



California Museum Welcomes Erin Clancey as New Executive Director

PAGE 2

CHP Awards to Combat Impaired Driving Across California

PAGE 7



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SEE INSIDE

WHEELCHAIRS MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR VETERANS

PAGE 4

CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLAN FOR THE WATERSHEDS

PAGE 5

**★ CALIFORNIA ★
POLICY
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PAGE 7

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Ready for the Call

Metro Fire new training facility opens with a focus on preparedness and partnership



Metro Fire officials said the facility was also designed with regional partnerships in mind. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

By Omella Rossi

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - When residents call 911 during a wildfire, medical emergency or major disaster, the response often depends on training completed long before the emergency begins. The firefighters who will protect the Sacramento region for decades to come now have a new place to learn their craft.

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District officially opened the Zinfandel First Responder



Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District officially opened the Zinfandel First Responder Training Facility on June 25 at 3801 Zinfandel Drive. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

Training Facility on June 25 at 3801 Zinfandel Drive, marking a major investment in firefighter

training, regional collaboration and public safety for the more than 750,000 residents served throughout Sacramento and Placer counties.

The new campus brings Metro Fire's Training Division and Recruit Academies together in one location for the first time, creating a centralized environment where recruits, firefighters, paramedics and specialized teams can train using realistic, hands-on scenarios.

"The opening of the

Continued on page 2

Empowering Women and Girls

Rancho Cordova and Gold River Soroptimists' 2025 – 26 Year of Impact

Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The vision of the Soroptimist organization is to help provide to women and girls resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

During their 2025–26 fiscal year, the club helped enable more than 1,200 women and girls to achieve their dreams and goals through a variety of impactful projects and initiatives.

The club created and donated 500 Comfort Kits, along with bulk children's items, to the Sacramento Family Justice Center for distribution to domestic violence and trafficking survivors and their children throughout Sacramento County.

In addition, approximately 150 girls were able to remain in school rather than be sent home due to menstrual cramps because they benefited from heating pads donated to all five secondary schools in Rancho Cordova in 2023. The club also provided five women with a total of \$3,500 in Live Your Dream cash awards to support their educational and personal advancement goals.

During the holiday season, 150 stockings filled with useful comfort items were distributed to female veterans through the Women's Health Center at the VA Northern California Healthcare System (NCHCS) in Mather, California. Through the Project 680 committee, the club helped ensure that 380 homeless and at-risk girls had the resources and support needed to comfortably attend FCUSD schools.

Continued on page 5

A Starting Point

How San Juan unified's early head start program prepared the Fowler family

San Juan Unified School District News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - It was a sunny summer morning at Marvin Marshall Preschool and Children's Center when Vincent Fowler was walking hand in hand with his parents, eagerly asking to visit his former Early Head Start teacher,

Yelena Dorozhko.

"Ms. Yelena! Ms. Yelena," Vincent called out with excitement before running into Dorozhko's arms for a welcoming hug.

Craig and Carolina Fowler smiled as they watched their reunion. Years after first meeting Dorozhko, the connection between their family and the educator remained just as strong.

For the Fowler family, that joyful reunion reflected something bigger: the lasting relationships San Juan Unified's Early Head Start program builds with children and their families during some of life's earliest and most important years.

Dorozhko was once a friendly stranger, and after teaching both of

Continued on page 2

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California Museum Welcomes Erin Clancey as New Executive Director

The California Museum News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Museum is pleased to announce the appointment of Erin Clancey as the Museum's new executive director. Clancey, a visionary museum executive with over 25 years of experience shaping major cultural institutions, will assume the role in September 2026. She will be succeeding Amanda Meeker, who recently retired from her 28-year career at the California Museum.

"Erin brings an exceptional depth of knowledge and a genuine passion for making history, art and cultural experiences accessible to all," said California Museum Board of Trustees Chair, Anne Marie Petrie. "California's story is unlike any other; it's one of remarkable diversity, innovation and influence.

It deserves someone who understands how to bring that story to life for every visitor, and Erin is that person. We are thrilled to welcome her home to California and confident she is the right person to shape the Museum's future."

"I am honored and thrilled for the opportunity to lead the California Museum at such an important moment in its evolution," said Erin Clancey. "The Museum is in an extraordinary position to continue telling meaningful stories about the people, ideas and movements that have shaped our state. I look forward to working with its talented staff, board, partners and communities across California to broaden access and steward the Museum into its next chapter."

A Davis native, Erin will be returning home



A Davis native, Erin will be returning home after building a distinguished career in curatorial and exhibitions leadership at institutions across the country. Photo courtesy of The California Museum

after building a distinguished career in curatorial and exhibitions leadership at institutions across the country. Erin currently serves as Associate Vice President of Collections & Exhibits at The National

WWII Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she has been based since 2017.

