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Pocket News

VOL 32 • ISSUE 23 Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years DECEMBER 8, 2023

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The Pocket Canal Holiday Lights Are Officially Illuminated!



Councilmember Rick Jennings and attendees enjoy the lights. Photos courtesy Devin Lavelle

Submitted by the Office of Councilmember Rick Jennings, II
SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Witnessing

the community come together to cherish this special moment during the holiday season truly warmed my heart. A heartfelt thank you extends to those who played pivotal roles in making this magic happen – Devin Lavelle, former Parks Commissioner and Will Cannady, Community Organizer. Gratitude also flows to each sponsor who generously supported this event and to every individual who dedicated
Continued on Page 2

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Women's Empowerment to Hold Holiday Gift Drive for Unhoused Women and Children

By Kristin Thébaud, Thébaud Communications

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Local residents can provide joy and winter items to Sacramento women and children who have experienced homelessness by contributing to Women's Empowerment's annual Holiday Gift Drive. The non-profit is seeking winter hats, socks and gloves for all ages from infant to adult, as well as teen gifts, \$25 Target and Walmart gift cards, holiday candy, and empty medium and large gift bags. For those who prefer to make a financial donation, the average cost of a gift package is \$40, but any amount is helpful. Women's Empowerment especially needs gift cards, gifts for teens, and winter hats for teens and adults. Items are needed at Women's Empowerment, 1590 North A Street in Sacramento, by Dec. 11. For more information, visit www.womens-empowerment.org.
"The holidays can be especially challenging for the women and children we serve who are working to overcome homelessness," said Lisa Culp, executive director, Women's Empowerment. "We want the women and children in our program to experience joy this holiday season, as well as warmth in the face of a cold, wet winter. Our annual Holiday Gift Drive not only gives people the chance to provide care and hope for those who have been unhoused, it tells each woman and child in our program that they are important to their community."
Items will be distributed to families at Women's Empowerment's upcoming Holiday Craft Party in mid-December where women and children will create gifts for family and friends. At the event, mothers also will have the opportunity to choose
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We're Talking Chocolate



Soroptimist Sells See's for the Holidays Scholarship recipients and club presenters. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist See's Candy

Soroptimist See's Candy News Release
SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - What are the holidays without something

sweet – especially when you're talking chocolate? And when you buy the confectionary, you are supporting a good cause. Since 2006, Soroptimist International of Sacramento has been selling See's candy during the month of December to raise money for its programs that provide women and girls with access to education and training so they can be economically independent. This year the
Continued on Page 3

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The Pocket Canal Holiday Lights Are Officially Illuminated!



Attendees gather around the gazebo.



Councilmember Rick Jennings and firefighters from Station 11 take a picture with Santa.

Continued from page 1
their time to volunteer and adorn the canal with lights. Your collective efforts have made this festive celebration a radiant success! ★



Councilmember Rick Jennings and Santa.



By V. G. Harris

Welcome to the first ever edition of Kings Korner.

For those of you faithful sports fans, and in particular Sacramento Kings fans who still find eating breakfast on a Sunday morning with a paper in your hand a salubrious experience, I welcome you one and all.

Can it be just seven short years since the Kings were rescued from the Siberia called Seattle, and placed inexorably in the fabulous confines of technical wonder, Golden 1 Center?

True, we suffered through several losing seasons and more than one questionable draft choice, but memories of past bad experiences fade quickly when your team transforms into a kaleidoscope of positivity.

Last season's 48 wins did more than just get our attention. It ignited an energy that has awakened the base and brought with it new fans that had only an anemic interest in the past.

Recent years brought new faces and crowd favorites such as De'Aaron Fox, Malik Monk, Keegan Murray, and the acquisition of All-Star Domantas Sabonis was the missing piece the Kings have been looking for, for years. Trading fan favorite Tyrese Haliburton for Domantas Sabonis was controversial, and at the time shocking for many Kings fans, but leading the NBA in rebounds and double-double's convinced many that the organization had finally made a trade that would elevate the Kings to the next

Kings Korner

level.

