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Gold River Messenger

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Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

JUNE 2025

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Soroptimists Stuff Bags of Comfort



Comfort Kits and Comfort Kid Kits were donated to the Sacramento Family Justice Center and the Rancho Cordova Police Department for distribution. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova and Gold River Club

**Soroptimist International
of Rancho Cordova
and Gold River Club
News Release**

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova and Gold River Club participated in the City of Rancho Cordova's Spring Service Day on May 17 to stuff 200 Comfort Kits, 200 Comfort Kid Kits and 200 backpacks full of school supplies, along with about 10 community volunteers.

A Comfort Kit is a zippered heavy duty tote bag filled with a 30-day supply of personal hygiene items and lightweight blanket to be given to domestic violence and trafficking survivors.

A Comfort Kid Kit is a drawstring backpack containing toys, a stuffed animal, activity books with crayons, reading book, toothbrush, toothpaste and other personal care items to be given to the children that domestic violence survivors bring with them

to the safe house.

The Comfort Kits and Comfort Kid Kits were donated to the Sacramento Family Justice Center and the Rancho Cordova Police Department for distribution. The backpacks filled with supplies for secondary-grade students were given to the Folsom Cordova Unified School District Families in Transition student liaison for distribution.

"We had the Larry Canfield Community Room reserved for four hours. Thanks to club member Susan Nickelson's organizational skill and the hard work of all our volunteers, we managed to stuff all 600 total bags in just under two hours. It was a thing to behold," said Vice-President Sheryl Longworth.

The Rancho Cordova Police Department agreed to give a Comfort Kit and Comfort Kid Kit, if needed, to survivors when they go out on domestic violence service calls. The club gratefully continued its distribution partnership with the Sacramento

Family Justice Center from last year to distribute Comfort Kits again.

To learn more about the Sacramento Family Justice Center's domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking survivors, and elder and child abuse resources services it provides, visit online sacramentoofjc.org/services.

Soroptimist is an international nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. The name, Soroptimist, means "best for women," and that's what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimists work to help other women be their best. To receive more information about Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova and Gold River Club, how to become a member or how to volunteer, email soroptimistranchocordova.org, call club Vice-President Sheryl Longworth at 916-833-1218 or visit soroptimistranchocordova.org. ★

Keeping the 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 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 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

Catholic Daughter Honored at State Convention

By MPG Staff

GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG) - Rosemarie Githens was awarded "Woman of the Year" by the Sacramento Diocesan Council of Catholic Women after being nominated locally by both Court No. 1890 and Court No. 2392.

Githens joined The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Our Lady of the Visitation No. 1890 in October 1978 to drive her mother's carpool to meetings. Githens was a working mother of four and attending college but she soon accepted the vote for vice regent and followed as regent.

Theresa Neuburger was instrumental in establishing Our Lady of the Visitation Court No. 1890

In 1981, Bishop Quinn requested "a visible woman" from St. John Vianney Parish to assist in a Diocesan Fundraiser. Githens was appointed by Pastor Michael McKeon. This Diocesan goal was accomplished



Rosemarie Githens and her husband, Bill Githens, were assigned to head up the logistics unit when St. John Vianney Parish was raising funds for the parish hall. Photo courtesy of Rosemarie Githens

in three months.

When St. John Vianney was raising funds for the parish hall, Githens and her husband, Bill Githens, were assigned to head up the logistics unit. Githens

spent many hours supervising the call center, which contacted all 1,500 families in the parish to participate by donating to the building fund.

The Catholic Daughter

Court Our Lady of Wisdom No. 2392 in Rancho Cordova was instituted in 1994. Githens transferred, becoming a charter member. She and Mary

Continued on page 3

Youth, Dedication and Innovation Honored

2025 DOVIA Volunteer Awards Ceremony

By Ornella Rossi

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

Volunteer leaders and advocates gathered May 14 at The Center at District 56 to celebrate the 2025 Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA) Awards Ceremony, honoring exceptional contributions in volunteerism across the Sacramento region.

