



Sacramento Author
Aides Shelter Animals
Nationwide

PAGE 3

Urban Plates
Arrives in
Sacramento

PAGE 10



East Sacramento News

VOL 33 • ISSUE 24 Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years DECEMBER 20, 2024

SEE
INSIDE

X GAMES SET
TO RETURN
FROM 2025-27



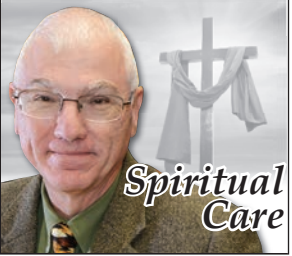
PAGE 4

CARING FOR
THE TALENT?



PAGE 4

NOT THE BEST
CHRISTMAS EVER



PAGE 5

Merry Christmas!



Family Hits
Jackpot for
Charities
at Giving
Machine



Kelvin Moss finishes the Giving Machine's jackpot purchase with wife Leslie and grandchildren. Photo courtesy of Gary Zavoral

By Gary Zavoral

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Seven is a special number for Kelvin and Leslie Moss of Granite Bay. They have seven children, and their last child was nicknamed "Seven." And, on the night they went to the Sacramento area's charitable vending machines, there were seven members of their family present.

And sevens are especially lucky for struggling individuals and families throughout the Sacramento region and the world. Because last week, the Moss family typed in "777" into a Light the World Giving Machine and donated 30 gifts to those in need. It is considered a "Giving Machine jackpot," worth \$2,035 for five local charities and two global ones.

"We didn't know we'd do this until we got there that night. We had seven children, and seven of us were at the Giving Machines that night. It just felt right to choose 777," mother and grandmother Leslie Moss said. "We really felt we hit the jackpot for our community. It was a great night."

Light the World Giving Machines, sponsored and financed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, are at the Westfield Galleria at Roseville for a third year and are filled with cards detailing charitable gifts. When one item is purchased, the card falls to the bottom, just like a candy bar drops when purchased at a vending machine. Joining Kelvin and Leslie at the Giving Machine were son-in-law Eric Stratton and four grandchildren.

"It was really fun to

Continued on Page 9

Christmas Berries Grace River Parkway

By Derek Minnema

Christmas berries adorning the American River Parkway with their brilliant red clusters have symbolically been spreading Christmas cheer along California's waterways since long before the state was settled.

Spanish missionaries arriving in the late 18th century were struck by the resemblance of the plant to European holly, traditionally used as Christmas celebrations throughout Europe. The plant's association with Christian symbolism was immediate and profound. The bright red berries, appearing at their peak during the Christmas season, were seen as representing Christ's blood, while the sharp-toothed evergreen leaves reminded the faithful of the crown of thorns placed upon Jesus's head during the crucifixion.

This symbolism resonated deeply with early Christian settlers, who

Continued on Page 10



Planted on Landis Avenue by early Carmichael colonists, an ancient persimmon tree is framed by winter berries. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner



Scan our QR Code for a
direct link to our online edition!

PRSRD STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CARMICHAEL, CA
PERMIT NO. 350
OR CURRENT
POSTAL CUSTOMER



SENIOR LIVING

OFFERING SUPPORTIVE INDEPENDENCE, ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE

CALL TODAY FOR A PRIVATE TOUR
(916) 395-7579 | accmtv.org



FRESH PRODUCE

<p>American Cucumber \$9^c/lb</p>	<p>Blueberry Pint \$2.99^{ea}</p>	<p>Aloe Vera 79^c/lb</p>	<p>Celery Sleeved \$1.19^{ea}</p>
<p>Assorted Mushroom 14 oz \$2.99^{pk}</p>	<p>Young Thai Coconut 9 ct \$15.99^(case)</p>	<p>Kabocha 79^c/lb</p>	<p>Orange Navel 10 lbs \$5.99^{bag}</p>

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

<p>REG. \$5.99 \$4.99^{/ea}</p>	<p>REG. \$3.99 \$2.99^{/ea CRV}</p>	<p>REG. \$6.99 \$4.99^{/ea CRV}</p>	<p>REG. \$21.99 \$19.99^{/ea}</p>
		<p>REG. \$5.99 \$2.99^{/ea}</p>	

ASIAN GROCERY

<p>REG. \$4.99 \$1.99^{/ea}</p>	<p>REG. \$5.99 \$4.59^{/ea}</p>	<p>REG. \$4.29 \$3.69^{/ea}</p>	<p>REG. \$11.99 \$10.99^{/ea}</p>
		<p>REG. \$39.99 box +CRV \$34.99^{box +CRV}</p>	

EUROPEAN GROCERY

<p>REG. \$13.99 \$11.99^{/ea}</p>	<p>REG. \$3.99 \$2.99^{/ea}</p>	<p>REG. \$10.99 \$8.99^{/ea}</p>	<p>REG. \$14.99 \$12.99^{/ea}</p>
		<p>REG. \$3.49 \$2.49^{/ea}</p>	

KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

<p>REG. \$7.99 \$6.99^{/ea}</p>	<p>REG. \$12.99 \$15.99^{/EA}</p>	<p>REG. \$12.99 \$9.99^{/EA}</p>	<p>REG. \$7.49 \$4.99^{/EA}</p>	<p>REG. \$3.99 \$2.99^{/EA}</p>	<p>REG. \$9.99 \$5.99^{/EA}</p>
<p>REG. \$1.49 \$1.99^{/EA}</p>	<p>REG. \$1.49 \$4.99^{/EA}</p>	<p>REG. \$6.49 \$3.99^{/EA}</p>	<p>REG. \$5.99 \$3.99^{/EA}</p>	<p>REG. \$5.99 \$3.49^{/EA}</p>	<p>REG. \$24.99 \$15.99^{/EA}</p>
		<p>REG. \$7.99 \$4.99^{/EA}</p>			

HOUSEWARES

BIGEN SPEEDY HAIR COLOR (REFILL ONLY) REG. \$7.99 \$5.99^{/EA}			
<p>ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL 39.99^{EA}</p>	<p>KAIZEN WOK PAN 30 CM MADE IN KOREA 14.99^{EA}</p>	<p>WATERMELON SLICE KNIFE REG. \$3.99 \$3.99^{EA}</p>	
<p>ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (4 CUPS) \$49.99^{EA}</p>	<p>ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (6 CUPS) \$54.99^{EA}</p>	<p>ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (10 CUPS) \$59.99^{EA}</p>	

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

<p>REG. 6.99/EA \$3.99^{/ea}</p>	<p>REG. 6.49 LB \$5.49^{/lb}</p>
<p>REG. 7.19 LB \$6.19^{/lb}</p>	<p>REG. \$5.59 LB \$4.59^{/lb}</p>

EUROPEAN DELI

<p>REG. 6.49 LB \$5.49^{/lb}</p>	<p>REG. 6.49 LB \$5.49^{/lb}</p>
<p>REG. 7.19 LB \$6.19^{/lb}</p>	

Sacramento Author Aides Shelter Animals Nationwide

iPub Cloud International News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A new children’s book series is empowering young animal allies nationwide.

In 2024, approximately 6.3 million companion animals found themselves in shelters across the United States. iPub Cloud International is thrilled to introduce an extraordinary new children’s book that shines a light on this urgent issue. “A Shelter Is... A Dog’s Journey from Shelter to Home,” the debut picture book by Carolyn Wooddall and beautifully illustrated by Elaine S. Choi, captures the hopes, resilience, and love that define the shelter experience.

With its heartfelt storytelling and vibrant artwork, this inspiring book empowers young readers to connect with the cause and take action to support their local animal shelters.

Carolyn Wooddall aims to enlighten and motivate children through her Animal Ally book series. The first book, “A Shelter Is...,” tells the touching story of a hopeful dog in a shelter navigating its path to finding a forever home. Through simple storytelling and vivid illustrations, the book highlights shelters’ essential roles in nurturing and rehoming pets. “A Shelter Is...” not only aims to educate young minds about animal shelters but also encourages our youth to actively participate in creating happier endings for all animals in need.

“A beautifully illustrated piece showcasing the invaluable resource our local shelters play in our communities. A perfect introduction for children to learn about the lifesaving work of dedicated staff and bringing families and pets in need of homes together!” explained Meghan Ramczyk, animal services manager for the Lodi City animal shelter.

Wooddall’s deep passion for animal welfare shines through in her writing.