Whether your favorite player is Domantas Sabonis, De'Aaron Fox, or Sasha Vezenkov, or Davion Mitchell, there is plenty to be happy about with the team we have today.

In years gone by, we would be jumping for joy with a 9-6 record, but Kings fans know with a little luck it could easily be 12-3. Losing back-to-back games in both Houston and New Orleans wasn't on anyone's radar, and if Clay Thompson hadn't hit a last second bucket our Kings record would be the envy of the league.

I remember as a young Kings fan in 1989 feeling lucky just to get a ticket. Those hopeful of becoming a season ticket holder could expect to wait 3-5 years before such an opportunity would arise.

For the past 20 years season tickets have been in abundance, but no more. The number of wins accumulated this year will no doubt correlate with the depth of the waiting list for season tickets, and many believe the Kings could surpass the 50-win mark for the first time in over 20 years.

Yes, Kings fans, it's fun again to take your family or sweetheart to a game, and with the advent of the high-tempo, high-scoring game the Kings play today, it's by far the hottest ticket in town.

Mike Brown in his first full season of coaching with the Kings brought a winning style of basketball, and by season's end the Kings had amassed the highest point total in the entire NBA.

Sending not one, but two All-Stars to the All-Star game was a highlight of last year's season, and it wouldn't surprise anyone if De'Aaron Fox and Domantas Sabonis did it again.

There remains question marks though, and we will sort them out as the season progresses.

Mike Brown's use of his bench has had many scratching their heads, as crowd favorite Davion Mitchell rode the pine for more than one game before finding himself in the rotation again. Davion, while a streaky scorer, is perhaps the most dependable defensive player on the team, and without a doubt stirs the crowd whenever he enters the game.

Keegan Murray has struggled at times this season to find a consistent 3-point shot, but coach Brown remains committed to Keegan, and it appears to have had a positive effect on his defensive play as well.

De'Aaron Fox may go down as the greatest first-round draft choice in the history of the Kings before his playing days are over, but for the moment we will just be consistently amazed at his lightning speed and acrobatic shot making! Truly a gem, De'Aaron has become an All-Star right before our eyes, and many fans believed his All-Star appearance last season was overdue.

Gear up Kings fans! This is going to be a wild ride, and supplanting the Golden State Warriors as the Northern California #1 team is the first test we will have to face.

If you've enjoyed the first edition of Kings Korner, let me know at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

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Women’s Empowerment to Hold Holiday Gift Drive for Unhoused Women and Children



Women’s Empowerment graduates create gifts for their loved ones at last year’s Holiday Craft Party where they received gifts from the nonprofit’s Holiday Gift Drive. Women’s Empowerment is now seeking items for its 2023 Holiday Gift Drive. Photo courtesy of Thébaud Communications

Continued from Page 1
gifts for their children, thanks to a toy drive being held by California State Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, District 6.

“At Women’s Empowerment, we believe there is dignity in giving,” Culp said. “So often unhoused women and children do not have the resources to give gifts to their loved ones. We are grateful that this community helps us ensure they

have that joyful and proud experience of giving.”

Women’s Empowerment provides a two-month employment-readiness and empowerment program, paid job training, childcare and support services so women and their children can break the generational cycle of homelessness. Women’s Empowerment offers the most comprehensive job-readiness program in the Sacramento area designed specifically

for women experiencing homelessness and their children. Last year, 121 graduates secured employment or enrolled in paid training or education. Since 2001, 1,837 women have graduated from the program with their 3,894 children. Women’s Empowerment is funded through private donations from the community and grants. To make a donation: Womens-Empowerment.org. ★

We’re Talking Chocolate

Soroptimist Sells See’s for the Holidays

Continued from Page 1
club’s temporary “store” is located at Lake Crest Village at Florin Road and Greenhaven Drive from December 1 through the 24th.

