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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

NOVEMBER 24, 2023

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A Record-Breaking Feast!



Chris and Jenifer Daniels of Grocery Outlet in Orangevale, and Supervisor Sue Frost present Andrea Scollay, Executive Director of the OV-FO Foodbank with the big check to help feed 500 families this Thanksgiving! Photo courtesy of MaryAnne Povey

By MaryAnne Povey

ORANGEVALE-FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Carve the turkey! The 4th Annual Turkey Bowl results are in, and they're deliciously good!

This year's target was to raise \$15,000 to serve up Thanksgiving dinners for 500 local families in need, through the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Foodbank's food distribution program. And guess what? We didn't just meet the goal, we exceeded it with a grand total of \$16,518! That's 660 sponsored turkeys! This incredible show of support will truly make a difference for our neighbors in need.

In what's becoming a "Turkey Bowl tradition," 16 teams made up of business owners and community leaders joined forces to compete for the coveted title of Turkey Bowl Champs 2023. But there was a twist this year - a contest to see who could



A new contender, Matt Corwin of Team #CorWINNERS shows great form during his first throw down aisle 5 at Grocery Outlet! Photo by Tim Engle

bring in the most pledges and sponsors for turkeys. Here are the results...

Let's give a hearty round of applause to our Turkey Bowl champions: In First Place, the seasoned winners, Moore's Garage Gravy Train! Taking Second Place in their first appearance, it's The Tri Tippers - L & M Liquor &

Deli/All Events! And Third Place goes to Team LEG-acy, making an outstanding debut performance. These teams displayed incredible skill and spirit, and their efforts paid off in the championship rounds. Congratulations to all of them!

A special shout-out to all the teams who rallied

support to help us reach our goal this year. Team Tri-Tippers deserves a special mention for bringing in a whopping \$1,074, and a tip of the hat to Squires Squawkers, who brought in over \$800.

But the real winners here aren't just the competing teams; it's the folks who will benefit from the proceeds and all those generously donated turkeys for the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank. This event truly embodies the spirit of giving and unites our wonderful community.

There are countless individuals and organizations to thank for making this year's Turkey Bowl a smashing success:

Our event sponsors: Gold Turkey sponsors Supervisor Sue Frost and Taco Bell, Silver Turkey sponsors Orangevale Chamber of Commerce, 7-11, and The Swenson

Continued on page 2

Sacramento County Honors and Serves Our Veterans

**Sacramento County
News Release**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County extends its deepest gratitude and respect to the veterans of this region for their unwavering commitment, courage, and sacrifice in defending our nation. These brave men and women have selflessly dedicated their lives to preserving our freedoms and protecting the values we hold dear.

Sacramento County is proud to be home to more than 84,000 veterans. As this vital segment of our population continues to increase, Sacramento County Veterans Services, part of the Department of Human Assistance, encourages veterans to take advantage of the available benefits and resources that are in place to not only assist veterans but family members and dependents.

Benefits range from disability compensation (due to injuries/illness resulting from service-related activities) to VA Pension, which is monthly financial assistance to low-income, wartime Veterans over the age of 65 and/or those who are "totally disabled." Surviving spouses may also receive benefits.

We assist local veterans in applying for benefits offered through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the State of California and local government entities.

Veterans Services is also responsible for administering the College Fee Waiver Program for Veterans' Dependents. This program is afforded to spouses, unmarried surviving spouses, and children of service-connected disabled or service related deceased veterans. Eligible dependents are not required to pay "mandatory system wide" tuition and fees while attending either a California community college, a campus of the California State University (Cal State) system, or a campus of the University of California (UC) system. This program not only provides eligible dependents with the incentive but also the opportunity to pursue their goals.

Some of the services we assist with are:

Service-Connected Disability Compensation Benefits; Non-Service-Connected Disability

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Celebrating the Light Rail Modernization Project



Groundbreaking ceremony at Iron Point Station on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, which will connect Folsom with 15-minute light rail services. From left to right: SacRT Board Chair and Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Michael Cahill, President of Siemens Mobility in North America, Darren Suen, Chief of Staff for Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen and Elk Grove Councilmember, Mike Kozlowski, SacRT Board Director and Folsom City Councilmember, and SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. Photo courtesy of SacRT

SacRT News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District

(SacRT) recognized a significant milestone on November 8, 2023, with the celebration of the Light Rail Modernization

Project and groundbreaking ceremony for Folsom 15-minute light rail service. This groundbreaking marks the beginning of

construction for the passing track near Glenn/Robert G. Holderness Station, a pivotal step in enhancing

Continued on page 2

Celebrating the Light Rail Modernization Project

Sacramento County Honors and Serves Our Veterans



SacRT is testing 17 new low-floor trains built at Siemens Mobility in south Sacramento, modifying station platforms along the Gold Line to meet the height requirements. Photo courtesy of SacRT

Continued from page 1

the transit experience for Folsom area riders.

Starting January 2024, construction will require a temporary light rail service disruption between Historic Folsom and Iron Point stations. To minimize inconvenience, SacRT will offer shuttle bus service during this period, ensuring riders can still access the impacted stations. For park-and-ride users, Iron Point Station will serve as the primary boarding point for downtown-bound trains. Construction is expected to last approximately six months.

Upon completion, the new passing track will allow for 15-minute light rail service frequency, compared to 30-minutes today, for Hazel, Iron Point, Glenn/Robert G. Holderness and Historic Folsom stations. Also, the new low-floor light rail trains will begin service along the Gold Line.

“As we embark on this transformative journey, we recognize the temporary disruptions and inconvenience this may cause our riders,” said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. “We are working diligently to streamline the construction process and provide alternative transit options to mitigate any inconvenience for our valued passengers.”

“This construction project represents a significant leap forward in our efforts to modernize Sacramento’s transit system,” said SacRT Board Chair and Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy. “The 15-minute Folsom light rail service will not only reduce travel time but also enhance the overall commuter experience, aligning with our commitment to providing efficient and accessible public transportation.”

