



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Launches in Sacramento County

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Land Park News

VOL 34 • ISSUE 17 *Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years* SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

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SEEKING A PROVEN POINT GUARD



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WHAT IF YOU KNEW HOW YOU WERE GOING TO DIE?



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One Weekend, World of Flavors

Terra Madre Americas Culinary & Cultural Festival

By Idaly Valencia

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Experience the flavors of the Americas at a first-of-its-kind event when Terra Madre Americas is in Sacramento from Sept. 26 to Sept. 28.

Presented by Visit Sacramento and Slow Food, the weekend will be dedicated to showcasing the diverse flavors and traditions of Sacramento and cultures from around the globe.

The Terra Madre Salone del Gusto, Slow Food's premier international festival, is held every other year in Italy, where farmers, chefs and food lovers gather to promote good, clean and fair food for all.

Inspired by that festival, Terra Madre Americas will bring food and drink tastings, live music, chef demonstrations, educational panels, artisan vendors and family-friendly activities to Sacramento.

Apart from certain ticketed/reserved experiences, the festival entrance is free and open to all ages.

Whether you're a cook, farmer or just a food lover, Terra Madre Americas is an opportunity to learn and connect with the cultural background behind the food that is being enjoyed.

Grand Tasting
 The Grand Tasting, a separately-ticketed event, will kick off the weekend from 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 26



Outdoor vendors at Terra Madre Americas Sept. 26 to 28 will showcase some of the best of Sacramento's flavor with food, locally made beers and wines, handmade goods, interactive exhibits and more. Photo courtesy of Terra Madre Americas

and feature tastings from more than 20 chefs, along with craft drinks and live entertainment.

Local chefs who will participate include Rebecca Campbell of Sac City Brews, Pedro Depina of The 7th Street Standard, Craig Takehara of Binchoyaki, Michael Fagnoni of Hawks Public House and Nina Curtis of Plant-ish & Co.

General admission is \$125 and includes two

drinks with unlimited tastings. The experience is limited to ages 21 and older.

Live Music at the Golden 1 Stage

The Golden 1 Live Music Stage, located at 14th and I streets, will host free performances Sept. 27 and Sept. 28 where attendees can listen to the contemporary sound of national headliner performers to standout local talent.

Acts include deejay NESSS, Son Café, hot-plug, Jon Wiilde, Zephyr, Passion Pit (solo acoustic), Jade Bird, Spoon, The War on Drugs, deejay Lady Char and Big Head Todd and the Monsters.

Performances on Sept. 27 will be from noon to 8:20 p.m. and from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 28. For set times, visit TerraMadreUSA.com.

Visit Sacramento curated *Continued on Page 2*

County Revises Approved 2025-26 Budget



Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on Sept. 3 to revise the approved budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

The \$9.2 billion Revised Recommended Budget included an increase of \$239 million in total appropriations from the \$8.9 billion Recommended Budget that the board approved in June.

The increases included a \$16-million increase in General Fund appropriations and a \$223-million increase in appropriations in other funds, resulting primarily from re-budgeting of capital projects and other contractual expenditures and including \$529,000 in non-General Fund growth.

Additional growth in the revised recommended budget includes total appropriations of \$4 million in Net County Cost and 16 full-time equivalent positions.

Re the Sheriff's Department's Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) Expansion, \$0.5 million Net County Cost is recommended to fund one full-time equivalent Sheriff Sergeant and four full-time equivalent Deputy Sheriff positions needed for the expansion of the IOP program to comply with the Mays consent decree.

Re the Correctional Health Services - IOP Expansion, \$1.8 million Net County Cost is recommended to increase the UC Davis mental health services contract for five months of expanded IOP operations during Fiscal Year 2025-26 and to provide funding required Fiscal Year 2025-26

Continued on Page 4

Artist Reclaims Wood, Creates Beautiful Pieces

Story and photos by Kristina Rogers

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - When the pandemic drove people to find how to cope, Jaime Dempsey decided to burn wood. To be clear, art was always an outlet.

She received an art minor at Sacramento State, where she first discovered her interest in wood as a medium.

"I always liked doing things with wood," she said. "Sometimes I'd paint on it, or paint on paper and nail it to the wood."

Homebound with her husband and two daughters, Dempsey remembers, "I had a pause giving me a chance to slow down,"

Continued on Page 3



Artist Jaime Dempsey proudly shows off her Blue House Studio.

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LIFE MEMBER

One Weekend, World of Flavors

Continued from Page 1

a playlist for attendees to get a sneak peek of the music that will be heard at Terra Madre Americas festival on Spotify at bit.ly/41CSL6U (case sensitive).

Marketplace and Outdoor Vendors

The Terra Madre Americas Marketplace, presented by UC Davis Health, will be open to all attendees to shop with local and international vendors offering coffee, spirits, meats, cheeses, seafood, produce and other products.

There will also be outdoor vendors featuring some of the best of Sacramento's flavor with food, locally made beers and wines, handmade goods, interactive exhibits and more.

Educational Panels

Free workshops and panels will be held at the convention center covering topics such as globalized food systems, access to food, biodiversity and indigenous perspectives.

Sessions include "Food as Relationship:

Reimagining the Future Through Connection," "What Is Specialty Coffee," "Cacao in a Cup: Traditions from Brazil, Mexico and Ecuador" and a Wilton Rancheria discussion. Seating is first-come, first-served.

Enoteca Wine Lounge

The Enoteca, presented by Bank of America, will offer wine tastings from North and South America, emphasizing the stories and traditions that are behind each pour.

Terra Madre Americas Bistro

Sponsored by SMUD, the Terra Madre Americas Bistro will present three-course meals curated by world-renowned chefs on Sept. 27 and 28. This reservation-only dining experience ranges from \$55 to \$80, with optional wine pairings for \$25.

On Sept. 27, chef line-up includes Matthew Beaudin, Drew Deckman and Elizabeth Falkner. Dishes featured in their dining experience vary from an Ora King Salmon Tartare, a Dubai Croissant, Silken Tofu and Pan Roasted Halibut.



Terra Madres America Bistro will present three-course meals curated by world-renowned chefs such as Sean Sherman, who will prepare dishes such as Incense Cedar Braised Rabbit, Blue Corn Tostada and vegan Wild Rice "Tres Leches" Cake on Sept. 28. Photo courtesy of Terra Madre Americas

On Sept. 28, chefs Jeremiah Tower, Mary Sue Milliken and Sean Sherman will prepare dishes such as Goat Birria, a Ceviche Sampler, Incense Cedar Braised Rabbit, Blue Corn Tostada and vegan Wild Rice "Tres Leches" Cake.

