



East Sacramento News

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Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

JANUARY 26, 2024

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CAPIAA Welcomes New Director



The Honorable Robert Rivas, right, speaker of the California State Assembly, administers the oath of office to Khydeejia Alam. Photos courtesy of Speaker's Office, California State Assembly

CAPIAA News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (CAPIAA) is thrilled to announce the appointment of Khydeejia Alam as its new executive

director. Khydeejia Alam was sworn in by the Honorable Robert Rivas, speaker of the California State Assembly, at the State Capitol surrounded by family and friends. "California's diverse AAPI communities enrich and strengthen our state in

countless ways and have a pivotal role in driving our state and nation forward," said Governor Gavin Newsom. "Director Alam brings more than a decade of experience working on a variety of priority issues for the state, and deep ties to

nonprofit and philanthropic partners that will help further the Commission's important work. I thank her for her dedicated service to our state, and commitment to elevating the needs and concerns of our dynamic AAPI
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Alcohol-Free Venue Opens Downtown to Socialize During Dry January and Beyond



A busy night at the Teetotalist

**Story and photos by
Andrew Rose**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As Dry January plows forward, people are looking for a place to socialize and enjoy tasty beverages

without the booze. Enter The Teetotalist (the name derived from teetotaler, one who abstains from alcohol), which presents itself as Sacramento's first nonalcoholic bar. Such is the brainchild of Amanda

Altman Brincat and Kathryn Altman Brincat, who have been molding and forming this concept since September 2022, when they started out at K Street in downtown Sacramento. Their current

location is at Propagate Plants and Gatherings at 1700 I Street, where they are serving up the drinks and fun from Thursday through Saturday evenings, 5-10 PM. In this inclusive
Continued on Page 2



Presidential Primary Election Update

**Ballot Drop Box
and Vote Center
Locations Posted**

**Sacramento County
News Release**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) has posted the list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations for the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election on the website.

Vote by Mail ballots will be mailed to voters beginning Monday, February 5, 2024. Ballot Drop Boxes will begin opening Monday, February 5, 2024, and Vote Centers will begin opening Saturday, February 24, 2024. A complete list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations, their days and hours of operation, and an interactive map can be found at: <https://elections.sac-county.net/votecenters/pages/locations.aspx>

A QR code to the interactive map will be included in the County Voter Information Guide to replace the flat printed map. This simple change supports the County's GoGreen policy, is accessible to voters with disabilities and is fiscally responsible, saving the county over two (2) million pages of printed material and the associated mailing cost.

For more information, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email voterinfo@sacounty.gov, or by using the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone).

Key Election Dates

-Monday, February 5 - Mailing of ballots to all registered voters begins

Continued on Page 2

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Sacramento River Cats Join GOAL Sustainability Movement

Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento River Cats and Sutter Health Park have joined a collective of major venues in sports and live entertainment across the globe as a member of the industry-wide GOAL sustainability platform to champion social impact, climate action, and responsible change.

GOAL, which was founded in October 2022 by Oak View Group (OVG), the Atlanta Hawks & State Farm Arena, Fenway Sports Group, and green building expert Jason F. McLennan, is a community of sustainability-minded sports and entertainment operators which provides venues at different points in their sustainability journeys with tactical roadmaps, easy-to-use tracking tools, a library of resources and case studies, and access to like-minded, leading operators, vendors, and solution-providers, all committed to operating more sustainably, more urgently.

Sutter Health Park joins a growing list of venues, representing legendary teams and iconic places of mass assembly committed to leading, learning, collaborating and, in all cases, making a positive impact on their communities and for the planet. GOAL supports each venue's sustainability journey through data collection and analysis in addition to providing sustainability strategy, communications support and corporate partner engagement.

The Sacramento River Cats and Sutter Health Park have been an active participant in implementing sustainable best practices which included the installation of stadium solar panels, the use of internal LED lights, and intentional recycling efforts across the organization which include a food waste diversion system. Additionally, in partnership with area businesses, the River Cats created the Sustainability Circle in 2015 to work collaboratively to cultivate sustainable practices and reduce their carbon footprint.

"We look forward to continuing our renewable journey by joining the GOAL sustainability platform," said Chip Maxson, President/COO of the Sacramento River Cats. "This partnership will allow us to enhance our industry-leading efforts and further our commitment to keeping our region beautiful and healthy for generations to come."