During her tenure, she has led a multidisciplinary team across seven divisions including exhibitions,

collections, archives and digital assets and guided the interpretation of collections through tours, programs and exhibitions. Under her leadership, the museum launched a comprehensive digital collections platform that made the museum's holdings publicly accessible for the first time.

Before joining the World War II Museum, Erin served as the Chief Curator at the Skirball Cultural Center & Museum in Los Angeles, where she oversaw a collection of more than 85,000 artifacts and led the conception and production of exhibitions spanning ancient history, the Civil Rights movement and contemporary art. She managed a multidisciplinary team of curators, registrars, exhibit designers and gallery educators and built lasting relationships with cultural institutions, scholars, donors and artists

across the country.

Erin completed graduate studies in archaeology at UCLA and is currently pursuing a PhD in Art History at the University of St. Andrews. She also holds a certificate in archaeology from Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem and dual bachelor's degrees in anthropology and psychology from UC San Diego.

Erin steps into her role at a pivotal moment for the California Museum. Since its founding in 1998, the Museum has transformed from a showplace for the California State Archives into a vibrant cultural center dedicated to sharing the lesser-told stories of the Golden State. With attendance and programming continuing to expand every year, Erin's vision for accessible and dynamic storytelling is poised to build on that momentum and open an exciting new era for the Museum. ★

Ready for the Call

Continued from page 1

Zinfandel First Responder Training Facility represents far more than a new building," Metro Fire Chief Adam House said. "It reflects Metro Fire's long-term commitment to excellence, preparedness and the communities we serve."

House said the facility will help strengthen regional readiness while ensuring firefighters are prepared to respond to increasingly complex emergencies, including wildfires, technical rescues, hazardous materials incidents and medical emergencies.

The purpose-built campus integrates classroom instruction, physical fitness training, hands-on exercises and mentorship opportunities in a single location. According to House, the approach creates a more consistent and efficient training experience while exposing recruits to realistic emergency situations before they encounter them in the field.



The campus is already serving its first recruit class. Recruit Academy Class 26-1 became the first group of firefighter trainees to call the facility home. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

Metro Fire officials said the facility was also designed with regional partnerships in mind. Agencies from across the area

will have opportunities to train together, improving communication and coordination before responding to large-scale

emergencies.

"From the beginning, this facility was envisioned as more than a Metro Fire asset," House

said. "It creates opportunities for agencies throughout the region to train together before responding together."

The campus is already serving its first recruit class. Recruit Academy Class 26-1 became the first group of firefighter trainees to call the facility home.

House said the class represents the future of the profession and the beginning of the facility's long-term impact.

"For decades to come, thousands of firefighters and first responders will develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to serve our communities from this campus," House said. "That's the lasting legacy of this investment, not the building itself, but the people who will train here and the lives they'll protect throughout their careers."

The training center is expected to serve firefighters and emergency personnel throughout their careers while helping strengthen public safety across the Sacramento region. ★

A Starting Point

Continued from page 1

their children through San Juan Unified's Early Head Start program, she's become an honorary member of their family.

"She was a big influence on our lives," shared Carolina Fowler. "Even though she's not their teacher anymore, they want to go and say hello."

For the Fowler family, that relationship began with a simple stroller walk past Marvin Marshall Preschool and Children's Center.

Entering the program

Like many first-time parents, Craig and Carolina were learning as they went. They planned to wait until kindergarten before enrolling their oldest son in school, but everything changed when they decided to stop by Marvin Marshall to learn more about the programs offered.

"The staff was amazing," recalled Craig Fowler. "They walked us through every step of the process, from the doctor's appointments and paperwork to the financial side of things."

After joining the waitlist, the family received a call that opened a new chapter for their family. Their son, Vincent, was offered a spot at the Ralph Richardson Center, where he began his Early Head Start journey before later transferring to Marvin Marshall when an



Parent/guardian and teacher partnerships, such as the Fowler family and Dorozhko's, are important for student success. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified School District

opening became available.

From team to family

The transition to Marvin Marshall came during a difficult time for the Fowler family. Vincent was experiencing a medical situation, and his parents were unsure whether he would return to school.

After sharing their concerns, the staff at Marvin Marshall worked closely with the family to understand his needs and create a plan that helped everyone feel supported.

Upon return to school, Vincent joined Dorozhko's class, beginning

a partnership that extended beyond the classroom.

One of Early Head Start's unique features is home visits, which gave Dorozhko the opportunity to meet with the family in an environment where their son felt most comfortable. The visits allowed parents to ask questions, celebrate milestones and learn simple ways to support their children's development at home.

One visit became especially memorable. It was during this visit that Dorozhko advised Vincent's parents that he was ready for potty training.

"We didn't know what we were looking for or what to do, and she said she kind of held our hands and told us what to look for, what to do," shared Craig Fowler. "We reinforced that at home, which he was reinforcing at school."

