



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

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Bike the Rails in Amador County

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East Sacramento News

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Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

JUNE 13, 2025

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LEGISLATORS NAME TOP NONPROFITS



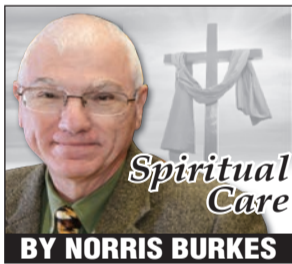
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'WE ARE LOSING AN ENTIRE GENERATION'



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TAKING FAITH FOR A PIVOTAL SPIN



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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



Continued on Page 3 Rob Meyer plays bass for five Sacramento-area bands. Photo courtesy of Steve Abbott

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

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Soak Up the Fun

Activities and Events to Enjoy this Summer

By Idaly Valencia

EAST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Summer means great times and tan lines now that the temperatures are rising. East Sacramento residents have several community events to attend while enjoying the warm weather throughout the season.

Pops in the Park

A staple summer activity that residents look forward to is the annual free Pops in the Park event. This event is a great opportunity for the neighborhood to get together, bring friends and meet new people.

The first event in the concert series was on June 7 and featured the band Clean Slate. Residents can plan to attend the upcoming concerts, which will be happening for all the following Saturdays in June. Live music starts at 6 p.m.

On June 14, Big Crush will perform its lively, high-energy music for attendees to listen to and dance to at Bertha Henschel Park, 160 45th St.



On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Yoga Moves Us hosts a yoga session at Fremont Park, located at 1515 Q St. Wednesday yoga instruction is held at Winn Park at 1616 28th St. Photo courtesy of Midtown Association

Rock and dance hits cover band Apple Z will perform on June 21 at McKinley Park, 601 Alhambra Blvd. On June 28, Tom Rigney and

Flambeau are set to play at Glenn Hall Park, 5415 Sandburg Drive. The band has roots of blues and New

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Rob Meyer is Everybody's Bassman

Soak Up the Fun



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

Continued from Page 1

Angeles in a punk band 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. ★

Continued from Page 1

Orleans style music.

Attendees should bring their own chair or blanket to sit back and enjoy the live music. Food and drinks will be available on-site from local vendors such as Gondo Fusion, Puckerz Lemonade and Sac Yard Community Tap House. The Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento/Midtown will serve grilled burgers, hot dogs and tri-tip sandwiches.

Yoga at the Park

For residents looking for fun health and fitness opportunities, join the Midtown Association and Yoga Moves Us for their series of group yoga sessions happening at two parks in the area throughout the summer.

Enjoy yoga from 6 to 7 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

with other community members.

This is a free event; just bring a mat, a water bottle and a friend. No registration is needed.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Yoga Moves Us hosts a yoga session at Fremont Park, located at 1515 Q St.

Wednesday yoga instruction is held at Winn Park at 1616 28th St. For more information, visit explor-midtown.org/freshair.

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. Mondays through Thursdays. From Fridays to Sundays, gates open

at 10 a.m. and close at 10 p.m.

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

Experience the thrill from riding the several roller coasters and daring attractions.

There will be live music every night, award-winning craft beer and wine, free horseback rides and engaging competitions.

Regular admission for the state fair costs \$16 for adults, \$10 for children 5 to 12; and \$12 for seniors (ages 62 and above). Admission for children under 4 is free.

Tickets will be for sale at the fairgrounds and at calexpostatefair.com/admission-tickets. ★

Keeping Trails Safe on Wheels, Horseback

Continued from Page 1

off-road, a designated off-road cycling trail is available in the Woodlake/Cal-Expo area.

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

Always yield to pedestrians and equestrians.

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

Maintain a safe speed, not exceeding 15 mph.

Keep pets on a leash no longer than six feet.

Stay on designated trails and obey posted signage.

Pedestrians should use the left shoulder when it is accessible.



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

The county thanks all trail users and dedicated volunteer patrol teams for helping to keep trails safe, clean and welcoming for everyone. ★



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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.



