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Arden Arcade News

VOL 02 • ISSUE 6 Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years JUNE 13, 2025

SEE INSIDE

A CENTURY
OF CURIOSITY
AND CARROTS



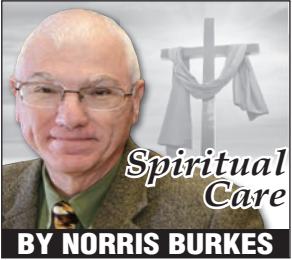
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Good Times and Tan Lines Activities and Events to Enjoy this Summer



A classic summer activity that everyone in Sacramento looks forward to every year is the annual California State Fair at Cal Expo, which will be from July 11 to July 27. Photo courtesy of California State Fair

By Idaly Valencia

ARDEN ARCADE, CA (MPG) - With the weather getting warmer and the sun shining longer throughout these coming days, residents of Arden-Arcade can feel that summer is already on its way.

With the official start of the season beginning on June 20, there are several activities that community members can plan ahead for and have some summertime fun.

Music in the Park
Arden Park Recreation and Park

District will host its Music in the Park concert series from 7 to 9 p.m. on June 14 at Arden Park, 1000 La Sierra Drive. There are two performances in June and September. The local band Angry Dads will perform rock covers from the '70s to
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Keeping Trails Safe on Wheels, Horseback

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.

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Rob Meyer is Everybody's Bassman

By J.G. Wirt

SACRAMENTO REGION (MPG) - Anchoring the rhythm section of bands in legendary clubs and taprooms, Rob Meyer plucks the bass strings in styles from rockabilly to jazz to Americana and torch 'n' twang.

He has filled in for bassists in notable bands and is a first-call player when there's a benefit show.

But playing in five bands isn't a full-time gig for Meyer, who by day is a mild-mannered public servant in a state economic development office.

During a recent interview, Meyer described his musical upbringing, his always-learning musical philosophy and how the excitement of the audience fuels the band.

Meyer plays standup and electric bass in the Leaping Blennies (rockabilly), Loose Engines (Americana), Dyana and The Cherry Kings ('50s rock/rockabilly), Mike Blanchard & the Californios (Americana/classic country) and the Big Chiefs (New Orleans funk).

Meyer's early playing was on piano at home, where he learned to read music, and then saxophone in school. After taking up guitar in high school and then bass, he discovered the thrill of public performance while at University of California at Los Angeles in a punk band

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Rob Meyer plays bass for five Sacramento-area bands. Photo courtesy of Steve Abbott



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Bike the Rails in Amador

Story and photos
by J.G. Wirt

IONE, CA (MPG) - The feel as the railbike glides down-grade is like riding a giant go-kart, but this one has power assist and good brakes.

Outdoor adventurers can take a ride on the Rail Explorers excursion on the old Amador Central right-of-way for a mild bit of leg exercise and a big dose of foothill scenery.

When you arrive to board your two-seater or quad railbike, the staff will explain the bikes' workings and the route's rules. The bikes are heavy and roll on hefty wheels, so this will be a solid ride. You will learn about the brakes and the need to keep your distance from the bike in front of you.

The guidance also covers the need to roll up and stop at each grade crossing so the Rail Explorers team can operate the crossing arms and allow the parade of railbikes to cross the thoroughfares while traffic waits.

Your railbike has your party's name in a waterproof, magnetized tag so you board the right one, and seatbelts are mandatory, although helmets are not.

Once underway, by giving the bike a little boost with your pedaling feet, the quiet motor will take over.

The railbikes' speed tops out at 15 mph, and the right-front rider controls the handbrake.



A Rail Explorers railbike wheels through a small canyon on the Amador Central line.



Rail Explorers staffers turn the railbikes on an air-powered lift before the downhill return trip.

There's black metal mesh between your feet and the railbed, so you can see right through. You and fellow riders need to pedal a bit to keep the motor going, and you'll need to keep an eye out for slowing railbikes ahead. The bikes have brake lights and even headlights for twilight tours.

Other than that, enjoy the scenery and the

clickety-clack of the rails.

The ride from the depot along a steady uphill to the turnaround is four miles. Once there, you'll disembark for a breather and maybe a snack while the staff rolls each bike to an air-powered turntable lift to spin it for the return trip.

Staff then give a downhill-safety primer before you reboard and it's away you go.



Rail Explorers staff control the crossing arms and flag the crossing at three thoroughfares each way. Riders also must watch for rural traffic at private rail crossings and be mindful of cattle.



Signs on the downhill route warn of upcoming stops for grade crossings.



A railbike crosses the Highway 88 bridge.

On the downhill, you'll realize how much you appreciated the motor power coming uphill. The railbike doesn't freewheel, but it will keep gaining speed until it hits the limiter.

You can take pictures or video while you take in the scenery and keep an eye out for the next stop for traffic.

The scenery each way

ranges from meadows and trees to narrow rocky canyons and rural farmland. You're advised to watch for and slow for cattle.

Before you know it, the staff is coupling all the bikes together to roll back to the depot to complete your eight-mile trek.

Rail Explorer trips are available every day through Labor Day week and cost \$90 for a tandem

or \$175 for a quad. Groups of 10 or receive a 10% discount. A gift shop, restrooms and shade are on site.