“Efficient public transportation is a keystone for economic development, educational opportunities and a healthier future,” said Congresswoman Doris Matsui. “Earlier this year, SacRT was awarded a \$45 million federal grant to advance the purchase

of new low-floor light rail cars that will greatly improve accessibility and support more frequent service to the last seven miles of the Gold Line. We are excited to see the Light Rail Modernization Program come to fruition.”

“The Sacramento Regional Transit Light Rail Modernization Project extension to Folsom will provide residents with more options to travel through the Capital region, create jobs and boost the local economy, and increase safety by reducing traffic on local highways,” said Congressman Kevin Kiley. “I am glad to support this project that will help residents of the Sacramento area, and I look forward to seeing the completed project in the coming years.”

“We are now on the path to alleviating congestion and creating a more efficient, accessible and sustainable transportation network for our community, thanks in part to the Solutions for Congested Corridors grant from the state in 2018, which secured \$20 million for this transformative project,” said Assemblymember Kevin McCarty. “I’m thrilled to see the positive impact it will have on the lives of our residents. Together we are shaping a brighter, more connected future for Sacramento.”

The Light Rail Modernization Project, including the addition of new low-floor trains and station platform modifications, underscores SacRT’s commitment to sustainable, state-of-the-art public transportation solutions.

SacRT is currently in the testing process for 17 new low-floor trains, which were built at Siemens Mobility in south Sacramento. SacRT has an order of 36 trains with the option to purchase up to 76. SacRT has also been actively modifying station platforms along the Gold Line to meet the height requirements of the new low-floor trains. The trains are expected to be in service on the Gold Line by summer 2024.

For more information on the project and updates on service disruptions, please visit sacrt.com/modernization ★

Continued from page 1

Pension Benefits; Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Benefits; Death Pension Benefits; Aid & Attendance Entitlement; VA Medical Care Eligibility & Access; Vocational Rehabilitation

Benefits; California College Fee Waiver Program; VA Life Insurance; State Veterans Homes; Requests for Military Records; Discharge Upgrade Information; Burial Benefits; Other Ancillary Benefits & Programs. ★

Visit:

Sacramento County Veterans Services Office
3970 Research Drive, Sacramento, CA 95838
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday - Friday

Email: DHA-VET@sacounty.gov or call: 916-874-6811

A Record-Breaking Feast!



The Turkey Bowl Winners Circle! Jenifer Daniels, Kayla Hattery, (3rd place) Vanessa Kinch and Derek Maldonado (2nd Place), Kathleen Massae, (3rd place), Bill Paine & Jim Moore (1st place) Andrea Scollay, OV-FO Foodbank, MaryAnne Povey and Michael Povey, Emcee. Photo by Tim Engle

Continued from page 1

Law Firm, Bronze Turkey sponsors Easystumps, Heirloom Acres Farm, Luz Johnson LPL Financial Advisor, Mount Vernon Memorial Park & Mortuary, Total Landscape Concepts, and YK for Assembly.

The Copper Clucker sponsors: American River Urgent Care, Talbot & Plewe Orthodontist, Dads Kitchen Fair Oaks, Dan Downey Window Cleaning, and Paul Burke - Idaho Realtor.

A big shout-out to our amazing community for generously answering the call, our dedicated volunteers, the generous donors for our raffle, our fantastic event hosts, Chris and Jenifer Daniels of Grocery Outlet, and the talented team at Orangevale Live for their coordination, streaming, and capturing the memorable moments!

“Everything went off without a hitch,” remarked MaryAnne Povey, the event coordinator. “In addition to the fun and overwhelming support, we paid tribute to our veterans, with Dezy (of Dezy’s Beef Bread and Beer) and Jack Frost representing the Vets for Freedom Team. They presented our colors, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and added a patriotic touch to kick off the event.”

A heartfelt thank you to our fabulous food sponsors: Badfish Coffee & Tea, Chick-fil-A Granite Bay, and Taco Bell, for keeping our participants energized and satisfied with delectable treats.



Sean Palmer of Palmer’s Poultry Pummelers, a veteran of Turkey Bowl 2023, shows how it’s done during Turkey Bowl 2023, down aisle 5 of Grocery Outlet! Photo by Tim Engle

This year’s Turkey Bowl not only broke records but also showcased the incredible heart and generosity of our community. We’re grateful to everyone who played a part in making this event a true celebration of the spirit of giving. With full hearts, we look forward to sharing the warmth of Thanksgiving with those who need it most. Wishing everyone a very happy Thanksgiving! ★

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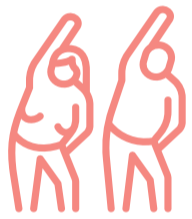
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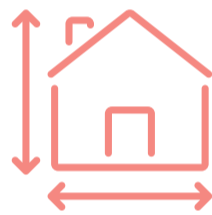
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A History of the Orangevale Christmas Tree



The Orangevale Community Tree Lighting on December 1st begins the Christmas holiday season in our region. Photo courtesy of Kay Barnes

By Joyce Krueger

It is the holiday season! We are looking forward to joining our friends and family at holiday events this year. Do you know we have an Orangevale community Christmas tree?

The tree is a live tree which grows in the circle in front of the Orangevale Community Center all year. The Park was established, and the Community Center was built in 1996 at 6825 Hazel Avenue. The tree was planted in 1997 by Park Superintendent, Chuck West, and his maintenance crew. Landscaping was part of the development of the

park after many remember it as a cow pasture.

The community tree was donated by Lumberjack Store, and it came to the park in a box rather than a bucket which they thought was fitting for Orangevale. They determined the tree was appropriate for Christmas and therefore, it was planted in the circle in front of the Community Center in hopes of it being decorated every year for Christmas.

