



Tips for a
Holly Jolly
Holiday Season

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Marathoners
Hitting the Road
Through Sacramento

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Arden Arcade News

VOL 01 • ISSUE 12 Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years DECEMBER 6, 2024

SEE
INSIDE

OLD SAC NOW
A HOLIDAY
DESTINATION



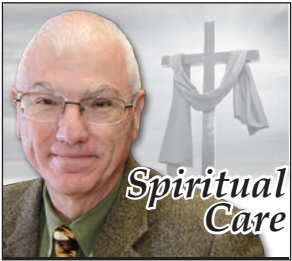
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THE SKY IS
NOT FALLING



PAGE 9

BE TRULY
THANKFUL



PAGE 6



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Record Crowd Runs to Feed the Hungry



The 31st annual Run to Feed the Hungry drew a record number of participants. Photo courtesy of Run to Feed the Hungry

By Ornella Rossi

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The streets of East Sacramento were bustling with energy on Thanksgiving morning as the 31st annual Run to Feed the Hungry drew a record number of

participants to the largest Thanksgiving Day fun run. This year's event, held on Nov. 28, attracted runners, walkers and virtual participants from across the region and beyond, all coming together to support a cause close to home: the Sacramento Food Bank &

Family Services (SFBFS). "Run to feed the hungry is truly amazing. It's crazy to see the amount of people who all show up to run for the same cause," said participant Emma Harris. "This year was extra special for me because I got to run with my best friend

and brother and crush the goal I had been training for." With options for both a 5-kilometer and 10-kilometer run or walk, the event featured a loop course starting on J Street, just west of the entrance to
Continued on Page 3

County Property Tax Due Dec. 10



Sacramento County
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The deadline for paying the first installment of your 2024-2025 Sacramento County property taxes is coming up shortly. Payments are due no later than Dec. 10. Late payments will incur a 10% penalty for each tax bill and partial payments are not accepted.

Payment must be received in the Tax Collector's Office by 5 p.m. Dec. 10 or either be postmarked or paid through the county website at eproptax.saccounty.gov by Dec. 10. The Tax Collector also reminds property owners to include the appropriate installment payment stub from the tax bill or website, or write the parcel number of the property on the check being submitted to make sure that you receive proper credit for the payment.

Payment can be mailed to P.O. Box 508, Sacramento, CA 95812-0508. Be sure to mail your payment early enough to ensure a timely postmark and avoid penalties.

Making Payments
Property taxes can be paid by online e-check or credit card through Sacramento County's Property Tax Bill Information System or over the telephone at 1-844-430-2823, using the 14-digit parcel number. Credit card payments are processed by a contractor and a 2.29% convenience fee will be applied if you elect to pay the annual property tax bill using this method. This convenience fee is not revenue to the county. There is no fee to make a payment via e-check.

To avoid penalties, transactions made either on the internet or over the telephone must be completed before midnight on the payment pay by date. Plan ahead and do not wait until the last minute to make your payment. If you are unable to get through on the internet or telephone, causing you to miss the payment deadline, penalties will not be waived.

Verify your data entry very carefully when making online payments. If your payment is rejected by your financial institution for any reason, you
Continued on Page 6

Winterdance Celtic Celebration Returns



Continued on Page 6

AMELIA HOGAN · JOHN WEED · TYLER WEED · STUART MASON · MARISA GILMAN

winterdance
17TH ANNUAL
CELTIC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
A CHERISHED HOLIDAY TRADITION!

Winterdance Celtic Christmas Celebration will be held at St. Michael's Episcopal on Dec. 13. Photo courtesy of Winterdance

Winterdance News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A joyful and cherished holiday tradition returns this December, marking the 18th Annual Winterdance Celtic Christmas Celebration.

Angelic singing, instrumental wizardry and championship Irish step dancing combine to lift your hearts this holiday season.

At 7 p.m. Dec. 13, the Winterdance Celtic Christmas Celebration will be held at St. Michael's Episcopal at 2140 Mission Ave., Carmichael.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

This year's show welcomes back the soaring vocals of San Francisco's Amelia Hogan, Molly's Revenge fiddler John Weed, and the banjo and mandolin artistry of rising artist, Tyler Weed. Making his Winterdance debut on guitar, mandolin and vocals, we're honored to share the stage with Wake the Dead's Paul Kotapish.

All Ireland champion Irish step dancers, Marisa Gilman and Cameron Carson Riddle, will bring a percussive and visually stunning element to this 18th year of Winterdance.

Many longtime fans of Winterdance and Molly's Revenge will notice that Stuart Mason is no longer part of the lineup. After 17 years, our lifelong musical partner and dear friend, "Uncle" Stuart Mason, will be stepping down from the Winterdance cast. Stuart's life is filled with fish to catch and a growing and abundant stack of pet portrait holiday orders that he and his Christmas elves are rushing to fulfill.

Almost two decades ago, Molly's Revenge began our Winterdance
Continued on Page 6

Old Sacramento Waterfront Transforms into Holiday Destination

Downtown Sacramento Partnership News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Old Sacramento Waterfront is the place to be this holiday season, sporting delightful decorations, a 60-foot holiday tree, electrifying light shows, pedestrian-friendly streets and a unique shopping experience. Located three blocks away from Golden 1 Center and the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink, Old Sacramento Waterfront is a key holiday-themed destination for shopping and entertainment.

2024 marks the 16th anniversary of Theatre of Lights, the immersive, live-action lightshow on the balconies of Old Sacramento buildings as the entire district embraces the holiday spirit. Theatre of Lights is a free, family-friendly performance every Friday and Saturday (plus some special dates) created by Stage Nine Exhibitions’ Troy Carlson and voiced by Emmy-nominated voice actor Bill Farmer; the voice of Disney’s Goofy. The performance features an immersive retelling of “The Night Before Christmas” by Clement Clarke Moore alongside stories of how Sacramento pioneers experienced the calamities — and revelry — that befell the new city in the 1850s.

The crowd-favorite Holiday Tree Lighting kicked off Theatre of Lights on Wednesday evening, Nov. 27. The tree-lighting ceremony was powered by SMUD and featured community favorites such as the Sacramento Gay Men’s Chorus and Sac Dance Lab and was hosted by FOX40’s Bianca Ventura starting at 5 p.m. with the official first lighting happening at 6 p.m., led by Stomper, the A’s mascot.

This holiday season, shoppers are



Theatre of Lights, the immersive, live-action holiday lightshow, occurs on the balconies of Old Sacramento buildings. Photos courtesy of Downtown Sacramento Partnership

encouraged to “skip the ship” and support small by visiting any of the small businesses at the Old Sacramento Waterfront to find unique, fun and thoughtful gifts.

K Street will be open only to pedestrians on Friday nights and through Saturday evenings Nov. 30 through Dec. 24, so visitors can freely explore all the holiday activations.

Special Events and Activations Lineup:

Theatre of Lights is produced by the Downtown Sacramento Partnership and lit by SMUD, a free, immersive performance retelling “The Night Before Christmas” in a uniquely Sacramento way on the balconies of Old Sacramento Waterfront. Always free, the exciting shows happen

at 6 and 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays from Thanksgiving Eve to Dec. 24 (no show on Thanksgiving). And to increase accessibility, an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter will be on-site for Saturday evening Theatre of Lights performances throughout the season.

