



Mary Lynn Perry of DOVIA Nationally Recognized

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Land Park News

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Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

DECEMBER 8, 2023

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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 club's temporary "store" is located at Lake Crest Village at Florin Road and Greenhaven Drive
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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 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

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The Pocket Canal Holiday Lights Are Officially Illuminated!



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



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, Pocket/Greenhaven Community Organizer. Gratitude also flows to each sponsor who generously supported this event and to every individual who dedicated their time to volunteer and adorn the canal with lights. Your collective efforts have made this festive celebration a radiant success!



★ Attendees gather around the gazebo.

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Mary Lynn Perry of DOVIA Nationally Recognized for Exemplary Leadership

We're Talking Chocolate

Soroptimist Sells See's for the Holidays

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.



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

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

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. ★

Continued from Page 1 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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Women's Empowerment to Hold Holiday Gift Drive for Unhoused Women and Children

Continued from Page 1
 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



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

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. ★



Kings Korner

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-doubles convinced many that the organization had finally made a trade that would elevate the Kings to the next

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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LAND PARK

Large corner lot in Land Park. Enjoy this remodeled "move-in" condition 2 bd. / 2 bath home on a lovely tree lined street. Beautifully refinished hardwood floors in the spacious living room with bay window, plantation shutters, fireplace with insert and recessed lighting with dimmer. Enjoy cooking in the delightfully remodeled kitchen with quartz counters, under counter recessed lighting, stainless steel dishwasher & sink, gas range / oven and three door pantry. Both bedrooms have ceiling fans and wood floors. Hall bathroom has restored cast iron tub with shower and vanity with marble counter. Second bath is in the back bedroom and features a large tiled shower. Plantation shutters throughout, many dual paned windows, inside laundry room with cabinets, folding area and access to back porch. Two driveways, single car garage. 3041 17th Street



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Nestled in the heart of Land Park on a tree lined street, this spacious three-bedroom 2.5 bath home features formal tiled entry, living room with fireplace & bookshelves, oversized formal dining room with window overlooking backyard, galley type kitchen with island eating area, stainless steel appliances, tiled backsplash and access to patio. Downstairs desk area with adjoining bath, and TV / gathering room with sliding door to yard. Three upstairs bedrooms, updated hall bath with new vanity, floor and shower. Primary bedroom with large walk-in closet, updated bath with shower over tub. Lots of wood floors, central heat and air, basement and two-car garage. Backyard covered patio with privacy drapes, brick fence and small storage shed. Don't miss this one! 1154 Swanston Dr. \$1,075,000



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ABOUT TOWN

Elks 6 Annual Bicycle/Toy Drive

IT'S TIME AGAIN. WE ARE GETTING A LATE START!

Let's ensure that as many kids as possible have the opportunity to have a joyful Christmas morning.

All donations must be in by December 15. Of course, cash donations are gladly accepted if you prefer. Funds donated will be used to purchase bicycles, helmets, locks, etc.

Thanks, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Justin Lehr, or Joanne Martin.

Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink Open Nov. 8 - Jan. 15

Sharpen your skates and perfect your triple axel—the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink returns to the heart of the city on November 8! Feel a chill blow down K street as you approach Ali Youssefi Square and be teleported into a winter wonderland at the ice rink.

Regular Hours

Tuesday – Thursday 2 – 9 PM, Friday – Sunday 10 AM – 10 PM, Closed Mondays except for holidays.

Special Events

Dec. 9 – Xfinity Free Skate

Dec. 10 – Crafting Kindness

Dec. 16 – Silent Disco Ugly Sweater Party

Dec. 17 – First Step Communities Donation

Jan. 7 – Crafting Kindness
Tickets are available at the entrance to the rink when you arrive to skate.

For more info about holiday hours and scheduled events, visit www.godowntownsac.com/events/signature-events/ice-rink/

California Waterfowl Fundraising Dinner Dec. 7

This fundraiser for the California Waterfowl Association will be held at Portuguese Hall, 6676 Pocket Road, on Dec. 7.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for games and social hour. Dinner will begin at 7 p.m., followed by a live auction. The event will also include a silent auction and

youth program.

For tickets, visit the website, www.CalWaterFowl.org/Tickets

Breakfast With Santa at the Elks Lodge Dec. 17

Two of the best kept secrets in Sacramento are at Elks Lodge 6.

The first secret is they have a wonderful breakfast every Sunday from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Keep it a secret from the kids, but Santa will be there on Saturday, December 17th.

The breakfast will be closed on December 24th and 31st for the holidays.

