



AMERICAN RIVER  
Messenger

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INSIDE

ADVENTURE DAYS  
ON THE PARKWAY



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GROWING THEIR  
ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE SKILLS



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Value in Community Partnerships



Fair Oaks Community Action Partnerships members and guests attend the July meeting. In the back row, from left, are Greg Freeman, Ken Friedman, Erick Seider, Brad Squires, Noah Wright, Scott Evans, Chris Highsmith, Josh Gumacal and Lane Gonick. In the second row, from left, are Keith Walter, Kendra Johnson, Clarissa French, Tom Gray, April West, Mika Klinnsman and Heather Ford. In the front row, from left, are Pete Schroeder, Mary Howard, Terrie O'Donnell and Angela Lee.

Story and photo  
by Judy Andrews

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - Fair Oaks is home to a collaborative group of community leaders and representatives from more than 20 local service organizations, all sharing a common goal of supporting the community and one another.

Founded in 2012 by Pete Schroeder, the Fair Oaks Community Action Partnerships (known as FOCAP) hosts monthly meetings where members exchange information, share resources and seek support. Schroeder leads the meetings.

Originally from Chicago, Schroeder and his wife, Anne Browning, relocated to the area in 2011 to be close to their daughters

and grandchildren. Shortly after the move, Schroeder joined the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club to meet new people.

“I couldn’t help but notice how all the organizations operated independently of one another,” Schroeder said. “Everyone was off doing their own thing and holding their own events. I saw value in bringing these groups together to collaborate and support each other.”

As a result, Schroeder kicked off hour-long monthly Fair Oaks Community Action Partnerships meetings with five to six local service organizations.

“We began rotating meeting locations and changed the start time from noon to 4 p.m. to accommodate more attendees,” Schroeder said. “I’m glad members recognized the

value of these partnerships because attendance grew and everyone kept showing up.”

Fair Oaks Community Action Partnerships members currently include the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce, Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District, San Juan Unified School District, Sacramento Metro Fire, Fair Oaks Water District, Fair Oaks Library, Rotary Club of Fair Oaks, Inner Wheel Club, Fair Oaks Woman’s Thursday Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars/American Legion, Girl Scouts, Fair Oaks Historical Society, Orangevale-Fair Oaks Community Foundation, Meraki and Meristem schools, Fair Oaks Cemetery District, Rollingwood YMCA, Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and Arts, Fair Oaks Village Enhancement

*Continued on page 5*

New Lincoln  
Highway Sign  
Installed



Minor design changes required to make the historical Lincoln Highway Mural accurate are being finalized. Photo courtesy of Andy Saunders

By Thomas J. Sullivan

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - Join in a public celebration of the historic Lincoln Highway’s special place in Citrus Heights history at 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15, as a new commemorative sign is dedicated in front of San Juan High School, 7551 Greenback Lane.

The upcoming event will honor San Juan High School, built in 1915, and the 1928 alignment of the Lincoln Highway route through the rural community of Sylvan along Greenback Lane, which was a dusty unpaved road back then.

The land for San Juan High School was donated by Walter Trainor, an early real estate developer who gave the city its name, and construction was financed through a school bond in the amount of \$3,500. In all, there were only 50 students when the high school opened.

The new commemorative sign, placed on a light pole in front of San Juan High, will become one of many listed Points of Interest on the Lincoln Highway Association (LHA) interactive travel map through Citrus Heights.

Ownership Versus Affordability

Story and photos  
by Seth Henderson

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - More than 120,000 apartment units fill the Sacramento region, with a vacancy rate of about 4.2%, compared to just 0.6% for conventional homes and 1% or less for manufactured home parks, according to data from Apartments.com, the U.S. Census Bureau, and state housing reports.

This contrast raises a pressing question: Why have apartment developments surged while single-family and manufactured homes, which have far tighter occupancy and potentially greater long-term value, remain underbuilt?

For many younger residents, renting an apartment at \$2,000 or more per month is the only option, even though a manufactured home could cost about the same monthly while building equity.



A manufactured home with an upstairs loft is on display at Reliable Home Solutions in West Sacramento.

Developers continue to favor apartments due to zoning rules, faster build timelines and high investor returns, according to data, but this dynamic contributes to a housing market that leaves many aspiring homeowners out of the conversation.

Gene Davis, a local

contractor for 33 years and the Reliable Home Solutions owner in West Sacramento, has been in the manufactured home business for decades. He said the dream to own a home in Sacramento is less attainable for young adults with the high cost of conventional homes. Davis said he

wonders when younger prospective buyers will reach their breaking point with the market.

“At \$750,000, \$500,000, the payment on (conventional homes) for a young couple with a baby and a student loan, not only are they going to have a house

*Continued on page 6*

The city, in partnership with CHANT Neighborhood Area 3 board member Andrew Saunders and the Lincoln Highway Association California Chapter, have identified multiple points on the historic transcontinental Lincoln Highway.

“Additional signage is planned in multiple locations in Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks and Orangevale area in advance of the 2028 National Lincoln Highway Tour, which will come through on its way to San Francisco, and I aim to make our area a significant stopover,” Saunders said.

Members of the Citrus Heights Rotary Club, the San Juan High School Alumni Association and the Lincoln Highway Association – California invite the public to celebrate this memorable moment.

Two new commemorative signs that recognize the

*Continued on page 3*

# Adventure Days on the Parkway

Story and photos  
by Susan Maxwell Skinner

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)**  
- Young artists brushed up their entomology during a recent paint-out. The activity was part of the American River Parkway Foundation’s ‘Adventure days’ series.

The experience included a nature walk on trails surrounding the Outdoor Education Center in River Bend Park (Rancho Cordova). Children learned about native butterflies then painted the insects in their habitat. Artistic instruction came from Heart Craft Studios of Rancho Cordova.

For most of the group, painting in plain air was a new experience.

“I liked being outside, seeing the river and the trees as we painted them,” said a 12-year-old. “It’s interesting learning how many colors there are in a river.”

Pausing feet from the American River, program organizer Julia Cassill asked the children to close their eyes and describe what they heard.

“They mainly heard birds,” said Cassill. “They also heard squirrels and the breeze rustling. Nobody talked about traffic or the busy city life that was only a couple of miles away. It’s great that we can be out in nature like this, a just few miles from our homes. This is what our beautiful parkway brings to our lives.”

The foundation’s Adventure Days series offered a month of educational experiences for 9- to 12-year-olds. These included gold-panning at Sailor Bar in Fair Oaks and fishing at William B. Pond Park in Carmichael.

Activities ended with archery activities at Discovery Park in Sacramento.

The series was inspired by Parkway CONNECT, an American River Parkway Foundation program that partners with nonprofit groups to make outdoor experiences accessible to youth.

For more information about American River Parkway Foundation, visit [www.ARPF.org](http://www.ARPF.org) ★



Young painters, instructors and American River Parkway Foundation staffers show their work after the plein-air art session in River Bend Park. The class was part of the American River Parkway Foundation’s July “Adventure Days” series for children.



Above: Instructor Kristin Fuller (standing) admires the work of young artists during the American River Parkway Foundation painting event in Rancho Cordova. The class was part of the American River Parkway Foundation’s ‘Adventure Days’ series for children.

Left: Kristin Fuller (standing, left) instructs young artists during the American River Parkway Foundation paint-out in Rancho Cordova. The class was part of the American River Parkway Foundation’s July “Adventure Days” series for children.