Slow Food International

The organizer, Slow Food, is a grassroots movement dedicated to good, clean and fair food for all. The organization cultivates a worldwide network of advocates

in cultural and biological diversity, promotes food education and influences policies in public and private sectors that transform food systems.

The festival runs from noon to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28 at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in downtown Sacramento, 1401 K St.

For more about the festival, visit terramadreusa.com. ★

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Artist Reclaims Wood, Creates Beautiful Pieces

Continued from Page 1

so I started wood burning. It was inspiring: the smell and the relaxation of it. You draw the picture, then you trace it and put it directly on the wood. It felt like adult coloring books, a place to zone out and relax.”

The birch tree stump in the backyard caught her eye and Dempsey decided to make her first table.

“My mantra was, ‘What’s the worst that could happen?’” Now, the table sits in her living room. Her friends and family loved it and asked her to make them furniture, too. After work, which is with the state, she creates commissioned pieces like furniture, wall art and epoxy pourings.

Like many artists, Dempsey’s ideas emerge while she sleeps. It’s how she developed her shed’s personality.

“I had a dream about Frida Kahlo and her Blue House, Casa de Azul, and I thought, ‘That’s it!’” Today, Dempsey’s Blue House participates in Verge’s Sac Open Studios, where the public can visit artists’ homes and tour their work.

Dempsey’s home reflects a welcoming, cozy bohemian style. Plants hang from the ceiling and drape over wooden tables and bookshelves. Her walls display wood-burned images of women and flowers that might make one think of lazy summer afternoons listening to Fleetwood Mac.

Her desire to maintain the natural elements of the wood is what makes the pieces so inviting.

“I feel like it’s different from a woodworker where perfection is involved. My stuff is so wabi-sabi, where I say, ‘You know what? I like that mistake in it, that’s life. Nothing in this world is perfect.’ It’s my favorite part. I want people to know a human made it.”

She encourages her girls to play with their creativity, too. During the lockdown, Dempsey put together a craft corner stacked with supplies. Each day, she set aside time for artful experimentation.

“I told them to turn off the TV and let’s do something. They would draw stories in blank books, play with clay, or crochet. Sometimes I gave them a theme like ‘It’s a parade; you have one hour to present it to me.’ They loved doing that.” The creative play continues today.

Trading artwork with others is encouraged, too. Her older daughter exchanged “cat art” at an art show with another creator. The painting she received is now part



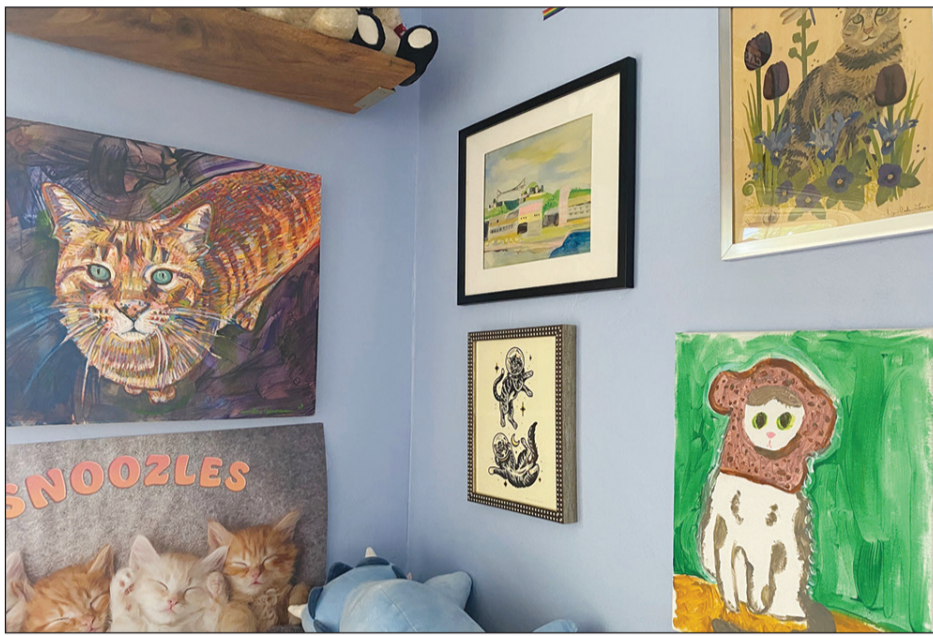
A dream inspired the stingray seascape.



Jaime Dempsey is working on a new wood burning of wildflowers.



This unnamed piece is displayed in Jaime Dempsey’s living room.



This is the cat art collection in her daughter’s bedroom. The orange cat was an artist trade.



The first table Jaime Dempsey made came from a felled birch tree in her backyard.

of an eclectic mix of kitty art gracing the girl’s bedroom wall.

For creative spirits who feel the artist’s call, but have full schedules, Dempsey offers encouragement.

“There was a stretch after I had kids where I wasn’t creating and asked, ‘Where do I even begin? Will it be good enough?’ I decided to bring that child out. For instance, I’d paint colors on a tiny canvas and play for at least half an hour every night. Then I’d wonder, ‘Do I like it? Does it matter?’ I’d put the pieces aside and come back a month later, realizing it wasn’t so bad, and why was I so critical?”

When she’s asked to make something,

there are no promises of how it will turn out. But that’s what’s special about Dempsey’s work. Discovery is a natural part of the process.

“Sometimes when I have a slab, I’ll sit with it and ask, ‘What do you want to be next?’ I’ll try to honor that. It feels like an energy exchange. When someone receives it, it becomes a healing piece for their home.”

As Dempsey’s children grow, her ambition evolves. She has plans to apply to the Krenov School of Fine Woodworking in Mendocino. Dempsey also dreams of bringing various woodworkers together in a collective space where they can create,

display and sell their pieces.

For now, work and family contain Dempsey’s artistic aspirations to a part-time endeavor. She is building a bookshelf for the girls’ room and a new headboard for her bedroom. In addition, she’s preparing for Verge’s Sac Open Studios. And she continues to experiment with wood, discovering what it will evolve into next.

