

# Probation News

## *Supporting Positive Change*



PREPARED BY THE  
SACRAMENTO COUNTY  
PROBATION DEPARTMENT

"The mission of this newsletter is to inform our County Supervisors and their constituents of events and program accomplishments. Probation is dedicated to Supporting Positive Change by building strong partnerships and providing the best possible services to our community."

### Valued Behaviors Campaign: May Recognition

#### Core Value: Principled

*"We act with honesty and integrity, earning and maintaining trust."*

In the month of May, we proudly recognized **three outstanding employees** who exemplify the value of *Principled*. These individuals consistently demonstrate integrity, accountability, and leadership in their roles. Their actions help build a workplace culture rooted in trust and mutual respect.

#### Congratulations to our May honorees:

**Valerie Clark**

**Markita Love**

**Christine Morris-(not pictured)**

Each of these employees was nominated by a peer or colleague for demonstrating the following behaviors:

- \*Taking ownership and accepting responsibility
- \*Communicating openly and honestly
- \*Doing the right thing, even when it's hard
- \*Leading by example
- \*Listening with humility and encouraging participation

Their commitment to these values inspires those around them.





## Probation Mission Statement

***"The Sacramento County Probation Department provides clients with the assessment, treatment, supervision and support necessary to prevent re-offending, resulting in a safer community. Our highly skilled, multi-disciplinary workforce uses innovative strategies to support positive change."***

# Staff Spotlight

## Youth Detention Facility Teacher Named SCOE 2026 Teacher of the Year

Jessie Storrs, Teacher Librarian at El Centro Jr./Sr. High School—located within the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility—has been named the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) 2026 Teacher of the Year. Affectionately known by students as "Ms. Storries," Jessie is recognized for her exceptional contributions to the El Centro community, especially in Educational Technology and Social Emotional Learning.

Through her work, Jessie has helped build a learning environment that is inclusive, innovative, and student-centered. Her efforts have had a lasting impact on students and staff, supporting both academic growth and emotional well-being.

SCOE's top teacher will be honored this August alongside outstanding educators from districts across Sacramento County. At the celebration, two teachers will be selected as the Sacramento County Teachers of the Year for 2026 and will advance to the California Teachers of the Year Program.







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# Staff Spotlight

## Celebrating Administrative Professionals with a Twist!

In honor of Administrative Professionals Day, April 23, 2025, we hosted an Office Olympics Celebration to recognize the incredible hard work, dedication, and behind-the-scenes magic our administrative team brings to the table every single day.

From paper airplane challenges to relays, the room was filled with laughter, energy, and friendly competition. It was a fun and lighthearted way to express our deep appreciation for the essential role our administrative professionals play in keeping everything running smoothly.

Thank you for all that you do—your efforts do not go unnoticed!





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# Staff Spotlight

## Compassion in Action: Officers Make Life-Changing Impact

A local father recently shared a powerful story of transformation, made possible by the compassion and professionalism of five officers from the Sac County Probation Department: SPO Aaron Sampson, Sr. DPO Nicole De La Riva, Sr. DPO Alberto Cortez, DPO Ryan Rogers, and DPO Janel Smithonic.

His adult son, under supervision, had fallen into a serious mental and physical health crisis—isolating himself, refusing food and medication, and resisting all treatment efforts. Despite ongoing care, his condition continued to decline, leaving his family desperate for support.

That support came through a thoughtful intervention led by SPO Sampson and Sr. DPO Cortez, who used patience and experience to build trust and encourage the young man to begin treatment. On the day of the incident, DPO Rogers played a key role in ensuring the young man’s safety and cooperation. He took his medication that same evening and has continued ever since—leading to significant improvement.

Sr. DPO De La Riva offered ongoing encouragement and resources, while DPO Smithonic helped guide the family through a complex interstate transfer process. The father wrote, “They gave my son a second chance. Their compassion and professionalism changed everything.”

