



Water Agency Receives Project of the Year Award

PAGE 7

Recently Improved Arcade Creek Bridge Reopens

PAGE 7



Arden Arcade News

VOL 02 • ISSUE 10

Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

OCTOBER 10, 2025

SEE INSIDE

CLOCK TICKING ON GOVERNOR'S RACE



PAGE 6

OFFSEASON ENDS; IT'S A BRAND-NEW START



PAGE 6

THANK YOU FOR WALKING WITH ME



PAGE 5

Inspiring Girls in STEAM

More Than 1,000 Girls from Local Middle Schools Learn About Careers



Middle school girls from San Juan Unified School District participate in an activity during the "We Can Do It" event, aimed at inspiring young girls to take up a career in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). Photo courtesy of the San Juan Unified School District

By Seth Henderson

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Seventh- and eighth-graders from 25-plus middle schools visited the Aerospace Museum of California in North Highlands on Sept. 24 and Sept. 25 for the "We Can Do It" event

that inspires young girls to learn about science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). About 1,200 girls from the Twin Rivers Unified and San Juan Unified school districts attended the event, listening to panel discussions, interacting with planes in the yard

and experiencing museum exhibits. Jayda Isaac, 13 and a F.C. Joyce School eighth-grader, said that she felt inspired by the speakers from the panel discussion. One speaker was a high school student from Saint Francis High School and Jayda said she learned to

believe in herself. Jayda "learned a lot," including that she is capable of whatever she puts her mind to, no matter who tries to put her down. Aerospace Museum President and CEO Tom Jones said that he has met dozens of children who
Continued on Page 2

Pumpkins, Leaves and Treats

Fall and Harvest Events to Attend this Season



Movies Under the Stars returns to the Old Sacramento Waterfront with family-friendly films on Thursdays and classic favorites for adults on Fridays at Old Sacramento State Historic Park. Photo courtesy of Old Sacramento Waterfront

By Idaly Valencia

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Autumn has arrived in the "City of Trees," wrapping the region in golden, fall colors. Throughout October, the Sacramento area comes alive with pumpkin patches, harvest festivals and Halloween celebrations. Discover the events happening near you and celebrate the season by making memories with family and friends.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival at Arden Park will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Arden Park Recreation & Park District. Arden-Arcade residents can enjoy craft booths, a raffle from the Arden Park Garden Club, a live band, food trucks and a beer garden.

A Kid Zone will feature inflatables, a pumpkin patch and a petting zoo. In partnership with Mariemont Elementary, there will also be carnival games, a photo booth and a cake walk.

Admission to the festival is free; unlimited Kid Zone wristbands, which include access to all carnival games, the petting zoo, the photo booth and cake walk, are \$25 each and available at prpd.org/events.

Día de los Muertos Fiesta

The California Museum will celebrate Día de los Muertos from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, marking the opening of its exhibit "Recuerdos Ilustrados: Día de los Muertos 2025." The event honors the Mexican tradition of remembering loved ones with sugar skulls, altars and offerings.

Festivities include a performance by Aztec
Continued on Page 3

Encina High School Earns CIF Recognition



Vice Principal Yassar Salman, who oversees Encina High athletics, said that the recognition highlights the combined effort of coaches, administrators and student-athletes across all sports. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified School District

San Juan Unified School District News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Encina High School has been recognized by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Sacramento Section for completing the 2024-25 school year without a single athletic ejection or incident of misconduct, a rare distinction achieved

by only 19 schools out of 185 in the region. Vice Principal Yassar Salman, who oversees athletics, said the recognition highlights the combined effort of coaches, administrators and student-athletes across all sports. "It's a great honor to be recognized. I think it shows that our athletes and our coaches are doing the right things," Salman said.

"When you're competitive and things don't always go your way, our athletes know that that's an opportunity to prove themselves and show their work." Salman shared that coaches and athletes are often complimented by opposing schools for their sportsmanship, whether it's respecting referees, helping others or simply cleaning up
Continued on Page 8



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

Inspiring Girls in STEAM



Coming out of a Coast Guard plane on display in the plane yard at the Aerospace Museum of California, middle school girls from Twin Rivers and San Juan Unified school districts observe and experience different aircraft while completing an activity to create solar system bracelets. Photos by Seth Henderson



Girls experience an interactive exhibit at the "We Can Do It" event on Sept. 24 and 25, hosted by the Aerospace Museum of California. More than 1,000 middle school girls attended the event between the two days.

Continued from Page 1
 have had their lives changed by attending museum events and that the organization raises money specifically for such inspirational events, which are free to students and the school districts.

"People don't really understand," Jones said. "These types of things change lives but you can't change a life until you get them here so they can meet women like this, see a place like this, be around the aircraft we have in the park. You can't just talk about it in a classroom."

Alianna Threatt, another F.C. Joyce School eighth-grader and 13-year-old, said that she had fun at the museum and she liked how multiple schools got together for the event.

Jeremy Combs, a career and technical education counselor at the Twin Rivers Unified School District, said that the district has had a strong relationship with the museum, partnering together for a number of years.

"The women here, whether it be in aviation or medical or

anything related to STEAM, it's a really cool opportunity for all ages and all demographics," Combs said. "The hope is that these girls see something within themselves that inspires them to be in these career fields."

According to a scientific article from Yale University, more than 50% of bachelor's degrees were obtained by women and about 38% of all women in the U.S. held STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) degrees.

Historically, STEAM fields are dominated by men but events such as "We Can Do It" are aimed at encouraging girls who might not even know about such careers, according to Combs.

"Hearing the feedback, just seeing the interactions with the students and seeing their excitement, hearing them ask questions to these women in different fields," Combs said, "I was just really surprised at the thoughtfulness of their questions and you can tell it sparks something within them."

The Twin Rivers Unified School District had about 700

students at the event, Combs said.

According to the San Juan Unified School District, nearly 500 girls from multiple schools in the district attended the event and it successfully sparked the student's curiosity and passion for STEAM careers in the future.

"It was heartening to see the girls so engaged, asking thoughtful questions and interacting with the numerous hands-on booths," San Juan Unified District said in a statement about the event.

Aerospace Museum Vice President Karen Jones said transportation is one of the biggest barriers when it comes to getting students to attend inspirational events such as "We Can Do It" and that in the five years the museum has held the event, it has served almost 5,000 girls. Jones said the museum can provide the experience, thanks to volunteers and donations from individuals and organizations in the community.

"We've probably had, across the five years, almost 1,000 women volunteering their time

and being mentors to these girls," Karen Jones said.

Describing one of her favorite moments from last year's event, Karen Jones said that Carmichael's honorary mayor, Kawanaa Carter, M.D., told her story of becoming a neurosurgeon, causing the audience of young girls to gasp and audibly sigh. One girl in the crowd could be heard saying "I didn't know we could do those kind of careers," shocked to learn the career possibilities for women in STEAM.

"I love seeing all these young girls show up and just the excitement," Karen Jones said. "They energize us to do what we do."

Linda Martin, board chair of the museum, said that the museum wants its visitors and the youth to be inspired by someone who looks like them. A mural displayed inside the upper wall above the doors to the exhibit portrays historical figures who had to overcome incredible barriers to fulfill their achievements.

"We don't just touch lives here, we change lives," Martin said, "and I really believe that."

Martin said that the guest speakers have become mentors for many of the girls, describing

the progression of a girl who was mentored by a woman in dentistry and is now graduating from dental school.

Tom Jones said that the museum provides about 51,000 scholarships for students each year and that the museum needs donors to continue those life-changing efforts. He said that the museum appreciates people in the community who opened their wallets and made donations on behalf of the students.

"We have unbelievable outcomes but we can't do that without the support of the community," Tom Jones said.

Karen Jones said the museum will have hands-on activities for young people, children and grandparents for families to engage with, learning by doing.

"So whether you're 2 or 102, there's something here for you," Karen Jones said. "There's hands-on activities all the time."

The Aerospace Museum of California is located at 3200 Freedom Park Drive in McClellan. The museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays with final admission at 4 p.m. To donate to the nonprofit museum, visit aerospaeca.org/make-a-donation. ★

Leasing Now!

Mirasol Village

Affordable Housing Available!

Great variety of floor plans!

Please visit mirasolvillage.net to view floor plans.