See Jaime Dempsey’s artwork at Anchor & Tree Coffee Roasters, 1412 16th St.; and 1970 Salon at 2631 Riverside Blvd. Her website is bluehousesac.com. Sac Open Studios are on the weekends of Sept. 14 and 20. Details can be found at sacopenstudios.com. ★

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LAND PARK

On a picturesque tree-lined street, in the sought-after College Tract of Land Park, this stately two-story home offers both charm and grandeur. The impressive entryway welcomes you with soaring ceilings, setting the tone for the home’s spacious atmosphere. The formal living room is graced by a beautiful bay window, a cozy fireplace, and double French doors that open onto the patio, creating a seamless flow for entertaining. The recently remodeled kitchen features quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, a central island, elegant cabinetry some with glass fronts and abundant storage options. Adjacent to the kitchen, the gathering room features window seat, cabinetry and French doors that lead to the backyard, ideal for relaxed gatherings. On the main level, a smaller bedroom serves perfectly as an office, accompanied by a separate guest bathroom for convenience. Upstairs, you’ll find three generously sized bedrooms, including a luxurious primary suite complete with an expansive bath, walk-in closet, and dedicated dressing area. Step into the backyard where a flagstone patio, built-in pool, and mature landscaping provide a tranquil retreat, the perfect setting for outdoor entertaining and relaxation. 3621 17th Street \$1,990,000

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Sacramento Zoo Unveils 'Quack Tracks'

Sacramento Zoo News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Zoo is excited to announce the official return of "Quack Tracks," an interactive, family-friendly experience sponsored by Quick Quack Car Wash.

Starting on Sept. 13, guests can take part in this quack-tastic scavenger hunt, featuring painted yellow duck footprints that guide guests through the zoo on a nostalgic journey of discovery.

The Sacramento Zoo will host an official unveiling event on Saturday, Sept. 13. Festivities begin

at 9:30 a.m. on the zoo's entrance plaza. Children will have the chance to win duck-themed prizes and follow an animal scavenger hunt through the zoo.

"Quack Tracks" begin at the zoo's entrance and waddle their way through select animal exhibits, culminating near the American alligator habitat.

As they follow the path of duck prints, participants will use the Goose Chase app to answer trivia questions about the animals they pass. For the official unveiling on Sept. 13, children who have completed the scavenger hunt can stop by the zoo's entrance to receive a Sacramento Zoo

duck print sticker.

Adding to the fun, the zoo's Kampala Cafe will offer a special duck-themed kids' menu for the day including "Quackeroni & Cheese" and "Quacker-jacks."

The zoo's education department will also be stationed near the zoo's entrance with family-friendly crafts and activities.

"When I think of when I visited the zoo as a child, I think of those duck prints," said Nicole Wong, website and database coordinator at the Sacramento Zoo. "It's really fun to help bring that tradition to a new generation of zoo kids." ★

County Revises Approved 2025-26 Budget

Continued from Page 1

Revised Recommended Budget for one-time capital improvements needed at the Rio Consumnes Correctional Center.

Re Health Services - Behavioral Health Services Act, \$1.4 million of state funding will add nine full-time equivalent positions to provide administrative support for Behavioral Health Services Act mandates.

Re Public Defender

- State Prison Unit, \$0.5 million of state funding will add two limited term full-time equivalent positions in the department's state prison unit.

During the hearings, the Board of Supervisors approved a one-time General Fund contribution of \$10 million to the Roads Fund from Service Stability Reserves and a one-time General Fund contribution of \$17,980 to Regional Parks from

Service Stability Reserves and \$7,020 from Parks Revenues for a Zodiac Boat.

For more details go to the county's Office of Budget and Debt Management website at bdm.saccounty.gov or view budget documents on the Office of Budget and Debt Management website at bdm.saccounty.gov/FY2025-26BudgetInformation/Pages/default.aspx. ★





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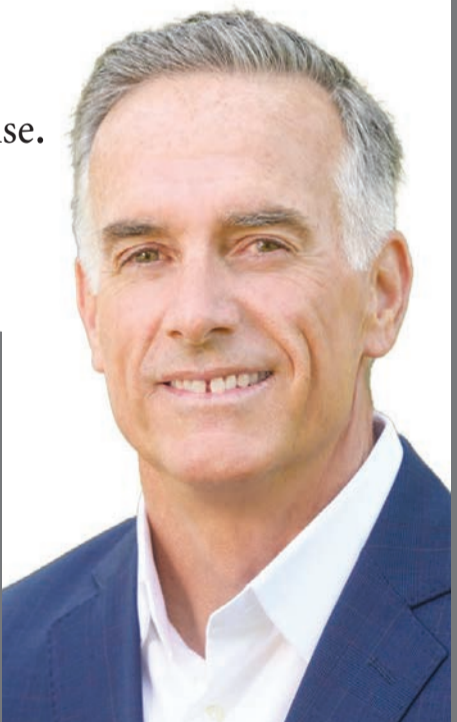
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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



How important is it to have a capable if not notable point guard on an NBA team?

Ask Magic Johnson, John Stockton, Steve Nash, Jason Kidd, Stephen Curry, Oscar Robertson or Isaiah Thomas and you will get an overwhelming consensus.

Even though hall of famers, John Stockton and Steve Nash have never won a championship, having a top caliber point guard does not come with any guarantees.

Nonetheless, having a court general that can distribute the basketball, all the while controlling the tempo and avoiding needless turnovers, is a recipe for winning a lot of NBA games, and that is what every one of these stalwarts were good at.

The Sacramento Kings find themselves in an uneasy position as the regular season looms just weeks away, as for the past 7 years the point guard position was the one area that provided great optimism and not concern.

Drafting DeAaron Fox will be remembered as one of the more erudite maneuvers that the organization has ever made, and as the 2025/2026 season approaches, fans and pundits alike are watching to see how the next floor general will compete and lead the Sacramento Kings.

By reaching into the trade market and acquiring journeyman Dennis Schroder, the Kings are providing the team with a proven point guard that can not only be counted on night in, and night out but also provides young players like Devin Carter and Nique Clifford, a player that can mentor their young careers.

Dennis Schroder deserves no criticism, and it's my hope that not only will he find a team that can provide him with a long-term home, but that he will flourish in his new city.

It has been difficult for fans to let go of DeAaron Fox, and I completely understand. The situation was badly handled last season, and it left a bad taste. But as the new season begins, it's critical that the fan base gives the new floor leader a vote of confidence, and I believe that is just what we can expect to see from the Sacramento base.

So, just who is Dennis Schroder? Born in Braunschweig Germany, Dennis Schroder found basketball at the age of 11, and by the age of 19 was playing professionally in Germany. Showing an entrepreneurial spirit at an early age, Schroder became the owner of the Loewen Braunschweig, a professional

team in Germany.

By 2013 Schroder had gained the attention of the NBA and was drafted 17th overall by the Atlanta Hawks, where he would carve out his young career for the next 5 years. In his last season with the Hawks Schroder scored a career-high 19.4 points per game while contributing 6.3 assists.

Over the next 7 seasons Dennis would go on the play for the Thunder, Lakers, Celtics, Raptors, Nets, Warriors, and Pistons, finally arriving in Sacramento to start the 2025/2026 campaign.

This much movement begs the question, is there something wrong, or is he just an immensely intriguing player with a wealth of experience?

