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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

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Honoring the Best of Fair Oaks



Long-time chamber members include The Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks and the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival. Both organizations have been members for 40 years. From left to right: Janet McWilliams (Woman's Thursday Club) and Cathy Smallhouse (Fair Oaks Theatre Festival) with Katie Yount and Mary Howard.

Story by Judy Andrews,
photos by
Michelle Massaro

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - It was standing room only at the 8th annual Best of Fair Oaks Gala held on January 18 at North Ridge Country Club. Hosted by the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce (FOCC), more than 240 chamber and community members, as well as local dignitaries, turned out to celebrate the 2023 winners.

The sold-out event was organized and presented by students from the chamber's Fair Oaks Youth Outreach program. Presenters included Emma Ford, Frederick Ha, Emmy Herrera, Abby



FOCC Executive Director Kimberley Pitillo is recognized for her 10 years of service by Assemblyman Josh Hoover.

Lingenfelter, Roman Schitik, Noah Wright, and there was technical support from Zac Lingenfelter.

FOCC Executive Director Kimberley Pitillo

served as the evening's MC and handed out special chamber awards at the end of the program. "It's amazing to see all the contenders in the room

cheering everyone on! This is what the chamber is all about — supporting our town's small-business community," said Pitillo.

Voting to determine the winners took place online over a five-week period last fall. Close to 15,000 votes were received and tallied through BestofFairOaks.com. In total, 427 nominees competed in 76 different categories — the most ever in the program's eight-year history!

Event Highlight

In a surprise presentation on behalf of the chamber's board of directors, President Mary Howard recognized Pitillo for her exemplary service to the FOCC and to

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FORPD Considers Committee to Review Parking Issues' Solutions

Story by Shaunna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - At the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) Board of Directors meeting on January 17, the Board heard a public comment from Leon Corcos, a Fair Oaks resident, property owner, business owner and Fair Oaks Village Enhancement Committee (FOVEC) member. Corcos spoke about a parking and traffic report recently released by Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond's office that recommended the District delay parking upgrades in the Village until all the facility and park improvements currently underway are completed, in order to conduct a thorough parking and traffic evaluation at that time.

"I recommend you ignore it," said Corcos. "I think that's kind of foolish when we're losing a lot of time. And there's a lot to be done still and parking is critical."

He said that the report didn't accurately account for the District parking plans, with the report implying that construction would decrease the amount of parking, while the plan will actually increase the amount of parking spaces.

Fair Oaks Village Enhancement Committee President Nan Danford also spoke about the parking report during public comment, asking that the District not follow the report's recommendation: "We think that is a really bad idea. If we wait, it's going to be chaos." Danford said that ignoring the parking issue until after construction is complete will result in "so many angry, upset visitors, and it's going to hurt the businesses."

Director Raymond James Irwin asked how the District's current plan was in opposition to the report's recommendation.

District Administrator Mike Aho explained, "The big difference that you have right now is the fact that we are aware that there is going to be a problem and we are working toward some kind of lessening of the impact before we open." While the construction plan does include increased parking spaces, the improved facilities will also increase parking demand, so the District is trying to find solutions to that.

Aho said ideas could include paid parking spaces, enforced parking time limits, etc. But they would only be able to enforce such measures on the spaces owned by the District, not on all spaces

Continued on page 3

Something to Cheer About

Story and photo
by Susan Maxwell
Skinner

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Del Campo High School cheerleaders did not just host 40 competing teams for the recent Regionals at their Dewey Drive campus. The Fair Oaks/Carmichael teens also took second place in the Varsity Advanced Division and are eligible for National Cheer competitions in Anaheim, this February.

"I've been coaching this team since 2006 and we really took a hit during COVID," says their leader Jen Houck-Mahoney. "I'm proud of how far we've rebuilt our performance in a short time."

The blue and white-clad team is the pride of Del Campo (Go



Del Campo cheerleaders recently hosted regional cheer competitions at their Dewey Drive campus.

Cougars!). Aged from 14 to 17, its athletes also field the largest contingent in Carmichael's Independence Day Parade. "They're great kids," says

Houck-Mahoney. "Del Campo Cheer is a terrific stunt team, but they also love community events and giving back whenever they can."

Convened by USA Cheer organization, the recent meet-up brought more than 600 teenagers to their school. "Our

Continued on page 3

Honoring the Best of Fair Oaks



Best of Fair Oaks winners pose for their photograph at the sold-out event.



Business and community leaders took time to mingle and sample great food and desserts. From left to right: Keith Wright, Sean Palmer, and Tom Struhm.



Rose Erickson, owner of French in the Village, won for Best Boutique and Gift Shop. From left to right: Noah Wright, Katie Yount, Erickson, and Frederick Ha.



Miller's Ace Hardware won for Best Specialty Shop and was also awarded Best Business in Fair Oaks. From left to right: Katie Yount, Abby Lingenfelter, Miller Greenfield, mom Jessica Rowell Greenfield, and Kimberley Pitillo.



Divided Sky Tavern took home two awards for Best Restaurant and Best Taco in town. From left to right: Katie Yount, restaurant owner Ian Branning, and Noah Wright.



Students from Fair Oaks Youth Outreach organized an outstanding event. Seen here are Emmy Herrera (L) and Abby Lingenfelter (R).



Brad Squires, Founder and CEO of the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Community Foundation, accepts the award on behalf of the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank for Best Non-profit. Left to right: Katie Yount, Squires, Frederick Ha, and Abby Lingenfelter.

Continued from page 1
 the community for the past 10 years! Adding to the accolades, Assemblyman Josh Hoover presented Pitillo with a legislative resolution from both his office and the office of Senator Roger Niello. This was followed by a presentation from Congressman Ami Bera's office, and a resolution from Supervisor Rich Desmond's office.

