

Reflecting on a Memorable Season: Casa Roble Football

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Orangevale's Annual Tree Lighting





MERICAN !

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Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

DECEMBER 8, 2023

Sac County

Health Center

Earns Three

Quality Awards

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Health Center is now proudly displaying three Health Resources and

Services Administration (HRSA) Community Health Quality Badges,

exemplifying the strong dedication of our Primary

Health Services team to providing exceptional

healthcare for our community. These awards from HRSA recognize

the County's commitment to delivering high-quality healthcare, prioritizing patient-centered services,

and continuously striv-

ing for improvement. They

serve as acknowledgement

of the collective efforts and

dedication of our entire

team in ensuring that our

patients receive the high-

est standard of care. Over

the last year, we have

made significant progress

in enhancing accessibil-

ity, refining operations, and

elevating the quality of our

healthcare services, these

awards are the results of

the tirelessly hard work

of the Primary Health

proud of our team and

their relentless dedication to providing exceptional healthcare services to our community," says Tim Lutz, Health Services

Director. "Receiving three HRSA Community Health Quality Badges is a testament to the hard work and commitment of every staff

member, provider, partner, and volunteer. It is a recognition of the outstanding care they provide to our

The HRSA Community Health Quality Badges

represent a signifi-

cant milestone in the

Health Center's jour-

ney towards excellence

in healthcare. It under-

scores Health Service's

ongoing commitment to

improving healthcare out-

comes, reducing health

disparities, and serving

the community with the

highest standards of care.

CHQR badges recognize

Health Center Program

awardees that have made

notable achievements in

the areas of access, quality,

health equity, health information technology, social

risk factors screening, and

COVID-19 public health

emergency response.

For more information on

CHQR badges, visit the CHQR Overview page and

This achievement is a

the CHQR FAQ page.

patients each day."

"I couldn't be more

Services team.

INSIDE

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN



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BOSTON'S PIZZA RESTAURANT CLOSES





direct link to our online edition!

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Bloodmobile Rocks to Save Lives

Vitalant and 98 Rock and Roll up Sleeves this Holiday Season



Bloodmobile workers remain in good spirits serving almost 200 donors from all over the county and beyond over the three-day Citrus Heights blood drive. Vitalant staff included: Scott McCombs, Lindsey Peterson, and Bill Hunt. Photo courtesy of Vitalant

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)

- "Patients don't take a holiday from needing blood" according to the Vitalant Blood website. Approximately 200 individuals came out to save lives through blood donations during the three-day 'Rock N Roll Up Your Sleeve' blood drive at the Marketplace at Birdcage Center from November 23 to November 26. For the 32nd year Vitalant Blood partnered with 98 Rock station to "ensure patients have the blood they need throughout the holiday season."



Volunteers Che'la Woodson and Lyne Benson during the 'Rock N Roll Up Your Sleeve' blood drive at the Marketplace at

Donors arrived from area and beyond following the direction of the DJs all over the Sacramento

at 98 Rock. For some who answer the call it's a family tradition. Dad Adrian Roberts and sons, Anthony and Brian traveled from Merced "because it's a 98 Rock (blood) drive. It's been a family tradition." Anthony started in high school, and they now follow 98 Rock to the donation site.

Joining others waiting in line on the chairs lined up across from the bloodmobile, Kelli Caiter, shared that she has a rare blood type (0 negative) so donates when she can. The mobile center makes

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Story by Shaunna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District's plan for an integrated park complex in the Village – involving upgrades to Village and Plaza parks, renovation of the Veterans Memorial Amphitheatre, and improvements to the Community Clubhouse - has been in the works for several years now. The three separate projects are being done concurrently to maximize the use of funding and reduce impact in the Village, so no work could commence until the plans for all three were approved. Delays throughout the pandemic slowed down the review and approval process with the County, so construction couldn't begin until June 2022. District Administrator Mike Aho explained that with such an ambitious and

expansive project, many other surprises have cropped up during the construction process, leading to further delays. The project was expected to be completed by February 2024, but

that estimate has now been pushed

to November 2024. Aho said that the

contractor, Bobo Construction, has

been working quickly and efficiently in what has proven to be a complicated project on a difficult site. The parks in the Village were built bit by bit over the years, beginning in 1947, so there was "no uniformity of standards" throughout the site, said Aho. As construction commenced, issues were found that had to be addressed immediately before further work

turned into a major problem when they discovered an existing line was buried far lower than allowed by current standards. They had to dig it out and reinstall it at the correct location unanticipated additional work that took two extra months to complete.

An existing water line was also in an unsuitable location, so that had to be reinstalled under the street, in a public right of way, so it can be appropriately accessed by the water company in the future without tearing up the new park.

Extreme rainstorms early this year also caused significant delays to the

they still had to wait until the ground was solid enough to safely hold the heavy equipment. Aho estimated that 97 days of work were lost due to the extreme storms.

And that torrential rain also impacted work at the Community Clubhouse, with water flooding into the basement. As they worked to solve the issue, they discovered that part of the building's foundation was supported by boulders. Engineers and hydrologists were brought in to assess, because it could become "a permanent problem if you don't do it right," said Aho.

The first phase of the road re-paving was undertaken the week of Halloween, but Bobo Construction identified issues in the grade of the road, so if the work went forward, it wouldn't meet the standards of the Sacramento County Department of Transportation. The roadway paving has been postponed pending further design and review, as well as negotiations with the County regarding cost-sharing for the improvements. The District's architects and engineers, in cooperation with the County, are working to update plans,

Continued on page 3

the steadfast work of every

Continued on page 3

collective effort, a result of

Village Renovation within Budget **Despite Construction Delays**

could continue. Updating the electrical system

construction timeline. The amount of standing water made the site unworkable, and even after pumping out millions of gallons of water,

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Reflecting on a Memorable 2023 Season: Casa Roble Football



Amid the intense clash on the field, quarterback Connor Campbell (#12, Jr.) pushes forward with the ball, bolstered by the formidable force of lineman Ethan Elder (#78, Sr.), driving the pile towards a hard-earned touchdown.