I don't have the definitive answer, but I would say to those who ask, buy a ticket and come see this guy. For me he represents a complete ball player, expert at handling the basketball, able to score when needed, and an excellent passer with an unselfish spirit.

Do I think he can fit in with the Kings and provide the leadership needed to be the starting point guard. I absolutely do, and I think where other teams moved on, the Kings struck gold!

There remain many question marks as the upcoming season nears, but for me Dennis Schroder is not one of them. I believe in short order he will win over the naysayers in the cheap seats and may very well find a destination spot in Sacramento.

Defense has long been a thorn in the side of Sacramento, and Schroder has a reputation for playing tough defense. Not known for being a lock-down defender, Dennis has quick lateral ability, and his long wingspan helps make him a deflection specialist.

Keegan Murray made noticeable improvements in his defense last season, and Keon Ellis has developed into a tenacious defender. Adding a point guard that can complement these two will undoubtedly make a positive impact.

The preseason is almost upon us Kings fans, and I can't wait to see what this point guard in the prime of his career can give the Sacramento Kings.

Stay positive, because I feel that more moves are coming soon!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

Social Security Matters

Can I Claim My Own SS Benefit Now and Get Half of My Husband's Benefit Later?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I would like to get an answer concerning taking my Social Security benefit soon and switching to my spouse's benefit when he begins to take his. I am 64 years, 9 months old and my husband is 65 years, 7 months. My benefit is low due to the fact that I did not work for about 25 years while raising our children. My benefit would be \$573 at age 65. My husband's benefit at age 67 will be \$3,326. My first question is: can I receive half of my husband's benefit once he begins drawing his? Secondly, if I draw my benefit now will that reduce the amount I can draw from his benefit later? **Signed: Ready to Collect**

Dear Uncertain: As you may know, the full retirement age (FRA) for both you and your husband is 67. If either of you claim before your FRA your monthly SS retirement amount will be permanently reduced and, if you are currently working, you will be subject to

Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for early filers is \$23,400 for 2025 (changes yearly) and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away some of your benefits (\$1 for every \$2 over the limit). They "take away" by withholding future payments until the penalty is satisfied.

That said, if you claim your personal SS "soon" (e.g., at age 65), you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until your FRA to claim. You would, indeed, get a "spousal boost" when your husband claims, but you would not get 50% of his age 67 amount. That's because of the way spouse benefits are calculated. When your husband claims, you will get a "spousal boost" added to your early benefit amount (\$573?). The amount of that spousal boost will be computed as ½ of your husband's FRA amount (e.g., \$1663), minus your FRA entitlement (likely about \$661) for a spousal boost of about \$1002. But since you won't have yet reached your FRA when your husband claims, the amount of the spousal boost will also be reduced (to about \$926), which will be added to your age 65 amount of \$573 for a total monthly spousal benefit of about \$1499.

So, the answers to your two questions are:

1. Because you claimed your Social Security retirement benefit early and won't yet be your full retirement age when your husband claims, you will not get half of your husband's benefit when he claims. You would likely get about 45% of his benefit.

2. If you take your own SS retirement benefit now, you will get a higher benefit when your husband claims, but the amount you get will be less than half of his FRA entitlement.

The only way you can get the full 50% of your husband's FRA benefit entitlement is to wait until your own full retirement age to claim Social Security.

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



Lisa Cook is Wrong

Uncharacteristically for him, Donald Trump is being too modest in asserting his power over the Federal Reserve.

He's fired Lisa Cook "for cause," citing a clearly pretextual alleged mortgage infraction, when, as a constitutional matter, he should be able to fire her, or Chairman Jerome Powell, for any reason he deems appropriate.

The independence of the Federal Reserve largely rests on its status as a constitutional anomaly, exercising executive authority without being subject to the same rules as the rest of the executive branch. There are good policy reasons for this -- an independent central bank promotes monetary stability -- but the Fed has been granted, in effect, an exemption from our constitutional order for prudential reasons.

The Fed itself isn't in on the joke. Lisa Cook thinks she can't be fired and is suing to keep her job, while Jerome Powell has laughably maintained that he can't be removed from the chairmanship.

Cook can only be given a pink slip for "cause," according to the statute. "Cause" is a broad term, though. If it is interpreted the usual way, it would include a refusal to carry out a presidential directive or policy disagreements. As for Powell, there isn't even any statutory restriction on

dismissing him as chairman.

The head of the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau was also supposed to be insulated from removal thanks to a provision saying that it had to be "for cause." How did that turn out? In 2020, the Supreme Court held that such a constraint was unconstitutional.

This decision was in keeping with the Court's recent drive to vindicate the president's power to fire at will officials whose agencies carry out executive functions.

Article II of the Constitution doesn't explicitly say the president can fire executive-branch officials, but it is implied in the president's power to run the executive branch, as such Founding-era luminaries as James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson recognized.

In a 1922 Supreme Court case, Chief Justice Taft wrote for the majority that as the president's "selection of administrative officers is essential to the execution of the laws by him, so must be his power of removing those for whom he cannot continue to be responsible."

The rise of independent agencies with the New Deal and a Supreme Court decision called Humphrey's Executor, saying FDR couldn't fire at will the commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission, sent the removal power into retreat.

But the decision in the CFPB case undercut the logic of Humphrey's Executor, as have other recent decisions. In a concurrence in the CFPB case, Clarence Thomas said it wasn't clear what was left of the reason-

ing of Humphrey's. Whatever remained, he wrote, wasn't enough "to justify the numerous, unaccountable independent agencies that currently exercise vast executive power outside the bounds of our constitutional structure." That should have gotten the Fed's attention.

The Court has sidestepped the status of the Federal Reserve in its removal-power jurisprudence. But there's no legal reason that it should be considered an oasis standing apart from the Court's ruling that there is no "de facto fourth branch of government" lacking "accountability to either the president or the people."

The Fed clearly exercises executive power in its vast regulatory functions, just as the CFPB does. It promulgates rules, polices banks, and issues fines. The Court has held that if an agency exercises executive power only in a fraction of its functions, it is subject to the president's removal power.

The cleanest solution would be to pass a constitutional amendment authorizing an independent Fed or a similar entity. Short of that, the Federal Reserve's regulatory functions could be handed over to another executive agency (although core monetary functions of the Fed also may be executive in nature).

The Supreme Court will surely be reluctant to grasp the nettle on the Fed. Yet, there's little doubt that, on the legal merits, Lisa Cook should be sending out her resume.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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New California Law to Make Housing Projects Easier, Cost More



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Two months ago, Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislators from both parties celebrated enacting landmark legislation to remove the California Environmental Quality Act as an impediment to new housing construction.