Award Highlights

- Some notable 2023 new and repeat winners included:
- Best Bar/Brew Pub: *Fair Oaks Brew Pub*
- Best Boutique/Gift Shop: *French in the Village*
- Best Coffee Spot: *Badfish Coffee & Tea*
- Best Entertainment: *Concerts in the Park*
- Best Pizza: *Del's Family Pizza*
- Best Restaurant and Best Taco: *Divided Sky Tavern*

- Best Sports Retailer: *Bob's Cycle Center*
- Best Veterinarian Services: *Old Town Animal Hospital*
- Best Youth Activities/Sports: *Fair Oaks Family Taekwondo*
- For the eighth year in a row, the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank won for Best Non-Profit.

Special Chamber Awards

- Pitillo presented special chamber awards to six deserving individuals and businesses. These recipients were chosen for their outstanding contributions in the community in 2023:
- Business of the Year: *Miller's Ace Hardware*
- Business Person of the Year: *Jen Rodriguez, Skinned & Lashed*
- Citizen of the Year: *Dustin Buck, Buck Wealth*

- Management and Rachel Griffith, Realtor Lyon Real Estate
- Special Recognition: *Noah Wright*
- Volunteer of the Year: *Jeanette Woodward*

Event Sponsors

The Best of Fair Oaks is sponsored by the FOCC, VoterFly, and the American River Messenger. A portion of the proceeds, which also included a raffle and dessert auction, support the Fair Oaks Youth Outreach Scholarship Program.
 Thank you to the following organizations for also supporting this special event: Fair Oaks Brew Pub, Jessica Rose Balloons, North Ridge Country Club, St. Mel Catholic Church, and Wolfe Heights Estate Winery.
 Congratulations to all 2023 Best of Fair Oaks winners and nominees! For a complete list of winners, please visit BestofFairOaks.com or FairOaksChamber.com. ★

FORPD Considers Committee to Review Parking Issues' Solutions

New Airshow Format has International Flair

By Tamara M. Warta

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Capital Airshow, which typically roars through Sacramento Mather Airport each September, is returning again for 2024 - but with a new date and a distinct European flair.

This year, the 18th annual California Capital Airshow will feature Frece Tricolori, the Italian Air Force's military jet demonstration team. It will also be primarily an evening event, happening July 13 and 14. The changes may be surprising to airshow regulars, but excitement truly is in the air for the switch to summer and the international celebration it's bound to bring.

"Every year we want to do something fresh, we want to do something new. We want to bring our community something different," says Darcy Brewer, Executive Director of the California Capital Airshow. "We survey the insiders every single year. We heard a couple of different things from people. They wanted to see something they've never seen before, and they wanted us to bring back the night show we did in 2018."

The "insiders" Brewer refers to are the approximately 60,000 Air Show Insider® members of the California Capital Airshow community. Becoming an Insider is free and provides early access to tickets, helpful discounts, and a chance to view airshow schedules and events prior to the general public.

Famous for their interactive STEM exhibits, large airplane and fighter jet displays, food and family activities, the airshow is well-known as a distinct stand out from the approximately 450 air shows that happen each year across America.

"We are one of the largest," said Brewer. "We want to be different."

With the arrival of Frece Tricolori, which has not performed in North America in 30 years, this year's air show is sure to delight both regular patrons and some new faces.

"We start flying at 6pm



Frece Tricolori takes a colorful flight. Photo courtesy of Frece Tricolori, Pattuglia Acrobatica Nazionale, Aeronautica Militare, Rivolto Air Base, Italy

and go nonstop until 10pm. And that last half hour is going to literally blow you away," says Brewer. The event includes what the organization is referring to as a "choreographed pyrobatic musical," featuring fireworks, daredevil jet maneuvers, music, and more.

"In the air, on the ground and throughout the year - the airshow crew is all about honoring those who serve, and inspiring the next generation --- but this year we'll be doing it all in two different languages --- so if you've ever been to Italy and love it, or dreamed of going to Italy --- we're making it more simple this summer and bringing Italy to you," said Brewer.

This is the only location in the western United States where you will be able to be a part of

Frece Tricolori's full airshow performance, get the chance to see their colorful jets up close, and maybe even meet team members on the ground.

"People in America love the US jet teams, the rest of the world loves the Italian jet force," says Brewer. "Brush up on your Italian and get ready for a once in a lifetime experience."

The California Capital Airshow has taken to the international skies one time prior - in 2017 they welcomed the French government for a one-day event over Easter weekend. Now, with that experience under their belt, the organization is going big. The Frece Tricolori team includes 75 members, as well as multi-ple government dignitaries

that are expected to be in attendance.

Outside of the stunning displays and huge draw from the world's best pilots, the California Capital Airshow is unique for another reason - its commitment and passion for community past and present. The group is a non-profit that supports other non-profits. Groups are invited to apply to work at the airshow and raise funds for their various causes. \$79,000 went out to non-profit groups through parking lot and concessions volunteerism.

"We're all about STEM education, scholarships, and youth programs," noted Brewer. The group has many interactions with young people, equipping them to grow up to become whatever they dream.

"We try to inspire the next generation to get a job where they wake up in the morning feeling the same way the staff at the California Capital Air Show feels," Brewer says with pride when speaking about the great work environment found within the organization. Her enthusiasm and love of life is contagious, as is her passion to get people excited and involved about the air show and all it signifies.

"We like shining a spotlight on a region that we love. If you like history, aviation, or international flavor - there's something for you and we will make sure it happens before the gates open."

You can find out more about the upcoming airshow by becoming an Insider at californiacapitalairshow.com. ★



The Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) Board of Directors' next meeting is February 21. At last month's meeting, the board discussed the parking and traffic report released by Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond.

Continued from page 1 throughout the Village.

Board Chair Ralph Carhart said, "We're not going to learn anything new by waiting for what we do. We know exactly how many parking spaces, we know where they're at, and we know that when we start having our events there that it's going to put an additional demand on the overall parking."

Director Irwin said, "I think we need a working committee to really work with this and then bring it back to the Board so we can have a really unified approach of what we're doing going forward," which will then inform the Board's "strong recommendation for the county."