The venues within GOAL represent different sports, different geographies, and different building types of varying sizes and ages, ensuring that the input and feedback is

worthy of the diversity of the live entertainment and hospitality industry. Some venues are already leading the way when it comes to climate action, and others are just beginning their respective journeys. But in all cases, these venues are action-oriented, climate-minded, and understand the urgency required to address a changing planet.

Properties within GOAL include: Acrisure Arena (Greater Palm Springs, CA), Budweiser Gardens (London, ON), CFG Bank Arena (Baltimore, MD), Chip Ganassi Racing (Pittsburgh, PA), Citi Field (New York, NY), Climate Pledge Arena (Seattle, WA), Co-op Live (Manchester, UK), Fenway Sports Group (Boston, MA), Footprint Center (Phoenix, AZ), Frost Bank Center (San Antonio, TX), Gainbridge Fieldhouse (Indianapolis, IN), Los Angeles Dodgers (Los Angeles, CA), Levi's® Stadium (Santa Clara, CA), MGM Music Hall (Boston, MA), Miami Heat (Miami, FL), Moda Center (Portland, OR), Moody Center at University of Texas Austin (Austin, TX), Mullett Arena at Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ), PPG Paints Arena (Pittsburgh, PA), Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse (Cleveland, OH), Sacramento River Cats (Sacramento, CA), Spectrum Center (Charlotte, NC), State Farm Arena (Atlanta, GA), Subaru Park (Chester, PA), Target Center (Minneapolis, MN), UBS Arena (Belmont Park, NY), Wrigley Field (Chicago, IL), Xcel Energy Center (St. Paul, MN)

"Our collection of GOAL venues represents forward-thinking venues across the sports, live entertainment and convention industry," said Chris Granger, OVG360 President. "I applaud Sutter Health Park for their leadership, for their spirit of collaboration, and for their understanding of the urgency demanded by climate change. I look forward to working with Chip Maxson and his team, learning from them, and sharing the very best ideas and best practices with our industry as we race against the clock, together."

OVG's Sustainability Director Kristen Fulmer added, "We designed GOAL to make sure that the data points and thresholds for leadership meet venues anywhere along their sustainability journey, engaging – and without shaming – venues that are just getting started, while also enhancing efforts in venues that already make an impact in a variety of different topics, from waste diversion, to water conservation, to improved indoor air quality." ★

Alcohol-Free Venue Opens Downtown to Socialize During Dry January and Beyond



A bartender prepares a mocktail.



The sign that greets customers at the Teetotalist entrance.

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venue there is no cover charge. The proprietors are pleased to offer a space that focuses on the social aspects of a traditional bar without the pressure of drinking alcohol. They maintain that "people deserve to have fun in an adult setting even if they don't want to drink, or even be around alcohol, and that is what The Teetotalist is aiming to provide."

Its centerpiece is mocktails, innovative, exotic, and refreshing concoctions mixed deftly by head bartender Jocelyn Freeman. Patrons may select an Espresso Martini (alcohol-free doesn't necessarily mean caffeine free) or an over-the-top Properly Dressed Under the Radar (Cut Above Mezcal, Aperitif, Honey Syrup, Lime), or non-alcoholic wine and beer. Specialty drinks range from

\$12-\$14 while beer and wine run \$5-\$7.

Tasty snacks round out the jovial atmosphere while patrons enthusiastically chat or possibly participate in board games between sips. They may even help themselves to create a friendship bracelet with complimentary materials. Mood music heightens the jovial, relaxed vibe (It was Taylor Swift Night on Saturday, January 13, while a silver-fringed dress, halter-top, or rhinestone encrusted tiara could be seen there and there), but volume was kept down so people could enjoy conversation in the well-lit space.

Good things come to those willing to wait, while patrons (several of them on a drink-run for the group at their table) patiently wait to wet their whistles. But it's clearly no bother as strangers avidly mix and mingle in

line, only adding to the festive atmosphere. The owners plan additional thematic evenings, including live music, art shows, trivia nights, and networking events.

Moving forward, the proprietors proclaim their next step is to establish a permanent brick-and-mortar location of their own and expand their hours. Their vision for the future includes coffee service, an expanded food menu, and more non-alcoholic beverage choices, including beer on tap. In addition to their events at Propagate, the Teetotalist is pleased to provide local delivery service to customers for \$5 who prefer to enjoy bottled nonalcoholic beverages at home. Teetotalist merchandise, including shirts and hats, may also be purchased through the website: theteetotalist.com. ★

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Start the New Year by Adopting a Pet

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - There's no better way to start the new year than by adopting your new best friend from Bradshaw Animal Shelter. To ring in a new year of adoptions, the shelter celebrated the first adoption of 2024: an 11-year-old dog named Mini. Mini, a Miniature Pinscher mix and senior dog, was exactly what Christena Austin was looking for.