The journey is far from over, but thanks to the care, collaboration, and persistence of these officers, a young life is on the path to recovery—and a family has found renewed hope.







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# Staff Spotlight

## Supervisor Leadership Academy Graduate



Congratulations to Supervising Probation Officer Alma Cervantes for her recent participation in the Supervisors Leadership Academy (SLA), a professional development program designed to equip first-line supervisors in the Probation Department with the tools needed to lead change effectively.

Through this training, SPO Cervantes strengthened her leadership skills and expanded her ability to support her team and contribute to the department's mission of community safety and rehabilitation.

We commend SPO Cervantes for her commitment to professional growth and leadership excellence!

## Juvenile Field Officers Recognized for Outstanding Work in Early Intervention

DPO Maria Ramirez and Sr. DPO David Holtz, both Juvenile Field Officers, were recently recognized at the Chief's Round Table for their exceptional contributions to the Early Intervention Unit. Their dedication to youth engagement, early intervention strategies, and community-focused supervision continues to make a meaningful impact on the lives of at-risk youth and their families.

Congratulations to both officers on this well-deserved recognition and thank you for your commitment to proactive, compassionate service!





# Celebrating Success

## South ADRC Graduation

On April 30, 2025, our South Adult Day Reporting Center (ADRC) proudly celebrated the graduation of five clients—three of whom were present, surrounded by supportive family members, friends, and our amazing staff.

The ADRC program provides comprehensive services to support successful reentry and long-term personal growth. These services include cognitive behavioral therapy, substance use treatment, educational and vocational programming, housing assistance, and more. Clients also engage in pro-social activities, benefit from family support services, and contribute to the community through our Community Outreach Program.

Each graduate has demonstrated commitment, growth, and resilience on their journey. We are proud of the progress they've made and the positive direction they're headed.





# Celebrating Success

## DUI Treatment Court Graduates

The Sacramento County DUI Treatment Court is a structured, comprehensive program developed for individuals with multiple DUI offenses. Designed to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism, the program supports participants in transforming their attitudes and behaviors related to substance use.

Participants commit to an intensive journey that includes individual and group counseling, self-help meetings, random drug testing, case management services, and frequent court appearances—all under Probation supervision. The program requires a minimum 12-month commitment and is focused on long-term recovery and accountability.

We are proud to recognize the recent graduate who successfully completed the program. This individual demonstrated resilience, responsibility, and a commitment to change. Upon graduation, they leave the program with valuable tools and resources to support lasting sobriety and a healthier future.



*Supporting Positive*  
**CHANGE**





# Officers & Programs Making a Positive Impact

## Probation Outreach at Stockton Blvd Safe Stay Community

Sacramento County Probation continues to strengthen its commitment to community-based solutions through a growing partnership with the *Stockton Blvd Safe Stay Community Shelter and North A Street Campus*, operated on-site by **First Step Communities**. This innovative shelter model provides a supportive, low-barrier environment designed to promote stability and long-term success for unhoused individuals—especially those involved in the justice system.

Located along Stockton Blvd, this Safe Stay Community consists of **155 individual sleeping cabins**—135 for single occupancy and 20 designated for couples or adult families. These private cabins provide clients with a sense of security and personal space, which is critical in fostering dignity and recovery.

Probation outreach staff play a vital role in this setting. By maintaining regular engagement with clients, officers help connect individuals to essential treatment services, legal resources, and employment opportunities. Their presence ensures accountability while also building trust, reducing recidivism, and supporting successful reintegration into the community.







# Officers & Programs Making a Positive Impact

## Probation Outreach at the X-Street Navigation Center

The X-Street Navigation Center, serves as a vital resource for unhoused adults in Sacramento. With 100 beds, this center prioritizes individuals in immediate need of shelter and provides them with access to a range of services designed to help them transition into permanent housing.

Operated by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency and managed on-site by Volunteers of America, the center offers shelter and supportive services to help guests overcome challenges and achieve long-term stability.