The Board agreed that at the next meeting they will consider the formation of a committee to review the parking issue in more detail.

The Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District Board of Directors also serves as the Board for the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District Foundation, a nonprofit that serves as the fundraising source for the District in order to support recreation, arts, and entertainment. But during a financial audit, the auditor recommended that the Foundation should not be controlled by the same agency and should instead be a separate, independent entity.

So staff recommended that the Foundation be dissolved and its assets transferred to an existing charitable organization, the Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts (FOFLA). This merger would consolidate efforts to raise funds in support of art and recreation programs throughout Fair Oaks.

There are three major programs that would be shifted over to FOFLA if this proposal is approved: The Rachael Anne Gray Scholarship, the Fair Oaks Youth Advisory Board (FOYAB), and the Don Ralls Memorial Scholarship Fund.

District Administrator Aho said, "We've been working on this for a couple of years now, and we're finally getting some traction on it...trying to find some kind of solution that would make sense for the community and for the park district." Aho said that Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts has a very similar mission to the Foundation, and Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts is agreeable to the merger. District staff have worked with Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts to update their bylaws to allow for this change. The bylaws would also require at least one member of the FORPD Board be appointed as a member of Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts's new Board, so the District would maintain some input without being the controlling entity. Aho said the Board could choose the term

length for that appointment, whether shifting the appointment annually or appointing one member for their full term.

Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts President Keith Walter said that members of their Board serve three-year terms, and he encouraged the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District Board to appoint someone for the full term rather than rotating a new member each year.

"Rapid turnover doesn't necessarily make for strong boards," Walter said.

Staff asked for approval to send the updated Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts bylaws to Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District attorneys for review (which would come from the already budgeted attorney services line item, at an estimated cost of \$1,500 to \$2,500). After review, the bylaws would be filed with the Secretary of State, and then at a future meeting, the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District Foundation Board would vote on the official dissolution of the Foundation and asset transfer to Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts.

Director Irwin said, "I would have liked it to have gone through a committee before this." District Administrator Aho said the approach can certainly be adjusted, and the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District Board's Community Relations Committee can review the bylaws first before they are sent to the attorneys for review.

Director John O'Farrell said, "We know we need to make a change. ... The question is, what kind of change it's going to be, and hopefully we can all be okay with it. Sounds like a good plan to me."


Walter said that the Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts Board "believes this is good for the community and we want it to be right, so we have no objection to taking the time to handle it."

Board Chair Carhart said, "It will be definitely good for us. We need all the support for our planned events and activities that we can get. Our foundation was not really set up to do that."


Finally, Aho provided a brief update about construction in the Village, stating that they have now closed the parking lot on Park Drive.

"It is our staging area and our material storage for the playground construction," said Aho. The new playground's surface area has been compacted, and now they just need an inspection before the installation of the new playground can move forward, which is expected to take about two months.

The next meeting of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District Board is scheduled for February 21. ★



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March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election

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You can return your ballot starting February 5th

- By mail, no postage necessary
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- At a Vote Center (starting February 24th)


You can find a full list of Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote Center locations in your County Voter Information Guide, in your mail ballot packet, or at www.elections.saccounty.gov

Vote Early! Vote by Mail.

Vote Early and Vote by Mail.


Update your language preference

Every registered voter will receive an official ballot in the mail containing contests, candidates, and voting instructions in your preferred language. If you prefer your ballot and voter information in Spanish, Chinese, or Vietnamese, update your language preference online by scanning this QR code or call (800) 762-8019.




The Presidential Primary is Party Specific

During the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election voters will nominate one presidential candidate from each party to run against each other in the November 5, 2024 General Election. To vote for the presidential candidate you want in the primary election, ensure you are registered with your preferred party by visiting www.elections.saccounty.gov or calling our office at (800) 762-8019.



If you would like to change your party, reregister at: registertovote.ca.gov or scan:

Visit www.elections.saccounty.gov or Call Toll Free (800) 762-8019



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Captain Joseph House Foundation Holds Fundraiser at El Camino High



This photo of Special Forces Army CPT. Joseph Schultz and his proud mother, Betsy Schultz, was taken in 2010 when the El Camino High graduate earned his Green Beret in North Carolina. Photo courtesy of Betsy Schultz

Captain Joseph House Foundation News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Captain Joseph House Foundation, which opened in 2022, will share information about the development, growth and status of the Gold Star Family program on Feb. 17.

This is the first such presentation in a community with a donor-rich base of support, according to Captain Joseph House Foundation founder Betsy Schultz. The foundation is in memory of Special Forces Army CPT. Joseph Schultz, her son and an El Camino High School graduate. Joseph Schultz was killed in Afghanistan on Memorial Day weekend, May 29, 2011.

The nonprofit foundation's mission is to honor Fallen Heroes through remembering and caring for their Gold Star Families left behind, according to Schultz, a Gold Star mother.

Within days of her son's death, Schultz recognized that something was missing in the continuum of care for Families of our Fallen Heroes: the opportunity to bond with others experiencing a similar loss.

Forming the nonprofit Captain Joseph House Foundation, Schultz donated her large "bed and breakfast" to the organization and began converting it into a respite home for Gold Star Families.

Gold Star Families from every military branch and from every state in the U.S. may qualify for the Family-to-Family

respite program. A respite week, with up to three families meeting together, provides an opportunity for sharing a common love and loss, Schultz said. It is also a time to celebrate the life of one's hero and build new relationships that can last beyond the week at Captain Joseph House, located in Port Angeles, Washington.

There are no fees for the families, which includes roundtrip airfare, daily transportation, lodging, all meals and recreational activities. Volunteers, in-kind, discounted services and financial donations to the foundation made it possible to open the doors of the house to welcome Gold Star Families in 2022, Schultz said.

"Your donations have been sincerely appreciated," Schultz said. "Fundraising will continue to ensure this opportunity will be available for Gold Star Families to participate in future years."