Lopsided votes in the Legislature for Assembly Bill 130 and Newsom's immediate signature seemingly ended decades of debate over how the environmental law, signed by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan more than 50 years ago, was being used to delay or kill residential developments.

"Saying 'no' to housing in my community will no longer be state sanctioned," said Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, an Oakland Democrat who has long advocated for CEQA reform. "This isn't going to solve all of our housing problems in the state, but it is going to remove the single biggest impediment to building environmentally friendly housing."

Newsom took obvious pleasure in achieving what had eluded other governors, including predecessor Jerry Brown, who once described overhauling CEQA as "the lord's work."

As Newsom signed the measure into law he thanked legislators and housing, labor and environmental leaders "who heeded my call and

came together around a common goal — to build more housing faster and create strong, affordable pathways for every Californian.

"Today's bill is a game changer which will be felt for generations to come," he said.

While AB130 does remove CEQA as a weapon for labor unions and opponents of high-density projects to stall construction, there's a provision buried in the lengthy bill that could create a new impediment.

Two sections, 137 pages in, declare that if a residential project has "significant transportation impact," local governments or regional agencies can impose fees to "mitigate the transportation impact to a less than significant level by helping to fund or otherwise facilitating vehicle miles traveled-efficient affordable housing or related infrastructure projects..."

The so-called vehicle miles traveled, or VMT, fees are "a new housing tax families simply cannot afford," the California Building Industry Association publicly complained, adding that impact fees are already major factors in housing costs.

Local traffic impact fees are not new. In fact, a dispute over a \$23,420 traffic mitigation fee imposed nine years ago for a factory-built house in El Dorado County is still pending after going all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

However, AB 130 appears to broaden the potential use of these fees not only for roadway improvements, but also to pay for low-income housing projects throughout the state by contributing to the state's Transit-Oriented Development

Implementation Fund.

Drafting AB 130's CEQA language was a complex process involving multiple stakeholders, not only housing advocates but environmental groups that often employ CEQA to slow or kill major public and private developments and labor unions, which have used the threat of CEQA lawsuits to compel developers to use union workers. The latter issue was a major hang-up that required last-minute amendments to the measure.

The language about traffic fees was never mentioned in analyses of the bill nor in the debates that preceded legislative passage. It's another example of how such budget trailer bills are used by governors and legislators to enact major legislation on the sly, with little or no public airing of the issues.

Trailer bills often contain language that has little or nothing to do with the budget and are often fleshed out just hours before enactment. Under the guise of being budget-related, the bills can be passed with simple majority floor votes, take effect immediately upon being signed by the governor and cannot be taken to voters via referendum.

Those factors make trailer bills convenient vehicles for legislation that might not survive close scrutiny. Newsom has been especially willing to utilize them for his legislative priorities.

Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

Ethan Gao Claims Victory at State Fair Golf Championship

Sacramento Golf Council News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Golf Council proudly concluded the 101st California State Fair Championship at the historic Alister MacKenzie Golf Course at Haggin Oaks, with a thrilling display of elite amateur golf talent over three days of fierce competition.

Ethan Gao of Johns Creek, Georgia emerged as the 2025 State Fair Champion, delivering a consistent and commanding performance with rounds of 67-66-68 for a total of 201 (-15). Gao fended off a crowded leaderboard to secure the title in one of California's most prestigious amateur events.

"I was struggling early, just felt off, but you kind of expect that when you are leading in the final round," Gao said. "But I just kept grinding."

When asked what being crowned the California State Fair Champion meant, Gao said, "It means a lot. I have not won a big tournament in four years and I feel like I am turning the corner right as the Stanford fall college season is starting."

A tightly-contested battle saw Taylor Knoll of Folsom and Luke Dugger of Davis tie for second at 203 (-13). Knoll made a final-round push with a 66, while Dugger's solid 68 kept him in the hunt until the end.

Close behind in solo fourth was Kavi Marez of Carmichael, finishing at 204 (-12). Rounding out the top five were Jaden Hunter of Rancho Santa Fe and Tucker Sweeney of Pasadena, both tying for fifth at 205 (-11).



Ethan Gao of Johns Creek, Georgia emerged as the 2025 State Fair Champion, delivering a consistent and commanding performance with rounds of 67-66-68 for a total of 201 (-15). Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council

A field of 108 of the West Coast's and beyond top amateur players competed across three rounds on the par-72 championship course, with the cut line falling at 1 under par (143) after 36 holes. The leaderboard featured players from across the United States and international competitors from France, China and Guam.

Notable performances included Reese Sato (Folsom), who posted a blistering second-round 63, the lowest round of the tournament, as well as Zach Mate (Elk Grove) and Kyle Dougherty (Irvine), who both finished at 206 (-10), tied for seventh.

The tournament continued its tradition of showcasing rising stars and seasoned amateurs at one of California's premier public golf venues, named after its legendary architect, Alister MacKenzie.

"We're honored to host this historic championship each year and proud to see such a deep field of talent," said PGA Director of Golf, Mike Woods. "Ethan Gao displayed exceptional poise and consistency. He's a deserving champion."

The Sacramento Golf Council extends its thanks to the players, volunteers, sponsors and staff at Haggin Oaks for making the 101st playing of this storied event a resounding success.

Established in 1924, the State Fair Championship is one of California's oldest and most respected amateur tournaments. Hosted annually by the Sacramento Golf Council, it has served as a proving ground for collegiate standouts, national champions and future professionals. Past Champions include Ken Venturi, Al Geiberger, George Archer and Kevin Sutherland. ★

Singh Wins 2025 State Fair Women's Golf Championship

Sacramento Golf Council News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The 2025 State Fair Women's Golf Championship ran from Aug. 30 to Aug. 31 at Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course.

Gianna Singh captured the Women's Championship title with a birdie on the first playoff hole against Sneha Sharon. Singh carded rounds of 67-65 for a total of 132, while Sharon finished with 65-67 for the same 132 total.

In the Senior Division, Kelly Wilson of El Dorado Hills won the title with rounds of 67-74 for a 141 total.

The Low Net Champion was Liz Freeman, playing to an 8.0 handicap, who

posted net rounds of 75/67 each day for a total of 134.

The Championship Flight was open to all women amateur golfers with a World Handicap System (WHS) Index of 6.6 or less. The Senior Division was open to players ages 50 and older with a current handicap index of 18.4.

The competition was 36-hole stroke play.

Charlie Cheung was the tournament chair for the Sacramento Golf Council.