For the Fowlers, moments like this showed that Early Head Start wasn't only supporting their son, it was helping them grow as parents. When it was time for Vincent to transition into Head Start, they enrolled their younger son, Benjamin, in Early Head Start so he could begin his own journey.

A foundation for the future

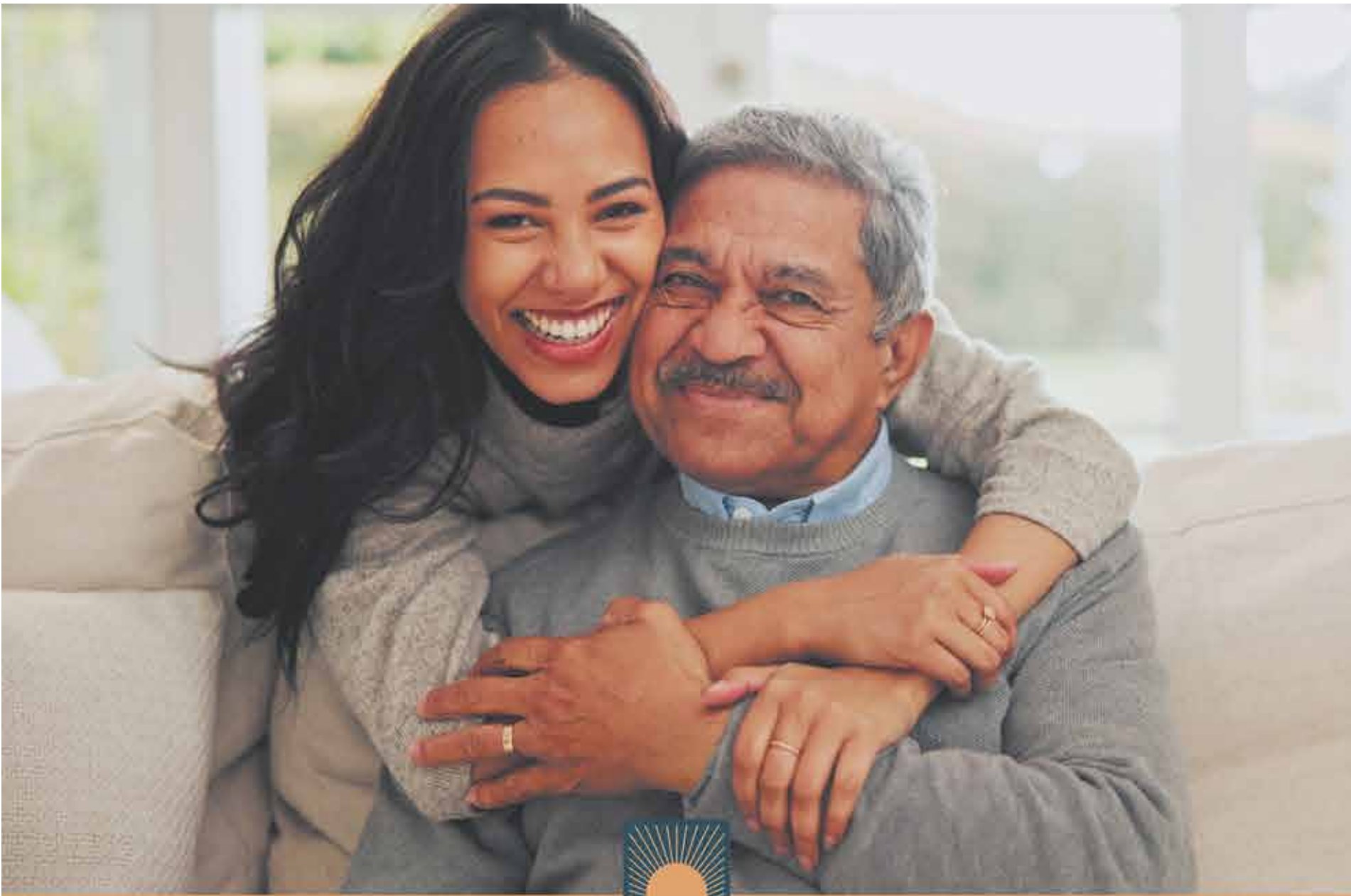
Parent/guardian and teacher partnerships, such as the Fowler family and Dorozhko's, are important for student success. A simple question is the start to a new journey.

"Go to the front office and start the conversation," shared Craig Fowler as advice to parents.

Today, both boys continue to attend preschool as they prepare for kindergarten. Looking back, Craig and Carolina say Early Head Start gave their family much more than a place for their children to learn. It gave them trusted educators, guidance through important milestones and the confidence to support their children's growth during their earliest years.

As Vincent wrapped up his visit, he waved goodbye to the teacher who had become part of his family's story. For his parents, that joyful reunion was more than a greeting; it was a reminder that a strong start can leave a lasting impact.