## Same-day care for same-day needs.

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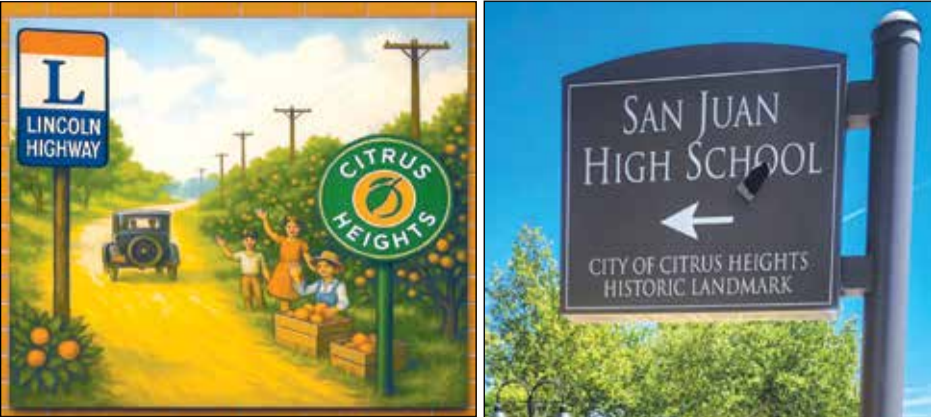
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# New Lincoln Highway Sign Installed



Top left: Gigi Rayford, director-founder of the Citrus Heights Arts Commission, is collaborating with Andy Saunders on the location and the choice of an artist to paint a new Lincoln Highway themed mural in the city. Top right: The upcoming event will honor San Juan High School, built in 1915, and the 1928 alignment of the Lincoln Highway route through the rural community of Sylvan along Greenback Lane. Photo courtesy of Andy Saunders

Continued from page 1

route of the historic Lincoln Highway past San Juan High were purchased. One will be dedicated in front of San Juan High School and the second, donated by Saunders, will be on public display in the San Juan High School Legacy room in the school cafeteria.

Before 1913, a patchwork of country roads crisscrossed Citrus Heights and much of the country, until businessman Carl G. Fisher began an effort to unite them into the first transcontinental highway, allowing drivers to travel from San Francisco all the way to New York City.

Fisher’s vision for a transcontinental highway, which became known as the Lincoln Highway and was named after President Abraham Lincoln, began in 1913 and lasted until the mid-1920s. The original transcontinental route ran from San Francisco to New York City, with Lincoln Park in San Francisco as the western terminus.

Featured program speakers on Aug. 15 will include David Lewis, principal of San Juan High School; Dick Cowan, a member of the Citrus Heights Historical Society; and Gayle Gaylord, curator and manager of the San Juan High School Legacy Room.

Al Fox, a member of the Citrus Heights Rotary Club, will speak on behalf of the club’s sponsorship of the Lincoln Highway signs.

Joel Windmiller and Trey Pitsenverger, members of the Lincoln Highway Association – California, will also discuss the association’s history and the 1928 Lincoln Highway alignment along Greenback Lane through Orangevale.

Gigi Rayford, director-founder of the Citrus Heights Arts Commission, will also speak on the upcoming Lincoln Highway video project she is working on.

Rayford is collaborating with Saunders on the location and the choice of an artist to paint a new Lincoln Highway themed mural in the city. Saunders contributed \$500 toward the completion of a new Lincoln Highway-themed mural.

One possible mural location under consideration along Old Auburn Boulevard is at the Wells Fargo Bank building near the border of the cities of Citrus Heights and Roseville, Saunders said.

The prominent mural location wouldn’t be far from the planned gateway arch which the city of Citrus Heights is planning to build as the centerpiece of its Old Auburn Boulevard Phase 2 project.

Saunders said that his vision for installing historical Lincoln Highway placards only became a reality because of help from the city and General Services director Regina Cave to bring the idea to fruition.

The city also plans to install a fourth Lincoln Highway placard at the northern city limits when a gateway archway into the city is completed, Cave said in an earlier interview.

“Further information about the mural is being held until the final design, artist and location are selected,” Saunders said. “Minor design changes which are required to make the historical Lincoln Highway Mural accurate are being finalized. We’ll be adding the name ‘Sylvan’ to the final mural design as a tribute to the name of the original community and the size of the Citrus Heights sign which is featured in the template will shrink a bit.”

The Lincoln Highway Association first published maps and travel guides to encourage drivers to venture out across the United States. Many did so and became the early residents of the Sylvan

community, now incorporated as Citrus Heights.

The original Lincoln Highway route through the Sylvan community was previously recognized in another public ceremony in front of the historic Sylvan Cemetery where another installed historical placard along Auburn Boulevard was dedicated.

Auburn Boulevard once ran along a path in Citrus Heights that was used by freight wagons as far back as 1849. At that time, the road ran straight to the city of Auburn until 1864 when the Central Pacific Railroad reached Roseville, according to Citrus Heights Historical Society President Larry Fritz.

The bend in that old country road, which is known as Sylvan Corners, marks the geographic center of Citrus Heights. Auburn Boulevard, Old Auburn Road and Sylvan Road, all come together at the intersection.

At that time, the trail that began as Auburn Road, then Lincoln Highway, then Highway 40, was renamed Auburn Boulevard. The bend in the road, however, remains.

Two additional Lincoln Highway route placards were dedicated along the route, including one on Auburn Boulevard adjacent to the 14-Mile House near Donegal Drive, and another on Auburn Boulevard close to the 12-Mile House near Devecchi Avenue, south of Greenback Lane.

Another Lincoln Highway placard was donated to the Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce and another to the Citrus Heights Event Center in Fountain Square.

Saunders said he is also working with the Orangevale Rotary Club, Orangevale Chamber of Commerce, Orangevale History Project and Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez to place additional historic Lincoln Highway signs at the Calder

# Snake, Rattle and Rescue

By Susan Maxwell Skinner

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - In what the Chinese zodiac calls the Year of the Snake; reptiles are keeping wildlife capture specialists busy.

Though many people fear snakes, they are as vulnerable to human ignorance as any wild animal.

“They get a bum rap,” said Ben Nuckolls, who operates the Fair Oaks-based California Wildlife Encounters organization. “In fact, they’re shy creatures. They’re as frightened of us as we are of them. People don’t realize their value.”

The animal capture specialist counts many snake rescues among hundreds of missions that he has undertaken for wildlife safety since spring.

“Snakes get more active in hot weather,” Nuckolls said. “A Fair Oaks couple recently called me. They’d discovered a five-foot Northern Pacific rattlesnake in their garden near the American River. Thankfully, their instinct was not to kill it. Instead, they called me. It was the biggest rattlesnake I’ve seen. He was at least six inches in diameter and his rattle had 14 buttons. I’m guessing he was seven or more years old. I found him coiled under a cluster of bamboo shoots. The guy was so heavy, I bent my metal snake tongs lifting him. We carefully put him in a large container while we figured out where to move him. My concern was to get him to out of



Five foot long, the Northern Pacific rattlesnake visitor has a 14-button rattle. Photo courtesy of Ben Nuckolls.

harm’s way. We found a safer place for him.”

Large and small, venomous or harmless, snakes play an important part in rodent control, said Nuckolls.

“When people kill these creatures, they’re doing the community a disservice,” said Nuckolls. “Without them, our rodent population would not be in check. 2025 certainly has been the Year of the Snake for me. Not just for rattlesnakes.

I’ve been called to remove gopher and king snakes from danger in several counties. They’re not venomous but they’re just as misunderstood as rattlesnakes. And they’re just as important for the ecosystem.”

Residents who find snakes that seem in danger are advised to call their county’s licensed rehabilitation facility. In Sacramento County, the number is 916-965-9453. ★

House in Orangevale.

Signage in Orangevale will also include the intersection of Kenneth and Greenback, Main and Greenback, and Main and Orangevale Avenue with arrows leading to the Orangevale bridge.

In Fair Oaks, signs sponsored by the Fair Oaks Rotary Club and the Fair Oaks Historical Society are planned across from the Mount Vernon Cemetery on Greenback Lane.

For more information about the historic Lincoln Highway and to retrace the original route, visit [www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/map](http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/map) and highlight specific points of interest. ★



The land for San Juan High School was donated by Walter Trainor, an early real-estate developer who gave the city its name, and construction was financed through a school bond in the amount of \$3,500. Photos courtesy of Andy Saunders

2025

CONCERTS

IN THE

Park

FAIR OAKS

FAIR OAKS

CONCERTS

IN THE PARK

10

GROOVE THANG

Funk & Motown

JULY

17

ISLAND OF BLACK AND WHITE

Reggae

JULY

24

JAX HAMMER

Classic Rock & Parks

Make Life Better Night

JULY

31

THE RICHARD MARCH BAND

Americana

JULY

07

TOM RIGNEY AND FLAMBEAU

Zydeco

AUGUST

14

STEREOTYPE

Pop/Dance & Community Connections Night

AUGUST

21

ROOTY TOOT TOOT

Local Band & Grand Opening

Hometown Pride & Community Picnic

AUGUST

28

SHAUNA & HIRED GUNS

Country

AUGUST

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27 September

27

ON AIR

SEPTEMBER

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\* Concerts will be held in Fair Oaks Park until Village Construction is complete. Stay tuned for updates. Dates, location, and bands subject to change.

