

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."

30th Anniversary of the Recovery Treatment Court Program

On May 21, 2025, the Sacramento County Probation Department proudly marked the 30th anniversary of the Recovery Treatment Court (RTC) Program—an initiative that has profoundly impacted lives through accountability, compassion, and the promise of a second chance.

Launched in 1995, the RTC Program has evolved into a robust, collaborative effort involving the Superior Court, District Attorney's Office, Defense Counsel, Behavioral Health Services, and numerous community-based partners. Together, these agencies deliver a comprehensive model of recovery that includes intensive outpatient treatment, skills development, pro-social engagement, drug testing, detox and residential services, and ongoing probation supervision and support.

Successful program completion may result in probation termination or dismissal of charges, offering participants a meaningful opportunity for lasting change. Many graduates go on to rebuild relationships, secure stable employment, and lead purpose-driven lives.

The RTC Program stands as a proven, evidence-based approach to reducing recidivism and addressing substance use disorders—underscoring Sacramento County's continued commitment to rehabilitation, innovation, and public safety.





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

Employee Recognition

On May 14, 2025, Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) Peter Lee was recognized at the Quarterly Executive Team meeting for his outstanding leadership of the Northern California Construction Training (NCCT) program within the Screening, Intake, and Assessment Unit. Since taking on this role in 2023, DPO Lee has shown exemplary communication skills, strong collaboration with staff and clients, and a steadfast commitment to continuous program improvement. His efforts have directly contributed to increased client referrals, higher participation and daily attendance rates, more trade certifications earned, SMUD Energy Program scholarships awarded, and successful employment outcomes for program participants.



Interim Chief Julie Wherry acknowledged Administrative Services Officer II Shelly Cortez and Administrative Services Officer I Zyanya Perez for their critical support of the department's public meetings subject to the Brown Act. Their keen attention to detail, dedication to transparency, and thorough knowledge of legal requirements ensure the meetings are compliant with rules and run seamlessly.



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Employee Recognition



On May 28, 2025, at the Chief's Roundtable Meeting, Deputy Probation Officer Yeng Chang was honored for his exceptional judgment and diligence during a probation compliance search that uncovered a serious violation involving a child. Through his professional and careful handling—including a forensic review and collaboration with Sacramento Police—DPO Chang's persistence led to a full investigation, a confession, and subsequent arrest.

The Department's Fiscal Team received recognition for their excellent work in preparing and submitting the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget. Their meticulous attention to detail and commitment to excellence ensured full compliance with administrative requirements. Their ability to clearly present complex financial information has supported informed decision-making across the department and demonstrates a deep understanding of our financial priorities.





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Staff Spotlight

Chris Carlson "Big Heart" Award Honors Treatment Court

On May 22, 2025, the Chris Carlson "Big Heart" Award was presented by Judge Brown to honor outstanding service within Sacramento County's collaborative and treatment courts. The award, established in 2024, shortly before Mr. Carlson's passing, recognizes individuals who consistently go above and beyond in supporting participants through compassion, dedication, and collaborative spirit.

This year's recipient, Deputy Probation Officer Danna Buerger, exemplifies the values of the award—bringing heart, commitment, and impact to her work each day.



Peer Support Advisory Board Attends 1st Responder Mental Health and Wellness Conference



Members of the Peer Support Team Advisory Board recently participated in the 1st Responder Mental Health and Wellness Conference, a powerful two-day seminar and networking event hosted by 1st Responder Conferences. This event is specifically designed to promote mental health and wellness among those who serve our communities.

The conference encouraged open dialogue on critical challenges including PTSD/PTSI, depression, suicide, addiction, stress, and overall well-being. Attendees gained valuable insights, practical tools, and actionable strategies to strengthen resilience, enhance peer support efforts, and foster long-term wellness both personally and professionally.

Our Peer Support Team members are committed to bringing this vital knowledge back to the department to better support staff wellness, promote healthy coping strategies, and help cultivate a culture of care and resilience throughout the organization.



Celebrating Success



Adult Day Reporting Center Graduation

We celebrated the graduation of 14 clients from the Central Adult Day Reporting Center (ADRC) — with 12 proudly in attendance, supported by their families, officers, and dedicated staff.