Not long after this tree was planted, a truck entering the roundabout lost control and drove over the newly planted tree. The tree was not always everyone's favorite. The staff called it "A Charlie

Brown tree" as it had very few nice branches, most were gangly and droopy and was only about four feet tall. Several people tried to dissuade the park district from planting the tree in the center roundabout in hopes of finding one that was "prettier" that would be more suitable to be called a community Christmas tree!

Miraculously the tree survived thanks to the loving care it received. It is currently an exceptionally large and beautiful monument that is decorated with various ornaments and lit every year at Christmas time. A very heartwarming ceremony with the topper placed on the tree by Santa along with other community dignitaries who are lifted by a cherry picker/crane piece of equipment while the crowd enjoys the event.

Come join the Community Tree Lighting in 2023 on December 1st 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Everything is free!

Bring your family to enjoy the events with refreshments, "Polar Express" Train Rides, Children's Holiday Activities, Santa Visits, Tree Lighting at 6825 Hazel Avenue, Orangevale.

Bring a canned food item to donate to the Orangevale Fair Oaks Food Bank, your camera for the special Santa photo and your holiday cheer!

Joyce Krueger is a member of the Orangevale History Project. ★

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Tue, December 26
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Ryan Enright, Organist

First United Methodist Church
2100 J Street, Sacramento

BEST OF FAIR OAKS 2023

VOTING STARTED NOV. 16

Contest Rules

Business must be located in Fair Oaks or be a Fair Oaks Chamber member.
All votes must be cast online at **BestofFairOaks.com**
Only one vote per category per person.
All voting entries must have complete information or the votes will not be counted.

You're Invited!

Tickets are expected to sell out fast.
Don't miss your chance to attend the 8th annual "Best of Fair Oaks" event.

This year's event will be held:

Where: North Ridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Ave, Fair Oaks
When: Thursday January 18, 2024
Cost: Contact the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce for details
FairOaksChamber.com or call **916-967-2903**

Country Day School Receives Grant for Tech-Focused Learning



Sacramento Country Day School leadership and Consolidated Communications representatives, including (from the left) head of school Lee Thomsen and Eric Mauck with Consolidated Communications, Michael Unti, director of technology (holding check) and Curtis Barkve (far right) with Consolidated Communications celebrate the donation with students on November 8, 2023. Photo courtesy of Consolidated Communications

Consolidated Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Country Day School was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to support its program to create a more efficient and automated vehicle from Consolidated Communication's Consolidated Connects Educational Grant Program. The program directs support to K-12 schools within the company's service area in support of innovative, technology-focused learning programs that advance creative student learning, develop 21st century skills and promote critical thinking.

Grant funding will support the school's effort to bridge a gap between the physical skills, and the technology and innovation that is taught in multiple classes. Incorporating the subjects of Computer Science, Advanced Topics in Science, and Robotics and Engineering, students at Sacramento Day Country School will seek to create a more efficient and automated vehicle. "We are excited to expand our engineering opportunities through the support of Consolidated Communications, aligning with our commitment to shaping future leaders," shared Lee Thomsen, head of school for Sacramento Country Day School.

This program will expand student's classroom knowledge of automation and physics, applying this knowledge on a larger scale. Students currently apply these principles to robotics kits successfully, using sensors to help the robot navigate its environment. Using a go-kart frame, students will use data science to improve performance, and power tools to upgrade and improve the vehicle. This includes tracking performance with sensors, seeking to improve rotation, efficiency and safety, as well as decrease wind resistance.

"Consolidated Communications is proud to support such an enriching program for local students at Sacramento Country Day School to gain hands-on skills and real-world experiences," said Ron Fischer, senior director of



Michael Unti, director of technology at Sacramento Country Day School, sits on the go-kart used with sensors for tracking performance, efficiency and safety by his students. The company's educational grant program provides support of the program to create a more efficient and automated vehicle. Photo courtesy of Consolidated Communications

operations for Consolidated. "Just as we invest in our local broadband networks, our Consolidated Connects Educational Grant Program is another investment in the youth in our communities. We are committed to making our communities stronger through support of education programs like this, which help students learn, grow and thrive."

Sacramento Country Day School is dedicated to inspiring intellectual discovery and engaging a diverse community to think critically, live creatively, and act compassionately. Small class sizes and a dynamic learning environment offer our students opportunities to discover and joyfully pursue their unique strengths.

Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ: CNSL) is dedicated to moving people, businesses and communities forward by delivering the most reliable fiber communications solutions. Consumers, businesses and wireless and wireline carriers depend on Consolidated for a wide range of high-speed internet, data, phone, security, cloud and wholesale carrier solutions. With a network spanning more than 57,500 fiber route miles, Consolidated is a top 10 U.S. fiber provider, turning technology into solutions that are backed by exceptional customer support. Learn more at consolidated.com. Connect with us on social media. ★

Holiday Lights, Fairytale Delights at Cal Expo

By D. Givens Media Consulting News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Come and create lasting memories and celebrate the magic of the holidays with Imaginarium "Holiday Lights, Fairytale Delights" at Cal Expo, Friday, November 17, 2023, to Sunday, January 7, 2024.

Cal Expo will come alive with the largest holiday light festival in town, with over 5 million lights! Guests can get lost in over 10 fully immersive experience zones that bring beloved fairytales to life. Explore the worlds of Hansel and Gretel, Rapunzel, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Thumbelina, and meet the beautiful princesses of your childhood. Guests can also wander through the enchanting landscape that plays home to over 25 larger-than-life interactive creatures.

New this year is a mesmerizing show featuring synchronized music and lights; three, 30-minute circus shows featuring performers from around the world showcasing unique talents including juggling, contortionism, hula hooping, and more;

the Infinity Mirrors featuring unique selfie rooms to capture the magic of the holidays.