The Captain Joseph House Foundation's State of the Foundation is from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 17 at El Camino High School Center for the Arts, 4300 El Camino Ave., Sacramento. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Admission is \$25 per ticket and free for anyone 19 years old and younger. Tickets are available at <https://www.brownpaper-tickets.com/event/6232423> or

<https://m.bpt.me/event/6232423> or at the door.

or more information, call 360-460-7848 or go online to www.CaptainJosephHouseFoundation.org or [Facebook.com/CPTJosephHouse](https://www.facebook.com/CPTJosephHouse). ★

The Sun is Rising on Public Safety in Sacramento County



Thien Ho and Sacramento Police Chief Kathy Lester. Photo courtesy of District Attorney's Office

Story by Kristina Rogers

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On January 31st, Sacramento District Attorney Thien Ho gave a public safety address to a packed room at Clunie Community Center in McKinley Park. Guests included Police Chief Kathy Lester, elected officials, colleagues, community leaders, crime victims, and friends. D.A. Ho laid out his department's mission and here are a few important highlights.

To begin, since January 2021, more than 600 people have died in Sacramento County of Fentanyl. D.A. Ho explained those numbers are expected to rise. Most parents don't know social media is the leading platform for drug dealers. Counterfeit pills mixed with fentanyl



Laura Didier shares her story about her beloved son. Photo courtesy of District Attorney's Office

are marketed online as "prescription pills."

Laura Didier was there to share her story about how her own son got access to one such counterfeit pill. It was Christmas break in 2020. Her son Zack was a straight-A student, athlete, and musician. He was a good kid, and parents didn't seem to have any reason to worry. Unfortunately, Zack went online and bought a pill marketed as a prescription Percocet, but it wasn't. He tried it once, and his father found him dead in his bedroom. It was a somber reminder deadly drugs are now easily accessible to anyone, anywhere. With tears, Laura said, "He'll always be 17."

Heartbroken, she wanted to make something good from this tragedy. Didier partnered with the District Attorney's office to promote "one pill can kill." Now she joins Thien Ho and Angela Webb to speak at educational school forums about fentanyl awareness. They plan on expanding their youth-focused program in 2024. To learn more about One Pill Can Kill and watch Zack's story, go to: 1pillcankillsac.com.

Awareness is vital to helping protect our communities, but accountability is equally essential. Thien Ho is working with other District Attorneys to provide harsher sentences for drug dealers. The loss of even one life is too much to allow a dealer to walk away without real consequences.

He noted January was Human Trafficking Awareness Month. According to the

California Department of Justice, California is the #1 state for human trafficking. (<https://oag.ca.gov/human-trafficking/what-is>). The Human Trafficking Unit in the District Attorney's office partners with the Sacramento Child Exploitation Task Force (CETF), which includes the Sacramento County Sheriff, FB, and Sacramento Police Department. And while they aggressively pursue and prosecute human traffickers, child predators, and domestic abusers, there is a new outreach arm. Victims of these crimes can go to GetHelpSac.org for answers. There, they can access organizations like My Sisters House, Weave, and the Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH).

The discussion moved to the fear and crime our local businesses and property owners are experiencing. It's no secret that retail theft has skyrocketed in California. The D.A.'s office is taking aim with a new organized retail theft unit. Not only are they focused on fighting the crimes that shutter our local businesses, but D.A. Ho is advocating for answers to nearby encampments as well. He noted that these homeless camps "put people between compassion and chaos."

To help people on the street get back on their feet, Thien Ho supports the development of a shelter model called Hope for Sacramento. This model allows anyone on the streets to get shelter and move toward sobriety and housing at a reasonable pace (hopeforsacramento.org).

District Attorney Ho knows Incarceration isn't the only solution to crime. This is why his office has another answer. Non-violent offenders will receive an opportunity at redemption with the new Changing Courses program. Instead of prison, those accused of a crime can choose to enter an apprenticeship program in the trades. If they complete the program, they can move toward a lucrative job, and a real future. D.A. Ho explained, "This allows them to change their course from a life of crime to a life of construction."

Still, there is another hurdle that our law enforcement professionals can't handle alone. Current legislation in California is one of the biggest obstacles to public safety. That is why Thien Ho and District Attorneys across California are advocating for a measure to be added to the fall ballot called The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act. Many law enforcement professionals point to Prop 47 as a contributor to the rise in crime across California. It's been ten years since the proposition passed, and they believe it is time to change things. Interested folks can review the petition details and how to get involved go to; casafecommunities.com.

The presentation ended on a hopeful note. D.A. Ho believes Sacramento has been sleeping, and although it's a slow process, she is waking up. The sunrise is coming, and our Thien Ho is welcoming us with coffee.

To review the entire presentation and learn more about the Sacramento District Attorney's office, go to: sacda.org. ★

Bera Releases Statement on Passage of Bipartisan Tax Package



Ami Bera

Office of Representative Ami Bera News Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - On the evening of January 31st, Rep. Ami Bera, M.D. (CA-06) released a statement following his vote to pass H.R. 7024 - Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024, bipartisan tax legislation that delivers

critical wins to hardworking families and small businesses in Sacramento County. The legislation passed by a vote of 357-70 on the House floor.

"Tonight, I joined a strong majority of members on both sides of the aisle to pass a bipartisan tax package that will make meaningful changes to the tax code to uplift hardworking families, empower small businesses, and bolster American innovation.

"The package includes several pro-growth, pro-family tax priorities I've been fighting to deliver throughout my time in office, including an expansion of the Child Tax Credit and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit,

incentivizing research and development, supporting small businesses, and strengthening our trade relationship with Taiwan.

"This package is an important step in the right direction that will put money back in the pockets of hardworking families. I urge the Senate to take up this bill quickly so we can get this tax relief signed into law soon. It's estimated that 16 million children will benefit from this package in the next year, including 49,000 in my district.