San Juan Unified offers several programs designed to support children and families from the very beginning. Services include home visits for pregnant mothers and families with infants, a full-day center program for toddlers ages 18 to 36 months and a full-day preschool program for children ages 3 to 5. Families can learn more about eligibility and complete an online interest form by visiting sanjuan.edu/ece. ★



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Wheelchairs, Medical Equipment for Veterans

By Abbey Wicks

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Veterans of All Wars in West Sacramento have a growing supply of medical equipment including wheelchairs, crutches and walkers available to veterans and their families across the greater Sacramento region.

The nonprofit specializes in getting medical equipment to veterans in need. The club is not affiliated with Veterans of Foreign Wars, according to Carl Zagar, treasurer. The group offers services to any veterans, not just those who served in combat.

Their stock of medical

equipment is piling up in their West Sacramento storage facility, Zagar said. The club’s current supply also includes a limited number of electric carts.

Interested individuals can contact Carl Zegar at zegarcarl@gmail.com and indicate what type of equipment they are interested in. Equipment can be picked up from the group’s West Sacramento location; deliveries are possible if necessary.

Donations of medical equipment are accepted year-round. Monetary donations to the Veterans of All Wars can be mailed to PO Box 53, West Sacramento, CA 95691.



Veterans of All Wars have a growing supply of medical equipment available for veterans in the greater Sacramento region. Photo courtesy of Carl Zagar



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WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Informing, Empowering & Engaging Readers With Their Community



By Patsy McGavock

This column was originally published in the June 12, 2026, issue of the American River Messenger.

For generations, libraries have quietly anchored communities. Often described as places that preserve knowledge, they may increasingly preserve something modern life is quietly losing — shared civic space not filtered by algorithms, income levels or social circles.

Libraries remain places without entrance requirements or appointments, where people of different generations, backgrounds, skill sets and experiences still naturally cross paths — and perhaps learn from each other.

According to Peter Coyl, director of Sacramento Public Libraries, libraries continue evolving to meet community needs.

“Some people really want the quiet temple of learning,” Coyl said. “Some want a laboratory for knowledge.”

Modern libraries increasingly try to honor both.

Many branches now include quiet reading areas alongside study rooms, community rooms, teen spaces and collaborative learning areas. The library remains a place for concentration and reflection, but also one where conversation, classes, tutoring and shared activity quietly build human connection around learning.

The range of learning itself continues to evolve.

For the first time this past year, Sacramento Public Library’s e-book circulation surpassed physical books. Patrons now access digital media, professional courses, maker spaces, literacy tutoring, technology resources and even “Libraries of Things,” where residents can borrow practical items instead of

Community Hubs: Inside the Modern Library, Where Knowledge and People Still Meet

purchasing them.

Yet, Coyl repeatedly returned not to programs or technology, but to people and access.

“People who are curious and want to learn come to the library,” Coyl said. “What you are doing may be different, but the reason you are there is often the same. People are seeking to learn, expand and better their lives. The library is for everyone.”

Libraries occupy a unique role in civic life because they remain one of the few public spaces where people can enter freely, Coyl said. “We’re open to anybody who has a question.”

That openness quietly creates intersections that rarely happen elsewhere.

Coyl recalled a retired Fortune 500 CEO regularly attending lectures beside a high school math teacher. Another patron, editor of a national news magazine, used the library as a preferred workspace. “You could be sitting next to a person writing the next prize-winning article,” Coyl said.

Nearby, one could often find a teenager studying or gathering with friends after school, a parent learning English or a neighbor researching resources to rebuild life after losing housing.

Different needs. Different experiences. Each with something to learn and something to offer.

Some connections remain brief. Others grow over years.

“I don’t know that everyone comes expecting community connections,” Coyl said. “But I do think it happens.”

That may matter more than we realize.

As life continues to move online, many Americans increasingly experience community through algorithms, private routines and highly filtered social circles. More and more, we move through

already sorted, familiar lanes of interest, background and belief.

Libraries don’t filter.

And increasingly, libraries also help people discern something else: information itself.

In an era increasingly shaped by algorithms and artificial intelligence, Coyl believes personal expertise and library staff themselves remain key.

“Just because the search engine gives you the first result doesn’t mean that’s the best source,” Coyl said. “We teach people how to evaluate information, how search engines and AI choose responses. It’s important to understand those nuances.”

Then he paused on something simpler.

“Sometimes we need that human connection,” he said. “That’s something that cannot be replaced.”

Perhaps that is part of what libraries quietly preserve.

Not simply information, but the people who share it.

And perhaps, if we enter a little more intentionally — lingering a moment longer, introducing ourselves, sharing what we know, or simply noticing one another and asking about life — libraries may help teach us how to become a mentoring-minded community.

One where knowledge, skills and trust move freely between people as they practice the simple habit of lifting one another in small ways, strengthening the whole community over time.