Live Big, Support Small: Shop Local — In total, there are 125+ small businesses (50+ of which are retail shops) in the district, with plenty of unique offerings and items that make perfect gifts. Plus, Old Sacramento Waterfront will be launching gift guides to help with holiday shopping lists. Sacramentans can get holiday shopping done in one place while supporting locally owned businesses.

Holidays on K: The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to



The Old Sacramento Holiday Tree is adorned with 24,000 lights to light up the Sacramento waterfront.

hear with live music Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Every week will feature specific Old Sacramento Waterfront merchants, comfortable seating, a photo booth with proceeds helping to underwrite the cost of Theatre of Lights, and a “Letters to Santa” station. The whole family is encouraged to celebrate the holidays in Old Sacramento.

All Out Decor: In addition to the Holiday Tree that has nearly 24,000 lights, every building in the historic district will be adorned with garland and LED lights, every street pole will sport red bows, and storefronts will have their own decorations. To show off Sacramento pride, the Holiday Tree will be lit Kings’ purple on game nights.

For more information, visit www.old-sacramento.com. ★

Bliss State Park Closed into Summer 2025

California State Parks News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California State Parks announced D.L. Bliss State Park will remain closed for camping and partially closed for day use into summer 2025. This extended closure is necessary to complete an ongoing waterline

infrastructure replacement.

Campground reservations for the 2025 season at D.L. Bliss State Park will not be available until further notice. (Editor’s note: D.L. Bliss State Park is located on the west shore of Lake Tahoe.)

The following day-use areas remain accessible:

Lester Beach and Calawee Cove: These

areas will remain open for water access from Lake Tahoe and foot access via the Rubicon Trail from Emerald Bay State Park.

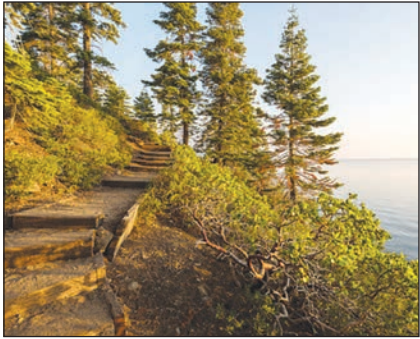
Backcountry Areas: Portions of D.L. Bliss State Park west of Highway 89 will continue to be available for winter backcountry use.

Bouldering/Rock-Climbing Areas: Popular

bouldering and rock-climbing sites located just east of Highway 89, closed for the past two seasons, will reopen in 2025 for walk-in access from designated roadside parking areas.

Please note: No restroom or trash services will be available at these locations.

The public is invited to visit nearby campgrounds and day-use access areas



D.L. Bliss State Park’s scenic beauty is on display in this photo taken from the Rubicon foot-trail. Photo courtesy of California State Parks

at Emerald Bay State Park and Ed Z’berg Sugar Pine Point State Park, which are expected to be fully open

during summer 2025.

For updates, please monitor the D.L. Bliss State Park webpage. ★

meals on wheels by acc





We are Open!

Community Cafe: Hagginwood Community Center
3271 Marysville Blvd Sacramento, 95815

Enjoy a hot meal @ 11:30 am Mon-Fri

There’s no cost to eligible program participants.
A voluntary contribution is welcomed to support the program.

Eligibility:

- 60 years or better
- Spouse of an eligible, enrolled participant under the age of 60

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**Story and photo
by Susan Maxwell Skinner**

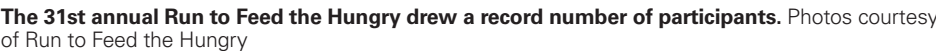
The symbolism of Carmichael's wall is

For street closure details, visit runsra.org/california-international-marathon/course-information. ★



Continued from Page 1

This year's race had something for everyone, with the addition of chip timing and the opportunity for participants to join a timed runner's corral. Competitive runners had the chance to earn awards, with the top three finishers in each age group receiving medals, and the top overall men and women in both the 5K and 10K races receiving plaques and prize money. The event also recognized the top three masters (aged 40 and older) among both men and



Adding to the festive atmosphere, several live bands performed throughout the course, keeping participants motivated with music as they ran, walked, or jogged their way

The annual event is not just a holiday tradition but also serves as the largest fundraiser for the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing immediate relief

and long-term solutions for families in need throughout Sacramento County. The funds raised help the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services continue its mission to alleviate hunger and support individuals and families in their journey toward self-sufficiency.



With just \$1 able to provide three meals to a child, senior or family facing hunger, every dollar raised at the event made a significant impact on the lives of those in need. In 2023, the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Service distributed 37.9 million pounds of food, equivalent to 31.6 million meals, and provided food assistance to an average of 283,079

For more on how to get involved with Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services or to make a donation, visit www.sacramentofoodbank.org. ★

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06/07/08/09/10/11/12

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Food Court - 7 Days: 11am - 7:30pm
Korean / Mex / Viet: 7:30pm last call
Chinese / Japanese: 7:00pm last call

HAPPY HALLOWEEN 10/25-10/31 10AM-8PM

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FREE ADMISSION
11/01/24, FRI, 6 PM @ KP FOOD COURT

FREE flu shot

Nov. 2, 2024 10AM-2PM
SUITE #403 NEXT DOOR KP MARKET
10971 OLSON DR. RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670

SYMPHONY d'ORO
ranchos cordova

SOUNDS OF AUTUMN
Saturday, November 2nd 4pm
KP International Market Food Court

Enjoy an afternoon of music celebrating the season including autumn leaves, Dia de Los Muertos, and Halloween! This free concert will include some seasonal favorites, and music by Greg, Genahen, and Swathmore, as well as the 12 premiere of a new arrangement of Little Mexican Suite by Mexican composer Nubia Jaime Dominguez.

FREE ADMISSION
www.symphonydoro.org

2024 UPCOMING EVENTS AT FOOD COURT

FREE PHOTO WITH SANTA!
12/15-12/25
10AM-8PM FOOD COURT

WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Rump/Bottom Round Roast - Bnls
Pulpa Contra en Trizo sin Hueso
\$4.99 /lb

Beef New York Roast - Boneless
Carne de Res Nueva York
Asado Deshuesado
\$5.99 /lb

Beef New York Steak - Boneless
Carne de Res Nueva York
Filete sin Hueso
\$6.99 /lb

Pork Baby Back Ribs
Costillitas de Cerdo
\$3.99 /lb

Boneless/Skinless Chicken Breasts
Pechuga de Pollo sin Hueso
\$1.99 /lb

Pork Butt's Boneless
Costillas de Cerdo sin Hueso
\$2.99 /lb

Pork Loin Chops Bone In
Chuletas de Cerdo con Hueso
\$2.49 /lb

FRESH PRODUCE

Mini Sweet Pepper 1 lb **\$2.59 ea**

Nopales Cleaned 1 lb bag **\$2.39 ea**

Rainbow Bellpepper 2 lbs **\$2.99 bag**

Avocado Bag 2 lbs **\$3.29 bag**

Small Taro **89¢ /lb**

Sleeved Garlic 5 pc China **\$2.39 ea**

Seafood Mushroom 150 g **89¢ ea**

Green Papaya **99¢ /lb**

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Inca Kola The Golden Kola 2 liters