# Newcomer Students Grow Their English Language Skills



In addition to the support of English Language Development teachers, students have also found a safety net from San Juan Unified District student interns. Photo courtesy of the San Juan Unified School District

## San Juan Unified School District News Release

**SACRAMENTO AREA, CA (MPG)** - For many English learners, moving to another country and navigating a different education system in a new language is a challenging experience.

At San Juan Unified School District, newcomer students have the opportunity to enroll in a summer program uniquely designed for English language learners.

This year, incoming seventh- through ninth-grade students participated in the Middle Newcomer Summer School program. With only four weeks of instruction, students have been able to gain additional English language skills.

Eleonora, an incoming ninth-grader at Mira Loma High School, shared that her favorite part about the

summer program was to learn new words.

“I learn English in ELD (English Language Development) and it is fun,” said Eleonora.

Students are enhancing their English through math, art, English Language Development and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math learning opportunities. These activities also allow students to learn how to collaborate through LEGO building and poster making.

In addition to the support of English Language Development teachers, students have also found a safety net from San Juan Unified student interns.

Somyeh, an incoming 12th-grader at Mira Loma, is supporting the Middle Newcomer Summer School as a part of her summer internship.

“They need support; there was a student that

kept thanking me for helping her,” shared Somyeh.

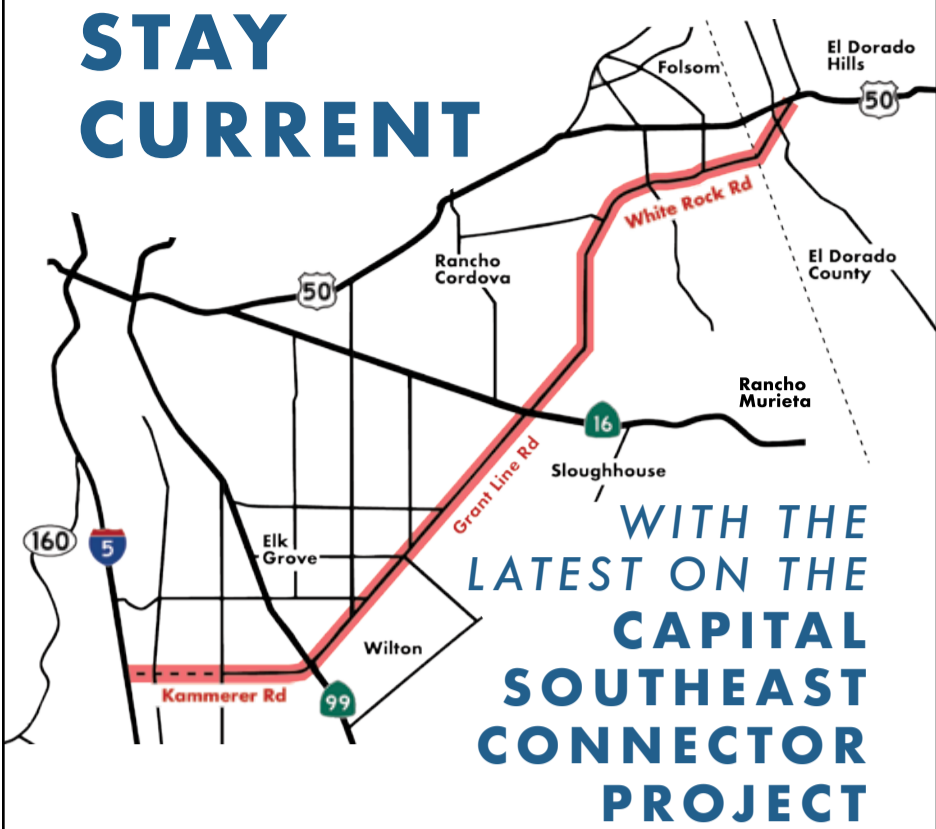
“When I told her I go to Mira Loma, she was like ‘You can help me there too!’ I said ‘Yes, of course!’”

Students from the Afghan community found reassurance from Somyeh. She understands the experiences that newcomer students are navigating, as she moved from Afghanistan to the United States and soon enrolled in San Juan Unified during eighth-grade.

Somyeh was delighted to see the impact of her support for English Language Development students and shared that she hopes to become a teacher one day.

With participation in this program, students gain confidence in their English language skills as they transition to middle school or high school. ★

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<b>For 12 people \$210.00</b>	<b>For 28 people \$395.00</b>
3Hours Karaoke + 2Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes (Medium Room)	3Hours Karaoke + 3Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 6 Main Dishes (Cherry Room)
<b>For 14 people \$230.00</b>	
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## WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

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<b>Pork Butt Boneless</b> <b>\$2.99 /lb</b>	<b>Pork Tenderloin Boneless</b> <b>\$3.49 /lb</b>	<b>Pork Baby Back Ribs</b> <b>\$4.49 /lb</b>

## WEEKLY HALAL SPECIALS

<b>Chicken Thigh Bnls/Sknls</b> <b>\$2.69 /lb</b>	<b>New Zealand Lamb Shoulder Chop Bone in</b> <b>\$5.49 /lb</b>	<b>Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast Boneless</b> <b>\$5.69 /lb</b>
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## FRESH PRODUCE

<b>Red Potato 5 lbs</b> <b>\$2.49 /bag</b>	<b>BlueBerry 1 pint</b> <b>\$2.49 /ea</b>	<b>Cactus Nopales 1 lb</b> <b>\$1.99 /pk</b>	<b>Cactus Nopales 1 lb</b> <b>\$1.99 /pk</b>
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## ASIAN GROCERY

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## EUROPEAN GROCERY

<b>Curtis Delicate Black Tea 100 T/B</b> REG.\$8.99 <b>\$5.99 /ea</b>	<b>Veres Zucchini Spread 500 gr</b> REG.\$4.99 <b>\$3.99 /ea</b>	<b>33 Korovka Cookies 180 gr</b> REG.\$1.79 <b>\$1.29 /ea</b>	<b>Condensed Milk &amp; Toffee 370 gr</b> REG.\$3.99 <b>\$2.99 /ea</b>	<b>Mars 2X Bounty Chocolate Bar 57 gr</b> REG.\$1.79 <b>\$1.29 /ea</b>
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## EUROPEAN DELI

<b>Columbus Applewood Ham</b> REG.\$7.99/LB <b>\$6.99 /lb</b>	<b>Belmont German Ham</b> REG.\$6.49/LB <b>\$5.49 /lb</b>	<b>Green Olives Stuffed w/ Almonds</b> REG.\$7.39/LB <b>\$6.39 /lb</b>	<b>Kalamata Olives with Garlic &amp; Pepper</b> REG.\$7.39/LB <b>\$6.39 /lb</b>
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## FROZEN & FISH DEPT

<b>Dried Cod Fish 500 g</b> REG.\$16.99/EA <b>\$12.99 /ea</b>
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## HOUSEWARE

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# Abide by Will of Voters

Commentary by Doug Ose

Homelessness and the mental illness and drug addiction that are the major contributing factors to it are a scourge on every neighborhood where it occurs. The inability over the last ten years to address homelessness reflects a profound unwillingness by our elected leaders to do the tough and dirty work of dealing with unfortunate souls who can't tend to their own affairs. These fellow citizens need our help!

In November, 2024, in a desperate effort to address homelessness, the citizens of California overwhelmingly voted to impose accountability on mentally ill and/or drug addicted homeless persons. The citizens said that they had had enough of turning a blind eye to such situations and wanted to help these individuals get back on the right path. The passage of Prop 36 with over 70% of the vote was a clear message that the voters wanted a change in direction when it comes to dealing with homelessness.

I appreciate that some of our elected officials who for years have coddled the homeless and enabled aberrant behavior are now rushing to put forward legislative proposals to deal with these individuals who are disrupting our neighborhoods and fouling our parks.