The Sacramento Golf Council is a non-profit volunteer-run organization that conducts and promotes golf events at Sacramento County-based golf courses for all interested golfers. Specific events are open to men and women of all ages and abilities and juniors. ★



Gianna Singh captured the Women's Championship title with a birdie on the first playoff hole against Sneha Sharon. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council



The Low Net Champion was Liz Freeman, playing to an 8.0 handicap, who posted net rounds of 75/67 each day for a total of 134. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Golf Council

Cal Expo Kicks Off Football Partnership

California Expo News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Cal Expo, in partnership with California State University, Sacramento (Sacramento State) is kicking off the exploration of a new chapter for Hornet football.

In a unanimous vote, the California Exposition & State Fair (Cal Expo) Board of Directors approved an agreement with California State University, Sacramento to study the feasibility of transforming the Cal Expo Grandstand into a potential new home for the university's football program.

"In addition to being two state agencies, Sac State is our neighbor, just over two miles down the road," said Tom Martinez, California Exposition & State Fair CEO. "We are excited to collaborate on a project that benefits the broader Sacramento community by bringing Hornet football to Cal Expo."

The project calls for transforming approximately 9.25 acres of the grandstand and racetrack area into a modern football venue with seating for 25,000 and expandable to 40,000 in the future.

"Cal Expo provides an opportunity for us to go much bigger," said Dr. Luke Wood, California State University, Sacramento president. "It's a much larger vision for what we want to do with athletics."

Plans also include installing a new field with lighting, adding modular locker rooms with showers and restrooms, expanding bleacher seating, and making cosmetic upgrades such as fresh paint and Sacramento State Hornets branding. The goal is to bring six to eight Hornet home games to the venue,

beginning in the fall 2026 football season.

"There's no reason that we can't have big-time college football here in Sacramento," said California State University, Sacramento athletics director Mark Orr. "What we need is a facility that can support the aspirations we have for football. The students and community deserve it."

With on-site parking for more than 15,000 vehicles, Cal Expo is well-positioned to host large-scale game-day events.

"Cal Expo has a long history of hosting major community events and this potential partnership reflects our mission to serve the region by providing facilities that bring people together," said Martinez. This collaboration aims to transform the Cal Expo Grandstand into a state-of-the-art venue that brings together Sacramento State athletics and Cal Expo's long tradition of serving as a premier community gathering place.

Cal Expo is home to the California State Fair and plays host to hundreds of other signature events each year. Featuring 350 beautifully landscaped acres, Cal Expo was initiated by Governor Pat Brown and opened by Governor Ronald Reagan in 1968. The current Cal Expo facilities were dedicated as a place to celebrate California's achievements, agriculture, diversity of its people, traditions and trends that will shape the Golden State's future. The California Exposition & State Fair mission is to create a state fair experience reflecting California, including its industries, agriculture, and diversity of its people, traditions and trends shaping its future supported by year-round events. ★

Sac Republic News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Ahead of the Sept. 15 kickoff of Hispanic Heritage Month, Republic FC and the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce are now accepting applications for the annual El Futuro Scholarship.

The partners have teamed up every year since 2019 to award a local student a \$1,000 grant to support their academic journey. The winner will be announced at the club's annual Noche Latina celebration on Oct. 1. Applications are now being accepted at SacRepublicFC.com/scholarships.

"At Republic FC, we believe education is the ultimate goal and El Futuro helps students score it," said Republic FC Vice-President of Community Investment Scott Moak. "None of this would be possible without the amazing partners who step up alongside us to invest in our youth and their future success."

"Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to uplift the stories, achievements and leadership of those shaping our community's future," said Cathy Rodriguez Aguirre, Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce president and CEO. "Through our partnership with Republic FC, we are investing in students pursuing higher education, helping build a stronger, more diverse workforce for years to come."

Applicants must be currently enrolled at an eligible high school or in a minimum of six units at a California Community College and intend to enroll in a four-year college or university, or a California Community College (minimum 12 units). Additionally, they must be of Hispanic origin and live in the six-county Sacramento region. Applications close at 5 p.m. Sept. 19.

The winner of the scholarship will be notified on Sept. 24. For a complete list of requirements or to apply, visit SacRepublicFC.com/Scholarship.

Last year, Republic FC and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce awarded the scholarship to Larisa Rosales, who shared her passion for Mexican folklórico dance during the half-time ceremony.

Rosales' interest in sharing and connecting with her Mexican heritage led her to pursue study anthropology at University of California, Davis. "I discovered my love for Mexican folklórico when I was in seventh-grade," said Rosales. "My first year of dancing was just for fun because I enjoyed dancing and took great pride in my Mexican identity."

Cultures from across Latin America will be represented and celebrated on Noche Latina. Upon arriving at Heart Health Park, fans can browse an artisan market featuring local Hispanic and Latino vendors. Music and dance will also be a central part of the celebrations, with multiple groups and styles set to make an appearance before the match begins. Javier Arellano will also co-emcee the match alongside Republic FC's Connor Sutton.

Since 2019, Republic FC has worked with various community partners, including the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Capital Black Chamber of Commerce, on its Rising Scholars Series. The program has awarded nearly \$20,000 to young people showing exceptional scholastic leadership and community involvement.

For more about Republic FC's Rising Scholars Series, including the El Futuro Scholarship, visit SacRepublicFC.com/scholarships. ★

County's Golf Carts Enhance Parking Patrols

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County's Department of General Services Security team has a new tool to help keep downtown parking facilities safe and accessible: security patrol golf carts.

The two carts will be used to patrol three county-managed properties: the employee garage at 7th and F streets, the public parking garage at 725 H St. and the Jury Parking Lot at Eighth and F streets.

The idea came after the county partnered with local businesses and the Downtown Sacramento Partnership to improve



The Department of General Services Security team has deployed two golf carts to patrol downtown parking facilities. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

safety and cleanliness in the area. Capitol Protection Group, a private security company assisting with the effort, already uses golf

carts for patrols. Seeing the benefit, Security secured two carts to expand coverage and efficiency. "The carts will allow

our building security attendants to cover more ground and strengthen patrols of the county's parking facilities," said Deputy County

Executive Sylvester Fadal. "This is a cost-effective way to enhance security and support the safety of both employees and

visitors." The carts will help create a safer environment for employees and the public alike. ★

ABOUT TOWN

Area Museum Experiences

A sampling of must-see and must-do experiences and special activations offered by local museums include the following:

California Museum – "Recuerdos Ilustrados: Día de los Muertos 2025" ("Illustrated Memories: Day of the Dead 2025") features contemporary altars and artwork by artists from Southern California and the Central Valley.

Opening Oct. 11, the annual exhibit explores the Mexican cultural tradition of honoring deceased loved ones each year Nov. 1-2 by creating sugar skulls, altars of the dead) and offerings, which has evolved from the Aztecs to modern

day Mexico and California.