Ione is about an hour southeast of Sacramento. The depot is at 702 Hunter Lane just south of Ione on Highway 124.

For information and reservations, visit railexplorers.net/tours/Amador.

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A Century of Curiosity and Carrots: Sacramento Senior Nears 101

Greenhaven Place News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Some people read books. Others write them. And then there’s Peggy Green, who seems to have lived a dozen chapters more than most.

Born on June 23, 1924, in Aurora, Illinois, Green will soon celebrate her 101st birthday at Greenhaven Place, where she’s been an active and familiar face since Memorial Day weekend five years ago. Her milestone is already stirring up excitement among fellow residents, team members and even the kitchen staff, who know better than to forget her “extra veggies, no white food” routine.

Green is living proof that the path to a vibrant life may just be paved with leafy greens, plenty of movement and a hunger for knowledge.

“We always say Peggy makes healthy living look effortless, but it’s her curiosity that truly keeps

her young,” said Greenhaven Place Executive Director Brittany Andrews. “Whether she’s sharing stories from her years as a nurse or chatting about the latest breakthroughs in genetics, you’re bound to learn something just by sitting with her.”

Green spent two decades as a registered nurse before becoming the director of the outpatient emergency department in a Northern California hospital, a role she held for 12 years. Known for her calm under pressure and fierce sense of compassion, Green helped shape a generation of healthcare professionals.

Despite retiring from medicine years ago, she’s never stopped taking her own advice. Until the age of 94, Green was a regular at her local gym. Today, she keeps her body and mind moving with daily walks, mental exercises and a no-nonsense food philosophy that skips beef, pork and processed grains.

“I only get one body,” Green said

with a shrug. “So, I take care of it.”

Green has two daughters, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, each of whom continue to be inspired by her strength, independence and wisdom.

Although she hosted a major celebration last year for her centennial, she hasn’t yet decided if she’ll have a party this year. In classic Peggy Green fashion, she’s keeping her options open.

From her early days in Illinois to her career on the frontlines of healthcare, to now enjoying her well-earned slower pace in Sacramento, Green offers a one-of-a-kind lens on life, aging and what it means to live with purpose.

Green might say it’s just another day, but around here at Greenhaven Place, it’s one the entire community looks forward to.

For more information about Greenhaven Place, visit pegasus-seniorliving.com/greenhaven-place. ★



Born June 23, 1924, in Aurora, Illinois, Peggy Green will soon celebrate her 101st birthday at Greenhaven Place, where she’s been an active and familiar face since Memorial Day weekend five years ago. Photo courtesy of Greenhaven Place

Keeping Trails Safe on Wheels, Horseback

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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](https://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



Working to keep everyone on the trails safe and informed are, from left, Ranger Avendano, Ranger Commander Spencer, JeanLaurie Ainsworth (Equestrian Patrol) on Song Singer, Michelle Canfield on Duke, Rich Fowler (Bike Patrol) and Vic Massenkoff (Bike Patrol). Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Carmichael Giving Tree Project

Kiwanis Club of Carmichael News Release

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - The Kiwanis Club of Carmichael Giving Tree Project is excited to report that Kiwanis members in partnership with Sacramento Tree Foundation and SMUD (Sacramento Municipal Utility District) planted trees on May 24 at Carmichael Elementary School.

The tree planting volunteers included Boy Scouts Troop 55 and Troop 386 and Kiwanis Key Club members from Rio Americano High School.

Trees provide numerous benefits, including



The tree planting volunteers included Boy Scouts Troop 55 and Troop 386 and Kiwanis Key Club members from Rio Americano High School. Photo courtesy of the Kiwanis Club of Carmichael

improving air quality, reducing the urban heat island effect and climate change mitigation. Social benefits include community building and social connections as

demonstrated by adults and teens working together to plant trees.

For more information on the Kiwanis Club of Carmichael, visit kiwanis-clubofcarmichael.com. ★



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Sacramento's Souper History

New Campbell's Canning Exhibit is 'Mmm, Mmm, Good!'

By Kristina Rogers

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On May 23, the line outside the Sacramento History Museum appeared more like a family reunion than a grand opening. The Campbell's Soup Sacramento exhibit, which spans its full history from 1947 to 2013, will be on display through Sept. 1.

Several generations of Sacramento's Campbell Soup Company Plant workers attended to see their story reflected in the new exhibit, "Sacramento In a Can."

Roy Puthuff and Jim Meeter were among the 175 coworkers at the exhibit's opening who exchanged hugs and hearty handshakes.

Puthuff was a facilities manager for 31 years. Meeter began sweeping floors in 1967 and moved up to warehouse manager until leaving in 2013.

"You get to see people you haven't seen in a while," Meeter said. "It brings back old memories. We had tournaments like golfing, fishing and barbecues. I miss it."

The Sacramento Campbell Soup Company Plant was a family affair for Cindy and Bill Fuentes. Cindy Fuentes handled the filler, soup lids and quality inspection. Bill Fuentes was trained to do whatever was needed, including maintenance, shipping and pest control. Both had parents and siblings working alongside them for more than 30 years.

When the Sacramento History Museum doors opened May 23, the boisterous energy spilled into the rooms. Former employees hugged family and friends and looked at displays and videos.

The crowd's excitement had Richard Acala

beaming. Acala, who kick-started the exhibit, worked at Campbell's for 20 years (his last job was in the Prego Department).