The breakfast starts with a wonderful omelet bar. The rest of the menu includes: pancakes, french toast, waffles, and biscuits and gravy. There is also potatoes, sausage, bacon, and of course either orange or tomato juice. Don't forget the coffee! All of that for \$15, and children under 10 are half price. That price includes tax and tip [donations to the Purple Pig are encouraged].

That second best secret is the Elks have an indoor swimming pool and athletic facilities with handball courts. While you are there you can have a tour of the facilities.

The Elks Lodge 6 is at 6446 Riverside Blvd.

Elk's Lodge Calendar of Events

Elk's Lodge Sunday Breakfast

Every Sunday
8:30am - 11am
Bring your friends and family

\$15 tax included
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Made to order Omelets or eggs any way you want.
Bacon, sausage, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, waffles, coffee large parties should call for reservations

Guest are VERY welcome!

The Annual Toy Drive has begun!

This year the drive is headed by Joanne Martin

Watch for more details but in the meantime you can bring your donations to the Lodge office.

Water Aerobics

Monday 10 a.m.,

Wednesday 2 pm

Yoga
Monday 12 p.m.,

Wednesday 3:30 pm

Lodge members free.

Martial Arts

Monday 5 pm

Pickleball

Mon & Wed 9 am-12 pm,

Thu 4:30-7:30 pm, Sun 4-7 pm

To sign-up or confirm schedule, join playtimescheduler.com

Improv Night

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm

Wednesday Night Dinner 5:30 to 7 pm

See above and elks6.net for weekly menu.

Karaoke

Thursday 7 pm

Saturday 7:30pm

Friday Happy Hour

Friday 4-7 pm

Canal Holiday Lights Community Pocket News Event

Hi friends and neighbors!

Costco has had Christmas decor for a month, so winter must be coming soon! With it comes the return of our Pocket Canal Holiday Lights!

I hope you've enjoyed this great tradition as much as I have. I love the beautiful show as the lights reflect off the water, but most of all, I enjoy how much it gets our community out, enjoying it together, being with friends, being with family.

We need your help to keep it going and continue to grow this great community tradition.

Can you make a donation to support the effort this year? Any amount helps!

Donations are tax deductible, please donate here:

<https://giftstoshareinc.ejoinme.org/donate>

(select "District 7 Canal Holiday Lights")

If your business is interested in sponsoring, please let me know!

And save the dates, December 2nd, hanging holiday lights & December 3rd, lighting ceremony with Santa.

Thanks so much for your support!

Your partner in building stronger communities,
Devin Lavelle
devinlavelle@gmail.com

Sacramento Symphonic Winds Holiday Concert Dec. 10

The Sacramento Symphonic Winds holiday concert entitled "Holiday Fiesta" will be Sunday, December 10, 2:30pm, at Capistrano Hall, California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). Admission and parking at Capistrano Hall (garage levels 1-3) for this concert are free of charge. Donations are welcome! The Sacramento Symphonic Winds is a 60-piece adult symphonic wind ensemble conducted by Music/Artistic Director Dr. Matthew Morse. This concert features Symphonic Dance #3 "Fiesta" by Clifton Williams, A Christmas Carol by Alan Silvestri, Rhapsody on Christmas Carols by Claude T. Smith, and more! Visit our website at: <http://www.sacwinds.org> OR find us on Facebook!

Land Park Softball

Softball is back in Land Park and will now be a part of the Land Park Pacific Little League organization. LPPLL has been a pillar in our community since 1954 and is welcoming softball under their umbrella this SPRING!

Early Bird Registration is NOW OPEN!

Visit lpp11.com/ registration to register and learn more.

Sacramento Area Museums Showcase Region's Farm-to-Fork Roots All Year Long

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (August 28, 2023) – The Greater Sacramento region is rich with popular museums and destinations that offer diverse and enriching experiences for individuals, families, residents, and visitors alike. Given the critically important role agriculture continues to play in the region, many local museums offer special exhibits, experiences and activations that highlight ever-enduring Farm-to-Fork connections. A sampling of some of the Farm-to-Fork offerings at local museums includes the following:

California Agriculture Museum – Woodland is home to an entire museum focused on agriculture, filled with a unique collection of harvesters, wheel and crawler-type tractors, combines, trucks, art, artifacts, rotating interactive exhibits and much more. In all, the museum tells the history of Farm-to-Fork, dating back to the Gold Rush era and how the industry evolved from horse drawn to steam driven to fuel powered machines to harvest and transport California's bounty.