Income Limits by Household Size
ONLY Applies to Affordable Units: *

- 1 person: \$54,060 - \$72,080
- 2 person: \$61,740 - \$82,320
- 3 person: \$69,480 - \$92,640
- 4 person: \$77,160 - \$102,880
- 5 person: \$83,340 - \$111,120
- 6 person: \$89,520
- 7 person: \$95,700
- 8 person: \$101,880
- 9 person: \$108,000

Rent for Affordable Housing:*

- 1 Bedroom: Units at 60% & 80%
\$1,319 - \$1,802
- 2 Bedroom: Units at 60% & 80%
\$1,575 - \$2,154
- 3 Bedroom: Units at 60%
\$1,814
- 4 Bedroom: Units at 60%
\$2,010

*Amounts are estimates and may change by the time of lease-signing. Leasing Now!

MIRASOL VILLAGE

- 427 Apartment Homes
- Community Rooms
- Fitness Center
- Business Center
- Swimming Pool
- Barbecue Areas
- Secured Bicycle Parking
- Playground Area
- Access to Public Transportation
- Gated Community
- City Park On-Site
- Resident Services
- SETA Learning Center On-Site
- Washer & Dryer in Apartment Homes

This new project is located on Richards Blvd by 12th Street and Dos Rios Street. Conveniently located between Highway 160 and Interstate 5.

CONTACT US:
The John Stewart Company
(916) 309-7017
DRE## 654505 | Mirasolvillage.net

Pumpkins, Leaves and Treats

Continued from Page 1

dancers, live music by salsa band Conjunto Liberación, sugar skull workshops (advance registration required), food and drinks, hands-on activities, face painting for kids and pop-up shops.

Children 2 and under are free; general admission for adults is \$14.64, not including tax. Reserve spots at [Fiesta25.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). The museum is located at Archives Plaza, 1020 O St.

Trunk or Treat

The California Automobile Museum, 2200 Front St., invites families to Trunk or Treat from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. Enjoy trick-or-treating, classic cars, seasonal snacks, museum exploration and a haunted house.

Admission is \$5 for ages 6 and up; children 5 and under are free. Museum entry and all you-can-eat candy are included; it is advised for attendees to bring their own trick-or-treat bags. More information is available at calautomuseum.org/trunkortreat2025.

Pumpkin Patches

The Farm-to-Fork capital is home to many farms that open their gates for pumpkin picking and autumn activities during this time of year.

An area favorite is Nick and Ray's Pumpkin Patch, just 10 minutes from downtown at 3845 El Centro Road on the historic Bastiao Farm. It is open now through Nov. 2 and features a mining town, pick-your-own pumpkins,



The California Museum, located at 1020 O St., will celebrate Día de los Muertos from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, marking the opening of its exhibit "Recuerdos Ilustrados: Día de los Muertos 2025." Photo courtesy of California Museum



A local favorite, Nick and Ray's Pumpkin Patch is just 10 minutes from downtown and open now through Nov. 2. Photo courtesy of Nick and Ray's Pumpkin Patch

hayrides, haunted attractions, a corn maze and its famous Pumpkin and Corn Cannon.

Weekday general admission costs \$12; weekend admission is \$14. VIP tickets are \$24, which covers unlimited train rides, Cow Cruiser rides and access to the giant slide. More information is at nickandrayspumpkinpatch.com.

Another local favorite, Fog Willow Farms, is open

through Nov. 2 about 20 minutes from downtown at 11011 Cecatra Drive in Wilton. The farm offers educational, country-style fun with more than 50 animals, a pumpkin patch, adventure course, unlimited hayrides and a Barnyard Speedway called the "Pigtona 500."

Admission is \$12 for ages 3 and up; children 2 and under are free. Barbecue is available on

weekends, a snack bar on weekdays and shaded picnic areas let families bring their own food. More information is at fogwillowfarms.com or 916-687-4547.

The Yolo Explorer Pumpkin Train runs Oct. 5, 12 and 26, offering an onboard pumpkin patch, festive snacks and drinks, and family-friendly activities while cruising through the countryside. The



The Yolo Explorer Pumpkin Train, located at 18095 County Road 117 in West Sacramento, will run Oct. 5, 12 and 26, where attendees can enjoy an onboard pumpkin patch, festive snacks and family-friendly fun while cruising the countryside. Photo courtesy of Sacramento River Fox Train

train departs from 18095 County Road 117 in West Sacramento.

Tickets are \$73 for adults, \$62 for youth ages 3-12 and \$12 for children 2 and under. Book at riverfoxtrain.com/experiences/yolo-explorer.

Old Sacramento Waterfront

Enjoy Halloween all month long at the Old Sacramento Waterfront, where pumpkins, costumes and fall fun await visitors of all ages.

Movies Under the Stars returns with family-friendly films on Thursdays and classic favorites for adults on Fridays at Old Sacramento State Historic Park. Highlights include a "Coco" screening, featuring Día de los Muertos items for sale from Sol Collective and the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber; and an opportunity to meet the 916 Ghostbusters before the "Ghostbusters" showing.

Other seasonal activities at the waterfront include \$3 hayrides from Top Hand Ranch from 1

to 6 p.m. on Oct. 4 to 5, Oct. 12, Oct. 19 and Oct. 25 at Waterfront Park; a scarecrow contest featuring 18 creative displays from local businesses; and harvest specials from restaurants and shops with a self-guided food and dessert tour.

Ghost Tours in Old Town

Visitors can also enjoy the popular Underground Tours hosted by the Sacramento History Museum all month; a Paranormal Investigation of the Medical Museum on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Oct. 9, 16 and 23; and a special Halloween After Hours Underground Tour on Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. Ghost Tours take place Fridays, Oct. 10 and 24, and Saturdays, Oct. 11 and 25. More details are at sachistorymuseum.org.

The Sacramento Spooky River Cruise runs Oct. 17 to 31 aboard a festively decorated Capitol Hornblower, featuring spooky legends and haunting history along the river. More information on all events is available at OldSacramento.com. ★

Open new horizons.

This Open Enrollment, choose a health plan with access to Dignity Health.

Getting where you need to be in life is easier when the path is clear. Open Enrollment is your chance to take control of your health care—by selecting a plan that fits your needs today and into the future. This year, consider a health plan that connects you to Dignity Health Mercy Medical Group. With 29 locations throughout Greater Sacramento, plus virtual visits and same-day care options at our Express Primary Care and Urgent Care locations—even the ability to communicate with your providers online—we make getting the care you need easy. This fall, open your options. Find out more at DignityHealth.org/OpenEnrollment.

Hello humankindness®



Dignity Health®
Mercy Medical Group

A Service of Dignity Health Medical Foundation



'Imagine This...' Writing Competition Underway

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Aspiring young authors with great stories to share about agriculture are encouraged to enter the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's annual "Imagine this..." Story Writing Contest. Entries are due Nov. 1.

Last year, more than 500 students submitted stories and six state-winning entries plus one honorable mention were published in the "Imagine this... Stories Inspired by Agriculture 2025" book. The fifth-grade winner last year who wrote "The Little Farm Dog" was Josephine Slattery from the Twin Rivers Charter School in nearby Yuba City. The "Imagine this..." Story Writing Contest

invites students in third through eighth grades from public, private, charter and home schools throughout California to submit original fiction or non-fiction stories highlighting agriculture's positive impact. "Agriculture is all around us," said Amanda Fletcher, the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's executive director. "We encourage students to get out their pencils and

think creatively about an experience they've had that involves food, fiber or any topic related to agriculture." Regional and state winners will be announced Dec. 1. The six state winners, one from each grade level, will have their stories illustrated by high school art students and professionally published in book form. Along with their teacher and parents, each will also receive a

trip to Sacramento for an awards ceremony at the Capitol that includes medals, e-readers and classroom resources. Regional winners will receive plaques, books and teacher resources for their participation. "The 'Imagine this...' contest helps students and teachers see just how connected we all are to the farmers and ranchers who keep California growing," Fletcher said. "It's a fun way for students to explore the world around them while also meeting Common Core writing

and literacy standards for grades three through eight." Entry forms, contest rules and tips on incorporating "Imagine this..." into the classroom can be found at LearnAboutAg.org/programs/contest. Copies of the 2025 book are also available there for \$8.50. The nonprofit California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is dedicated to educating youth throughout California about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. ★



Election Information November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election

Vote Early and Vote by Mail



- Oct 6** Ballots begin to arrive by mail. Official Ballot Drop Boxes are now open.
- Oct 20** Close of registration. Register today!
- Oct 25** 11-Day Vote Centers open through Election Day.
- Nov 1** All Vote Centers open through Election Day.
- Nov 4** Election Day! Last day to turn in your ballot.

Vote Early! Don't wait for Election Day.

Take advantage of early voting and avoid the lines! You can return your ballot in the mail, at any Official Ballot Drop Box, or at any Vote Center. No postage is necessary.

Track your Ballot!