One proposal specific to Sacramento County is to create a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to manage and implement all local aspects of programs focused on helping the homeless. I have reviewed the proposal and have written this piece in an effort to explain the legislation.

I have four main points. My first point is that the voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of Prop 36; so, before creating new governmental structures to address homelessness, our elected leaders need to abide by the will of the voters and properly fund Prop 36 and find out if it has the positive impact we all hope for. Unfortunately, the Governor and Legislature have chosen to spend money elsewhere, so Prop 36 remains very inadequately funded.

My second point is that the communities that have been invited to join the JPA, with the exception of the City of Sacramento, have historically done a good job dealing with homeless persons in their respective municipalities. "If it ain't broke, then don't fix it!"

My third point is that buried deep within the proposed legislation is a reference to nine federal and state programs dealing in whole or in part with aspects of homelessness. Nobody knows the nuanced requirements of these programs, but because these programs are referenced in the proposed legislation, the JPA would be compelled to comply. Agreeing to comply with terms and conditions that you are not knowledgeable about is a recipe for disaster.

My final point is that putting forward new and untested programs to replace existing, tested and successful programs in the municipalities throughout Sacramento County is a fool's errand and the equivalent of putting lipstick on a pig. The State of California needs to properly fund Prop 36. Until that is done and the results are known, adopting multiple "new ideas" is premature. ★

# Value in Community Partnerships

Continued from page 1  
Committee and the American River Messenger.

Fair Oaks Community Action Partnerships' newest member is Eric Seider, co-founder of the Fair Oaks Permaculture group.

Additionally, local government officials, including Congressman Ami Bera, County Supervisor Rich Desmond, Assemblyman Josh Hoover and Senator Roger Niello send representatives to Fair Oaks Community Action Partnerships meetings to stay informed about district activities and to share updates on their programs and legislative activity related to the community.

District Administrator Mike Aho of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District attends to learn and exchange ideas with other service groups.

"We're one of the primary providers of recreation, events and public programming in Fair Oaks. It's important for us to engage with other groups doing great work in the community," Aho said. "Our presence enables others to learn about our available facilities, services and resources. In turn, we can better support their efforts. These relationships strengthen the fabric of our community and lead to more collaborative and impactful programming."

The Fair Oaks Community Action Partnerships meetings are an excellent source for finding volunteer opportunities for the Scouts' 68 troop leaders and their troops, according to operations lead Meg Cho Ervin of the Girl Scouts Service Unit 141.

"Through FOCAP, the Girl Scouts have participated in several significant community events, including the Big Day of Service, where they led three separate

projects; the annual Fall Food Drive at the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank; Meraki High School Job Fairs, where they participated in mock interviews with the students; and more," Cho Ervin said.

Fair Oaks Chamber Board Chair Mary Howard reported that the chamber has also sought Meraki High School student volunteers to help at chamber events.

"FOCAP meetings are a great way for us to share upcoming chamber activities with the community, as well as learn what others are doing," Howard said. "The shared information helps us plan and partner with other groups on community projects."

Angela Lee, director of Foundation Operations for the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Community Foundation, values the opportunity to engage with local leadership at Fair Oaks Community Action Partnerships meetings.

"We believe our community is stronger when its leaders and organizations are connected," Lee said. "Staying informed, understanding local challenges and working together to support one another helps us all stay in tune with the heart of our community."

Fair Oaks Community Action Partnerships members thank Schroeder for his leadership over the years and for his dedication to making a positive difference in the Fair Oaks and Orangevale communities. Schroeder also serves as the Fair Oaks Cemetery District Board of Trustees chair, the Fair Oaks Historical Society vice-chair and a YMCA of Superior California board member.

Schroeder is a professional musician who performs at local wineries, restaurants, breweries and many senior communities. ★



By Patsy McGavock  
JustServe.org

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - If you attend Orangevale Summer Nights Concerts, you've probably noticed the new permanent stage.

And if you've attended an Orangevale Rotary Club Crab Feed, you're a part-shareholder in that community gift.

From scholarships and supplies for teachers and families in need to stages and shade sails, each ticket purchased or donation made helps fuel and fund that good.

"One person's consistent support, whether it's attending a crab feed, bidding in a silent auction or simply spreading the word, creates real momentum," shares Catrina Womack, outgoing president of the Rotary Club of Orangevale.

"When our community shows up to support Rotary events, it's incredibly moving. It reminds us that we're not alone in wanting to make a difference and that change really does start with showing up."

For those who might not know, I hope to break down the full scope of that good and why each of us matters as we participate in the fun of community-building and community funding through local fundraising events.

These events generate funds that go directly back into the community. The Orangevale Teen Council, serving Orangevale and Fair Oaks, hosts teen dances and outdoor movie nights. Ticket sales become supply closets at middle and high schools, Christmas stockings for underprivileged teens and valuable mentoring experiences for the

# From Crab Feeds to Cook-Offs

## How You Fund the Heart of Our Community

teens running the events.

Scholarships for high school seniors and now trade school students are funded by events such as the Orangevale Woman's Club bunco nights, Fair Oaks Woman's Club fashion shows, Rotary crab feeds, last week's Kiwanis cornhole tournament, Farm and Garden Club plant sales and Casa Roble booster club events. The Orangevale History Project's Night at the Museum (coming Sept. 12) keeps the lights on, admission free and the YouTube videos coming.

A new scholarship debuts this year, one that readers can help make a reality by attending the Salsa Cook Off hosted by Helping Hands of Orangevale Fair Oaks on Aug. 16. More than a cook off, it's a full-blown community event that helps fund the nonprofits' work, providing small handiwork for those unable to do it themselves. This year, it will also fund trade school scholarships for high school seniors and adults, who can then give back by volunteering their skills.

Add Kiwanis's back-to-school backpack drive, Rotary's Adopt-a-Family Christmas Basket program, the Orangevale Fair Oaks Community Foundation's reat Our Teachers supply drive and a host of other civic group-led projects, such as showers for the homeless, snack bar renovations and individual family support. These are too numerous to list in a single column.

"The impact of our foundation's programs and the work of other service clubs in our area is seen every day in the lives of real people," said Angela Lee, director of Foundation Operations at the Orangevale Fair Oaks

Community Foundation. "Whether it's a family receiving groceries, a young Farm Camper learning to grow food or someone getting support through our Homeless Assistance Resource Team, this work matters."

Teresa Anderson, the foundation's director of finance, concurs: "The support of those who consistently support the events and fundraisers are the backbone of what we can do. They allow us to be confident in what we can do to serve others."

While some funding comes through grants and similar means, the greatest asset to this kind of community success is consistent individual support from the people these programs serve.

There's something even more powerful than funding when the community participates.

"When we gather for something like a farm dinner or a holiday event, it's not just about raising money," Lee concluded. "It's about building a stronger, more connected community. These events are where neighbors become friends and people realize they're part of something bigger. That's the kind of community I want to be part of and I'm grateful every day that I get to be."

To find the community-building event for you, look for community calendars posted the last week of the month at [www.facebook.com/ovfoef](http://www.facebook.com/ovfoef) and [www.instagram.com/ovfoef](http://www.instagram.com/ovfoef).

Patsy McGavock is a volunteer community advocate working to inform, empower and engage readers with their community. Connect with her at [PatsyMcGavock.JustServe@gmail.com](mailto:PatsyMcGavock.JustServe@gmail.com). ★

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Subscription rate is \$39 per year in Fair Oaks and Orangevale. The American River Messenger is published twice-monthly.

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# Girl Scouts Celebrate Capitol Bridging Ceremony

**Girl Scouts Heart of Central California News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Girl Scouts Heart of Central California (GSHCC) hosted its annual Capitol Bridging Ceremony on June 21, bringing together Girl Scouts of all ages for a memorable morning of reflection, celebration and advancement.

Held at the iconic Tower Bridge in Sacramento, the event invited girls and their adult volunteers or troop leaders to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, connect with fellow Girl Scouts and bridge to the next level in their Girl Scout journey.

This cherished tradition highlights the spirit of Girl Scouting growth, sisterhood and service, providing a unique moment for girls to set new goals, honor their achievements and be inspired by the community around them.