“My goal with this book is to educate readers about the powerful impact of animal shelters and their remarkable work, ” she said. “I also want to empower kids to



Photo of the book’s author, Carolyn Wooddall.

understand how they can get involved and make a difference in the lives of shelter animals in their communities. ”

Community Impact

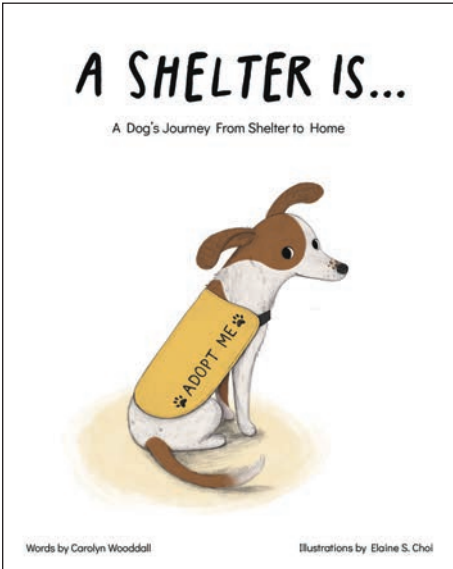
Key Statistics (Source: www.ShelterAnimalsCount.com): Approximately 3.2 million sheltered animals are cats, while 3.1 million are dogs. Around 50% of U.S. shelters maintain no-kill policies.

An estimated 4.1 million shelter animals find homes each year.

Proceeds from the Animal Ally series

will benefit Hard Luck Animal Welfare Advocates, a nonprofit that the author and her husband started in 2023 to help shelter animals who are down on their luck, as well as other animal shelters, supporting medical care and adoption efforts for animals in need.

This initiative reflects a significant opportunity for communities to rally together for a compassionate cause, ensuring more animals like the one in Wooddall’s book find their happily ever after.



Cover artwork on display for “A Shelter Is...”
Photos courtesy of Carolyn Wooddall



Photo of the book’s illustrator, Elaine S. Choi.

Carolyn Wooddall resides in Sacramento with her family and their four shelter pups. Her debut picture book is perfect for young animal lovers, and anyone interested in positively impacting animals’ lives. It is a compelling reminder that while shelters are essential, the ultimate goal is to turn them into temporary stops on the way to loving homes.

For more information on how to support or to order a copy of “A Shelter Is...,” please visit www.ipubglobalconnection.com. For more information about how kids can get involved with their local animal shelters and become Animal Allies, visit www.animalallybooks.com. ★

California Respects the Power of Your Vote

By Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., California Secretary of State

Californians can confidently claim this: California has made more significant reforms to our election laws and expanded voting rights than any other state.

The relevance of this accomplishment deepens as we prepare to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act next year. This landmark legislation began to undo our country’s long history of voter suppression, intimidation, and disenfranchisement that far too many Americans experienced at the polls for decades.

My own parents, who were sharecroppers, were denied their right to vote in the Jim Crow era South. Before moving to Los Angeles from Hope, Arkansas, my parents, David and Mildred Nash, could not vote. My father was an adult with six children before he registered to vote and was only able to exercise that constitutional right for the first time here in California.

As California Secretary of State, I do not take the progress we have made over the years lightly. My staff and I hold sacred the obligation to ensure that our elections are safe, free, fair, and accessible to all. Therefore, before certifying the results for this year’s election on Dec. 13, we have taken a number of steps to ensure that every vote is counted. We have also made sure that our ballot counting process is credible and free from interference.

To meet that deadline without a hitch, California requires elections officials in all 58 counties to turn in their official results by a certain date. This year, that date was Dec. 6.

By law, every eligible voter in our state receives a vote-by-mail ballot. This ensures all registered voters can exercise their right to vote.

Whether you placed your ballot in a designated drop-off box, voted by mail, or cast your ballot at a polling center, votes are safe and secure. And we allow voters to sign up to receive text message, email, or voice call notifications about the status of their own ballots by using the Where’s My Ballot? tool. To learn more or to sign up, paste this URL in your web browser: <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/>

The ballots of Californians who voted by mail are also protected. The United States Postal Service partners with the State to make sure ballots are delivered on time. All mailed-in ballots are sent by First Class mail with a postage paid envelope provided to every eligible registered voter.

Election Security is our number one priority. That’s why my office designed and implemented a program to back up that commitment. For more information, visit this URL: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/election-cybersecurity>

Additionally, California takes preventive actions to make sure our voting technology keeps our elections safe and protects everyone’s votes.

For example, county voting systems are not connected to the internet, which protects them from cyber-threats. The State also performs regular and rigorous testing to make sure the voting systems are working optimally, and only authorized personnel are granted access.

Staff members are also given phishing and cybersecurity training.

VoteCal, the state’s centralized voter registration system, is also key. The system is regularly updated, and it is used as a resource for counties to verify voter signatures.

California also provides security at all counting locations and makes sure ballot drop-off boxes are secured and monitored.

And all election processes are open to observation during specified hours.

In my role as Secretary of State of California, there is nothing more important to me than defending our democracy. I am committed to safeguarding voting rights, and to leading our state in upholding the highest democratic standards by implementing policies and practices that Californians and all Americans can trust and look to for instruction and hope.

You can contact the California Office of the Secretary of State at 1-800-345-Vote or elections@sos.ca.gov with inquiries or to report suspected incidents or irregularities. Additional information can be found at www.sos.ca.gov and the office’s social media platforms:

Instagram: [@californiasos_](https://www.instagram.com/californiasos_)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/CaliforniaSOS](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaSOS)

X: [@CASOSVote](https://twitter.com/CASOSVote)



Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

Paid Advertorial Content



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Soroptimist International of Sacramento

Fundraising with See’s Candies

DECEMBER 1 - 23

11 am - 5 pm

Lake Crest Village

Florin Rd and Greenhaven Dr

(Next to Marshall’s)

See’s CANDIES®

Fundraising



All proceeds go towards Soroptimist programs that invest in the dreams of women and girls through access to education.

Foundation Awards \$32,000 Grant to Wellspring Women’s Center



Wellspring Women’s Center is part of Casa Herbalife Program, which collaborates with community organizations to provide nutritious meals, educational resources and safe environments for children. Photo courtesy of Herbalife Family Foundation

Herbalife Family Foundation News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Herbalife Family Foundation has awarded a \$32,000 grant to Wellspring Women’s Center, a Sacramento-based nonprofit committed to supporting women experiencing poverty by offering a community of care and programs that promote wellness, dignity, and empowerment for both women and their children.

Wellspring Women’s Center is among 28 U.S.-based nonprofits participating in the Casa Herbalife Program, a global initiative that collaborates with community organizations to provide nutritious meals, educational resources, and safe environments for children and underserved communities.

Through its Casa Herbalife Program, The Herbalife Family Foundation distributed \$5 million this year to 164 nonprofit organizations across 59 countries and territories, furthering its mission of empowering communities worldwide.

The Casa Herbalife Program is made possible by the generosity and commitment of Herbalife’s independent distributors and employees. Their dedication has fueled The Herbalife Family Foundation’s impactful work, directly supporting communities and transforming

lives.

This year’s funding is projected to benefit approximately 200,000 children globally, delivering essential support where it is needed most.

“These grants go beyond financial aid — they represent a commitment to empowering communities, providing children and underserved groups with the tools they need to create a brighter, healthier future,” said Rob Levy, Herbalife Family Foundation board member and international managing director at Herbalife. “We deeply appreciate the dedication of Herbalife’s independent distributors and employees, whose passion and hard work spark real, lasting change in the communities where we live and serve.”

“On behalf of Wellspring Women’s Center, we are proud to partner with the Herbalife Family Foundation, whose 30 years of commitment to global wellness have made a meaningful impact,” said Genelle Smith, executive director of Wellspring Women’s Center.

“Thanks to HFF’s generous support, we are able to provide nutrient-dense meals to 150 women and children each week-day through our Nutritious Meal Program, with no eligibility barriers. We are grateful for HFF’s dedication to creating a brighter future and supporting organizations like ours that serve those in need.” ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Things can change quickly in Kings Town, and the happenings of the past week certainly demonstrate exactly that.

The hardcourt gladiators from Sacramento are currently on a torrid 3-game winning streak, looking ahead to Monday night’s game against the Denver Nuggets.

If you hadn’t paid attention and just tuned into the Kings, you’d discover a team that is just finding themselves 26 games into the regular season, after losing every game in the preseason.