REG. \$4.99
\$4.49 /ea
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REG. \$4.99
\$1.49 /ea
Lundberg Puffed Grain Cakes 6 oz

REG. \$19.99
\$13.99 /ea
Kingsford Charcoal Original 16 lbs

REG. \$4.99
\$1.49 /ea
Slow Kettle Tomato & Sweet Basil Bisque 15.5 oz

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Qing Ta Longkou Vermicelli 17.6 oz

REG. \$3.99
\$3.49 /ea
Lee Kum Kee Chili Bean Sauce Toban Djan 15 oz

REG. \$2.49
\$1.99 /ea
TH Cassava Flour 16 oz

REG. \$4.99
\$3.99 /ea
Sun Luck La Yu Chili Oil 5 Lb

REG. \$3.99
\$1.49 /ea
Lee Sriracha Hot Chili Sauce 28.75 oz

EUROPEAN GROCERY

REG. \$8.99
\$6.99 /ea
Polinka Pitted Sour Cherries in Light Syrup 59 oz

REG. \$8.99
\$6.99 /ea
Mid East Halva with Pistachio 700 gr

REG. \$8.99
\$6.99 /ea
Juicy Chew Assorted Fruit Jellies 40 oz

REG. \$4.69
\$3.99 /ea
Korovka Baked Milk Taste Wafer 200 gr

REG. \$4.29
\$3.49 /ea
Sadaf Blend Tea w/ Earl Grey 20 T/B

KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

REG. \$9.99
\$9.99 /ea
Oh Yee! Choco Cake 12 x 30 g

REG. \$3.99
\$3.99 /ea
Hachi Hachi Sesame Oil 320 g

REG. \$14.99
\$14.99 /ea
Otoggi Sesame Oil 56 oz

REG. \$7.49
\$7.49 /ea
Roasted Sesame Oil 16 x 4 g

REG. \$14.99
\$14.99 /ea
Sanukyu Yude Udon 616 g

REG. \$12.49
\$12.49 /ea
Kadoya Roasted Sesame Oil 56 oz

REG. \$4.99
\$4.99 /ea
Goma Shabo Shabo Sauce 245 ml

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\$2.99 /ea
Cuttlefish Noodles 80 g

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\$1.99 /lb
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REG. \$1.49 /lb
\$1.24 /lb
Columbus Pepper Breast Turkey

REG. \$7.99 /lb
\$6.99 /lb
Sicilian Style Olives

REG. \$5.99 /lb
\$4.99 /lb
Pitted Green Olives

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 06 - NOVEMBER 12, 2024.

Tips for a Holly Jolly Holiday Season

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - As the holidays approach, many of us look forward to gatherings with friends and family, enjoying delicious food and taking part in festive celebrations. However, this time of year can also bring feelings of stress, loneliness or sadness for some. The holiday season is a complex time that can amplify both the highs and lows of life.

“It’s normal to feel overwhelmed by the demands of the season,” said Sacramento County Director of Behavioral Health Dr. Ryan Quist. “High expectations, separation from loved ones, personal grief and financial pressures can all impact our mental well-being. It’s important to remember that it’s okay not to feel joyful all the time.”

To help navigate the season and its challenges, Sacramento County’s Department of Health Services, Behavioral Health Division, offers these tips:

Acknowledge Your Feelings and Stress Levels

Recognizing when you need a break is essential. During this time of year, we try to squeeze in a bunch of different events. Maintaining regular routines, especially consistent sleep schedules and meal times can also support mental health.

“We often underestimate how critical a regular sleep routine is to our emotional well-being. It can impact your mental health and your ability to function effectively,” Quist explained. “Also, simply staying consistent with meals can help avoid unnecessary stress.

Plan for Managing Stress

Whether it’s taking a walk, reading or cooking with loved ones, identifying activities that bring calm and joy can be a valuable resource when emotions run high.

Connect with Others

The holidays don’t have to revolve around material gifts. Giving your time and support to friends or community members can lift spirits for both you and them.

Avoid Excessive Alcohol and/or Substance Use

For those in recovery, the holidays can

be especially challenging. It’s important to have a plan for navigating social events and leaning on support systems if needed.

For those needing additional support, Sacramento County Behavioral Health provides a variety of resources for residents including:

9-8-8 (National Suicide Hotline)

This hotline will connect you to a local call center, which can then dispatch the Sacramento County’s mobile crisis team to meet you where you are.

CalHOPE

For less urgent support, residents can also reach out to CalHOPE at 833-317-HOPE or visit its website at www.calhope.org.

The Source Support Line for Youth and Caregivers

Feeling alone, stressed or sad? Call or text 916-SUPPORT (787-7678) for 24/7 support.

Mental Health Urgent Care Clinic (MHUCC)

The Mental Health Urgent Care Clinic provides 24/7 crisis services on a walk-in basis to individuals of all ages needing mental health and/or co-occurring substance use supports. The clinic can be accessed by visiting 2130 Stockton Blvd., Building 300, Sacramento, CA 95817 or by calling 916-520-2460. Go online to dhs.sacounty.gov/BHS/Documents/MHUCC_Flyer.pdf for more information.

Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Services

Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Services provides prevention and treatment services for alcohol and drug use/abuse through contracting with an array of community-based service providers throughout Sacramento County. Call 916- 874-9754 or toll-free (888) 881-4881 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and after hours, use the toll-free number.

The holidays can be stressful and that’s OK. If you need help, don’t hesitate to reach out, whether to a friend, family member or professional resource.

Learn more about Sacramento County’s various Behavioral Health resources on its website at dhs.sacounty.gov. ★



The holiday season is a complex time that can amplify both the highs and lows of life. Photo by Cottonbro Studio/Pexels

Don’t Let Fats, Oils and Grease Ruin Your Holiday Cheer



Keep your holidays and the sewer system running smoothly by properly disposing of fats, oils and grease. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Area Sewer District

Sacramento Area Sewer District News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - During the holiday season, the Sacramento Area Sewer District is urging residents to help prevent sewer backups, a common yet costly and disruptive issue that peaks during this time of year. Improper disposal of fats, oils and grease (F.O.G.) often leads to blockages, which can result in unpleasant sewer backups that disrupt holiday gatherings. To help keep festivities running smoothly, Sacramento Area Sewer District reminds the community to follow two simple steps for safe F.O.G. disposal.

Can it. Once cooled, put hardened fats, oils and grease into a sturdy container—like a leftover soup can. Then, put the container in the garbage.

Scrape it. Scrape all food scraps including fatty and greasy leftovers into the organics cart, NOT down the drain.

When F.O.G.-containing items from holiday cooking — like food scraps, gravies and oils — go down kitchen sink drains and garbage disposals, they can

cause blockages in sewer pipes that lead to overflows. F.O.G. cools and solidifies, sticking to the sewer pipes. Over time, F.O.G. restricts sewage flow and can cause a sewer backup into customers’ homes and businesses.

For large amounts of cooking oil—like what’s needed for deep-fried turkeys — pour the cooled liquid oil back into gallon jugs and make sure the lid is screwed on or taped shut. Check with your local waste service provider to determine the proper disposal method or visit SacSewer.com/sactown-clog-squad for a listing of local F.O.G. recycling sites.

