

CHICO PERFORMANCES 2019-2020 SEASON Tickets Now On Sale

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MAY

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50 YEARS OF ROCK-N-ROLL
Rock's Greatest Hits



TELEGRAPH QUARTET



PINK MARTINI



YI-NOU WANG

MORE INFO AT: WWW.CHICOPERFORMANCES.COM 898-6333

families are still there, Wilcox said.

As of the CN&R's deadline, Troupe had two leads on housing. He noted, though, that affordability post-Camp Fire is also an issue.

"It seems like all the prices have gone up," he said.

Herbert has worked for the uni-versity for five years and co-owned a local property management company from 2000 to 2014. He says it isn't out of the ordinary for housing to be tougher to secure as the school year inches closer and the more popular or affordable units are snatched up. If affordability is an issue, he suggests that students consider sharing rooms, or he connects them with the university's Basic Needs Project, which helps displaced or homeless students secure emergency and transitional housing and loans (see "Home at last," Cover story, Aug. 16, 2018).

Herbert said a particular demographic has been struggling in this market: student couples and families. Because many may want to forgo typical student housing complexes, they end up competing with the rest of the renters in Chico.

"If there was a crisis in the student housing market, that's the most prominent place it is, because they're really in the market with everybody else in our community," he said. "And we do have a housing crisis in Chico. Apartments have wait-lists right now."

The Scion Group study confirms this, reporting that nontraditional student groups, including graduate students and those with families, were most impacted both pre- and post-Camp Fire.

The campus community discussed this issue during Chico State's recent 2020-2030 master plan update outreach events. Mike Guzzi, associate vice president of facilities and capital projects, recalled hearing from a single mother who said she would love to be able to move into a family residence hall with her child. In the current market, she couldn't afford to move out on her own, and was staying with relatives.



Dan Herbert, Chico State director of Off-Campus Student Services, says for the traditional, single college student, there are plenty of housing options in Chico.

PHOTO BY ASHIAH SCHARAGA

"Throughout the master planning process, we talked about that a lot: How do we get to a place where maybe we put enough beds ... near the academic buildings, and [then] maybe we can convert portions of University Village for students with family housing? Because that'd be a more appropriate living environment for someone who has a family," Guzzi said. "That's a long-term goal we'd like to work towards."

Those seeking to live on campus also face challenges every year: As of Aug. 6, even with the addition of 71 residence hall beds, there were 191 students on the wait-list, Huyck said—which is "a little high" for the time of year. It typically hovers between 150 to 200, she said.

The university sends updates to wait-listed students before school starts, she continued, but it's hard to predict how much space might free up for a variety

of reasons, including health or financial struggles or choosing another college.

"It's tough, right? It's this waiting game, because we don't know how much movement there is going to be on the list," she said.

Maria Zepeda, an incoming freshman from Ukiah, said she wasn't too worried about housing at first, but when she discovered she was wait-listed behind dozens of other students for the residence halls, she started searching for an affordable room elsewhere. In July, Zepeda had the same experience over and over: She'd inquire about an available bedroom posted online, only to hear that there were four or five other people interested.

"[Finding housing] has been really weighing on me, and it's been stressing my parents out as well. They're like, 'Are you going to have a place?' And I'm like, 'I don't know. I'm trying my best.' ... Everybody's looking for a place."

—ASHIAH SCHARAGA
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