"Old dogs need a good home too," Austin said. She knows a thing or two about adopting older dogs: she met her last pup, Violet, when Violet was 12 1/2 years old. At first, Austin recalls walking away from Violet, thinking she was too old to adopt, but "something made me go back for her," Austin said. The pair spent five memorable years together, but Violet recently passed away at the age of 17 1/2. Austin felt called to give another old dog a new lease on life and is ecstatic to welcome Mini into her home. "She will be treated like a queen," Austin says.

There are still so many wonderful pets who are looking for forever homes. If one of your resolutions going into 2024 is to live a healthier lifestyle, a pet can help you get there. Studies have shown that pets can have positive effects on our health: pets can increase opportunities to exercise, get outside, and socialize. Regular walking or playing with

pets can decrease blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and triglyceride levels, and the companionship that pets provide can help manage feelings of loneliness and anxiety.

Ready to add a new pet to your home? Before visiting Bradshaw Animal Shelter, you can view all of the dogs, cats, and other animals available for adoption, or you can take a walk around in person to see whom you fall in love with. To help match you with your new best friend, the shelter offers adoption counseling, and if you're looking to adopt a dog and have an existing dog at home, you can bring them to the shelter for a meet and greet to make sure it's a good fit for your four-legged family members as well.

Your new pet's adoption includes their spay/neuter surgery, up-to-date vaccinations and monthly preventatives, a microchip, and a one-year license for Sacramento County residents. Adoption fees are, for example, \$50 for adult dogs one year and older, \$75 for puppies, and \$50 for cats and kittens.

Bradshaw Animal Shelter is located at 3839 Bradshaw Rd. in Sacramento and is open Tuesday through Sunday from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. with extended hours on Wednesdays from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. You can also meet adoptable pets at Petco adoption center located at 8840 Madison Ave. in Fair Oaks from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. ★

Gregg Fishman Elected SMUD Board Vice President

SMUD Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - SMUD's Board of Directors elected Gregg Fishman as Vice President of the Board, effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Gregg was first elected to the SMUD Board of Directors in January 2015 and represents Ward 3, which includes East Sacramento, much of the Arden-Arcade area, and the Campus Commons, College Glen, and Rosemont neighborhoods, as well as parts of Carmichael, Florin, Fruitridge and Vintage Park.

Vice President Fishman has been a clean energy advocate for much of his career. As a former SMUD employee, he promoted wind and solar energy when they were in their infancy. At the California Independent System Operator, he led public engagement efforts supporting new wind energy farms in California. As President of the SMUD Board in 2018, he led the utility in passing its Integrated Resource Plan, hailed by the California Energy Commission as "... an ambitious road map for lowering greenhouse gas emissions in the Sacramento region."

In his varied career, Gregg was a news reporter and anchor at KFBK and KGO Radio, a public information officer at SMUD and the California Independent System Operator (California ISO), and communications coordinator for the California State Association of Counties. He currently works at Sacramento Regional Transit as the Sr. Community



New SMUD Board Vice President, Gregg Fishman. Photo courtesy of SMUD

Relations Officer.

Gregg is an active volunteer with the Sacramento Tree Foundation and has led a neighborhood effort that has planted more than 2,000 new trees since 2001. He received an award from the MLK 365 organization for helping to make it easier to remove racially restrictive clauses from local property records. He is a 25-gallon blood donor and a frequent volunteer master-of-ceremonies for Project Ride in Elk Grove.

Gregg is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento with a bachelor's degree in journalism. He and his wife live in Arden Park and are the parents of two daughters. ★



Christena Austin is happy with her 11-year-old Miniature Pinscher mix. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

CAPIAA Welcomes its New Executive Director, Khydeeja Alam



Khydeeja Alam was appointed new executive director of the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs. Photos courtesy of Speaker's Office, California State Assembly

Continued from Page 1
communities."

Khydeeja brings a wealth of experience and leadership in advocacy, non-profit, and state government to this role, and the commission is confident in her ability to lead CAPIAA in its mission to elevate the political, economic, and social issues of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

"I extend a heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Khydeeja Alam for this exciting appointment. I have had the pleasure of witnessing her career unfold through the years as a former colleague," said Speaker of the California State Assembly Robert Rivas. "She is passionate, determined and a fierce advocate for her community. There is no one better suited to represent the best interests of over 6 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who call California home. As speaker, I look forward to working alongside her in this new capacity."