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

"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, 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. ★

Semi-Custom Build on Cul-de-sac



4121 De Paul Court has 4 bedrooms and 4.5 baths on a large cul-de-sac lot. This house is tucked away at the back of a court with modern touches throughout. Each bedroom has its own bathroom. Computer stations at both levels, and a peaceful backyard to relax in with a built in BBQ and bar. \$949,000.

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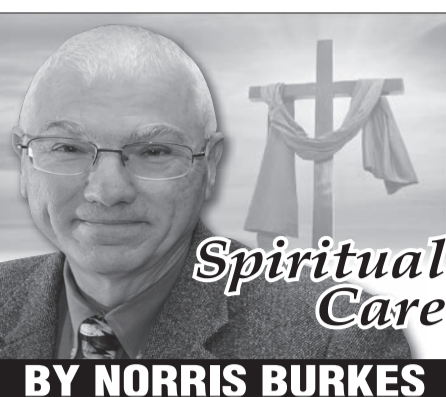
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Taking Faith for a Pivotal Spin



BY NORRIS BURKLES

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. ★

\$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." ★

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. 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.

The Chinese workers were more than a nameless group of laborers. Details at californiarailroad.museum.

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. ★

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State Legislators Name Their Nonprofit of the Year

California Association of Nonprofits News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

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

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

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

The nonprofits that were



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

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

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

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



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

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



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



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

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

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

working to address those needs.

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

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

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

Grand Jury: Schools Can Improve Arts Education Funding Practices

By MPG Staff

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

negative fiscal consequences.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

United Way Wins Two Telly Awards



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

United Way California Capital Region News Release

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sterile Male Mosquitoes Deployed Against Dengue

Metro Chamber Applauds Bipartisan Collaboration

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.

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

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. ★

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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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'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 DAs 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 individual 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." ★

County's Fastest Housing Project Completion Serves Homeless Seniors Around the Clock

By Seth Henderson

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County, HOPE Cooperative and Enki Development Group have partnered together to create Grow Florin Interim Housing, with space for 72 transitional housing beds for homeless seniors aged 55 and older with Community, Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) court participants as a priority population, according to the Sacramento County Department of Health Services.

Built in 324 days, Grow Florin Interim Housing is the county's fastest completed housing project, due to strict deadlines outlined by the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing grant, totaling a capital investment of \$5.4 million, according to the Department of Health Services.

The Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act aims to provide community-based mental health and related services, support and accountability for individuals living with untreated schizophrenia psychotic disorders, according to the Superior Court of California.

Making up the 72 beds are 32 singles, 20 doubles and eight ADA-compliant cabins. The project was funded by the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing grant, awarded to Sacramento County in partnership with HOPE Cooperative to serve individuals with severe mental



Sacramento County and its partners collaborated in 324 days to complete the county's fastest housing project with Grow Florin Interim Housing, seeing a total capital investment of \$5.4 million. Photos courtesy of Sacramento County's Department of Health Services



Making up the project's 72 beds are 32 singles, 20 doubles and eight ADA-compliant cabins.

illness and substance abuse disorders.

The campus is color-coordinated by zones

to create miniature communities and each cabin has its own power source. Climate-controlled cabins,

a mini fridge, a communal kitchen and a dog park are some amenities included for residents. Tenants



Nearly 100 attendees huddled under a shaded tent to celebrate Sacramento County's Department of Health Services newest resource for seniors with behavioral health and housing needs.

receive three meals per day and access to behavioral healthcare, case management, housing navigation, employment, education support and help developing life skills, according to the Department of Health Services.

The county is compiling a list of future residents anticipating being placed into the Grow Florin Interim Housing with expected operating costs of \$3.1 million and an additional \$920,000 allocated for flexible funding supports, according to the Department of Health Services.

Individuals will be selected through

the Community, Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment court process, taking into account referrals from Sacramento County's Homeless Engagement and Response Team to ensure the program prioritizes individuals most in need, according to the Department of Health Services.

HOPE Cooperative is responsible for making sure daily operations comply with all county, state and federal guidelines to meet the needs of the Sacramento County Good Neighbor Policy. The property is surveilled with 39 cameras and 24/7 patrols by SafeChoice Security. ★

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 kicked-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' Filipino 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 beautiful job. Campbell's



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

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, go online to 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