"Despite the dysfunction and chaos that has defined this Congress, this bipartisan bill demonstrates the progress we can make when lawmakers come together to find common ground." ★

Something to Cheer About

Continued from page 1

23 girls (and one boy) made all the teams feel welcome at the event," says their leader. "But their focus was to compete. They were high-energy and all-smiles all through their performance.

"We were narrowly beaten by a team from Orland High. Orland is amazing. It's a very experienced competition team with many first places to its credit. We felt good to be in the company of that excellence."

Del Campo Cheer also fielded team captains Jamisyn Lockard and Shayna Bendixen to march in Macy's Thanksgiving pageant. "I've been sending my captains to the parade for ten years," says Houck-Mahoney. "The event gives them experience with the

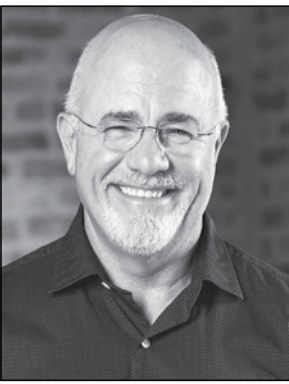
best cheerleaders and choreographers in the nation. It's also great for Carmichael kids to travel outside of their community and perform the world's biggest City."

The team was recently hard at work preparing for a winter rally on campus. The annual spectacle culminates with cheerleaders forming a human Christmas tree.

"It's never easy to come back from a long period of no practice," says their leader. "But I feel we're 99 percent back to pre-COVID standards. That last one percent requires a shift in mind set; to treat themselves like the athletes they are. They're not just cute kids in cute uniforms. They're a great team with a great future." ★



Alexia Ybarra's heel-stretch demonstrates the Del Campo team's stunt prowess.



Dave Ramsey Says

you're living right now will have either a positive or negative effect on your future. I decided I wanted the greater, long-term good, so I gave up on the short-term stuff.

Debit cards are great tools. You can't spend money you don't have with them like you can with a credit card. But you've still got to budget very carefully for each month, and give a name and a job to every single penny of your income. Otherwise, you can still overspend.

— Dave

Put The Money In Your Own Pocket

Dear Dave,

Are home warranties a waste of money if you already have a fully-funded emergency fund containing six months, or even more, of expenses set aside?

— Jodie

Dear Jodie,

I don't do extended warranties, because they're not a good deal. In my mind, you're better off to self-insure against damage or things breaking down. That way, you can put what would have been profit and marketing

dollars for the extended warranty company in your own pocket. I mean, think about it. If you buy something, but can't afford to fix it if something goes wrong, it's not really a smart move to buy it in the first place, is it?

I always recommend an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses to cover the unexpected things that life will throw at you. In most cases, this amount of cash—sitting in a good money market account with check writing privileges—will allow you easy access in the event of unexpected expenses or a financial emergency.

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

How Will California Overcome High Living Costs, High Poverty And High Debt?



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

As most Californians know from personal experience, their state has an especially high cost of living, particularly for housing.

Forbes magazine rates California as having the nation's third-highest living costs behind Hawaii and Massachusetts, with \$53,171 a year in average household spending for housing, health care, taxes, food and transportation.

California also has the nation's fourth-highest level of income disparity, which explains why it also has the nation's highest level of poverty in the Census Bureau's supplemental calculation, which factors in the cost of living.

The Public Policy Institute of California, using a similar methodology, found that nearly a third of Californians are living in poverty or near-poverty. PPIC also says that without state and federal safety net programs, many of which were enacted in recent years by Gov. Gavin Newsom and a Democratic Legislature, the state's poverty rate would climb by more than eight percentage

points.

These data are the grist for perpetual debate in California's political, media and academic circles over causes, effects and remedies, and the conversations will be heating up this year. The state faces multibillion-dollar budget deficits well into the future due to what appears to be a semi-permanent plateau in revenues that cannot cope with sharp increases in spending during Newsom's governorship.

Advocates for the poor and their legislative allies are pushing Newsom and legislators to protect the safety net programs from cuts as they confront the deficit, but they will be competing with other spending categories that enjoy heavyweight political support, such as K-12 and higher education and prisons.

There's another aspect to California's high living costs and high poverty rates — high levels of debt that have gotten scant media and political attention.

Americans have amassed \$17.3 trillion in home mortgages, auto loans, student loans, credit cards and other forms of personal debt, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Californians owe at least \$2.5 trillion of that and perhaps as much as \$3 trillion, thanks largely to its high housing costs and the large mortgages needed to handle those costs.

In fact, according to a newly released study by CreditDonkey, a personal finance website,

Californians are carrying the most debt of any state, driven by an average mortgage of \$422,909 for homeowner families.

Californians debts for student loans, auto loans and credit card balances are also fairly high, although not terribly so vis-à-vis other states. It's mortgage debt, at least \$2 trillion, that truly sets California apart from other states, although a third of the state's homeowners don't have mortgages.

That said, Californians seem to be handling their high debts fairly well. The state's personal bankruptcy rate is well below the national average and a fraction of those in states, mostly in the South, with sky-high rates. However, the PPIC, using census data, found that a million of California's 9 million renters are behind on their rent.

California's unique combination of high living costs, high poverty and high debt makes the state something of a personal finance experiment. The test will be how people fare during the next recession.

During the Great Recession, California had one of the nation's highest levels of mortgage defaults and repossessions, and it took years for the housing industry to climb out of the cellar.

Dan Walters has been a journalist for more than 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. ★

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



If you're like many Kings fans, you've probably already had a conversation as to whether the current Kings team can surpass the 48 wins of last year.

As of this writing, the Kings are on a 5-1 road trip, and with a win over the Cleveland Cavaliers, this road trip poses the possibility of being the best in the last 25 years! This, after a horrific four-game losing stretch that should have been at worst two wins and two losses.

Time to give out some much-deserved kudos. Much-criticized coach Brown has tightened up his rotations in recent games, and the results are speaking loudly.

