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# THE SACRAMENTO BEE

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## Newsom, Prop. 1 foes urge voters to fix rejected ballots

BY LINDSEY HOLDEN lholden@sacbee.com

California Gov. Gavin Newsom and a group opposing the Proposition 1 ballot measure are both urging voters whose ballots may have been rejected to fix their signatures in the

too-close-to-call race.

Californians Against Prop. 1 on Friday began drawing attention to a Newsom effort to recruit volunteers who could contact voters whose mail-in ballots are being challenged due to signature problems.

Proposition 1 would restructure California's Mental

Health Services Act and provide \$6.4 billion in bond money to increase the number of treatment beds and housing for those dealing with mental illness and addiction. The ballot measure remains deadlocked, with 50.1% of votes in favor of the initiative and 49.9% against it as of Monday morning, ac-

cording to the Secretary of State's Office. About 20,000 votes separate the 'yes' and 'no' sides.

California's mail-in election system requires voters to sign the outside of the envelopes containing their ballots. If there

**SEE VOTERS, 6A** 



HECTOR AMEZCUA hamezcua@sacbee.com

Pilot Scott Herring stands next to one of his airplanes at the Georgetown Airport on Friday. He has several businesses at the airport, including Airfilm Camera Systems, which makes of aircraft mounts for imaging systems. Herring and other pilots say that tree growth near the runway has made for dangerous conditions.

## El Dorado airport's trees are 'death trap,' grand jury finds

BY ARIANE LANGE alange@sacbee.com

At a small Northern California airport managed by a county department's division of "airports and cemeteries," a withering grand jury report found that pilots fly in terror of the very tall pine trees that stand uncomfortably close to the runways.

Multiple pilots have clipped these pine trees, the El Dorado County grand jury said in a February report. One pilot took off from Georgetown and, when he landed in Cameron Park, discovered he had decapitated a conifer: A two-foot portion of tree top was stuck to

the undercarriage of his plane. "They're really lucky that they weren't slightly lower and got a bigger section of the tree," Scott Herring, a pilot based at Georgetown Airport since 1997, told The Sacramento Bee in an interview.

The report says the pines make landing, in particular, even more dangerous.

"To knowledgeable pilots operating under ideal weather conditions, the airport is rapidly becoming unusable," the report



Eric Meyer of Jackson maneuvers over tall trees as he approaches the runway at the Georgetown Airport in El Dorado County on Friday. "Some of the trees should be removed," said Meyer, who has had to go to a different airport because he couldn't land at night.

said. "To pilots without local knowledge operating under less-than-ideal weather or night conditions, it's a potential

death trap." Caltrans suspended night operations last December at the public, two-runway airport

roughly 10 miles north of Placerville, which is managed by

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### **UC research:** School group diversity combats racism, bullying

BY CATHIE ANDERSON canderson@sacbee.com

The same strategy that combats racial intolerance among K-12 students also produces schools where children are less likely to be bullied or feel alone, research has shown.

The secret lies in immersing students in racially and ethnically diverse groups during classroom and extracurricular activities, offering them daily opportunities to learn about and grow to understand each other, said UC Davis researcher Adrienne Nishina.

"Having cross-race and crossethnic friends may ... make students of all racial or ethnic backgrounds feel like they belong at their school," Nishina said. "We know that having a strong sense of belonging is related to a whole host of positive outcomes beyond positive attitudes towards school — such as better mental health and well-being.

Much of the work of helping learners know and understand each other falls to teachers, but school districts have not consis-

SEE SCHOOL, 5A

### Netanyahu to send officials to US to discuss Rafah operation

BY AAMER MADHANI, ZEKE MILLER AND JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday agreed to send a team of Israeli officials to Washington to discuss with Biden administration officials a prospective Rafah operation, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan

"We've arrived at a point where each side has been making clear to the other its per-

spective," Sullivan said. The White House has been skeptical of Netanyahu's plan to carry out an operation in the southern city of Rafah, where about 1.5 million displaced Palestinians are sheltering, as Israel looks to eliminate Hamas following Hamas' deadly Oct. 7 attack.

The agreement to hold talks about Rafah came as Biden and Netanyahu spoke on Monday, their first interaction in more than a month, as the divide has grown between allies over the food crisis in Gaza and Israel's conduct during the war, according to the White House.

Sullivan added that Biden questioned the Israeli leader over a lack of a "coherent and sustainable strategy' to defeat Hamas.

The call comes after Repub-

SEE RAFAH, 6A





