



**Tips for a Holly Jolly Holiday Season**

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**Women's Empowerment Is Holding Holiday Cheer Drive**

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# Land Park News

VOL 33 • ISSUE 23

Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

DECEMBER 6, 2024

**SEE INSIDE**

**OLD SAC NOW A HOLIDAY DESTINATION**



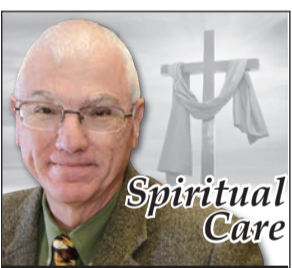
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**THE SKY IS NOT FALLING**



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**BE TRULY THANKFUL**



*Spiritual Care*

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## Sacramento Digs Into Climate Action



California Chief Service Officer Josh Fryday and Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg plant trees along the Sacramento Northern Parkway. Photo courtesy of California Volunteers

**California Volunteers, Office of the Governor News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - On Nov. 16, California Chief Service Officer Josh Fryday joined State Senator Angelique Ashby, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, the City of

Sacramento, California Climate Action Corps fellows, community partners and hundreds of volunteers for a day of climate action in Sacramento.

The event kicked off Sacramento's Equitable Urban Forest project, a multi-year effort to increase tree planting in disinvested

neighborhoods, funded in part by an Urban and Community Forestry grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service in partnership with GreenLatinos.

"Today, we witnessed the incredible impact volunteers, service members, community organizations

and local and state leaders can have when they come together for a shared purpose," said California Chief Service Officer Josh Fryday. "Together, we are building stronger, more resilient communities and we need everyone involved."

*Continued on Page 5*

## 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](http://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

*Continued on Page 5*

## 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

*Continued on Page 5*

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# 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](http://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. ★





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# 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. ★

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# ABOUT TOWN

## Elks 6 Christmas Bazaar Dec. 8

Elks Lodge 6 will host a Christmas Bazaar from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 at the lodge, 6446 Riverside Blvd.

Come and find your last-minute gifts by local artists. Have a fabulous Elks breakfast for \$15, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., while you shop.

## Canal Holiday Lights Dec. 7

Join the neighborhood for Canal Holiday Lights and the tee lighting from 4 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 at Portuguese Park.

Meet Santa and enjoy treats provided by River's Edge Church.

## 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 and special activations 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/](http://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](http://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 and/or to book a train ride, please visit [www.californiarailroad.museum](http://www.californiarailroad.museum).

**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](http://www.SacHistoryMuseum.org).

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, visit [SacMuseums.org](http://SacMuseums.org).

## Elks Lodge Calendar of Events

Elk's Lodge Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am every Sunday.

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. Guests are VERY welcome!

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

Martial Arts, Monday 5 pm  
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](http://elks6.net) for weekly menu. ★

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# Sacramento Digs Into Climate Action

Continued from page 1

Hosted by California Volunteers, Office of the Governor in partnership with the City of Sacramento, the event featured the planting of over 200 trees along the Sacramento Northern Parkway, contributing to the transformation of the local green space.

“Our parks and parkways are the cornerstones of our community, and today’s Community Climate Action Day demonstrates the power of collaboration in enhancing these spaces,” said Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment Director Jackie Beecham. “Our Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment staff, alongside dedicated volunteers, are making a lasting impact — not only by increasing our city’s tree canopy but also by fostering a sense of community pride and environmental stewardship. Trees provide immense benefits, from improving air quality to cooling our neighborhoods, and together we’re creating a healthier, more resilient Sacramento for all.”

In honor of conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall’s 90th birthday, California Climate Action Corps has committed to planting 90,000 trees and native plants across the state. Nov. 16’s efforts are a significant step toward achieving that goal.

“It is so exciting to see the collaboration between our local community, our state organizations and leaders. As we work towards a better climate for all in the future, it’s essential that we continue to



California Chief Service Officer Josh Fryday, far left, is joined by California Climate Action Corps Team Leader Rose Brazil-Few, Niagara Bottling Corporate Giving Manager Jamie Colvert, Dawoodi Bohras of the United States Nominee Mukerram Hakimuddin, Sacramento Tree Foundation Board of Directors President Michelle Smira, SMUD Board of Directors member Rob Kerth, State Senator Angelique Ashby, California Climate Action Corps Team Leader Robbie Cordova, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and former State Assemblymember Roger Dickinson at the Community Climate Action Day. Photo courtesy of California Volunteers

enhance our green spaces through collective action, together,” said Senator Angelique Ashby.

Community Climate Action Days offer volunteers the opportunity to take climate action while enhancing quality of life and access to green spaces in their communities. Participants also had opportunities to learn about local climate initiatives, followed by a lunch and resource fair.

“We’re thrilled to partner with California Volunteers to plant trees along the Northern Sacramento Parkway as we launch Sacramento’s Equitable Urban Forest Project. Expanding our tree canopy is essential, ensuring our city is resilient to climate change,” said City of Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg.

All activities count toward Climate Action Counts, the new campaign

to unite one million Californians to take everyday actions at home and in their neighborhoods to combat climate change.