Acala explained how he got the idea for an exhibit.

"I posted things on Facebook and got a lot of responses from the employees," Acala said. "I thought we should honor our employees. After the plant closed in 2013 and then was knocked down, everyone felt lost."

A year and a half ago, Acala said, he reached out to Delta Pick Mello, Sacramento History Museum executive director and CEO. Pick Mello immediately contacted Mary Ellen Burns, a local historian and author, to do the research and write the stories, according to Acala.

Acala got to work, too. "Former employees had meetings, I sent out fliers and we asked for help," Acala said. "I contacted Campbell's Corporate, who donated and matched my contribution. We made it happen."

Employees donated their personal Campbell's memorabilia, of which Acala said, "Every item is very sentimental and will be returned."

Pick Mello explained the area's canning history.

"It was essential to Sacramento's growth in the 1900s. We talk about being a railroad town and capital city, but our incredible farmland makes us vital to the agricultural world as well. Post-WWII, Campbell's found Sacramento to be a great locale."

Neighborhoods sprouted around the plant and small businesses developed at Franklin Boulevard.

"You find out almost everyone from that area is somehow related to others in the canning business,"



Larry Bobiles and Amelia Bobiles were original "Campbell's Kids" growing up with both parents working at the Sacramento Campbell Soup Company Plant. Photo by Kristina Rogers

Pick Mello said. "They had a seasonal or summer job or their grandparents worked in canning."

Employees and children also benefited from the Campbell's culture. Siblings Larry Bobiles and Amelia Bobiles were original "Campbell's Kids," Larry Bobiles said.

"Our mom worked the day shift and dad was on graveyard shift, and that's how they raised us," Larry Bobiles said.

Amelia Bobiles reminisced about the family events hosted by the plant: "We attended Christmas parties at the Memorial Auditorium. It was a big show with Santa and each kid got a gift."

As fun as the company could be, the Bobiles children were expected to aim higher.

"My parents woke us up one morning and told us to put on our 'crummy clothes' and took us out picking in the Woodland

tomato fields," Amelia Bobiles said. "We came home and our dad asked us, 'Do you want to pick tomatoes the rest of your life or go to college?'"

They chose college and Campbell's helped with that, too. Amelia Bobiles earned a Campbell's scholarship, paying for all four years at University of California, Davis in 1969.

"I have to say, if it weren't for that scholarship, then going to UC Davis and meeting my husband..." Amelia Bobiles said. "I owe Campbell's Soup my entire life!"

Like the Bobiles' Philipino parents, many immigrants worked at the Sacramento Campbell Soup Company Plant. The plant had signs in multiple languages, including Portuguese, Italian and Japanese.

Jim Lang, who began working at Sacramento Campbell Soup Company Plant when it opened, was sitting with his former coworker and friend, Mitts Yamamoto, who will be 100 years old in February. They both continue to stay in touch and meet for dinner.

Lang commented about the exhibit: "They did a



Bill and Cindy Fuentes worked at the Sacramento Campbell Soup Company Plant with family members for more than 30 years. Photo by Kristina Rogers

beautiful job. Campbell's hired so many people; they really helped Sacramento."

During the May 23 exhibit opening, Acala chatted with old friends over a buffet that included cups of tomato soup and small grilled cheese sandwiches, classic Campbell's comfort food that many Sacramento children and adults relished.

"It is amazing when somebody looks at something and says, 'Oh, that's my family; that's my story. I remember that,'" Pick Mello said. "To see them

come to see their story in a museum is just a joy to me."

The exhibit is on two floors at the Sacramento History Museum, 101 I St. Museum hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Admission prices are free for Sacramento History Museum members and children up to age 5; \$6 for youth ages 6 to 17; and \$12 for anyone 18 and over.

For more information, visit sachistorymuseum.org/sacramento-in-a-can or call 916-808-7059. ★



Former Sacramento Campbell Soup Company Plant employees reminisce over the exhibit's displays and videos. Photo by Kristina Rogers



The "Sacramento in a Can" exhibit at the Sacramento History Museum is a collaboration involving Richard Acala and Delta Pick Mello. Photo by Don Elio



Roy Puthuff, Sam Carlson and Ron Amos show up with smiles in their Campbell's gear. Photo by Kristina Rogers



Mitts Yamamoto and Jim Lang, who worked together for more than 40 years, still keep in touch. Photo by Kristina Rogers

Become a Docent at the Crocker Art Museum

Crocker Art Museum News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Do you love art, learning and connecting with others?

Serve the Sacramento region while building lifelong friendships as a member of the Crocker Art Museum docent team. Docents serve as public-facing ambassadors of the museum and participate in ongoing educational programs to stay current with new art on view at the Crocker and new ways to engage with these works.

Whether you are looking to challenge yourself, give back or find connection, serving as a docent is an experience rooted in growth and discovery. The



Whether you are looking to challenge yourself, give back or find connection, serving as a docent is an experience rooted in growth and discovery. Discover more about this rewarding program at the Crocker Art Museum at the Docent Program Open House at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 21. Photo courtesy of Crocker Art Museum

Crocker welcomes new docent applicants who are excited about art and want to share that enthusiasm with the museum’s visitors. No prior experience is required.