One of the key focus areas for CAPIAA under Alam's leadership will be to educate, raise awareness, and advocate for the rights and safety of AAPI communities. The Commission will work towards an inclusive and supportive environment for all residents of the state.

"The Commission is excited about the fresh perspective and dynamic leadership that Khydeeja Alam brings to the table. Khydeeja will undoubtedly play a crucial role in advancing CAPIAA's mission to ensure the voices and needs of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are at the forefront of discussions and investments by California decision makers," said CAPIAA Chair

Serena Kirk.

As executive director, Alam will spearhead efforts to maximize outreach efforts with Asian and Pacific Islander American communities, including informational campaigns about public and private programs that benefit community interests, and addressing issues of access and cultural language sensitivity within state agencies, departments, and other commissions. Most importantly, Alam will bring visibility around the incredible work the commission continues to do on behalf of California's AAPI communities.

"The California Asian American and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (AAPILC) welcomes Khydeeja Alam as the new executive director for the Commission on Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs (CAPIAA). The Caucus looks forward to continued partnership with the Commission under the leadership of Khydeeja to ensure that we continue to uplift and mobilize our AAPI community here in California," said Assemblyman Evan Low, chair of the AAPILC.

Alam will also play a pivotal role in providing assistance to policymakers and state agencies by identifying the needs and issues of AAPI communities, developing appropriate responses, and implementing programs to address these concerns effectively.

"I welcome Khydeeja Alam as the new executive director of CAPIAA. Her lived experiences as an immigrant and her hard work that led her to be where she is today is an incredible benefit to the AAPI community and a

celebration of the rich tapestry of perspectives that will guide CAPIAA towards meaningful progress," said State Treasurer Fiona Ma.

The only ethnic commission established by California state law, CAPIAA's mission is to address the diverse and complex needs, issues, and concerns of Asian American and Pacific Islander American communities. The commission plays a crucial role in advising the governor and legislature on the views, needs, and concerns of the state's population of over six million Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

"Khydeeja Alam's dedication to public service will serve her well as executive director. She's a respected leader in her community and trusted advisor to many lawmakers. I look forward to seeing what she will accomplish in this new role," said Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkin.

Khydeeja Alam: "I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to represent the AAPI community. As CAPIAA's new executive director, I look forward to continuing the commission's incredible work, and taking it to the next level, while ensuring that over six million AAPI community members have a strong representation. I believe the stronger the footprint of the commission, the stronger and more resilient the AAPI communities will be. As a first Pakistani American in this role, I wear my identity with pride. This position allows me to pay it forward, uplift, and empower the community and the next generation of AAPI leaders." ★



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BY NORRIS BURKES

When Faith Doesn't Meet Our Expectations

Some of my most rewarding years in chaplain work were those I spent as the Chaplain for Women and Children at Sutter Medical Center in Sacramento (2002-2008).

It was there my rounds often took me onto the high-risk maternity unit. Rooms in this unit were filled with scared pregnant women whose doctors had confined them to bed rest in hopes of avoiding a miscarriage.

One afternoon, our unit secretary, Jeannette, told me about a patient who was expecting twins, but her 23-week pregnancy was being threatened by severe complications.

"Her husband is a youth minister, so she has a lot of church friends in her room now," Jeannette said.

Jeannette's unusually quiet demeanor told me she was worried. "Maybe you could go introduce yourself. Might help if things go south."

Inside the room, the minister greeted me with the typical chorus of religious platitudes.

"These twins are in God's hands. I'm not worried," he said in a dismissive manner. "We know God will heal these babies."

The atmosphere of the room had me nearly convinced. It was adorned with religious books, greeting cards and Bibles. The family played sacred music and wore pious jewelry on their necks and earlobes.

So I took the minister's hint and excused myself, figuring my time would be better spent elsewhere.

Forty-eight hours later, I returned to the nurses' station

where Jeanette whispered, "They're really going to need you now, chaplain. The twins didn't make it."

"They'll need me, but will they want me?" I muttered.

Jeanette dared me to "give it a shot."

I tapped my watch. "I'm betting they don't give me five minutes."

Prayerfully, I entered the room. It's a risk going where you aren't wanted, even when you wear the chaplain's badge.

Nevertheless, I entered the room and found it in stark contrast to its previous state of smiling church visitors and religious music.

The couple remembered me and invited me to sit.

"We've been in church work for years," the pastor said. "Why couldn't God help us?"

