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# Gold River Messenger

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## All Aboard the Santa Train!



Personal keepsake photographs taken with Santa Claus are free, where they can later be viewed and downloaded. Photo: SVLSRM

By Thomas J. Sullivan

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Members of the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum (SVLSRM) welcome the public to ride their annual Santa train, weather permitting, during the first and second weekends of December at Hagan Community Park in Rancho Cordova.

Club members help kick off the holiday season with their participation in the 22nd Annual Cordova Community Tree Lighting at Village Green Park at 3141 Bridgeway Drive from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, November 28 when a special train for young riders will loop around the brightly lit community tree.

Upcoming run times for the Santa Train at Hagan Community Park

are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 4, and Sunday, December 5, and the following weekend, Saturday, December 11 and Sunday, December 12th. The museum is located at 2197 Chase Drive in the rear of Hagan Park, past the petting barn.

Tickets for the Santa Experience train ride are \$7 per person. Children, ages two and under, ride free with a paid adult ticket. Personal keepsake photographs taken with Santa Claus are free. Guests will receive a login and password to an online gallery where they can later view and download their photos.

"This is the largest fundraiser for the SVLSRM each year," said club president Andy Berchielli.

Over the two weekends, some 2,400 riders and visitors young and

old are expected to visit Santa, he said. "It's also a lot of hard work and a lot of fun."

An operating G-scale garden loop layout also gives youngsters a close-up view of scale model operating engines and passenger cars as they patiently wait to board each passenger train.

In advance of the event, club members including train crews, engineers, conductors, station masters, and operations managers will be busy getting the main line ready.

The 6,300-foot main line loop will be festively decorated by club members to enhance the holiday train ride experience. Passengers pass under a large inflatable gateway on their way to meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

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## Operation: HOT SPOTS



Anne Marie Schubert

**Office of Sacramento County District Attorney**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert has announced the results from the 5th annual "Operation: Hot Spots," a coordinated countywide sting operation aimed at reducing the demand side of human trafficking by targeting sex buyers and sex exploiters.

Community-based organizations from the Sacramento Together Against Human Trafficking coalition voiced the need to crack down on sex buyers who fund and sustain the sex trafficking trade. In response, DA Anne Marie Schubert led the effort to organize this countywide operation, with a commitment from local law enforcement agencies to conduct operations throughout the year to reduce sex trafficking.

The District Attorney's Office created training videos for law enforcement agencies featuring experts on human trafficking victims (adults and juveniles), suspect tactics/manipulations, conducting trafficking investigations, and insights on evidence collection for prosecutions. Education was also provided on our community resources and the services available to victims of human trafficking. Victim advocates are involved in the sting operations to assist with intervention and service referrals for individuals victimized by human traffickers.

In October 2021, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, Sacramento Police Department, Folsom Police Department, Parole, Probation, District Attorney's Office, California Highway Patrol and FBI worked collaboratively to conducted street and hotel operations targeting sex buyers. The operation included law enforcement postings of fake decoy prostitution ads.

The results were: 261 sex buyer responses to fake decoy ads; 22 citations of sex buyers for soliciting for prostitution - court dates are in January 2022; 1 charged with human trafficking of a minor; 1 charged with pandering; 2 opened investigations into pimping and pandering; 2 arrests for carrying a loaded firearm registered to another.

Continued on page 3

## DAR Funds Sacramento City College Nursing Scholarships

**Daughters of the American Revolution**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - On November 1, 2021, the Sacramento Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), presented Sacramento City College with a check to fund nursing scholarships, in honor of Past Regent Jacqueline Coffroth. This gift is the first of three to the Sacramento region, inaugurating the Chapter's centennial anniversary celebration.

Sacramento City College nursing students who are residents of either Sacramento or Yolo County and meet further eligibility criteria may apply for these scholarships. One will be awarded to a Registered Nursing student and the second to a Vocational Nursing student. Mrs. Coffroth, who bequeathed funds for these scholarships, was a nurse.

"The Sacramento Chapter



Pictured, left to right: Chapter Chaplain, Sharon Flath; Sacramento City College President, Michael Gutierrez; Chapter Regent, Janet Fulton; Chapter Registrar, Vicki Klein. Photo: SCDAR

is delighted to help two Sacramento City College students achieve success in nursing. Education is one of DAR's three, overarching pillars," said Janet Fulton, Sacramento Chapter DAR Regent. "Mrs. Coffroth would be especially pleased to know that this gift will help two students become

nurses at a time when nursing is so critically needed," she added.

If you are interested in learning more about DAR membership, visit <https://sacto.californiadar.org/> or contact [corresponding@sacto.californiadar.org](mailto:corresponding@sacto.californiadar.org). If you would like more information about

Sacramento City College Scholarships, visit [sec.losrios.edu/admissions/financial-aid-and-fees/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships](https://sec.losrios.edu/admissions/financial-aid-and-fees/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships).

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women's service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today's DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Over one million members have joined the organization since its founding in 1890. ★

# New Home Sales in Region Continue to Increase

**North State Building Industry Association Press Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - New home sales in the Sacramento region are expected to continue rising for the next couple of years peaking at around 8,000 in 2023 before dropping off slightly in 2024. But while those sales totals are higher than most years since 2007, annual sales will remain far below they were before the Great Recession and well below the amount of new housing needed to meet current and expected demand, a panel of economists and builders said at the North State Building Industry Association's annual Regional Housing Forecast presentation.

Dr. Sanjay Varshney with Goldenstone Wealth Management, Dr. Dean Wehrli with John Burns Real Estate Consulting and Denton Kelley with LDK Ventures, told nearly 300 participants in-person and virtual that despite inflationary pressures, mortgage rates are expected to remain at historic lows, which will help counterbalance rising housing prices and keep the market for new homes strong.