DOVIA Sacramento, a professional association that supports volunteer managers and leaders, recognized outstanding individuals in three categories: Youth Volunteer of the Year, Individual Volunteer of the Year and Volunteer Manager of the Year.

“Our mission is to help people who are volunteer program managers with their jobs,” said Leslie Fritz, DOVIA vice-chair. “I want attendees today to take away from this event the richness we have in the community. And maybe if we can continue to show that richness, it won’t slip away.”

This year’s event recognized 23 nominees across all categories. Each nominee received a certificate from Sacramento County Board of Supervisors representatives, including District Supervisors Phil Serna (District 1), Rich Desmond (District 3), Rosario Rodriguez (District 4), and Pat Hume (District 5).

Among the 11 youth nominees, Raymond Ran and Nicole Wang, both seniors and volunteers at the Sacramento Public Library’s Arcade Branch, were named Youth Volunteers of the Year. The duo co-founded a weekly drop-in coding club for tweens, the first of its kind at the branch, helping dozens of children and their families engage with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education in a welcoming, community-driven environment.



DOVIA staff and volunteers beam with pride after another successful Volunteer Awards Ceremony. Photo by Bill Taylor

“The most rewarding part is definitely watching the kids learn throughout the program and better understand the coding concepts,” Wang said.

Ran added, “We didn’t do this project because of an award but it is nice that we got it. We didn’t even know we had been nominated so that was a surprise. It was cool seeing the kids gradually get better and faster at responding to questions.”

Their nominator, librarian Molly Millazzo, was struck by their initiative and professionalism.

“I have never had volunteers who came to me with such a complete idea and were so committed to following it through,”

Millazzo said. “It even gave me ideas for how to better work with the youth we serve.”

Lisa Couper, a longtime docent for the Sacramento Valley Conservancy, was honored as Individual Volunteer of the Year. Since 2011, Couper has led public education efforts at Deer Creek Hills Preserve, bringing passion and deep environmental knowledge to every hike and program.

“My volunteering started from wanting to preserve that open space and how critical that open space is,” Couper said. “I didn’t even know about the nomination, so winning is an even bigger surprise. It’s nice to have the volunteerism recognized but the

recognition is not why I do it.”

Karly Towne, outreach coordinator at the Sacramento Valley Conservancy, praised Couper’s commitment.

“Lisa is an easy person to nominate. If I have any sort of activity, any questions, Lisa is always there. She can do anything and be anywhere,” Towne said.

Hollis Sweet, volunteer manager at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, was named Volunteer Manager of the Year for his transformative leadership in expanding and enhancing the community center’s volunteer and internship programs. Under his guidance, the community center now supports more than

400 volunteers across daily services and major events such as Sacramento Pride.

“When I am building a volunteer system, there are two steps I always try to keep in mind: is it going to reduce barriers and is it going to provide a meaningful opportunity?” Sweet said. “I want volunteers to have a good time and know they are having a positive impact. I’d continue this work without the award but it sure feels nice to be recognized.”

Luis Cortes, the community center’s chief development and external affairs officer, emphasized Sweet’s impact.

“We really wouldn’t be able to do half of what we do without him,” Cortes said.

The nominees for Youth Volunteer of the Year included Ethan Minton of E Train Talks, Inc.; Hadash Perez, Monica Castillo, Ran, Wang, and Sofia Guo of the Sacramento Public Library; Inta Rasmusson of Vitalant; Mary Saucedo and Sofia Maltease of WEAVE; Sara Matoba of WEAVE; and Siri Robinson of Mercy Hospital of Folsom.

For the Individual Volunteer of the Year category, nominees were Amy Labowitch of the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce; Ann Taniguchi and Kathy Tourtillott of Vitalant; Brandon Whittle of Lavender Library; Carol Cacy, Julia Mee, and Terri Halahan of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Sacramento; Harry Weller of the American River Parkway Foundation; Joanna Johnson Felt of the American Red Cross; and Couper of the Sacramento Valley Conservancy.