Because, as Coyl emphasized, you do not need to be a reader to find community at the library.

“There is something here for everyone.”

Patsy McGavock is a volunteer writer informing, empowering and engaging readers with their community. Connect with Patsy at PatsyMcGavock.JustServe@gmail.com.

Climate Resilience Plan for the American, Bear and Cosumnes Watersheds

New analysis outlines growing risks from drought, flooding, wildfire and extreme heat — and provides a framework to guide regional action

Regional Water Authority News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Regional Water Authority (RWA) and regional partners have completed the American, Bear and Cosumnes Watersheds Resilience Plan, a new climate resilience strategy that evaluates how climate change is expected to affect water supplies, flood risk, ecosystems, infrastructure and communities across one of California’s most important watershed systems.

Funded by the California Department of Water Resources through the State’s Watershed Resilience Pilot Program, the Sacramento region was selected as one of five pilot regions statewide to help develop watershed-scale climate resilience planning approaches that could inform future implementation efforts across California.

The plan examines the interconnected American, Bear and Cosumnes river watersheds, which support more than two million people, provide approximately eight percent of California’s developed water supply and contribute important flows to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The plan combines climate modeling, vulnerability analysis, equity assessment and stakeholder engagement to evaluate how climate change could reshape the region over the coming decades and identify actions that can help communities and ecosystems adapt.

Key findings for the Sacramento region

- Critical snowpack that feeds these watersheds could decline by approximately 60% by mid-century.
- Snowmelt is projected to occur two to four weeks earlier.
- Extreme heat days over 95

degrees could increase by roughly 20 days annually.

Wildfires are projected to become 17% more frequent.

Extreme precipitation events could become 15% more intense.

Peak flood flows could increase by approximately 19%.

The plan also finds that climate impacts will not be experienced equally. Lower-income communities, Tribal communities and outdoor workers may face greater exposure to extreme heat, flooding, wildfire smoke and economic disruption.

“The science is clear that climate change is already reshaping our watersheds,” said Jim Peifer, executive director of the Regional Water Authority. “The question is no longer whether these impacts are coming, but how quickly the region can act to prepare. This plan gives the Sacramento region a shared framework to move from vulnerability assessment to implementation — and positions regional partners to move quickly as funding and project opportunities emerge.”

In addition to identifying climate vulnerabilities, the plan outlines 19 watershed adaptation strategies and 119 potential adaptation actions focused on reducing long-term risks associated with drought, flooding, wildfire and extreme heat.

The plan also establishes a decision-making framework intended to help agencies and partners evaluate and prioritize future resilience investments based on factors such as regional benefit, climate risk reduction, ecosystem improvements, equity considerations and implementation readiness.

Strategies identified in the plan include reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health in the Sierra headwaters, strengthening flood protection for vulnerable

communities, expanding ground-water recharge, protecting cold-water habitat for salmon and other native fish species, expanding flood forecasting and early warning systems, and advancing regional projects that provide multiple water supply, ecosystem and community resilience benefits.

“For more than two decades, DWR has encouraged Californians to connect across watersheds,” said Karla Nemeth, director of the California Department of Water Resources. “A warmer climate stresses resources from forests to aquifers. That makes the hard work of collaboration more important than ever. DWR’s \$2 million grant to the Regional Water Authority yielded a plan that tells a powerful story about future risks and marks a clear path to resilience. This plan positions the people of the American, Bear, and Cosumnes watersheds to cope with a changed climate. It is an early example of the kind of work needed across the state, and it helps build DWR’s momentum to update the California Water Plan to deliver more precise, localized and action-oriented water supply strategies.”

The planning effort was led by the Regional Water Authority with support from Jacobs, Valley Vision, Khadam Consulting, the Water Forum, regional water agencies, local governments, Tribal representatives, community organizations and Watershed Network participants.

“The region already has many of the partnerships, technical tools and local initiatives needed to strengthen resilience,” Peifer said. “This plan helps align those efforts and creates a clearer path forward for coordinated regional action.”

The full American, Bear, and Cosumnes Watersheds Resilience Plan is available at: <https://rwawatershedsresilience.com/plan/> ★

Mid-Century Median Projected Conditions

Snowpack
60% less volume

Snowpack Melting
2-4 weeks earlier

Rainfall vs Snow
20-40% more rainfall

Lower American River
9% less flows

Groundwater Reliance
11% increase

Extreme Heat Days
20 more per year (>100°F)