The museum is currently recruiting for its next docent training class,

which begins this fall.

Discover more about this rewarding program and the upcoming fall training at the Docent Program Open House on Saturday, June 21, at 11 a.m.

Register to become a docent online at my.crockerart.org/3702/3703. ★

\$1.7-Billion Budget Avoids Layoffs

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento City Council on June 10 adopted a \$1.7-billion budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26, successfully closing a \$62.2-million deficit without laying off any city employees.

The approved budget supports programs and services for the city’s 500,000 residents and funds a workforce of approximately 5,000 employees. It prioritizes core municipal services while advancing City Council’s key focus areas: homelessness, public safety and infrastructure.

“Balancing this budget required difficult decisions but I am proud we were able to preserve funding for our core services: public safety, parks and youth,” said Mayor Kevin McCarty. “Long-term financial stability for Sacramento will require us to increase our revenue by growing our economy through projects like the Railyards.”

The city relied on a blend of ongoing and one-time measures to close the gap, including savings from prior years, targeted reductions and increased revenues.

Although the Fiscal Year 2026-27 deficit was

initially projected at nearly \$100 million, city officials now anticipate a \$60-million gap, with further improvements possible pending continued state homelessness funding.

“This budget reflects our commitment to our residents and to the people who make Sacramento run, our employees,” said Interim City Manager Leyne Milstein. “Thanks to thoughtful planning and strong collaboration across departments, City Council and the mayor, we’ve closed a significant gap without layoffs, as we continue to work toward long-term financial stability.” ★

SAFE Credit Union Recognizes Students for Academic Excellence

SAFE Credit Union News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - SAFE Credit Union awarded five students each with \$4,000 scholarships to use for higher education in its annual scholarship program, which provides funding for graduating high school seniors and current community college students.

This year’s recipients are Sean Hoang of Elk Grove, Blake Milton of Folsom, Isabel Avila Rosas of Sacramento, Lydia Carel of El Dorado Hills and Steven Palma of North Highlands. The recipients were selected based on their academic achievement, personal statement and a letter of recommendation and are SAFE Credit union members.

“SAFE Credit Union is thrilled to provide scholarships that help recipients work toward their goals and dreams,” said SAFE Credit Union Community impact manager Lauren LeBov. “Congratulations to all of them for their commitment and hard work. We hope the scholarships help make their educational journeys a bit easier.”

The scholarship program is open to graduating high school seniors or current community college students with 60 or fewer credits and a GPA of 3.0 or above.

They must currently attend a high school or community college in one of the 13 counties in SAFE’s service area: Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Yolo, San



Isabel Rosas of Sacramento graduated from Rio Americano High School in Arden-Arcade and plans to attend the University of Nevada, Reno in the fall. Photo courtesy of SAFE Credit Union

Joaquin, Contra Costa, Solano, Yuba, Sutter, Butte, Nevada, Alameda and Amador.

The scholarship program is among SAFE’s philanthropic initiatives that also include grants, direct giving and community partnerships. It ties in directly with the credit union’s philanthropic pillars of youth and young adult education, financial literacy, workforce development and affordable housing.

Hoang of Elk Grove is a graduate of Pleasant Grove High School in Elk Grove and plans to attend University of California, San Diego in the fall.

“Majoring in computer science offers a unique opportunity to make a lasting impact on the world. Through my career in this field, I aim to advance healthcare, revolutionize education and promote environmental sustainability,” said Hoang. “By leveraging technology to

solve complex problems and improve the quality of life for people globally, I am committed to using my skills and knowledge to create a better future for all.”

Milton of Folsom is a current college student at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento and Folsom Lake College in Folsom this fall.

“Through my education in cybersecurity, I am building the skills to become independent, create impactful programs and advocate for meaningful change,” said Milton.

Rosas of Sacramento is graduating from Rio Americano High School in Arden-Arcade and plans to attend the University of Nevada, Reno in the fall.

“Receiving this scholarship would turn these dreams into reality,” said Rosas. “It would allow me to focus on my education, gain the skills I need to become a nurse and one day return to Sacramento as a healthcare professional dedicated to serving my community.”

Carel of El Dorado Hills is a current college student and will continue at American River College in Sacramento this fall.

“My educational goals and future career goals are near and dear to my heart. I want to become a speech language-pathologist,” said Carel. “My plan is to also get certified to be an LSLS (listening and spoken language specialist). I have never been more passionate about something before and can’t wait to do my part.” ★



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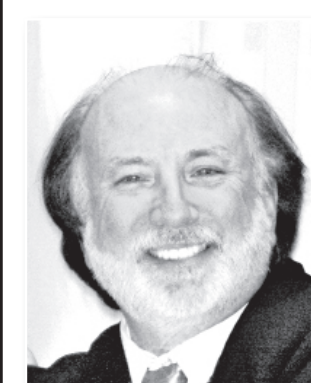
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Arden Arcade News

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‘We are Losing an Entire Generation’

By Seth Henderson

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - According to the Sacramento District Attorney’s Office, more than 200 law enforcement members between Yolo, Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer and Yuba counties have participated in multiple operations to seize hundreds of pounds of fentanyl off the streets since 2021.

Cross-departmental partnerships are necessary in the fight against fentanyl and even one death is too many, Attorney General Rob Bonta said during a press conference on May 29. He said the collaboration will not stop until the deaths stop.