Soroptimist programs include one that gave out \$12,000 this year to low-income women who are the economic heads of their household. The program called “Live Your Dream” allows them to continue their education or training so they can improve their economic situation through higher paying jobs. In addition, Soroptimist awarded more than \$18,000 in college scholarships to deserving young women.

The “Dream It, Be It” program trains high school girls in achieving self-confidence and preparing for a career. The “Money Matters” program teaches high school girls and young women personal financial literacy. Many of the women Soroptimist supports have survived domestic violence, sex trafficking or sexual assault.

Soroptimist International of Sacramento, which is part of a global federation of volunteer clubs, has been serving this community since 1923. It is the fourth oldest surviving club in the world. The first Soroptimist club was founded in the Bay Area in 1921. That’s 100 years of service locally and around the world.

As for your See’s candy purchase, it will be the same retail price offered at the See’s stores. However, during December you can buy from Soroptimist volunteers who are helping women and girls achieve a brighter future. ★



Representing the club at the Women’s Commission’s Mother’s Day Celebration. Photos courtesy of Soroptimist See’s Candy



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Sheriff Jim Cooper’s Open Letter Regarding Retail Theft and the CRA

Dear Constituents,

The California Retailers Association (CRA) has made several misleading and inconsistent statements regarding a pending ballot initiative to address California’s retail theft crisis.

CLAIM: On August 22, 2023, the CRA president, joined prosecutors in filing a ballot measure to address retail theft. Details of the proposed ballot measure can be found at <https://www.action.goldenstatecommunities.com/pages/prop47>



The CRA president was an officer of the committee supporting the ballot measure and has repeatedly stated her support for this initiative. As recently as November 10, 2023, she told local media that she has been working “so hard” to fix Proposition 47 and put this initiative on the ballot.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRciIB5JLsQ>

FACT: In direct contradiction of this claim, in a November 15th Sacramento Bee article, the CRA president stated, “passing a ballot initiative isn’t the solution,” suggesting that the crisis can be cured by simply making retail theft misdemeanors subject to a mandatory appearance in court.

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/crime/article281796698.html>

Anyone with experience in this realm should know that a misdemeanor approach will solve nothing. Existing law already requires individuals to appear in court when cited or arrested for misdemeanor crimes. In fact, thousands

of individuals in jurisdictions across California fail to appear on misdemeanor crimes following the issuance of a citation, arrest, or even court order. In Sacramento County alone, we have over 33,000 outstanding misdemeanor warrants. The volume of misdemeanor warrants issued for those who fail to appear is enormous and already unmanageable for law enforcement.

As a result of Proposition 47 (“Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act”), individuals who repeatedly commit theft and drug crimes suffer no consequences. People with drug and mental health issues, therefore, have no incentive to get treatment. Proposition 47 clearly states that any effort to increase penalties related to theft or drug crimes requires voter approval.

<https://repository.uclawsf.edu/cgi/view>

[content.cgi?article=2328&context=ca_ballot_props](https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/crime/article281796698.html)

Per Proposition 47, the legislature has no power to make any meaningful change to address the retail theft crisis California faces. Given the extraordinary losses suffered by the retail industry and the significant impact it has on the consumer, I express my deepest concerns about California Retail Association President Rachel Michelin’s willingness to misrepresent to the public the facts on these critical matters.

While I still have my reservations because of their past history, I am hopeful we can find some common ground with the big box retailers and work together to resolve the crisis of retail theft.

Jim Cooper
Sacramento County Sheriff
★

Lisa McCauley



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Canvassers Needed for the 2024 Point-in-Time Count

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) announced on Monday, December 4, 2023, that the evenings of Wednesday, January 24 and Thursday, January 25 have been selected for Sacramento’s 2024 Point in Time Count (PIT). SSF is seeking hundreds of volunteers to help with what will be the most wide-ranging community effort to date to determine the number of people experiencing homelessness in the Sacramento region.