Wehrli said his firm projects sales of 7,200 in 2022 (14.3% above this year), 7,800 in 2023 (8.3% higher than 2022), and 7,400 in 2024 (a 5.1% decline from the prior year.)

We are projecting over the next four years for the Sacramento MSA to



Panelists Expect New Home Sales in Sacramento Region Will Continue Increasing Through 2023, the North State BIA Reports MPG File photo

do pretty well. My biggest worry is, do we have the land to do it? We do in some places, not so much in others. Do we have the labor to do it? Do we have the supplies to do it? You hope the supplies will shake out some time next year, but labor is going to be constrained for the foreseeable future," he said.

He noted that builders have ramped up production, with permits up 41% in the region year over year, the fourth highest rate in the country behind San Francisco, Jacksonville, Fla., and

San Antonio, but that still isn't enough to meet demand.

We have ratcheted up supply, but I'd argue in the long-term perspective that new-home sales in the 7,000s is at or below the organic demand," he said.

Wehrli said a major demand driver has been the revolution in working from home caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Varshney noted that Sacramento gained about 20,000 households from the Bay Area once tech workers didn't have to live close to their offices.

Many people have moved to Sacramento, along with places like Austin, Tex., Boise, Ida., Reno and Phoenix, where housing was more affordable.

He added that the region remains well-positioned even if companies adopt a hybrid schedule, where workers are in the office two or three days a week and work from home the rest of the time.

"People who moved to Phoenix or Reno or Boise would have to be closer to the Bay if that happens, and our competitors are Tracy,

Lathrop and Manteca – and Sacramento has a lot more (amenities) than they do," he said.

If Bay Area companies do implement hybrid schedules, he said Elk Grove would benefit due to being closer to Silicon Valley than South Placer County or Folsom, but he said those submarkets have more land available and will likely be major growth centers for the next 10- to 20 years.

Kelley, who is developing The Railyards and focuses more on multi-family than single-family

housing, said about 3,000 units of market-rate apartments are in the pipeline, which he said was more than usual but because relatively few apartments have been built in the urban core during this cycle leads him to believe we're not overbuilding.

Lots of people still want to live in an urban environment, so my general feeling is if the city improves the environment downtown it should all work out as long as we continue to invest in amenities people want, he said. ★

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# “Housewarming for the Unhoused” Donation Drive

By Traci Rockefeller Cusack, T-Rock Communications

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento Self-Help Housing (SSHH) is proud to announce the 4th Annual winter donation drive that is now titled “Housewarming for the Unhoused” presented by Molina Healthcare. The drive-thru donation event will take place on Saturday, December 11 at the Cal Expo main gate loop from 8 a.m. to noon. In 2022, Sacramento Self-Help Housing is set to open 30 program houses, a record number for the organization in one year, that will house approximately 125 individuals.

The theme this year is “Warm it Up, Mix it Up” to encourage specific items for donation to help keep the served population both warm and well stocked as they transition to stable living environments. New or gently used items requested for “Housewarming for the Unhoused” include the following: blankets, bed sheets (single & twin preferred), wash cloths, towels (bath and kitchen), bed pillows, and kitchen appliances such as microwaves, toasters, coffee makers, mixers, and blenders.

It is important to note that Sacramento Self-Help Housing has opted to remove the word “homeless” from the previous



The Cal Expo 2021 drive theme is “Warm It Up, Mix It Up” to encourage needed donations of kitchen appliances and items that add warmth. Photo: SSHH

name of the donation drive in lieu of “unhoused.”

Especially these days, the word ‘homeless’ is often associated with negative connotations,” explained John Foley, Executive Director of Sacramento Self-Help Housing. “The term can be demoralizing, affecting self-esteem, and undermining progressive change. Instead, the word ‘unhoused’ conveys an insecure housing situation that is (hopefully) only temporary.”

To make it as safe and easy as possible for the community to participate, SSHH staff and dedicated volunteers will be on-hand to collect new and/or gently used items that will be

distributed to hundreds of recently homeless individuals in Sacramento County.

In addition to Molina Healthcare, the donation drive is also supported by Supervisor Rich Desmond, District 3, Lighthouse Public Affairs, LLC, Sunrise Marketplace, South Sacramento HART, Carmichael HART, Citrus Heights HART, and iHeart Media.

Each donation, big or small, will go directly to furnishing a home for a recently unhoused individual or family in our community. For more information about Sacramento Self-Help Housing, please call 916-341-0593 or visit [www.sacselfhelp.org](http://www.sacselfhelp.org). ★

# All Aboard the Santa Train!



The public is welcome to ride with Santa and Mrs. Claus on the annual Santa train at Hagan Community Park in Rancho Cordova. Photo: SVLSRM

Continued from page 1

“It’s an event I look forward to each, and every year,” he said. “Our Santa trains put everyone throughout the community, and all our club members, fully in the holiday spirit.”

SVLSRM began in 1965 and trackwork was completed with a ceremonial Golden Spike ceremony in 1973. Track and guest improvements have continued ever since with new features added each year, Berchielli said. Live

steam engines carry passengers through wooded areas and the nearby American River. The railroad also features wooden trestles, a 40-foot truss bridge as well as a girder deck bridge.

For the latest SVLSRM Santa Train event information, visit <https://www.svlsrm.org/>. Advance tickets should be available for sale soon through the club website, Berchielli said. Contact the club by email at: [info@svlsrm.org](mailto:info@svlsrm.org) for general information, or call (916) 361-7140. ★

# Operation: HOT SPOTS

Continued from page 1

Those convicted of soliciting another for the purpose of buying sex or agreeing to engage in an act of prostitution, face a maximum penalty of 180 days in county jail, will be subject to search and seizure, and may be ordered to stay away from the involved locations or known “stroll” areas.