For more tips on proper F.O.G. disposal, visit sacsewer.com/stop-clog. Are you experiencing a sewer problem—like a slow drain or backup? Call the Sacramento Area Sewer District 24 hours a day, 7 days a week—even on holidays—at (916) 875-6730.

The Sacramento Area Sewer District is the Sacramento region’s largest sewage collection, treatment, and resource recovery utility—providing service to more than 1.6 million people. ★

SacRT’s Holiday Bus Returns



The Holiday Bus rolls through town through Jan. 2. Photo courtesy Sacramento Regional Transit

Sacramento Regional Transit News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) Holiday Bus has returned. The Holiday Bus is a festive tradition offering free rides to passengers while spreading holiday cheer throughout the region.

The 2024 Holiday Bus, featuring seasonal decorations, hit the streets on Dec. 1 and will roll through Jan. 2, traveling on a different route each day.

This year, SacRT partnered with the Health Education Council, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health equity in historically under-served communities. Together, they’re raising awareness about the importance of access to health resources while celebrating the season of giving.

“The SacRT Holiday Bus is one of our favorite traditions and we

are thrilled to offer free rides to our riders while highlighting the incredible work of the Health Education Council,” said Henry Li, SacRT general manager/CEO. “This partnership exemplifies our commitment to supporting community well-being and ensuring that everyone has equitable access to vital resources for a healthier life.”

Said Debra Oto-Kent, executive director of the Health Education Council, “We are honored to partner with SacRT to spread awareness of the Health Education Council’s mission to support families and individuals in achieving healthier lifestyles. The Holiday Bus is a wonderful way to bring the community together and inspire positive change during the holiday season.”

The SacRT Holiday Bus will operate on regular SacRT bus routes, offering passengers free rides while highlighting the region’s commitment to community

health and connection. It is free to ride but passengers have the option to donate to the Health Education Council by dropping money into the bus fare box or using a QR code to donate online.

Each day, the Holiday Bus will serve a new route, ensuring riders throughout the area have the chance to experience it. The SacRT Holiday Bus will also participate in the Sacramento Santa Parade in downtown Sacramento on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Visit sacrt.com/holiday-bus for the full schedule and route details.

By riding the Holiday Bus, passengers can learn more about the Health Education Council’s impactful work in areas such as nutrition education, chronic disease prevention, and improving access to care.

Together, SacRT and the Health Education Council aim to make Sacramento a healthier and more connected community. ★

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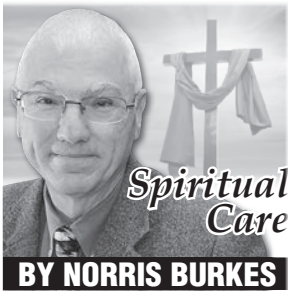
As I built a post-election gratitude list, I remembered a question routinely asked by the minister of music in a church I pastored.

He'd stand behind the big Baptist pulpit and ask this question of his sleepy and aging congregation:

"Would you rather be in the best prison in America or here in church today?"

He used the question to roust our aging congregation and inspire them to sing louder. He often used it at the Thanksgiving service because he felt like it gave congregants a bit of gratitude perspective.

I find the reasoning a bit haggard as it's the same kind of sermonic reasoning



BY NORRIS BURKES

ministers use every year that urge us to remember those less fortunate.

I ask you, can't we just hold the guilt this year and sit back and relax with our holiday pie?

Newspaper columnists like myself, and most especially ministers, of whom I am both, try to make you see that your life is not as bad as it could be.

This approach comes off sounding a lot like a parent trying to get their kid to eat turnips.

"At least we have turnips and broccoli on our table," goes the paternal reasoning, "I'll bet the kids in Godawfulstan wish they had turnips."

That line of reasoning never did much for me.

The problem with that perspective is that gratitude and thankfulness has never been about comparing your good fortune to the misfortunes of others. Thanksgiving will never be about trying to equalize the imbalance of those fortunes.

Thanksgiving isn't just about being grateful you

don't have a loved one deployed to a war-torn country. It's also about being thankful we have brave service members who are willing to serve when their country calls.

Thanksgiving isn't just about being grateful you aren't poor. It is also about being grateful you have resources to give to the poor.

It is not only about being grateful you aren't hungry. It is also about sharing your gratitude with the hungry.

Being truly thankful is not about comparing what you have with what others do not have. It is not about being glad your home is not a shanty cardboard

shack under the freeway. It's about the help we give the homeless as we humbly realize that most of us are one paycheck away from building our own shack.

Gratitude is not about giving thanks for what you have, where you work, where you live or even who you are. Thanksgiving is not about you at all.

Thanksgiving is about keeping perspective between recognizing the blessings we've received and utilizing our capacity to return those blessings to others.

At the end of the calorie-laden day, perspective will be a constant reminder that we are not alone on this planet. It is the

perspective of gratitude that teaches us we've all journeyed from the same place and, as Scripture suggests, "to dust we will return."

That is the perspective from which humility comes, and humility will always be about gratitude.

Reminder that my family and I will be matching all reader donations to Chispa Project up to \$5,000. You can donate online at www.chispaproject.org/chaplain or send a check made to "Chispa Project" to 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602.

For an autographed copy of "Tell It To The Chaplain," or any of my books, order from my website www.thechaplain.net or send a check for \$20 (per book) to the address above. ★

Women's Empowerment Holding Holiday Cheer Drive

Kristin Thebaud Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Local residents can spread holiday cheer to Sacramento women and children who have experienced homelessness by contributing to Women's Empowerment's annual Holiday Drive.

The nonprofit is seeking fully assembled gift bags that include a \$25 Target and Walmart gift card, winter hat, socks and holiday candy. Assembled gift bags are needed for all ages from infant to adult. For those who prefer to make a financial donation, the average cost of a gift bag is \$40, but any amount is helpful. Items also can be purchased individually through the group's Amazon Wishlist at www.womens-empowerment.org. Items are needed at Women's Empowerment, 1590 North A St. in Sacramento, by Dec. 11.

"These gift bags provide warm and celebratory items for the women and children in our programs during the holiday season, but they also demonstrate that

they have a community of love and support encouraging them as they work to break the generational cycle of homelessness," said Lisa Culp, executive director of Women's Empowerment.

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 held by California State Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, District 6.

In 2023, 165 jobs were secured by Women's Empowerment graduates, and 189 women either secured or maintained housing.

Since 2001, 1,903 women have graduated from Women's Empowerment with their 4,000 children. Women's Empowerment is funded through private donations from the community and grants. To make a donation, visit Womens-Empowerment.org. ★

County Property Tax Due Dec. 10

Continued from Page 1

will be charged a return payment fee as well as penalties if your payment is rejected after the due date.

If you use your bank's Online Bill Pay service, a paper check will be printed and mailed to the Tax Collector. Because the check is sent without a payment stub, enter the parcel number, current year's bill number and installment being paid in the online account number field for payment identification. Be sure you are familiar with your bank's online bill pay processing timelines. The Tax Collector uses the date appearing on the check from your bank's Payment Processing Center as the payment date. Online bill pay checks dated after the due date will be

returned for penalty without exception.

Be aware that because bank online bill pay checks are delivered in large batches without stubs, they will need to be individually handled and the posting of your payment might be delayed.