Sign up for "Where's My Ballot?" with BallotTrax, a free ballot-tracking and alert system. It is available to all voters who wish to track the status of their Vote by Mail ballot from printed to accepted. Scan the QR code or visit www.wheresmyballot.com



Vote Early! Vote by Mail.

Visit www.elections.saccounty.gov or call toll-free (800) 762-8019



KP International MARKET
10971 Olson Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
916.853.8000
Market - 7 Days: 8am - 9pm
Food Court - 7 Days: 11am - 7:30pm
Korean/Mex/Viet: 7:30pm last call
Chinese/Japanese: 7:00pm last call

KP KARAOKE SPECIAL Sun-Thu Come before 6pm (Valid Time)
Fri-Sat Come before 5pm (Valid Time)

- For 6 people \$115.00** + Gratuity
3Hours Karaoke + Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 2 Main Dishes (Small Room)
- For 12 people \$210.00** + Gratuity
3Hours Karaoke + 2Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes (Medium Room)
- For 14 people \$230.00** + Gratuity
3Hours Karaoke + 2Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 4 Main Dishes (Family Room)
- For 18 people 295.00** + Gratuity
3Hours Karaoke + 3Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 6 Main Dishes (Large Room)
- For 28 people \$395.00** + Gratuity
3Hours Karaoke + 3Pizza + Pitcher Soda + 6 Main Dishes (Party Room)

Dishes To Choose From: KP Pizza, Cheese Fries, Veggie Fries, Chicken Wings, Beef Wings, Pork Wings, Fish & Chips, Fried Rice, Fried Noodles, Fried Dumplings, Fried Spring Rolls, Fried Potatoes, Fried Onions, Fried Mushrooms, Fried Tofu, Fried Chicken, Fried Fish, Fried Shrimp, Fried Eggplant, Fried Cabbage, Fried Carrots, Fried Peas, Fried Corn, Fried Beans, Fried Lentils, Fried Chickpeas, Fried Potatoes, Fried Onions, Fried Mushrooms, Fried Tofu, Fried Chicken, Fried Fish, Fried Shrimp, Fried Eggplant, Fried Cabbage, Fried Carrots, Fried Peas, Fried Corn, Fried Beans, Fried Lentils, Fried Chickpeas.

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

- Frozen Bay Scallops 60/80 340 g REG. \$6.99/EA **\$4.99/ea**
- Frozen Blue Mussels 2 lbs REG. \$6.99/EA **\$3.99/ea**

WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

- Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast Boneless **\$5.19/lb**
- Beef T-Bone Steak **\$5.39/lb**
- Chicken Breast Bnls/Sknl's **\$1.89/lb**
- Pork Neck Bones **\$1.99/lb**
- Pork Butt Bone-In **\$2.59/lb**
- St. Louis Ribs **\$3.99/lb**

WEEKLY HALAL SPECIALS

- Chicken Breast Bnls/Sknl's **\$1.99/lb**
- New Zealand Lamb Shoulder Chops **\$5.99/lb**
- Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast Boneless **\$5.59/lb**

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 08 - OCTOBER 14, 2025.

FRESH PRODUCE

- Russet Potato 10 lb **\$1.99/bag**
- Mini Sweet Pepper 1 lb **\$1.99/bag**
- Yukon Gold Potato **89¢/lb**
- Mexican Green Onion **89¢/bunch**
- Mexican Papaya **99¢/lb**
- Pomegranate **\$1.29/lb**
- Peeled Garlic **\$16.99/bag**

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

- Tide Simply Detergent 105, 117 f.oz **\$11.99/ea** +TAX
- Cheez-It Original & White Cheddar Crackers 12.4 oz **\$3.99/ea**
- Pepe's Piloncillo Brown Sugar Cane 8 oz **\$0.99/ea**
- Martinelli Sparkling Ciders 25.4 f.oz **\$3.99/ea** +TAX
- Angel Soft 16 Mega Bath Tissue 16 rolls **\$14.99/ea** +TAX

ASIAN GROCERY

- Crown Pearl Mungbean Wide Hot Pot Vermicelli 10.5 oz **\$1.69/ea**
- Oishi Spicy Prawn Crackers 2.12 oz **2/\$0.99**
- Datu Puti Value Pack (pares combo) 2x33.81 f.oz **\$5.49/ea**
- Buddha Brand Tapioca Starch 14 oz **\$1.29/ea**
- Huy Fong Sriracha Chili Sauce 17 oz **\$1.99/ea**

EUROPEAN GROCERY

- Ahmad Tea English Tea No. 1 100 T/B **\$7.99/ea**
- Skyvrianka Roasted Buckwheat 800 gr **\$2.49/ea**
- WellMade Coffee Max Candy 2 lbs **\$5.99/ea**
- Tea India Mamri CTC Assam 907 gr **\$10.99/ea**
- Rot Front Korovka Wafer w/ Condensed Milk 180 gr **\$2.69/ea**

EUROPEAN DELI

- Columbus Applewood Ham **\$9.19/lb**
- Belmont German Ham **\$5.49/lb**
- Green Olives Stuffed w/ Almonds **\$6.39/lb**
- Kalamata Olives w/ Garlic & Pepper **\$6.39/lb**

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

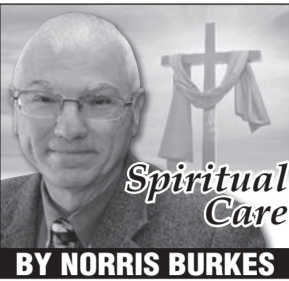
- Kabuto Imitation Crab Sticks 1.1 lb **\$3.99/ea**

HOUSEWARE

- PAON SEVEN-EIGHT HAIR COLOR (KIT ONLY) **\$8.99/ea**
- ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (3 CUPS) **\$54.99**
- ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (10 CUPS) **\$59.99**
- ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL **\$39.99/ea**

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 08 - OCTOBER 14, 2025.

Thank You for Walking With Me



BY NORRIS BURKES

and children who lost parents.

On other days, we found a moment to laugh together, chuckling over the military hat I lost in the toilet, over my unintentional theft of toilet paper, and my OCD that had me noting expired license plate stickers.

And even though I employed the help of a freelance editor, you still corrected my spelling, my grammar, and my punctuation. You fact-checked my references to movies, songs, books, and ouch, even Bible verses.

You prayed for me as I made death notifications for Iraq war KIAs. I felt like you followed me to Iraq as you sent hundreds of care packages to the service members serving with me at Joint Base Balad.

You were there for my biggest losses — my mother-in-law to a stroke in 2011, my brother, Milton, to COVID in 2020, my best friend, Roger, in 2020 to cancer and my mother last year from natural causes.

Still, through all that trauma, we managed to share a lot of fun the last 23 years as you read my column in over 50 papers — Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and even Ontario Canada.

Readers in those states invited me to speak in their churches, schools, clubs and veteran events. They read my books, bought them, donated them to troops, and one

Florida church even commissioned me to write one.

Along the way, I snagged a few awards from the Amy Foundation, the National Society of Newspaper Columnists and the Religion Newswriters Association, BUT, I'm forever most proud of the award you gave me.

I say, "You" because it was solely your response to Chispa Project that sent me to New York in 2019 to receive the Will Rogers Humanitarian Award "... for positively affecting readers' lives and producing tangible humanitarian benefits."

Now this last column is your recognition for positively influencing my life!

But alas, I won't stop writing entirely. I'll still appear weekly in the two newspapers closest to my home, The Union in Grass Valley, Calif., and the Auburn Journal of Auburn, Calif. Of course, I'll share these columns with everyone who signs up for my email list.

So, don't lose touch. Get my weekly muse by sending an email to comment@thechaplain.net. Or sign yourself up at www.thechaplain.net/newsletter. Remember to spell chaplain correctly, not chaplin. We've talked about this.

Finally, please continue to support Chispa Project either by donating or volunteering for a trip in 2026 as they get ready for the next Honduran school year. Find info at chispa-project.org.