Head Coach Chris Horner, deep in the game, commands the field with a mix of focus and fervor, as he guides the Casa Roble Rams through another night under the lights.



In a poignant moment of gratitude and respect, Head Coach Chris Horner embraces Cole Owens (#11, WR/CB, Sr.), thanking him for his unwavering commitment to the Casa Roble football team throughout his high school career.

Story and photos by Tim Engle

As we wrap up an incredible football season, it's essential to take a moment to reflect on the journey, the dedication, and the unforgettable moments that have

defined the Casa Roble Rams.
First and foremost, we want to extend huge credit to Soquel High School for their phenomenal performance in our recent game. They were truly a formidable opponent, and their sportsmanship deserves recognition.

Looking back on the Rams' journey this season, it's impossible not to be thoroughly impressed. The amount of work and commitment put in by every player and coach was nothing short of extraordinary. The results achieved on the field were a testament to this dedication. The remarkable 12-2 overall record, with a stellar 5-0 in league, speaks volumes about the team's skill and perseverance.

The team captains played a pivotal role in the season's success. Their outstanding

leadership not only guided the team to victory, but also helped maintain the tradition of excellence that has resonated throughout Chris Horner's tenure as head coach. This season was more than just about wins and losses; it was a narrative of an epic journey, marked by a thrilling comeback to claim the Sac-Joaquin Section Division 4 football title, and the journey to the CIF State Championship.

Behind the lens, I've had the privilege of documenting these players and games, striving to capture the essence of their hard work and passion. As a former football player from a bygone era, I understand that my perspective is that of a viewer rather than a participant in their daily grind

daily grind.

While some of these young athletes may go on to play football again, a fair percentage of our seniors will not. For them, this season marks the end of an era — a moment of significance that carries the weight of finality.

What stands out to me, however, is not just the games themselves but the times spent with friends — practicing,

has healed a final prosthesis will be placed, extra charges will apply.

training, and of course, playing. It's the camaraderie, the laughter, and the bonds formed with teammates that linger in our hearts

long after the final whistle. At 55 years old, I can only speak of my past experience, yet understanding their experience and the emotions surrounding the end of the season is a privilege. This season of Casa Roble football will be remembered as a milestone in the school's history, an epic tale of resilience, skill, and the unbreakable spirit of a

team that dared to dream big. ★ GO RAMS!



Sac County Health Center Earns Three Quality Awards

Continued from page 1

individual involved in the Health Center's operations. The awards are not just a recognition but a reminder of the responsibility the Health Center holds towards the community. It is a call to continue the mission to provide top-notch health-care services, promote community health, and ensure that everyone has access to the care they deserve.

The Sacramento County Health Center is a County operated Federally Qualified Health Center that provides primary care and behavioral health services to low-income residents of Sacramento County. Services provided at the health center

include: adult primary care, family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatric primary care, preventative health care, psychiatry and mental health counseling, specialty care, chronic disease management, communicable disease screening, on-site laboratory and radiology, and assistance with obtaining health care coverage.

With these three HRSA Community Health Quality Badges proudly displayed, the Sacramento County Health Center looks forward to a future of continued growth, improved services, and even greater achievements in providing exceptional healthcare to the community.

Village Renovation within Budget

Continued from page 1

but the roads in the Village will likely remain open through the winter.

Aho also cautioned that it is expected to be another very wet winter, so it is possible that heavy rains could cause even more delays. But Bobo Construction is working to get as much done as they can before the site becomes unusable due to standing water.

The numerous issues uncovered during the construction process have pushed back the expected date of completion, but the delay will not trigger financial penalties for Bobo Construction. While the District's contract with Bobo does stipulate daily financial penalties if the work is not completed within the expected timeline, Aho explained that those penalties are not imposed if the issues are beyond the

contractor's control, such as weather, utility issues, and owner-caused changes. Aho said, "All three of those things have occurred."

Each aspect of the project is built upon the work that came before, and doing the work out of order can end up wasting both time and money. Sometimes, from the outside, it may look like work is not moving forward, but things have to be done in the appropriate order or you'd be skipping crucial steps, Aho explained. Construction must follow the "critical path," he said, and sometimes that path leads to unavoidable delays. But the project is currently still expected to be within budget, and when construction is completed, Aho said that residents can be sure that the work has been done right.

"Kids Helping Kids" Announces Headlining Artist for Upcoming Gala

Kids Helping Kids Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Kids Helping Kids Sacramento is excited to announce that headlining the 10th Annual Signature Gala is the soulful singer-songwriter duo, JOHNNYSWIM.

Amanda Sudano and Abner Ramirez met in Nashville, started writing songs together, fell in love and formed their band JOHNNYSWIM in 2005. Some of their recognizable successes include a television show dedicated to them on The Magnolia Network, performing along legendary rock musician Daryl Hall, as well as having their song "Home" be featured on HGTV's hit series "Fixer Upper" to name a few. Over the last 18 years, the duo sold out tour dates on multiple continents, performed on both the Today and Tonight Show's, earned acclaim from NPR to Rolling Stone, and have gathered

over 500,000 monthly Spotify streams. Through their unique blend of emotionally intelligent and uplifting brand of music, this Gala will be a night of both soulful music and changing children's lives.

This incredible event will take place on January 20th, 2024, in Folsom at the Harris Center. Along with the benefit concert, the Gala will include a premium silent auction of a variety of baskets with items as popular as a once-in-a-lifetime vacation experiences, concert tickets, sporting events, and so much more. All proceeds raised during the Gala will go directly towards families who have children battling pediatric cancer.