Fans and pundits alike have riddled the airwaves with remedies for multiple losing streaks, along with advice to coach Brown as to who should be his starting five.

I am more than happy to announce that coach Brown’s decision to finally insert Malik Brown into the King’s starting lineup has produced four wins in the last five games, and everyone is now wondering why it took three seasons to figure this one out.

But rather than casting aspersions, I will take the high road, and just give him an attaboy for making a decision that was long overdue. Malik is thrilled to be where he always thought he should be, and now coach Brown can simply focus on his bench that is currently ranked in the bottom of the league.

Kevin Huerter is showing signs of returning to form and seems to be comfortable taking the 6th man position that was formerly Monk’s, so it’s really the next three or four rotations that are going to tell the tale.

What has created chaos with the team is the night-in and night out inconsistency as to who will sit the night out completely, or who will garnish the majority of the minutes.

Big man Alex Len cannot catch a break, as he all too often finds himself at the end of the bench being a spectator for the entire game. This 7-foot giant has NBA game, and from my perspective, it’s up to coach Brown and his staff to build this big man’s confidence. One way you do that is by giving him a consistent rotation that he can count on every night.

Len has played several good games and shows real promise, only to find

himself relegated to the bench the very next game with no explanation except for the dreaded, coaches’ decision.

The Kings can keep scouring the league for another trade/acquisition, or just look at their own bench, and perhaps realize that there is more talent already on this team than they are giving them credit for.

I for one believe that Alex Len has a big upside, but it takes a coach and staff that are willing to build a player’s confidence if you want to see the desired result.

So far, I’m giving this staff a failing grade as it relates to evaluating talent, and you need to look no further than the inexplicable trade of Davion Mitchell to qualify my comments.

The Kings are still feeling the void left in Mitchell’s absence, and all he is doing in Toronto is making Canadian fans fall in love with him. From the Kings bench to the Raptor’s starting point guard, Davion is making the Toronto GM look like a basketball wizard.

The Kings cannot afford to continue undervaluing talent, or simply not see the forest for the trees. Let’s get everything out of the team currently constituted, and that means starting with consistency as it relates to players coming off the bench. If Huerter is the 6th man, who is #7, 8, and 9? At this point no one but coach Brown knows, and he doesn’t know until just before gametime.

Here’s the good news! At 13-13 it’s time to hit the reset button. Yes, the Kings are at 500, and now is the time to start making a run that can propel this team to the playoffs.

The starting five of, Fox, Monk, DeRozan, Murray, and Sabonis are a formidable group to guard, and I look forward to watching this team come out of the blocks on all 8 cylinders every night.

So, take heart Kings fans, because the best is yet to come, and that’s without a trade or an acquisition.

Merry Christmas to one and all and go Kings!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vggharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

ABOUT TOWN

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/

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 and/or to book a train ride, please visit 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.

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, visit Sac-Museums.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 for weekly menu. ★

X Games Set to Celebrate 30th Anniversary in Sacramento



X Games 2025 will take place at Cal Expo in Sacramento. Photo courtesy of X Games

X Games News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Dec. 12, X Games announced a new three-year partnership with California Dreamin’ Entertainment that will bring the renowned actions sports and music festival to Cal Expo in Sacramento each summer from 2025-2027.

California Dreamin’ Entertainment is reimagining the former Raging Waters site at the Cal Expo/California State Fairgrounds in Sacramento and is leading the city’s partnership with X Games. X Games Sacramento 2025 will bring three days of action sports culture and competitions to the capital city from Aug. 22 through Aug. 24 and will mark the 30th anniversary celebration of X Games.

“Some of the biggest moments in X Games history took place in the

San Francisco Bay,” said Jeremy Bloom, CEO of X Games. “Twenty-five years later, we’re thrilled to bring X Games back to Northern California to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the brand.”

With the support of Cal Expo and Visit Sacramento, X Games and California Dreamin’ Entertainment are committed to making X Games Sacramento in 2025, 2026 and 2027 the ultimate showcase for action sports and action sports culture, with more competition, more music and more excitement.

X Games Sacramento will include skateboarding, BMX and Moto X and will host more than 100 of the best action sports athletes who will compete for over \$1 million in prize money. In addition, it will feature a full lineup of amazing music appearances to be announced in the coming months.

The 30th anniversary of X Games also marks the countdown to X Games League, the brand’s new global team-based format, set to kick off in 2026. As part of the new partnership between X Games and California Dreamin’ Entertainment, Sacramento is the first event location to be announced as a host for X Games League.

“I grew up right outside of Sacramento, so this really is a dream come true for me,” said Bryce Tryon, five-time X Games BMX athlete, in a press conference Dec. 12. “X Games has always been a huge part of my life, so I’m stoked to feel like I’m playing host to a competition that has given me so much over the years and show my hometown the best that action sports have to offer.”

General admission and premium tickets will be available soon for X Games Sacramento. ★

LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

Find out what’s happening in your local area

Arrest Logs updated daily

EASTSACRAMENTONEWS.COM

Large-Scale Bird-Fighting Ring Investigated in Herald

More than 200 birds were found on the property. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office

Sacramento County Sheriff's Office News Release

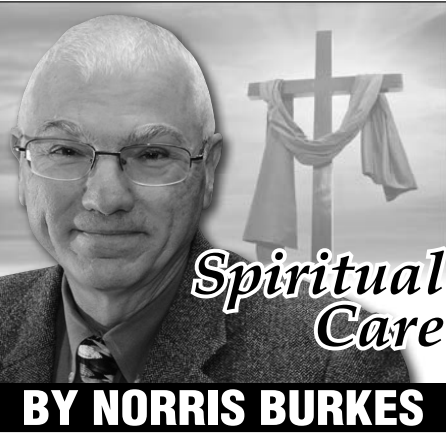
SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Two weekends ago, Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Central Division Patrol Deputies responded to a residence in the south area of the county on Borden Road in southern Sacramento County, regarding a large group of vehicles. Upon their arrival, approximately 40 to 50 individuals fled the area on foot and by vehicle. Multiple vehicles crashed through neighboring fences, and several were left abandoned at the scene. Suspecting the individuals fled because of a large-scale bird fighting event discovered on the property, Central Division deputies and detectives from the Sheriff's Special Investigations Bureau (SIB) authored a search warrant, where they recovered seven birds that

had been tortured. More than 200 total birds were located on the property, with clear indications of their being raised as fighting birds. Detectives also located numerous antibiotics and drugs used in growing and treating fighting birds, along with vials of painkillers. Sacramento County Animal Control assisted in taking multiple birds for protection, along with the injured birds that will be humanely euthanized due to their extreme injuries. The Special Investigations Bureau will work with Animal Control and the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office during this investigation. The California Department of Food and Agriculture has been contacted for further testing of the birds. Bird fighting rings have been related to the spread of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which has impacted farmers throughout California.

The investigation will be ongoing, and numerous arrests are anticipated. If anyone suspects any mistreatment, abandonment or any event that leads to the torture of animals, the Sheriff's Office encourages all people to report it immediately by contacting the Sheriff's Office at (916) 874- 5115 or Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers at (916) 443-HELP (4357). Tips leading to an arrest are eligible for a CASH reward of up to \$1,000, and tipsters remain anonymous. Tips are paid in cash, and you are never asked for identification. Contact Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers at (916) 443-HELP (4357), 1-800-AA-CRIME, or **TIPS. Use the "P3 TIPS" app or online at www.sacvalleycrimestoppers.com. Tip information may also be left anonymously at www.sacsheriff.com or by calling (916) 874-TIPS (8477). ★



Definitely NOT the Best Christmas Ever



This is the time of year when writers like to recount their "Best Christmas ever." Their stories often include a video of a slobbering puppy leaping from a ribbon-covered box or a marriage proposal, or my favorite, a deployed soldier surprising her family with an early homecoming. But if you've read my column long enough, you'll know that this columnist seeks to fill the holes of the unexpected. So, today, I recollect my very worst Christmas ever! I was only 4 years old, but savvy enough to ask my parents why our Charlie Brown Christmas tree was so bare. I didn't understand why my father, a poor ministerial student, had nothing to place under the tree. However, I became cautiously optimistic on Christmas Eve when my dad called us one-by-one into his study cubby. My sister came away with a new doll. My brother followed holding a kinetic car, the kind you roll backwards to wind up the energy. Score! Seeing that kind of haul, my kinetic energy was pushing full throttle. I approached my dad's desk and climbed into his loving lap. "I have something very important to tell you," he said. My little eyes reflected with the anticipatory joy of Tiny Tim. "There is no such thing as Santa Claus," he said. "We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, not Santa." My eyes blinked with tears. Could it get any worse for a preschooler than that? Yes, actually, it could. When I asked about my present, my dad told me that I'd be sharing the kinetic car with my brother. "Does it get it any sadder?" you ask.