All of my books can still be ordered on Amazon. Autographed copies can be obtained on my website www.thechaplain.net ★

SacRT Launches Transit Connect

Sacramento Regional Transit News Release

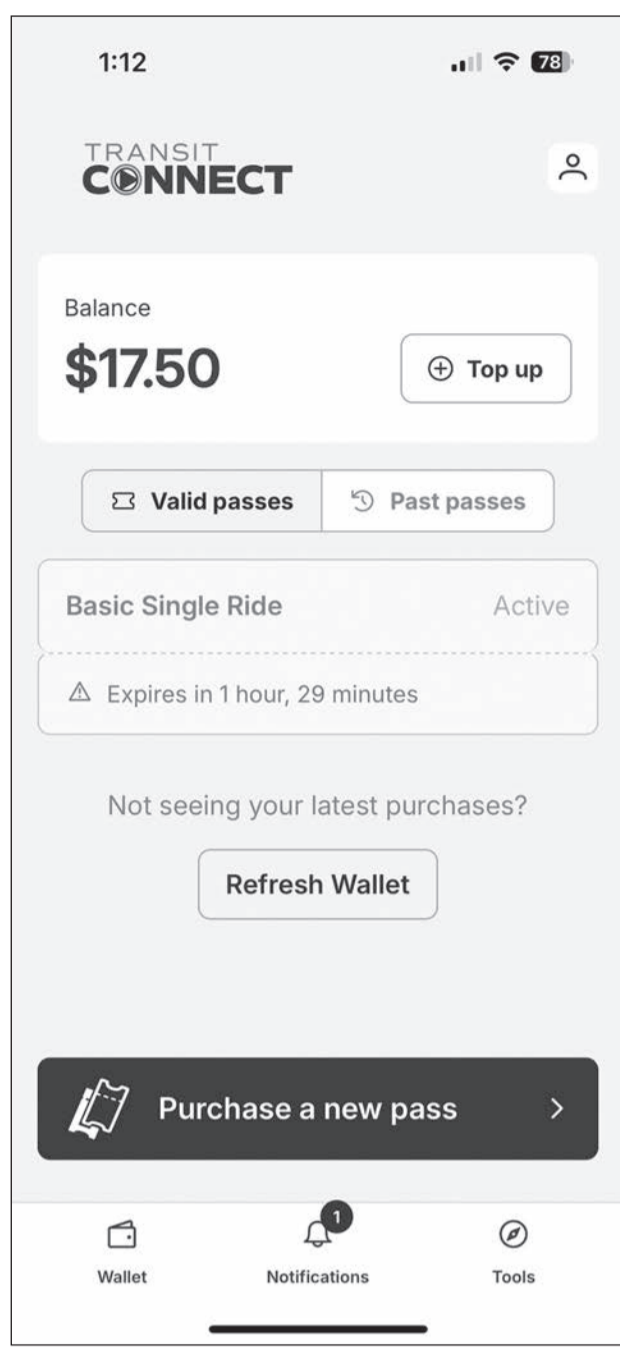
SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) recently launched the Transit Connect app, a new regional fare payment system that gives riders a faster, easier and more flexible way to pay for transit.

Riders can purchase and activate tickets anytime, using their smartphone's Transit Connect app, eliminating the need for cash, paper tickets and ticket machines.

Transit Connect's first phase launches with SacRT's full-fare mobile ticketing only. Discount fare options and YoloBus fare products are scheduled to be added in early November. This first phase introduces mobile ticketing, along with rider-friendly features such as stored value wallet to load funds directly in the app and group ticketing to purchase multiple fares at once.

Future upgrades will expand the Transit Connect app to include additional transit partner integrations and add exciting new features, such as scan-to-pay for faster boarding, fare capping so you don't pay more than the daily max and the ability to load cash at fare vending machines and convenience stores.

"SacRT is proud to launch the Transit Connect app, which will make it easier than ever for people to travel throughout the Sacramento region," said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. "Our riders deserve a seamless, modern experience that makes it easier to connect



The Transit Connect app lays the groundwork for a seamless and unified transit payment system for the Sacramento region. Image courtesy of Sacramento Regional Transit

to the entire region, and the Transit Connect app provides exactly that."

Powered by Masabi, a global leader in mobile fare payment solutions, the Transit Connect app lays the groundwork for a seamless and unified transit payment system for the Sacramento region.

For riders currently

using Connect Card (including state workers), full integration is expected as part of phase two in 2026.

The Transit Connect app is available for download in the App Store and Google Play.

For more information, visit sacrt.com/transitconnect. ★

Need to Advertise?
Let Linda help you get the word out

(916) 619.8189 (o) (916) 524.9184 (c)

lindapohl2@gmail.com

Arden • Carmichael • East Sacramento
Land Park • Pocket

FOLLOW US
for Local News and much more!

Arden Arcade News

Facebook: @ardenarcadenews

Arden Arcade News
Serving Arden Arcade and Sacramento County since 1993

It is the intent of the *Arden Arcade 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 *Arden Arcade News* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of the *Arden Arcade 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 *Arden Arcade News*, 2508 Garfield Ave., Suite A, Carmichael, CA 95608.

The *Arden Arcade News* is published monthly. Call (916) 773-1111 for more information. Call Linda Pohl for advertising or other inquiries at 916-429-9901.

Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

Arden Arcade News is a member of **Messenger Publishing Group**

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email to: Publisher@mpg8.com.

Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.

MPG **CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL**

Serving our local communities for over 65 years

HOME EQUITY
Line of Credit Loan

6.75% Initial APR

5 Year FIXED RATE

CHECK THE EL DORADO ADVANTAGE:

- ✓ **FIXED RATE** for 5 Years
- ✓ **Local Processing & Servicing**
- ✓ **No Closing Cost on Qualifying Transactions; Except for Appraisal/Evaluation Costs**
- ✓ **Have Funds Available for Current and Future Needs**
- ✓ **Home Improvement, Debt Consolidation, College Tuition**
- ✓ **Interest May be Tax Deductible (Please consult your tax advisor)**

EL DORADO SAVINGS BANK
Serving our local communities for over 65 Years

Member **FDIC** (NMLS ID 479256)

www.eldoradosavingsbank.com
800-874-9779

CARMICHAEL
4701 Manzanita Ave.
916-481-0664

Se Habla Español

The initial Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is currently 6.75% for a new Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC), and is fixed for the first 5 years of the loan which is called the draw period. After the initial 5 year period, the APR can change once based on the value of an Index and Margin. The Index is the weekly average yield on U.S. Treasury Securities adjusted to a constant maturity of 10 years and the margin is 3.50%. The current APR for repayment period is 7.625%. The maximum APR that can apply any time during your HELOC is 15%. A qualifying transaction consists of the following conditions: (1) the initial APR assumes a maximum HELOC of \$200,000, and a total maximum Loan-to-Value (LTV) of 70% including the new HELOC and any existing 1st Deed of Trust loan on your residence; (2) your residence securing the HELOC must be a single-family home that you occupy as your primary residence; (3) if the 1st Deed of Trust loan is with a lender other than El Dorado Savings Bank, that loan may not exceed \$300,000, have a total maximum Loan to Value (LTV) of 65% and may not be a revolving line of credit. Additional property restrictions and requirements apply. All loans are subject to a current appraisal or property evaluation. This cost will be disclosed in your commitment letter and paid at loan closing. Property insurance is required and flood insurance may be required. Rates, APR, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Other conditions apply. A \$25 early closure fee will be assessed if the line of credit is closed within three years from the date of opening. An annual fee of \$85 will be assessed on the first anniversary of the HELOC and annually thereafter during the draw period. Ask for a copy of our "Fixed Rate Home Equity Line of Credit Disclosure Notice" for additional important information. Other HELOC loans are available under different terms.

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



The offseason is over, and your Sacramento Kings are undefeated. It's that time of the year for effervescent optimism, and it has a contagious effect.

Time to be a little kid again and dream that your home team can win the first championship in Sacramento Kings history.

Is that a strong likelihood? The basketball pundits will tell you no, and emphatically no. Local media seems to have a Debbie downer attitude as it relates to the Kings playoff chances, let alone an actual championship.

I choose to focus on what I know is doable and ever likely, with the assembled group of ballers we have that will grace the confines of Golden One Arena on Oct. 8. The Kings face Utah Jazz in their first preseason game of the 2025/2026 campaign.

I will be sitting behind the Kings bench like a kid in a candy store, ready to greet newcomer Dennis Schroder with open arms, and hopes that Dennis will get a warm Sacramento welcome. Schroder has received few accolades as he joins this year's squad, but I believe he could make Sacramento his home for years to come.

As a mentor, Schroder offers a great opportunity for both Nique Clifford and Devin Carter to see how an NBA point guard plays both ends of the court, and Dennis skills as a teacher and veteran NBA ball distributor portends to be an invaluable asset.

Little used Doug McDermott managed to acquire a fan club last season, as he electrified the crowd with his deft 3-point shooting, and it remains to be seen if Doug Christie can translate McDermott's ability to shoot from long range into wins.

Domantas Sabonis returns as the shining star, and his dominance is undeniable. The perennial rebounding champion of the NBA holds down the block like no other center in Sacramento Kings history, and the 2025/2026 season should be more of the same.