The event is intended to provide a comprehensive estimate of the total number of individuals and families living outdoors and in places not intended for human habitation on a single night. SSF will release the results in a report in spring 2024. PIT data enables community leaders to better understand homelessness, design more effective policies and programs, and measure progress toward reducing and ending homelessness.

The PIT is part of a nationwide effort. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to do a census to qualify for annual federal homelessness response dollars. In 2022, the Sacramento community received \$30.5 million

in HUD Continuum of Care funding, \$29 million of which was dedicated to maintaining permanent housing programs and directly served 1,271 households.

More than 500 volunteers participated in the last PIT count in February 2022. It concluded that an estimated 9,278 individuals experienced homelessness on a single night. Find the full report on Sacramento Steps Forward website.

“The PIT is a huge community-wide effort that gives people a chance to make a meaningful contribution toward better understanding where we are and is a great way to contribute toward addressing and ultimately ending homelessness,” said Lisa Bates, Chief Executive Officer of SSF.

To register as a volunteer, visit the volunteer portal at <https://sacramento24.pointintime.info/>

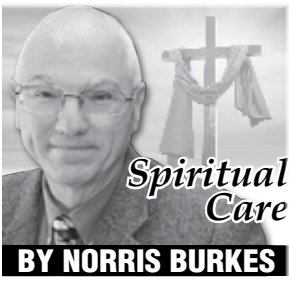
To learn more about volunteering and the purpose of the PIT, read the FAQs.

The PIT’s main deployment center will be at Sacramento State’s Harper Alumni Center. Several other satellite locations will operate in the region. Canvassers will fan out to predetermined census tracts across the Sacramento region. The 2024 PIT will also include more intensive coverage

of known homelessness locations along the American River Parkway.

Volunteer canvassers will be able to utilize a new “Counting Us” mobile application, a HUD approved method of counting used in many cities and counties across the U.S. The application replaces previously used apps and paper-based data collection methods. The app, developed by Simtech Solutions, Inc. – which is joining forces with SSF this year as the researcher selected for the PIT Count – will support efficient canvassing by volunteers.

To canvass, a volunteer must be at least 18 years old, be willing to travel by foot or car to predetermined locations, and be willing to use their personal smartphone and flashlight. Additional volunteers are also needed for a variety of support functions at the deployment centers. Volunteers are required to complete a volunteer training session. Two live training sessions will be offered via Zoom, on Wednesday, January 10 and Wednesday, January 17, both from 5 to 6:30 PM. For those unable to attend a live session, there is a new recorded training option with a short quiz to assure accountability and comprehension. The live training is highly recommended for new PIT volunteers. ★



What Is Your Reason for Giving This Season?

in many requests inspires us to give. In 2021 they generated \$22.6M in revenue.

5. Let’s give without being asked. This sounds like a clean motive but it’s low on the ladder because the giver may be doing it to gain attention. On one hand, it’s the kind of giving we might do when we say we pick up the dinner check. On the positive side, it’s the kind of giving we do when a neighbor needs our assistance.

4. We should give to those we don’t know, but they should know who we are. A lot of us achieve this when we give to the homeless woman at the intersection. It’s a kind act, but there’s no way to avoid making the recipient feel less-than.

3. I like to give anonymously but I need to know who’s getting it. This may seem like a high form of giving, but not quite. Maimonides cautions that since “subconsciously, the giver might gain a pleasure and a sense of power over the recipient, this detracts from his act.”

2. I like to give anonymously and don’t want anyone to know This one is tricky, but the best modern-day example is the Salvation Army Kettle. Your donation helps the poor, but you will never know who they are, and they will never know who you are. You have no say in where the money goes and cannot take it back. And the highest degree of charity motive on Maimonides list is...

1.Let’s form a business partnership with the poor. “What?” you ask. “Business is not charity!” The rabbi considered this the highest charitable form because it “strengthens the hand of the poor through either a gift or an interest-free loan.” Surprisingly, Maimonides considered the loan better than an outright gift “since the poor are not shamed.”