In fact, it did.. I joined my brother on the kitchen floor where we took turns sending the car careening back and forth like a game of catch. Twenty minutes into the game, my 5-year-old brother began speculating on how the car mechanism worked. "Let me take it apart," my brother begged with screwdriver in hand. I was curious, too, but I would only agree if he promised to restore it to working condition. He promised. Ten minutes later, with wheels, chassis and motor spread on the kitchen table, the car was humpty-dumptyed. Saddest, worst, most disappointing Christmas ever, right? So, why would I write about a Christmas memory worthy of Debbie-downer? As foul as it was, it still points toward some spiritual takeaways of Christmas. First, Christmas needn't be all about materialism, about what we buy or what we consume. It might also be about sacrifice. My sacrifice fed my brother's mechanical mind. He explored the workings of the tiny engine, gaining early insights into motion, potential energy and kinetic energy. He may have failed the car restoration business, but he became an electronics repairman and later started his own electronics business. Second, my worst Christmas inspired me to share what we are given. Christian scripture reminds us, "To whom much is given, much shall be required." I didn't get much, but in sharing it, I perhaps inspired greater generosity. For years to come, my brother modified other gifts into things much more interesting. One year he rigged a toy tank to burst from a record player box and shoot rubber bands. Another year, he removed the capacitor from an old radio to make an electric shock device capable of repelling the school bullies. I've shared this sad story with my wife many times over the years. So, last week I told her I'd have my best Christmas ever if she'd give me a miniature Schnauzer puppy for Christmas. At first she said no, but after reading this column, she assured me that our neighbor would likely "share" his new puppy. So much for the worst Christmas ever. ★

Dine Downtown Returns with \$45 Meals

Downtown Sacramento Partnership News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Downtown Sacramento Partnership has announced the nearly 30 restaurants participating in the 20th Annual Dine Downtown, plus unveiling most of the

specially curated menus. All are offering three-course dinners for \$45, with menu items ranging from unique courses such as uni pasta to classics like braised short rib. The pre-fixe meals for this highly anticipated promotion will be available for 10 days starting Jan. 10, 2025, and ending Jan. 19, 2025. Launched in 2005, Dine Downtown provides support to local restaurants during a critically important (and usually slower) period for the industry. Over the last 20 years, Dine Downtown has generated more than \$6 million in restaurant sales for central city restaurants.

Participating 2025 restaurants include: Frog & Slim Butcher and Barrel The Melting Pot Revolution Winery & Kitchen Tapa the World The Lock & Key Tapas + Bar The 7th Street Standard Willow Restaurant and Bar

Pilothouse Restaurant Foundation Restaurant & Bar Dawson's Steakhouse Hook and Ladder Manufacturing Company Maydoon The Firehouse Restaurant Kodaiko Ramen and Bar Frank Fat's Capitol Garage The Porch Restaurant and Bar Magpie Hawks Public House

Bear & Crown British Pub Grange Brasserie du Monde Aioli Bodega Española Flamingo House Social Club Octopus Peru La Cosecha by Mayahuel Tequila Museo Mayahuel Dine Downtown menus are available at DowntownSac.org/ DineDowntown and reservations can be made with the restaurants directly. ★

Be a part of something important

Local Writers Wanted

We are looking for local Freelance Writers to provide great coverage.



Call us today at 916-773-1111

RETIRED COUPLE

HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE*

V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY

Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING

Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker

WWW.VIPLoan.com *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217

Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

Do You Need Your Legal Ads Published?

We can help.

Call us now to place your legal advertising!



916-773-1111

All legal ads published by Messenger Publishing Group.

CALLING ALL JAMES MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1975 50-YEAR REUNION

WHEN: MAY 31, 2025

We will be holding our 50th Reunion on May 31, 2025!

If you are a member, or if you know any members, please call Cindy Boyd at (916) 802-8847

Sign up on Facebook Page "James Marshall High School Class of 1975 Reunion"

Or join Classmates.com as soon as possible.

We would love to have everyone attend this evening of fun!



YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE

Call a sales representative today for great advertising rates: 916.773.1111

LYTLE

CONSTRUCTION INC.

Remodeling and Design

LIC# 480492

Certified Kitchen & Bath Remodeler

www.lytleconstruction.com

Award-Winning Design/Build Firm

Serving Sacramento for more than 25 years

• Additions

• Kitchens

• Bathrooms

• Custom Cabinetry

FREE Consultation

916-422-6639

Fall Yard Clean-up Specials!

• HAULING & YARD CLEAN-UP

• RAIN GUTTER CLEANING

• CONCRETE REMOVAL

• HEDGE TRIMMING /SHRUB REMOVAL

• PRESSURE WASHING

Call LESTER

(916) 838-1247

Lic#128758/Ref

Pressure wash your driveways clean! Your decks, too!

Clean out your garage! Replace that old lawn!

Hard work—not a problem!

SPECIALS FOR SENIORS/*SERVING THE AREA SINCE 1996*

Prime Quality Maintenance

• GUTTER CLEANING

• Window Cleaning

• Pressure Washing

• Junk Removal/Hauling

• Landscape Maintenance

Free Estimates

Licensed & Insured

CSLA# 996271

Call or Text Jesse: 916 417-4231

Creature Catchers Wildlife Management

"If it walks, crawls, slithers or flies, we'll remove it"

Creature Catchers Wildlife Management

Humane and non-toxic solutions for both animals & man

Live Trapping • Humane Removal • Repair

Dead Animal Location/Removal • Exclusion Work

Bats • Snakes • Rats/Mice • Squirrels • Raccoon • Skunk

• Opossum • Birds

CreatureCatchers.org | 530-885-PEST(7378)

California State Trapping License #7781 - Insured by Market

CAPITOL ELECTRIC

Reasonable Residential & Commercial Work since 1960

Repairs, Trouble Shooting

Custom Lighting/FREE Est.

Excellent ref from Angie's List

Cell: 213-3740

Neil McIntire — C.S.L.# 394307

FUGINA CONSTRUCTION

CUSTOM DESIGNED FOR YOUR SPACE

Design/Build

From entire home remodels,

to baths & kitchens

35 Years of Experience

LIC#8548643

Start Planning Now

Free Consultation

KFUGINACONSTRUCTION@GMAIL.COM

WWW.FUGINACONSTRUCTION.COM

ROONEY'S PLUMBING

FULL SERVICE PLUMBING

456-7777

rooneysplumbing.com

Licence #683668

FREEDOM HANDYMAN SERVICE

I specialize in all areas of home improvement !

Quality work the first time, guaranteed!

Co2 & Smoke Alarms - Light Bulb Replacement - Door Bells

Grab Bar Instalations - Security Doors - Sprinkler Repair & New Valves

Carpentry Electrical - Plumbing - Sheetrock - Ceiling Fan Installation

Fix leaks of all types

Accepts All Major Credit Cards "Senior Discount"

NO JOB TOO SMALL! Call Eric (916) 470-3488

SMOOT LANDSCAPING

LANDSCAPES & DESIGN

DESIGN - RENOVATION - WATER FEATURE - STONE & CONCRETE

OUTDOOR LIGHTING - IRRIGATION SYSTEM

916-454-1300

www.SmootLandscaping.com

Lic#633224; Serving Sacramento since 1982

Recognized in the Sacramento Bee,

Street of Dreams & Garden Tours of East Sacramento

Patch Masters Drywall

Acoustic Removal & Drywall Textures

• Acoustic (popcorn) ceiling removal

• Water damage & drywall repair

• Sheetrock installation

• Machine applied textures

• Hand applied texture

• Retexturing & Painting

• BBB Accredited

Mike Church

(916) 847-7783

Owner

CA Lic# 1004984

Bonded & Insured

PatchMastersDrywall@yahoo.com

www.DrywallPatchMasters.com

SOVEREIGN PAINTING

916-422-4416

Specializing in Older Homes

Dan Sovereign

SovereignPaintingCo.com

FOR 3 GENERATIONS

CA LIC # 484215

CASH

for Diabetic Test Strips!

