rushing yards per game. His 874 receiving yards led all running backs in the nation. Larison immediately signed a free agent deal with the National Football League's New England Patriots and is currently a member of their roster.

New Aggie of The Year was presented

to Ximena Cordero Barr (Volleyball), the student-athlete who provided positive contributions, spirit and went above and beyond for their program in their first season.

The most Aggie PRIDE was given to Brody Crouch (Men's Water Polo), a student-athlete who models and exudes the most Aggie PRIDE which stands for pride, resourceful, inclusive, determined and excellence.

Best Upset of the Year went to Women's Soccer for its game against LSU on Junior Aggie Day and had its first win over an SEC opponent.

Best Moment of the Year, given for the most shocking, thrilling and exciting performance, went to Cason Goodman when the men's soccer clinched its spot in the NCAA Men's Soccer Tournament, defeating UC Santa Barbara 2-0 in the Big West Championship Final. Goodman secured the Aggies' advancement to the program's fourth NCAA Division I Tournament, by scoring both goals for the Aggies to win.

Women's Team of the Year, presented to the women's team that best demonstrated the most Aggie Pride with the most impressive season, went to gymnastics. The team qualified for the NCAA Regionals for the first time in 10 years, reaching the Seattle Regional after finishing the year strong. Over the final six meets, the Aggies scored no lower than 195.300 and three times broke 196.000 to power themselves into position to be among the best in the nation.

Men's Team of the Year, presented to the men's team that best demonstrated the most Aggie Pride with the most impressive season, went to the soccer team, which took down the Big West's top seeded UC Santa Barbara 2-0 to win the Big West Championship and punch their ticket to the NCAA Division I tournament. It was the fourth time that the Aggies have qualified for the tournament in program history and they became the first No. 4 seed to win the Big West Championship. ★

Railyards Will Deliver Billions in Economic Output

Sacramento Republic FC
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A new report reveals the Sacramento Railyards project will be one of the most transformative urban infill developments in the nation, with a multi-billion-dollar economic impact, tens of thousands of jobs and long-overdue activity in a district that has sat vacant for more than 50 years.

The comprehensive analysis prepared by Stantec, a global leader in sustainable engineering, architecture and environmental consulting, with data from Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS), a firm specializing in public infrastructure financing and land use economics, underscores the immense potential of the Sacramento Railyards, one of the nation's largest urban infill projects.

With more than \$8.2 billion in

one-time construction impact and \$4.4 billion in annual economic output projected, the Railyards redevelopment projects will redefine Sacramento's economic future, create thousands of jobs and address critical housing and infrastructure needs, all without burdening city finances. The new analysis will be included in the city's staff report ahead of the June 10 City Council meeting.

"The Railyards are a great economic opportunity for Sacramento. One-hundred-and sixty years ago, the Central Pacific Railroad, located in the Railyards, was the main employer of thousands here in the city of Sacramento," said Sacramento Mayor Kevin McCarty. "We look forward to seeing this fortuitous return of life to the Railyards, bringing jobs, housing and opportunity to a space in the heart of our city that may otherwise remain vacant."

Said Denton Kelley, president

and CEO of Downtown Railyard Venture, "The Railyards is more than a development, it's the future heart of the Sacramento region. From new housing and a state-of-the-art Kaiser medical campus to a USL soccer stadium, cultural venues, parks and vibrant retail, The Railyards will offer the kind of amenities and experiences that define world-class cities. These destinations are where our community will gather for experiences that are uniquely Sacramento."

According to the analysis, the project will support nearly 24,000 jobs countywide, including 13,563 direct on-site jobs across healthcare, construction, retail, hospitality and office sectors. These jobs include skilled trades, healthcare workers, retail and managerial roles. Collectively, they generate more than \$2.1 billion in annual wages.

"All of the pieces are in place to make our downtown stadium

a reality," said The Republic FC President and General Manager. "The vast economic impacts outlined in this report are just the beginning of the community benefits of the stadium and surrounding projects."

In addition to job creation, the Railyards will deliver up to 10,000 new homes, including affordable units, helping address Sacramento's urgent housing crisis by offering walkable, transit-connected living near job centers and services. Currently, nearly 45% of all the housing available in the Railyards now is affordable.

One of the keys to unlocking the incredible potential of the project is the city's role in building roads, sidewalks, public parks, utilities and other public infrastructure. Through the Railyards Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD), a mechanism that captures future property tax growth

from the project to fund public improvements, these essential elements to allow new construction and create a vibrant neighborhood can be built with immediate effect, while not needing to raise new taxes or create additional stress on the City of Sacramento's General Fund.

The report also details significant one-time impacts, including more than 39,000 construction-related jobs and \$3.09 billion in construction wages. Signature components of the development include the Kaiser Permanente Medical Campus, Sacramento Republic FC's new stadium and the adaptive reuse of the historic Central Shops.

This once-in-a-generation project positions Sacramento as a national model for sustainable urban growth, bringing cultural, economic and community vibrancy back to the historic heart of the city. ★