If you have not received a tax bill, you can obtain your tax bill information and payment stubs at the Tax Collector's website, over the automated telephone system or by contacting the Tax Collector's Office at 916-874-6622.

Sacramento County offers an online email subscription service for property tax information.

To receive e-mail notifications when the annual secured property tax bills are available each year and reminders before the

first and second installments delinquent dates, visit the Sacramento County Homepage and enter your email address or mobile number under the "Connect with us" header, located at the bottom right-hand of the page.

This service is provided at no cost to subscribers.

For additional information about property taxes, the Sacramento County Tax Collector's website provides answers to common questions from taxpayers regarding property taxes and links to tax bill information and online payments.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the property owner of their liability to pay taxes in a timely manner or give the Tax Collector reason to cancel penalties imposed for late payment. ★

Winterdance Celtic Celebration Returns

Continued from Page 1

holiday celebration. Combining lively instrumental Celtic music with seasonal carols and Irish dance, the cast has evolved over the years but continues to offer a compelling and popular holiday show. We continue this tradition in the hopes that we can play a small part in nurturing community, unity and festivity through song, story and dance. We look forward to seeing familiar faces, making new friends, and hope to see you there!

Amelia Hogan is an impeccably authentic singer of Celtic music, and her "lilting, buoyant, distinctive voice" (AM Kennedy, Irish Music Magazine) comes through in honeyed tones on Irish, Scottish, British and American-styled vocals. She sings both contemporary and traditional music well versed in the Irish tradition of Sean-Nós, or "old style", a highly lyrical solo a cappella style.

Amelia is a headliner at the SF Free Folk Festival since 2004; frequent host

of the internationally known Starry Plough Sunday night session (Berkeley CA); headliner at The Irish Club of Alaska's Galway Days Festival; a regular at the An Goinn Singers Club in Dublin, Ireland; a special guest and community partner with the Consul General of Ireland, San Francisco; Ongoing partner with the United Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco, headliner and special guest performer and regular of Hyde street Pier NPS Maritime History Museum Sea Music Festival and concert series.

John Weed, fiddler for Molly's Revenge and New World String Project, has spent the last 30 years immersed in various fiddle styles. With an affinity for folk traditions, John's exploration has emphasized Irish, Scottish, Swedish, and Old-Time fiddle. While he holds a bachelor's degree of music from CSU Chico, the musical education that charted his path began through a long series of Irish sessions.

There, he learned the nuance of aural

passing of melodies and the tradition of conversing in a deeply musical manner. John's passion for the vital expressiveness of the session lead to performing across the United States and internationally. In addition to being a full-time performer and instructor, John is currently on faculty at Palenke Arts, a multicultural arts organization in Seaside, California.

Paul Kotapish Equally confident and inventive on every fretted instrument, Paul has distinguished himself on the stage for over 30 years. Most recently, Paul has made a name for himself with his concerts and recordings with Kevin Burke's Open House, a headlining act in Celtic and international folk festivals across the country. His blazing guitar and mandolin work also help drive The Hillbillies From Mars, Sylvia Herold's Euphonia, and other Northern California-based acoustic groups. Paul is also widely respected for his work as editor and feature writer at Acoustic Guitar Magazine.

Tyler Weed was raised in a musical family. His journey began on guitar which quickly led to earning money backing his father on fiddle.

He then discovered flat-picking melodies while also developing a passion for jazz. This allowed him to be equally comfortable playing in the old-world fiddle styles as well as using swing-accompaniment on Irish melodies.

Heavily influenced by Bay Area mandolin great Marla Fibish, he developed nuances traditional Irish tunes on mandolin — picking patterns for the different dance tunes, tone projection, and styling, which continues in his playing today.

Tyler represented the next generation of mandolin players at his performance at 2023 San Francisco Festival of Mandolins. He has since journeyed into the world of tenor banjo. His banjo style can be characterized by ornate, percussive triplet stylings with a driving, yet hypnotic groove.

Tickets cost \$35 in advance or at the door. Children's tickets are \$20. To purchase in advance, visit mollysrevenge.com/shows. ★

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ABOUT TOWN

Elks Lodge Calendar

Elks Lodge Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am every Sunday.

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Yoga, Monday 12 pm, Wednesday 3:30 pm. Lodge members free.

Martial Arts, Monday 5 p.m.

Pickleball, Monday, Wednesday 9a-12p, Thursday 4:30-7:30p, Sunday 4-7p.

Improv Night, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm

Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 pm. See [elks6.net](#) for weekly menu.

Sacramento Area Museums Offer Plenty of Experiences

The Greater Sacramento region is rich with museums and popular destinations that offer plenty of must-see and must-do experiences to explore.

The community is encouraged to show support for local museums by making plans to visit favorite locations (or discovering new ones).

A sampling of must-see and must-do experiences offered by local museums include the following:

California Automobile Museum – Take a ride in a museum car during Sunday Drives, the third Sunday of every month,. With paid museum admission, take a ride from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Details at [calautomuseum.org](#).

California Museum – ¡Pleibol! In the Barrios and the Big Leagues, Oct. 26-Jan. 25, 2025:

This Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition takes audiences on a journey into the heart of American baseball to understand how generations of Latinas/os have helped make the game what it is today. Details at [californiamuseum.org](#).

California State Railroad Museum & Foundation – The California State Railroad Museum & Foundation are proud to offer the Polar Express Train Ride

– Enjoy this magical family event! The evening begins in our passenger station where you will be entertained by Polar Express characters, and then board your train to the North Pole where you will enjoy hot chocolate and a sweet treat courtesy of our hot chocolate chefs.

Once you reach the North Pole, the jolly old elf — Santa himself — will come on board to give each passenger the first gift of Christmas, a silver sleigh bell.

For more details, please visit [www.californiarailroadmuseum.org](#).

Sacramento History Museum – Through Jan. 7, 2025,, the museum is proud to present a limited-time exhibition titled “America’s Monsters, Superheroes and Villains: Our Culture at Play” from SuperMonsterCity. The engaging exhibition will be filled with 400+ vintage and original toys, comic books, games, posters, packaging, TV commercials, movie trailers and more.

For details, visit [www.SacHistoryMuseum.org](#).

CHP Swearing-In Rite Marks Milestone

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) proudly announces a major achievement in its ongoing recruitment efforts as it officially swears in 121 new officers, bringing the Department past its goal of hiring over 1,000 officers. This milestone underscores the CHP’s commitment to enhancing public safety and strengthening its presence within communities across the state.

The swearing-in ceremony at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento on Nov. 15 marks the culmination of months of rigorous training for these new officers. Each will report for duty to one of the CHP’s 102 Area offices throughout the state. This is the largest graduating class since June 2022, when 128 officers were

sworn in.

“Two years ago, we set an ambitious goal of recruiting 1,000 new CHP officers – and today, with this class, we have officially surpassed that goal. But I want to be clear: that goal has always been about more than just filling slots or hitting a number. Each officer is the very manifestation of public service, of peacekeeping. Every cadet graduating today felt a calling to do right by their community and to make the world safer. On behalf of the state and all who call California home, I want to thank each and every member of this graduating class,” said Gov. Gavin Newsom.