“The fentanyl crisis represents a public safety emergency and the poisoning epidemic,” Sacramento DA Thien Ho said at the press conference. “We are losing an entire generation.”

The death toll in the Sacramento region since 2021 has reached more than 600 individuals, Ho said, which is more than all gun-related homicides within a decade. Ho said that fentanyl does not discriminate and it does not care about the user’s background or experience.

Fifty-one felony arrests have been made since 2021, Ho said, citing operations such as “Operation: Folsom Blues 2.0,” which saw the seizure of more than 1,000 fentanyl pills and tens of other drugs.

Deaths from fentanyl

According to the Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office, hundreds of pounds of fentanyl has been seized since 2021 in multi-jurisdictional operations involving more than 200 law enforcement personnel.



Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho, middle, holds a press conference May 29 updating the public on recent fentanyl-related seizures and convictions with Attorney General Rob Bonta, Placer County District Attorney Morgan Gire and Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper. Photos courtesy of Sacramento County DA’s Office



Attorney General Rob Bonta said that more than 15-million fentanyl pills have been seized, more than 6,700 pounds of fentanyl powder confiscated and more than 500 suspects have been arrested.

poisoning have been steadily declining since 2023, Ho said, with 2023 having 404 deaths, 2022 having 267 deaths and as of May, 33 deaths this year.

The Sacramento district attorney said he is in favor of innovative ways to stay ahead of the epidemic with solutions such as a fentanyl murder registry to keep track of individuals convicted of fentanyl poisoning; an impact panel featuring dealers, addicts and victims’ families to spread

awareness; an overdose alert system powered by artificial intelligence; and the dismantling of online distributors.

“We cannot arrest our way out of this and we cannot educate our way out of it alone,” Ho said.

Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper said that solutions such as naloxone, the active ingredient in Narcan, have become second nature when dealing with individuals who are hardly conscious or unresponsive.

He said it is because “we’re so used to it” in schools and workplaces.

Every demographic in the county is affected, Cooper said, and California does not pass the laws necessary to hold fentanyl dealers accountable. He referenced his qualms with Proposition 36. Citing the lack of effort to fund these initiatives, Cooper said, the continued multi-community effort is necessary to combat substance abuse and homelessness.

“Drug court worked

and we have to fix that,” Cooper said.

Cooper said that Proposition 47 removed incentives to place individuals into drug court and that being an addict should not be a crime, unless they are committing crimes. Drug dealers prey on young people, Cooper said, and holding the dealers accountable is what works.

Task forces from multiple agencies were recognized by elected officials at the press conference for their brave and significantly impactful seizures of hard drugs and criminals. Some task forces included the Tri-County Drug Enforcement Narcotics Team (TRIDENT), High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), the California Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team (CALMMET), and the Fentanyl Abatement Suppression Team (FAST).

Placer County District Attorney Morgan Gire manages the Tri-County Drug Enforcement Narcotics Team and said he is reminded of each victim’s life when prosecuting

the criminals charged with taking that life.

Gire said the outreach team talks to thousands of students, teachers and coaches to gain information and spread awareness.

Collaboration happens at all levels of government, Gire said, and operations are happening “day in and day out” to send a message through the region.

“Even if you don’t want treatment, we will get you there,” Gire said.

Since 2022, more than 15 million pills and more than 6,700 pounds of fentanyl powder have been seized, Bonta said, and more than 500 suspects have been arrested.

“Numbers don’t tell the full story,” Bonta said. “They are lives saved, they are overdoses prevented, they are families spared from unimaginable grief.

“We’re actively working to strengthen border enforcement,” Bonta said. “We’re collaborating with local and federal law enforcement partners in Southern California and Northern California to stop fentanyl before it ever has a chance to make it up to Sacramento.” ★

A Note from Superintendent Bassanelli: 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



Melissa Bassanelli. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified School District

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 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 ★

Metro Chamber Applauds Bipartisan Collaboration

Sacramento Metro Chamber News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Metro Chamber is proud to be a founding member of the Capital Caucus Foundation, a newly-established nonprofit organization committed to uniting leaders across the Capital Region to foster bipartisan collaboration and strengthen the region’s business climate.

The Capital Caucus Foundation was established to support the dedicated efforts of the Capital Caucus, a coalition of eight founding state legislators representing the Capital Region: Senator Angelique Ashby (D-Sacramento), Senator Christopher Cabaldon (D-West Sacramento), Senator Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks), Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters),



Assemblymember Maggie Krell (D-Sacramento), Assemblymember Josh Hoover (R-Folsom), Assemblymember Heath Flora (R-Ripon) and Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen (D-Elk Grove).

Similar to the Metro Chamber’s Public Policy Declaration of Principles, the Capital Caucus Foundation focuses on key regional issues, including flood control, infrastructure, health care, climate initiatives and economic development.

By aligning efforts across public and private sectors, the Capital Caucus Foundation operates as

the vehicle to support a cohesive approach to meaningful change and long-term prosperity laser-focused on advancing this region for the better.

“Our mission has always been to unite leaders across the Capital Region to drive smart, bipartisan solutions that fuel economic growth and opportunity for our businesses and communities,” said Robert Heidt, president and CEO of the Sacramento Metro Chamber.

