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# The Fresno Bee



## Fresno City to offer dental hygiene bachelor's degree

BY JULIANA MORANO [jmorano@fresnobee.com](mailto:jmorano@fresnobee.com)

Fresno City College will join the small - but growing - pool of California community colleges offering bachelor's degrees, starting in fall 2024.

The program will be in dental hygiene, a subject in which the school has offered an associate's

degree for over 40 years, said the college's dean of allied health, Lorraine Smith, in an interview Thursday.

Dental hygiene students were already doing a lot of the work that a bachelor's degree demands but for the existing associate's degree, Smith said. They were completing 107 credits, when a bachelor's program asks for 120. They were also taking

their board exams to become licensed.

"This degree recognizes the work that students currently complete," she said in an email to The Bee's Education Lab Friday. "We believe that not awarding a bachelor's degree disadvantages students from future opportunities."

In March, Fresno City received conditional approval to

launch its first bachelor's degree program - unlike the two-year associate degrees it and other community colleges have historically offered. Since then, the program received green lights from both the board of governors for California Community Colleges as well as the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

Now, the task is to update the

curriculum, Smith said. The school plans to welcome applications from students to fill roughly 30 spots in the bachelor's program as soon as spring of 2024.

The growing wave of bachelor's degree offerings at community colleges could help close achievement gaps in higher education, studies have shown. An April report from the University of California, Los Angeles' Civil Rights Project team found that offering four-year degrees at community colleges benefited low-income students and students of color in particular.

At Fresno City, students will

SEE DENTAL HYGIENE, 4A

## Dangerous heat wave in West will test power grid

BY BRIAN K. SULLIVAN [Bloomberg](https://www.bloomberg.com)

A record-breaking heat wave is about to send temperatures soaring from California to the Gulf of Mexico, posing health risks and straining power grids for days to come.

Temperatures will topple daily records across California, Nevada and Arizona this weekend, hitting or nearing all-time highs in some areas, said Zack Taylor, a senior branch forecaster at the U.S. Weather Prediction Center. To the east, heat will also push into Texas and along the Gulf Coast, where humidity will add to the misery.

"That is going to become extremely dangerous given the intensity and longevity," Taylor said. "Even beyond this weekend we are looking at a continuation of this heat wave."

Stifling heat set records last month across Texas and Mexico, taxing electric grids in both places as demand soared. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates the state's grid, said demand

SEE HEAT WAVE, 4A



CRAIG KOHLRUSS [ckohlru@fresnobee.com](mailto:ckohlru@fresnobee.com)

Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer uses an excavator to demolish the 60-year-old field house at Bakman Field in Fresno's Sunnyside area on Tuesday. The new field will have a new snack bar, press box and restroom facility when the project is completed next spring.

## Historic Little League field in Fresno will be renovated

BY JOSHUA TEHEE [jtehee@fresnobee.com](mailto:jtehee@fresnobee.com)

Bakman Field is generational, in that it has served generations of Little League baseball players in Fresno's Sunnyside neighborhood since being in-

stalled 60 years ago.

And it will continue for the next generations thanks to a \$1 million renovation project, officially unveiled Tuesday.

The project is a partnership with Sunnyside Lone Star Little League and the family of Richard Bakman, who donated the

land for the field for \$1 in 1963, includes a \$200,000 grant secured from the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 2017. There will be a new snack bar, press box and playing field, and updated scoreboard and lighting, permanent restrooms and ADA acces-

sibility.

During a news conference Tuesday, Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer - once a coach at Bakman Field - drove a tractor to demolish the original field house. A new field house will be constructed on the site, thanks to a \$500,000 donation from David and Leticia Campos.

The group is still seeking additional sponsorships for the project.

Joshua Tehee: 559-441-6479, [@joshuatehee](https://twitter.com/joshuatehee)

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## One missing K-9 back on duty; memorial to be held for other

BY JOSHUA TEHEE [jtehee@fresnobee.com](mailto:jtehee@fresnobee.com)

A week after two police K-9s were reported missing in the Fresno area, one has returned to duty.

A memorial is being planned for the other.

Both dogs were being kept at home with their handlers, as is common practice, when they escaped.

Both were presumably agitated by illegal fireworks being set off during Fourth of July celebrations.

Both have law enforcement

agencies redoubling efforts to keep the animals safe and accounted for.

In the case of Odin, a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois with the Madera County Sheriff's Office, the dog got out of his kennel in Fresno and climbed a 6-foot backyard fence to escape. After a day-long search, the dog was found at a home miles away.

Kona, a 10-year-old German shepherd attached to the Reedley Police Department, had been missing for two days when his body was discovered in a vineyard outside of Visalia. Police believe Kona was hit by a car before he died.



Madera County Sheriff's Office and Reedley Police Department

Odin, left, and Kona are two San Joaquin Valley K-9 police dogs that escaped from their respective handler's home during the Fourth of July holiday in 2023. Odin was found safe, but Kona, who had escaped after being bothered by fireworks, was found dead after being hit by a car.

A memorial is being planned and could happen with in the next week, the department said.

The CHP is investigating whether a hit-and-run report

will be taken, and Reedley police are investigating how the dog escaped. According to the

SEE K-9, 4A



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