For a moment, I assumed they didn't want a chaplain so I leaned forward to signal my willingness to leave. Yet, amazingly, they continued to unload.

"No, chaplain, stay," insisted the grieving mother.

They seemed to want someone to hear the case they'd built against God, so I stayed and listened.

They sincerely believed God had shortchanged them. They swore they'd never return to church. God wasn't fair. We deserve better. Is God really love? If God loves us, why does he hurt his children?

I was plenty uncomfortable, but I stayed through the barrage, listening to it all with the tenacity of a soldier in a firefight.

I lost my bet with Jeanette. My visit lasted 45 minutes and during the next few days, I was invited for more visits.

On the day our patient was discharged, her youth-pastor

husband said to me, "You probably wonder why we let you stay after we'd dismissed our congregants."

I did. "You were the only one willing to listen to our gripes about God," he said.

"I was taken by your honesty," I said. "You voiced your complaints directly to God. Often people aren't that authentic. Instead of telling God exactly what they are feeling, they talk smack about God behind his back."

"I think God understands your talk. After all, God saw his son die, too."

They nodded, thanking me for not trying to change their minds or judge them.

"Just make sure you keep up the conversation with him," I said with a cracked smile.

I phoned their home a few times in the weeks that followed and found that they were still having daily conversations with God. And while those conversations didn't sound much like their usual church prayers, I know God heard every word.

I'd bet Jeanette that I wouldn't be allowed into the couple's room, much less their lives. But because I listened to them without trying to defend or explain God, the couple allowed me a place in their sacred grief.

In the end, that's a gamble I'll take every time.

Send Chispa Project denotations, grammar corrections or comments to 10556 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602 or by email comment@thechaplain.net or at (843) 608-9715. For more on how to comfort the grieving, check out my books on my website at www.thechaplain.net. ★

Robert Craig Films Announces Study Guide to Reduce Homelessness

AthertonPR News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In a continuation of the mission to bring awareness and solutions to homelessness in America, Robert Craig Films is announcing the release of an Interactive Study Guide, which will be widely available on March 5th, 2024, titled, "No Address." This is an important part of "The Big 5" solutions for homelessness born from the Robert Craig Films produced — award-winning "Americans with No Address" documentary and "No Address movie."

The Interactive Study Guide

"No Address" provides education and structure for groups nationwide who would like to contribute in a meaningful way to reduce homelessness. Written by a partnership of many industry leaders, it outlines how to best approach and engage in supporting people experiencing homelessness. It consists of resources for how to serve them best. The guide will help individuals, small groups, congregations, pastors and leaders as they help the homeless.

The Interactive

Resource Guide is the first of its kind, jointly presented by national executive leadership to serve those experiencing homelessness. These experts include Dr. Robert G Marbut Jr., former White House "Federal Homelessness Czar" and Discovery Institute senior fellow. Dr. Marbut shares, "This has never been done before. In an effort to support individuals and groups nationwide who would like to contribute in a meaningful way to reduce homelessness, this study guide will provide industry leaders who are offering resources for how to best serve those experiencing homelessness."

The Interactive Study Guide provides education and structure for how to best approach and engage serving people who are experiencing homelessness and will be available to all organizations and individuals. Other expert contributors to this project are National Commissioner Jolene Hodder, The Salvation Army, John Ashmen Citygate Network President Emeritus, as well as Myrka Dellanos with videos by Max Lucado and Amy Grant.

Topics include:

-Types of homelessness; big picture and

root causes
-Why it is up to the people to make the change and not rely on policy and government programs

-Engage rather than enable

-How to best collaborate with existing agencies as an individual or group

-Why duplicating services beyond the established professional agencies can harm more than help

-Building leadership alliances between faith organizations and agencies serving the local homeless community

The Interactive Study Guide will serve individuals, small groups, congregations, pastors and leaders published by David C. Cook.

"Having the opportunity to partner with Robert Craig Films on this impactful project was an immediate yes for us," said Chadd Miller, executive vice president of David C Cook's Learning Resources Group. "We are passionate about creating an innovative, interactive study guide, intentionally designed to equip the church to help our brothers and sisters who are experiencing homelessness. I'm excited to bring this study to churches and community groups — including my own." ★

Presidential Primary Election Update

Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center Locations Posted

Continued from Page 1

-Monday, February 5 - Voted ballots may be returned in any of the Ballot Drop Boxes located throughout the County