The nominees for Volunteer Manager of the Year were Athena Di of CASA Sacramento and Sweet of the Sacramento LGBT Community Center and Sacramento Pride. ★



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Keeping Trails Safe

Catholic Daughter Honored at State Convention



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

Continued from page 1

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 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. ★

Continued from page 1

Boyd wrote the first Standing Operating Procedures and has been instrumental in assisting in the updates. Under her leadership, the court has received many state awards, including Project Handclasp, in collaboration with the U.S. Navy for donating more than 2,000 pounds of clothing and several pedal sewing machines for Third World countries; Quality of Life Project and an increase in membership.

An education contest was held with many local schools participating. One of these submissions was awarded the second prize statewide. Locally, Githens has also served on many committees, including membership chair from 1999 to 2016, growing the court's number from approximately 38 to 73. She has been a delegate to many state conventions and to several national conventions.

After visiting the Revolutionary and Civil War sites in 2002, Githens' passion caused her to initiate a Parish Monthly Rosary for all who have served the country. The Rosary has continued for 23 years.

State Regent, Dottie Parillo, asked Githens to become state membership co-chair for an area that Parillo deemed a "hard nut to crack," such as Northern California. Githens devised a plan and contacted most of the parishes in the northern dioceses. She developed a membership folder for all regents in this area. Githens assisted June Brown, state membership chairperson, in writing a "New Officer Training" pamphlet. At the 2012 convention, Githens also assisted in the presentation of the "Membership Begins with Me" Booklet.

In 2016, Githens was required by her doctor to forgo all work of any kind. These orders were followed until April 2023, when her court was in danger of being disbanded; there were only a few active members out of the 28 remaining. When a letter from Sylvia Soliz, state treasurer, arrived requesting all members to attend, Githens took the call to heart.

A request was made to allow Court No. 2392 to try to increase membership. Letters were written and personal contacts became an on-going venture. A membership drive was held in June 2023 and another membership drive in October 2024. There are now 41 members with several more interested women.

The Githens' have also been chairmen of

four St. John Vianney Fall Festivals. Bill Githens wrote, directed and was pianist for six musical reviews, including "Playin' Favorites." The income was given to the parish. The choir which he directs also includes four Catholic Daughters.

A Catholic Daughter fundraising event, "100 Years of Popular Music", was held, written, directed, and had a piano accompaniment played by Bill. Many Catholic Daughters were involved in singing as well as cooking the lasagna dinner. Githens was right there, cooking and singing. And eating.

Over the years, Githens has served on the Parish Finance Committee, the Parish Liturgy Committee and as Parish Council president. She is presently an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and Lector, and a choir member. In her court, Githens serves as membership chair, circle of love chair (has made an informational packet) and spiritual chair.

Being awarded "Woman of the Year" by the Sacramento Diocesan Council of Catholic Women for Northern California, Githens said, "was a complete surprise" and her highest Catholic Daughters of the Americas award.

After 35 years of state service, Githens retired as a treasury program officer and after retirement, as her "fun job," worked an additional 24 years for a professional tax firm, teaching and rising to Senior Tax Advisor V. After retiring, Githens wanted to help others so "volunteering tax services for the AARP was a natural decision."

For fun, singing with the Light Opera Theatre of Sacramento for seven years is near the top of Githens' list. Also on top of the list is time spent with the Githens grandchildren in addition to traveling to 12 countries and all but one of the states in this country.

At home, Githens spends many hours working with yarn, miniatures, family photographs, ceramics and reading. On the bucket list is finishing her book. Most importantly and a must for continuing health, Githens works with Ryan White, her personal trainer of 14 years at his gym.

Githens is proud to be the District Deputy for Court Sacramento No. 172. At age 91, Githens' proudest moment after being a wife, mother of four, grandmother of four and great grandmother of seven is being a Catholic Daughter for 47 years. ★

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USA Properties Fund Starts Construction on Terracina at Wildhawk

An Affordable Apartment Community in The Vineyard Area of Sacramento County

USA Properties Fund News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - USA Properties Fund has started construction on Terracina at Wildhawk, an affordable apartment community that will provide much-needed housing for residents at a wide range of income levels in the fast-growing Vineyard area just southeast of Sacramento.