“Human traffickers and sex buyers have remained a significant public safety threat throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,” said DA Anne Marie Schubert. “We are committed to continuing sting operations through the Sacramento Together coalition to target sex traffickers and buyers as well as maximize our efforts to protect and serve victims of sexual exploitation.”

Sacramento Together is a coalition of more than 30 community-based organizations, law enforcement, state and local public agencies, meeting regularly and working together to combat human trafficking and exploitation in our community.

The coalition works to combat human trafficking and exploitation by working together to treat, educate and remove children and young adults from life threatening situations. Working collaboratively, the coalition coordinates and maximizes community response efforts as well as all of our regional assets to better serve victims of sexual and labor exploitation. The collaboration also increases public awareness about human trafficking. For more information, visit <http://sacramentotogether.org/>. ★



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# Holiday Gifts and Craft Supplies at Women's Empowerment



A Women's Empowerment graduate and her children in 2020 pick up their holiday gifts and Craft Party in a Box donated by the community for women and children who have experienced homelessness. The organization is holding the drive again this year. Photo: Thébaud Communications

By Kristin Thébaud, Thébaud Communications

### SACRAMENTO REGION (MPG)

- Local residents can bring joy to formerly homeless women and children in Sacramento this holiday season by contributing to Women's Empowerment's Holiday Gifts and Crafts Drive. The group is seeking 300 unstuffed gift bags and specific fillers for children, teens and women. Gifts for teens and women are especially needed. Women's Empowerment also needs craft supplies to provide a Craft Party in a Box for

each family since the group cannot hold its annual craft party for women and children to make holiday gifts for their loved ones. For a list of gift and craft needs, visit WomensEmpowerment.org. Items are needed by Dec. 6. "The holidays are often difficult for our graduates as they work hard to put food on the table, much less afford gifts," said Lisa Culp, executive director, Women's Empowerment. "The last couple of years have been exceptionally grueling for them. We are grateful to the community for not only providing gifts

and craft items to make presents, but also sharing the joy that comes with this gift-giving season."

Thanks to donations, Women's Empowerment will include a warm hat, gloves, socks and other items in each gift bag for the women and children. For those interested in making a financial donation toward a gift bag, the average cost is \$40, but any amount helps. Women's Empowerment especially needs extra \$20 gift cards to Target, Walmart and similar stores to include in each gift bag.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, Women's Empowerment provides a nine-week employment-readiness and empowerment program, paid job training, childcare and support services so all women and their children can break the cycle of homelessness. Women's Empowerment offers the most comprehensive job-readiness program in the Sacramento area designed specifically for women experiencing homelessness, and their children. Eighty-two percent of the graduates secure a job or enroll in school. In the midst of the housing crisis, 75 percent regain a safe home for themselves and their children. The award-winning organization has graduated 1,719 women and their 3,842 children. Women's Empowerment is funded through private donations from the community and grants. To make a donation, visit WomensEmpowerment.org. ★

# Wine Grapes Still Top Crop



Wine grapes once again took the lead as the highest-valued commodity, with a value of close to \$156 million. Photo courtesy Pixabay

By Laurie Slothower, Sacramento County

### SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- The value of Sacramento County crops dipped slightly last year, but agriculture continues to be an important player in the local economy. In 2020, the total cash value of all agricultural commodities was almost \$455 million, according to the 2020 Sacramento County Crop and Livestock Report.

Wine grapes once again took the lead as the highest-valued commodity, with a value of close to \$156 million. More than 34 reported varieties are grown on 36,000 acres in Sacramento County.

Milk and other dairy products remained the County's second-highest valued commodity at \$64 million, an increase in value of 25 percent over 2019. About 16,000 dairy cows live on 16 family-owned dairies in Sacramento County. The

County is even home to a water buffalo dairy that provides milk products to a creamery in the Bay Area.

Every year, the value of specific commodities rises or falls based on weather, supply and demand, and market forces. Notable increases in 2020 included cherries, whose cash value is up 82 percent over 2019 due to favorable spring weather conditions. Oat hay is up 69 percent over last year, and almonds increased 61 percent in value over the previous year's crop.

The 2020 value of agricultural commodities decreased 1.2 percent in comparison to 2019. This represents gross returns and not actual net profits or losses, according to Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner Chris Flores.

"Last year was fraught with challenges and yet the gross production value of agriculture in Sacramento County remained relatively stable," she said. "This is

a testament to the resiliency and importance of this industry.

"We would like to honor and recognize our essential growers, ranchers, farmworkers and all others supportive of agriculture, who continued to produce and provide agricultural commodities locally and to people around the world."

Top10 Agricultural Commodities in 2020:

- (1) Wine grapes; (2) Milk; (3) Poultry; (4) Nursery stock (ornamental trees and plants, Christmas trees and sod) (5) Pears; (6) Hay (alfalfa) (7) Aquaculture (bass, carp, catfish, crayfish, sturgeon and caviar) (8) Rice (9) Cattle and calves (10) Silage (corn grown to feed livestock)

The 2020 report includes a list of local Certified Farmer's Markets and a 2022 calendar with full-color illustrations.

Flores presented the report to the County Board of Supervisors on Nov. 2. ★



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# Sustainability Manager to Lead Green Initiatives

By Ken Casparis, Sacramento County

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County has added a Sustainability Manager position to develop and oversee a wide variety of climate and sustainability programs and initiatives.