“Today marks a significant step forward for our agency and all of our communities,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “By surpassing our recruitment goal, we’re adding highly-trained,

committed officers who are ready to make a positive impact and meet the evolving needs of California. We’re grateful for the dedication and passion these officers bring to their new roles.”

The CHP started its successful multi-year recruitment campaign in June 2022. With over 21,000 applications submitted in the first ten months of 2024, the CHP has already surpassed last year’s application total of more than 16,300 over the same period, representing a 29% increase.

To accommodate this increase, the CHP conducts three concurrent cadet classes at its live-in training facility, where more than 250 cadets are currently in training.

A new class of 160 cadets arrived Dec. 1 at the CHP Academy.

Training at the CHP

CHP swears in 121 new officers on Nov. 15 at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento. Photo courtesy of California Highway Patrol

Academy is comprehensive, beginning with a foundation of nobility in policing, leadership, ethics, and cultural diversity. Cadets also receive specialized instruction in responding to mental health crises, vehicle patrol, crash investigation,

first aid, and impaired driver evaluation.

Additional training covers traffic control, report writing, stolen vehicle recovery, assisting motorists, emergency scene management, and mastery of the California Vehicle, Penal, and Health and

Safety Codes.

The CHP is continuing its recruitment efforts. Join us in shaping the future of public safety in California.

For more information about a life-changing career with the CHP, visit our website, recruitment.chp.ca.gov.

CHP Secures Federal Grant to Enhance Older Driver Safety

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Highway Patrol (CHP), in partnership with the Office of Traffic Safety, is excited to announce the receipt of a \$225,000 federal grant to launch the “Keeping Everyone Safe” (KEYS) program.

This program is designed to enhance traffic education and health awareness for drivers aged 65 and older and aims to ensure older drivers remain safe, confident, and informed on the road.

A vital feature of this program is the “Age Well, Drive Smart” class. This free, two-hour course addresses older drivers’ unique challenges, such as age-related changes, crash risk factors, safe driving strategies and Department of Motor Vehicles licensing requirements.

This class also provides helpful self-assessment resources. Classes are offered at

all CHP Area offices and taught by experienced CHP public information officers (PIOs), who bring the class directly to community locations for added convenience. In addition, PIOs will engage with older drivers at local events and community gatherings.

“Ensuring the safety of California’s older drivers is essential as they remain active on our roads. This federal grant allows us to provide targeted resources and support to help them drive confidently and safely,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “Our goal is to enhance their independence while reducing risks, making our state’s roads safer for everyone.”

The CHP is committed to supporting California’s older drivers with the education and resources they need to continue driving safely and confidently.

For more information, or to enroll in an “Age Well, Drive Smart” class, contact your local CHP office.

CHP Receives Grant to Combat Distracted Driving

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is proud to announce it received a \$350,000 grant to address the growing issue of distracted driving on California roads.

Distracted driving remains a leading cause of traffic crashes across the state, with drivers often diverting their attention from the road to activities such as using mobile devices, eating or drinking, adjusting vehicle controls or engaging in conversations with passengers. Even a brief distraction can lead to severe crashes,

injuries or fatalities.

To tackle this critical issue, the CHP will engage communities statewide through educational presentations, participation in local events, enforcement operations and social media.

This comprehensive strategy emphasizes education and enforcement to reduce incidences of distracted driving. Education helps foster a safety culture on the road, while enforcement is a necessary deterrent to dangerous behavior.

“Every driver needs to recognize the serious dangers associated with distracted driving. Each time you look away

from the road, even for a moment, you put yourself, your passengers and others at great risk,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee.

“We all have a responsibility to make our roads safer by staying focused behind the wheel.”

The CHP remains committed to ensuring the safety of California’s drivers and will continue its efforts to reduce the risks posed by distracted driving.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Fentanyl-Related Deaths on the Decline, County Reports

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County has made remarkable progress in the battle against the opioid crisis, reporting a 56% reduction in fentanyl-related deaths between 2023 and 2024. According to the latest data, the County Coroner’s Office reported 180 fentanyl-related deaths so far this year, down from 406 in 2023.

“This reduction isn’t necessarily due to fewer people using fentanyl, but rather a direct result

of the comprehensive support systems we’ve implemented,” said Lori Miller, Behavioral Health Division manager for the Sacramento County Department of Health Services. “The coordinated efforts of local law enforcement, first responders, healthcare providers and community organizations are saving lives.”

Sacramento County’s approach includes an extensive network of partnerships and initiatives designed to combat the opioid crisis. Law enforcement agencies, including Sacramento County’s

Sheriff’s Office and Probation Department and the Sacramento City Police Department, have worked tirelessly to conduct enforcement actions, make arrests and seize fentanyl supplies. The partnership with the Sacramento Fire Department and Sacramento Metro Fire’s Mobile Medicine Teams have been instrumental in administering Narcan and providing medication-assisted treatment.

In addition, the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services, along with Sacramento

County Public Health, has been critical in raising awareness about the dangers of fentanyl through education and distributing Narcan and fentanyl test strips. The County’s Adult Correctional Health Services has also played a role by expanded access to medication-assisted treatment in jails, while community-based organizations continue to provide prevention education, treatment options and harm reduction resources.

“By working together, we’ve built a robust system of care and support that is not only addressing

substance use but also providing people with the tools they need to survive and recover,” Miller added.

Maintaining this positive trend requires a continued commitment to education, awareness and accessible resources. Narcan distribution, fentanyl test strips and public education are essential tools in reducing overdoses and keeping people informed. Sacramento County is dedicated to expanding access to these resources, providing community members with the support needed to prevent and respond to fentanyl-related incidents.

While this is an encouraging trend, County officials are cautious as the holiday season approaches -- a time of year that can be challenging for individuals struggling with mental health and substance use disorders. County officials will continue their efforts and are hopeful that they will end the year with a decrease of 50% or more.

If you need substance use help or want to know more about the county’s collaborative efforts, visit the Department of Health Services’ Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Services page.

ARC Coach Named NorCal Coach of the Year



**American River
College Athletics
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The American River College Men's Water Polo program has achieved a lot of great things throughout the 2024 season. As the program prepares to open up the 3C2A State Championships, the Beavers can add another achievement: NorCal Coach of the Year.

The Beavers men's water polo head coach, Zac Koerner, was named the 3C2A NorCal Coach of the Year after leading the Beavers to back-to-back Big 8 Conference Championships, a 2nd place finishing in the NorCal Championships, and an opportunity to compete for the 3C2A State Championship.

This is Coach Koerner's first NorCal Coach of the Year award. Congratulations Coach! ★



Beaver Head Coach, Zac Koerner, was named the 3C2A NorCal Coach of the Year. Photo by ARC Athletics

Sac Republic FC to Host Open Tryouts

**Sacramento Republic Football Club
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Ahead of the 2025 USL Championship season, Republic FC is hosting its annual Open Tryout, giving the region's top players a chance to impress the technical staff and earn an invitation to training camp.

The 2025 Open Tryout will take place on Saturday, Jan. 18 and Sunday, Jan. 19 at Bartholomew Sports Park in Elk Grove, and is open to players aged 18 and older. Players are encouraged to sign up early to secure their spot and take advantage of Early Bird Pricing – a \$50 discount – through December 31. At least one participant will be invited to join the club for its 2025 training camp ahead of the season.