“We are always excited to



Through various programs and initiatives, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California empowers girls to take the lead in their lives and communities. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts Heart of Central California

welcome Girl Scouts and their families to the Capitol Bridging Ceremony and celebrate each girl’s progress and the strong community that surrounds

them,” said Claudine Niski, a learning and development specialist for Older Girl Trainings at Girl Scouts Heart of Central California.

The Capitol Bridging Ceremony is one of the most symbolic events of the year for Girl Scouts Heart of Central California and reflects the

organization’s continued commitment to building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

Through various programs and initiatives, the organization empowers girls to take the lead in their lives and communities.

Headquartered in Sacramento, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California serves over 16,000 girl and adult members across 18 counties, including Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Mariposa, Merced, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba.

Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them. To join us, volunteer, reconnect or donate, visit [www.girlscouthcc.org](http://www.girlscouthcc.org). ★



Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors and millions of alums, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California leads the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts Heart of Central California

Girl Scouts Heart of Central California (GSHCC) hosted its annual Capitol Bridging Ceremony on June 21, bringing together Girl Scouts of all ages for a memorable morning of reflection, celebration and advancement. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts Heart of Central California

Above left: Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors and millions of alums, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California leads the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts Heart of Central California

Left: The Capitol Bridging Ceremony on June 21 is one of the most symbolic events of the year for Girl Scouts Heart of Central California and reflects the organization’s continued commitment to building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts Heart of Central California

# Ownership Versus Affordability

*Continued from page 1*

payment but they’re going to be paying about \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year in taxes,” Davis said.

According to Apartment List, rent in the Sacramento area can generally range from under \$2,000 to more than \$3,500 for luxury style apartments, which is anywhere from \$24,000 to more than \$40,000 annually. Because apartments are rentals, tens of thousands of dollars are paid to property managers with no equity retained for the residents. Paying a mortgage on a manufactured home results in equity for the homeowner.

Home equity is the difference of a home’s market value and the amount owed on the loan, determining how much of the home is actually owned, according to Wells Fargo’s website.

Mobile and manufactured homes can typically have a mortgage range from under \$1,000 to more than \$2,000 for double- and triple-wide models, according to online The Mortgage Report, which are well under the median mortgage payment of about \$3,500 for a conventional home.

The correlation between median conventional mortgages and median salaries in the Sacramento area supported Davis’ claim, as the median listing price for a house in the area ranged anywhere from \$500,000 to more than \$800,000. The median income for Sacramento-area residents ranged roughly between \$60,000 and \$92,000. The median cost of a home is six times that of the median salary.

If nearly all conventional and manufactured homes are occupied while thousands of apartment units sit empty, why has the Sacramento region prioritized building more apartments instead of affordable ownership options?

Grayson Anderson, a realtor with Dwell Real Estate, sells conventional homes in older



Gene Davis from Reliable Home Solutions stands behind the kitchen counter of one of his manufactured homes on display in West Sacramento.



Grayson Anderson of Dwell Real Estate stands in the kitchen area of his listing in East Sacramento.



A bedroom in a manufactured home by Reliable Home Solutions features a built-in closet with lower storage to maximize space, Gene Davis, the owner of Reliable Home Solutions said.

Sacramento neighborhoods, such as the Land Park and East Sacramento areas. Anderson said the clients he regularly deals with typically receive a hefty amount of funds from outside sources to help with down payments and closing costs but other clients have found temporary rental deals to save money or stayed with family to cut their monthly expenses.

Anderson said that houses in older neighborhoods tend to hold their value or increase over the

course of a few years. This means it’s not getting any easier for younger first-time homebuyers if the median salary doesn’t reflect the rising cost of homes.

The appeal for most apartments are the amenities and promotions, giving residents their first month free, gym memberships or deals on long-term agreements, Anderson said. Costly repairs, permits and unforeseen circumstances are also some factors that can drive potential buyers away

from conventional homes.

Anderson said that prospective buyers often compromise their wish list for their potential dream home if it means making the house their own over time. A buyer looking for a three-bedroom home could settle for a two-bedroom if the price and neighborhood are right for them. Manufactured homes might not be an option for some buyers, Anderson said, because established neighborhoods with older

homes that have character are more desirable.

“I think the location matters for a lot of people and some of those areas are still being developed and there’s not much around,” Anderson said.

Michelle Nosal, a real estate agent with Windermere Signature Properties, regularly sells manufactured homes and said they can be a more cost-effective option for individuals looking to get out of renting or living with family.

Manufactured home parks can blend some of the amenities from apartments with the desirability of homeownership but it also blends some of the complications of both processes.

Nosal said loan rates for mortgages can sometimes be more than a conventional home but usually they are still competitive.

“If buyers can live in the payment, I say, ‘don’t worry about the price point,’ but if the payment works for you, jump on it now,” Nosal said.

To “live in the payment” means to achieve comparable monthly payments, regardless of what the purchase price is. For example, if an apartment’s \$1,600 rent is paid comfortably every month, then a mortgage payment of around \$1,600 will result in a comparable living situation, financially.

A conventional mortgage is more expensive than both manufactured home ownership and renting by roughly 60%, so where do residents who dream of owning a home turn to?

The Sacramento area is at a turning point, where visible challenges such as stalled infrastructure, inadequate income and rapid development converge, according to the realtors and Davis. The contrast between homeowners and new apartment construction highlights a city grappling with how to balance progress with accountability. ★

# Sacramento's Souper History

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

By Kristina Rogers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The crowd's excitement had Richard Acala

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

Acala explained how he got the idea for an exhibit.

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

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

Acala got to work, too.

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

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

Pick Mello explained the area's canning history.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lang commented about the exhibit: "They did a 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](http://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



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



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

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# UC Davis Among Nation’s Best

## UC Davis Medical Center Ranked as Top Hospital in the Sacramento Region

**UC Davis Health  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - UC Davis Medical Center has been ranked the No. 1 hospital in the Sacramento region, according to the 2025-2026 U.S. News & World Report prestigious Best Hospitals ranking.

This marks the 14th consecutive year that UC Davis Medical Center has earned the top spot locally. The medical center was also named the No. 7 hospital in California, continuing an 11-year streak of being ranked in the state’s Top 10.

“This year’s rankings are a testament to our unwavering commitment to delivering the highest quality care across California, transforming lives and strengthening communities,” said Michael Condryn, interim chief executive officer for UC Davis Health. “Our success is driven by the exceptional dedication of the entire UC Davis Health team, who consistently go above and beyond to provide patient-centered care without parallel.”

UC Davis Medical Center is at 4301 X St, Sacramento.

UC Davis Medical Center ranked among the Top 50 hospitals nationwide in six specialties: Ear, Nose and Throat (number 27), Geriatrics (number 27), Neurology and Neurosurgery (number 27), Pulmonology and Lung Surgery (number 27), Cardiology, Heart and Vascular Surgery (number 46)



**This year, UC Davis Medical Center was one of only 76 hospitals nationwide to receive recognition as one of best regional hospitals for community access.** Photo courtesy of UC Davis Health

and Diabetes and Endocrinology (number 48).

U.S. News also rated the medical center’s services in Cancer, Gastroenterology and GI Surgery, Orthopedics and Urology as “high performing.” That means the hospital scored in the Top 10 percent of all hospitals rated for those specialty areas.

UC Davis Medical Center was rated as “high performing,” the highest rating possible, for its quality of care in 16 common adult procedures and conditions: acute kidney failure; aortic valve surgery; back surgery (spinal fusion); chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); colon cancer surgery; diabetes;



**UC Davis Medical Center ranked among the top 50 hospitals nationwide in six specialties” Ear, Nose & Throat (#27), Geriatrics (#27), Neurology & Neurosurgery (#27), Pulmonology & Lung Surgery (#27), Cardiology, Heart & Vascular Surgery (#46) and Diabetes & Endocrinology (#48).** Photo courtesy of UC Davis Health

gynecological cancer surgery; heart arrhythmia; heart failure; Leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma; lung cancer surgery; pacemaker implantation; pneumonia; prostate cancer surgery; stroke; and transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR).