“The launch of the Capital Caucus represents a pivotal step in ensuring our region’s unique voice is heard and acted upon at the state level.

For more information about the Capital Caucus Foundation, visit online www.CapCaucus.com.

tion about the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, visit www.metrochamber.org. ★

Sterile Male Mosquitoes Deployed Against Diseases

Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District News Release

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District announced the continued spread of the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, a species capable of transmitting serious diseases such as dengue, Zika and chikungunya posing a growing health concern.

This year, *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes have already been found in

neighborhoods within the city of Sacramento including South Natomas, Land Park, and Tahoe Park.

“The ongoing spread of these mosquitoes is very concerning,” said Gary Goodman, District manager. “Their ability to thrive in small hidden containers makes them a persistent problem in residential areas,” emphasized Goodman.

First identified within District boundaries in 2019, these small, dark and aggressive mosquitoes are known for biting during

the day and laying eggs in flowerpots, bird baths, pet dishes, plant saucers and even bottle caps.

Travel-related dengue cases are detected in our region every year, but in 2023, California saw its first three locally acquired cases.

That number rose to 18 in 2024: a troubling trend that highlights the growing public health threat posed by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes and the urgent need for more effective, science-based control methods.

While traditional mosquito control methods have been effective in managing *Aedes aegypti* populations, the continued expansion of these invasive mosquitoes in California highlights the need to complement current strategies with innovative tools. In response, the District is launching a Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) pilot program in South Natomas beginning in July.

This innovative program involves the weekly release of non-biting male mosquitoes that carry Wolbachia,

a naturally occurring bacterium. When these males mate with wild females, the resulting eggs do not hatch, leading to a gradual decline in the mosquito population.

“We’re proud to use innovative, science-based tools like the SIT program to help protect our community,” indicated Goodman. “It’s a targeted way to reduce *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes and the diseases they can carry.” Sterile insect techniques are also being used by other mosquito control districts

across California as part of a statewide effort to address the rising threat of invasive mosquitoes.

The program will run from July to November in a 100-acre area of South Natomas.

While residents may notice more mosquito activity during this period, the released mosquitoes will be males and do not bite.

For more information, or to request a free inspection, please visit FIGHTtheBITE.net or call (800) 429-1022. ★

Rob Meyer is Everybody’s Bassman



Bassist Rob Meyer plays and sings backup for Mike Blanchard & the Californios. Photo courtesy of Tara Elizabeth

Continued from Page 1
called 11.

“It was a college party and we each made a couple hundred,” Meyer said.

After returning to the Sacramento area, Meyer was part of Grub Dog and the Amazing Sweethearts, “with side projects around that,” hinting at his in-demand future in the rhythm section.

As a humble professional, Meyer doesn’t drop names of famous bassists as influences. Rather, he cites several locals as mentors in his ongoing musical education: “The late Erik Klevin, who taught me how to be in a band; Gerry Pineda, who taught me about playing jazz more comfortably; and Joe Lev, who would critique my playing: good habits; how to learn quickly; what to listen for.”

Meyer doesn’t tout a rigorous practice regimen, although he does try to play a bit each morning before work. Most rehearsals are geared to preparing for gigs with the bands.

His instruments include a 1937 Kay upright named “Charlie,” along with three electric Fenders: Fretless Precision, 1974 Precision and 1991 Custom Shop Precision.

But above the gear and the learning, it’s about the playing and the feel for it, Meyer said.

“You’ve got to have the fire in the belly; it’s got to burn for you,” he said. “And you have to live for the reaction of the audience to the players and vice versa: whether they have a drink in their hand or their arms folded, it’s a give-and-take that demands commitment from the performer



By day, Rob Meyer is director of Economic Development for the state Employment Training Panel. Photo courtesy of Rob Meyer.

to make an impact.”

“There’s an art to it. Something bigger to it,” Meyer said of that interplay.

As for potential fill-in gigs or other band affiliations, Meyer is always looking for kind and purposeful players as collaborators.

He tries to take any gig “if I have time to learn it.” Are the musicians relatively prepared themselves? Do they have a good drummer who can mesh with Meyer’s timekeeping? And is it a good gig, whether it’s a benefit or a fill-in?

“There are so many good, interesting players in Sacramento,” Meyer said. “So many venues doing the right thing.

“Go see live shows. If you don’t they’ll die ... and pay the bass player!”

To catch a band featuring Rob Meyer, follow @robertmeyer916 on Instagram. ★

Think Together Welcomes Cobán López as Area Vice President

Think Together News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Think Together, California’s leading nonprofit provider of expanded learning, afterschool programs, staffing, and school improvement services, is pleased to announce the appointment of Cobán López as area vice-president.

In this role, López will oversee Think Together’s direct student programs, working to expand educational access for students from Santa Barbara County to Sacramento County and beyond.

As Area Vice-President, López will be instrumental in advancing Think Together’s five-year strategic plan, which aims to double its footprint and increase the reach of expanded learning programs across California while scaling its impact.

His leadership will focus on cultivating strategic partnerships, enhancing staff development and retention, and collaborating with school districts and community leaders to address educational disparities and make a lasting positive change on entire communities.

“We are thrilled to welcome Cobán López to Think Together,” said Randy Barth, founder and CEO of Think Together. “His commitment to education and strong track record in program innovation make him a natural fit for this next phase of growth. Together, we’re building the systems and partnerships needed to scale our impact and ensure that more students have access to the support they need to succeed in school and beyond.”