Wildfires
17% more frequent

River Temperature
3-5°F higher in summer

Extreme Precipitation
15% more intense

Flood Risk
19% higher
100-year peak flows

Social Security Matters

When Should My Wife File for Spouse Benefits?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My wife is 66 (born February 1960) and started taking Social Security retirement benefits just over one year ago at age 65. She was a stay-at-home Mom for most of her adult life. I turned 62 this past March and received my first SS payment recently for a May 2026 start. We are scheduled to meet with SSA in late July to initiate spousal benefits because my wife’s current benefits are less than 50% of mine. We also have an adult disabled son who receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security benefits (this split in benefit sources happened after my wife filed - that whole process was confusing and we don’t understand it). My question relates to spousal benefits (I was a career finance person but don’t completely understand these rules). We were going to file in July but is there any benefit to waiting until she turns 67? And will her 50% benefit be 50% of my lower benefit due to my filing at 62 or is that based on another amount? Signed: **Confused Finance Guy**

Dear Confused: First, be aware that your wife’s spousal benefit will be based on her age when she claims it, and half of your full retirement

age, or “FRA,” amount (although you claimed at 62, her benefit as your spouse will still be based on your FRA entitlement).

Because she claimed her SS retirement at 65, your wife will not get 50% of your FRA entitlement; rather she will get her own reduced SS retirement benefit (which was reduced by about 13% from her FRA entitlement) plus a “spousal boost.” The amount of that “boost” will be the difference between her own FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement, but that boost amount will also be reduced because she will be claiming in July before her FRA.

Your wife will reach her FRA in February 2027, so by claiming her spousal boost in July her boost amount will be reduced by about 5%, and the “boost” will be added to her already reduced SS retirement about. The result will be your wife’s benefit as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. And, FYI, your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit (she will not be able to defer claiming it).

As your son is now collecting SS benefits based on your wife’s personal SS record, you should ask Social Security to switch him over to payments based on your record (because you have the higher SS benefit). FYI, because your son is now receiving SSI (Supplemental Security Income), the SSDI (SS disability) benefit he receives will offset by his SSI benefit, and the payment amount will consist of two sources - SSI and SSDI. Nevertheless,

he cannot get more than 50% of your SS retirement amount and will likely be affected by the Family Maximum which may further reduce his SSDI entitlement.

Your wife’s benefit as your spouse will also be affected by the “Family Maximum,” which limits how much can be paid on any one person’s SS record (on your SS record). That also means that your wife will not get a full 50% of your FRA entitlement; rather she will get less because the family maximum limits how much all your dependents can receive to somewhere between 50% and 88% of your FRA benefit amount (after subtracting your own SS entitlement). That also means that your son’s SS payment, as well as your wife’s SS payment as your spouse, will be reduced to less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. SSA will be able to guide you through the Family Maximum calculations for both your son and your wife when you meet.

To recap all of this: a) your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit; she cannot delay until her FRA. b) her amount as your spouse will be less than 50% of your SS FRA entitlement. And c) both your wife’s and your son’s SS benefit will likely be also affected by the Family Maximum and, thus, be less than half of your FRA entitlement. Nevertheless, it was likely the right decision to claim as you have, considering that your son and wife have been receiving SS benefits for some time now, and both will continue to receive more as your dependents. ★

Away for the Day

Updated mobile device policy for elementary, K-8 and middle schools

San Juan Unified School District News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - To support student learning and well-being, the San Juan Unified Board of Education recently approved revisions to the district's mobile device policy that will require personal mobile devices to be restricted for the entire school day at elementary, K-8 and middle schools beginning in the 2026-27 school year.

The district first adopted a mobile device policy in 2025 to comply with California Assembly Bill 3216, which requires school districts to limit student use of smartphones during the school day. The policy was fully implemented in January, and restricted mobile device use during instructional time.

Throughout the year, the district gathered feedback from students, families and staff to better understand how the policy was working. Survey results showed growing support for mobile device restrictions, with most students and families reporting they were still able to communicate about important matters

during the school day despite the limitations on device use.

Following a board request to explore additional restrictions, survey results indicated strong support for restricting mobile devices throughout the entire school day at elementary, K-8 and middle schools.

By keeping devices put away during the school day, schools can help create learning environments where students are more focused, engaged and connected with their peers. Research and local feedback suggest that limiting access to phones during the school day can reduce distractions, support student well-being and encourage face-to-face interactions.

Students may still bring personal mobile devices to school; however, devices must remain stored and inaccessible throughout the school day in accordance with school procedures.

Families can continue to communicate with students when needed through the school office. Likewise, students will have access to school staff and office resources if they need to contact a parent or guardian during the day. ★

Empowering Women and Girls

Continued from page 1

Additionally, the club provided Dream It, Achieve It workshops focused on goal-setting and career re-entry or improvement for 16 domestic violence survivors at the Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center from April through June 2026.

The 1,200 women and girls helped during the 2025-26 fiscal year is added to the 6,800 women and girls helped since the club’s founding in 2009 for a total of 8,000 women and girls! We would love for you to become a member of our club to help us help even more women and girls!

Soroptimist is an international

501(c)3 non-profit organization who seeks to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. The name, Soroptimist, means "best for women," and that's what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimists are people at their best, working to help other women to be their best.