-Monday, February 19 - Close of voter registration for this election. Voter registration forms must be post-marked by this date or delivered to the VRE Office at 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento 95823 by 5:00 p.m. Online voter registration must be completed before midnight on this date

at www.registertovote.ca.gov

-Tuesday, February 20 - Conditional Voter Registration (VBM) begins

-Saturday, February 24 - 11 Day Vote Centers open

-Tuesday, February 27 - Last day a Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot can be mailed to you. After this date, VBM ballots are only available at the VRE office or at any of the 90 Vote Centers

-Saturday, March 2 - All Vote Centers open throughout the County

-Tuesday, March 5 - Election Day ★



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ABOUT TOWN

Lunar New Year Celebration Jan. 27

Presented by The Creative Space at Old Town Plaza Elk Grove, Elk Grove CA

Jan 27, 2024 at 10:00 am - 03:00 pm (Sat)

Old Town Plaza Elk Grove, 9615 Railroad St., Elk Grove, CA 95624

Ring in the Lunar New Year! The Creative Space is partnering with the City of Elk Grove for this one day celebration. Not only will there be 50+ small businesses selling some seasonal products, but will also be performances!

This is a FREE community event!!

For more info, visit <https://www.facebook.com/thecreativespacesac/>

ARI Community Services Lunar New Year Celebration Feb. 3

Presented by ARI Community Services at ARI Community Services, Sacramento CA

Feb 3, 2024 at 11:00 am - 01:00 pm (Sat)

ARI Community Services, 6270 Elder Creek Rd., Sacramento, CA 95824

Ring in the Lunar New Year! ARI is thrilled to start the year with its Lunar New Year celebration! See a lion dance, do crafts, and join all of the cultural fun!

This is a FREE community event!

For more info, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/AsianResourcesInc/> or contact (916) 454-1892.

Curtis Park Book Club with Crawford's Books Feb. 13, Mar. 12, Apr. 9

Curtis Park Book Club is back for 2024!

Join Track 7 Brewing Company and Crawford's Books every second Tuesday of the month in the Curtis Park taproom for Book Club! Crawford's Books will be leading the discussion.

Track 7 Brewing Company is located at Track 7 Brewing Co. - Curtis Park, 3747 W. Pacific Ave, Ste F,

Sacramento, CA 95820

The event dates and times are: Feb 13, 2024 at 07:00 pm (Tue), Mar 12, 2024 at 07:00 pm (Tue), Apr 9, 2024 at 07:00 pm (Tue).

Questions? Contact Crawford's Books at sue@crawfordbooks.net

Black History Month Free Family Festival

Sunday, February 18 • 11AM - 3PM

Crocker Art Museum - 216 O Street, Downtown Sacramento

Free for everyone.

Celebrate the richness of the African American experience with the Black History Month Festival! Enjoy live performances, creative art activities, thought-provoking poetry readings, and mini talks, and explore current exhibitions featuring the work of Black artists, Black Artists in America: Civil Rights to the Bicentennial, and Joyce J. Scott: Messages. Presented in collaboration with Shonna McDaniels, professional artist, teacher, and community activist, as well as the Founder and Director of the Sojourner Truth Art Museum.

Generous support for this project provided by Art Bridges.

Your Elks 6 Lodge needs your help!

Help is needed in the office from 9 - 3 Monday through Friday to answer phones, sell event tickets etc.

We also need help in the Rental office to answer the phone.

If you can lend a hand even if it is half a day or one day per week, please contact me and I will get your information to the appropriate person.

For questions or to volunteer call or send text message to Sue Hill 215-327-7712. .

Elk's Lodge Calendar of Events Elk's Lodge Sunday Breakfast

Every Sunday 8:30am - 11am
Bring your friends and family
\$15 tax included
Best deal in town

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!

Water Aerobics, Monday 10 am, Wednesday 2 pm

Yoga, Monday 12 pm, 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

Friday Happy Hour Friday 4-7 pm

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 lppll.com/ registration to register and learn more.

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

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 Discounted Admission Rates

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.

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

Elks 6 Lodge Winter Blast February 24, 2024

Last year was a sellout - You don't want to miss this great event.

Tickets will go on sale in the office by 12/10.

Online ticket sales will be available soon, watch for the announcement.

Note the 5\$ savings for tickets purchased by February 3.

Bunny on the Green Saturday, March 24th, 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 childrens' Easter Bonnet contest and putting activities. Guests can purchase food and mimosa's for the adults. More details to come soon.

