



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Yolo Probation Keeping the Community Safe

(Woodland, CA) – Earlier this month, the Yolo County Probation Department again, for the second time in the last eight months, played a key role in the discovery of criminal activity in Yolo County when a 40 pound bag of marijuana was discovered by an adult work crew.

On February 7, Yolo County Probation Detention Officer Ryan Fitzpatrick was supervising an adult work crew performing litter abatement along the channel of the Sacramento Port, when two workers alerted him to the presence of a garbage bag filled with what appeared to be marijuana. Officer Fitzpatrick contacted the West Sacramento Police department, who took custody of the bag and later confirmed that it contained 40 pounds of marijuana. This was the second incident in the past eight months where officers of the Yolo County Probation department have been incidental in the discovery of criminal activity.

The first occurrence happened on July 9, when Yolo County Supervising Probation Officer Brenda Gage spotted a body lying along Old River Road, as she and her unit were returning from a probation search in West Sacramento. The Yolo County Sheriff's department later identified the body as that of 39-year-old Alexandra Marie Cedra of Sacramento. Two suspects have been charged with her murder and are presently awaiting trial.

“As a partner in the criminal justice system, we are charged with many different duties,” said Don Meyer, Yolo County Chief Probation Officer. “These include report writing, adult and juvenile work programs, transportation, operation of the juvenile hall, and direct supervision of juvenile and adult offenders in the community.”

One of the ways the Probation Department makes its presence felt is through the alternative sentencing program. This program allows low risk adults and juvenile defendants who have been found guilty of illegal behavior to perform work in the community in lieu of paying a fine or serving jail time. The goal is to hold these defendants accountable for their actions and to encourage an improved personal work ethic. The most common work is that of grounds maintenance such as site cleanup, litter removal, painting and general labor.

“Our frequent presence in the community helps to enhance public safety, as well as hold offenders accountable,” said Don Meyer.

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