Tryouts have been an important part of Republic FC's roster development since 2014. In total, six attendees have gone on to sign professional contracts with the club, as well as others who have earned a spot in the youth academy. In 2023,

Aldair Sanchez attended the Open Tryout and earned an invitation to training camp, where he would compete in preseason friendlies against USL Championship and MLS clubs and go on to sign

his first professional contract with the Indomitable Club. He appeared in 30 appearances in his rookie season and in 2024 was one of five players to appear in every game.

Tryouts are open to eligible males, 18 years or older. Registration fees apply and are non-refundable. In addition to registration fees, each trialist is solely responsible for all accommodation bookings and costs. Players must come prepared for the tryouts with their own boots, socks, shorts, gloves, shin guards or any other equipment related to their position. Republic FC's athletic training and medical services personnel will be onsite throughout tryouts.

For more information on tryout registration and requirements, visit SacRepublicFC.com/Tryouts or e-mail Tryouts@SacRepublicFC.com. ★



Hornet Volleyball Standouts Named All-Big Sky



Hornet senior **Bridgette Smith** is the first four-time first team all-Big Sky selection in Hornet program history (2021-24). Photos courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics



Sacramento State senior **Caitlin Volkmann** has tallied double figures in kills on 24 occasions in the 2024 season, and 71 times during her career as a Hornet.



Hornet senior rightside hitter **Ellie Tisko** named second team all-Big Sky for the second straight season.

**Sacramento State Athletics
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Three Hornet seniors were named all-Big Sky Conference on Nov. 26, including outside hitters Bridgette Smith and Caitlin Volkmann being named to the first team, and rightside hitter Ellie Tisko named second team.

The Hornets received three all-league honors after finishing the regular season with an 18-11 overall record and 11-5 conference mark. Sacramento State finished in a tie for second place in the conference

standings and will be the No. 3 seed at the Big Sky Tournament at the Nest.

Smith was named to the first team for the fourth straight year, becoming the first player in program history to be named first team on four occasions. Counting her pandemic season of 2020 when she was named to the second team, Smith is also the first player in school history to receive all-conference accolades on five occasions.

Volkmann was named to the first team for the first time in her career, and Tisko received second team honors for the second consecutive season. ★

Sacramento State Women's Basketball Finishes Third

**Sacramento State
University Athletics
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Senior Katie Peneueta finished with a career-high tying 20 points to go with nine rebounds while three other Hornets finished in double figures on Sunday Dec. 1, helping push the Sacramento State women's basketball team past Wagner, 73-34, to finish third at the FIU Thanksgiving Classic in Miami.

The Hornets snapped their three-game skid, improving to 5-3 overall on the year, while the Seahawks fell to 1-6 overall with the result. The 39-point victory was the largest of the year and the largest against a Division I opponent since a 48-point triumph over Portland State on Jan. 23, 2016.

Sunday's 34 points allowed are the fewest in the program's Division I history and the fewest since

defeating Concordia College, 78-29, on Nov. 22, 1990. Sacramento State limited Wagner to just 15 first-half points — the lowest scoring first half by a Hornet opponent since Northern Colorado trailed, 24-15, at the break on Jan. 6, 2007.

Overall, from the field, the Hornets stifled the Seahawks to the tune of a .245 (12-for-49) field goal percentage for the game, which is the lowest by an opponent since Pacific Union shot the same percentage on Dec. 19, 2019.

In only her second game back after missing the first six games of the season due to injury, Peneueta came off the bench to finish 7-of-10 from the field and 5-of-7 from long distance in 29 minutes, matching her career high set at Northern Arizona on Feb. 3, 2022, and tied against Montana State just over a year later on Feb. 23, 2023.

Her nine rebounds were also two shy of her career high of 11 set

against Idaho on Jan. 5, 2023.

She was followed closely by sophomore Lina Falk, who finished with 15 points on 6-of-13 from the field and added six rebounds, three assists, and three steals. Senior Jaydia Martin chipped in 12 points on 5-of-11 from the field, adding four rebounds and six assists, while freshman Sofia Alonso finished with 11 points, five rebounds, and six assists.

Freshman Brooklyn Taylor also blocked four shots on the day, the most since Summah Hanson had four against Eastern Washington on Dec. 30, 2023.

The Hornets surrendered the first basket of the game, but it was all Sacramento State from that point on, outscoring Wagner by a 21-2 count the rest of the quarter — including a 14-0 run to close the period. The run grew to 17-0 with the first three points of the second quarter as the Hornets led by as many as 27 points

in the first half en route to the 41-15 halftime advantage.

Sacramento State limited the Seahawks to four points in both the first and third quarters — tied for the fewest in a single quarter this season along with the four-point fourth quarter at Cal State Fullerton back on Nov. 14 — and tallied the fourth and fifth single-digit quarters defensively this year.

Meanwhile, the offense was clicking, finishing the day shooting 49 percent from the field overall (26-of-53) — its second-highest single-game shooting performance of the year behind only the 55 percent against Lincoln University on Nov. 10. The Hornets were also 11-of-25 (.440) from behind the arc as a team, setting season highs for both makes and percentages and the best in both categories since hitting 13-of-24 from three-point range against Idaho State at last year's Big Sky Conference Tournament.

Sacramento State opened the second half on a 9-0 run, holding Wagner to without a point for the first six minutes of the period and to without a field goal until the final 30 seconds of the period. The Hornets led by as many as 46 points with two minutes to play in the fourth quarter and led nearly the entire game save for the 15 seconds that the Seahawks went in front to start the day and the 3:55 during which the contest was tied.

Following three straight games away from home, Sacramento State returns to The Nest this coming week, hosting Kansas City to open the second-annual Big Sky-Summit Challenge on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 6:30 p.m. The Hornets then travel to Nebraska to take on Omaha on Saturday, Dec. 7, at Noon PT prior to the start of final exams. Both games are scheduled after press time. ★

Discovery Park Events Benefit Local Economy

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - October was a busy month for Discovery Park, with a series of high-profile events that brought thousands of visitors and generated significant economic benefits to the local economy.

Discovery Park is a 302-acre park located beside I-5 in downtown Sacramento. It's where the American River meets the Sacramento River. The park features a 32-mile bike trail, ball fields, picnic sites, and fishing and boat launches.

Since 2012, Discovery Park has been home to the Aftershock Music Festival. What started as a one-day music festival has grown into a four-day festival, and its success inspired

event producers to launch a country music counterpart, Golden Sky Music Festival in 2022.

This year, Discovery Park hosted Aftershock from Oct. 10 to 13, Golden Sky from Oct. 18 to 20 and welcomed runners for part of the Ironman California Triathlon (with participants swimming through the American River just south of the park) on Oct. 27.

The economic impact of these three events alone is estimated to be roughly \$64.7 million, according to Visit Sacramento, which was \$9 plus million more than in 2023.

Aftershock brought in \$35.1 million, Golden Sky earned \$14.1 million and Ironman California made \$15.5 million.

In addition to the economic boost to the region, the festivals also brought



A festival attendee crowd surfs at October's Aftershock Music Festival. Photo courtesy of First District Supervisor Phil Serna

benefits to regional parks.

About 200,000 people visited Discovery Park, most of whom came from outside the region,

providing the opportunity to bring awareness of the American River Parkway to a larger audience.