Enjoy holiday festivities for all ages, including carnival rides, ice skating, visits with Santa, and shopping for Christmas gifts, along with sweet treats like mini donuts, hot cocoa, and hand-made pretzels.

Early-bird discount tickets are on sale now at Imaginarium360.com/sacramento. Regular price general admission tickets range from \$21-27. Visitors are also encouraged to follow Imaginarium360 on social media for special deals. Imaginarium will be open Wednesday - Thursday: 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. and Friday - Sunday: 5 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Cal Expo is being transformed daily until the big reveal.

In 2014, a team of entertainment fanatics set out to create the first-ever Chinese Lantern Festival in the United States. The vision was to create an experience for the entire family where attendees could venture through a park filled with awe-inspiring, illuminated exhibits including more than 5-million lights, free entertainment, a carnival, ice-skating rink, and more. ★

Out & About

with MaryAnne Povey



Plenty of Fun and Giving Opportunities!

By MaryAnne Povey

Why is it that the holidays come so fast? Consider this your friendly nudge to get your shopping done early so you'll have time to enjoy all these fantastic, family-fun activities happening in our community! Here it goes...

The **OV Parks Tree Annual Lighting** is set for December 1, 6 pm - 7:30 pm at the OV Community Center, 6826 Hazel Avenue. Come see the "real" Santa, Buddy the Elf, and enjoy performances from local choirs, bands and free treats from the OV Women's Club and the OV Grange, and more! This is a definite bundle up, fun event!

Just our luck, Santa has extended his visit and will be making his "Santa at the Museum" debut on Saturday, December 2, 12 pm - 3 pm! Come enjoy FREE pictures with Santa, cookie decorating, crafts, food and hot cocoa too! Check out the new OV History Museum located at 6920 Hazel Avenue. Park through the gate behind the museum. For more information, go to www.orangevalehistorymuseum.org

Christmas Lights at Dovewood Court! Opens December 3 - December 27, 5:30 pm - 10 pm. Walk or drive through. There's nearby parking at the OV Grange for a donation that goes to helping kids in the community. Also, don't forget to stop by Dairy Queen on your way in or out! Try their Oreo Hot Chocolate Blizzard, Candy Cane Chill, Frosted Sugar Cookie Blizzard or one of their many delicious menu items! Yum!

Watch or be part of the **3rd Annual OV Holiday Parade of Lights** on December 9th! Staging for participants starts at 4:30 pm in front of Green Oaks Elementary

School, with the parade starting at 5:30 pm. The parade route goes north on Filbert, right on Oak, right on Main, right on Central and right on Filbert and ends at Green Oaks Elementary School. Bring a pair of adult sized sweatpants or make a cash donation to help the homeless in our community. Collection will be at the end of the parade at Santa's sleigh. Bundle up! This parade is sure to get you into the holiday spirit!

This is a yummy holiday favorite you won't want to miss. **Breakfast with Santa** is happening at the OV Grange, 5807 Walnut Avenue, December 10th, 8 am - 10:30 am! Also see the **OV Women's Club Gingerbread House Contest**. Gonna be a great morning of fun and holiday festivity! Bring the whole family!

Finally, there are lots of "giving" opportunities if you want to help others in need this holiday season. The Last Tangle is the "One Stop, Donation Drop" for these programs benefiting local kids: The OV-FO Kiwanis Annual PJ Drive, collecting new pajamas for kids of all ages, The OV Teen Council Stocking Drive, is collecting blankets, socks, sweatshirts/hoodies, \$5 - \$10 gift cards and other stocking stuffers for local teens, and lastly, Kayleighann's 7th Annual Toy Drive is collecting new, unwrapped toys for kids of all ages. Stop by 8820 Greenback Lane to drop your items off! All going to help local kids in need this holiday season! *All items needed by December 4!*

Hope you all have time to enjoy making memories with family and friends and remember the true spirit of the holidays! Wishing you all a very happy and blessed holiday season! ★

Time for Christmas in Fair Oaks



A family gets a visit from Santa. Courtesy photo

Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District News Release

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - 'Tis the season to celebrate old traditions – and make new ones! The Fair Oaks elves (Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District and Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce, together with our partners) have come together to make this December one to remember! The Fair Oaks community is a special place to live, work, and play! We hope you find some activities for you or your family to participate in this December, right here in Fair Oaks!

Be sure to follow us online at the official Christmas in Fair Oaks Facebook Page for the most up-to-date information, event updates and details, and pop-up events. All of us here at the Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District and Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Rockin' New Year!

To view the 2023 Holiday Guide, visit forpd.org. ★



A man in blue gives Santa a bear hug in front of the Fair Oaks Christmas Tree. Courtesy photo

Hands on for Crafty Christmas



Crafters come bearing gifts for the annual St John the Evangelist School's Christmas fair, December 1, 2, and 3 in Carmichael.

Story and photo
by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - St John the Evangelist School's blowout – "A Holiday Show of Hands" – will ensure a crafty Christmas for thousands of shoppers on December 1, 2 and 3.

Now in its 45th year and boasting more than 150 vendors, the market annually fills the entire Locust Avenue campus with up to 10,000 guests. Proceeds benefit the Catholic school.

Entrepreneurism annually soars during the fundraiser. Wares range from funky sweaters to metal sculptures and glittering ornaments. A preview (4-9 pm on December 1) requires an admission fee, but Saturday and Sunday browsing is free. Doors open at 9 am on both weekend days.

Organizers have this year added a prize opportunity for admission; guests will be included in a draw for a \$100 Visa gift card. A silent auction will offer hundreds of items; bids close on Sunday afternoon. Santa and Mother Claus will visit from 11

am to 2 pm, Saturday and Sunday.

The fair's gourmet pavilion has been enlarged to include more food vendors. "December is a cold month, so hot toddies and Sister Margaret's famous Irish coffee will take the chill off," promises organizer Pat Holbus. Home-cooked lasagna and other hot dishes will be available as sit-down or take-out meals throughout the event. The fair offers a gift wrap service and Carmichael's Boulevard Coffee will host an Espresso bar, with specialty coffees.