It is so good to see Davion Mitchell jumping off the bench every game and creating havoc with the opposing team. His presence literally changes the defensive chemistry on the court, and it seems to work like a much-needed jump start. Collectively, everyone seems to realize that it's time to up-tempo the defensive effort, and I'm seeing significant changes in Fox, Sabonis, Murray, Huerter, and even Kessler Edwards.

In addition to Mitchell seeing increased playing time, let's give coach Brown some credit for giving Trey Lyles more time on the court. As I have expressed several times, we have yet to see what Lyles' ceiling will be, and he continues to impress me. He could arguably be the best 3-point shooter on the team, but his game brings much more. Like Sabonis and Barnes, he is adept around the rim, a good passer, and one of the best on the team in drawing offensive fouls.

A 5-1 road trip, with the potential of winning six games before returning home, puts smiles on everyone's faces, and like last year, the Sacramento Kings are telling the league, "We are tough on the road!"

Playoff teams win on the road, period! Something else playoff teams do is shoot free throws.

If the Kings don't make some immediate improvement in their ability to sink free throws, look for another quick exit from the playoffs. Yes, we first have to make the playoffs, but this team is very capable of doing that, and I for one believe they will surpass 50 wins this year.

The Kings have exactly two players shooting 80% or better from the line, and that

would be Malik Monk at 81% and Harrison Barnes at 80%.

The team is dead last in the league, and that just isn't acceptable. While it's true that the coaching staff doesn't shoot free throws, with the number of coaches on this team one would think we could find a prescription to improve the moniker of worst in the NBA.

Let's set some goals here Kings fans, and the first one should be getting out of last place. We can do this!

I would be remiss if I didn't hand out a major accolade to "Mr. Double-Double," Domantas Sabonis, who just tied Oscar Robertson for achieving the most consecutive double-double games as a member of the Kings roster, with an incredible 31 straight. In addition to his stellar consistency, Sabonis is challenging the league leader Nikola Jokic for triple-doubles! This is nothing short of remarkable. For all Kings fans, stop and smell the roses. This is something you may never see again, so let's appreciate the guy that brings his lunch pail to work like no one else does.

29-19 and fifth place in the western conference should be applauded, and I hope you're enjoying the breadth of this team. There is something here for everyone.

As much as I like to see coach Brown tightening up his rotations, something needs to be done as it relates to coach's challenges.

My wife made the observation that with a success rate of 28%, it makes more sense to flip a coin than continue on the present course.

When you are wrong three out of every four challenges, it's time to make some changes. Give this to one of the assistant coaches, or if it comes at a critical time in the game, call a timeout, and take the time necessary to make a good decision.

Last note, De'Aaron Fox broke out of a miny slump to lead the team in points on the recent road trip. His 41 points in the win against Chicago was huge, and watching him improve from the free-throw line was encouraging.

Trade talks have died down, so appreciate the team we have, and let's have a tremendous second half!

Light the Beam!

Your thoughts? Reach out to me at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

Social Security Matters Will my WEP Reduction Go Away if I Continue Working?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I'm 63 years old and have not yet started my Social Security. I now work for the State of Illinois and will draw a pension from that state's university system. I don't pay into Social Security from this position and, as a result, my Social Security payment will be reduced. But I have also worked elsewhere and contributed to Social Security for 26 years.

If I retire from the state university and begin drawing my reduced Social Security payment, and then work in a different job which does contribute to SS, will the reduction to my Social Security payment ever be eliminated? Or will I be permanently stuck with the smaller Social Security payment? **Signed: Curious Educator**

Dear Curious: A rule called the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) will apply to your Social Security benefit because your IL state pension was earned without paying into the Social Security program. The basic rule is that anyone with a pension earned without contributing to Social Security, and who is also entitled to Social Security benefits, is subject to WEP, which reduces that person's Social Security retirement benefit. It's a law enacted many years ago to equalize how SS benefits are paid to all

Social Security beneficiaries. However, the WEP rules also provide relief for those who have only a small non-covered pension, and for those who have separately contributed to Social Security for a lot of years. For example:

- The WEP reduction to your SS benefit cannot be more than 50% of your non-covered (IL) pension

- The WEP reduction is smaller for each year over 20 years contributing to Social Security from substantial earnings

- WEP does not apply to those who have at least 30 years contributing to SS from substantial earnings

Although you could retire at 63 and collect your pension from the university and also collect your WEP-reduced Social Security, you have something else to consider if you take another job which pays into Social Security.

Social Security has an annual "earnings test" for those who collect benefits before their full retirement age (FRA). The earnings test limits how much you can earn while collecting early SS before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, you will lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. If your work earnings substantially exceed the earnings limit, you would likely be temporarily ineligible to receive Social Security benefits. FYI, the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 67.

Without knowing your expected income from a new job, I can't say how much of your SS you would be able to receive, but you can use this as a guide: Social Security will take away benefits equal to half

of what you exceed the annual earnings limit by, and they typically recover by withholding future benefits. If 12 months or more of benefits are withheld, you will be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits until your earnings are less, or you reach your full retirement age (the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your FRA). So, depending on your expected annual work earnings, you may wish to defer claiming your Social Security until you either earn less or reach 67 years of age.

If you already have 26 years contributing to Social Security from "substantial earnings," your WEP reduction will already be mitigated, and any additional years of substantial earnings from which SS payroll taxes are deducted will result in an even smaller WEP reduction. If you can achieve 30 years of SS contributions from substantial work earnings, WEP will no longer apply. So, you may not be "stuck with" the WEP reduction permanently, but you will need to contact Social Security to request that your WEP reduction amount be reviewed in light of any additional years of SS-covered earnings (this should be done after you submit your income taxes each year you have additional SS-covered earnings).