One of the Sustainability Manager's primary responsibilities will be implementing many of the County's Climate Action Plan policies once it is approved by the Board of Supervisors. Other responsibilities include:

Developing and coordinating sustainability-related programs; Overseeing projects and

programs to reduce county and community-generated greenhouse gasses with the objective of improving the Sacramento County environment; Forming a Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force to oversee the development and implementation of a climate emergency response plan; Fostering community engagement and collaboration with industry experts to achieve program objectives; Providing highly complex staff assistance to the County Executive

"I am thrilled to have been selected for this role and look forward to leading our climate and sustainability efforts," said John

Lundgren, Sacramento County Sustainability Manager. "Given my past experience developing the Climate Action Plan drafts for the Office of Planning and Environmental Review, I am confident in my ability to hit the ground running."

Lundgren began work as the Sustainability Manager on Oct. 24, 2021. Prior to this appointment, he was a Senior Planner with the County's Office of Planning and Environmental Review and has also worked in Code Enforcement and Animal Care and Regulation as part of his 26 years of Sacramento County service. ★



By County Supervisor Sue Frost

Through the generosity of the Gold River Messenger, this column serves to provide an update about matters affecting the unincorporated community of Gold River.

In October two of my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors announced that they are bringing forward an item to our agenda to ban all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, flavored e-cigarettes and hookah. I have written in the past about this subject, but it ultimately never came forward for a vote at the Board of Supervisors. Now, with this recent push I think it necessary to update readers on this subject once again.

I want to say at the beginning that I am completely in agreement with the proponents of flavored tobacco bans in the goal of reducing teen smoking. As a former emergency room nurse, I understand firsthand that we should be doing everything we can to keep teens from smoking, and educating them so that when they turn 18 they

## GOLD RIVER COMMUNITY UPDATE

### Returning to Debate: The Future of Flavored Tobacco in Sacramento County

fully know the dangers associated with smoking. I also recognize that teens are illegally obtaining and using flavored tobacco products in greater volume, and in many cases transitioning to traditional cigarettes.

But Sacramento County doesn't have a wall built around it, and anyone who wants to buy flavored tobacco products can easily obtain them from other nearby areas that have not banned it. These products will still be readily available in other counties, as well as cities like Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova. A statewide ban would be far more effective so that people in Sacramento County can't access these nearby, and one will actually be on the ballot as a statewide proposition in 2022.

I have also heard from many adults who legally use flavored tobacco products both because they recreationally enjoy it, and because they use flavored e-cigarettes as a less harmful alternative to smoking. While these adults will still be able to access them in other communities, it will make it more difficult for them to access something that is otherwise legal to use, and they will be sending their tax dollars to

other communities instead of spending money in Sacramento County.

Instead of a ban, we could instead solve this problem by increasing the penalty for selling tobacco products to a minor from the current maximum of \$7,500, to a new minimum of \$7,500, accompanied by a ramped up undercover shopper program. This increase in penalties could potentially fully offset the cost of an improved undercover shopper program, but at the very least be substantially less than the loss in revenue we will now be facing under the ban.

Leading up to my vote on this issue, I will be meeting with stakeholders on both sides of the issue to understand their perspectives in more detail. But more than anything, I want to hear what you have to say. Please e-mail me your thoughts at SupervisorFrost@sac-county.net. Thank you for reading!

Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes all or part of the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, Rio Linda, Elverta, Gold River, Rancho Murietta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms and Fair Oaks. ★

# Bera Votes to Pass Historic Build Back Better Act



Ami Bera Office of Representative Ami Bera, M.D.

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - Representative Ami Bera, M.D. (CA-07) voted to pass the Build Back Better Act, landmark legislation

that will make generational investments in American families by lowering child care and health care costs, cutting taxes for the middle class, and creating millions of good-paying jobs across the country.

"Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, American families were burdened with high everyday costs, from soaring health care and prescription drug costs, to unaffordable child care and housing," said Representative Bera. "The Build Back Better Act delivers once-in-a-generation action to lower costs for American families

while strengthening the backbone of our country – the middle class. This legislation will provide American families with a historic middle-class tax cut, expand access to health care, make child care affordable and accessible for every American family, create millions of good-paying jobs over the next decade, and help fight climate change. I am proud to help deliver this historic bill for Sacramento County families and small businesses, and I urge the Senate to quickly pass this legislation so the President can sign it into law." ★

# Social Security Matters

## Should I Take My Widower Benefit Now?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I lost my wife 7 years ago. I was told that I could possibly collect 30 to 35% of her benefit as a widower benefit when I turned 60. I will be 61 soon. Would it make sense to pursue this if it is true? I am still working full time. Would this affect my ability to collect Social Security on my own account once I retire? **Signed: Working Survivor**

**Dear Working:** Survivor benefits for a widower can be paid as early as age 60 if you have not remarried prior to that. But collecting a survivor benefit before you have reached your full retirement age (your "FRA", which is age 67) creates some other considerations you should be aware of:

- Your survivor benefit will be based upon the SS benefit your wife was entitled to at her death. Taken at your FRA you'd get 100% of the SS amount your wife was entitled to at her death, but if taken any earlier than your FRA the survivor benefit will be reduced.
- Taken before your FRA, your survivor benefit will be actuarially reduced according to the number of months prior to your FRA it is claimed. The reduction amount is 4.75% less per full year earlier than your FRA, and that is a permanent reduction. If you take your



working full time and earning considerably more than the annual earnings limit. In other words, the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit may entirely offset the survivor benefit you are entitled to. If you're over the earnings limit by only a small amount, you'll only lose benefits for the number of months needed to repay what you owe. And for clarity, in the year you attain FRA the earnings limit goes up by about 2.5 times and the penalty is less (\$1 for every \$3 you are over the limit), and once you reach your full retirement age there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn. To avoid the earnings test, you could also choose to wait until your FRA to maximize your survivor benefit and then wait until age 70 to claim your maximum SS retirement benefit.