This charity is best illustrated in the saying, “Give a person a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him to fish and he eats for a lifetime.” ★

It’s this charitable approach that has inspired me to proudly promote Chispa Project in this column for the past eight years. Chispa establishes libraries in Honduran elementary schools with the help of Honduran teachers, parents and students who will organize, plan and monitor the libraries.

Each Honduran community is asked to raise a symbolic portion of the costs (less than 4% of the total project). In this way Maimonides highest principle is applied and the schools establish ownership, pride, and better sustainability of the library.

“Pure” charity is about improving the lives of others, not our own. Yet still I think even Maimonides would have to admit that sometimes we need to do something to feel better. Regardless of our motive, someone is helped.

In any case none of us have a pure heart, so thankfully most charities are able to help those in need regardless of our motive to give.

Maimonides’ full writing is available at <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/maimonides-ladder-of-tzedakah/>

If you will start a monthly donation to Chispa or give a onetime donation of more than \$100, I will send you a free book from the list at www.thechaplain.net

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Assist the Coroner in ID’ing Unidentified Man

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Coroner’s Office is seeking the public’s assistance in identifying an unidentified man.

On June 25, 2022, the decedent was found deceased in the bathroom at River Bend Park, located at 2300 Rod Beaudry Drive in the city of Rancho Cordova. The decedent was not known to the Rangers on scene. The cause of death was due to natural causes.

The decedent’s age is estimated to be 45-60 years of age. He appears to be Hispanic. His height and weight are 198 pounds and 67 inches tall. He has brown eyes. He has short dark brown hair: it appears wavy/curly and is peppered (gray). There are no identifying marks, scars, or tattoos on the body. The decedent was likely unhoused.

The decedent was using the name Marvin Williams Sanchez-Lopez and Hector Guzman with various dates of birth associated with both names. His birthplace is listed as Mexico and Texas. The Sacramento County Coroner has been unable to determine his true identity.

If you have any information as to the identity of this person, please contact the Sacramento County Coroner’s Office at 916-874-9320, or via email at DeputyCoroner@sac-county.gov. ★



A sketch of the unidentified man. Image courtesy of Sacramento County Coroner’s Office

Sacramento County

Coroner’s Office

916-874-9320

DeputyCoroner@sac-county.gov

Ron Nakano

Broker Associate

916-396-4430

CalDRE# 00793682

Ron.Nakano@cbtnorcal.com

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www.recsac.org

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Bible Study & Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

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www.greenhavenlutheran.org

Creating Families Through Adoption

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - It took a little effort, but 4-year-old Elias signed his own name on his adoption papers. During the short and cheerful proceeding, the judge defined adoption as a choice to be a family, a lifelong agreement to treat them as your own natural-born child. Finding the adoption to be in Elias’ best interest, the court declared him and his grandmother, Kimberly McCloskey, as a parent and child under the law. “Today is a great day,” McCloskey said.

Adoption Day
Court is not usually a place for young children, let alone a courthouse full of them. But on Saturday, November 4, 29 families finalized the adoptions of 34 children at the William R. Ridgeway Family Relation Courthouse. Volunteers—including nonprofits and government agencies, judges and court staff – made the day fun, colorful and memorable for children and their new official families with balloons, sweets, toys and books, a police car and firetruck.

Family, foster care and adoption
The adoption process started for McCloskey a year ago when her daughter wasn’t able to care for Elias and he ended up in foster care. Wanting to provide a stable home and keep him with their family, she stepped up and asked to adopt her grandson, who she describes as smart and loving.



Kimberly McCloskey and Elias. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Kimberly McCloskey and Elias
“I just wanted him to stay in the family, I wasn’t sure if [his foster family] was going to allow for me to continue to see him, and I didn’t want him out of my life,” she says. “I came forward and said that I wanted to adopt him.”