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

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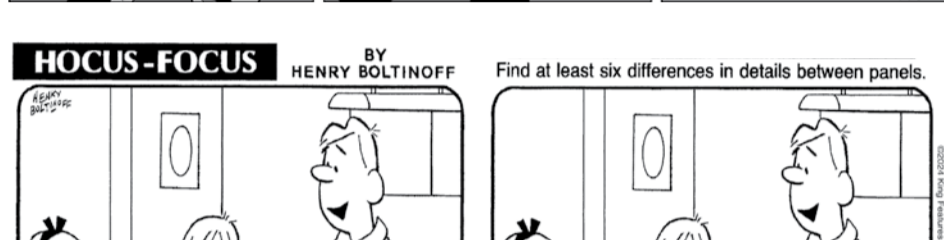
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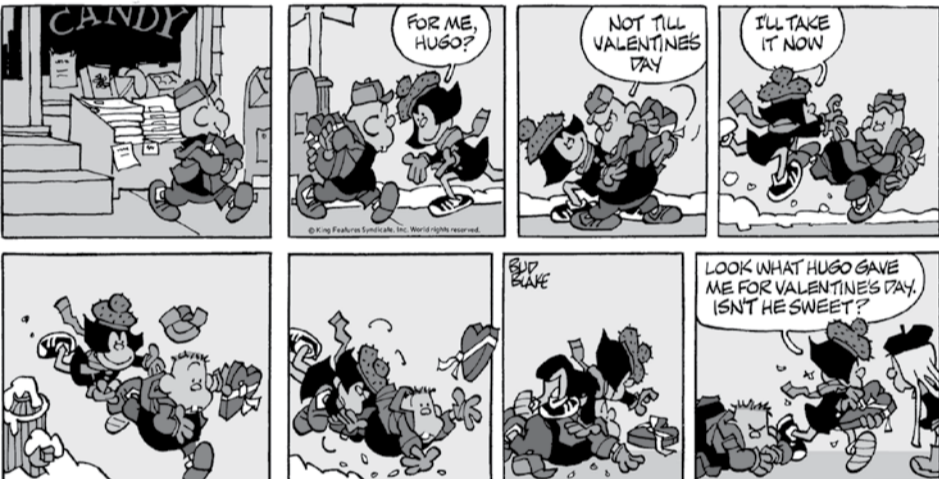
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Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) Office has begun mailing the County Voter Information Guide (CVIG) for the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election to Sacramento County registered voters. Voters will receive their CVIG in English unless a language preference for Spanish, Chinese or Vietnamese was indicated. If you would like to update your language preference, you may contact VRE at (916) 875-6451 or email voterinfo@saccounty.gov.

Registered voters can expect the CVIGs to begin arriving in their mailboxes this week. It includes Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations, local candidate statements, measures on the voter's ballot, and important dates and information.

For more information about the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election and voting in Sacramento County, visit the VRE website at elections.saccounty.gov, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email voterinfo@saccounty.gov, or call the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The

hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone).

Key Election Dates

Monday, February 5: Mailing of ballots to all registered voters begins

Monday, February 5: Voted ballots may be returned in any of the Ballot Drop Boxes located throughout the County

Tuesday, February 20: Close of voter registration for this election. Voter registration forms must be postmarked by this date or delivered to the VRE Office at 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento 95823 by 5:00 p.m. Online voter registration must be completed before midnight on this date at www.registertovote.ca.gov

Wednesday, February 21: Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) begins

Saturday, February 24: 11 Day Vote Centers open

Tuesday, February 27: Last day a Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot can be mailed to you. After this date, VBM ballots are only available at the VRE Office or at any Vote Center

Saturday, March 2: All Vote Centers open throughout the County

Tuesday, March 5: Election Day ★

Hoover Introduces Legislation to Stop the Proliferation of Fentanyl in Schools



Josh Hoover

Office of Assemblyman Josh Hoover News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- On February 1st, Assemblyman Josh Hoover (R-Folsom) announced the introduction of groundbreaking legislation to address the alarming rise of fentanyl in California schools and communities. Assembly Bill 2045 would increase penalties on fentanyl crimes involving minors and add sentence enhancements for criminals who traffic fentanyl within 1,000 feet of school grounds.

"Our number one job as lawmakers should be protecting our most vulnerable from harm," Assemblyman Hoover said. "We must do more as a Legislature to

create a safe environment where our children can learn, grow, and thrive. This bill sends a clear message that those who endanger minors and bring deadly fentanyl into our schools will face severe consequences."

AB 2045 would classify fentanyl in the same category as other dangerous illicit drugs and would give prosecutors new tools to hold dealers accountable.

Key Provisions of the Proposed Legislation:

1. New penalties on the sale of fentanyl to children: The bill seeks to add an additional 2 years to the sentence of any adult who solicits, induces, encourages, or intimidates a minor with the intent that the minor commits a drug crime. If passed, this felony offense will be punishable by 5, 8, or 11 years in state prison.

2. Sentence enhancement for fentanyl-related offenses on or near school grounds: Brings fentanyl in line with other drugs like heroin or cocaine in cases

where the offense occurs upon or within 1,000 feet of school grounds by adding a 2-year enhancement to the sentence of those who solicit, encourage, or intimidate minors to commit these drug crimes. This enhancement aims to create a safer environment for students attending public or private elementary, vocational, middle, or high schools during school hours or related programs.

3. Additional punishment for trafficking fentanyl on or near school grounds: Adds fentanyl to the list of illicit drugs already covered under state law for drug trafficking offenses on or near school premises. For adults committing specified drug trafficking offenses within 1,000 feet of a school, the legislation adds an additional punishment of 3, 4, or 5 years. Furthermore, if the offense involves a minor who is at least four years younger than the defendant, an extra enhancement of 3, 4, or 5 years applies, subject to realignment. ★

Manage Utility Accounts Online

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County Consolidated Utilities Billing & Service (CUBS) is making it easier for customers to view and manage their utilities accounts online with MyUtilities.

Tired of receiving your county utilities bills in the mail? MyUtilities also allows residents to go paperless, freeing up space in crowded mailboxes.

MyUtilities rolled out in 2020, and so far, 44.9% of customers are utilizing it!