Last year, U.S. News & World Report introduced a “Community Access” badge to recognize hospitals that serve vulnerable and historically underserved populations, particularly those facing socioeconomic challenges.

This year, UC Davis Medical Center was one of only 76 hospitals nationwide to receive recognition as a best regional hospital for community access.

“We believe the ability to live a healthy life should be a right enjoyed by every person. That’s why we’re committed to inspiring better health for all,” said Condryn. “Research shows that health is shaped by more than medical care; it’s influenced by access to jobs, housing, healthy food and clean air. We’re working to address these factors and move our community closer to true health equity.”

The U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals rankings, published annually since 1990, enable consumers and their physicians to determine which hospitals provide the best care for the most serious or complicated medical conditions and procedures.

The full list of hospital rankings can be viewed on the U.S. News website at [health.usnews.com/best-hospitals](https://www.health.usnews.com/best-hospitals). ★

# Philanthropy Summit Challenges Old Ideas and Sparks New Ones

**SRCF News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Region Community Foundation will hold the second annual Philanthropy Summit on Monday, Sept. 15 at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West.

Bringing together donors, nonprofit organization leaders, volunteers and changemakers, the collaborate event’s theme this year is “Mission: Possible, showing how local philanthropy continues to drive positive change even in uncertain times.”

To kick off the high-energy motivational event, award-winning author, TEDx speaker, social entrepreneur and founder of 916 Ink Katie McCleary will deliver a “Because if Dinosaurs Can Fly, So Can We” keynote address.

McCleary will explore how philanthropy can help communities move from silos to solidarity and from cynicism to curiosity so we can tackle our biggest challenges together.

Following the keynote address will be nine educational sessions offering practical insights about building stronger nonprofit organization boards, trends in giving and fundraising, and new ways to grow impact and connections.

The Philanthropy Summit will conclude with the Sacramento Region Community



**The second annual Philanthropy Summit set for Sept. 15 is expected to sell out. This year’s theme is “Mission: Possible, showing how local philanthropy continues to drive positive change even in uncertain times.”** Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation

Foundation’s Celebration of Generosity, a spirited evening of food, drinks and community that honors the shared impact of those who champion causes across the region.

“The Philanthropy Summit is about rethinking the powerful relationship between nonprofits and donors and the collective impact they can create,”

said Sacramento Region Community Foundation CEO Kerry Wood. “We believe everyone has something to give to their community and the summit is a chance to come together, learn from each other and lead with heart to create real change right here in the Sacramento region.”

The upbeat event ties directly to its

mission of growing local giving across El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties through popular programs such as Big Day of Giving and philanthropic services that help individuals, families and businesses support the causes they care about.

Similar to its inaugural year in 2024, organizers said, the summit is expected to sell out. In fact, a portion of the event, Association of Fundraising Professionals California Capital Chapter’s National Philanthropy Day, is already sold out but plenty of other options are still available.

More information about the 2025 Philanthropy Summit and advance registration is available at [www.sacregecf.org/summit](https://www.sacregecf.org/summit).

Since 1983, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation has awarded more than \$275 million in grants and scholarships on behalf of local individuals, families, and businesses, and through its flagship program to grow charitable giving with the Big Day of Giving. The foundation’s mission is to lead, serve and inspire enduring philanthropy for a just and vibrant Sacramento region.

For more information about the Sacramento Region Community Foundation and ways to learn more about charitable giving, visit online [www.sacregecf.org](https://www.sacregecf.org). ★

# California Sees 13% Reduction in Stolen Vehicles Statewide

**From the Office of  
Governor Gavin Newsom**

**SACRAMENTO** - California continues to lead the way out of the COVID-induced crime surge, as the number of vehicles stolen statewide has dropped by 13% from 2023 to 2024 – the first year-over-year decrease since 2019.

Of those vehicles stolen, nearly 92% of cars, trucks and SUVs successfully recovered.

“We continue to put the safety of California communities first. Through strategic funding and partnerships with local and state law enforcement partners, we are putting a brake on lawlessness and criminals disrupting our way of life,”

Governor Gavin Newsom said.

Of the stolen vehicles in California, nearly 94% cars and 90% personal trucks and SUVs were recovered.

Through expanded regional efforts with the California Highway Patrol and local law

enforcement agencies, Governor Newsom sought to strengthen efforts to fight vehicle theft through crime suppression operations in key areas, including Oakland, Bakersfield and San Bernardino.

These ongoing regional operations have shown positive results throughout the broader communities in Alameda, Kern and San Bernardino counties. Working closely with local law enforcement agencies, auto thieves, repeat offenders and organized crime groups have been disrupted, and their activities have been thwarted.

As a result of these public safety collaborations, each of these counties saw a significant drop in vehicle thefts in 2024. Alameda:



**the number of vehicles stolen statewide has dropped by 13% from 2023 to 2024 – the first year-over-year decrease since 2019.** Image by Dayron Villaverde from Pixabay

down 18% from 2023, Kern: down 28% from 2023 and San Bernardino: down 11% from 2023.

Other notable drops by county in stolen vehicles from 2023 include Imperial: down 13%, Orange: down 16%, Riverside: down 24%, Sacramento: down 23%, San Diego: down 11%, San Francisco: down 17%, Santa Barbara: down 29%, Tulare: down 22% and Yolo: down 24%.

“We are proud to see fewer vehicles being stolen across the

state,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “The CHP and our law enforcement partners are working hard every day to stop these crimes, protect California’s communities and hold criminals responsible.”

Automobiles are a vital part of daily life for work, school and family. When a vehicle is stolen, it impacts more than just property—it can take away a person’s freedom and sense of security. View the 2024 report on stolen vehicles and their recoveries at <https://www.chp.ca.gov/siteassets/forms/recruiting/2024-ca-vehicle-theft-facts.pdf>.

Stronger enforcement. Serious penalties. Real consequences.

California has invested \$1.6 billion since 2019 to fight crime,

help local governments hire more police, and improve public safety. In 2023, as part of California’s Public Safety Plan, the governor announced the largest-ever investment to combat organized retail crime in state history, an annual 310% increase in proactive operations targeting organized retail crime, and special operations across the state to fight crime and improve public safety.

Last August, Newsom signed into law the most significant bipartisan legislation to crack down on property crime in modern California history. Building on the state’s robust laws and record public safety funding, these bipartisan bills offer new tools to bolster ongoing efforts to hold criminals accountable for smash-and-grab robberies, property crime, retail theft, and auto burglaries. While California’s crime rate remains near historic lows, these laws help California adapt to evolving criminal tactics to ensure perpetrators are effectively held accountable. ★

# Trio of Hornets Taken on Day Two of Major League Baseball Draft

## Sacramento State Athletics News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Three Sacramento State baseball players were selected on day two of the 2025 Major League Baseball Draft on Monday, as right-hander Carson Latimer (Cincinnati), infielder JP Smith (Minnesota), and right-hander Kade Brown (Athletics) were among the 615 players chosen overall during the league’s two-day event.

This year’s trio becomes the 30th, 31st, and 32nd Hornets either to be drafted or to sign a professional contract with a Major League club under Head Coach Reggie Christiansen since 2011 and marks the 19th consecutive season that a Sacramento State baseball player has been drafted or signed since 2007.

Taken with the 354th overall pick in the 12th round, Latimer became the highest drafted Hornet since Travis Adams (sixth round) and Scott Randall (seventh round) were top-10 round selections in 2021 and is the seventh Sacramento State player drafted by the Reds in program history, the first since infielder Ray Brown was selected in the 28th round in 1994.

In his first season with the Hornets, Latimer made 15 appearances on the mound and started seven games for Sacramento State, finishing 2-3 overall with 28 strikeouts in 36.2 innings of work. He struck out a season-high five in



The Hornets’ three draftees this year mark the first time since 2019 that three Sacramento State players were selected in the same season when Austin Roberts was picked by Pittsburgh in the eighth round, Tanner Dalton was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 17th round and Parker Brahms was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 27th round. Image courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

three innings against Abilene Christian on April 5 and had four more strikeouts in three innings against UT Arlington on March 22. Against California Baptist on April 18, he allowed just one hit over four shutout innings, striking out three Lancers.

