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JUNE 13, 2025

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Sun's Out, Fun's Out

Activities and Events to Enjoy this Summer

By Idaly Valencia

LAND PARK, CA (MPG) - With the weather getting warmer and the sun shining longer throughout these coming days, Land Park residents can feel that summer is already on its way.

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

William Land Golf Course Summer Events

Starting on June 26, the William Land Golf Course will host its Music on the Green concert series that's free for residents to attend. There will be complimentary small bites from Mulligan's Café, and Urban Roots Craft Brewery will be on-site handing out free beer samples. There's also a no-host bar with local craft beers and wine that will be available for purchase. The event runs from 6 to 8 p.m.

Four Barrel, a high-energy rock cover band, will kick off the concert series on June 26. On July 24, the

Continued on Page 4



Four Barrel, a high-energy rock cover band, will kick off the concert series at William Land Golf Course on June 26. Photo courtesy of William Land Golf Course

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

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Keeping Trails Safe on Wheels, Horseback



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

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:

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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



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HOLLYWOOD PARK

Tree-lined street with new roof, new windows and 3 bedrooms. This classic Hollywood Park home features a formal living room, fireplace with pretty mantle, formal dining area, kitchen with tile counters and electric range. Updated bath with newer vanity and unique tiled tub area with shower. Wood floors, central heat and air, new roof, new dual-paned windows, single-car garage and storage sheds in the backyard. 4949 Helen Way \$525,000



COLLEGE MANOR

Nestled on a generous lot, this Custom College Manor home has the charm and elegance of a Carmel Cottage with its rustic wood-shingled exterior and mature landscape. The inviting covered entry porch leads to a spacious foyer, an oversized living room with a cozy fireplace, and a formal dining room. The updated kitchen boasts ample storage, granite countertops, and a sunny breakfast area. Laundry room off the kitchen that accesses the half bath. This home offers four bedrooms, one of which is a walk-thru and was used as an office. There is a step down to the sunroom that leads to the remote oversized fourth bedroom. Behind the detached two car garage is a separate guest room or entertainment room which offers tile floors, brick fireplace, remodeled bathroom, and bar. Backyard offers lovely lush gardens, artificial grass in some areas for low upkeep, a small outdoor putting green and patio with a large brick fireplace for those cool evenings. An Entertainer's Delight! 1800 8th Avenue \$1,298,000



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Green Line Service Suspended During Railyards Construction



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

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 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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Sun's Out; Fun's Out

Continued from Page 1
Hillary Jean Band will perform classic rock, and the band for Aug. 28 will be announced later.

Typically, this event attracts around 80 to 100 attendees, but William Land Golf Course General Manager Curt Davis said he expects a larger crowd this year as it is the first time that the event is free for the community to attend.

"This event is for the whole family, not just for the adults," said Davis. "We invite people to come enjoy the live music at the golf course; bring a lawn chair and your friends."

This is the fifth year that the golf course has put on this event series. It is a family-friendly summer activity where children are more than welcome to join and enjoy the fun. There will be a putting contest as well as free giveaways.

Also at William Land Golf Course at Mulligan's Café is Friday Night Pints. Every Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. now through September there will be drink specials, free small bites and a free pint glass of beer with your first purchase. This is also a fun activity for the whole



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. Photos courtesy of California State Fair

family, as there is a free golf putting contest available just for children: "Pints for the parents, putts for the kids!"

William Land Golf Course is located at 1701 Sutterville Road in Sacramento.

Show Love to Land Park

For residents looking to spend time this season outside by volunteering and giving back to the community, the Land Park Community Association

encourages residents to show Land Park some love by bringing out friends and their gardening gear. Get some fresh air and exercise while contributing to the beautification of Land Park.

Volunteers can enjoy free coffee and pastries, as well as a hot lunch afterward.

Those who would like to participate are to meet at "base camp," which is behind Fairytale Town at 3901 Land Park Drive, from 8 a.m. to noon on

July 12 and Aug. 2.

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



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

family to indulge in carnival concessions such as kettle corn, fresh-squeezed lemonade, corn dogs, Dole-whip frozen dessert 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 that will have everyone in the family on their toes.

Regular admission for the state fair is \$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, located

at 1600 Exposition Blvd., and available for purchase online at calexpostatefair.com/admission-tickets.

State BBQ Competition at Cal Expo

There is nothing more that screams summer is here than 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.

For \$15, attendees can sample and score 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. ★

Keeping Trails Safe on Wheels, Horseback

Continued from Page 1

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 creates hazards for riders and horses alike.

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

To promote safety and shared enjoyment of the trail system, Sacramento

County has established multi-use trail rules and regulations as described below.