Tickets go on sale Thursday November 16th so be on the lookout for a special friends and family code to purchase the best seats in the house.

For more information on Kids Helping Kids, go to kidshelpingkidssac.org ★

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Orangevale Community Celebrates **18th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting**

By MaryAnne Povey

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) -What a way to kick off the holiday season with a record turnout of community coming together to celebrate the 18th Annual Orangevale Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony

hosted by OV Parks. The magical evening was filled with laughter and joy as families gathered to enjoy choir and band performances from our local schools spreading holiday cheer. Delicious cookies made lovingly by the Orangevale Women's Club were a hit, along with hot chocolate provided by the Orangevale Chamber of Commerce, free popcorn provided by Les Schwab and over 700 hot dogs donated by the good people at the Orangevale Grange. It was a true testament to the unity and camaraderie of the Orangevale community.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the arrival of the guest of honor himself, Santa Claus, along with his trusty sidekick, Buddy the Elf. The excitement was evident as children and adults eagerly awaited their turn to visit with Santa and then to watch the grand finale of lighting the giant community Christmas tree! Santa's presence brought an extra touch of magic to the event, reminding everyone of



girls sharing their Christmas wishes!

the true spirit of the holiday

One particularly memorable moment of the evening was when Santa, with the assistance of Easystumps, was hoisted in the air to illuminate the towering Christmas tree. The crowd participated in the countdown as Santa waved his magical lighted candy cane wand, and with a burst of twinkling lights, the tree came to life, casting a festive glow over the gathering. It was a truly magical sight showing the unity and hope that the holiday season represents.

Special thanks to all who came out to celebrate, and to the generous community sponsors for their donations to make the evening possible

including: Orange Vale Water Company, Blossom Vale Senior Living, EasyStumps, Orangevale Woman's Club, Orangevale Grange, Orangevale Chamber of Commerce, The Swenson Law Firm, The Orangevale History Project, Mighty Bounce & Party Rentals, Orangevale Live, Les Schwab, RESCO, OV-FO Food Bank and Casa Roble Interact Club.

With cherished memories created and the Christmas tree shining bright, Orangevale can look forward to many more years of coming together to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year. Wishing everyone a very happy holiday season!



What Does Christmas Really Mean?

What does Christmas mean to you? I know its holiday festivities and yummy treats, presents galore and parties to the MAX. And it meant that to me for decades until the pandemic hit big time in 2020. This year especially because so much can change in a blink of an eye to make us see life and celebration so differently. We still do Christmas cards...incredible huh...because I still think a card that arrives via mail and not an email or text has so much more meaning with that little message that you actually took time to write yourself, and not just the generic saying in the card. It can really give life to the holiday. We'll still have some goodies to go with the phone calls and expressions of love to family and friends, but for me, it has really made a big change in my life. I have not shared this with you, but now it seems the right time. You see my husband Rick of nearly 53 years married was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer in March of 2020 just before the pandemic became a reality for us all. It was a shock, but we held out hope for all this time with clinical trials and new drugs etc. but now we really don't know what is going to happen. You see he is now in hospice at home. He decided after so many hospital stays that home is where he wanted to be. Don't get me wrong Sacramento Hospice has been great. They are caring and give all the comfort that they can with nurses, health

aides, social workers, even a chaplain for comfort and more.

But now is the time that we have left to look back at the wonderful experiences we had together with cruises, family get-togethers (very small family) all the events we attended over the years from theatre to concerts to, well, you name it. But the best part of it was being together. And that includes the special times I have had over some 48 years in radio and television. Rick and I have enjoyed so many great celebrities all the way back to Rock Hudson, Marian Ross of Happy Days fame) and so many more I can mention from movies to television, even some politicals. And Rick was always my rock. He was cameraman for many of my TV shows and was behind the camera on locations. Always wanted him on my camera. Why? Because he always made me look good. And he was always there for me through good times and bad. Together we made it through thick and thin. So now comes the challenge in the commitment we made on that sacred day so many years ago...in sickness and in health.

Why do I share this journey with you? Because I urge you to cherish every single day with the one you love. You never know when the good Lord will make the call. Please keep us in your prayers and have a BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL AND TO ALL GOOD CHEER!!! ★

Remembering the Fallen

Story and photo by Sheila LaPolla

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - On this Veterans Day, November 11, 2023, Veterans of Foreign Wars volunteers gave of their hearts and time to distribute red poppies in the hopes of reminding people about the sacrifices and love of country our fallen veterans gave to protect us.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 6158, Fair Oaks, staffed a booth in front of the Ace Hardware store, Madison Avenue, Fair Oaks, as well as other locations, distributing free poppies.

The sentiment of love and



A VFW member hands a red poppy to a woman on Veterans Day.

respect for our veterans was touching.

The memorial poppies were free, given as a remembrance of our fallen.

People from all walks of life gave their respect. Some gave donations to help our veterans and their families in need.

FAIR OAKS **FARMERS MARKET Every Tuesday 9am - 2pm** Fair Oaks Park, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd When you spend \$30 or more* *Limited for use with one vendor

Bloodmobile Rocks to Save Lives

Continued from page 1

it easy. Andrea Moe, from Fair Oaks also began donating with her family and has done so for almost a decade. Lately it's been hard to get an appointment to fit her schedule, so taking advantage of the bloodmobile works for her also.

Vitalant volunteers greeted donors at tables in front of the bloodmobile. Che'la Woodson and Lyne Benson registered donors with appointments as they arrived and put walk-ups on a waiting list. No one is turned away. Woodson, here from the Bay Area, says she loves helping people. This position works perfectly for her as she is in school for phlebotomy and wants to be a part of the donation process so she can "see how it works firsthand."