Smith was selected with the 509th overall pick in the 17th round by Minnesota and became only the fourth Hornet to be drafted by the Twins in program history joining Tanner Mendonca (17th round in 2013), Tyler Beardsley (16th round in 2016), and the aforementioned Adams, who made his Major

League debut earlier this month and picked up his first career victory on July 12.

A first-team All-Western Athletic Conference selection for the second time in his career in 2025, Smith finished the campaign hitting .291 while starting all 58 games, scoring 42 runs, collecting 18 doubles, and slugging 12 home runs to go along with a team-high 52 RBI. He ranked in the top 15 in the WAC in hits (t12th), RBI (t8th), doubles (6th), home runs (t9th), and total bases (10th).

Brown became the third Sacramento State player selected

on Monday, taken by the Athletics in the 20th round (590th overall). It marked the second straight year that the Athletics drafted a Hornet after taking infielder Gunner Gouldsmith in the 19th round in 2024, while Brown became the ninth Sacramento State player to go from Hornet green and gold to Athletics green and gold.

A third-team All-America selection and finalist for the “Stopper of the Year” by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, Brown was a first-team All-Western Athletic Conference selection in 2025, finishing 3-2 on the mound

with a 2.93 ERA, posted 49 strikeouts over 43 innings of work, and held opponents to a .204 average. A three-time All-WAC selection during his career and the school's all-time leader in home runs with 48 over his three seasons, Smith ranked in the top 15 in the WAC in hits (t12th), RBI (t8th), doubles (6th), home runs (t9th), and total bases (10th) this past year.

The Hornets’ three draftees this year mark the first time since 2019 that three Sacramento State players were selected in the same season when Austin Roberts was picked by Pittsburgh in the eighth round, Tanner Dalton was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 17th round and Parker Brahms was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 27th round.

It also represents the first time that three Sacramento State players were drafted in the top 20 rounds since 2003 when right-hander Chris Kinsey was selected by Arizona in the fourth round, Jesse Schmidt was taken in the 10th round by San Francisco and Mikela Olsen was take in the 15th round by Florida (now Miami).

In all, 10 former Hornets have appeared in a Major League game in the history of the program with five of them currently active on MLB rosters (as of July 14): Rhys Hoskins (Milwaukee), Nathan Lukes (Toronto), Sam Long (Kansas City), James Outman (Los Angeles Dodgers), and Adams (Minnesota). ★

<b>SACRAMENTO STATE BASEBALL DRAFT PICKS BY THE CINCINNATI REDS</b> Keith Brown, RHP, 1986 (21st round, 540th overall) Doug Eastman, OF, 1986 (25th round, 636th overall) Scott Selner, SS, 1987 (26th round, 643rd overall) Bob Blankenship, RHP, 1989 (21st round, 547th overall) Eric Bates, RHP, 1989 (31st round, 807th overall) Ray Brown, 1B, 1994 (28th round, 772nd overall) Carson Latimer, RHP, 2025 (12th round, 354th overall) <b>SACRAMENTO STATE BASEBALL DRAFT PICKS BY THE MINNESOTA TWINS</b> Tanner Mendonca, RHP, 2013 (17th round, 500th overall) Tyler Beardsley, RHP, 2016 (16th round, 483rd overall)	Travis Adams, RHP, 2021 (6th round, 189th overall) JP Smith, IF, 2025 (17th round, 509th overall) <b>SACRAMENTO STATE BASEBALL DRAFT PICKS BY THE ATHLETICS</b> Steve Necoechea, 1B/OF, 1975 Dennis Stowe, OF, 1980 John Bulleri, P, 1980 Gary Weinberger, OF, 1981 (23rd Round / 585th Overall) Tim Doyle, LHP, 1991 (6th Round / 178th Overall) Blake Crosby, 1B, 2009 (42nd Round / 1,263rd Overall) Justin Higley, OF, 2013 (13th Round / 401st Overall) Gunner Gouldsmith, IF, 2024 (19th round, 556th) Kade Brown, RHP, 2025 (20th round, 590th overall)
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# Five Aggies Named FCS Football Central Preseason All-Americans

## UC Davis Athletics News Release

**DAVIS, CA (MPG)** - Rex Connors and Hunter Ridley took home first team honors to lead the way for UC Davis football’s five members on the FCS Football Central Preseason All-American list, with Winston Williams, Jacob Psyk and Porter Connors earning the honors.

Williams and Psyk were named to the second team while Porter Connors earned a third team nod. The Aggies were tied for the third-most members on the team joining fellow Big Sky Conference member Montana State, North Dakota State and South Dakota.

Rex Connors adds to a quickly filling trophy case with this being his second Preseason All-American honor this season having earned the nod from STATS Perform. The Aggie defensive back was also named the Big Sky Preseason Defensive Player of the Year (the first Aggie to earn that honor) and earned Preseason Big Sky All-Conference honors.

His 2024 All-American season was record-breaking finishing with a program record 74 solo tackles, finishing with a total

tally of 115 on the season.

Ridley has had a busy summer of accolades, earning STATS Perform Second Team Preseason All-American honors along with being named Big Sky Preseason All-Conference. The Aggie primary kicker was also nominated for the 2025 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. He was named a 2024 Fred Mitchell Award finalist after going 16-for-18 in field goals and hitting 56 PATs during the 2024 campaign.

Williams, who has already earned STATS Perform Second Team Preseason All-American and Big Sky Preseason All-Conference honors was also named the second-best returning tight end in the nation by HERO Sports.

He ended the 2024 season leading all Big Sky tight ends in touchdown receptions and he finished second in the nation for most receiving touchdowns by a tight end. When the year came to an end, Williams had racked up career numbers finishing with 265 receiving yards on 34 receptions, snagging six touchdowns while averaging 19.0 yards per game.

Psyk joined the Aggies during the

offseason as a transfer after four seasons at Harvard. During his senior season Psyk was named All-Ivy League first team following a year where he ranked 29th in the nation in sacks, finishing with 26 tackles, 6.5 sacks, one forced fumbled and one recovery.

Porter gained STATS Perform Third Team Preseason All-American honors to go along with a Preseason Big Sky All-Conference nod. During the 2024 season he finished with 86 total tackles, made three interceptions and scored a defensive touchdown on a scoop and score in the season opener at California. His game at Cal earned him national defensive player of the week honors as the Aggie line-backer would go on to start 13 games over the remainder of the season.

Season tickets are on sale now, and fans can visit [https://ucdavisaggies.eventue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/SEGetEventInfo?ticketCode=GS:UCD:FB25 26:FBSEA:&linkID=twucd&dataAccId=779&locale=en\\_US&siteId=ev\\_twucd](https://ucdavisaggies.eventue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/SEGetEventInfo?ticketCode=GS:UCD:FB25%26:FBSEA:&linkID=twucd&dataAccId=779&locale=en_US&siteId=ev_twucd) to secure their spot in Shredville for the 2025 season. Tickets start as low as \$100 for new alumni and \$140 for the

general public.

Football group ticket discounts start at 10 or more tickets and provide a great opportunity for gatherings and parties to enjoy Aggie football. If you’d like to create an unforgettable experience with your group, the Aggie Ticket Office is here to help you customize your day! Fans can head to <https://ucdavisaggies.eventue.net/events/FBS> to purchase their group ticket packages.

Mini Plans are a great way for Aggie fans to save on tickets by bundling multiple games. Choose from 2 different options to get the biggest bang for your buck, and fans get to pick the games that work the best for you. The Pick Any 2 or Pick Any 3 Plans allow fans to pick and choose which games they want to attend at a discounted rate versus buying single-game tickets. Both plans can be purchased at <https://ucdavisaggies.eventue.net/events/FBPACK>.

Single game tickets are on sale now and fans can secure their spot at one five home games for as little as \$13 a ticket. Single game tickets can be purchased at <https://ucdavisaggies.eventue.net/events/FBS> ★

# 55th Sacramento County Women’s Golf Championship

## Sacramento Golf Council News Release

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - The 55th Sacramento County Women’s Golf Championship took place on July 26 and 27, at Mather Golf Course in Rancho Cordova, drawing top female amateur golfers from around the region.