Always yield to pedestrians and equestrians.

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

Maintain a safe speed, not exceeding 15 mph.

Keep pets on a leash no longer than six feet.

Stay on designated trails and obey posted signage. ★



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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.

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.



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.

Deaths from fentanyl 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.



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

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

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and 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." ★

Smoot Landscaping

A 45-Year Legacy

By Ornella Rossi

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - For Scott Smoot, landscaping isn't just a career, it's a lifelong passion. His journey began when Smoot was just 7 years old, mowing lawns in his neighborhood to earn some pocket money. By the time he was 13, he was managing multiple landscaping jobs at once, gaining early insights into both the craft and the business of landscaping. Today, Smoot Landscaping reflects his dedication, expertise and love for creating beautiful, sustainable outdoor spaces.

After attending UC Davis and Sacramento State, Smoot's love for plants and design naturally guided him toward a career in landscaping. Over the years, Smoot Landscaping has evolved from primarily maintenance work into larger landscaping services.

The company now specializes in everything from traditional gardens to drought-tolerant designs and water features, all with a personal touch that sets it apart from the competition. "I know my plants and I know how to combine them," Smoot said. "I've been on a lot of garden tours and I love how my designs not only reflect a theme but also enhance the experience of living in that space."

What truly distinguishes Smoot Landscaping is the company's ability to create gardens that are not just

beautiful but sustainable.

"People don't make gardens anymore; they just put plants in the ground," Smoot explained. "I make sure there's a purpose and a theme to everything I do."

His deep understanding of plant life, combined with a knack for creating visually harmonious spaces, has earned Smoot Landscaping a loyal following. According to Smoot, around 80% of the company's work comes through referrals.

When working with a new client, Smoot's approach is rooted in collaboration.

"It starts with consulting," Smoot explained. "I listen to what the client wants, their budget and how much maintenance they're willing to commit to. Then, I create a design that reflects their lifestyle and the style of their home."

Smoot's designs are as diverse as his clients. Whether it's a traditional English garden, a serene Japanese garden or a striking Mediterranean landscape, each project is custom designed to fit the client's vision.

"I love incorporating elements like lighting and water features," Smoot said. "Lighting, especially LED, is such a game-changer. It's affordable and it completely transforms a space in the evening."

The company's small but dedicated crew plays an essential role in turning Smoot's vision into reality.



Scott Smoot, owner of Smoot's Landscaping.

"I work with a crew of two to four people and they're incredibly hard-working," Smoot said. "They help me realize the vision and we always take the homeowner into consideration."

Smoot's commitment to his craft goes beyond business. As someone who is hard of hearing, Smoot has long been an advocate for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. He has volunteered extensively, working to show people how to make the best of their hearing aids.

While Smoot Landscaping is deeply rooted in tradition, the company is always looking ahead. Smoot is excited about continuing to create functional, visually striking landscapes that meet modern needs.

"I see a trend toward creating more usable outdoor spaces," Smoot said. "People are looking for courtyards, outdoor living rooms, and other ways to maximize their space and create privacy."

Looking back on his 45 years in the business, Smoot remains deeply passionate about what he does. "It's not just the work; I



Among the many projects Smoot is proud of, one that stands out is his work on what he deemed the "Hobbit house." Photos courtesy of Smoot Landscaping



The company now specializes in everything from traditional gardens to drought-tolerant designs and water features, all with a personal touch.

love the customers," Smoot said. "As you get older you start to reflect on everything you do and I am so grateful to be doing this."

His advice to homeowners thinking about investing in professional landscaping?

"Don't go cheap. You

get what you pay for. If you invest in a high-quality design and installation, you won't have to redo it in a year." ★

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 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 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

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 printmaking 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.

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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\$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." ★

Grand Jury: Schools Can Improve Arts Education Funding Practices

Continued from page 1 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 at sacgrandjury.org. ★

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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 include 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



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. ★

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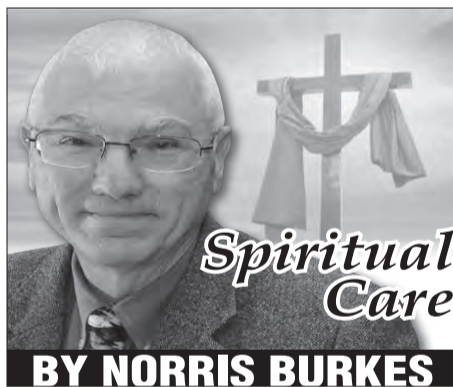
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Taking Faith for a Pivotal Spin



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. ★

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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