California State Railroad Museum & Foundation – A Fruit Growers Express refrigerated rail car is on permanent display inside the Museum's Roundhouse. Museum visitors can explore this historic rail car and exhibit, "Farm to Fork: A Public History," and learn about how refrigerated rail

cars enabled California farmers, growers, and producers send farm-to-fork freshness all over the country. Visitors can step inside the historic Fruit Growers Express rail car to see how the ice-cooled rail cars transported produce and built an agricultural system that exports more wealth than the California Gold Rush. Plus, the popular weekend excursion train, Sacramento Southern Railroad – currently on pause due to an important rail repair project – runs on the historic Walnut Grove Branch Line. This rail line transported pears, asparagus, celery, seeds, and other products from the Delta communities to markets nationwide.

Sacramento Children's Museum – Young visitors hungry to learn about fresh food have a variety of options at the Children's Museum, including at the miniature Leo's Market and Leo's Food Court (a miniature market of food carts), about bees and honey with the in-house beehive, and an interactive train table highlighting Sacramento's agricultural landscape in miniature, complete with mini livestock. Plus, the Children's Museum will be at the Farm-to-Fork Festival (September 22-23) sharing vegetable stamp printing with visitors.

SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity – MOSAC's interactive exhibits bring the story of water to life, demonstrating how our region is working together to conserve this natural resource for now and future generations. The "Water Challenge" exhibit lets museum visitors actively shape a watershed's flow, create a tune for saving water at home, and choose between local or non-local foods to buy based on how everyday decisions impact conservation efforts — all while learning about the environmental footprint along the way.

Utility Exploration Center – The City of Roseville's Utility Exploration Center (UEC) is a testament to the region's commitment to sustainable living and resource conservation. Nestled in the heart of a region renowned for its Farm-to-Fork movement, the UEC acts as an educational hub, encouraging residents and visitors alike to delve into the intricacies of energy and water conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable practices. By fostering an understanding of how we use and preserve resources, the UEC underscores the importance of our agricultural roots.

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, "like" them on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SacMuseums, follow them on Instagram and Twitter @SacMuseums or visit the user-friendly website at www.SacMuseums.org.

Friends of Sutter's Fort Announces Exciting Line-Up of Special Events and Activations Happening this Fall

SACRAMENTO, Calif.

– Friends of Sutter's Fort, in partnership with Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, is proud to present a series of family-friendly events and activations this fall highlighted by holiday themed movies, an all-ages concert, and adventurous self-guided evening tours by flashlight or lantern light.

A schedule of fall activities presented by Friends of Sutter's Fort includes the following:

Flashlights & Friends After Hour Tours – Friday, December 1 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

For those seeking fun and adventure in a unique space, Flashlight & Friends may be just the ticket. The holiday themed evening provides an opportunity to explore Sutter's Fort Historic Park like never before – by flashlight or lantern light (guests can bring their own or purchase them on-site). The self-guided tour experience is family friendly and includes live music, games, and treats for event attendees. For tickets and/or more information about Flashlights://suttersfort.org/event/flashlights-friends/

The special events and activations support the nonprofit Friends of Sutter's Fort to help provide upcoming programming such as field trips and future events at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park.

For those interested in visiting inside Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (that is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily), all Fort admission fees will be waived for the duration of a major roof replacement and seismic stabilization project that is currently underway. Visitors can observe the rehabilitation project firsthand and tour the Central Building, which remains open.

Friends of Sutter's Fort Friends of Sutter's Fort is a 501c3 charitable foundation. As a state park cooperating association, we collaborate with California State Parks at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park to preserve and protect historic structures, and artifacts, and to engage visitors of all ages. For more information, please visit www.suttersfort.org

Bunny on the Green Saturday, March 16th, 2024

Late morning/early afternoon, exact time to be determined

Location: William Land Park Golf 1701 Sutterville Road

Families are encouraged to come and meet The Easter Bunny for the 2nd Annual Bunny on the Green. It is free to visit the Bunny and take photos. There will also be a children's Easter Bonnet contest and putting activities. Guests can purchase food and mimosa's for the adults. More details to come soon.

★



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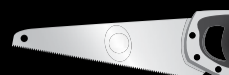


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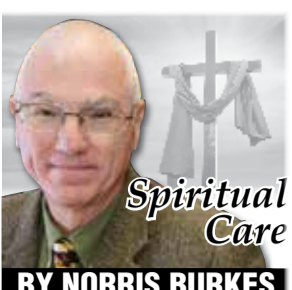
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BY NORRIS BURKES

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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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.

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>

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/viewcontent.cgi?article=2328&context=ca_ballot_props

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*




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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. ★

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 pre-determined 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. ★

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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

"ALL CHILDREN DESERVE TO HAVE A FAMILY AND STRONG CONNECTIONS FOR LIFE."

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 dcfas.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/>. ★

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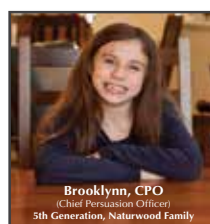
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