Benson from Citrus Heights has been with Vitalant for 18 months. She also volunteers at Mercy San Juan Hospital but sees this job as "giving back" in her spare time. Two years ago, she needed two units of blood herself so "if I can't donate again this helps me give back."

DJ Joe Brazil is new to 98.5 Rock, owned by Audacy, but is enthusiastic about their work in the community, not only during the holiday blood drives but year-round.

He says, "We are the voice for the blood drives," broadcasting actively before and during the events with a lot of giveaways to blood donors. This is the time of year blood drives are held, usually somewhere near Sunrise Mall. Their goal is to get new donors into the blood donation routine. with a demographic of 'middle age', 40 years and above. According to Brazil, "the music is a great way to gain exposure" for Vitalant. The station plays a wide variety of music from the 1990's to 2000's rock, now including more Alternative rock including music from Lincoln Park,

Imagine Dragons and Beastie Boys.

In an email Vitalant Communications Manager, Victoria Wolfe, made a very personal appeal with her own story. "Donating blood is a powerful and very personal way to make a difference for others caught in difficult circumstances."

"I have been that person on the other side of the needle, having needed extraordinary amounts of blood components, especially platelets, to survive leukemia and then be able to mother my young daughters (8 and 10) to adulthood. It is a gift I can never fully repay and one for which I am grateful every day."

She adds, "This last stretch of the year is the most difficult to collect blood simply because regular donors are busy with holiday events/gatherings, schools are on breaks after final exams, and cold/seasonal flu begins to affect so many. The need for blood makes up a very long list including traumatic injuries from motor vehicle or recreational accidents, gun violence injuries, patients in cancer treatment, mothers with pregnancy-related or childbirth-related complications, burns, heart surgeries and more. Blood transfusions take place every two seconds in the United States." Community members will see lots

of promotions this time of year as we encourage people to make a difference, donate what only another human can give and receive appreciation items from Vitalant for making time to save lives. We strive for a 4 to 5-day blood supply

but today often face days with 1-2 days only. We count on community members for their generosity and dependability." For more information or to make an

appointment visit www.vitalant.org or call 877-258-4825

Visit 98 Rock at www.audacy.com/krxq ★





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Newsom Chides Ohio GOP for Trying to Change Voting Rules Yet Adopts the Same Tactics



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

After Ohio voters approved a state constitutional amendment to protect abortion rights last month, California Gov. Gavin Newsom chided Ohio's Republicans for trying to change voting rules to thwart the abortion measure.

GOP political figures had placed a measure on an August election ballot that would have raised the minimum vote needed to pass an abortion rights amendment from a simple majority to 60%, but it had been defeated.

What happened – or rather didn't happen – in August was pivotal to what happened three months later. The abortion rights amendment was passed with 56.6% of the votes cast. In other words, had the anti-abortion Republicans succeeded in raising the approval threshold to 60%, November's measure would have failed.

"Here's a tale of a party out of touch with the American people," Newsom declared on X, formerly Twitter. "Ohio Republicans were so desperate to block abortion access they tried to change the rules in a special election and require 60% support to pass constitutional amendments. But they failed.

"Then, they tried to block a ballot initiative to protect abortion rights. They failed again. Now, they are claiming election interference and are even saying they will strip the Courts of power to overturn the will of voters. Spoiler: You're going to fail, again. They really can't seem to take a hint."

Newsom's crowing about Republican manipulation of voting rules was particularly noteworthy because he and his fellow Democrats in the Legislature are trying to do precisely the same thing to block a business-backed ballot measure that would make it more difficult to raise state and local taxes.

The tax measure is scheduled to appear on the November ballot next year. It would require voter approval of any new taxes passed by the Legislature and two-thirds voter approval for local taxes.

The California Constitution currently says that statewide ballot measures need only a simple majority of voters to approve. However, the Legislature has placed another constitutional amendment on the same ballot that, if passed, would require any measure to increase voting thresholds for taxes to reach the same thresholds themselves.

Thus, it would raise the voting requirement for the tax measure to two-thirds, making it much more difficult, or perhaps impossible, to pass.

It's part of a multipronged drive by the tax measure's opponents - Newsom, Democratic legislative leaders and public employee unions – to block it from appearing on the ballot or gaining approval.

Newsom, et al, have also filed a lawsuit asking

the state Supreme Court to remove the business-backed tax measure from the ballot, contending that it is not merely an amendment to the state constitution but rather a "revision." The court has agreed to hear the case.

While constitutional amendments may be placed before voters either by initiative petition or legislative action, any revisions must be proposed by the Legislature through a constitutional revision commission or by calling a statewide constitutional convention.

Newsom, through a spokesperson, says he is challenging the validity of the tax measure because it would "effectively block the state's ability to quickly respond to major challenges."

Were the state Supreme Court to declare that the tax measure is a constitutional revision, it would be game over. However, the legal dividing line between a constitutional amendment and a revision is hazy, and the court might postpone the issue until after voters have spoken next November.

One can rationally debate the merits or negative aspects of making it more difficult to raise taxes, but trying to strangle such a measure before voters have their say, as occurred in Ohio and is now occurring in California, is troublesome.

Whatever happens – or doesn't – Newsom's criticism of Ohio's Republicans for trying to bend the rules mid-game is pure hypocrisy.

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

Happy Holidays from the Fair Oaks Chamber



Chrysti Tovani

By Judy Andrews, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - It's been an exciting year for the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce (FOCC)!

The 45th Fair Oaks Honorary Mayor race brought in more than \$62,700 for the community – the most ever raised since the program's inception in 1978. Congratulations to State Farm agent Katie Yount, whose fundraising efforts earned her the prestigious title of the town's new Honorary Mayor. Katie raised \$32,172, which topped total dollars generated by two other candidates (Jen Rodriguez and Josh Hall) in a heated but exciting 3-month long campaign.