While McCloskey admits that it can be tough dealing with and advocating for yourself in the court system, she did get support from social workers who helped guide her through the process, which included becoming a certified foster parent, home interviews, fingerprinting and foster parenting classes.

“The goal of permanency is to provide a child the opportunity to develop secure attachments which can promote more positive educational and social outcomes, and promote a child’s optimal physical and emotional growth and health overall,” says Melissa Lloyd, Sacramento County’s Deputy Director of Child Protective Services. “All children deserve to have a family and strong connections for life.”

Supporting children and families
While National Adoption Day is officially November 18, Sacramento County celebrated Adoption Day early so new families can enjoy

their first official November holidays together. Several community organizations also took part to make the day special, including: Sacramento Fire Department; Sacramento County Library; Sacramento Sheriff Department Youth Services; Department of Child and Family Adult Services; Court Appointed Special Advocates of Sacramento; Wayfinders Family Services; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

“Adoption Day brings national attention to the significant number of children and youth who remain in foster care awaiting their forever home,” Sacramento Superior Court’s Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Dena Coggins said in a statement. “Our last National Adoption Day event occurred in 2019 and was extremely successful. We are excited to bring this wonderful event back to Sacramento County.”

For more information on foster care and adoption in Sacramento County, contact the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services at dfas.saccounty.gov or call 916-875-5543 for information on becoming a resource family. For more information on National Adoption Day, visit <https://www.national-adoptionday.org/>. ★

Off-Duty Deputy Arrested for DUI

Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The morning of November 17, 2023, at approximately 2 a.m., a deputy with the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office was arrested by the Sacramento Police Department for suspicion of drunk driving near the 6400 block of South Land Park Drive. The deputy was driving

an unmarked County vehicle but was not on duty, in uniform, or working in any capacity. The deputy has been placed on administrative leave pending a thorough internal and criminal investigation.

We take this matter very seriously and want to express our sincere apologies to the community. This is not who we are as the Sheriff’s Office or what we stand for. ★

Sacramento Area Doctor Charged with Distribution and Possession of Child Pornography

Sacramento FBI News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment on Thursday, November 30, 2023 against Khursheed Haider, 48, of Roseville, charging him with distribution of child pornography and possession of child pornography, U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced.

According to court documents, Haider, a Sacramento Area pulmonologist, used an application called Wire to post, distribute, and request child pornography that included videos and images of prepubescent boys and girls being sexually abused. After a search warrant was executed, agents discovered additional prepubescent child sexual abuse material on one or more of Haider’s electronic devices.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Alexis Klein is prosecuting the case.

If convicted of distribution of child pornography, Haider faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison, a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison, a lifetime of supervised release, restitution, and a \$250,000 fine. If convicted of possession of child pornography, Haider faces a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison, a lifetime of supervised release, restitution, and a \$250,000 fine. Any sentence, however, would be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of

variables. The charges are only allegations; the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys’ Offices and the Criminal Division’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute those who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.usdoj.gov/psc. Click on the “resources” tab for information about internet-safety education. ★

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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 from an official source;

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;

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 transfer, 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. ★

Discussion is Successful at First Racial Equity Summit

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On stage, Dr. Rohan Radhakrishna began his session at the first Sacramento County Racial Equity Summit at Sacramento State University by capturing the more than 300 attendees’ attention when he asked whether they had played the board game Monopoly.

As hands began to rise, he continued by asking everyone to imagine playing the game with a group of people for several hours. The game is heated, and most properties and utilities are already bought. Hotels and homes have taken over the board. However, nearby there are a couple of people who have been excluded; they were pushed away and not allowed to play, and now it’s late in the game.

“As you know, a couple of hours with compound interest really change how much capital you can accumulate and just how you are feeling showing up late in the game,” said Dr. Radhakrishna. “Well, that’s the reality of the playing field that we are dealing with. Except it is not a few hours of being excluded from the game; it is decades and even centuries.”

Verbal “woahs” could be heard in the moments between his sentences as the crowd made the connection between the board game and our current racial inequities.