Terracina at Wildhawk, located at 9750 Gerber Road, just east of Bradshaw Road, will become the latest, and one of the few, affordable apartment communities in the Vineyard neighborhood, joining new homes and shopping centers in an area with about 45,000 residents.

"Terracina at Wildhawk will provide much-needed housing for Sacramento County residents," said Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, whose district includes the Vineyard area. "As a partner in the project, this illustrates the county's growing commitment to more housing in the region. Terracina at Wildhawk will help lower-income residents find housing but will also have a ripple effect in the surrounding neighborhoods and the community as a whole."

The 145-apartment community will allow moderate-income residents, from early-in-their career professionals to those in lower-paying jobs, to live and work in the Sacramento region. Terracina at Wildhawk is halfway between Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova, and about 20 miles from downtown Sacramento, offering a good mix of job opportunities for residents.

"The Vineyard area is booming because of the incredible demand and the fast-rising cost for housing in the Sacramento region," said Geoff Brown, President of USA Properties Fund. "We are



Terracina at Wildhawk, located at 9750 Gerber Road, just east of Bradshaw Road, will become the latest and one of the few affordable apartment communities in the Vineyard neighborhood. Rendering courtesy of USA Properties Fund

committed to addressing the critical shortage of quality affordable housing and helping residents who have few options."

Terracina at Wildhawk will feature one- to three-bedroom apartments, with some units possibly available as early as spring 2026. The apartment community should be completed in summer 2026.

The \$67.9 million development is possible thanks to a public-private partnership that includes the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), Sacramento County, JPMorgan Chase and WNC Inc.

Sacramento County contributed \$1.475 million to offset impact fees for the project. The "vital development" is one of the first projects approved through a pilot program, said Claudia Wade, Chief of the Sacramento County Engineering Division.

Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency is another major partner on the project, with a \$9.2-million loan and bond issuance.

"Sacramento continues to face a shortage of housing for seniors and families who struggle under the burden of rent they can barely afford," said La Shelle Dozier, executive director of the Sacramento Housing

and Redevelopment Agency. "Through the financial assistance that SHRA is able to provide, Terracina at Wildhawk will lift that burden and provide over 140 families with the relief they deserve in an affordable, safe place to call home."

Almost three of every five renters in the Sacramento region spend at least 30% of their income on housing, one of the highest percentages of cost-burdened households in California, according to the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. Renters in the Bay Area and Southern California have higher rents but so are their wages.

"With the demand for housing at an all-time high, we are incredibly proud to support USA Properties Fund as they continue to be a driving force in the creation of affordable housing across California," said Justin Chen, executive director of Community Development Banking at JPMorgan Chase. "Ensuring access to affordable housing with community spaces and essential amenities is vital for the well-being and success of residents."

'All The Right Elements for Success'

Terracina at Wildhawk will have significantly lower rents

compared to nearby market-rate properties, allowing residents the opportunity to pay off debt and save money.

Residents must meet income requirements, earning 30% to 70% of the median income for Sacramento County, about \$35,370 to \$82,530 per year for a four-person household, such as a couple with two children.

Rents will range from \$634 for a one-bedroom apartment at the 30% income level and increase to \$2,120 for a three-bedroom unit at the 70% income level. However, the range in rents will likely change slightly before the first apartments become available.

"The cost-savings in rent can have a life-changing impact on residents, from helping them pay down debt with some enrolling or returning to college," said Brown of USA Properties Fund.

Terracina at Wildhawk will offer lower rent for residents, but also a long list of amenities, including a community room, a fitness center, swimming pool, a dog park and EV charging stations. The apartment community also features a massive \$3.275-million photovoltaic solar system that will help offset electrical use for residents.

Apartments will feature

energy-efficient appliances and light fixtures, ceiling fans and low-flow faucets, showers and toilets.

Terracina at Wildhawk will include LifeSTEPS, a social-services provider that offers a range of services for residents, from healthy living and financial planning classes to programs for children.

Roseville-based USA Properties Fund, one of the nation's fastest-growing and largest affordable development-manager-owners in the west, has about 35 apartment communities in the Sacramento region, and more than 90 in California, Nevada and Oregon.