Just in time for the Holidays, the FOCC recently presented a check in the amount of \$5,987.95 to the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank. The event took place in October at the chamber's monthly luncheon. Josh Hall, executive director of the Orangevale-Fair Oaks

Community Foundation, was on-hand to accept the generous donation from Kimberley Pitillo, executive director of the FOCC. The donation represents a portion of the proceeds raised from this year's annual Taste of Fair Oaks event held in May. The

Messenger, and VoterFly.

Welcome 2024 Board of

Directors

The FOCC's 2024 Board of Directors will be sworn in on Dec. 21 at the chamber's monthly luncheon hosted by Café Italiano. The directors include Mary Howard (president), Doug



Katie Yount, the new Fair Oaks Honorary Mayor is seen here with Kimberley Pitillo, Fair Oaks Chamber executive director (L); and Mary Howard, president (R).

food bank is a long-time chamber member and will definitely benefit from the donation as they get ready to provide holiday meals to those in need within the community.

Vote for the Best of Fair Oaks Through Dec. 21

You still have time to vote for your favorite local businesses and services through Dec. 21 at bestoffairoaks.com. Vote soon – they only do this once a year! All winners will be announced at the annual awards gala on Jan. 18 at North Ridge Country Club. Best of Fair Oaks is sponsored by the FOCC, American River

Proctor (vice president), Mysti Shaw (secretary), John Oldham (treasurer), Rachel Griffith, Jen Rodriguez, David Spencer, Jeanette Woodward, Katie Yount, and Kimberley Pitillo (executive director). Welcome New Chamber

Members

Here are the chamber's newest members: Assemblyman Josh Hoover, Fair Oaks Family Taekwondo, Homewatch CareGivers, and Slayed by J – Jenn Ponciano.

For more information about the FOCC, please visit fairoakschamber.com.

Happy Holidays!

See you in Fair Oaks! ★

Boston's Pizza Restaurant and **Sports Bar Closes**



The front of the closed Boston's Pizza Restaurant & Sports Bar as seen from the parking lot.

Story and photo by Thomas J. Sullivan

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) -Boston's Pizza Restaurant & Sports Bar at 5511 Sunrise Blvd. in Citrus Heights has closed.

Notice of closure was posted on the restaurant's front doors over the weekend of November 4th by franchise owner Gurtej Gill. Gill opened the restaurant on January 27, 2020. Gill was unavailable for comment concerning the reason for the restaurant's closure and a call for comment from Boston's corporate office was not returned.

The Citrus Heights restaurant, located at the corner of Sunrise Boulevard and Uplands Way, was Boston's first to open in Northern California. The location has since been deleted from the company website although single and multi-unit restaurant development opportunities in the Sacramento region remain listed. Another Boston's remains open in Fontana in Southern California.

Boston's Pizza, a Canadian-based restaurant chain with over 40 locations in the United States 's Pizza Restaurant & Sports
and Mexico, specializes in scratch-made pizzas, craft cocktails, and local beers.
Each of its locations is typ-

operated. The chain's menu includes burgers, sandwiches, pizza, pasta, ribs and other entrees. Regular customers who frequented Boston's could participate in a loyalty rewards program with discounts on

ically locally-owned and

Boston's faced a difficult first year in Citrus Heights, holding their grand opening just before the first round of state pandemic shutdown orders.

further purchases.

The 8,570 square-foot restaurant, built in 1978 along what was Citrus Heights restaurant row on Sunrise Boulevard, was the site of the Peppermill Restaurant and Lounge and later became a Logan's Roadhouse location before becoming Boston's.

Former restaurant staff who were seen entering the premises on Tuesday, November 7th who were willing to speak publicly, especially thanked customers for their loyalty and support, but referred further comment concerning the reasons for the restaurant's

closure directly to the owner.

Tractor trailers were seen loading restaurant equipment and furnishings throughout the past week.

The shuttered Boston's Pizza and Sports Bar sits just adjacent to the shuttered former Marie Callendar's Restaurant and Bakery on Sunrise Boulevard.

While more than 500 businesses in Citrus Heights received millions in forgivable loans from the well-known Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) during pandemic-related shutdowns last year, 19 local restaurants were lucky enough this year to have their applications approved for new funding allocated to restaurants in the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan.

A total of \$28.6 billion was allocated to the American Rescue Plan's "Restaurant Revitalization Fund," of which \$5.7 billion went to restaurants in California and \$4.85 million of that went to restaurants in Citrus Heights. Cal Restaurants (Boston's Pizza) received a \$651,177 grant from the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

"Shutdown has affected us severely and we struggled throughout the year with all the closures," Gill said in an earlier interview. "We had just opened

"We had just opened about six weeks before (the) pandemic hit and had trained our team, (only) to end up losing several team members and (then) rehiring and training again several times throughout the year," Gill had said. ★

Winterdance Celtic Christmas Celebration

Stuart Mason Music News Release

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - A joyful and cherished holiday tradition will return this year, as the 17th Annual Winterdance Celtic Christmas Celebration once again crisscrosses the Golden State for the Yuletide season. Over the years, previous iterations of the show have highlighted Scottish bagpipes and Swedish polskas, but this year the show will spotlight the mandolin and banjo skills of young prodigy Tyler Weed. The band will include his father John Weed on fiddle, Stuart Mason on guitar and bouzouki, Amelia Hogan on vocals and bodhran, and Marisa Gilman once again on Irish dance. This will be a fun and lively evening full of holiday music and youthful energy, led by two veteran members of the west coast Celtic music scene.