G7

CONTACT

916 505-4673

we come to you

We pickup in 1 hour or less

We buy other items

We pay the most!

WE PICK UP AND PAY YOU CASH ON THE SPOT

WE GIVE YOU CASH FOR YOUR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS

CASH for Diabetic Supplies

Grow your business in our Home Improvement Guide!

Call (916) 773-1111 to advertise with us today!

MPG

Single Again

Make the rest of your life the best of your life!

Are You Single Again?

SingleAgain.com is a website dedicated to helping people put their lives back together again after divorce, separation or the loss of their spouse.

Finding yourself single after years of being in a relationship can add a different kind of unknown stress to your daily life.

We provide articles and information from many sources to help you put all the pieces together so you can live a healthy and loving new life. When you first visit the website, be sure to make us one of your favorites. We publish many articles to help you along your new journey.

Dating & Relationships

Counseling & Advice

Money & Finances

Health

Fashion & Beauty

Consumer News

Food & Recipes

Travel

Lifestyle

Parenting

Visit SingleAgain.com today, get back out there and have some fun!

SingleAgain.com

Need to Advertise?

Let Linda help you get the word out

(916) 619.8189(O) (916) 524.9184(C)

linda@valcomnews.com

Arden • Carmichael • East Sacramento

Land Park • Pocket

Brighten a Senior's Day

Volunteer with Meals on Wheels Sacramento County

We need compassionate volunteers to deliver meals, support our community cafes, or help with clerical tasks. Your kindness helps our elderly neighbors maintain independence and dignity through improved nutrition.

For more information and to sign up,

visit mowsac.org or call (916) 444-9533.

Be the reason someone smiles today.

Volunteer with us and make a heartfelt difference.

MEALS ON WHEELS

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Publisher,

Paul V. Scholl

East Sacramento News

Serving Arden Arcade and Sacramento County since 1993

It is the intent of the East Sacramento News to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

The East Sacramento News is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of the East Sacramento News are copyrighted. Ownership of all advertising created and/or composed by the MPG is with the publishing company and written permission to reproduce the same must be obtained from the publisher.

Subscriptions should be mailed to East Sacramento News, 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd. Suite 5, Carmichael, CA 95608.

The East Sacramento News is published twice a month. Call (916) 773-1111 for more information. Call Linda Pohl for advertising or other inquiries at (916) 619-8189.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.

MPG

ENPA

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

Sacramento Nursing Home Among Top in Nation

ACC Care Center News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - ACC Care Center has been recognized as a Best Nursing Home for 2025 by U.S. News & World Report. ACC Care Center has received recognition for both short-term and long-term care and is one of only three Sacramento skilled nursing communities to receive dual recognition.

Since 2009, U.S. News' annual Best Nursing Homes ratings have assisted American families in need of either short-term rehabilitation or long-term care for themselves or a loved one.

ACC Care Center earned its U.S. News Best Nursing Home status by achieving a rating of "High



Performing," the highest possible rating, for short-term rehabilitation and long-term care. U.S. News gives the designation of Best Nursing Home only to those that satisfy U.S. News' proprietary assessment of consistent performance in quality measures.

Heidi Wheeler LNHA, RCFE, LVN, ACC Care Center administrator, said: "I'm honored and immensely proud of the caring team at ACC Care



Center for earning top honors in this thorough national review of nursing home quality. ACC Care Center has a robust training program that focuses on our mission to provide compassionate, person-centered care that celebrates our cultural diversity and promotes the highest quality of care to our residents in a homelike environment. With higher nurse to resident ratios our nursing team can spend more time with residents

providing them with attentive, genuine care. Having more staff on hand and our medical director onsite regularly allows the team to be proactive vs reactive which results in better outcomes and fewer visits to the emergency room."

Dr. Scott Stringer MD, Sutter physician and medical director of ACC Care Center, said: "As the medical director, I am incredibly proud of our commitment to providing the highest quality of care, reflected in the prestigious recognition from U.S. News & World Report. A cornerstone of our success is the thoughtful and strategic reduction in the use of antipsychotic medications. By prioritizing individualized care plans, promoting non-pharmacologic interventions, and fostering

a deep understanding of behavioral health needs, we have significantly enhanced the well-being and safety of our residents. This achievement underscores our dedication to innovation, compassion, and setting a benchmark for excellence in skilled nursing care."

Connie L. Rusnyk, president and CEO of ACC Senior Services, said: "I have worked in hundreds of Nursing Homes throughout my career, and the Care Center is one that is remarkable. What makes the Care Center so different? The community, the staff and the families involved make the Care Center such a special place for our elderly to call home! The community involvement is unlike anything that I have ever

seen. The families are so actively involved with the Care Center, whether they have family or friends living in the Care Center or not."

For the 2025 edition, U.S. News evaluated nearly 15,000 nursing homes on patient and resident outcomes, such as infection rates; staffing levels; potentially inappropriate reliance on antipsychotic drugs; health inspection results and other indicators of quality.

Short- and long-term ratings include data on nurse staffing, use of antipsychotic drugs and success in preventing ER and hospital visits. The long-term care rating also includes measures of whether a home changed ownership and how well it was staffed on weekends. ★

Local Classifieds

Advertise in your local community newspaper
Call 916-773-1111

Announcements

Circle K Ranch Broadcast is on the air! Listen to our radio broadcast on KCBC 770 AM every Sunday at 1:30 pm. Where we share the good news of the gospel from a ranchers perspective. Tune in and be happy! Al Kuhn

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581 (Cal-SCAN)

Autos Wanted

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 1-877-434-6852 (Cal-SCAN)

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. All 50 States. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-855-408-6546 (Cal-SCAN)

Tiene un vehiculo no deseadó? Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rápida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 1-855- 408-7368 (24/7) (Cal-SCAN)

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-491-2884 today! (Cal-SCAN)

Visit: mpg8.com

Cellular Plans

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605. (Cal-Scan)

Concrete

SONDROL CONCRETE
25+ years experience. All types of finishes. Patios, driveways, slabs Walkways, Spa pads. Tear out/ Replace Tractor work. *Written estimates.* Lic. # 778034 **916-955-1083**

Kevin Young CONCRETE & Pumping
Since 1994 Custom Concrete •All Finishes •Patio's •Walkways•Driveways •Slabs• RV Pads, etc. Free Estimates. Lic# 699627 **(916)826-6926**

3DR CONCRETE
All your concrete needs. Bobcat services, driveway repair. Comm & Res. Lic # 968987 insured (209)570-7304

Concrete

Perez Landscaping & Concrete
•Concrete Finishing/ Stamping
•Landscape installation and Design
•Sodding, •Planting
•Irrigation •Retaining Walls
•Yard maintenance. Free estimates. Fore more info. call **916-834-2352** email:Elverperez@att.net Lic #14-00016214

Elder Care
GoGo. Live and age your way. Get help with rides, groceries, meals and more. Memberships start as low as \$1 per day. Available 24/7 nationwide. BBB Rated A+ Business. Call GoGo to get started. 1-855-476-0033 (Cal-SCAN)

Advertise in your local community newspaper
Call (916) 773-1111

Financial
Struggling with debt? If you have over \$10,000 in debt we help you be debt free in as little as 24-48 months. Pay nothing to enroll. Call Now: 1-877-435-4860 (Cal-SCAN)

We Support Our Military

Help Wanted

Dalla Dental Group seeks Sr. Manager, Strategy & Operations Analyst for Elk Grove location. Must have MS in Mgmt., Business Admin. or rel. or foreign equiv. & min. 3 yrs. in Ops Mgmt. roles or rel. w/ skills pertaining to materials requirement, materials planning, controlling inventory & managing costs analysis. Sal: \$146k-\$149k/yr. Send res: info@oradentistry.com

Home Improvement
ALL PHASE HOME REPAIR
Elk Grove, CA
•Electrical •Plumbing
•Fencing •Fans •Decks
•Doors •Windows •Tile Flooring •Trim base-board •Sheetrock •Dry Rot Texture •Painting
•Lighting •Concrete
•Sprinkler Repair
•Framing and more!
All phases of home repair & any construction needed- Big or small. Quality work guaranteed! Low prices- free est. Serving Elk Grove, Rancho Murieta, Galt, Wilton, Herald, Sac. & Surrounding Areas
Bus. Lic #1023318 **(916)287-6164** local

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/29/24.) Call 1-833-958-4766. (Cal-SCAN)

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1888-989-5749 (Cal-SCAN)