The ADRC provides life-changing services including cognitive behavioral therapy, substance use treatment, educational support, vocational training, housing assistance, and more. Clients also engage in pro-social activities, receive family support, and give back through our Community Outreach Program.

These graduates made powerful strides toward lasting change. Probation is proud to support them every step of the way.

Why Our Work Matters: A Touching Note of Appreciation

Senior Deputy Probation Officer Raichel Becwar recently received a touching letter of gratitude from individuals she previously supervised, sharing their current successes and expressing deep appreciation for her dedicated support.

The family wrote:

“Just an email, to say thank you. We have left California and relocated to my estate in South Carolina. Here’s one for your win column. Thank you for being exemplary in your approach to your job. Thank you again for always being available to speak with my wife and having her back as a woman—it means a lot to her. We are sober, with excellent jobs and a brand new, healthy start in life. To the deputies of Sacramento Sheriff’s Department and Probation who show up every day and risk their safety to serve their communities: your individual efforts are not just remembered but essential to the continued well-being and safety of those you serve. The lives you influence may not always be able to say thank you or take the time to—but we will. From our family to Deputy Becwar and her fellow Sacramento officers, be safe and have a wonderful life.”

This letter is a powerful reminder of why we do the work we do — to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

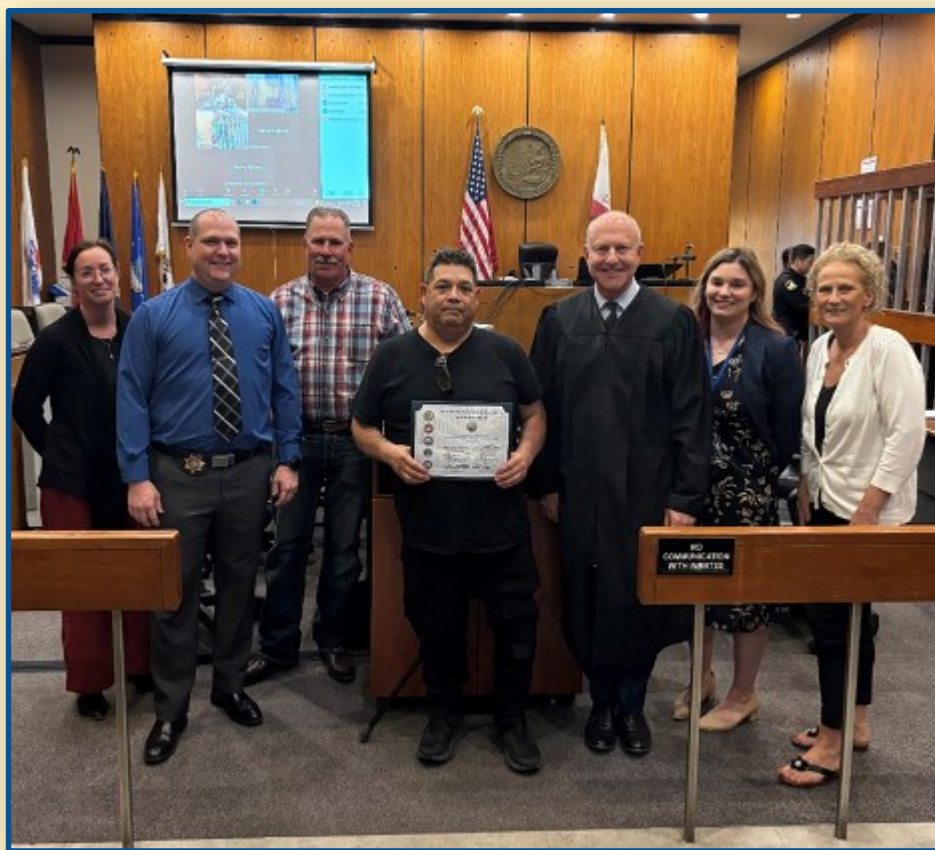


Celebrating Success

Veteran's Treatment Court Graduates

On May 16th, 2025, the Sacramento County Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC) celebrated a graduation. The VTC clients participate in a 12-month program focusing on addressing mental health issues, reducing recidivism, and improving public safety through the use of judicial oversight, intensive supervision, comprehensive case management, evidence-based treatment, and drug/alcohol testing. Each client endures a distinct road to recovery and each one has a unique, inspiring story to tell about their successful journey.

Congratulations on a job well done!