This year's exhibit features the work of printmaking artists Stephanie Mercado, Daniel Villa, and Álvaro D. Márquez, whose altars will be centered around the topic of immigration. Details at californiamuseum.org.

California Automobile Museum – OG Lowrider x Wired Down Sacramento Festival and Car Show, Saturday, September 13.

Vehicle registration is \$50, and general spectators are free. 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. **Sacramento History Museum** – Come play our brand new SacTown History Quest! Set in the four corners of the city, come find out about the best hidden gems of Sacramento!

The city is your game board, take your time to find out about these spots and discover areas you never think about! Gears provided & prizes at the end! Drive the quest with your team up to 6 people and unscramble the final puzzle!

Saturdays, Sept. 13, Oct. 4, Nov. 8, Nov. 22. Details at sachistorymuseum.org.

Elks Lodge 6 Calendar of Events

Elks Lodge 6 Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am; \$15 tax included.
Yoga, Monday 12 p.m., Wednesday 3:30 p.m. Lodge members free.
Karaoke Nights, Thursdays and Saturdays, 7 p.m.
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.
Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 p.m. See elks6.net for weekly menu. ★

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Tahara Named County Teacher of the Year

Event Offers Water-Saving Resources and Rebates

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento teacher Derek Tahara, alongside Elk Grove Elementary School teacher Bethany Hancock, was named 2025 Teacher of the Year by the Sacramento County Board of Education at an Aug. 22 ceremony.



Derek Tahara, a third-grade teacher at David Lubin Elementary School, was named a 2025 Teacher of the Year by the Sacramento County Board of Education. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Office of Education

The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) recognized district Teachers of the Year and announced the two county winners during its annual celebration at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West.

Tahara, a third-grade teacher at David Lubin Elementary School in the Sacramento City Unified School District, and Hancock, a third-grade teacher in the Elk Grove Unified School District, received the Elinor Lincoln Hickey Award of Merit, the top honor bestowed by the board. Trustees O. Alfred Brown Sr., Vanessa Caigoy, Heather Davis

and Youth County Board Member Nairobi Dunbar presented the awards.

The Sacramento Scottish Rite continued its tradition of awarding perpetual trophies to the winners.

Tahara and Hancock now join a select group of educators who will represent Sacramento County in the California State Teachers of the Year program. Past honorees include Elinor Hickey, the 1978 County Teacher of

the Year and namesake of the award. The two winners were selected by a committee of education professionals, including past Teachers of the Year, who interviewed candidates and reviewed essays from 13 district nominees. Large districts are eligible to nominate two teachers each year.

The program is presented by Sacramento County Office of Education in partnership with the Sacramento Kings, Sacramento Republic FC, Sacramento River Cats, SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and Sacramento Scottish Rite.

Sacramento County Office of Education serves more than 258,000 students across 13 districts in Sacramento County, providing direct education, training and support services.

It also leads the Capital Service Region, a 10-county area in Northern California. ★

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento residents are invited to learn new ways to save water and money at the free Water Wise Garden Showcase from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 27 at the Department of Utilities main campus, 1395 35th Ave.

"This event is about giving people the confidence and resources to make water-efficient improvements to their yards, no matter their skill level," said William Granger, the city's water conservation coordinator.

Attendees can connect one-on-one with gardening professionals, irrigation experts, landscape designers and contractors.

The event also will feature educational talks and information about rebates from the city's water conservation team.

"We're also excited to introduce some new features this year, including tours of our drought-tolerant garden, a native plant sale and even a mobile coffee bar," said Granger.

Vendors expected to attend include: City of Sacramento Water Conservation, City of Sacramento Recycling & Solid Waste, Master Gardeners of Sacramento County, Sacramento Tree Foundation



- California Native Plant Society
- Green Acres
- GreenWaste Florin Perkins Landscape Materials
- Hunter Industries
- AM Landscape Design
- Brodeur Landscapes
- Pollinator Gardenworks
- Landscape Symphonies
- Mantis Gardens LLC
- Prado + Jardin
- Tranquill Gardens
- Water-Wise Landscaping
- Indulgence Mobile Coffee Companys.

People are encouraged to RSVP on the Department of Utilities' Facebook page, @SacramentoCityUtilities. A response is not required to attend but helps staff plan for the event. ★

8th & O Street Light Rail Platform Closed Through 2026

Sacramento Regional Transit District News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is notifying riders and the public that the east platform (for travel inbound toward 8th & Capitol) at the 8th & O Street light rail station will remain closed through late 2026.

While major building construction by the California Department of General Services at 1416 9th St. is expected to conclude at the end of this year, additional work is still needed at the station before full

reopening is possible. The bus stops that were closed during construction efforts at 8th & O streets and 9th & N streets reopened to riders on Sept. 2.

Due to the construction fencing and site limitations, SacRT was unable to raise the east platform during the last phase of light rail station platform upgrades. The platform must be modified to meet the new height requirements for SacRT's modern low-floor light rail trains. A new construction contract for this platform work is expected to be in place by early 2026.

"We understand the inconvenience

this extended closure causes and appreciate our riders' patience," said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. "Once we are able to begin this next phase of platform upgrades, 8th & O Street Station will be a top priority."

Until the work is complete, the east platform (for trains traveling inbound toward 8th & Capitol) will remain closed. Riders should use Archives Plaza Station as an alternative for inbound service. The west platform at 8th & O Street Station (serving trains traveling outbound toward Archives Plaza) remains open. ★



Due to the construction fencing and site limitations, SacRT was unable to raise the east platform during the last phase of light rail station platform upgrades. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Regional Transit District

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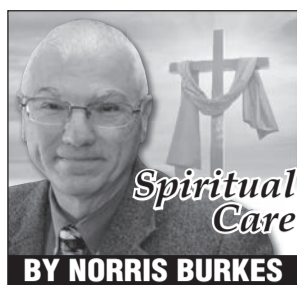
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What if You Knew How You Were Going to Die?



BY NORRIS BURKES

If you knew what you were going to die from, would that change the way you live?

That's the question I faced in my next assignment in 1999 at Patrick Air Force Base. That's the year my Air Force doctor, a graying 50-something flight surgeon brought me in for my pre-deployment physical.

I had mixed emotions about the physical. After all, if he pronounced me healthy, I'd leave my family to go to Saudi Arabia for four months. If he declared me unhealthy, I might face a medical evaluation board and soon find myself unemployed.

During my 15-minute office visit, he hammered on my boney knees, peered into my uncertain brown eyes and shined his flashlight into the airfoils I call ears. He'd put a tongue depressor in my upper orifice and a gloved finger in its southern cousin.

Just as I was refastening my shiny belt buckle, his assistant knocked on the door.

"Enter," the doctor barked.