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-252-9868 (Cal-SCAN)

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-248-0815. Have zip code of service location ready when you call! (Cal-SCAN)

Home Warranty
Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call:1-855-411-1731 (Cal-SCAN)

Insurance/Health
DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844203-2677 www.dental50plus.com/calnews #6258 (Cal-SCAN)

Internet
DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Direct and get your first free months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-641-5762 (Cal-SCAN) (Cal-SCAN)

Automotive

Elk Grove Shell
Your Local Full Service Auto Repair Shop
Committed to Customer Satisfaction
Specializing In:
• Oil Changes
• Smog Repair
• Smog Inspection
• Safety Inspection
• Transmission Service
• Brakes
• Wheel Alignment
• Check Engine
• Light Diagnosis
• Tires
• Tune-Up
• Batteries
• 30, 60, 90K Service
• Brake & Lamp Station
Mon-Fri, 8-5 • 916-685-7796
8901 Elk Grove Blvd.
OFFICAL LAMP ADJUSTING STATION
SMOG CHECK
OFFICAL BRAKE ADJUSTING STATION

Roofing

JIM MOYLEN ROOFING
1981 License # 407605
A+ Rating with BBB.
Specialize in Re-Roof, Prompt Repairs, Low Slope Roof, Seamless Gutter Installation.
Free Estimates! Open Monday-Saturday
916-531-2793 Cell
Tile Repairs

Junk Removal
MS Hauling
•Junk Removal
•Garage Cleanouts
•Yard Debris
•E-Waste
Mention this ad and receive 15% off!

Call (916)207-5702
License # 778034

Landscaping
YARD CLEANUP & DECORATIVE ROCK
One time cleanup pruning. Also bark, weed control, sod, seed, pruning, sprinkler systems, hauling, etc. Mobile homes, commercial or residential. Local gardener.

916-205-9310 or 916- 627-9000

Landscaping
YARD CLEAN UP
Sod installation
Landscape installation
Lawnmowing services
Fence repair
Call for free estimate 916-271-7265

Miscellaneous
DID YOU KNOW Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

Painting

Shelton Painting, Inc.
• Repaints: Exterior & Interior
• Dry Wall Repair

Free Estimates
(209) 745-7897
3 Generations of Quality Painters #908019
We accept Visa & Mastercard

BRILLIANT LANDSCAPE
Artificial Turf | Fencing
Retaining Wall | Concrete
Drainage | Irrigation
Planting | Tree Trimming
209-251-9387
LIC# 1108441

Real Estate

RETIRED COUPLE
HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE*
V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY
Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING
Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker
WWW.VIPLAN.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans
Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #539217
Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

Roofing

PREMIER ROOFING INC.
LIC# 1097848
• ROOF REPAIR • NEW ROOFS
• ROOF MAINTENANCE • GUTTER CLEANING
• COMPLETE RE-ROOF CELL 209.810.6233
209.745.7565
1premierroofing@gmail.com

SACRAMENTO VALLEY ROOFING & GUTTERS
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
• NEW ROOF INSTALL
• TEAR OFF & REROOF
• ROOF REPAIR
• OVERLAY ROOF INSTALL
• DRY ROT REPAIR
• SEAMLESS GUTTER INSTALL
• GUTTER REMOVAL & INSTALL
• GUTTER REPAIR
• GUTTER GUARD & INSTALL
• DOWNSPOUTS INSTALL
• CUSTOM COLORS
FREE ESTIMATES!
916-719-8288
RAMON M., FOREMAN/OPERATOR
LIC# 1072137

Tractor Work

MAC Industries DIRT WORK
•Excavations •Utility Trenching •Foundations-All types
•Laser Grading & Dozer work •Driveways •Building Pads •Drainage-All Types
•Field Mowing / Firebreaks •Flail •Bushog
•Septic System Installation •Drilling •Foundations
•Post •Tree holes •Trenching •Irrigation
•Drainage •Rototilling •Disking
License #919198 & Insured
Michael- 916-747-9667 Bill- 916-869-1019

Painting

NO PROBLEM PAINTING PRESSURE WASHING
Interior / Exterior
NO JOB IS TOO BIG
Serving E.G. & Galt since 2004
Mike Johnson - Owner
916-257-9609
Bonded & Insured Lic#853045

Roofing
ROUTT ROOFING
Specializing in Res Roofing & Repairs
We Hand Nail for Quality!
Free Estimates
916-423-1288 or 209-748-5588
BBB Since 1975 Lic.#302302

Real Estate Loans
RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$ for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073. No consumer loans. (Cal-SCA N)

Painting

Advertise in your local community newspaper
Call (916) 773-1111

Plumbing
Solving Plumbing Problems, One Leak at a Time
Residential & Commercial
Platero Parada Plumbing
Call Sam, the owner, for free estimates: 650-431-8893 Lic. 112115

MPG

Hornet Football Coach Resigns

By Daniel Canfield

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Friday, Dec. 6, Sacramento State University announced that Hornet Football head coach Andy Thompson had resigned to pursue other career opportunities. Thompson’s departure after two years at the helm of the Hornet Football program comes at the conclusion of a 2024 campaign that saw the Hornets finish with a 3-9 overall record and 1-7 in Big Sky Conference play. Sac State dropped the final five games of the 2024 season including the annual causeway classic matchup with UC Davis which was played on Nov. 23 at Hornet stadium.

The official news release from the university includes a gracious statement from Athletic Director Mark Orr regarding Thompson’s tenure with the Hornets. “We want to thank Coach Thompson and his family for all they have done for Sacramento State football over the last five seasons,” Orr said. “Under his watch, the program has achieved its highest level of success. We wish him the best of luck in the future.”

In his two years as head coach Thompson posted



Sac State’s Football program is in search of a new head coach to replace Andy Thompson who resigned on Dec. 6 to join the Stanford University football coaching staff. Photo by Sacramento State Athletics

an overall record of 11 wins and 14 losses. In his first year as head coach in 2023, the Hornets enjoyed an 8-5 record and made it to the second round the 2023 FCS Playoffs. Unfortunately, that success was not seen again in the disappointing 2024 season. Thompson had been on the Hornet coaching staff since the 2019 season.

As defensive coordinator, Thompson was instrumental in the Hornet football program earning Big Sky Conference titles in 2019, 2021 and 2022. Following the conclusion of the 2022 season, Thompson was promoted to the Hornet head coach position which had been vacated by Troy Taylor who left Sacramento State to take

the head football coaching position at Stanford University.

On the heels of the official announcement from Sacramento State Athletics regarding Thompson’s departure on Dec. 6, Stanford University officially announced that coach Thompson would be joining the Stanford Football coaching staff

as Stanford Football’s assistant head coach and co-defensive coordinator. Reuniting Thompson with his former boss and former Hornet head coach Troy Taylor.

The Hornet Football program owes a debt of gratitude to Coach Thompson as his involvement with the program led to success and accolades

not previously enjoyed by the Hornets. Best wishes to Coach Thomspon in his new position, as long as Stanford football’s interests do not conflict with Hornet football’s interests.

Sacramento State officials announced that a national search will begin immediately to find the next head coach for the Hornets. ★

Jesuit High’s Cross Country Coach Honored



Jesuit High School’s Cross County Head Coach Walt Lange, photographed here with his 2024 State Championship team, was named the Joe Newton Coach of the Year at the Nike Cross Nationals on Saturday, Dec. 7. Courtesy Photo

Jesuit High School News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Jesuit High School Cross Country Head Coach Walt Lange received a prestigious honor on Saturday, Dec. 7, as he was named the Joe Newton Coach of the Year at the Nike Cross Nationals (NXN).

This award, named after legendary coach Joe Newton of York High School, celebrates lifetime achievement in high school cross country. Newton's teams captured at least 24 Illinois State Championships, and his legacy extends far beyond victories, having profoundly shaped the lives of countless young athletes.

Coach Lange, with an extraordinary 55 years of coaching at Jesuit High

School, including 54 years as head coach, now joins the ranks of elite coaches recognized on a national stage. Known for his humility, Lange’s contributions to high school cross country and the countless lives he has impacted over the decades make this recognition richly deserved.

“I’m overjoyed that the boys were there to witness this moment,” shared Assistant Coach David Zielke, reflecting on the significance of the occasion.