John Weed and Stuart Mason have toured and recorded together for

Event Details

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Gen. Admission \$30 adv./\$35 Door

Children (13 and under) \$20 adv./\$25 door

7:00 p.m. (doors open 6:15)

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

2140 Mission Blvd.

Carmichael, CA 95608



John Weed, Tyler Weed, and Stuart Mason. Photo courtesy of

dozens of years as 2/3 of the highly regarded Celtic band Molly's Revenge, as well as New World String Project, Little Black Train, and other ensembles. Amelia Hogan is an impeccably authentic singer of Celtic music, and her heart comes through in honeyed tones on Irish, Scottish, British, and American-styled vocals. Tyler Weed was raised in a musical family, hearing his mother and father playing fiddle since birth. He was taught guitar and banjo licks from "Uncle" Stuart

Mason since his first days strumming a guitar. Marisa Gilman will bring her lively brand of traditional Irish dance to the show, as in previous years.



Amelia Hogan. Photo courtesy of Stuart Mason



Stuart Mason

HR | Payroll | Benefits



6 • AMERICAN RIVER **MESSENGER DECEMBER 8, 2023**

Local United Way Takes on Sacramento Housing Crisis

Kristin Thébaud Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - United Way California Capital Region is now directly addressing Sacramento's housing crisis with the formation of its new Community Support Services department that will include housing navigation services through the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal program (CalAIM) for people on Medi-Cal who are unhoused or at risk of losing housing.

"Our local United Way has always focused on our community's biggest needs, and currently the housing predicament we are in is so great that we know we have to do our part to help those impacted by rising rent costs and increased risks of being unhoused," said Dr. Dawnté Early, President and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. "We are investing in our families and utilizing this program as another tool in our box, ensuring those who are unhoused, or at risk of being unhoused, and on Medi-Cal, can get the help and resources they need to find or maintain housing."

United Way's housing navigation program works with local individuals and families currently unhoused or at risk of being unhoused to help them find housing, receive deposit assistance and sustain their housing. Through referrals, the program's housing navigator works with each eligible client to identify barriers and housing needs, find housing options, assist in the application process, and obtain assistance for move-in costs such as security deposits, first and last month's rent, utility deposits and medically necessary aids. Once suitable housing is determined, United Way works with newly housed clients to identify the root causes of them being unhoused or at risk of being unhoused, and then addresses their needs and goals to maintain stable housing, including health care, education, substance use treatment, financial literacy or counseling services.

"United Way is proud to enter this important space helping Sacramento residents embark on a path of sustainable housing," Early said. "We understand that to eliminate poverty, education is key to building a stronger, healthier and more compassionate Capital Region. For kids to excel in school, they cannot be worried about where they are going to sleep at night. That's why this investment in local families is important both in the fight to end this housing crisis and to build future opportunities for children to break the cycle of poverty."

Housing navigation program participants must live in Sacramento County, be unhoused or at risk of losing housing, and be a Medi-Cal member with Health Net, Molina Healthcare or Anthem Blue Cross. For more information or to make a referral, visit https://www.yourlocalunitedway.org/our-work/invest-in-families/ housing-navigation/.

Sacramento Kings and SMF **Announce Historic Partnership**

Sacramento County Department of Airports News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Kings and Sacramento International Airport (SMF) announced a groundbreaking partnership, marking one of the first formal partnerships between a U.S. airport and an NBA franchise. Over the next three seasons, SMF will serve as the official airport partner of the Sacramento Kings.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Sacramento International Airport and provide fans and travelers exclusive touch points to the Kings," said Sacramento Kings President of Business Operations John Rinehart. "Through unique co-branded experiences, we will magnify what it means to be Sacramento Proud while creating impactful moments for all who travel to and from the airport."

"SMF has proudly served as the departure point for Kings road games for many years, so this partnership represents an evolution for our respective teams," said Sacramento County Department of Airports Director Cindy Nichol. "This collaboration provides us an opportunity to work with one of the most creative marketing teams in the NBA."

This partnership holds importance for the Sacramento community as it represents a fusion of two influential entities dedicated to enhancing the local experience. The historic collaboration opens doors to innovative initiatives that will directly benefit the local population,

allowing them to engage with their favorite basketball team in unique and exciting ways including opportunities to win exclusive Kings prizes, interact with Kings personalities at select events at the airport and view franchise memorabilia. From exciting gameday activations to social media content and community-driven programs, this partnership aims to generate lasting memories for fans while fostering a strong sense of unity and pride among Sacramento residents.

Beyond the local impact, this collaboration also marks a significant milestone in the realm of sports partnerships in California showcasing the innovative spirit of both SMF and the Sacramento Kings. By pioneering this unique partnership, SMF and the Kings are not only breaking new ground in the state but also inspiring other organizations to explore unconventional collaborations that can enrich communities and create memorable experiences for fans.

As this partnership unfolds over the next three seasons, SMF and the Sacramento Kings are committed to delivering unparalleled experiences, both within the airport premises, Golden 1 Center and throughout the Sacramento region. Together, they are set to redefine the way communities interact with sports and travel, setting a new standard for partnerships that prioritize community engagement, creativity, and shared enthusiasm. Sacramento can look forward to a bright future, filled with exciting events, innovative initiatives, and a sense of camaraderie.

OH NO! Is that really happening? Read the public notices in our newspaper or on our website to learn more about: Government meetings, bids & contracts Foreclosures Unclaimed property School Board issues Elections/Polling places, initiative petitions Tax assessments/proposals

Social Security Matters We're Planning to Claim at 62; What Do We Need to Know?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My wife (born May 1962) and I (born April 1963) are retired and will soon be looking to start collecting our Social Security as we each hit 62. As this is new to us, I'm wondering what things we may need to be aware of or consider as we get closer to her 62 birthday in May. Any advice or information will be appreciated! Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning: If you and your wife are both retired from working and have decided to start your (reduced) Social Security as soon as you are eligible at age 62, then there is nothing you need to do in advance of applying. The Social Security retirement benefit amount for each of you will be determined by your individual lifetime earnings record and your age when you claim. If either of you will be eligible for a spousal boost from the other, that will be automatically applied when both of you are collecting.