Sabonis brings a nightly double-double to the table and an attitude of optimism that translates into team chemistry. If there was a statistic for helping fallen players to their feet, Domantas would win the award going away, and that comes with an effervescent smile that lights up the court.

If ever there is a player that deserves 100% fan support, it is Sacramento's own

Domantas Sabonis, and my advice to fans is to enjoy this magnetic big man while you can.

As Wednesday approaches with no recent acquisitions, the starting five appears to be Domantas Sabonis, Dennis Schroder, DeMar DeRozan, Zach Lavine and Keegan Murray.

That represents a lot of scoring power, what remains to be seen is how Doug Christie can accomplish a flow that will return the Kings to the high-powered scoring machine that led the NBA in scoring just 3 short seasons ago. That cannot be done by the starters alone, so Christie's use of his bench will be a needed ingredient.

Malik Monk appears to be more comfortable in the 6th man role, and he could become a catalyst of prosperity on both ends.

Likewise, Devin Carter showed flashes of brilliance last season, with his defensive skills, and playing alongside Keon Ellis, this tandem could wreak havoc on opposing offensives.

A looming question is whether Doug Christie will abandon his staccato substitution style, in favor of one that allows players to understand better their roles. Knowing that you can expect to play every game and understand how many minutes it's likely you'll play can help in fomenting a more formidable NBA bench.

Will 2025/2026 be a coming out party for Isaac Jones? It should be, as he adds length while helping support Sabonis on the boards, and provides a scoring punch with a nice touch around the rim that can translate into easy baskets.

It is no secret that many teams approached the Kings regarding Keon Ellis and Keegan Murray. I give credit to G.M. Scott Perry for realizing what he has in these talented youngsters and keeping them in this year's squad.

If you're not excited Kings fans, it's time to let your hair down and how! Get a little crazy and dream the dream!

The first 10 games of the regular season are brutal, and if our hometown boys can acquit themselves admirably, fans may be in for a season to remember!

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

Social Security Matters

When Will My Disability Become My Regular Social Security?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I hope you can answer this question. I'm currently receiving Social Security Disability benefits, and I will be turning 65 in February 2026. I'm confused as to how Social Security Disability transitions to regular Social Security, and when. I assume it's age 65 but maybe it's my retirement date? Also, does the amount remain the same or will it change? I'm not working. I've been on SSDI for about 15 years. Thank you.

Signed: Disabled Senior
Dear Disabled Senior: If you are collecting Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, those SSDI benefits

will automatically convert to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit when you reach your SS full retirement age (FRA) which, in your case, is age 67. For information, FRA today is somewhere between age 66 and 67, depending on your year of birth, and the full retirement age for everyone born in 1960 or later is age 67.

The change from SSDI to your regular Social Security benefit will be transparent to you because your monthly benefit amount will remain the same. SSDI benefits were originally awarded to you based upon your full retirement age entitlement when you applied for SSDI (even though you hadn't yet reached your FRA when you went on SSDI). Thus, the monthly benefit amount will not change because it is based on your lifetime earnings record, from before you became disabled.

FYI, although age 65 was once Social Security's "retirement

age," full retirement age for Social Security today is based on the year you were born. So, your SSDI benefit will automatically switch to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit as soon as you reach age 67. Essentially, the only thing that will change is the Social Security Trust Fund from which your benefits will be paid.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

For Those Hoping to Be California's Next Governor, The Clock is Ticking



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Over the last half-century or so, California has had six elections for governor when the office was being vacated.

Understandably, such incumbent-free elections to run the nation's most populous and economically powerful state have drawn serious candidates, mostly holders of other high-profile offices who declared themselves as soon as decorum would allow.

When, for example, Republican Ronald Reagan's two terms as governor were ending in 1974, the Democratic secretary of state, Jerry Brown, narrowly defeated the Republican state controller, Houston Flournoy.

This bit of political history is offered because the end of Gavin Newsom's governorship is approaching rapidly. In scarcely a year, California voters will choose a new governor. The June 2 primary, which will determine the two finalists, is just eight months away.

Yet the field of would-be governors remains very unsettled.

For months voters, political media and potential campaign financiers waited for former Vice President Kamala Harris to decide whether, after losing the presidency to Donald Trump, she would seek the governorship.

Harris finally said no, with a rather odd remark: "I don't want to go back in the system. I think it's broken." She may have been referring to national politics, but since the issue was California's governorship, she could also have been implying the state was broken after many years of dominance by her Democratic Party.

Harris' decision, whatever her motives, did not settle the question about who will be running for governor next year. There are declared candidates, of course, but none scores very high in preliminary polling.

Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis had been one of the first to declare her candidacy but shortly after Harris announced her decision, Kounalakis dropped out, opting instead to run for state treasurer.

With those two out of the picture, former Congresswoman Katie Porter became the frontrunner, more or less by default, but with underwhelming support — 17% in a poll by UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies, released in late August. Her standing may have reflected nothing more than name recognition from her losing campaign for U.S. senator last year.

This week Toni Atkins, former president pro tem of the state Senate, also ended her campaign, saying she could see no pathway to victory. A few other Democrats remain, most notably former Biden administration official and state Attorney General Xavier Becerra and former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Mostly, however, we are seeing just preliminary

skirmishing among those still in the race, because we're still waiting to see who else might run.

After the departure of Harris and Kounalakis, another name popped up in media speculation: U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla.

It's difficult to understand why Padilla, who holds one of the nation's most coveted political offices and could remain in the Senate for the rest of his life, would want to seek no more than eight years as governor.

Does he really want to deal with California's plethora of infinitely difficult, unresolved issues, such as homelessness, housing shortages, water supply uncertainty, economic stagnation and, perhaps trickiest of all, a chronic multibillion-dollar budget deficit?

Were Padilla to give up his Senate seat for the governorship, as Republican Pete Wilson did in 1990, the only logical motive would be civic duty — he thinks California needs him to weather its crises.

Meanwhile, we're waiting for another potential candidate, Rick Caruso, to also declare intentions. The very wealthy Los Angeles businessman ran a credible but unsuccessful race for mayor of his city after switching his party identification from Republican to Democrat and could draw support from moderate voters and interest groups of both parties. He says he's weighing a race.

Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★



Mississippi, Not California, is the Education Future

A miracle defies the laws of nature. This is why "the Mississippi Miracle," the sobriquet for the extraordinary gains that students in the Gulf state have made in reading in recent years, is a misnomer.

There's nothing miraculous about a state that adopts phonics and that sets high standards for its kids to get better results in reading instruction. This, to the contrary, is a predictable outcome, and a replicable one, as other Southern states that have taken up similar policies have shown.

Mississippi went from 49th in fourth-grade reading results on the National Assessment about a decade ago to 9th in 2024. Its low-income children are ranked first in the nation. It's Black kids are number three in the nation and it's Hispanic kids number one. Overall, when adjusted for socioeconomic and demographics, Mississippi has the best fourth-grade results in the nation.

The derisive cliché was always, "Thank God for Mississippi," since it could be trusted to save other states from coming in 50th in various metrics. Now, the phrase can be used with sincerity and admiration, since the state recognized and did something about its literacy crisis.

In 2011, about four out

of five fourth graders in Mississippi weren't proficient in reading. In 2013, the state passed a reform to require teachers to understand the science of reading (basically, phonics), to deploy literacy coaches to schools, to identify students struggling to read early, and to hold back students in third grade who weren't ready to advance.

Alabama, Tennessee and Louisiana have now done much the same, and have also made gains. The original source of all this was a 2002 reading law in Florida that boosted student achievement in the Sunshine State.

In a piece headlined "Illiteracy is a policy choice" at the website The Argument, Kelsey Piper makes the case that it would be irresponsible and wrong to ignore the lesson of Mississippi and the Southern states.

She notes that Mississippi outperforms her native California, even though the Golden State is richer and spends substantially more on education per pupil. More than half of Black fourth graders in Mississippi are at or above basic level, while only 28% of Black fourth graders in California are.

It may be galling for Blue States that have prided themselves on their commitment to education and looked down on the South to have to acknowledge that Mississippi, of all places, has figured out a model for the nation, but it is imperative all the same.

"We have been spending lots of money on schools," Piper writes of Blue States, "but we have not been willing to muster the polit-

ical will and effort necessary to hold those schools accountable for results and adopt teaching practices that actually work."

The so-called reading wars between the whole-language approach and phonics was won, on the merits, by phonics long ago. Yet, ineffectual methods hung around even though they'd been discredited. This is why it's so important to get teachers to embrace research-based reading instruction.