"Terracina at Wildhawk has all the right elements for success: location, project design, planned residential social services and, most importantly, a strong partner," said Anil Advani, executive vice-president of Originations and Finance for WNC Inc. "Having worked with USA on over 25 projects, we can look forward to a well-managed project that will have a positive residential impact on the Sacramento area."

USA Properties Fund Inc. (USA), a California corporation, is a privately-owned real estate development organization specializing in the creation of apartment communities. Roseville-based USA Properties Fund provides a full range of capabilities for community development, including financing, development, construction services, rehabilitation and property management. The company's values, leadership and team structure reflect its success with the development/construction and acquisition/rehabilitation of more than 13,500 units of family and senior apartments in more than 100 apartment home communities throughout California, Nevada and Oregon. For more information, visit www.usapropfund.com. ★

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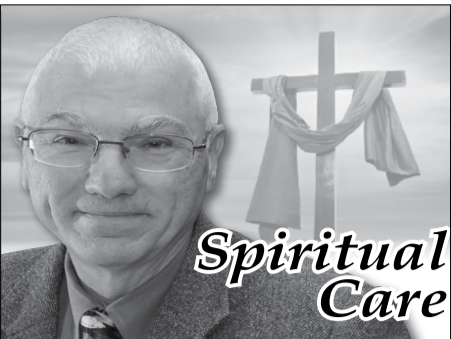
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ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

Taking Faith for a Pivotal Spin



BY NORRIS BURKES

Imagine taking a virtual plane ride today and meeting me in San Francisco. I pick you up outside the terminal and drive you 30 minutes south to Moffett Federal Airfield, formally known as Moffett Navy Air Station.

I flash my military ID and we slide easily past the Smokey-Bear-hatted federal guards. Just a quarter mile ahead, we pull curbside and walk across the lawn to the Moffett Chapel. In 2014, the chapel was restored to its original Spanish Colonial Mission church design found throughout California

I'm comfortable here. This is where, in 1994, I assumed my first Air Force active duty chaplain assignment. Three USAF chaplains replaced the Navy chaplains when their branch vacated the base, or in naval terms, "Secured the watch."

Inside, we take a breathless pause before walls of stained-glass windows.

But I nudge you forward into an alcove or recessed altar space. Oddly, I ask you to push on the cubby walls.

You're astonished that it moves.

With my assistance, we rotate what seems like a jumbo version of the lazy Susan contained in your kitchen cabinet.

Suddenly, we're standing in a Catholic church adorned by crucifixes and saint statues.

I push again, and we share a Jewish altar with the Torah.

You say, "This is nice chaplain, but I'm undecided about faith. I suppose I'm spiritual, but not religious."

"No problem," I say. "Give that wall another push."

You do and are relieved to find yourself in neutral space. Nothing on the walls. No religion here.

Why have I brought you for a ride on the "Lazy" Altar?

To illustrate of how one might make a choice for faith.

No, it's not as simple as gyrating the

Wheel of Fortune or spinning the theological bottle to determine where your doctrinal affections will lie.

You might begin the journey on one of the traditional altars of our fathers. Or your spin might take you onto an altar aside your spouse. And it's also legitimately OK to spin faith into something that represents our own journey. Or maybe you don't see faith has having finite definitions, so we choose to blend the moving altars.

But whatever you choose, deciding on faith is a serious business that requires us to become comfortable with the tensions that faith presents.

For instance, how does one explain the love of God in the midst of so much tragedy? Can you deal with the discrepancies of faith and the hypocrites that inhabit all faiths and philosophies? Can we repent of the sins of organized religions while at the same time reinforcing the humanitarian good they do?

I believe it's possible to keep the faith of our parents, but we can change out the theological accessories. For me, I follow the protestant faith of my father, but my worship isn't confined to a hymnal or a pew. Moreover, it means, that I accept his faith, but reject the bigotry I've seen sometimes.

For you, it might mean keeping your faith in the Crucified Christ displayed on the crucifix, but soundly rejecting the sins of the Fathers. It might involve rebuilding a place of worship that holds all women in high regard and safely shelters the children.