Regardless of when you claim your survivor benefit, your own SS retirement benefit won't be affected. Your SS retirement benefit, which will replace your smaller survivor benefit, will be based solely on your lifetime earnings history and the age at which you claim it.

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**Crossword Puzzle on Page 7**

A	L	A	S			L	I	E		S	I	D	E						
G	U	R	U			T	I	D	Y		K	U	D	O	S				
A	K	I	N			O	B	O	E		O	R	L	O	P				
R	E	A	L	W	O	R	L	D			A	V	E	R					
						I	O	T	A	S		A	L	I					
L	O	T	T	O	S						B	R	A	V	A	D	O		
O	V	A				D	Y	A	D	I	C			O	W	E	S		
S	A	L	T	Y			R	N	A			D	R	A	M	A			
E	T	C	H			M	I	A	S	M	A			R	U	G			
R	E	S	E	W	E	D					A	M	P	E	R	E			
						V	O	W			R	U	N	N	Y				
						B	O	O	R		W	A	N	T	S	T	O	B	E
A	E	G	I	S			A	D	A	R		H	A	R	P				
F	A	R	C	E			L	I	R	A		O	H	I	O				
T	R	E	E				K	I	M			N	U	T	S				

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ACROSS  
1. "Oh, my!"  
5. Say untruth  
8. Left or right  
12. Spiritual leader  
13. "\_\_\_ing Up with Marie Kondo"  
14. Great reviews  
15. Related  
16. Double reed woodwind  
17. Fourth deck  
18. "The \_\_\_" MTV's trailblazing reality show  
20. Affirm with confidence  
21. I to Greeks, pl.  
22. \_\_\_ Baba  
23. Powerball and such  
26. Swaggering show of courage  
30. Spermatozoa counterparts  
31. Based on two  
34. Has a mortgage  
35. \_\_\_ dog, gin and grape-fruit juice cocktail  
37. DNA transmitter  
38. "The Real Housewives" is full of this type of conflict  
39. Write on a tombstone  
40. Unwholesome atmosphere  
42. Hairpiece, slangily  
43. Stitched again  
45. Unit of electric current flow  
47. Solemn pledge  
48. Like nose during hayfever  
50. Uncouth one  
52. "Who \_\_\_ a Millionaire?"  
56. Front of cuirass  
57. Sixth month of civil year  
58. "Jack and the Beanstalk" instrument  
59. Travesty  
60. Italian money  
61. "Vanilla Ice Goes Amish" and "Cleveland Hustles" state  
62. "\_\_\_ house Masters" on Animal Planet  
63. "Not Khloé or Kourtney"  
64. Common allergens

DOWN  
1. Gelatin substitute  
2. Gospel writer  
3. "Tosca" song, e.g.  
4. Like sunroom, hopefully  
5. Balance in the sky  
6. "Pop \_\_\_" and "American \_\_\_" pl.  
7. Gave the once-over  
8. "Outwit, Outplay, Outlast" show  
9. Not of entry  
10. Point of entry  
11. Sixth sense  
13. Foot, to a child  
14. Aussie bear  
19. Buzz Lightyear's buddy  
22. Brow shape  
23. "The Biggest \_\_\_"  
24. Egg-shaped  
25. Same as talcums  
26. Civil rights concern  
27. In the know  
28. Raise objections  
29. Missouri River tributary  
32. Like a desert  
33. Crime scene evidence  
36. "Singing competition (2 words)"  
38. Curses  
40. Feline sound

**Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7**

1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10	11		
12						13						14				
15						16						17				
18						19						20				
						21						22				
23	24	25									26		27	28	29	
30						31	32	33				34				
35						36						38				
39						40						41		42		
43						44						45		46		
						47						48	49			
						50	51					52		53	54	55
56												57			58	
59												60			61	
62												63			64	

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**Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7**

4	1	3	9	5	2	6	8	7
7	8	5	6	4	3	2	9	1
6	9	2	7	1	8	5	3	4
8	2	4	5	9	6	7	1	3
5	6	9	3	7	1	4	2	8
3	7	1	2	8	4	9	5	6
9	5	8	1	6	7	3	4	2
1	3	6	4	2	9	8	7	5
2	4	7	8	3	5	1	6	9

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		9					8	
		5		4	3			
6	2					5		
8	4							3
	6	3	1			2		
3						9	6	
		8				3	2	
			4	2		8		
4				5		6		

Solutions on Page 7



# Dining Out and Out and Out

By David Dickstein, Gold River Resident

My wife and youngest son of 25 didn't set out to have a progressive dinner the other night, but thanks to incompetence displayed by some of our community's most popular restaurants, that's what our Saturday evening turned out to be.

### Stop One: Oz Korean BBQ

Our monthly visit to this justifiably busy gem on Bradshaw started with a wait 30 minutes longer than we were told. No biggie, especially during a pandemic when patience is the key to existence and both customers and employers are expected to kiss the ground walked on by workers who actually show up.

We were finally seated at a table served by a woman who must have guzzled six Red Bulls during her last break. Speed isn't a bad thing at an all-you-can-eat restaurant unless it causes the server to make more mistakes than a fact-checked politician. (I'll stay non-partisan to avoid reader polarization, but let's go Brandon.) Our promised waters came late, the sweet chili wings arrived refrigerator cold, the grill was set too high, burning our meats faster than we could eat them, and the chopped garlic chicken for us to cook was disgusting.