There must also be high expectations, rigorously enforced. This is what the Mississippi third-grade retention policy is about. If a teacher and a parent know that a child is going to be held back, they will do all they can to get that child to basic proficiency. Research in Florida shows that getting held back not only helps the academic performance of the students who are retained, but their younger siblings as well.

With reading scores nationally sliding the wrong way, especially for the bottom 10% of students, Mississippi and the other Southern states offer a beacon of hope. Their example shows that, no, it's not impossible to teach children, and no, it's not very costly. It's a good sign that even California just passed a phonics bill.

It's fully within our power, so long as we insist on the basics, to give kids a skill absolutely essential to their development and their futures. No miracles necessary.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

(c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

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.



From Closure to Community

Little Redwoods School Opens Downtown

By Ena Lupine
Little Redwoods
School

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Last spring, the daycare located in the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) building abruptly closed, leaving dozens of families scrambling for childcare: a nightmare situation for any working parent. Finding local childcare is no easy feat in a region already facing high unmet childcare needs, with many local daycare centers maintaining months-long waitlists.

Many in this situation would have scattered to find care wherever they could, but a tenacious group of parents was determined to rebuild the daycare community from the ground up. They banded together to launch a nonprofit, parent-led collaborative daycare called Little Redwoods School by James Marshall Parent Nursery School (JMPNS) in the newly vacant downtown space, which opened its doors in early September.

Parent board chair Megan Nevin said, "We felt it was important to continue offering quality childcare in Sacramento especially given how difficult it can be to find care here, and we wanted to build a daycare center that prioritizes community, fair teacher compensation and meaningful caregiver

involvement in children's education."

After long volunteer hours spent developing every aspect of the new school, Little Redwoods School officially opened its doors on Sept. 2. The parent board partnered with the well-established cooperative preschool James Marshall Parent Nursery School (JMPNS) to help develop a new concept for the school that would emphasize financial transparency and parent engagement. The on-site director and the teachers from the previous daycare were also excited to join the staff of the new care center.

"It really meant a lot to us to bring back so many of the amazing teachers and our On-Site Director Jen Ortiz from the previous school, and we couldn't have done this without the support of those teachers and of James Marshall Parent Nursery School. It's been a huge collective effort to create this school over the past few months, but after so many late nights and weekends, it's very satisfying to see the community that's come together and to see how excited our kids are to go to daycare every morning," said Ira Tarshis, the parent board vice chair.

Little Redwoods School by James Marshall Parent Nursery School is committed to a child-centered approach grounded in the principles of diversity,



Little Redwoods School facilitates learning through hands-on play. Photos courtesy of Jen Ortiz



Children play in Little Redwoods School's large outdoor area.

equity, family engagement and community building. For the children in our care, this means fostering resilience, nurturing meaningful connections, encouraging a sense of responsibility and promoting overall well-being. For families, we strive to build a culture of transparency, safety and integrity through open and collaborative communication.

Executive Director Erin

Hinton said, "I have 17 years of experience with collaborative childcare at James Marshall Parent, which was established in 1954 and has been a pillar of the community in West Sacramento ever since. I've seen firsthand, both as a teacher and a participating parent, how this cooperative model of care and education is a reflection of what research has proven time and again:

that when families are involved, children thrive."

Jen Ortiz, the school's on-site director, said, "Raising resilient, deeply connected children begins with modeling it as a community. What we've built here reflects what I hope every child learns: that even in challenges, we can choose joy and meaning when we lean on those who care for us. I'm honored to be part of a community that values each person's unique strengths and creates a true sense of belonging."

"I wake up every day excited to laugh, play and connect with the children, families and teachers I love," continued Ortiz.

Little Redwoods School by James Marshall Parent Nursery School is located in the California

Environmental Protection Agency building in downtown Sacramento and offers full and part-time care to children from three months to five years old. The school is currently enrolling preschoolers and accepting waitlist submissions for infants and toddlers. Located at 1001 I St. in Sacramento, the school also offers discounted rates for state employees.

The Little Redwoods School is hosting a fall festival on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to noon at Southside Park. The fall festival will feature fun activities for kids, including pumpkin painting, games, costume dress up, arts and crafts and more.

For more information, visit littleredwoodsschool.org. ★

Recently Improved Arcade Creek Bridge Reopens



Mayor Kevin McCarty, District 2 Councilmember Roger Dickinson and Philip Vulliet, senior engineer with the Department of Public Works are at the Oct. 2 ribbon cutting event. Photo courtesy of the City of Sacramento

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The City of Sacramento held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday, Oct. 2 to mark the official reopening of the Arcade Creek Bridge following months of construction and upgrades.

Mayor Kevin McCarty, District 2 Councilmember Roger Dickinson and Philip Vulliet, senior engineer with the Department of Public Works, joined City and project staff and community members to celebrate the project's completion.

The bridge, located on

Auburn Boulevard where it crosses Arcade Creek between Winding Way and Park Road near the SR-244 ramps, now includes several improvements:

Dedicated lanes and sidewalks for bicyclists and pedestrians,

A second turn lane from westbound Auburn Boulevard to Winding Way to help ease congestion and

A raised bridge deck to remain operational during a 20-year storm event and reduce flooding.

"This project will not only improve traffic flow in the area, but also support local commuters through enhanced bike paths and

sidewalks," Vulliet said.

He added that raising the bridge will allow for increased water flow and help prevent flooding, a recurring problem with the previous structure.

The \$15.8 million bridge replacement project began in May and was completed in August. It was federally funded and led by the City of Sacramento in partnership with the County of Sacramento, which provided funding for the additional turn lane at Winding Way.

For more details on the project, visit ArcadeCreekBridge.com. ★

Water Agency Receives Project of the Year Award



Helen Rocha, project manager for the Arden Service Area Pipe and Meter Installation Project, accepts the 2025 Project of the Year award at the American Society of Civil Engineers Sacramento Awards Banquet. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - For the past 10 years, the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) has been working to improve the water system in the Arden Area.

The Arden Service Area Pipe and Meter Installation Project is installing approximately 38 miles of new distribution pipelines and nearly 3,000 new water meters.

The Arden Service Area Pipe and Meter Installation Project was named the 2025 Project of the Year in the Sacramento Region. The award was presented to project manager Helen Rocha at the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Sacramento Awards Banquet.

Sacramento County Water Agency accepted the award for Phase 3 of the Arden Service Area project. Phase 3 of the project installed more than eight miles of new distribution pipelines, 618 new service lines and meters, and 85 fire hydrants.

The overall project is a multi-phased water meter installation program that

is replacing aged and undersized water mains and installing nearly 38 miles of new distribution pipelines, 3,000 new water meters to homes that didn't have them and new fire hydrants.

Sacramento County Water Agency began this project to meet a 2004 law requiring all homes and businesses to have water meters.

Rocha and her team have nearly completed the entire multi-phase project as they wrap up Phases 4, 5 and 6. That work is expected to be completed in 2026.

This is the fourth American Society of Civil Engineers award given to the Arden Service Area Pipe and Meter Installation Project since the project began in 2016. It's the first time that the project has won Project of the Year. In 2022, the Phase 2A portion won both a local award and state-wide American Society of Civil Engineers award for Outstanding Community Improvement Project. Phase 1A won a local American Society of Civil Engineers award in 2020.

To learn more about the project, visit ardenservicemeters.org. ★

New Pacific Charter Campus Opens in Arden Arcade

New Pacific Charter News Release

SACRAMENTO AREA, CA (MPG) - New Pacific Charter, a growing network of public charter schools committed to student-centered, project-based learning, launched its newest campus in Arden Arcade in August. Designed to serve

students in transitional kindergarten (TK) through third grade, New Pacific Charter-Arden Arcade will offer tuition-free, small-scale education that emphasizes personalized learning, whole-child development and hands-on academic experiences. The school will open with TK-3 and plans to grow with its students over time.

New Pacific Charter currently operates campuses in Rancho Cordova and Roseville, both of which have drawn praise from families seeking innovative alternatives to traditional public education.

New Pacific Charter is a tuition-free public charter school dedicated to nurturing the whole child through a personalized,

project-based approach. With a focus on student voice, creativity and academic excellence, New Pacific empowers learners to thrive in and beyond the classroom. It was developed by experienced educators at Pacific Charter Institute in response to the growing need for small, innovative school options that meet today's student

needs. Pacific Charter Institute was founded in 2005 with the mission of developing self-motivated, responsible citizens and lifelong learners.

Over the last 20 years, it has expanded to serve more than 3,600 students across 16 counties in Northern California. Pacific Charter Institute

focuses on personalized learning, ensuring each student has the resources, guidance, and support to become responsible, compassionate, and innovative leaders who are well-prepared to make meaningful contributions to society.