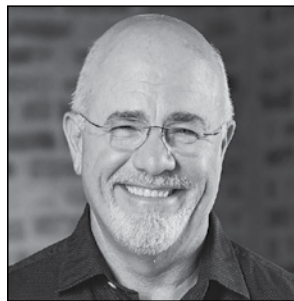
And if you are rotating the altar in search of generic worship, it doesn't mean that your new faith has to be cold, politically correct, and without feeling and humanity. It might involve a move toward inclusion of the conservative right side of the church aisle.

Finally, if your faith journey ever takes flight toward the San Francisco Bay Area, stop by Moffett Field Chapel and ask the "Smoky Hats" if they will let you take your faith for a spin.

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

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

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



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says

Love Your Enthusiasm, but That's Not an Emergency

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. ★



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By V.G. Harris



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](mailto: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.

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

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. ★

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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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 Rutचना, 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," Rutचना said.

As an instructor for chess, checkers, dominoes, sports and gardening, Rutचना plays a big role in school-wide and after-school activities. Rutचना 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 Rutचना.

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

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.

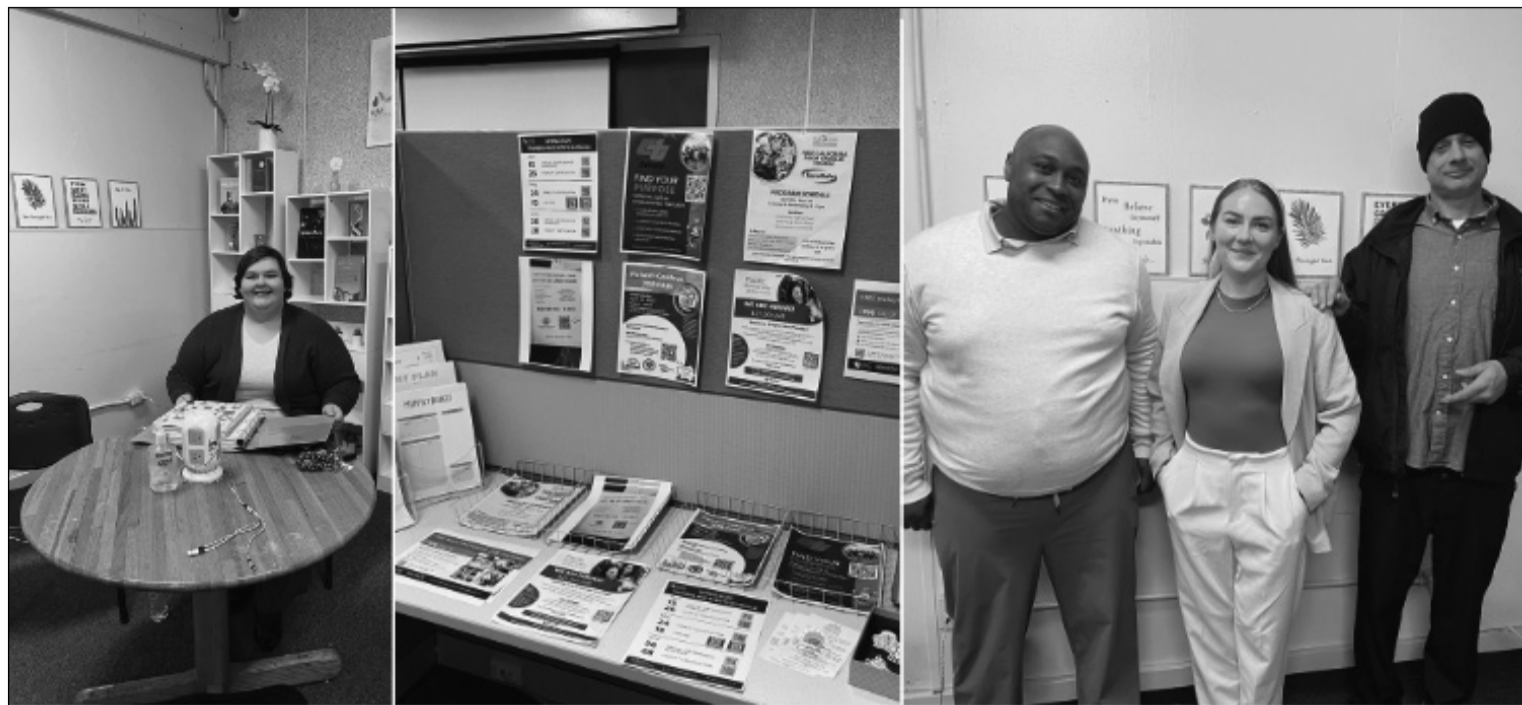
"In my research, I came across a 2020 study involving more than 600 employers. More than half of them mistakenly believed it was illegal to hire a homeless person for employment," said Greenhill, the program's sole manager. "Furthermore, 20 percent expressed concerns that hiring a homeless person would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