“This project is part of a historic investment to grow our tree canopy, support workforce development and build climate resilience in California communities that need it the most,” said Miranda Hutten, USDA Forest Service. “Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, \$1.5 billion have been made available to support urban forest projects across the nation. One hundred percent of those funds will benefit disadvantaged communities, areas that face environmental, social and economic burdens that trees can help relieve. To date, California has received over \$146 million in Inflation Reduction Act Funds to support those goals — including \$1 million for the Sacramento Equitable Urban Forest

project.”

“Trees create lasting and pivotal changes in communities. They cool our streets, create places of play and allow for all of us to enjoy the lovely Sacramento outdoors. Future residents will continue to feel the benefit of trees through cleaner air, cooler temperatures and under the canopy of a lush urban forest. The IRA funding provided by the US Forest Service is a direct investment in our communities as well as the investment of California Volunteers in partnership with the City of Sacramento. The Sacramento Tree Foundation and local community are invested in this project from planning, to planting, to long-term stewardship,” said Dr. Jessica Sanders, Executive Director Sacramento Tree Foundation.

“At SMUD, we’re

proud to work alongside our community partners and the customers we serve,” said SMUD CEO and General Manager Paul Lau. “By taking part in Community Climate Action Day, together we’re helping build healthier, more resilient communities and empowering residents to be active participants in building a clean energy future.”

Supported by the California Volunteers Fund, sponsors for the event include Niagara Cares and the Dawoodi Bohra community.

“At Niagara, we are dedicated to paving the way for a more sustainable future for generations to come,” said Jamie Colvert, Corporate Giving Manager of Niagara Bottling. “By supporting Community Climate Action Days, we’re not only investing in green spaces but also fostering a sense of

unity and responsibility within our communities. Together, we’re building stronger, more resilient neighborhoods that everyone can enjoy and be proud to protect.”

“Climate change affects all of us, and only collective effort will help us combat it. That’s why the Dawoodi Bohras are proud to partner with California Volunteers, Office of the Governor on this Community Climate Action Day, which helps unify Californians in collective action to enhance our environment and nurture green spaces for the benefit of all,” said Aliasger Najam, Director of Outreach for the Dawoodi Bohra community.

Gov. Gavin Newsom launched California Climate Action Corps in 2020 as the nation’s first state-level climate service corps with the mission of empowering Californians to take meaningful climate action.

The program is led by California Volunteers, Office of the Governor.

California Climate Action Corps is part of the California Service Corps and organizes Community Climate Action Days throughout the state. California Service Corps is the largest service force in the nation, larger than the Peace Corps.

It is administered by California Volunteers, Office of the Governor and is made up of #CaliforniansForAll College Corps, Youth Service Corps, California Climate Action Corps and AmeriCorps California. ★

## Record Crowd for Run to Feed the Hungry

Continued from Page 1  
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 the Sacramento State campus. Participants had the flexibility to join virtually this year as well, receiving a bib and shirt to commemorate their support while contributing remotely to the cause.

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



Participants in the Thanksgiving spirit smile and celebrate during the Run to Feed the Hungry event.

women, with additional plaques and prize money for their achievements.

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 through the scenic route.

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



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

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 individuals each month. This year’s record turnout is expected to provide much-needed support to help the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Service continue its essential work in the Sacramento area. ★



Several bands performed throughout the course, keeping participants motivated with music as they ran, walked, or jogged their way through the scenic route.

## County Property Tax Due Dec. 10

Continued from page 1

completed before midnight on the payment day 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 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.

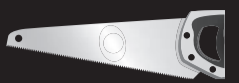
For additional information about property taxes, the Sacramento County Tax Collector’s website provides answers to common questions from taxpayers regarding property taxes and links to tax bill information and online payments.

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. ★

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# 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

## 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, which debuted 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

the Ironman California race made \$15.5 million.

In addition to the incredible economic boost to the region, the music festivals at Discovery Park also brought 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 enjoy the park. ★

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# Let Us Be Truly Thankful

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](http://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](http://www.thechaplain.net) or send a check for \$20 (per book) to the address above. ★



BY NORRIS BURKUS

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

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Stunning Foothill Farms property featuring 3 bedrooms and 2 baths and an opportunity to purchase a property that needs zero updating. This home was completely rebuilt after a fire and has new kitchen and baths, new flooring, fresh paint inside and out, new roof, new electrical and new lighting, just to name a few of the updates. The renovations are completed...whether you are a first-time buyer or an investor, this beautiful residence is ideal. Located on a quiet street that is close to neighborhood schools, shopping and parks. This home is sure to impress!

**Wendi REINL**

# 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](http://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.saccounty.gov/BHS/Documents/MHUCC\\_Flyer.pdf](http://dhs.saccounty.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.saccounty.gov](http://dhs.saccounty.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](http://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](http://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. ★

## 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](http://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



A Women's Empowerment graduate makes holiday gifts with her grandson at the annual Holiday Craft Party, where they also received gifts from the group's annual holiday drive. Women's Empowerment is seeking items for its 2024 Holiday Drive. Photo courtesy of Kristin Thebaud Communications

have the opportunity to choose gifts for their children, thanks to a toy drive held by California State Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, District 6.

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

area designed specifically for women experiencing homelessness and their children.

In 2023, 165 jobs were secured by 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 [WomensEmpowerment.org](http://WomensEmpowerment.org). ★