For enrollment questions, contact info@pacificcharters.org or call 916-890-7579. ★

More Money for Our Roads Encina High School Earns CIF Recognition

By Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond

It's no surprise that the unincorporated parts of Sacramento County have some of the worst roads in the state. As the supervisor who represents nearly half of the county's 600,000 unincorporated residents, I know it impacts all of you much more than residents who live in one of the seven cities in the county.

On Sept. 3, during the Board of Supervisors' final 2025-2026 budget hearing, I proposed using \$10 million in county general fund dollars to supplement our existing road maintenance funds. I'm happy that two of my colleagues supported this allocation, demonstrating a strong, continued investment in our roads in the unincorporated county.

For most people, roads are the primary thing they associate with local government, and it's unacceptable when taxpayers have to endure crumbling asphalt and potholes. Since taking office, I have made it a top priority to get more funding for our local roads. Although Sacramento County receives some



Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond represents the 3rd District, which includes the urban unincorporated communities of Arden Arcade, Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms and North Highlands. District 3 also includes the Collegen and Campus Commons neighborhoods in the City of Sacramento. Photo courtesy of Rich Desmond

funds are typically awarded through the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) by competing with all the county and city governments in our region. By working with Sacramento Area Council of Governments and our Sacramento County Department of Transportation (DOT), I have been able to get more of these funds dedicated to Sacramento County instead of having to compete for them regionally. This provides a crucial level of certainty for our transportation funding. I'm also extremely proud of the work I've done with my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors to dedicate tens of millions of our local County General Fund dollars over the last several years to supplement other funding sources for road maintenance.

For the first time in decades, Sacramento County has made positive headway toward reducing our massive road repair backlog. The \$10 million infusion approved at our final budget meeting will ensure we continue to make progress. ★

Continued from Page 1 after themselves at away games.

"It goes top down," he said. "As coaches, administrators and athletic directors, we talk about what we expect from our students and preach it as much as we can. It's great to see the kids follow through with our vision for our athletic program."

Salman said that Encina's coaching staff works to instill the idea that athletics is more than wins and losses. Omar Marroquin, one of Encina High's coaches, emphasized that it is about teamwork, accountability and learning lessons that carry over into life.

"There was one time where the other team was getting frustrated, even though we were losing, and it felt like they were pushing us to the limit," he said. "I thought my players were going to lose it but they didn't. They kept it cool and took care of business."

For students, the recognition reflects the work happening across all programs at Encina High to build a positive team culture.

Dwayne, a 10th-grader



For students, the recognition reflects the work happening across all programs at Encina High to build a positive team culture. Photo courtesy of San Juan Unified School District

who plays volleyball and cross country, said the recognition pushes back against negative stereotypes.

"Encina gets a bad reputation from other schools, so to get recognized for something like this shows that we're more put together than people may think," Dwayne said.

Tenth-grader Nyla, also a volleyball player, said her teammates always focus on lifting each other up, even when facing challenges from opponents.

"It feels great to be part of a team that gets along so well. We know how to pick each other up and keep the mood positive. For us to get recognized like this, it's a great thing," Nyla said.

Yasmin, a 12th-grader who plays both soccer and volleyball, added that respect is huge across all sports at Encina High.

"Even in tough games, we keep our heads up and continue playing. That's just how we do things here," Yasmin said.

For Salman, the achievement underscores the values that Encina High athletics aim to reinforce every day.

"It's not always about wins and losses. It's about how you play the game," Salman said. "When you do things the right way, across all sports, good things happen. This recognition just confirms what we already see in our athletes every day." ★

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

<p>Concrete</p> <p>SONDRIL CONCRETE 25+ years experience. All types of finishes. Patios, driveways, slabs Walkways, Spa pads. Tear out/ Replace Tractor work. <i>Written estimates.</i> Lic. # 778034 916-955-1083</p>	<p>Firewood</p> <p>OAK FIREWOOD \$330 delivered and stacked. 209-470-4541</p> <p>Galt Yard Sales</p> <p>9 a.m.-2 p.m. Fri.-Sun. Oct. 10-12, Three Palms Mobile Home Estates, 604 Pringle Ave. Clothes, jewelry, furniture, plants, household items, collectables, something for all. Items added each day.</p>	<p>Landscaping</p> <p>CREATE YOUR PARADISE</p> <p>Winter Yard Cleanups, Complete Landscape Design/Installation, Sprinkler System Installs/Repairs, All Types Concrete Work, Fence Installation, Retaining Walls-All Types, Drainage Systems-all types, Landscape Lighting, Residential/commercial</p> <p>American Landscape Design & Installation. Est 1987 American Construction & Property Maintenance Company</p> <p>WE ACCEPT VISA & MASTER CARD (916)612-0776 Lic#690968</p>	<p>Automotive</p> <p>Elk Grove Shell</p> <p>Your Local Full Service Auto Repair Shop Committed to Customer Satisfaction</p> <p>Specializing In:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil Changes • Smog Repair • Smog Inspection • Safety Inspection • Transmission Service • Brakes • Wheel Alignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check Engine Light Diagnosis • Tires • Tune-Up • Batteries • 30, 60, 90K Service • Brake & Lamp Station <p>Mon-Fri, 8-5 • 916-685-7796</p> <p>8901 Elk Grove Blvd.</p> <p>OFFICIAL LAMP ADJUSTING STATION SMOG CHECK OFFICIAL BRAKE ADJUSTING STATION</p>	<p>Roofing</p> <p>PREMIER ROOFING INC. LIC# 1097848</p> <p>Se Habla Espanol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROOF REPAIR • ROOF MAINTENANCE • COMPLETE RE-ROOF • NEW ROOFS • GUTTER CLEANING CELL 209.810.6233 <p>209.745.7565 1premierroofing@gmail.com</p>	
<p>Perez Landscaping & Concrete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Concrete Finishing/Stamping •Landscape installation and Design •Sodding, •Planting •Irrigation •Retaining Walls •Yard maintenance. <p>Free estimates. For more info, call 916-834-2352 email:Elverperez@att.net Lic #14-00016214</p>	<p>Home Improvement</p> <p>ALL PHASE HOME REPAIR Elk Grove, CA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Electrical •Plumbing •Fencing •Fans •Decks •Doors •Windows •Tile Flooring •Trim base-board •Sheetrock •Dry Rot Texture •Painting •Lighting •Concrete •Sprinkler Repair •Framing and more! <p>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</p> <p>CSLB#1134987 Bonded & Insured (916)287-6164</p>	<p>BRILLIANT LANDSCAPE</p> <p>Artificial Turf Fencing Retaining Wall Concrete Drainage Irrigation Planting Tree Trimming</p> <p>209-251-9387 LIC# 1108441</p>	<p>Roofing</p> <p>JIM MOYLEN ROOFING</p> <p>1981 License # 407605 A+ Rating with BBB.</p> <p>Specialize in Re-Roof, Prompt Repairs, Low Slope Roof, Seamless Gutter Installation.</p> <p>Free Estimates! Open Monday-Saturday 916-531-2793 Cell Tile Repairs</p>	<p>SACRAMENTO VALLEY ROOFING & GUTTERS</p> <p>RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEW ROOF INSTALL • TEAR OFF & REROOF • ROOF REPAIR • OVERLAY ROOF INSTALL • DRY ROT REPAIR • SEAMLESS GUTTER INSTALL • GUTTER REMOVAL & INSTALL • GUTTER REPAIR & INSTALL • GUTTER GUARD & INSTALL • DOWNSPOUTS INSTALL • CUSTOM COLORS <p>FREE ESTIMATES! 916-719-8288 RAMON M., FOREMAN/OPERATOR LIC# 1072137</p>	
<p>Construction Work</p> <p>New and repairs. Small jobs OK. CONCRETE & FOUNDATIONS, sidewalk, driveways, all kinds. HOUSE LEVELING, concrete or wood floor. FENCING, wood, iron-work, welding, masonry, etc. STUCCO, LANDSCAPING, sod, irrigation, drainage, decor. BOBCAT & BACKHOE EXCAVATION, HAULING trash & rubble. Licensed. Lifetime warranty. Call Pedro for good \$, (916) 280-4361</p>	<p>Junk Removal</p> <p>MS Hauling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Junk Removal •Garage Cleanouts •Yard Debris •E-Waste <p>Mention this ad and receive 15% off!</p> <p>Call (916)207-5702 License # 778034</p>	<p>YARD CLEAN UP</p> <p>Sod installation Landscape installation Lawnmowing services Fence repair</p> <p>Call for free estimate 916-271-7265</p> <p>MPG</p>	<p>Painting</p> <p>Shelton Painting, Inc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repaints: Exterior & Interior • Dry Wall Repair <p>Free Estimates (209) 745-7897 3 Generations of Quality Painters #908019</p> <p>We accept Visa & Mastercard</p>	<p>Roofing</p> <p>ROUTT ROOFING</p> <p>Specializing in Res Roofing & Repairs We Hand Nail for Quality! <i>Free Estimates</i> 916-423-1288 or 209-748-5588</p> <p>BBB Since 1975 Lic.#302302</p>	<p>Tractor Work</p> <p>MAC Industries DIRT WORK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •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 <p>License #919198 & Insured Michael- 916-747-9667 Bill- 916-869-1019</p>
<p>Yard Sale? Garage Sale? Advertise it in your local community newspaper Call (916) 773-1111</p>		<p>Visit: mpg8.com</p>		<p>Services Available</p> <p>Driver with wheelchair accessible van available. Help with shopping or other activities. Call George at 916-470-7169 6 am - 10 pm</p>	<p>Advertise in your local community newspaper Call (916) 773-1111</p>