The Probation Outreach team plays an essential role in supporting individuals who may be involved in the justice system. Through direct engagement, Probation staff help connect guests to critical services, including case management, behavioral health support, employment assistance, and housing resources. This collaborative approach not only promotes accountability but also aids in successful reintegration, reducing recidivism and fostering stability for individuals in need.





# Officers & Programs Making a Positive Impact

## Links to Law Enforcement: Probation Officers Make a Difference

Sacramento County Probation Officers recently participated in the **Links to Law Enforcement** program, a free five-week initiative aimed at mentoring and guiding individuals interested in careers in public safety.

In partnership with **Asian Resources, Inc.**, **La Familia Counseling Center, Inc.**, and the **Greater Sacramento Urban League**, this program provides workshops, resources, and real-world insights to help participants navigate the path toward a successful law enforcement career.

Probation staff played a key role by sharing their experiences, offering mentorship, and representing the impactful and often misunderstood role of probation officers in community safety and rehabilitation. Through open dialogue and engagement, officers helped inspire attendees to consider careers in probation and the broader criminal justice field.







# Officers & Programs Making a Positive Impact

## Starr King Career Day: Probation Presentation



On Career Day at Starr King TK-8, Sr. DPOs Lindsey Mitchell and Starlie Pines visited two 6th grade classes to speak about the field of probation. They shared their knowledge of the profession, offering an honest and engaging presentation that was both informative and interactive.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions and gain insight into the world of probation, helping to make the career path feel both accessible and relevant to their futures. The feedback from both students and teachers was overwhelmingly positive, with many highlighting how engaging, approachable, and informative the presentation was.

"We're grateful to have had Lindsey and Starlie as guests and look forward to welcoming them back in the future!"

—Kat Allgood  
Counselor

## Inspiring Young Minds at Deterding Elementary's Public Safety Day

Sacramento County Probation Officers, along with K9 Ace, had the privilege of participating in Deterding Elementary School's Public Safety Day! With nearly 200 enthusiastic first and second graders rotating through engaging, 10–12 minute learning stations, our team shared insights into the role of probation and the importance of community safety.

K9 Ace was a definite crowd favorite, helping us spark curiosity and inspire the next generation. A big thank-you to Deterding Elementary for the invitation and warm welcome!





# Officers & Programs Making a Positive Impact

## Weed Abatement Efforts at the Sacramento County Boys Ranch

On April 30, 2025, the Sacramento County Probation Department's Community Outreach Unit joined forces with the Department of General Services to carry out targeted weed abatement efforts at the Sacramento County Boys Ranch. This initiative is a vital part of the County's broader fire prevention strategy, especially during the high-risk fire season from May through November.

Crews worked diligently to trim overgrown vegetation to less than one inch, establish firebreaks, and remove hazardous debris. These proactive measures play a critical role in reducing wildfire risk, protecting nearby facilities, and improving firefighter access and response capabilities should a fire occur.

The Probation Department remains committed to community safety and environmental stewardship. This collaboration reflects our ongoing efforts to create safer spaces for youth, staff, and the surrounding community.



## Spreading Joy at the Neighbors of College Glen Easter Egg Hunt

The Sacramento County Probation Department was proud to participate in the NCG Easter Egg Hunt at Oki Park. Families enjoyed egg hunts, crafts, vendors, free books, a photo booth, and a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

It was a joy to connect with the community and be part of such a fun and family-friendly event. Thank you to NCG and everyone who came out to celebrate with us!







# Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

## Northern California Construction Training (NCCT)

During the month of April, residents made significant strides in preparing for the upcoming Design Build Competition. Their focus was on mastering key construction skills including plate layout, wall framing, and sheeting. In addition, they successfully constructed trusses with gussets, installed fascia, applied roof sheeting, and completed the roofing process with felt and shingles.

This hands-on work not only strengthened the residents' ability to read and interpret construction plans, but also promoted teamwork and honed their time management skills. April's progress marks an important first step toward success in the competition, laying a solid foundation—both literally and figuratively—for what's to come.