A balding young airman appeared, handed the doctor a manila folder and was quickly dismissed with a perfunctory, "Thank you." "Ahh. Your test results," he said.

The doc put on the eyeglasses dangling from his neck and flipped through pages of blood tests, pee

tests and vision tests. All the while he was nodding, spouting numbers and mumbling approving words like "good" or "OK."

He closed the file with a smile, so I ventured a guess.

"Am I good to go to Saudi?"

"Yes, but there's been a recent increase in your blood pressure, so I'm prescribing some medications."

My face flushed with obvious concern, so he took a more optimistic tack.

"Look at it this way," he said. "At least you know how you're going to die."

"Excuse me?" I begged. "Most likely a doctor will one day write 'hypertension' on your death certificate," he declared.

I rubbed my eyes, in hopes of dismissing the grim reaper I saw draped in a white lab coat.

However, not to be dissuaded by my shaking head, Doc assured me that any thoughts I was having of an early demise were "greatly exaggerated."

With some enthusiasm, he added that my problem would be defined as "service-related. That means that one day your wife, Becky, will get a nice death benefit – all because of your hypertension."

"Bless your heart!" I said. (Southerners know what this means.)

He was predicting a silver lining in my death, but I didn't want to hear it. After all, I was planning to live a long life in a beachside home with my officer's retirement.

My thinking was much like the greedy farmer Jesus mentioned in the parable found in Luke

12:16–21.

The farmer was so successful that he built new barns to store his abundant crops. With his retirement set, the farmer told himself, "Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."

The story concludes with God prematurely calling the farmer to the pearly gates, leaving all his crops to spoil in the cavernous barns.

Then Jesus added his punch line: "That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God."

These days, nearly every time I strap on a blood pressure cuff, I think about the survival odds quoted by that doctor. That cuff reminds me that although my earthly life is finite, God's love is infinite, and God always gives better odds.

However, knowing how I might die has changed the way I live. I exercise regularly, eat better and take my medications. But most importantly, Becky no longer has to see me as a potential dollar sign from a VA pension.

CORRECTION: Last week, I misspelled the Amazon website where you can donate supplies to Chispa Project. Our Amazon Wishlist for the back-to-school season is <https://go.chispaproject.org/supplies> (Do not use "WWW.")

Email me with questions or comment at comment@thechaplain.net.

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Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Launches in Sacramento County

Young Children Can Receive Free Books

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County children from birth to age 5 can now receive one free book in the mail each month, regardless of family income, through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Since starting in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has become the preeminent early childhood book-gifting international program. The flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation, a nonprofit organization, has gifted more than 280-million free books in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and The Republic of Ireland through funding shared by The Dollywood Foundation and local partners.

The Imagination Library mails more than 3 million high-quality, age-appropriate books directly to children's homes each month. Each child enrolled in the program receives one book per month for children up to age 5 at no cost to families.

Grammy-winning singer, songwriter, actress, author and businesswoman Parton envisioned creating a lifelong love of reading and inspiring children to dream more, learn more, care more and be more. The program's impact has been widely researched and results demonstrate its positive impact on early childhood development and literacy skills.

Imagination Library launched Aug. 27 in Sacramento through a partnership between United Way California Capital Region, Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) and The Dollywood Foundation.

Sacramento residents can sign up online at yourlocal-unitedway.org/our-work/youth-opportunity/dolly-parton-imagination-library to receive the books.

United Way California Capital Region also manages Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Yolo County, which on Aug. 27 presented its 100,000th book to a participating family.

"When we invest in a child's imagination, we invest in their future," said Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is more than books. This program is about opening doors, sparking dreams and imagination, and making sure every child, no matter their zip code, has access to books from an early age."

United Way and the Sacramento County Office of Education aim to enroll 65,000 children in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library across the county, 65% of the population eligible, within five years.

"The Imagination Library is a simple idea with a powerful impact," said David W. Gordon, Sacramento County superintendent of schools. "By



Dr. Dawnté Early of United Way California Capital Region announces the launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Sacramento County at an Aug. 27 press conference at the Sacramento Central Public Library. Photo courtesy of United Way California Capital Region

mailing a free book each month to children from birth to age 5, we're giving families the tools to build strong reading habits from the start. This program supports our Sacramento County READS literacy initiative and reflects our commitment to literacy, equity and early learning because every child deserves the chance to thrive."

The program has received funding from United Way California Capital Region, Sacramento County Office of Education, City of Rancho Cordova, City of Sacramento, Kellogg Family Foundation, Rotary Club of Elk Grove and Laguna Sunrise Rotary Club, and is seeking additional funders to meet their goal of serving all children in Sacramento County under age 5. To learn more about supporting the program, visit www.uwccr.org/dpilsupport.

Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library began in Sevier County, Tenn. where Parton grew up, and the library has expanded internationally.

In California, the Imagination Library is also supported by a 50% state match, administered through the California State Library.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Sacramento County, home to our state capital and nearly 100,000 little learners," said Hallie Anderson, community engagement coordinator for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of California. "This partnership with United Way California Capital Region and Sacramento County Office of Education is a powerful investment in early childhood literacy, bringing

Dolly's dream to life for many more children and inspiring a love of reading across the county."

United Way California Capital Region has been a driving force across the region for more than 100 years, listening, responding and taking comprehensive action to meet local needs. From advancing youth opportunities and helping children excel in school to strengthening local communities and investing in families' financial security and health, United Way mobilizes communities to build a future where everyone can reach their full potential and thrive. Working across Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties, the local United Way provides books and literacy tutoring, addresses housing and food security, leads the region's largest tax-preparation initiative, works with foster youth across school districts,

launched the region's first guaranteed income program and leads the Community Schools initiative in West Sacramento. To donate, go online to YourLocalUnitedWay.org.

The Sacramento County Office of Education educates more than 30,000 children and adults each year, including thousands of district teachers who attend training sessions and workshops. It provides support services to more than 253,000 students in 13 school districts. The Sacramento County Office of Education provides technical assistance, curriculum and instructional support, staff development, legal and financial advice, and oversight to Sacramento County school districts.

For more about the Office of Education's Sacramento County READS literacy initiative, visit online www.scoe.net/sacramentocountyreads. ★

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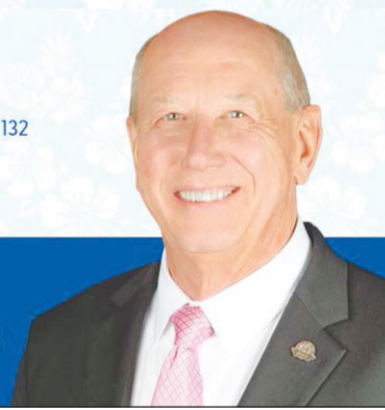
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