"It's from a different supplier," divulged the manager who agreed with my idea of cutting our losses and walking out before inevitably struggling through a \$100 dinner on what was clearly an off night. At least we got in some bites of broccoli and beef before bailing.

### Stop Two: Cattlemens

With Plans B through P falling through due to our favorite restaurants having no reservations within a couple of hours, we decided to try one that had been on our "never again" list. That would be Rancho Cordova's oldest steakhouse, Cattlemens. This western-themed



watering hole and former home of the "Bean Girl" lost us two years ago to our family's three-strikes rule. Three times ago one of our boys found a dead beetle floating in his water. Two times ago the other son discovered spots of mold on the bun of his Motherlode Burger. The last time there I witnessed a server picking dried food off of supposedly clean bowls and glassware as he set tables for waiting guests ... with the same rag he was using to wipe off dirty tables ... that was sprayed with cleaner!

You bet I told the manager, and she offered me dinner for three on the house if we came back in the near future. Uh, thanks, but no thanks.

Figuring that conditions had improved in the two years or so since our last visits, we threw caution to the wind and tried sitting in the saloon where it's first come, first served. At least that's what we remembered. I guess since the Wuhan virus bar seating is now folded into the dining room reservation system. My wife put our name down, but being told there's a 45-minute wait, we took our growling stomachs elsewhere.

### Stop Three: The Old Spaghetti Factory

Dropped off the wife curbside as my son and I found parking spots, having driven separately, and she texted us to come to the bar where she was waiting for a table to be cleared and sanitized. Unlike Cattlemens and other restaurants these days, OSF still has open bar seating. High-fiving each other over bypassing what would likely be a half-hour wait, we ordered without looking at menus and quickly got our salads and bread. The entrees came shortly thereafter.

Not sure if Chef Murphy was following us at each restaurant that night, but his law sure did. One bite of my chicken parm had me looking at my family in shock and disgust. The thing tasted like burnt Windex. Then the rest of us tried their plates of spaghetti. Both detected the char taste, but less Windex than Formula 409.

We alerted the manager, who didn't react as someone in his capacity should if there's a chance the restaurant's patrons are currently being poisoned by a cleaning solvent. What he did say was, "I'll be sure to take

the meals off your check." Say what? "No," I responded, standing up and putting on my jacket that served as a cue for my wife and son to do the same. "We're going to leave now and pay for nothing." And we did without incident.

### Stop Four: Cattlemens

Going home to have dinner was not an option. We were on a quest. Looking up nearby restaurants on Yelp, Open Table and Google Maps, my wife remembered that we still had a reservation at Cattlemens and, being about 45 minutes since we left there for the Oxy-Clean Spaghetti Factory, we should have a table ready for us. Plus, it was just on the other side of the Nimbus Winery center.

Sure enough, we had a table within minutes, and not in the saloon. We sat down and were greeted by a sweet server who said it was her second day there. Danger alert! Happily, she was a dear, and listened intently to our tale of woe. We even shared why we hadn't dined at her new employer in over two years. She promised that our drinks would be bug free, our bread wouldn't come with blue specks and that a rag soaked with bacteria and food scraps never touched the dishes or utensils we're about to use.

At this point, we probably would have accepted a plate of grasshoppers or whatever was put before our faces. But, happy to report, our meal of one shared barbecue chicken, a baked potato and a cup of chili, plus salad, hit the spot.

Too bad there were other things and people we wanted to hit earlier. Let's just say we haven't gone to a restaurant since. But if we do, and you see me getting up from a table in either disgust or anger, be wise and follow me out the door.

David Dickstein is a Gold River resident, award-winning writer and principal at the PR firm Prose & Comms Inc. He can be reached at daviddickstein1@gmail.com. ★

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# Something to Bark About

## CHP Graduates New Canine Teams



The graduating canine teams represent the following CHP Divisions: Valley, Golden Gate, Central, Southern, Border, and Inland. Photo: CHP/Senior Photographer Michael Wong

### CHP Special Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) recently announced the graduation and deployment of its 10 newest canine teams. The ceremony at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento is the culmination of 400 to 600 hours of intense training for each officer and their canine partner.

“After weeks of rigorous training, these new teams are ready to assist in the CHP’s mission of protecting and serving the State of California,” said CHP Commissioner Amanda Ray. “Our canines are a tremendous asset to the Department, and the addition of these 10 teams to our existing resources will supplement the already highly effective canine program.”

The CHP uses its canines to perform a variety of functions, including detecting human scent, contraband, and explosives. A canine team can improve the safety and effectiveness of officers as well as saving time and money. The CHP canines are also used to assist allied agencies in apprehending criminals, detecting explosives or drugs, and in locating “at-risk” missing persons.