Supporting Positive
CHANGE



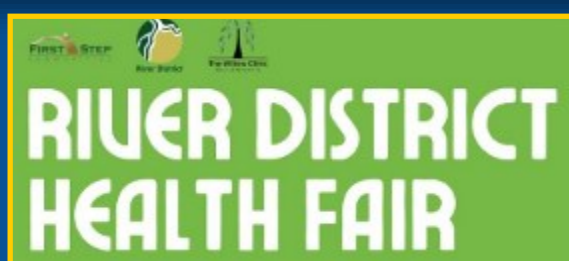
Officers & Programs Making a Positive Impact

Supporting Our Community at the River District Health Fair

On Friday, May 9, members of the Probation Outreach Vehicle (POV) team participated in the third annual River District Health Fair.

This impactful event provided a wide range of essential services to individuals at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. Services included mental health resources, wound care, vaccines, blood pressure and blood sugar checks, animal services, foot washing, oral health exams, showers, substance abuse support, and shelter navigation assistance. Sacramento Regional Transit also offered free rides to help ensure accessibility to the event.

We're proud of the officers who stepped up to support this effort and represent our department. Their dedication to community engagement and service highlights the ongoing commitment of Sacramento County Probation to building trust and connection with underserved members of our community





Officers & Programs Making a Positive Impact

Probation Honor Guard Pays Tribute at Regional Memorial Ceremony

On May 1, 2025, members of the Sacramento County Probation Honor Guard stood in solidarity at the Annual Sacramento Police and Sheriff's Memorial Ceremony—a powerful day of reflection and remembrance.

The ceremony honored the 44 courageous officers and deputies from our region who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Sacramento County Probation was honored to participate in this deeply meaningful event, standing alongside fellow law enforcement agencies, families, and community members.



Military Appreciation Month Shipping Day with Collaborative Courts



On May 14, 2025, the Sacramento County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and Driving Under the Influence Treatment Court (DUTC) officers, clients and court staff participated in a day of giving at Troopathon. All clients of VTC and DUTC are required by the court to participate in at least one pro-social event prior to their graduation.

Troopathon is a nonprofit military charity based in Sacramento and the nation's largest grassroots pro-troop organization dedicated to supporting the brave men and women of our Armed Forces. Their principal mission is to provide care packages and letters from grateful Americans to the troops deployed in combat areas around the world.

1,100 care packages were packed, sealed, labeled, and prepared for shipping!





Keeping Our Community Safe

DISTRICT- 5

May 3, 2025

OTS/ DUI

2000 block of Pantages Cr., Sacramento, CA
95670

On October 19, 2023, an individual was placed on probation following a conviction for driving under the influence (VC 23152(b)) and evading law enforcement (VC 2800.2), resulting in firearm and ammunition restrictions under California law.

On May 3, 2025, officers from the OTS/DUI team conducted a probation search at the individual's residence. The search resulted in the discovery of 263 live rounds of 12-gauge shotgun and rifle ammunition.

The individual was arrested and booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail for violating PC 30305(a)(1) – possession of ammunition by a prohibited person.



DISTRICT- 3

May 8, 2025

RCPD Community Partnership

2200 block of Sunrise Blvd., Sacramento, CA
95818

On May 8, 2025, while conducting proactive patrols in Rancho Cordova, Senior Deputy Probation Officer Duran and Rancho Cordova Police Department-Crime Suppression Unit Officers were flagged down by a local business owner reporting a suspected drug transaction behind a nearby business on Sunrise Blvd.

The Officers contacted a 38-year-old male and learned he was on formal probation for narcotics sales. A probation search of his vehicle led to the discovery of over half an ounce of suspected fentanyl, methamphetamine, a digital scale, a phone, and \$886 in cash.

The subject, who has two prior narcotics convictions, was arrested and booked into the Sacramento County Jail. He faces multiple felony charges, including possession for sale, probation violation, and enhancements under Proposition 36.





Keeping Our Community Safe

DISTRICT- 1

May 9, 2025

SAFE Team

2800 block of Gateway Oaks Dr., Sacramento, CA 95834

On May 8, 2025, Probation Officers from the SAFE Team conducted proactive field operations in the South Natomas area, canvassing several hotels in an effort to locate an individual on their caseload who had reported being transient but appeared to be providing misleading information.