★

Defendant Sentenced for Shooting Murder, Robbery at Capitol Casino

Sacramento County DA Press Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) – The Honorable Michael Bowman sentenced Dawan Pecot to life in prison without the possibility of parole. On November 27, 2023, a jury convicted Pecot of first-degree murder with the allegation of personal use of a firearm causing death and the special circumstance of murder during the commission of robbery found true. Pecot was also convicted of second-degree robbery with the allegation of personal use of a firearm, intentional discharge of a firearm and aggravating factors found true.

On August 22, 2022, Dawan Pecot attempted to rob the Capitol Casino. The security guard, Sean Bernal, caught Pecot and walked him out of the casino at taser point. When they got outside, Pecot

pulled out a firearm and went back inside the casino. Once inside the casino's cash cage, Pecot pointed the firearm at a casino employee. While that was occurring, Mr. Bernal made his way back to the cash cage and attempted to tase Pecot.

Simultaneously, Pecot shot Mr. Bernal one time in the neck, killing him. Pecot then stole over \$38,000 dollars and fled the casino. The casino employee chased him outside and watched as Pecot tried to hide in his vehicle. When police arrived, Pecot jumped out of his vehicle and shot one time in the employee's direction. Pecot then tried to flee on foot before being apprehended by the police.

DATE: January 12, 2024

CASE: Dawan Pecot (Case #22FE014097)

PROSECUTOR: Principal Criminal Attorney Kristen Andersen, Homicide Unit

★



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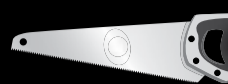
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DWR Announces Initial State Water Project Allocation of 10 Percent for 2024

DWR News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On December 1, 2023, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an initial State Water Project (SWP) allocation forecast of 10 percent of requested supplies for 2024. The SWP provides water to 29 public water agencies that serve 27 million Californians.

The December 1 initial water supply forecast is the first allocation of the new water year and is based on current reservoir storage and an assumption of very dry conditions. So far in October and November, storms have not brought as much rain and snow.

“California’s water year is off to a relatively dry start. While we are hopeful that this El Niño pattern will generate wet weather, this early in the season we have to plan with drier conditions in mind,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “California’s water supply continues to benefit from our aggressive efforts last season to capture record rain and snow melt in our reservoirs and groundwater basins.”

The initial SWP allocation forecast is looking ahead to 2024 and only applies to water deliveries in the year ahead. The allocation is calculated based on October and November precipitation, dry soils, runoff, and storage in Lake Oroville. It has no bearing on current water supplies or



A drone view of water levels at the Oroville Dam located at Lake Oroville in Butte County, California. On this date, the water storage was 2,581,728 acre-feet (AF), 73 percent of the total capacity. Photo taken October 2, 2023. Photo by Fred Greaves/California Department of Water Resources

water captured in 2023. Most reservoirs in the state remain above average for this time of year.

Highlights of California’s Water Supply Storage

Last winter, a total of 3.5 million acre-feet of water was captured in SWP reservoirs. The SWP delivered 2.7 million acre-feet in allocated water plus an additional 400,000 acre-feet of supplemental water to SWP contractors in 2023;

To date, Lake Oroville, the SWP’s largest

reservoir, is at 133 percent of average.

San Luis Reservoir, jointly operated by the SWP and Central Valley Project, remains at 109 percent of average. Water stored in San Luis also includes water from 2023 being stored by water contractors for use in future dry years;

In coordination with the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), DWR provided water to fill up Diamond Valley Reservoir for the first time in three years. The facility is a critical

part of the Southern California water delivery system;

California was also able to redirect excess storm water for groundwater recharge. DWR has estimated more than 3.8 million acre-feet of recharge capacity in 2023, including more than 1.2 million acre-feet of groundwater recharge permitted by State agencies, 390,817 acre-feet of flood water recharged using the Governor’s Executive Orders, and millions more acre-feet of managed and naturally

occurring recharge.

It is not uncommon for the initial allocation forecast to be low following very wet years. For Water Year 2018, the initial allocation was 15 percent following an 85 percent final allocation in 2017. Water Year 2020 started with a 10 percent initial allocation following a 75 percent final allocation in 2019. Both 2017 and 2019 were very wet winters. More historical data on SWP allocations is available at water.ca.gov/programs/state-water-project/management/

swp-water-contractors.

As the winter progresses, if California sees an increase in rain and snowfall, the allocation forecast may increase.