Lange’s dedication, passion, and lifelong commitment to developing athletes both on and off the course embody the Jesuit tradition of excellence and service. Congratulations to Coach Lange on this remarkable and well-deserved honor! ★

UC Davis To Join Mountain West Conference

UC Davis News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The University of California, Davis has accepted a formal invitation to join the Mountain West Conference beginning July 1, 2026.

“We are thrilled to join the Mountain West Conference, and we look forward to an incredible experience for our student-athletes and for our fans,” said UC Davis Chancellor Gary S. May. “Our transition to the highly regarded conference will introduce our Aggie community to a broader audience, in major metropolitan areas and through increased media coverage. It also provides us with an opportunity to align with universities that share similar academic strengths while also expanding our competitive presence in the Western United States.”

The Aggies will compete in all Mountain West Conference-sponsored sports, except for football, which will continue to participate in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) in the Big Sky Conference. Men’s and women’s water polo as well as beach volleyball will seek to remain in the Big West through affiliate membership but are prepared to explore other options, if necessary. No changes will occur with membership

agreements for equestrian, field hockey and lacrosse.

“Adding UC Davis further strengthens the trajectory of the Mountain West as it continues to build its brand that has proven to elevate institutions and student-athletes,” said MW Commissioner Gloria Nevarez. “Chancellor Gary S. May and Director of Athletics Rocko DeLuca have shared their strategic plan and financial vision for enhancing student-athlete development, welfare, and competitive excellence, and I believe UC Davis brings a wealth of positives in the continuing growth of the Mountain West.”

The announcement comes on the heels of a historic fall sport season for the Aggies in which all eight varsity fall sports teams qualified for postseason competition.

Men’s soccer secured a Big West championship and a trip to the NCAA

tournament. UC Davis football finished the regular season seeded fifth in the nation with a bye in the first round of the NCAA Division I Football Championship followed by a win against Illinois State on Dec. 7. They will play South Dakota on Saturday, Dec. 14 at noon in the quarterfinals.



ishish third in the Big West and field hockey finishing sixth in the America East.

“We are grateful to the Mountain West Conference membership for this incredible opportunity and for sharing our vision of academic and athletics excellence,” said UC Davis Director of Athletics Rocko DeLuca. “Our campus leadership, students, Aggie alumni, fans, the Davis

community and the broader Sacramento region all recognize the unique spirit of UC Davis and carry Aggie Pride with them each and every day. They have invested their time, talent and resources in supporting our growth, and the success of our fall sports is a clear reflection of those efforts. Now is the time to showcase Aggie Pride on a national stage, and the Mountain West’s brand and strategy align perfectly with our aspirations.”

Additional costs to support the transition, including travel, staffing and support services, will be primarily offset by increased revenues from ticket sales, donations, multimedia rights and, for the first time, revenue distributions from the conference. A ramp-up period of three to four years is anticipated before revenues fully reach projected levels. The university does not plan to use existing institutional funds to support the transition.

Starting no later than the 2026-27 academic year, the Mountain West will feature the United States Air Force Academy; University of California, Davis; Grand Canyon University; University of Hawaii at Mānoa; University of Nevada, Reno; University of New Mexico; San José State University; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Texas, El Paso and the University of Wyoming. ★

Family Hits Jackpot for Charities at Giving Machine

Continued from Page 1

see every single card drop to the bottom one by one,” said Leslie. “The kids would shout as they dropped: ‘Someone is getting new underwear!’ ‘Someone is getting diapers for their baby!’” And so on, she says, until all 30 cards dropped.

Twenty-five of the 30 gifts are for individuals or families in the greater Sacramento region who are suffering financially or emotionally, and the gifts are designed to provide food, comfort, counseling and other services to help them on their path toward self-reliance. The Moss family knows a bit about suffering emotionally, as they lost three of their sons to accidental deaths in the past four years.

“Our grandchildren were really on board with this, in giving to others who are less-fortunate and suffering at this time,” Leslie said. “They wanted to make sure that heaven could be involved, that their uncles could be there, too.”

Before heading to the Giving Machines, Grandma and Grandpa talked to the children about what the Giving Machines are all about and to think about the specific gift they wanted to choose for a needy person or family.

“We talked about how usually with a vending



From left, Eric, Win, Daisy, Freddy and Bennett Stratton show off some of the gifts for others that they purchased. Photos courtesy of Gary Zavoral

machine you get something for yourself, but with the Giving Machine, this time you are getting something to help someone else,” Leslie said. “They were so thoughtful about why they chose that specific gift.”

Bennett, 14, chose suicide prevention therapy from Lighthouse Counseling & Family Resource Center because “it’s the gift that will keep giving,” Leslie said. Lighthouse, based throughout Placer County, provides counseling, educational classes and programs and assists clients in obtaining resources to help them through a challenging time. The other gifts in the Giving Machine for Lighthouse that the Moss family also purchased are child abuse and domestic violence prevention counseling sessions, one week worth of diapers for a single mother with a newborn, and a three-day supply of emergency food.

Winston, who goes by Win, is 8 years old, and he chose three days of safe shelter for a family or individual in need, provided by Catholic Charities throughout the Sacramento region. Win chose that, Leslie says, “because whenever he sees a homeless person, he feels so sad for them and wants to help take care of them.” Other gifts for Catholic Charities are an infant care kit for a new mother, a “dress for success” gift that provides a job seeker a new outfit, one week of food for a senior experiencing food insecurity, and job training for someone entering the workforce.

Daisy, 5, “couldn’t bear to think about someone going to bed without a blanket and a pillow,” so she wanted to give the “Pillow & Bedding” provided by Al-Misbaah Charitable Aid, Leslie said. The Sacramento-based charity has helped

numerous refugees and vulnerable families get established in Northern California. The other gifts for Al-Misbaah are socks and hat for someone who needs the extra warmth, a hygiene kit to help a community member stay clean, a backpack filled with school supplies for a student, and a bicycle for a child for exercise, adventure and to ride to and from school.

Daisy’s twin brother, Freddy, “loves to play soccer, and he couldn’t figure out how any child could go without a soccer ball,” Leslie said. So, he chose the gift of four soccer balls for a school to help teach students teamwork and promote fitness. That gift is offered by Right to Play, a global charity that helps children in impoverished nations thrive by promoting the “power of play.” The other gifts in the Giving Machine purchased are 20 storybooks



Pictured here are all the gifts available in the Giving Machine.

for primary schoolchildren and menstrual hygiene kits to help female students stay in school.

The Moss family purchased all those gifts, along with others from three other charities. They are:

First Step Communities in Sacramento and Roseville, which provides interim housing and emergency shelter in the Sacramento area and Roseville. Their gifts in the Giving Machines are a kit of hygiene essentials, new underwear, a warm blanket and pillow, a winter coat and 100 laundry vouchers.

Rancho Cordova Food Locker’s Community Food Hub, whose gifts in the Giving Machines are two gallons of milk for children, an emergency weekend food pack for students, a one-month supply of fresh produce for a family, a kit of essentials to feed 10 senior citizens, and a group cooking class to teach 25 families cooking techniques and nutrition principles.

The global charity

Academy for Creating Enterprise, which provides business opportunities for individuals and families in impoverished countries. The two gifts in the Roseville Giving Machines are a basket as a way to carry goods for a new business owner and, probably the most unique gift in the machines, two piglets to help a family start a business.

“It was just an awesome experience for us to give to so many people at the same time,” Leslie said. “We hope to do again next year and make it a family tradition.”

The Light the World Giving Machines are located on the first floor of Westfield Galleria at Roseville, near the giant Christmas tree. The Giving Machines will keep giving through New Year’s Day.

To see all the gifts available, their prices and links to all the charities, go to the Sacramento and Modesto Giving Machines website at www.givingmachinesgreatersacramento.org.

Enjoy Life at Pioneer Tower

A 55+ Community

Come tour our newly remodeled, downtown facility featuring:

- Spacious 1-bedroom apartments with complete kitchens, new appliances, walk-in showers, large closets, balconies, lovely views

We pay utilities, offer free transportation to shopping, medical appointments, and fun excursions to local area points of interest

- Active residents association with a variety of social activities
- On-site Service Coordinator
- 24-hour maintenance, compassionate, caring staff
- Small pets welcome
- Rental Assistance Programs for income-qualified applicants

We Pay Utilities!

Active Senior Living Retirement Community

515 P St., Sacramento

(916) 442-2907

www.rhf.org EOE  



SOL AUREUS

COLLEGE PREPARATORY

TK-8th GRADE

PREPARATION RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

.....

2024-2025

Open Enrollment!