López brings more than 20 years of experience in youth development and education leadership to Think Together. López’s deep-rooted passion for student enrichment stems from his own experiences, having benefited from dedicated mentors, teachers and after-school programs throughout his academic journey.

Prior to joining Think Together, López served as the director of programs for the 49ers Foundation, leading its S.T.E.A.M. Education and Health and Wellness programs, which reached more than 20,000 students annually across 14 Northern California counties.

López’s previous leadership roles also include seven years at Cristo Rey San José Jesuit High School, where he played a key role in enrollment, community relations,



Think Together announced the appointment of Cobán López as area vice-president. Courtesy photo

athletics and school business operations.

“My personal and professional connection to youth development has guided much of my career and Think Together’s vision of ensuring all kids get a great education aligns closely with my own vision for improving access to quality education,” said López. “This role presents an exciting opportunity to build on Think Together’s success and develop programs that provide students with the resources and mentorship they need to reach their full potential.”

Raised in the Bay Area, López attended Redwood City public schools and St. Francis High School in Mountain View before earning a bachelor’s degree in public service and social change from San José State University and a Master of Business Administration from Notre Dame de Namur University.

For more information about Think Together and its expanded learning programs, visit thinktogether.org. ★

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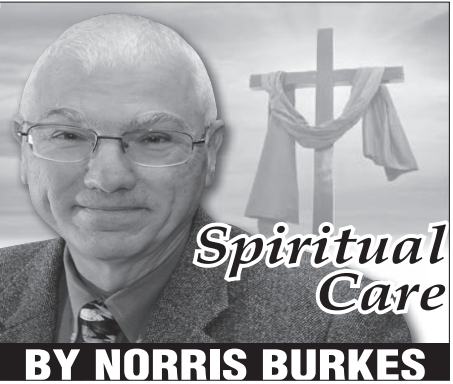
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Taking Faith for a Pivotal Spin



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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. ★

SacRT to Suspend Green Line Service During Construction in the Railyards

Sacramento Regional Transit News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) will temporarily suspend Green Line light rail service beginning Monday, June 16, 2025, to accommodate major construction in the Railyards, including the addition of a new light rail station at 7th Avenue and Railyards Boulevard.

The service suspension is expected to last through summer 2026.

The temporary closure will only impact one station, 7th & Richards/ Township 9, as all other Green Line stops are also served by either the Blue or Gold lines.

“We are excited to bring a new light rail station to the growing Railyards area, one of the largest urban

infill projects in the country,” said Henry Li, SacRT General Manager/CEO. “While we understand this temporary disruption may inconvenience some riders, the long-term benefits of improved access and connectivity to the Railyards and downtown Sacramento are well worth the investment. We appreciate our riders’ patience and support during this transformative phase.”

“The Railyards represent Sacramento’s next great neighborhood, and public transit is essential to its success,” said Rick Jennings, SacRT Board Chair and Sacramento City Councilmember. “This new station will help connect residents, workers, and visitors to the heart of our city. It’s a major step forward in making the Railyards a thriving, transit-oriented

community.”

During the service suspension, SacRT encourages riders to utilize bus route 11, which serves the area near the 7th & Richards/ Township 9 Station. To better accommodate passengers, Route 11 will have expanded weekday service from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning June 16, 2025.

Additionally, several bus routes in the vicinity — 11, 103, 106, and 129 — have been detoured from 7th Street. The bus stop at 8th & F streets is temporarily closed during construction.

“We’re thrilled to see transit infrastructure expanding in the Railyards,” said Denton Kelley, president and CEO of the Railyards. “The new light rail station is a key component of our long-term vision to create



During the service suspension, SacRT encourages riders to utilize bus route 11, which serves the area near the 7th & Richards/Township 9 Station. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Regional Transit

a connected, accessible, and vibrant district that links Sacramento’s past and future. This progress wouldn’t be possible without SacRT’s partnership.”

Construction will begin with track alignment work in June 2025, followed by station construction starting in October 2025. The new station is expected to

be completed and open for service by summer 2026. For more information visit sacrt.com/GreenLine.

The Railyards is transforming 244 acres of historic land into a vibrant, mixed-use urban district that will double the size of downtown Sacramento.

This dynamic area will feature key projects such as

the A.J. apartments, a state-of-the-art Kaiser medical center, a live music venue in the rehabilitated Central Shops, and the cutting-edge Sacramento Republic FC stadium. The Railyards is where history, innovation, and community come together to create a destination built for connection, culture, and progress. ★

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ABOUT TOWN

Concerts in the Park

Concerts In The Park will feature over 35 local and national bands at Cesar Chavez Plaza. The free shows start at 6 p.m. Upcoming headliners are:
June 20 – Winona Fighter
June 27 – Jackie Greene