Each year, DWR provides the initial SWP allocation by December 1 based on available water storage, projected water supply, and water demands. Allocations are updated monthly as snowpack, rainfall, and runoff information is assessed, with a final allocation typically determined in May or June. ★

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Sky River Casino Announces Top Three Nonprofit Winners



A special awards ceremony and check presentation was held January 11th when the winners were announced. Photo courtesy of Sky River Casino

Sky River Casino News Release

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - Sky River Casino is excited to announce the top three winners of the 2nd Annual Wreaths of Hope, an annual holiday program that resulted in \$15,000 being donated to support local charities. Creatively decorated 48" wreaths were on display throughout Sky River during the month of December 2023 when casino Rewards members were encouraged to vote for their favorites. In total, an impressive 45,048 votes were cast as part of the 2nd annual holiday program.

2023 Wreaths of Hope winners are as follows:

- First Place – Native Breast Cancer Awareness Walk/Run
 - Second Place – Elk Grove Food Bank
 - Third Place – Paws For A Purpose
- Each of the 10 participating organizations received \$1,000 just for participating. Then, the first place wreath winner received an additional \$2,500, second place an additional \$1,500, and third place an additional \$1,000.

“We were amazed with the number of votes that were cast for our festive Wreaths of Hope program that supports 10 local charities,” said Michael J. Facenda, President of Sky River Casino. “This 2nd annual holiday program clearly struck a chord with our guests while also providing much-needed donations that support local nonprofits so they can continue their meaningful work in the community.”

A special awards ceremony and check presentation was held January 11th when the winners were announced. For more information, please visit www.SkyRiver.com.

About Sky River Casino
 Sky River Casino was built by the Wilton Rancheria in partnership with Boyd Gaming Corporation, which is building and managing the property for the tribe. The casino opened in August 2022 and includes 100,000 sq ft of gaming, 2,100 slot machines, 80 table games, and 17 bars and restaurants. To learn more, visit www.SkyRiver.com.

Sacramento Kings Empower Youth through Continued Mentorship Initiatives

Sacramento Kings News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On January 10, as part of National Mentorship Month, the Sacramento Kings announced they will continue their ongoing commitment to highlighting the significance of mentorship and the importance of becoming a mentor. The team will continue to work with MENTOR California and partner with UC Davis Graduate School of Management to engage with youth and promote more involvement in the mentorship process.

“The Kings mentorship initiatives create pathways for local youth to engage with the team in unique ways, highlighting the impact on both mentees and mentors,” said Sacramento Kings Chief Operating Officer Matina Kolokotronis. “To inspire and empower the next generation, we must shine a light on the diverse avenues and opportunities available for our youth.”

“The Sacramento Kings continue to be champions for mentoring and MENTOR California, and it is because of their collaborative spirit and partnership that we are excited for this next adventure in our mentoring movement with the UC Davis School of Business Management,” said MENTOR California Executive Director Marcus L. Strother. “Having amazing partners, like the Sacramento Kings, who believe in the power of



agency, belonging and connection is what allows us to continue lifting up the necessity of mentorship and amplifying mentoring during National Mentoring Month and beyond!”

Through a partnership with UC Davis Graduate School of Management, the Kings will continue their Fastbreak Mentoring program with UC Davis MBA students in the Collaborative Leadership Program mentoring students from Improve Your Tomorrow on educational pathways and career readiness while offering an opportunity to connect with Kings team members to learn about jobs in sports and entertainment. This will be an exclusive, behind-the-scenes glimpse into the inner workings of a professional sports team.

During January, the mentors and mentees will meet at four Kings home games to discuss their goals and aspirations, participate in panel discussions, tour the arena and interact with Kings team members and personnel. Also, on January 27, mentees will attend the Brotherhood Conference, presented by Improve Your Tomorrow and My Brother’s Keeper, to learn

how they can continue to support their mentees.

Throughout the month, the team will be elevating the importance of mentoring through their social channels and billboards in the region with resources and videos sharing messages from Kings players. The team will also recognize a special mentor selected by MENTOR California on-court on January 22 as the Kings take on the Atlanta Hawks. Fans can nominate worthy mentors starting January 4, by tagging them on the Kings Community Instagram: @kings_community.

The Kings are committed to investing in positive pathways that support youth beyond January mentorship month. For the past six years, the Kings, in partnership with the Black Child Legacy Campaign, have led the Kings and Queens Rise Youth Sports and Mentoring League, which seeks to prevent and interrupt violence by providing a caring, productive environment through community building, sportsmanship, and health and safety resources. The organization has participated in several Fastbreak Mentoring Sessions to connect youth with Kings team members and has hosted Studio Sessions to make top entertainment talent accessible as mentors, both to share insight about careers in the sports and entertainment industries.

For more information, visit Kings.com.

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