While in the area of Gateway Oaks Drive, officers observed a known probation youth on the property. As Officers attempted to make contact, the youth fled through the parking lot and was seen discarding a firearm over a nearby fence.

The youth was safely detained without further incident. The firearm was recovered, and the youth was booked into the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility.



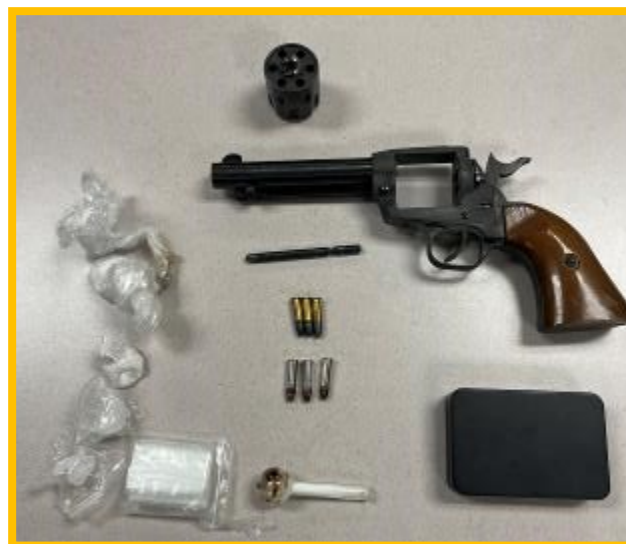
DISTRICT- 3

May 28, 2025

ACC- ADRC-North

1300 block of Shadowglen Rd., Sacramento CA, 95864

On May 28, 2025, officers from the Adult Community Corrections-North Unit conducted a probation compliance operation. During a search of a residence, a firearm and methamphetamine were located. One individual was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance while armed.





Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

Culinary Arts Program

Throughout the month of May, residents participated in hands-on culinary classes led by Chef Doolittle, learning a wide range of cooking techniques and recipes. These engaging lessons not only emphasized proper food handling and safety but also provided opportunities for creativity and teamwork in the kitchen.

In one session, residents learned how to prepare homemade hamburgers using a meat grinder. Chef Doolittle demonstrated how grinding tri tip with bacon adds both flavor and fat content to the patties. Residents also sliced tomatoes, onions, and lettuce, used a mandolin to cut fresh potatoes into fries, and utilized a deep fryer and propane grill to complete the meal.

Another class focused on making deep-fried chicken and waffles. Emphasis was placed on safe handling of raw chicken and understanding the risks of cross-contamination and salmonella. Residents prepared chicken batter using eggs, flour, and breadcrumbs, then deep-fried the chicken to perfection. They also created waffle batter from scratch using flour, salt, baking powder, eggs, milk, butter, and vanilla extract, cooking them on a waffle iron until golden and crisp.

Residents also explored Asian-inspired dishes by preparing egg rolls and chow mein. They chopped cabbage and carrots, seasoned ground pork with ginger, garlic powder, salt, and pepper, then wrapped the mixture in egg roll wrappers before deep-frying them to a crisp golden brown. To accompany the egg rolls, residents made chow mein with bok choy, zucchini, snap peas, carrots, green onions, and chicken strips, served over perfectly cooked noodles.

Unit 3 residents also assisted Chef Doolittle in preparing a BBQ for the Northern California Construction Training (NCCT) program. They grilled hot links and chicken, then helped assemble the food into trays for serving.

These culinary sessions continue to offer residents valuable life skills, promote healthy food practices, and foster a sense of accomplishment through shared meals and teamwork.





Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

Northern California Construction Training (NCCT)

May marked a month of significant milestones for our Northern California Construction Training (NCCT) students, whose accomplishments speak volumes about their growth, skill, and commitment.

Fourteen students were selected to take part in the 2025 Annual Shed Build Competition—our largest and most ambitious project to date. The team successfully constructed a 14' x 10' gable-roof structure on the North Field, demonstrating impressive craftsmanship, precision, and collaboration. Once painted and completed, the shed will serve as NCCT's new lumber storage—an enduring symbol of their hard work and pride.

In another creative endeavor, students used leftover materials from previous builds to design and construct custom planter boxes. This hands-on project emphasized sustainability while showcasing their ingenuity and problem-solving abilities.