## Culinary Arts Program

The month of April was a flavorful month for the culinary program, filled with hands-on learning and delicious creations. The YDF residents kicked things off by preparing a full-course meal featuring cheese-and-bacon-stuffed chicken breast, rice pilaf, and garlic sautéed green beans. They also worked with a medley of vegetables to sharpen their timing and seasoning skills.

Mid-month, Units 3 and 6 cooked up hearty gumbo with sausage and shrimp, while other classes crafted a rich onion soup with garlic butter croutons. During the NCCT shed-build competition, Unit 3 stepped in to help grill and plate BBQ meals, including hot links, burgers, and chicken.

The culinary energy continued with beginner classes making pizzas from scratch, and Unit 6 exploring Chinese-inspired dishes like egg rolls and chow mein. Residents wrapped up April on a sweet note by baking cheesecake brownies—perfectly puffed and golden at the edges.





# Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

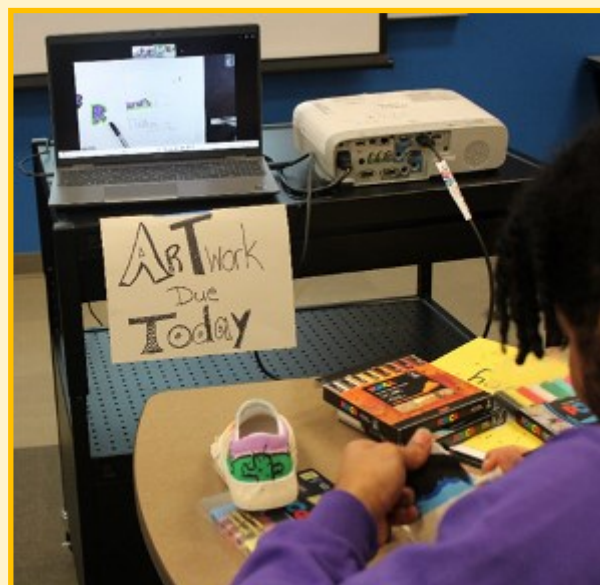
## Juvenile Justice Chaplaincy (JJC)



The Juvenile Justice Chaplaincy hosted an Easter Movie Night for the Valley Oak Youth Academy Units, featuring the film *The Forge*. The drama film is about a young adult male who navigates personal challenges while striving to become a positive role model for others.

## Beginners and Intermediate Art Class with Mr. Milton

Mr. Milton and Mrs. Martinez, Coordinators of Arts Integration and College & Career Readiness, continued to inspire creativity at the Youth Detention Facility with both Beginner and Intermediate Art classes. In April, residents took their artistic skills to the next level by transforming their designs into wearable art—having their original artwork printed on a pair of shoes. This unique project brought their creativity to life and gave them a tangible sense of accomplishment.







# Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

## Sacramento Office of Education (SCO)

On April 16, 2025, five residents proudly graduated from El Centro Jr./Sr. High with their high school diploma. The ceremony was filled with excitement, support, and a strong sense of accomplishment as multiple family members joined to celebrate this milestone.

Graduates shared heartfelt reflections on their educational journeys, filling the room with powerful memories and inspiration. Staff and guests encouraged the students to continue their pursuit of education and career goals, emphasizing this achievement as a pivotal step toward lasting change and rehabilitation.





# Community Connections

## Jump Into Spring: A Day of Community, Fun, and Connection!

On Saturday, April 26, 2025, the Sacramento County Probation Department participated in the 3rd Annual *Jump Into Spring* community event at Ninos Park, sponsored by Vice Mayor Karina Talamantes. This event brought families together for a day filled with free games, food, bounce houses, and fun activities for all ages.

Our team from the Sacramento County Probation Department engaged with community members, supporting youth and families, and strengthening our community partnerships. Events like these are powerful reminders of the importance of connection, collaboration, and community.