CHP Unleashes Six New K-9 Teams

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) graduated six newly trained K-9 teams May 22 at its West Sacramento K-9 training facility, marking a significant step in bolstering public safety across the state.

After months of intensive training, five Belgian Malinois and one German Shepherd join their human partners on a mission to detect narcotics, explosives, and criminal suspects. This graduating class is the first to include canines trained to detect the scent of fentanyl from the beginning of their instruction, a proactive move to combat California's opioid and fentanyl crisis.

"These new K-9 teams have demonstrated incredible dedication and skill throughout their training," said CHP Commissioner Sean Durycie. "They're not just protecting our communities; they're enhancing our department's ability to fight crime and save lives."

The new teams represent various regions across the state, with officers from



The California Highway Patrol (CHP) graduated six newly-trained K-9 teams on May 22. Photo courtesy of California Highway Patrol

the CHP's Coastal, Golden Gate, Valley, Border, and Inland field divisions. These handlers bring between six and 17 years of departmental experience, ensuring seasoned leadership behind each K-9.

The class includes three Patrol and Narcotics Detection Canine teams, one Patrol and Explosives Detection Canine

team and two Narcotics Detection Canine teams.

The Patrol and Narcotics Detection Canine teams completed at least 440 hours of criminal apprehension and narcotics detection training, while the Patrol and Explosives Detection Canine team completed 600 hours focused on criminal

apprehension and explosives detection. The Narcotics Detection Canine teams completed a minimum of 240 hours of training.

All teams adhered to the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) guidelines and will continue to train at least eight hours each week to maintain peak readiness.

The CHP's K-9 program now includes 50 active teams statewide. Those teams are 34 Patrol and Narcotics Detection Canine teams, nine Patrol and Explosives Detection Canine teams, five Explosives Detection K-9 teams and two Narcotics Detection K-9 teams.

In 2024 alone, CHP K-9s helped seize nearly 823 pounds of fentanyl, showcasing their critical role in the fight against illegal drugs.

The CHP invites dedicated law enforcement professionals to explore a career as a K-9 handler. Learn more and apply at www.CHPMadeForMore.com to become part of an elite team serving and protecting California, four paws at a time.

The CHP mission is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service and Security. ★

CHP Expands Ranks With 133 New Officers

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On May 30, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) welcomed 133 new officers who completed 26 weeks of intensive training at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento.

"This graduation marks the beginning of a commitment to protecting and serving others," said CHP Commissioner Sean Durycie. "These officers have demonstrated their dedication to keeping California's communities safe and upholding the CHP's core values."

The officers will now report to one of the CHP's 102 Area offices across California to begin



The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. Photo courtesy of California Highway Patrol

their law enforcement careers. During academy training, cadets receive instruction in traffic enforcement, collision investigation, defensive tactics, firearms, emergency



The officers will now report to one of the CHP's 102 Area offices across California to begin their law enforcement careers. Photo courtesy of California Highway Patrol

vehicle operations, and community policing. The curriculum also focuses on legal responsibilities, communication, ethics and cultural awareness to prepare cadets to serve California's

facility, and another 160 are scheduled to begin instruction on June 9 as part of the department's ongoing efforts to strengthen public safety statewide.

The CHP continues to seek motivated individuals who are ready to make a difference in communities throughout California. A career with the CHP offers comprehensive training, competitive benefits, and opportunities for professional growth and advancement.