This is the only graduation in 2021 for CHP canine teams trained in handler protection and narcotics detection or handler

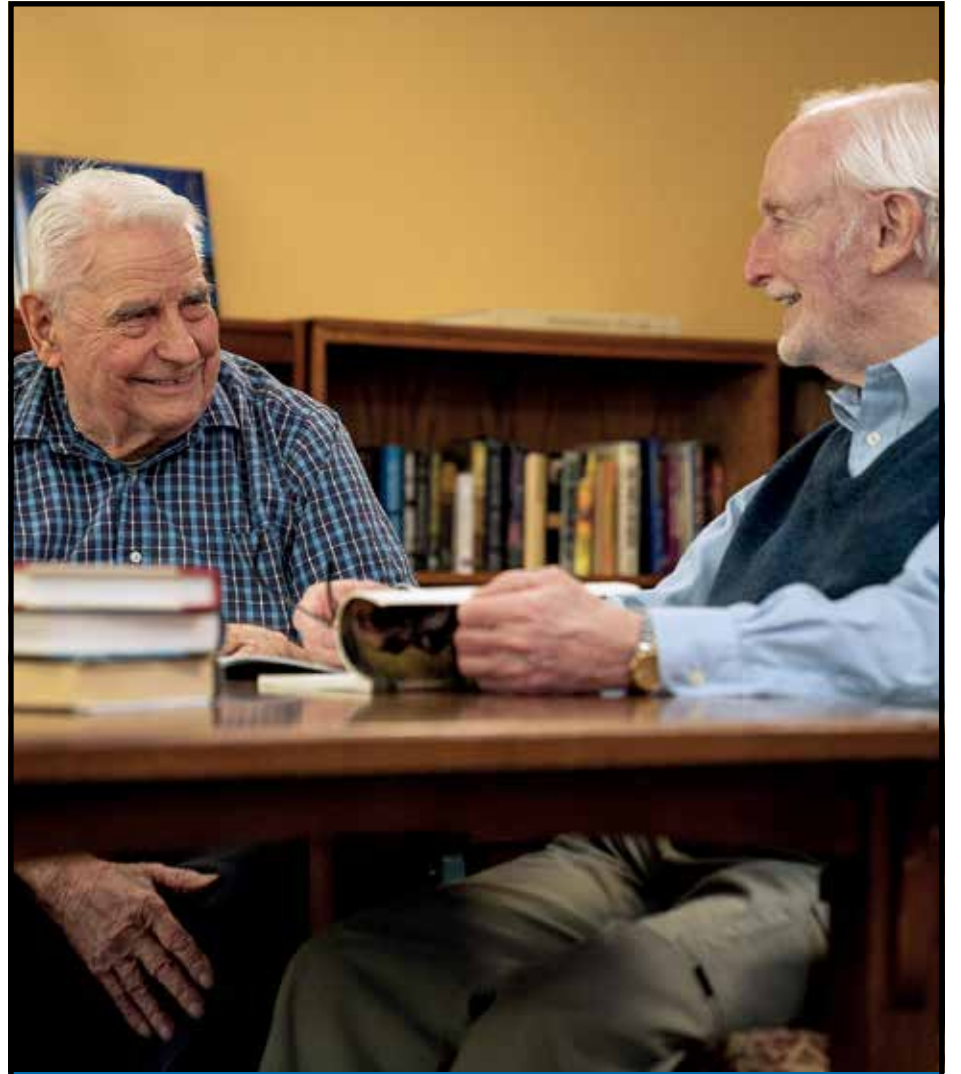


K9 Tyson, a Dutch Shepherd, is assigned to the Southern Division, wearing a protective vest. Photo: CHP/Senior Photographer Michael Wong

protection and explosive detection. The canine teams completed between 11 and 15 weeks of intensive training at the CHP Academy, depending on their specialty.

All handlers are CHP officers with departmental experience ranging from 4 to 15 years. The graduating canine teams represent the following CHP Divisions: Valley, Golden Gate, Central, Southern, Border, and Inland. Following this graduation, the CHP now has 48 canine teams deployed throughout the state.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★



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# Local Author Releases Book “101 Pat-Downs”



Author Malvini Redden with Book. Photo courtesy of WordSmith Communications

## WordSmith Communications News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramentan and CSU Sacramento faculty member Shawna Malvini Redden has released *101 Pat-Downs: An Undercover Look at Airport Security and the TSA*, just ahead of the agency’s 20-year anniversary. Part confessional, part investigative research and part light-hearted social commentary, *101 Pat-Downs* takes readers behind the scenes as Malvini Redden explores airport security interactions and offers solutions to what has become the most stressful part of modern-day travel.

Shawna Malvini Redden, an award-winning author and professor who specializes in organizational communication research, teaching and consulting, interviewed more than 200 passengers, Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) and airline crew. She spent years observing security lines as a passenger,

watching everything from TSOs cracking jokes to passengers fuming over carry-on confiscations, to the occasional security shutdown and everything in between.

Seasoned and amateur travelers alike will recognize familiar characters (and possibly themselves) in *101 Pat-Downs*, including the stereotypically gruff TSO, the entitled business traveler and the nervous first-time flier. Malvini Redden examines airport security interactions in a social-science framework, explaining how people navigate communication in complex interpersonal situations – like TSA checkpoints.

“As a road warrior myself, I appreciated 101 Pat-Downs and its keen observations about our current form of security theatre and how people on either side of that power dynamic react to and evolve because of it,” said Elisa Camahort Page, co-author of *Road Map for Revolutionaries: Resistance, Activism and Advocacy for All*.

Now available at online bookstores, *101 Pat-Downs* is a perfect traveler’s companion for navigating what one TSO described as the nation’s “second most hated government agency.” The book also offers research-driven suggestions for improving the airport security experience for passengers and TSOs alike.

Shawna Malvini Redden is an associate professor in the Communication Studies department at California State University, Sacramento. She holds a doctorate in organizational and interpersonal communication from Arizona State University. Her academic research has been widely published and she has received Top Paper awards from the National and International Communication Associations. In addition to academic and professional writing about communication, she maintains a personal blog called The Bluest Muse.