Email sircgr2009@gmail.com to receive more information about Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River, how to become a member, or just learn how you can volunteer with our club members, or visit <http://www.soroptimistranchocordova.org/> ★

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SK Hynix NAND Product Solutions Corp DBA Solidigm has an opening in Rancho Cordova, CA for Validation Eng. Create, define & dev syst validation environ & test suites. MS+3 OR BS+5 yrs exp rqd. Salary: \$143,395-\$169,020. Telecom may be permit. When not telecom, must rpt to wrk-st. To apply email resume to HRresumes@solidigm.com & ref job#9656194 (8/726)

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SK Hynix NAND Product Solutions Corp DBA Solidigm has an opening in Rancho Cordova, CA for SSD Sysms Integration Lead. Understand & refine cust reqs to diver defined NAND SSD prdct. MS+3 OR BS+5 yrs exp rqd. Salary: \$152,048-\$194,100. Telecom may be prmit. When not telecom, must rpt to wrk-st. To apply email resume to HRresumes@solidigm.com & ref job#10172399 (8/726)

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SACRAMENTO COUNTY



BY JOSH F.W. COOK

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POLICY AND ETHICS

The Ukraine Effect: Cheap High-Tech Weapons and California

By Josh Cook

The California congressional delegation should treat advances in high-tech warfare as both economic development and a national security opportunity.

First, expand and protect flexible contracting authorities so that companies with combat-proven systems can move from prototype and early operational use into sustained production without restarting the full traditional acquisition clock. Second, insist on metrics that reward cost-per-effect and iteration speed, not just unit cost or exquisite performance. Third, ensure that the growing autonomy and unmanned budget lines are structured to favor competition from non-traditional suppliers rather than defaulting to the usual primes. Fourth, use oversight to demand that lessons from Ukraine and similar conflicts are rapidly translated into requirements documents instead of being filtered through legacy assumptions.

This is not about abandoning all high-end platforms. It is about recognizing that the force needs both and cannot afford to shoot down \$16,000 drones with \$ 6 million missiles.

California’s companies are already building the affordable, software-centric half. The procurement system must be made capable of absorbing them at the volume the threat environment requires. Failure means California’s innovation advantage is partially wasted, jobs and capital migrate or underperform, and the Department of War continues to buy for the last war.

At the same time, the next one is already being fought with different tools. Acquisition reform language appears regularly in National Defense Authorization Acts, and appropriators have shown willingness to fund autonomy lines more explicitly. California members sit in key positions—Defense Appropriations subcommittee leadership and districts that contain both traditional bases and the new tech companies. That leverage is underused if it is applied only to protecting existing programs rather than forcing structural change that lets cheaper, high-tech systems scale.

The Ukrainians adapted because they had to, because the war was on their doorstep. We should adapt our processes before that happens. ★

Go to Policy-Ethics.com



PoppTalk

With Mary Jane Popp

Be a Dog with a Bone

You may not be the biggest or the prettiest dog in the pack, but if you the secrets to success, fulfillment, and happiness, then **Peggy McColl** says you can grab it all with gusto. Her bone is her dream, and you can have yours too with her book **“Be A Dog With A Bone.”** Peggy says dogs can teach us a lot about reaching our goals, so roll over the following tips and find out how to grab your own goals and dreams and roll in the bliss of success and contentment.

- 1. WHAT IS YOUR BONE...YOUR GOAL?** A dog knows a good bone when he sees one and goes for it. Chomp on your goal, chew it over, then grab hold and ignore that little voice that says you can’t.
- 2. BE A LITTLE DOG WITH A BIG ATTITUDE.** Don’t think small. Dream big! Be excited about your goal, feel entitled to achieving it, and experience the feelings you’d feel if you’d already reached it. Think little lap dogs barking at a big German Shepard,
- 3. GET OUT OF THE DOGHOUSE.** Be courageous and believe in yourself. See challenging times as a terrific opportunity to leave behind the security of what you once knew and look again at what you might create for yourself.
- 4. ONLY INGEST THINGS THAT ARE GOOD FOR YOU.** A little poison called negativity can strongly affect you. If looking at all the obstacles facing you is making you sad, angry, or scared, stop!
- 5. LEARN NEW TRICKS.** We’re

always having to learn something new. Stop thinking “it’s too late” or “I’m too old.”

6. BARK FOR WHAT YOU WANT. Don’t be shy. Speak up for yourself. If you want people to help you, approach them and ask.

7. DON’T CHASE YOUR TALE. Let go of behaviors that are not serving you anymore. Take a look at your habits that are holding you back, and let go of them.

8. WHEN YOU THINK YOU’VE REACHED THE END OF YOUR LEASH, GIVE YOURSELF A LITTLE MORE LEASH TO WORK WITH. Think positive thoughts and stretch past your comfort zone. Stop believing that your power to change your life is limited.