The event producer,

Danny Wimmer Presents, sponsored Low-Income Annual Passes, providing local residents in need with free access to the park.

For more, information, go to regionalparks.sac-county.gov and click on the American River Parkway dropdown. ★

Reclamation and DWR Celebrate Launch of Delta Restoration Project



This aerial photo shows the Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project area. Photo courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation

Bureau of Reclamation News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In November, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Bureau of Reclamation broke ground on a habitat restoration project in the Delta that, when completed, will help endangered species such as Delta smelt and Chinook salmon while supporting the long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

Led by DWR, the \$69.4 million Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project is located on 1,600 acres in Solano County. Reclamation is contributing \$46 million of the project's total cost.

The work happening at the site will enhance aquatic food web productivity, create and enhance habitats for many Delta-dependent fish and wildlife

species, provide long-term resiliency with climate change, and provide other ecosystem benefits such as water quality and carbon sequestration. A portion of the project acreage closes out the requirement for constructing 8,000 acres of new tidal habitat, with the additional acres supporting the Healthy Rivers and Landscape program.

"This project is an important steppingstone in the overall process of Delta ecosystem improvement and Reclamation is gratified to see it move to the groundbreaking stage," said California Great-Basin Regional Director Karl Stock. "It is emblematic of our strong working relationship with DWR and represents the type of habitat work we continue to work on with the state and our local partners."

"Prospect Island is a great project for the people and the environment

of California. The newly restored tidal marsh will clean the water we drink and will help native fish like salmon and Delta smelt grow strong," said California Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth.

"The Department of Water Resources is grateful to the Bureau of Reclamation for its partnership on Prospect Island and we look forward to future opportunities to work together for the benefit of all Californians."

Prospect Island will breach levees at two locations to return tidal-influenced flows to the project site.

This project supplements the recent completion of the largest tidal wetland restoration project to date in the Delta. The Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project is expected to be complete in 2026. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Chicken Little said, "the sky is falling, the sky is falling," but was it? We know of course the answer was no but does this sound vaguely familiar.

Kings fans and supposed experts would have you believe that the current team is in need of an overhaul, as well as a group of new coaches.

I'm the first to say that I'm not pleased with coach Brown's performance thus far, but I'm not clamoring for his job. Coach Brown's rotations have been hard to understand all season, but that is no different than the prior season where continuity was in short supply.

It wasn't long ago the Kings were two games over 500, and suddenly went into a losing tailspin. Losers of five out of the last six games will get people talking, and everyone has an opinion.

On the plus side, no one was casting aspersions when last week the Kings announced the signing of small forward Jae Crowder. Crowder, a free agent, has a history of being on winning basketball teams, and his moniker is his hard-nosed style of play, something the Kings could use more of.

Without question, the current squad plays hard every night, but we are lacking in players that have the dog mentality that can set the bone crushing screens that the Kings seem to see nightly from other teams.

Crowder brings that element, so it remains to be seen in what capacity coach Brown will use his new addition.

Brown chose to put Crowder in the starting lineup without even a single practice, while talented Mr. everything, Malik Monk watched as always from the bench.

Imagine my surprise when not one but two former members of the Kentucky Wildcats were introduced into the starting lineup against the San Antonio Spurs on Sunday, Dec. 1 at Golden One Arena. The arena erupted when Malik Monk was introduced right in back of DeAaron Fox, and I couldn't have been happier for Malik.

Coach Brown and Sacramento Kings fans were treated to the best scoring first quarter of the young season, as the Kings put up a staggering 42 points.

Malik was the spark plug he always seems to be, but despite the auspicious start, the Kings played poorly in the fourth quarter, and although they made it close, came away with a 2-point loss.

As is oft the case, the zebras did not help their cause, and the game was replete with calls that one would expect at a high school game, not in the highest court of basketball.

The last week began on a high note, as the Sactown boys went into Minnesota, and after losing the prior two games to the Wolves this season, the Kings put on a fourth quarter show that was a pure pleasure to watch. Surprisingly, while only connecting on 32% of their 3-point efforts, and scoring only 12 3-point field goals all night, the Kings sent the Timberwolves home with a 115-104 spanking.

For Kings fans, this type of overall efficiency, which included solid team defense all night, is what gives everyone hope that this team can turn things around.

Sadly, after breaking a 4-game losing streak by besting the Wolves, Sacramento could not back it up, losing to both Portland and San Antonio back-to-back.

The bright spot for me this past week was the emergence of small forward Isaac Jones. Nearly forgotten at the end of the bench, the rookie out of Washington State brought energy, spirited defense, and added 12 points that were sorely needed against the young and talented Timberwolves.

Why it's taken this long to give Isaac a look is a hard question to answer but look for coach Brown to move this young forward closer to the top of the bench.

Another bright note is hearing Malik Monk in the post-game interview say it's taken him three years in Sacramento to get a single start, and he likes being a starter where he's spent the majority of his career.

Hang on Kings fans. It's not time to pull your hair just yet. Christmas is right around the corner, and something tells me the Sac Town ballers may have some presents in store for basketball hungry Sacramento fans in the month of December.

All the best Kings fans!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

Sacramento Enacts Cannabis Social Consumption Ordinance

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento City Council voted Nov. 19 to approve an ordinance establishing a pilot program to allow social cannabis consumption at designated locations in the city of Sacramento.

"This pilot program will allow us to carefully evaluate how social cannabis consumption can operate in Sacramento," said Finance Director Pete Coletto. "Our goal is to balance supporting local businesses and expanding consumer options with protecting public safety and health."

The program will allow existing permitted dispensaries to apply for the following permits:

Type 1 permits allow the consumption of cannabis-infused food and beverages.

Type 2 permits allow the smoking

of cannabis products, such as flower, pre-rolls, and concentrates, provided businesses meet specific ventilation requirements, and the consumption of cannabis-infused food and beverages.

The social consumption permits will require dispensaries to submit a Consumption Lounge Operations Plan, an Impaired Driving Prevention Plan, and to comply with other local and State regulations to protect employees, patrons, and the community. Consumption lounge patrons must be 21 years or older to enter.

The City of Sacramento's Office of Cannabis Management has spent the past several years exploring social consumption as a potential business activity under specific conditions. These efforts have included hosting community meetings, workshops, and council discussions to collect input and feedback from different

stakeholders.

Current State of Social Consumption

Social cannabis consumption is gradually expanding across California. Currently, over a dozen jurisdictions, including San Francisco, Oakland, and West Hollywood, allow some form of permitted consumption at select retail locations.

In addition to brick-and-mortar locations, permitted social consumption of cannabis is allowed at some music festivals and other events through a cannabis events license.

Earlier this year, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1775 into law, marking a key milestone in the cannabis industry.

This legislation authorizes cities and

counties to permit existing cannabis retailers and consumption lounges to expand their offerings beyond selling cannabis products.

What's Next

Add-on permits for consumption lounges are anticipated to become available after the city council reviews cannabis land-use and zoning amendments, expected in early 2025.

Following this, administrative steps such as a fee study will be completed, with permits likely to be issued around summer 2025.

To learn more about local cannabis laws and regulations, visit the city's cannabis webpage, contact the City's Office of Cannabis Management at cannabis@city-ofsacramento.org or call (916) 808-8955. ★

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