# Keeping Our Community Safe

## DISTRICT- 3

**April 9, 2025**

*ADRC- North & PRCS North*

2700 block of Lerwick Road, Sacramento  
CA 95821

In March 2025, Probation Officers initiated an investigation into a Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) client with multiple active no-bail felony and misdemeanor warrants. The investigation aimed to locate the individual, execute a safe arrest, and conduct a probation search of the residence.

Following a month-long investigation, officers from the North ADRC and North PRCS Teams served a residential search warrant on April 9, 2025. Upon contact, the individual fled on foot, jumping multiple fences before being apprehended in a nearby yard by probation officers.

A subsequent search yielded a loaded handgun in a neighboring backyard and an extended magazine on the individual's property. Officers also discovered suspected cocaine and ecstasy pills in the subject's possession. The individual was booked on multiple felony charges in addition to the outstanding warrants.



## DISTRICT- 4

**April 10, 2025**

*PRCS- North*

7400 block of Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights  
CA 95610

On April 10, 2025, Sacramento County Probation Officers assigned to the Citrus Heights Police Department conducted a Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) compliance check at a reported residence. The subject was contacted while exiting the location, and a search of his vehicle revealed a loaded 12-gauge pump-action shotgun on the front floorboard.

The subject was detained, and Citrus Heights Police Department officers were requested to assist with a search of the associated apartment. The subsequent search uncovered an "M-type" homemade explosive device, 110 rounds of live ammunition, burglary tools, approximately 1.45 grams of methamphetamine, and a narcotics pipe.

The subject was arrested and booked on multiple felony charges, including possession of an explosive device, felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, possession of burglary tools, controlled substances, and drug paraphernalia.





# Keeping Our Community Safe

## DISTRICT- 4

**April 29, 2025**

*Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Team  
(SAFE)*

7000 block of Larchmont Drive, North Highlands,  
CA 95660

On April 29, 2025, Officers from the Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (S.A.F.E.) Team, with support from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Special Enforcement Detail (SED) Team, served a residential search warrant in the 7000 block of Larchmont Dr., North Highlands. During the search, Officers—assisted by K9 Ace—located a loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun in the bedroom of a subject who also had an active PRCS warrant out of Yolo County. A juvenile was contacted at the scene and initially provided false identification. Further investigation revealed the juvenile was considered an at-risk youth. Evidence recovered from the subject's phone led to a deeper investigation. The individual was booked into the Sacramento County Jail on the warrant and pending PC 29800 charges. Additional charges are pending.



## DISTRICT- 1

**April 21, 2025**

*ADRC North/ High Risk Probation (HRP)*

2900 block of Valbonne Walk, Sacramento,  
CA 95834

On April 21, 2025, during a probation compliance check, officers made contact with an individual at their residence after a brief delay in gaining entry. Upon receiving consent to search the home, officers located a Springfield 9mm semi-automatic handgun, two magazines, and loose ammunition stored in a firearm case.

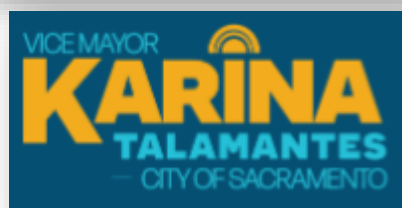
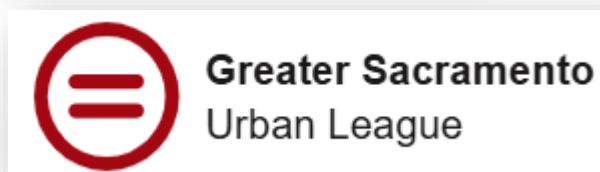
The individual was taken into custody and booked at the Sacramento County Main Jail on felony firearm charges.







# Probation's April 2025 Community Partners



Follow us on all the Socials



Instagram

This newsletter is also available online: <https://saccoprobaton.saccounty.gov/Pages/DistrictNewsletters.aspx>

Please send questions and comments to: [ProbationNews@saccounty.gov](mailto:ProbationNews@saccounty.gov)