9. WAG YOUR TALE! The more you feel happiness and appreciation for what you have, the easier it will be to achieve your goal. Look at all that’s working in your life already.

10. KEEP YOUR NOSE WET. Stay healthy. You’ll need to feel good and have stamina if you want to reach your goals. Eat well, exercise, and get your rest...take a nap.

And because we have all been attentive, Peggy has a bonus treat for us!

Lap up your success. Get excited and celebrate your successes! If you do, it will lead to more successes! A dog can be deliriously happy over a bowl of water, and lap it up eagerly!

So lap up life and hang on to your bone with much relish and of course **BE HAPPY!** ★

CHP Awards More Than \$41 Million to Combat Impaired Driving Across California

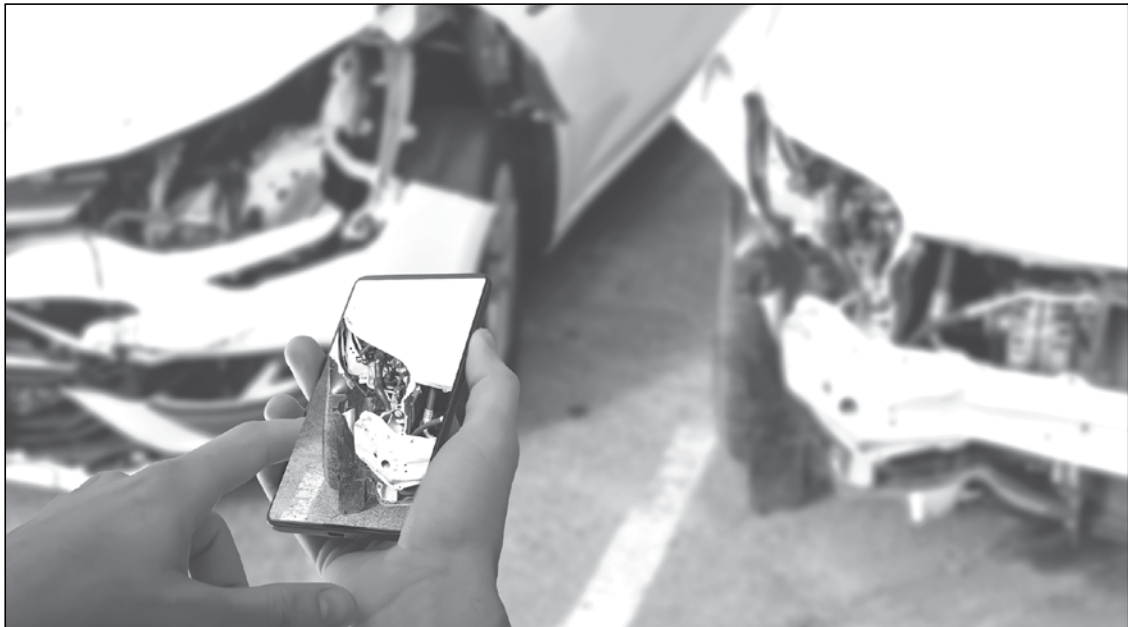
Funding Supports Enforcement, Education and Forensic Testing Statewide

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) today announced more than \$41 million in grant funding for 183 California law enforcement agencies, crime laboratories, local government agencies and nonprofit organizations to strengthen efforts to prevent and reduce impaired driving.

Funding comes through the voter-approved Proposition 64, which directs the CHP to administer grants for impaired driving education, prevention and enforcement programs. The grants also fund forensic toxicology testing at crime laboratories. Program revenue comes from taxes on cannabis and cannabis products sold in California.

“The substantial increase in grant funding this year will help even more communities keep California’s roadways safe.



These grants support education, strengthen enforcement efforts to remove impaired drivers from our roads and expand research and forensic testing to improve traffic safety across the state. Photo designed by Magnific

These grants support education, strengthen enforcement efforts to remove impaired drivers from our roads and expand research and forensic testing to improve traffic safety across the state,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee.

The CHP awarded grants to 160 law enforcement agencies to support impaired-driving enforcement across California. In addition to enforcement operations, agencies will use the

funding to train drug recognition evaluators, expand their ability to identify drug-impaired drivers and conduct public education campaigns through community events and presentations.

The CHP awarded grants to expand public education. Twelve agencies received education grants to raise public awareness of impaired driving laws and to educate Californians about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The CHP grant funds also support improved forensic testing and advancing DUI data collection. Ten agencies received two-year toxicology crime laboratory grants to reduce forensic testing backlogs, improve laboratory capacity and purchase or upgrade testing equipment. Additionally, one medical examiner’s office received a two-year grant to improve data collection for impaired-driving cases.

A complete list of the 2026 grant recipients is available on the CHP website. The CHP expects to open the next grant application period in early 2027. Additional information on the Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program is available on the CHP website at chp.ca.gov. ★

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Publisher,
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