In addition to their construction achievements, students earned OSHA-10 certification cards, reflecting their successful completion of workplace safety training—an essential credential for entering the industry. Several residents also completed CPR training, further demonstrating their readiness and responsibility both on and off the worksite.

Our NCCT students continue to inspire us—not only through what they build, but through their commitment to learning, safety, and teamwork. Thank you to everyone who supports this life-changing program.

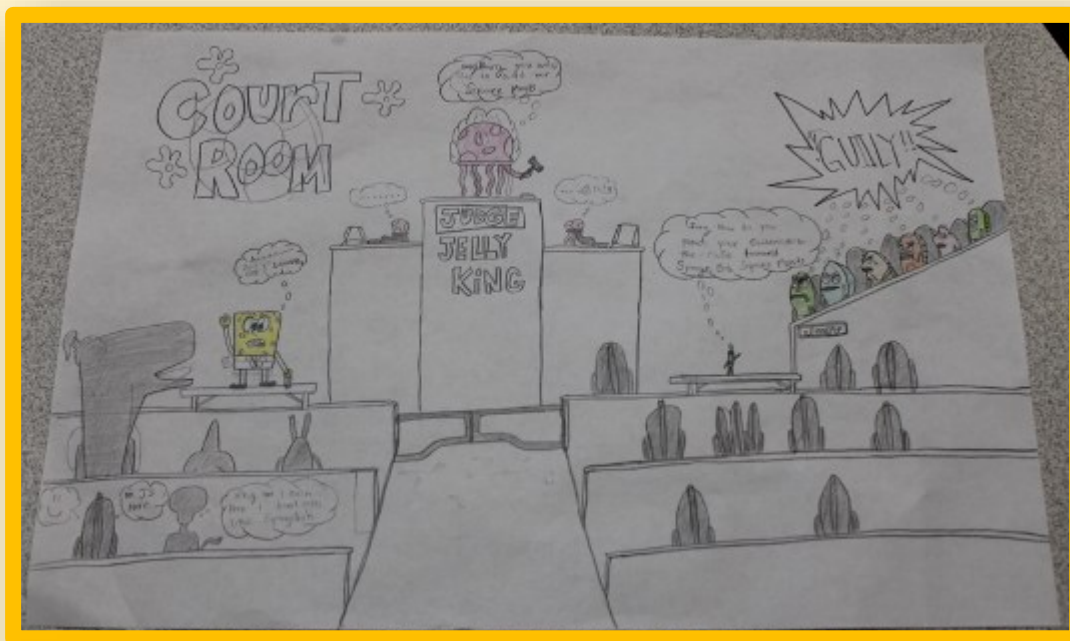




Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

Programming Unit

In May, two residents participated in the Jury Appreciation Week Poster Contest. Residents were asked to illustrate their interpretation of Jury Service by submitting original Artwork in poster form. Residents worked on their posters during the Art Program facilitated by LEAP staff, where both residents chose SpongeBob as their theme. Their entries were submitted to the Superior Court of California for judging. While a date for the award presentation has not yet been announced, the winning resident will be treated to a pizza party with judicial officers and/or the Jury Commissioner.





Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

Budget Cents (SCOE)

The Sacramento County of Education (SCOE) partnered with SAFE Credit Union to create an educational exercise on Financial Literacy for the youth inside the Youth Detention Facility. The event was facilitated in the gym and included a brief power point introduction, followed by an interactive exercise on financial budgeting, and ended with a question/answer session for the youth.





Youth Detention Facility (YDF) News

Juvenile Justice Chaplaincy (JJC)

The month of May was a very busy time in the Youth Detention Facility. On Monday, May 19, four residents chose to be baptized. The Baptisms marked the commencement of a significant chapter in their spiritual journey, a day that will resonate with them for years to come.



Leadership Education Athletic Program (LEAP)

Youth Advocate Bill Collins and the Leadership Education Athletic Program staff organized a football tournament on the North Field. Residents were selected from different general population and maximum-security units within the Youth Detention Facility. Each team consisted of seven residents. The tournament will end with an all-star football game. One of the focuses of the LEAP program is to provide safe athletic competitions through various sports. The goal is to teach the participants game strategy advice, good sportsmanship, teamwork and discipline.





Probation's January 2025 Community Partners



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

Please send questions and comments to: ProbationNews@saccounty.gov