To learn more about joining the CHP, visit CHPMadeForMore.com to take the first step towards a rewarding career in law enforcement.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★

KP International MARKET
 10971 Olson Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
 916.853.8000
 Market: 7 Days 8am-9pm
 Food Court: 7 Days 11am-1:30pm
 Korean/Mex/Thai: 7:30pm (last call)
 Chinese/Japanese: 7:00pm (last call)

KP KARAOKE SPECIAL
 Sun-Thu Come before 6pm (Valid Time)
 Fri-Sat Come before 5pm (Valid Time)

- For 6 people \$95.00: 3Hours Karaoke + Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 2 Main Dishes (14 inch)
- For 12 people \$210.00: 3Hours Karaoke + 2Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes (14 inch)
- For 14 people \$230.00: 3Hours Karaoke + 2Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 5 Main Dishes (14 inch)
- For 18 people 295.00: 3Hours Karaoke + 3Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 7 Main Dishes (14 inch)
- For 28 people \$385.00: 3Hours Karaoke + 3Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 8 Main Dishes (14 inch)

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

- Frozen Basa Swai Fillet lbs: REG. \$4.49/LB **\$2.99/lb**
- Hamachi Collar lbs: REG. \$16.99/LB **\$12.99/lb**

FRESH PRODUCE

- Red Potato: **79¢/lb**
- Blood Orange 2 lbs Bag: **\$1.79/bag**
- Mini Sweet Pepper 1 lb: **\$1.19/bag**
- Black Watermelon: **99¢/lb**
- White Potato: **99¢/lb**
- Napa Cabbage: **69¢/lb**
- Grapefruit 3bs Bag: **\$2.99/bag**
- Carrot 25 lbs Bag: **\$12.99/bag**

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

- Lindt Chocolate Truffles 5.1 oz: **\$4.99/lea**
- Zulka Pure Cane Sugar 4 lbs: **\$4.99/lea**
- Clamato Tomato Cocktails 64.1oz: **\$5.99/lea**
- Fiora Ultra Soft Bath Tissue 12 rolls: **\$6.99/lea**
- Pantene Pro-V Shampoo 27.7 oz: **\$6.99/lea**

ASIAN GROCERY

- Savoy Coconut Cream 13.5 fl oz: **\$2.99/lea**
- Kinoko Mushroom Seasoning 17.6 oz: **\$5.99/lea**
- Boat Black Sweet Thin Soy Sauce 21 fl oz: **\$3.69/lea**
- Lee Kum Kee Sriracha Mayo Spread 15 fl oz: **\$4.99/lea**
- 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**
- Zolotul Vek Sunflower Vanilla Halva 550 gr: **\$3.99/lea**
- Zergut Zucchini Spread Russian Style 19 oz: **\$3.29/lea**

WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

- Beef London Broil/Top Round Roast: **\$4.99/lb**
- Beef T-Bone Steak: **\$6.49/lb**
- Chicken Leg Quarters: **99¢/lb**
- Pork Loin Roast Boneless: **\$2.49/lb**
- Pork St. Louis Ribs (single pack): **\$3.99/lb**
- Pork Loin Chops Boneless: **\$2.99/lb**

HOUSEWARE

- Roasted Seaweed (Laver) 1.7 OZ 48 gr: **\$3.49/lea**
- Electric Rice Cooker (6 CUPS): **\$8.99/lea**
- Electric Rice Cooker (10 CUPS): **\$5.99/lea**
- Electric BBQ Grill: **\$39.99/lea**

WEEKLY HALAL SPECIALS

- Chicken Leg Quarters: **99¢/lb**
- New Zealand Lamb Shoulder Chops Bone-In: **\$4.99/lb**
- Beef London Broil/Top Round Roast: **\$5.49/lb**

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

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

EUROPEAN DELI

- Pan Roasted Turkey Breast: **\$11.99/lb**
- Cengnola Olives: **\$6.69/lb**
- Green Cracked Olives: **\$4.59/lb**

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE JUNE 11 - JUNE 17, 2025.