Area Museum Experiences

A sampling of must-see and must-do experiences and special activations offered by local museums include the following:
California Museum – Experience four decades of powerful activist print-making in “Mission Gráfica: Reflecting a Community in Print,” a striking exhibition that showcases the rich legacy of Mission Gráfica, a renowned community print center in San Francisco. Featuring 42 vibrant screenprints from influential

artists such as Carmen Lomas Garza, Rupert Garcia, and Favianna Rodriguez, the exhibit explores themes of cultural celebration, political resistance, and social justice—from gentrification and gender equality to international solidarity. June 8-Sept. 14. Details at californiamuseum.org.
California Automobile Museum – Sixty Years of Mustang. A comprehensive history of the Mustang, from when it first hit the roads in 1965 to the current era of Mustangs. Highlighting stories from prolific names in Mustang history like Saleen, Shelby and Iacocca. Interactive experiences and digital displays showcase the iconic Mustang image over the decades. Details at calautomuseum.org.
California State Railroad Museum– The Chinese Railroad Workers’

Experience offers visitors a view of the Chinese workers who built the western portion of the nation’s first Transcontinental Railroad. Marginalized by history, the Chinese workers were more than a nameless group of laborers. Details at californiarailroad.museum.
Laser Light Shows at SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity
Get ready to experience your favorite musical artists like never before. The UC Davis Multiverse Theater at MOSAC is thrilled to announce a brand new music laser series to the planetarium!
This immersive music experience, paired with spectacular full-dome lasers, is the best way to listen to your favorite artists outside of a live performance. With a robust library of classic rock,

pop music, and family-friendly favorites playing over our 25,000-watt Dolby 5.1 surround sound system, our laser shows will surely provide a whole new music experience! Details at visitmosac.org.
For more on Sacramento area museum offerings, visit sacmuseums.org.
Elks Lodge 6 Calendar of Events
Elks Lodge 6 Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am; \$15 tax included.
Yoga, Monday 12 p.m., Wednesday 3:30 p.m. Lodge members free.
Martial Arts, Monday 5 p.m.
Pickleball, Monday, Wednesday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; Thursday, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 4-7 p.m.
Karaoke Nights, Thursdays and Saturdays, 7 p.m.
Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 p.m. See elks6.net for weekly menu. ★

Good Times and Tan Lines

Continued from Page 1
2000s that will touch residents’ memories of the good ol’ days.
It is recommended that attendees bring blankets and lawn chairs to sit back and listen to the music or dance the night away.
The Arden Little League is the main sponsor for Music in the Park, along with platinum sponsors Gray Group Coldwell Banker Realty and First US Community Credit Union.
On Sept. 20, the event will be from 6 to 9 p.m., also at Arden Park; the band is to be announced for this date.
These events are completely free to the public and there is no registration required.



Arden Park Recreation and Park District will host its Music in the Park concert series from 7 to 9 p.m. June 14 at Arden Park, 1000 La Sierra Drive. Angry Dads will perform rock covers from the 1970s to 2000s that will bring memories of the good ol’ days. Photo courtesy of Arden Park Recreation and Park District

beforehand online at APRPD.org. Registration is free and it is open to walkers, bikers, cars and golf carts.
After the parade, there will be live music, sponsored by the Arden Park Neighborhood Association, until 12:30 p.m. performed by the Funk Shui Band. This event will include a free “kid zone” with inflatables for children to jump

around and have fun.
Food will be available for purchase such as hamburgers and hot dogs. Raffle prizes will be given out as well.
California State Fair
A classic summer activity that everyone in Sacramento looks forward to every year is the annual California State Fair at Cal Expo, which will be from

July 11 to July 27.
Gates will open at 4 p.m. and close at 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday. From Friday to Sunday, gates open starting at 10 a.m. and close at 10 p.m.
Bring friends and family to indulge in carnival concessions such as some good ol’ kettle corn, fresh-squeezed lemonade, corn dogs, Dole-whip frozen desert and more. Not to mention the thrill from riding the several roller coasters and attractions that are on-site.
There will be live music every night, award-winning craft beer and wine, free horse riding and exciting competitions that will have everyone in the family on their toes.

Those who attend a Sacramento Republic home game on July 12 and July 19 get free admission to the state fair when they present their valid Sacramento Republic ticket at the fairgrounds entry.
The regular admission fee for the state fair costs \$16 for adults, tickets for children ages 5 to 12 are \$10; and \$12 for seniors (ages 62 and above). Children under 4 enter for free.
Tickets will be for sale at



Bring friends and family to indulge in carnival concessions such as kettle corn, fresh-squeezed lemonade, corn dogs, Dole-whip frozen desert and more.

the fairgrounds, located at 1600 Exposition Blvd., or are available for purchase online at calexpostatefair.com/admission-tickets.

State BBQ Competition at Cal Expo

There is nothing more that screams summer is here by enjoying fresh barbecue. On July 12, get ready for a good time by having a flavorful day of mouthwatering barbecue at the State Fair’s BBQ competition.
The fairgrounds will be open for a full day starting at 10 a.m. The people’s

choice tasting and judging will be from noon to 3 p.m.
For \$15, attendees can sample and score barbecue entries from five competing teams. The official judging will be conducted by the Kansas City Barbecue Society at 3:30 p.m. at the Save Mart California’s Kitchen, which is located in Building B on the fairgrounds. The awards ceremony to celebrate the winners and see who takes home the top prize will be at 6 p.m.
Summer is right around the corner; let’s get out and have some fun in the sun. ★

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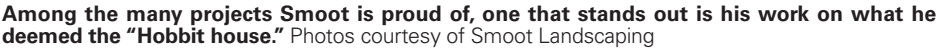
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