St John the Evangelist School is located at 5701 Locust Avenue, in Carmichael. Because fair traffic clogs surrounding streets, free shuttles will run from Carmichael Elks Lodge parking lot to St John's Church.

"People come here from all over Sacramento – even from out of state," says Pat Holbus. "Our market is a Sacramento tradition. It's a weekend that says Christmas is here at last."

For information, call (916) 481-8845. Or visit www.holidayshowofhands.com ★

Sunrise Marketplace Promises Magical Moments in December



The audience enjoys the Sunrise Mall laser light show in 2022. Photo courtesy of Sunrise Marketplace

By Tamara Warta

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Christmastime draws near and the Sunrise Marketplace (SMP) is ready to jump into the community with events designed to inspire togetherness, holiday spirit, and great opportunities to stay engaged and entertained locally.

The first event on the roster – a portion of what is known as Magical Moments at Sunrise Marketplace – is the Laser Light Show Spectacular and Night Market in partnership with Kauai's Night Market, guests of all ages can enjoy crafts, activities, vendors, and then a 45-minute laser light show as the grand finale of the evening.

The laser light show was formerly put on in the Lowe's parking lot across the way from the Sunrise Mall, but due to space limitations it was moved to the Sunrise Mall parking lot in recent years. This year, it is in the Macy's Men's parking lot on the Greenback side of the mall.

Last year, the laser show was projected onto the wall of the mall, but this year it will be displayed on a jumbo screen in order to allow it to be in the Macy's location with higher visibility. Besides the night market and show, there will also be carnival games, face painting, and even a magic show. It is a family-friendly activity that SMP hopes to continue on as a tradition as in years past.

According to Lisa Cordell, SMP's Marketing & Special Projects Manager, the main goal of the Magic Moments series is "to bring the community out together – to just have a fun, safe event and maybe attract consumers from our secondary trade area."

"Hopefully they will come back to shop and dine in the district," she said.

The laser show and night market is expected to draw between 500 and 1000 people to its two showings. Performances are at 6pm and 7pm, and the market and activities open at 4pm. All activities are free, and food will be available for purchase.

While the evening is sure to be a hit, visitors are encouraged to keep in mind that they will be sitting outside in December.

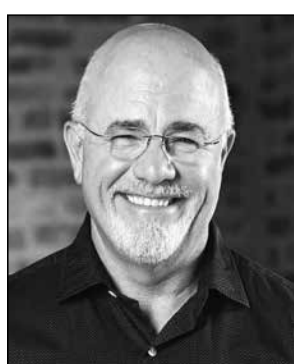
"It's going to be cold," said Cordell. "Bundle up. If you would like to bring chairs to watch, you are more than welcome to."

If you attend the Laser Light Show Spectacular and Night Market and love it, you can continue the Magical Moments fun throughout the month. Next up is a Nutcracker performance happening inside of the Sunrise Mall and performed by Sac Civic Ballet. This special condensed version is being performed at 5:15 PM and 6:10 PM on December 14. Outside of the performances, there are plenty of interactive opportunities including an Elf on the Shelf story hour, character visits with Nutcracker characters, and special giveaways.

Lastly, on December 21 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, join other members of the community for a Winter Wonderland skate party at Sunrise Rollerland. Tickets are \$10 and the three-hour session starts at 6pm.

SMP hopes to offer more events in 2024, including the return of Burgers and Brew in May of 2024. Cordell encourages those interested in community events to visit shopsmc.com and get on the newsletter list.

"Always check back for all the activities that go on in the district. That [website] is a really good place to find out what's going on," said Cordell. "There are contests going on continually too, including money and gift card prizes." ★



Don't Panic, You Have Plenty of Time

Dear Dave,

My husband and I have just \$12,000 to pay off before we're debt-free. We've paid off almost \$70,000 in debt in the last two years, and we both just turned 50. We would like to buy a house soon, but we know we need an emergency fund. It would take us over a year to build up an emergency fund, so since we're getting older, should we make adjustments to the Baby Steps?

– Debbie

Dave Ramsey Says

Dear Debbie,

You've been making great progress, and you obviously have a good income to be able to pay off debt that quickly. But it shouldn't take you two a year to build up an emergency fund, considering the rate at which you've been paying off debt.

Yes, you need a fully funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses set aside before you start saving a down payment for a home. Maybe in your case, you could lean a little more toward the three-month side with your emergency fund. Then, after you're all moved in, you could revisit the emergency fund and beef it up to six months.

Fifty isn't old, Debbie.

Just stay on course and stick with the plan. You two have plenty of time to get your finances in order and find a great home!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling 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 the company Ramsey Solutions. ★

Niello Responds to the Acceleration of the Sites Reservoir Project

Office of Senator Roger Niello

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Senator Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks) released the following statement regarding Governor Newsom's announcement to accelerate the Sites Reservoir Project:

"As we prepare for another wet winter, it is imperative to continue pushing water storage projects forward for California's future," said Niello. "Even though the benefits of the Sites Reservoir have been clear from the beginning, the project has unnecessarily been on hold. While we are still multiple approvals and years away from the construction process, I am pleased

to hear that the Sites Reservoir project is finally getting the chance to move forward in an expeditious manner."

Currently, much of the rainfall California receives is not captured. As proposed, Sites Reservoir will be a 1.5 million acre-foot reservoir located in the Sacramento Valley west of Maxwell and will capture storm-related runoff and a portion of storm-related flood water to increase water supply in drier years.

