

Talks next month to determine future of county's archives

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Calaveras County's archives, located on Main Street in downtown San Andreas, have been closed until further notice.

The county archives come under the administrative authority of Rebecca Turner, Calaveras County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters.

She provided the following information about the closure to The Valley Springs News.

"During recent budget preparation discussions with County Administration, we were informed that, along with other non-mandated services, Archives may face significant budget reductions, including the potential elimination of the County Archivist position. Additional information regarding the future of Archives operations is expected following the County budget meeting scheduled for June 9, 2026.

"The County Archives have been temporarily closed to support staffing needs during the election period and to allow time to develop a sustainable long-term plan for Archives operations. The Archivist position was filled internally and, with the current hiring freeze, this created a staffing vacancy within the department during a critical operational period.

"We are fully committed to preserving the historical records currently housed in the Archives. Many of these documents are fragile and require careful handling to ensure their long-term preservation. As part of future planning efforts, I would like to move forward digitizing the Archives collection. Once digitized, these records would be accessible online, allowing the public to access materials more efficiently and consistently while also reducing wear on the original documents.

"Currently, use of the physical Archives facility varies significantly, with some days seeing visitors and other days having little to no public use. Expanding digital access would improve availability for the public while helping safeguard the original historical records for future generations.

"At this time we are continuing to evaluate operational and funding options to determine the best path forward for maintaining access to and preservation of the County's historical records."

In addition, the state of the building itself made news at the beginning of the year when the Board of Supervisors heard the Gold Rush era building at 45 Main St. has deteriorated to such a state that it could cost at least \$340,000 to make the most needed repairs.

The building is not Americans with Disabilities Act compliant, lacks ADA-accessible restrooms, has parking issues and at approximately 3,025 square feet "is undersized for modern archival storage requirements, staff workspace, research areas, and public service functions," county staff reported.