Taylor Baker of Sacramento emerged as the 2025 Sacramento County Women’s Champion, capturing the Championship Flight title with an impressive

two-day total of 131 (69/62). Her second-round score of 62 set a women’s course record on the back nine, cementing her place in the tournament's history.

In the Handicap Division, Karen Biscaha of Fair Oaks claimed victory with a gross score of 184 and a net score of 134, finishing an impressive 10 under par.

The Championship Flight featured golfers with a handicap index of 6.6 or less and was played from the Navigator (silver) tees at 5,550 yards.

The Handicap Flight included players with an index of 18.4 or less and was played from the Mustang (purple) tees at 5,250 yards.

Deborah Kanner was tournament chairman, assisted by Linda Bigler of the Sacramento Golf Council.

The Sacramento County Women’s Golf Championship continues to showcase outstanding talent and sportsmanship in Northern California women’s golf. ★



Karen Biscaha wins Sacramento County Womens Handicap Championship. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council



Taylor Baker wins Sacramento County Womens Golf Championship. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council

# Celebrating Polish Culture

**Polish American Club of Sacramento News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Have you danced the Polka, ate Pierogi and had your picture taken with a “Polish Princess?”

Never, you say? Well, it’s about time you did.

Join the Polish American Club of Sacramento, Inc. at the 34th annual Polish Festival. Come celebrate and learn about the Polish culture through traditional food, drink and song from noon to 5 p.m. Sept. 6 at 327 Main St., Roseville.

The best part of the festival is the food and entertainment. There are no Polish restaurants in the greater Sacramento area, so the Polish Festival is the only time when people can enjoy authentic Polish food while listening to traditional Polish music, performed by professional musicians.

The Polish American Club of Sacramento, Inc preserves and perpetuates Polish traditions, customs, culture and heritage through social events and activities. Since the club’s forming in 1959, membership and the festival have grown. For more information about the performers and vendors, visit the website at <https://sacpolishclub.com/annual-polish-festival>.

More than 1,500 festivalgoers are expected to attend this year’s festival. But don’t worry, there will be plenty of food. Come fill up on home-made Polish delicacies with more than 5,000 Pierogi (potato-cheese filled, meat filled or mushroom and sauerkraut filled dumplings); 1,000 Golabki (cabbage rolls); 700 pounds of Kielbasa (Polish sausage), hundreds of servings of placki (potato pancakes) and a variety of Polish pastries.

Beside all the wonderful food and entertainment, several vendors will sell Baltic Amber, handmade crafts, Polish souvenirs and Polish sausages.



Dance the polka or, while you eat, enjoy the music of Chet Chwalik Polmuz Polka Band and Nicolai Prisacar’s accordion music, are sure to impress. Photos courtesy of the Polish American Club of Sacramento



Volunteers work on baking the paczki (Polish donuts).



Polish sausage sandwiches are another big draw for festivalgoers.



Dance the polka or, while you eat, enjoy the music.



Potato pancakes are another popular offering at the annual festival honoring the Polish culture. ★

## Sacramento Superior Court Executive Officer Retires



**Sacramento Superior Court Executive Officer Lee Seale was appointed Court Executive Officer in June 2021 following a unanimous vote by the court’s judges.** Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Superior Court

**Sacramento Superior Court News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)**

- Sacramento Superior Court Executive Officer Lee Seale will retire on Aug. 1, following a career dedicated to law and justice.

Presiding Judge Bunni O. Awoniyi made the announcement on July 25 and praised Seale’s leadership and contributions to the court.

“Lee Seale has been an exceptional leader, providing clear direction, meaningful support and fostering collaboration with our justice and labor partners,” said Awoniyi. “Under his guidance, the court expanded its capabilities, embraced innovation and improved access to justice for our community. It has been an honor to work alongside him and we wish him the very best in this next chapter.”

Seale was appointed Court Executive Officer in June 2021 following

a unanimous vote by the court’s judges.

During Seale’s tenure, the Sacramento Superior Court saw both operational and service improvements, including a 30-percent increase in the court’s budget, providing new resources for expanded operations, staffing increase by approximately 100 employees and strengthening court services across all divisions.

Seale saw the launch of eCourt and electronic filing for Civil, Probate, Small Claims and Unlawful Detainer cases.

He saw the introduction of postcard jury summons and jury service text message updates to improve communication with jurors, restructuring of the Probate Division and expanded hours at the Carol Miller Justice Center to reduce case backlogs and improve public access.

Seale saw the creation of the Guardianship Assistance Program, in partnership with local law schools, to support self-represented litigants and the launch of a civil home court model, leading to a reduction in civil case backlogs.

He saw continued delivery of grant-funded mediation services in Unlawful Detainer and Small Claims cases during his tenure and the celebration of two milestones: the 10th anniversary of the court’s unique One Day Divorce program and the fifth anniversary of Civil Self-Help

Services, as well as significant progress on the new Tani Cantil-Sakaue Sacramento County Courthouse construction.

“Lee has demonstrated strong leadership in overseeing and developing the court executive team,” added Awoniyi. “His steady and supportive guidance has had a lasting impact on our 700-plus court employees.”

Before joining the court, Seale served as Sacramento County’s Chief Probation Officer and held positions in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation under Governors Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jerry Brown. He also served as a Special Assistant Inspector General, overseeing investigations and legal staff in California’s prison system, and worked as a Deputy Attorney General in the criminal division of the California Department of Justice, handling cases throughout the state and appearing before the California Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court.

“Serving as Court Executive Officer has been a rewarding role,” said Seale. “I am proud of what this court has accomplished and thankful for the extraordinary judges, staff, and justice partners who have made our progress possible.”

The court has begun a competitive recruitment process for its next Court Executive Office. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/SacCourtCEO>. ★

## County Connects Veterans and Families to Benefits

**Sacramento County Health and Social Services News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County’s Veterans Services Office plays a vital role in helping veterans and their dependents access life-changing benefits. For Elyse Ehler, that support meant a full college education at UC Davis—without the burden of student debt—and a future filled with purpose and opportunity.

As the daughter of a U.S. military veteran, Elyse qualified for both the CalVet Tuition Fee Waiver and Chapter 35 education benefits, support made possible through programs facilitated by the Sacramento County Veterans Services Office. These benefits covered her tuition, eased the financial burden of college, and opened doors that might have otherwise been closed.

“The impact of the tuition waiver and stipend on my time at college cannot be understated,” Elyse shared. “It has prevented me from having any college debt and has allowed me to plan for my future with optimism.”

Throughout her time at UC Davis, Elyse didn’t just focus on academics—she thrived. She took on meaningful internships, unpaid educational roles and even contributed to a research study on hearing loss in military veterans. These experiences, made possible by the financial freedom her benefits allowed, helped shape her passion for community education and outreach.

Her achievements were recognized with the Outstanding Senior Award and a Department Citation for Academic Distinction. This summer, she plans to apply for her California substitute teaching credential, with dreams of one day teaching science and environmental education in schools or working with non-profit and state organizations to make a difference.

“I will forever be thankful to my father who served, and without whom I could not have received these benefits,” she said.

Elyse’s success story is just one example of how Sacramento County is making a real difference in the lives of veterans and their dependents.



**Sacramento County’s Veterans Services Office plays a vital role in helping veterans and their dependents access life-changing benefits.** Photo by Mike Jones pexels

The Department of Veterans Services is committed to helping individuals access the benefits they’ve earned through military service—whether it’s for education, healthcare, housing or financial support.

“As a veteran and mother, I understand firsthand how life-changing these benefits can be. Our team is deeply committed to honoring that service by making sure every veteran and their family have access to the resources they’ve earned. Elyse’s story reminds us why this work matters,” said Rochelle Arnold, Sacramento County Veterans Service Officer.

If you are a veteran, active service member or a dependent, you may be eligible for a wide range of state and federal benefits.

Our knowledgeable staff is here to guide you through the process and help you apply.

Don’t leave your benefits unclaimed.

Visit <https://ha.saccounty.gov/benefits/VeteransServices/Pages/VeteranHome.aspx> or call us to speak with a Veterans Services Specialist today.

Call or visit the location at (916) 874-6811 or 3970 Research Dr., Sacramento, CA 95838 ★