Using MyUtilities, residents can:

- Manage your bank account details
- Manage one-time or recurring payments
- Manage payment reminders
- Change your mailing address
- Set up paperless billing
- View bills and payments (up to two years)
- View Frequently Asked Questions that will enhance your user experience.

If you are a landlord or property management company, MyUtilities can be

your one-stop shop for managing the utilities accounts for all of your properties.

In 2023, CUBS added even more ways for customers to receive digital eBills and set up online Bill Pay. Customers can now access their utility bills and schedule online payments directly through their bank's online banking portal. As of today, 4.4% of customers are utilizing this new service.

Here are some reasons residents choose eBills:

- Convenience – paying bills online is easy and saves time. For even more convenience, use your phone or tablet.
- Control – you can choose when and how much to pay.
- Security – your financial information and records are protected with bank-grade security.

To learn more and get started, visit the CUBS website. If you need assistance setting up your MyUtilities portal, please contact CUBS online or by phone at (916) 875-5555. To find out if your bank offers eBill and Bill Pay services, contact your bank directly. ★

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Sacramento County Republican Party Central Committee Election

Supervisor District 3	Supervisor District 4
for these 8	for these 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mona Graham Russell Gray Karen Juten Andrew Levy Roger Canfield Cathy Cook Carl Burton Sue Blake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marina Gabel Orrin Heatlie Ruth Alexander Lisa Ladd James Bish Christine Bish Manuel Zamorano Natalee Price Anna Rohrbough

Our commitment to Traditional Republican Principles

★★★★★

Religious, Health Care and Educational Freedom - Parental Rights

Right to Bear Arms - Secure Borders - Public Safety

Election Integrity - Protection of Life - Fiscal Responsibility

Term Limits - Sanctity of Marriage

What do Your Central Committee Members Do For You?

- Recruit, Endorse and Raise Money to Elect Republican Candidates
- Grow the Local Republican Party by Increasing Voter Registration and Recruiting Volunteers

- Get Out The Vote
- Work to Secure Election Integrity
- Promote and Protect the Principles that Guide the California Republican Party Platform

VOTE

February 6th - March 5, 2024

★★★★★

For more information: Sacramento Republican Assembly www.SRAGOP.org

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Our Services



- How to start or expand a business
- Sacramento County permit navigation



- Assist in navigating various laws and regulations
- One-on-one business site visits and consultations



- Ombudsman services
- Best management practice implementation
- Resources for business development
- Multi-agency coordination

BERC can provide assistance in the following regulatory areas:

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- Liquid waste
- Hazardous materials and waste
- Medical waste
- Food safety/sanitation
- Solid waste and recycling
- Storm water
- Building permits

Plus much more!

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-Senior VP, Sacramento Area business

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www.sacberc.saccounty.gov



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Spring 2024



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SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center
1301 L STREET, SACRAMENTO

Projected Supertitles

Olivia Smith, Soprano
Maggie Renée, Mezzo
Salvatore Atti, Tenor
David Soar, Bass



Smith



Renée



Atti



Soar

SAFE CU PAC Box Office | 916.808.5181 or Ticketmaster.com

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Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast - Bnls \$3.99/lb
Beef T-Bone Steak \$4.99/lb
Beef Porterhouse Steak \$5.49/lb
Pork Baby Back Ribs \$3.99/lb
Pork Neck Bones \$1.99/lb
Pork Butt Bone In \$2.49/lb

Chicken Leg Quarters \$0.89/lb
Pork Neck Bones \$1.99/lb
Pork Butt Bone In \$2.49/lb

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 07 - FEBRUARY 12, 2024.

FRESH PRODUCE

Minneola Tangerine \$1.29/lb
Roma Tomato Premium \$1.99/lb
Navel Orange 10 lbs \$5.99/bag
Organic Strawberry 1 lb \$4.99/ea
Mexican Green Onion 89¢/ea
Russet Potato 10 lbs \$2.79/bag
Young Thai Coconut \$14.99/box
Mini Watermelon 2/\$5.00

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

Q-Tips Cotton Swabs 500 ct \$4.99/ea
Hunt's Tomato Ketchup 20 oz \$1.99/ea
Garlic Salt \$4.99/ea
Levy's Garlic Salt 11 oz \$4.99/ea
EED All Purpose Flour 5 lbs \$3.99/ea
Clementine \$2.99/ea
Chamoy Tomato Cocktails 32 oz \$2.99/ea

ASIAN GROCERY

Soybean Oil 1 liter \$2.99/ea
Lee Kum Kee Soy Sauce 16.9 oz \$1.99/ea
Vinaigre Cider 100 ct \$1.99/ea
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Vani Milk Soy Milk 6 pk \$8.99/ea

EUROPEAN GROCERY

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KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

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Tori Herb Soy Sauce 300 ml \$7.49/ea
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Aunt Honey Ginger Tea 370 g \$2.99/ea
Culver Oatmeal & Honey Butter 96 g \$2.99/ea
Culver Oatmeal & Honey Butter 96 g \$2.99/ea
Doritos \$5.99/ea
Soy Sauce 501 \$5.99/ea
Pulko \$4.99/ea
Meiji Choco \$2.49/ea
Umi \$2.99/ea
Keweenaw \$3.99/ea
Fruit in Jelly \$1.99/ea

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MODAMODA SHAMPOO \$2.99/ea
KAIZEN WOK PAN \$14.99/ea
WATERMELON SLICE KNIFE \$3.99/ea
ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL \$39.99/ea
ELECTRIC RICE COOKER \$4.99/ea
ELECTRIC RICE COOKER \$5.49/ea
ELECTRIC RICE COOKER \$5.99/ea

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Dried Pollack 200 g \$12.99/ea

EUROPEAN DELI

Schwarz Oven Roasted Turkey Breast \$10.89/ea
Belmont German Ham \$5.49/ea
Pined Green Olives \$4.99/ea
Sichuan Style Olives \$5.39/ea

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