He followed by acknowledging that Sacramento County’s Racial and Equity



From left to right the summit panel showcases: Ryan Curren Director of Housing, Land and Development at Race Forward; Dr. Walter Wilson CEO at Silicon Valley Minority Business Consortium Panelist; Dr. Sylvester Fadal Director of Personnel Services, Sacramento County; Dr. Mia Settles Tidwell Vice President for Inclusive Excellence, Sacramento State University; Nathan Blacksmith, MBA Chief Traditional Health Officer, Sacramento Native American Health Center’s Tribal Affiliation: Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate; and Dr. Olivia Kasirye Public Health Officer, Sacramento County. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Summit is about bringing County employees, community leaders, activists and residents together for two days to discuss these tough conversations. It’s a time to learn what the County and its partners are doing in the form of equity work and what still needs to be done in the future.

Over the course of the summit, participants broke out into four sessions, including “Environmental Justice Element – Creating an Equitable Sacramento County” and “Cultural Broker Program – Navigating the Child Welfare System and the Critical Need for Culturally Responsive Advocacy.” Here, participants could not only listen to subject-matter experts but also further the conversation with their own perspectives and questions.

“You started off the session talking about the deaths of George Floyd

and Stephon Carter. Prior to the deaths of those young men, I lost my son in 2017, 16 years old, to gun violence,” said one participant. “I’m wanting to know, has Sacramento County recognized that our children have post-traumatic stress disorder, and are we addressing that?”

After a first day of heavy conversations, County Executive, Ann Edwards began the final day of the inaugural event by thanking all those who have participated, shared and added to the discussions on this important occasion to advance equity work. Reminding everyone that while the County has made a good start, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

To watch the Racial Equity Summit keynote speech and opening sessions, visit the Metro14 website. Breakout sessions will be available soon. ★

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Mary Lynn Perry of DOVIA Nationally Recognized for Exemplary Leadership

DOVIA News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Mary Lynn Perry, Chair of the Board of Directors at Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA), Sacramento has received national recognition for exemplary leadership in volunteer engagement. Ms. Perry earned the Impact Award, presented in October of 2023 by the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement (AL!VE) in the Exemplary Leader category, for their efforts to provide quality volunteer engagement programs, a willingness to network, mentor or collaborate with their peers, advocate for the profession, and involvement at the national and local level with volunteer engagement professionals. Because of Ms. Perry’s efforts, all volunteer engagement professionals and the programs and communities they serve are all enhanced and supported to provide a robust, engaging, and meaningful volunteer experience.

AL!VE Board President Michelle Raymer, CVA is excited about presenting the award to three recipients in two different categories. “This is our fourth year presenting these awards and the selection committee had many nominees of committed and talented volunteer engagement professionals nationwide.”

AL!VE will provide a cash award to Ms. Perry that she may use



Mary Lynn Perry, Chair of the Board of Directors at Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA). Photo courtesy of DOVIA

for professional development expenses, such as continuing education, books, resources, or pursuing the Certified Volunteer Administrator credential (CVA), an international professional credential for those who manage volunteers and/or programs.

AL!VE is the national professional association for those who manage or lead volunteer engagement programs. The leadership organization seeks to enhance and sustain the spirit of volunteering by fostering collaboration and networking, promoting professional development, and providing advocacy for leaders in community engagement. For more information, visit, www.volunteeralive.org. To view the 2023 AL!VE Impact Award recipients, visit, https://www.volunteeralive.org/alve_impact_awards_-_sponsore.php

Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA), Sacramento provides a forum for exchange of information on relevant issues for professional volunteer managers and leaders of volunteers. Through collaborative efforts, DOVIA Sacramento is committed to promoting service and emphasizing professional growth and development of the volunteer administration profession. Since 1978, DOVIA Sacramento has served to broaden community awareness of volunteerism by furthering communication among DOVIA, its member agencies and institutions, and the general public.



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