If your wife plans to claim her Social Security as soon as she is eligible, she should apply for her benefits about 3 months in advance and choose the option on the application which states "I want benefits beginning with the earliest possible month and will accept an age-related reduction." For information, an applicant must be 62 for an entire month to get benefits, so your wife's first month of eligibility will be June 2024. Social Security deals only in whole months and pays benefits in the month following the month earned; so if your wife's birthday is between the 11th and 20th of the month her first Social Security payment will be received in her bank account on the third Wednesday of July. All subsequent payments will be on that same schedule. Then, when it's time for you to claim, you should follow the same process as your wife and, if either of you is entitled to a higher amount as a spouse, it will be automatically applied when your benefits later start.

Applying for benefits is a relatively simple process if done online at www. ssa.gov/apply. Note that to apply online your wife will need to first create her personal "my Social Security" account, which is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. To prepare for applying later, you can also create your personal online account now (it's required to apply online), at which you will see what your estimated benefit will be at different ages. Of course, your wife first (and later you) can also call Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 to request an appointment to apply for SS retirement benefits in person. Applications which are not done online are usually taken over the phone vs. requiring a visit to your local Social Security office, but applying online is, by far, the most efficient method (you can link to the application process from

your online account). One important thing to be aware of: By claiming at age 62, the monthly payment for each of you will be 70% of what it would be at your full retirement age (FRA) and that is a permanent reduction. If you expect at least average longevity - about 84 for you and 87 for your wife - and if it is financially feasible, then waiting longer to claim would yield a higher monthly amount as well as the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. For those with an FRA of 67, SS retirement benefits claimed at FRA are 30% higher than at 62 and, if claimed at 70 are 75% more than at 62. And, although the decision on when to claim is always personal, a married couple should also evaluate their joint needs when deciding.

One final word of caution: although you and your wife are now retired from working, be aware that if you claim SS benefits before your FRA and return to work, Social Security has an earnings test which limits how much you can earn before some benefits are taken away. The earnings test lasts until you reach your full retirement age.

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

Opening of Pancho Villa BBQ



The front of Pancho Villa BBQ with "COMING SOON" sign.

By Thomas J. Sullivan

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The opening date of Pancho Villa BBQ at 6716 Madison Ave. in Fair Oaks has been moved back to early 2024, its owners say, as they wait for final renovations to be finished and inspections and necessary permits to be fully approved by Sacramento County.

Husband and wife Luis and Tammy Chavez, and co-partner Alberto Hernandez, are owners of Pancho Villa BBQ and Catering, a popular mobile food truck which serves the greater Sacramento and Placer counties, and they have earned a well-deserved following for their smoked American BBQ with a hint of Mexican fusion cuisine.

"We're very much excited to welcome our customers to the restaurant and we

appreciate their support and their patience as we move closer to doing so," she said. The trio had hoped to open their new 4,400-square-foot restaurant in what was once a Godfather's Pizza restaurant in the

Madison Village Plaza, near the corner of Dewey Drive and Madison Ave., at 6716 Madison Ave. this fall.

An outside smoker building has been

built and exterior signage announces the restaurant "coming soon." While construction continues, Pancho Villa BBQ has launched a customer rewards program on its Facebook page and continues to book catering events

throughout the area, Chavez said. Chavez said the restaurant's menu is still in the process of being finalized, but center stage will be its generous portions of baby back ribs in its own BBQ sauce and tri-tip which it is best known for.

"Our philosophy is simple, make great food and serve it well," she said.

The new restaurant will have a capacity of 180 patrons, and will start with an initial kitchen staff of 10. Family members have helped with much of the interior décor now in place in its large dining room, Chavez said.

Pancho Villa BBQ, a member of both the Citrus Heights and Fair Oaks Chambers of commerce has earned first place honors for food truck of the year in Fair Oaks in 2022. The truck has also been featured on Fox40 television and Good Day Sacramento. The public is invited to continue to fol-

low Pancho Villa BBQ on social media and on the web at panchovillabbq.com where news of its opening date will be announced, Chavez said.

Call or text for menus or event locations: 916-510-9868, or visit: PanchoVillaBBQTruck@icloud.com. ★

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Employment

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Office Administration — We are seeking a full-time administrative support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Office Manager. Work hours are between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office management experience is required.

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.

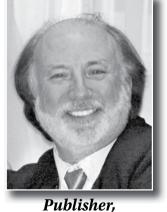
City Reporter — We are seeking a part-time City Reporter for our newspaper group. This position may be assigned to work in the Carmichael office or another area office and works directly with the Editor. Work hours are flexible depending on assignments. Previous reporting experience is required.

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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.

To find out more or to apply: Email your questions or resume to Publisher@MPG8.com



Paul V. Scholl

American River Messenger is a member of Messenger **Publishing Group**

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: Publisher@mpg8.com.

Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

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by Gary Kopervas

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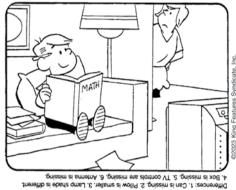
LIE DOWN. YOU'RE)





HOCUS-FOCUS HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



by Dave T. Phipps



"Now get back out there and fight for your honor, your school and my job!