Elected in 2022, Senator Niello represents California Senate District 6, which covers portions of Placer and Sacramento Counties and all of Sutter and Yuba Counties. ★

Wheel of Fortune Live at Hard Rock Live Sacramento

Atherton News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - "Wheel of Fortune LIVE!," a theatrical experience, will be coming to Hard Rock Live at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento. The live stage show, produced by Right Angle Entertainment in partnership with Sony Pictures Television and UTA, is the one-and-only way fans can experience America's Game® in person outside of Sony Pictures Studios. Hard Rock Sacramento will host two shows on December 3, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. Ticket info available.

One of the greatest game shows of all time has been adapted into a stage show to give more fans access and more chances to win at "Wheel of Fortune LIVE!" Guests can audition to go on stage and feel like they stepped into the game show itself. The live stage show is the only way you can have the chance to spin a full-sized replica of the iconic Wheel. At Wheel of Fortune LIVE!, contestants are selected from the audience to go on stage for the chance to call consonants, buy vowels, and maybe even solve puzzles to win fantastic prizes, including trips to destinations like Paris and Hawaii or up to \$10,000 in cash. Everyone gets in on the fun and a chance to win at Wheel of Fortune LIVE! because there are audience games too!

VIP Packages will also be available, and they give fans early access, premiere seats, pre-show lounge access and photo opportunities to spin the wheel. For tickets and more information, visit www.WheelofFortuneLive.com.

Pat and Vanna will not be



Everyone gets in on the fun and a chance to win at Wheel of Fortune LIVE! Credit Mason Aschenbrenner

on tour. Wheatland's tour will be hosted by Bob Goen. "Wheel of Fortune Live!" is a live touring production and is not for broadcast.

Bob Goen is an American game show emcee and television personality. Bob is well known for hosting multiple game shows, including Home Shopping Game, The Hollywood Game, and That's the Question. He's hosted on The Wheel of Fortune TV show from 1989 – 1991 (CBS) and then again in 1991 (NBC). His talents have extended to hosting multiple Miss Universe pageants, serving as a desert-area correspondent for ESPN, and Bob had a long-standing career with Entertainment Tonight. He has voiced a cartoon version of himself on an episode of Nickelodeon's hit TV show The Fairly OddParents.

Right Angle Entertainment specializes in the production, marketing, management and distribution of live theatrical and concert events. We work closely and collaboratively with managers, producers, artists, agents, studios and licensors to bring brands,

talent and properties to life on stage. RAE's proud roster includes: The Price is Right LIVE!, The Masked Singer National Tour, The Simon & Garfunkel Story, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer: The Musical, Together Live with Abby Wambach and Glennon Doyle, Sasha Velour's Smoke & Mirrors World Tour, Jay Shetty's Love Rules World Tour among many others.

Wheel of Fortune, a TV version of the popular game 'Hangman,' is the most successful syndicated program in the history of TV and has earned 7 Emmy® Awards including the 2011 Emmy® for Outstanding Game Show. Hosted by Pat Sajak and Vanna White since its debut in 1983, the show has awarded more than \$250 million in cash and prizes to its contestants. Can you believe that over 10,000 people audition each year for the chance to appear on the show? With more than 26 million viewers per week, America's Game continues to attract a larger audience than many primetime TV shows. ★

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CURRENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES

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Production Layout/Graphic Design – This part-time position assists with the layout of the newspapers and works with the production staff to create our weekly newspapers. Must have good working knowledge of InDesign production programs. Must be able to work within our current system and be able to take direction to meet our deadlines. Previous layout experience is a must. This is an entry level position. Work hours are between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm.

Copy Editor – We are seeking a part-time copy editor for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with Editor. Work hours are flexible between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous editing experience is required.

City Reporter – We are seeking a part-time City Reporter for our newspaper group. This position may be assigned to work in the Carmichael office or another area office and works directly with the Editor. Work hours are flexible depending on assignments. Previous reporting experience is required.

Advertising Services Support – We are seeking a part-time Advertising Services Support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the owner of the company and the advertising/graphics staff. Work hours are flexible between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office experience is required.

Delivery Driver – We are seeking a part-time Delivery Driver for our newspaper group. This position would transport newspapers from our Carmichael office to our offices in Marysville and Gridley. Work hours are from 8:30 to 4:00 every Thursday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. Must have your own reliable cargo van. This is an independent contractor position and pays a flat rate for your service.

Newsstand Delivery Driver – We are seeking a part-time Newsstand Deliver Driver for our newspaper group. This position works from the Carmichael office and delivers to our locations in the West Sacramento/ Sacramento Region. Work hours are from 8:30 to 5:00 Thursday and/or Friday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. You must have a reliable vehicle. This is an independent contractor position.