Now Enrolling

Transitional Kindergarten-8th Grade Students

.....

For more information please contact our front office.

(916) 421-0600 | information@sacprep.org | www.sacprep.org

6620 Gloria Drive, Sacramento, Ca 95831



PAYROLL and HR Support

\$299 a month

Only available for businesses with up to 10 employees

We specialize in small and mid-sized businesses. Offering comprehensive and intuitive payroll and HR solutions.



HR | Payroll | Benefits

DIRECT DEPOSIT

QUARTERLY TAXES FILING

PAYROLL TAXES PAY

ACCURAL TRACKING

FILING AND REPORTING

PAYROLL APP

HR COMPLIANCE

916-760-7227

93rd Annual Capitol Tree Lighting



Gov. Gavin Newsom and family gather at the 93rd annual Capitol Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 11. Photo courtesy of Governor's Office

Governor's Office Press Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A cherished holiday tradition, this year marked the 41st consecutive year that California's Governor and First Partner have hosted a child receiving support from one of California's 21 non-profit regional centers to light the California State Capitol Christmas Tree. Nine-year-old Carter Morris from Merced was selected by Central Valley Regional Center to represent the more than 450,000 Californians with

intellectual and developmental disabilities who receive services. "Happy holidays, California! It was an honor to stand with Carter in solidarity with all of California's kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to light the Capitol Tree this year. The holiday season is about gratitude, being together with loved ones, and giving to those less fortunate than ourselves, and I am so pleased to usher in this time of joy with Carter and his family," Gov. Gavin Newsom said at the tree lighting ceremony.

First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom commented on the occasion, "The holidays are a powerful reminder to lead with empathy and compassion, spreading joy and kindness to those around us. This year's California State Capitol Tree Lighting was especially meaningful as we joined Carter and his family for this beautiful tradition. Standing with them, we were reminded of the strength and resilience of our communities and the importance of coming together to celebrate hope and connection during this season." ★

City Swears in New Mayor, Two Councilmembers



Kevin McCarty was sworn in as mayor of Sacramento on Dec. 10 in Council Chambers. Photo courtesy of City of Sacramento

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The new Sacramento mayor and two new members of City Council were officially sworn into office on Tuesday, Dec. 10, in Council Chambers. Kevin McCarty, Sacramento's most recent District 6 State Assemblymember and former city councilmember, was sworn in as the mayor. McCarty replaces Darrell Steinberg, who was mayor from 2016 to 2024. "I know that there is a long list of issues that we need to address," McCarty said. "But I know that there is a list much longer of greatness in our city — great people, great neighborhoods, great assets. We have a lot of pluses in our community, so I come with wide-open eyes, wide-open optimism about the present and the future." Roger Dickinson, housing advocate and former county supervisor and state assemblymember, is the newest member representing District 2, which includes the neighborhoods of Del Paso Heights, Hagginwood, Woodlake and Robla in northern Sacramento. Dickinson replaces Shoun Thao, who was interim councilmember from December 2023 to 2024. "We are bound together in our part of the city by a common commitment to create a better tomorrow for everyone who lives, works and plays, not just in District 2, but throughout the city, throughout the

county and the region," Dickinson said. "A new day has come to District 2. The sun started coming up with Councilmember Shoun Thao. It's going to continue to rise until we are in full, full sunlight." Phil Pluckebaum, project manager for UC Davis Health, is the newest member representing District 4, which includes downtown, midtown and East Sacramento. Pluckebaum replaces Katie Valenzuela, who was councilmember from 2020 to 2024. "I believe teamwork is the key to success; we can't achieve our goals alone," said Pluckebaum. "It's through the collective efforts of our community members, local businesses, government and staff members that we can create meaningful change. Together, we can build a city that is resilient, vibrant and full of opportunity for everyone." Mai Vang was sworn in for a second term as councilmember for District 8, representing the Meadowview, Parkway, North Laguna Creek and Jacinto Creek neighborhoods in southern Sacramento. Eric Guerra was sworn in for a fourth term as councilmember for District 6, representing Campus Commons, Sierra Oaks and areas of Tahoe Park and Little Saigon. The City of Sacramento is made up of eight districts represented by one member and one mayor at large. Each serves a four-year term. The City Council generally meets three times each month on Tuesdays at 2 or 5 p.m. ★

Urban Plates Arrives in Sacramento



The Urban Plates kitchen is busy preparing craveable, wholesome and clean food.

Story and photos by Daniel Canfield

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A new restaurant is bringing fresh, organic scratch-made cuisine to Sacramento. On Dec. 12, Urban Plates opened its first Sacramento region location in a newly-constructed building at 2080 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Visitors to the new Urban Plates location will have the opportunity to experience the restaurant's motto, "Everyone deserves to eat this good." The Sacramento location represents the 20th Urban Plates restaurant, all of which are in California and all company-owned and -operated. Urban Plates originated in San Diego County and has migrated northward through fine dining destinations in Orange and Los Angeles counties as well as the San Francisco Bay Area. Urban Plates provides an ideal atmosphere for casual and relaxed dining with a comfortable vibe and friendly hospitality. This unique restaurant approach was explained by Urban Plates Hospitality Trainer Monique Patriota, who took a break from training new staff to speak to this reporter. In addition to fresh organic scratch-made cuisine, the Sacramento Urban Plates location also brings with it job growth for the Sacramento region. Patriota explained the restaurant has locally hired 50 staff members to get the restaurant ready for the Dec. 12 grand opening and that additional staff would be brought on as they move forward. Urban Plates issued an official statement to celebrate the opening of its first Sacramento area location. "Opening in California's 'Farm-to-Fork' capital is especially meaningful to us," said Joe O'Donnell, Urban Plates president. "We look forward to serving this community with fresh, affordable



Urban Plates opens its newest location and first in the Sacramento region on Dec. 12.



Urban Plates uses "organics all the time" produce and features sustainably sourced seafood and meats.

and scratch-made meals that honor Sacramento's deep commitment to thoughtfully-sourced ingredients and menus that change with the seasons." The Urban Plates menu is replete with delicious scratch-made offerings, including salads, bowls, sandwiches and full entrees with a choice of sides. Several scrumptious vegan menu items are also available and scratch-made. The dessert selection is plentiful with cookies, pies and gluten-free options, and the staff favorite, a mango tart. All desserts are made on site like all the food offerings on the Urban Plates menu. An array of non-alcoholic beverages is available to accompany your meal, along with fine spirits in the form of craft beers and California wines. ★

Christmas Berries Grace River Parkway

Continued from page 1

saw divine providence in finding such a powerful reminder of Christ's sacrifice in their new homeland. The berries' annual December emergence aligned perfectly with Advent, the Christian season of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth. Just as the Star of Bethlehem guided the Wise Men, these red berries served as natural guides along the paths of early Christian travelers in California. Today, along the American River Parkway in Fair Oaks, these biblical berries continue their winter display, creating a timeless connection between past and present. On a crisp December morning, with temperatures hovering around 55 degrees, mountain bikers and equestrians shared the damp trails, their paths lined with the festive shrubs. Recent rains had left the soil perfectly tacky for bike riding, and the air carried that distinctive winter freshness that makes every breath feel like a blessing. The integration of natural space and residential areas in Fair Oaks creates a unique community character that reflects the



Overlooking San Juan Rapids, winter berries brighten a December sunset. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

peaceful coexistence of nature and civilization. Unlike many Sacramento suburbs that surrendered to high-density development, Fair Oaks has maintained its semi-rural atmosphere, with the American River Parkway serving as a green ribbon that ties the community together. The Christmas berries mark the changing seasons along the parkway's winding trails, their transformation from white spring blossoms to red winter fruits mirroring the Christian liturgical calendar. The berries begin to turn red as Advent approaches, reaching their peak brilliance during the Christmas season, when Christians worldwide celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The berries' persistent presence through winter mirrors the endurance of faith, while

their sharp leaves remind believers of Christ's later sacrifice. As another December unfolds, I find myself increasingly grateful for these simple gifts, Open spaces that give us room to breathe, trails that bring neighbors together and these beautiful berries remind us of Christmas past and present. Whether watching a friend's horse carefully traverse the path or pausing to let a mountain biker pass with a wave and a smile, I'm reminded that the best Christmas presents don't come wrapped in paper. They grow wild along our trails, they float down our river and they live in the hearts of the community we've built together. Derek Minnema is a Fair Oaks resident, who can be reached at DerekMinnema.com. ★