35

40

48



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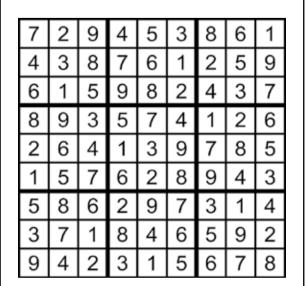
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"____Frutti"
40. Cream-filled treat
41. *Number of candles

in kinara 43. Mountain goat

pawing of each little

50. "Cheers" regular 52. *Max to #57 Across

defeat

sport 60. *Santa chute

64. Water border 65. "What?" 67. D in LED

73. Crows' homes

72. Joaquin Phoenix' 2013 movie

DOWN

1. Dick's and Jane's dog 2. Famous Amos 3. Cormac McCarthy's "The

6. Deodorant target

10. Blood tunnel

15. Romp around

22. Med school grad

Fogg 25. *Popular traditional

27. Impostor

32. Vegas' main drag

33. Coach-and-four 34. *Number of days in Hanukkah

command

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1. Bag holder

6. P in mpa 9. Eye part

13. Dog

15. *Eggnog ingredient 16. Hold the floor Mahal

18. Anti-elderly one 19. *Breaking news, to

a caroler 21. *Coming, in Latin

39. Little Richard's

terrain 44. *"Prancing and

hoof," e.g. 46. Carpenter's joint

47. Drug-induced state 48. Make lovable

53. Overwhelming

55. Thailand native 57. *Dr. Seuss' spoil-

68. Carved 69. Stars and Stripes

70. Astronomer _

Hubble 71. Hitler's sidekick

4. Join the cast of (2 words)
5. Carbolic acid

7. Pitcher's stat

8. Indian prince 9. More than suggest

11. 90 degrees, on compass 12. Invoice qty.

20. Key ___ on a movie

24. Passepartout to Phileas

holiday entree 26. Home run hero

29. Prompted 31. "That hurts!"

36. Muscle quality 38. Word processor



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42. *Like Santa's pole 45. Repaired, as in socks 49. Mythical giant bird 51. Unmarried woman,

archaic 54. Affirmative interjection 56. What timidest and polyimide have in common 57. Clarified butter

58. Theater seat arrangement 59. Wraths 60. Burn to a crisp

61. "_____ your chance...," 62. Make changes 63. Yearnings 64. "Be quiet!"

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9



Be Gentle, He's Moving in the Right Direction

Dear Dave.

We're following your Baby Steps plan, and we've paid off all our credit cards. But when I talked to my husband the other day about cutting up the cards and closing the accounts, he said he would rather keep the accounts open, and the cards locked away in a drawer for use as an emergency fund. He says this will help us have an emergency fund in place quicker than saving for one. I think there's more behind his reasoning, though. He grew up in a very poor family, and I wonder if he's not afraid of somehow ending up in that kind of situation again. What can I do to convince him to follow your advice?

- Ramona

Dave Ramsey Says

Dear Ramona,

I think you're a very per-

ceptive lady. You said your husband grew up in poverty, right? So, what I'm hearing is the cards represent almost a security blanket for him-a financial security blanket. I get that, but here's the thing. If you had a fully funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses sitting in the bank, I'm talking about hard cold cash, you'd have the security of knowing that the expense of a new air conditioning unit or transmission for the car would only be a minor inconvenience. And, you'd be able to cover it easily without going back into debt.

Instead of actively trying to convince him of something, a better route might be to sit down together and talk through the whole thing. Explain to him you think you know why he feels the way he does, and that it's understandable. Then, ask him if there's a reasonable amount you two could have in the bank that would help him

stop worrying. Discuss it, agree on an amount and then agree to cut the cards up and close the accounts when you reach that figure. Remind him, too, you'd still have your debit cards in hand in the event of an emergency.

Above all, Ramona, make sure you work together. Be patient and understanding. If he has recognized the wisdom of getting rid of debt and taking control of your finances, he's moving in the right direction!

– 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.

FBI Warns of Charity Scams in Israel, HAMAS Conflict

FBI News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Sacramento Field Office is warning the public that criminals are soliciting donations during the Israel-HAMAS conflict. These charity scams victimize both well-meaning, local communities, and the vulnerable populations impacted by life-changing catastrophes.

Scams are especially prevalent during times of increased conflict such as war, natural disasters, or epidemics. Criminals often use these crises as opportunities to exploit individuals seeking to support humanitarian efforts. Perpetrators claim to be associated with established charities or creators of new charities associated with emergent conflicts.

Local communities may be targeted by individuals claiming to collect funds for victimized families while using the donations for their own personal gain or in support of domestic or international criminal enterprises.

Foreign terrorist organizations often establish fake charities using social media platforms to misdirect unwitting donors to subsidize their operations. Solicitations are then coordinated via social media posts, e-mail, cold calls, or crowdfunding website requests.

To avoid becoming a victim:

Approach all unsolicited communication including direct messages, calls, and e-mails with suspicion;

Visit the official website of a charitable entity directly to obtain contact information rather than clicking on links in e-mails or assuming the unsolicited call is

Thoroughly research new charities online and verify phone numbers or e-mail addresses before donating. Be sure the named charity is not associated with scams and uses funds as they claim;

from an official source;

Ensure that you are using the official website of a well-known charity. Criminals may create look-alike, "spoofed" websites with URLs similar in appearance to those of known organizations; Visit the California Attorney General's

Charitable Registry Search tool to ensure a charity is registered in the State of California; Visit the IRS Tax Exempt Organization

Search to see if a charity donation to the organization is tax deductible; Never pay by cash, gift card, wire trans-

fer, or cryptocurrency. Each of these forms of payment are difficult or impossible to track and reverse.

The FBI urges the public to report these fraudulent or suspicious activities to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center at IC3.gov. The public may also call their local FBI field office or resident agency. ★

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DECEMBER 8, 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







OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY: Sorry NO RAINCHECKS, PRICES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 06 - DECEMBER 12, 2023.

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