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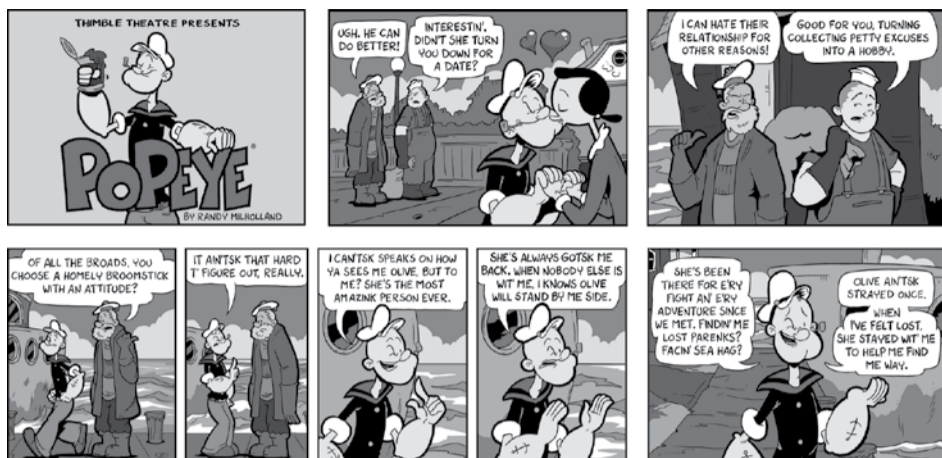
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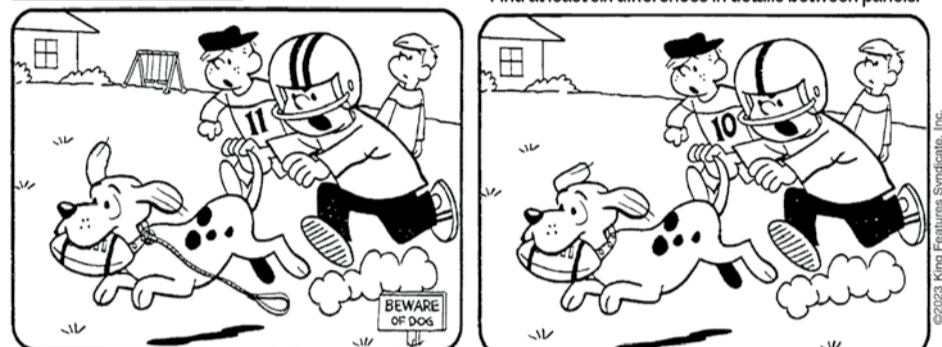
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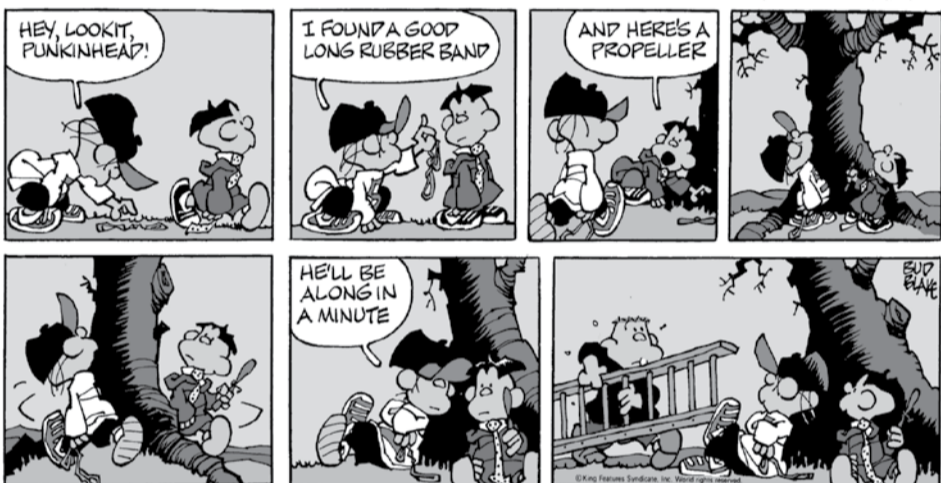
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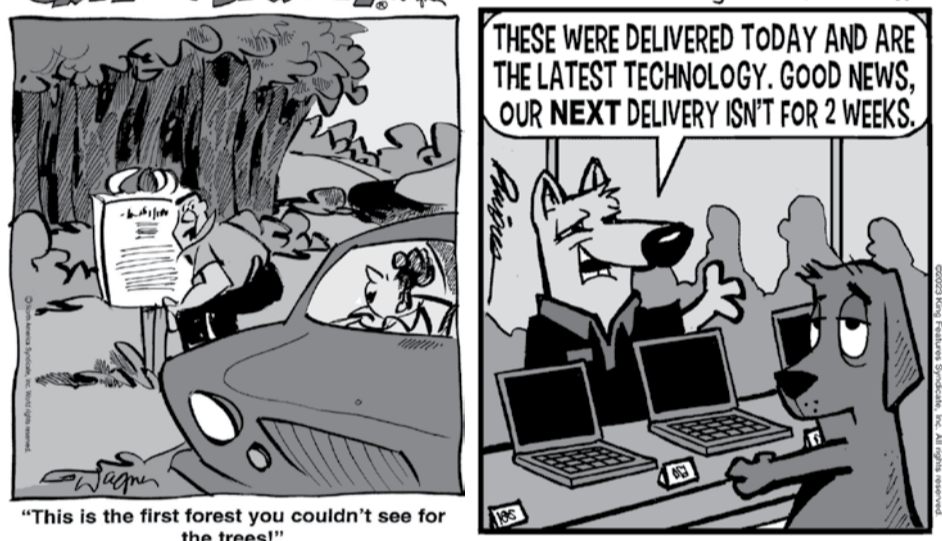
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CLUES

ACROSS

1. "Heaven's on Fire" band
5. "Setting of Cheers" TV show
8. Derive
13. "I'm ___ you!"
14. Gas station brand
15. Affirmatives
16. Image in Orthodox Church
17. *Robert Wagner or Stephanie Powers, on TV
18. *Vote for H.W. Bush, e.g.
19. *Weird Al's last name
21. Forum, pl.
22. Dog-___ book
23. Clingy plant
27. Spiky succulent
27. Accumulates (2 words)
31. Turkish military leader
32. Consequence
35. *Wintour of Vogue
36. Zoroaster follower
38. E in B.C.E.
39. #53 Down, third person singular
40. Do like exhaust pipe
41. Hertz' offering
43. Extra cost
44. Expert, in U.K. (2 words)
46. *Ricky Martin's boy band
48. Arrival time acronym
49. *Piano player Lee Curreri on "Fame"
51. *Baltimore player
53. *Mikhail Gorbachev's policy
56. Recipient of money
57. *Umberto Eco's "The ___ of the Rose"
58. Oration station
60. Some tournaments
61. In the thick of
62. Place, in French
63. Not at all good
64. Bitty
65. Other than what is