For More Information, visit: <https://101patdowns.com/> ★

# Legislation Honors SMUD as National Climate Leader

By Senator Richard Pan and Assemblyman Ken Cooley

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - California is the capital of innovation and a global leader in the fight against the climate crisis. Over the past five years, Californians have witnessed two of the hottest years on record and experienced devastating wildfires that affect the health, economy, and overall well-being of our communities. As state legislators, we set policy aimed to protect our great state, and it is imperative that we collaborate with and recognize community partners that take action to move the needle toward real, identifiable, and positive change. For these reasons, we proudly authored Senate Concurrent Resolution 51 – which passed with bipartisan support – recognizing SMUD for being the first large utility in the country to adopt a Zero Carbon Plan that will completely eliminate carbon from its electricity generation by 2030.

The Sacramento area is consistently ranked as one of the dirtiest air basins in the country, as shown by the recently released American Lung Association State of the Air Report. Our children are 22 percent more likely to develop asthma than those in the rest of the country. Consequently, these challenges impact our most vulnerable populations disproportionately. Our current reality is unacceptable, and the only way to safeguard our future for generations to come is to create carbon free solutions that foster healthy outcomes and create green jobs for the benefit of us all.

Right here in our own backyard, our community-owned, not-for-profit electric utility, SMUD, recently adopted a Zero Carbon Plan to eliminate all carbon emissions from electricity generation in our region by 2030. While that timeline sounds ambitious, SMUD’s track record of delivering on sustainable solutions and championing innovative action plans is exactly what is needed to create clean powered communities.

The SMUD Board of Directors has consistently championed green initiatives that support innovative solutions to renewable energy. Their leadership has achieved tangible results. For example, SMUD was the first utility to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 50 percent from 1990 levels – the equivalent of removing 377,000 vehicles from the road. They’ve championed

clean cars and partnered to plant more than 600,000 shade trees. They helped usher in the solar industry and now with their Zero Carbon Plan, they are ushering a new era of innovation. Today, SMUD already delivers power that is 50 percent carbon free. With its Greenergy and SolarShares programs, SMUD provides many state owned and privately owned buildings with 100% clean, carbon-free electricity. In keeping with this tradition, their new Zero Carbon plan doubles down on these efforts and would power the Sacramento region with 100% renewable sources.

SMUD’s Zero Carbon Plan includes retiring carbon emitting natural gas plants and relies heavily on the electrification of the building and transportation sectors since these are two of the largest carbon emitting sectors in the State. For example, efforts include providing support for all-electric homes through customer incentives for rooftop solar and battery storage, electric vehicles, and by providing rebates to builders and homeowners for the installation of clean water heaters, HVAC systems, and cooktops.

In addition, SMUD has spearheaded and funded the California Mobility Center to bring emerging clean transportation options to the market. This innovation hub has brought federal funding to the Sacramento area and has successfully attracted startup companies in the field of clean mobility. The Center is providing the guidance, education and partnerships needed to bring these ideas to fruition, while simultaneously providing 8,500 new clean technology jobs.

SMUD’s comprehensive plan to reach zero carbon emissions by 2030 is one that relies on all the tools in our toolkit. It’s the most ambitious of any large utility in the nation and their commitment to our community and equity for all is one to be commended and recognized.

For these reasons, it was an honor and pleasure to come together in a bi-partisan and bi-cameral effort to recognize SMUD for leading the nation by example as it takes tangible steps to reduce the devastating effects of climate change and trailblazing the path forward for a more prosperous future.

Assemblyman Ken Cooley represents the 8th Assembly District. For more information, please visit <http://asmdc.org/members/a08/> ★

**KP International MARKET**  
FOOD COURT NOW OPEN  
10971 Olson Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
916.853.8000

Market: Mon-Sun 8am-10pm  
Food Court: Mon-Sun 11am-8:30pm  
(Chinese: 11:30am-8:30pm)

**NOW OPEN! KARAOKE & FOOD COURT**

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Frozen Tilapia Fillets  
2 lb Bag

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**WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS** \*SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

**Beef New York Steak - Boneless** \$4.79/lb

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**Pork Neck Bones** \$1.39/lb

**Country Style Pork Loin Ribs - Bnls** \$1.99/lb

**Pork Tenderloin** \$2.99/lb

**FRESH PRODUCE** SALES FOR PRODUCE WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAYS @ 12:00PM

Peeled Garlic 5 lb Bag **2.59**

Berets **79¢**

Ginger Roots **1.59**

Oranges 10 lb Bag **4.49**

Golden Kiwi **2.53**

Sweet Tamarind **4.99**

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**AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY**

CH C & H Granulated Sugar 4 lb **\$2.99**

General Animalitos Cookies 16 oz **99¢**

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TAT Charmin Mega Roll Toilet Paper 12 Rolls **\$11.99**

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**ASIAN GROCERY**

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Dragonfly Brand Sweet Potatoes 20 oz **\$3.99**

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**EUROPEAN GROCERY**

Delmar Pickled Cucumbers 22.9 oz **\$3.99**

Sofel Pure Onion Tea 1 lb **\$6.99**

Almond English Tea No. 1 • 100 T-B **\$4.99**

Sofel Organic Herbal Tea • 15 T-B **\$4.69**

Sofel Sweet Cherry in Light Syrup 58.5 oz **\$7.99**

**KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY**

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**HOUSEWARES**

HAMILTON BEACH KITCHENWARE **99¢**

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WATERPROOF SLIM KNIFE **\$3.99**

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**FROZEN & FISH DEPT**

Cooked Wild Cold Water Shrimp 1.5 lb **\$6.99** /ea

Colombus Appleswood Smoked Ham **\$7.59** /lb

Belmont German Brat **\$5.19** /lb

Colombus Pan Roasted Turkey Breast **\$7.79** /lb

Kretschmar Oven Roasted Turkey Breast **\$5.69** /lb

**EUROPEAN DELI**

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 DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 7, 2022.

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