DOWN

1. Ornamental pond dweller
2. Deep black
3. Greek promenade
4. Shakespeare's output
5. *Lou Reed's "Home of the ___"
6. Like thick smoke
7. Campus military org.
8. Attractive to look at
9. "Back to the Future" car
10. One on drugs
11. Cecum, pl.
12. Is, in Paris
14. "A horse is ___ of course, of course"
20. Resin-producing tree
23. Took the bait
24. *Christopher Reeve's sartorial style in "Superman II"
25. Old World lizard
26. Indigenous person from Suriname or Guyana
27. Surveyor's map
28. Mix-up
29. Not married
30. Promenade in Spain
33. Tournament ranking
34. Remains container
37. *Washington's volcano
39. *Close of "The Big Chill"
41. Genetic initials
42. Entertained
45. Affirm to be true
47. Cavatappi or udon, sing.
49. Scapegoat's due
50. Fiber crop variety
51. Head of family
52. Deed hearing
53. Chew on
54. Schooner canvas
55. *TV's "Family ___"
56. Sound of explosion
59. *Peggy ___ Got Married

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How Military Spouses Can Find Connection and Support

From StatePoint

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Military spouses sacrifice stable careers and time with loved ones due to constant moves to new duty stations, and hold down the fort at home during their spouses' deployments. That's why the USO prioritizes providing community and support to military spouses. Here are some of the ways their programs are making an impact:

Friendship: USO Coffee Connections are monthly gatherings where military spouses can relax, craft, do yoga, swap advice and go on outings. The goal is building friendships among military spouses. When Jenna King's husband Tech Sgt. Howard King was forward deployed to Poland with less than 24 hours' notice, she says she found a home away from home at USO Lakenheath in the U.K., which has been hosting Coffee Connections since the war in Ukraine began. Because of the warm welcome and sense of community she found there, she and her children visit the center often. "There's something for each of us here," she said. "Being overseas, friends who are like family are the biggest blessing. And you can't turn down free coffee and snacks!"

Support for New Parents: Military parents are often away from family



USO Coffee Connections provide monthly gatherings for military spouses. Photo courtesy of USO Photos

and friends during their pregnancies and first months as new parents. USO Special Delivery presented by Johnson's are baby showers that provide a touch of home. They allow expectant parents and military spouses to connect and bond, and 72% of participants this year have stated in feedback surveys that this is the only baby shower they will receive. More than 20,000 parents have been served through this program since its 2013 launch, including 1st Lt. Erika Pearson, an active-duty service member in the Air Force. She knew

her spouse, 1st Lt. Drew Pearson, could potentially be deployed around her due date. "The USO helped me make friends that I could rely on if my husband were to miss the birth, and offered me resources I could reach out to, if needed," says 1st Lt. Pearson.

Professional Development: Because of frequent relocations, military spouses often have trouble finding their professional footing. That's where the USO can step in. Connecting service members and military spouses to resources that focus on

employment, education, financial readiness, mentorship and veterans benefits, the USO Transition Program helps military families build a roadmap to achieve their goals and positions them for success throughout the duration of their service, as well as in their post-military life.

Support While Solo-Parenting: The burden of solo-parenting can become especially apparent during deployments, when military family members must struggle to find a new normal. For Tessa Michaelson Schmidt, connection with her husband

Brett, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, became complicated when he was deployed to Kuwait where there is an eight-hour time difference, unreliable Wi-Fi on base, and the added pressure of being deployed near the frontlines. Because they and their two children have an incredible passion for reading, the USO Reading Program has been a blessing. Deployed service members can record themselves reading a book to their child. Then, the recording and a copy of the book are sent to that service

member's family. "They have a real response when they hear his voice, and then we get the books in the mail, and they know they're books from daddy," says Schmidt, who explained that her children will often watch the videos of their father just before bed, so that in a way, he is present for story time.

The life of a military spouse is undeniably challenging. By the USO fostering community and providing sources of connection, military spouses can feel supported and empowered. ★

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All Aboard the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Santa Train!

By Thomas J. Sullivan

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - All aboard the Santa Train!

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 also help kick off the holiday season with their participation in the 23rd Annual Rancho Cordova Community Tree Lighting at Village Green Park at 3141 Bridgeway Drive from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, November 26 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 2, and Sunday, December 3, and the following weekend, Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10th. The SVLSRM museum is located at 2197 Chase Drive, just past the petting barn in the rear of Hagan Park.

The Santa Experience train ride is \$8 per person. Children, ages two and under, ride free with a paid adult ticket. Advance tickets can be purchased on the SVLSRM web site at: www.svlstrm.org/

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 digital photos.

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

Over the two weekends, well over 2,400 riders and visitors, both young and old, are expected to visit Santa, he said. "It's also a lot of hard work and a lot of fun."

"Our Santa Train is a yearly event that many have made their tradition," Berchielli said. "We continue to make small changes to improve the flow and wait time of our guests," he said.



Bring the kids via SVLSRM's Santa Train to visit the Old Man Claus at Hagan Community Park in Rancho Cordova. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum

This year, tickets are being sold for three individual trains which will pull five cars each around the 6,300-foot main line loop which is festively decorated by club members to enhance the holiday train ride experience. Passengers will pass under a large inflatable gateway on their way to meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

"We will also be handing out candy canes this year to everyone, and each group will receive a keepsake Santa train ornament," he said.

"Santa will also take time to talk to each child about their Christmas wishes before the train departs back to the main station. It's a special event that brings smiles to everyone, no matter the weather," Berchielli said.

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

masters, and operations managers will be busy getting the main line ready.



Santa's already on the move for the holiday season and will be in Rancho Cordova's Hagan Community Park offering train rides the weekends of December 2-3 and December 9-10. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum

each passenger train.

In advance of the event, club members including train crews, engineers, conductors, station

"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 www.svlstrm.org/. Advance tickets should be available for sale soon through the club website, Berchielli said. Contact the club by email at: info@svlstrm.org for general information, or call (916) 361-7140

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