Lost, Found and Returned

Local Kayaker behind 'American River Lost & Found'

By Idaly Valencia

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Going to the river to beat the heat is a summertime tradition for many Sacramento-area residents. Whether rafting, canoeing or swimming, local waterways attract crowds looking to have a fun way to cool off.

But losing a wallet, phone or any personal belonging to the river can quickly end the fun.

For Sacramento native Karl Bly, recovering those lost items has become a mission that is part compassion, part hobby. He takes requests from individuals searching for belongings and posts daily online in hopes of reuniting items to the owners.

"It's such a fun addiction to find things out in the river, and then it just adds so much more when you continue to search and find the owners," Bly said. "It's a whole new level of adventure."

Bly's connection to the American River goes back to 1972, when his family moved to Carmichael. He was 5 years old, Bly said, when he started kayaking and snorkeling.

"My dad would get our whole family out on the river," Bly said. "He would go scuba diving in the river looking for things and I would follow his air bubbles around in a canoe."

At 10, Bly found a pair of cut-off shorts with a wallet and a California



The sticker-covered water bottle, found in July 2024, was returned to its owner, who told Karl Bly of American River Lost & Found that it chronicled his relationship, marking trips he and his girlfriend had taken together. Photos courtesy of American River Lost & Found

Highway Patrol badge inside.

"I still remember his name, Blaine Pectol," Bly recalled.

Without social media, Bly relied on the yellow pages to track down the officer. After a few calls, Bly reached the right family.

"It was exciting for me to go through that whole process as a young kid and ultimately returning a wallet to a CHP officer made me feel I was? an important part of the community," Bly said.

From then on, Bly said, he made it a point to return anything with a name attached that he found while diving. Social media starting in the what year

or so initially gave Bly a way to share discoveries with friends but his reputation for finding lost items quickly grew.

One day, friends alerted him to a lost kayak posted in a community group. The next morning, Bly said, he went out and located it in just 10 minutes. That moment became the turning point for launching the American River Lost & Found Facebook page in 2018.

The page has since grown to more than 36,000 followers, with members actively helping reunite items by sharing posts and commenting.

The most common finds, Bly said, are sunglasses with hundreds, if

not thousands, each year. Phones are the most valuable frequent recovery, with 178 phones returned so far in 2025.

Bly has also retrieved unusual items, such as three prosthetic legs.

"Social media is just invaluable to get something like that returned," Bly said.

Some of Bly's finds are more whimsical. A recent request led Bly to recover a lost mermaid tail, which he successfully returned to its owner.

But other items that seem ordinary often hold deep personal meaning, a part of Bly's work that stands out to him.

He recalled returning a sticker-covered water

bottle lost a year earlier. Each sticker represented a vacation spot, marking trips taken by the owner and his girlfriend, beginning with the one where the boyfriend first told her he loved her.

"Every place they went all over the world, they put these stickers on it; it was kind of a history of their relationship," Bly said. "Little stories like that are so common. People thought their things were gone forever, things very meaningful to them and not worth much to anyone else."

Bly holds onto items that might take longer to claim but clothing left unclaimed after about a week is washed and donated.

Summer is Bly's busiest season, when he receives daily requests. Most of his work is along the American River and Lake Natoma, where Bly has even had other local divers assist.

Outside of diving, Bly manages rental properties, which gives him more free time after a 20-year career in various entrepreneurial ventures. In his later years, Bly joked, he has been "flexing his time," allowing him to dedicate more hours to the hobby.

For river-goers, Bly's top tip is simple: "Number one, if you're bringing something valuable in water, make sure it floats." He also recommends phone protectors, securing bags in kayaks or canoes and straps for eyeglasses.

Bly documents his days on the river with photos and videos, focusing on wholesome or funny interactions for his social media page. But his work goes beyond returning lost items. He regularly picks up trash, helps stranded

rafters and identifies safety hazards.

"Since I'm getting these messages daily during summer of where people are wiping out and losing their stuff, I also have kind of an overview of where the dangerous spots are," Bly said.

About two years ago, Bly noticed a pipe crossing the river that was causing wipeouts. He posted about it online, and after a local news outlet published a story, the pipe was removed.

"Found out it was a decommissioned pipe. A few months later, I got a message from the lawyers saying, 'We want to let you know that we will be removing that pipe because of your activism,'" Bly said.

At times, Bly's work can take a more serious turn.

"I spend so much time on the river, I wind up helping people in one way, shape or form or another almost every time I'm out there," Bly said. "I've been in those situations many, many times."

Bly noted that he and other divers have assisted in recovery efforts for drowning victims.

"We've actually attached buoys to drowning victims in the river so the Sacramento Fire Department can come in, pull up the buoy to the rope and continue recovery," Bly said. "Since we know the river so well and know where all these little spots are, knowledge and skill come in handy sometimes when it's needed."

To learn more about Bly and to see his daily finds, visit the American River Lost & Found page at @ARKayaker on Facebook.

ABOUT TOWN

Area Museum Experiences

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

California Museum – "Revolutionary Grain: Celebrating the Spirit of the Black Panthers in Portraits and Stories, through Dec. 14. This temporary exhibition features striking contemporary portraits and deeply personal stories of former members of the Black Panther Party.

The exhibit portrays former Panthers as lawyers, social workers, teachers, and political activists who continue to make a difference in their communities.

"Recuerdos Ilustrados: Día de los Muertos 2025" ("Illustrated Memories: Day of the Dead 2025") features contemporary altars and artwork by artists from Southern California and the Central Valley.

Opening Oct. 11, the annual exhibit explores the Mexican cultural tradition of honoring deceased loved ones each year Nov. 1-2 by creating sugar skulls, altars of the dead) and offerings, which has evolved from the Aztecs to modern day Mexico and California.

This year's exhibit features the work of printmaking artists Stephanie Mercado, Daniel Villa, and Álvaro D. Márquez, whose altars will be centered

around the topic of immigration. Details at californiamuseum.org.

California State Railroad Museum – The Chinese Railroad Workers' Experience offers visitors a view of the Chinese workers who built the western portion of the nation's first Transcontinental Railroad.

Marginalized by history, the Chinese workers were more than a nameless group of laborers.

Details at californiarailroad.museum.

Sacramento Fine Arts Center – "Bold Expressions," Sept. 30-Oct. 25. Hosted by Northern California Arts Inc., this international exhibit features a wide range of media and artists. This art

makes a statement every year.

Our galleries are free and open to the public. Details at sacfinearts.org.

Elks Lodge 6 Calendar of Events

Elks Lodge 6 Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am; \$15 tax included.

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

Karaoke Nights, Thursdays and Saturdays, 7 p.m.

Martial Arts, Monday 5 p.m.

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

Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 p.m. See elks6.net for weekly menu. ★

CALL A PROFESSIONAL

LYTLE CONSTRUCTION INC.
Award-Winning Design/Build Firm
Serving Sacramento for more than 25 years

Remodeling and Design
LIC# 480492
Certified Kitchen & Bath Remodeler

- Additions
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Custom Cabinetry

FREE Consultation
916-422-6639

www.lytleconstruction.com

Fall Yard Clean-up Specials!

- HAULING & YARD CLEAN-UP
- RAIN GUTTER CLEANING
- CONCRETE REMOVAL
- HEDGE TRIMMING /SHRUB REMOVAL
- PRESSURE WASHING

Pressure wash your driveways clean! Your decks, too!
Clean out your garage! Replace that old lawn!
Hard work—not a problem!

Call LESTER
(916) 838-1247
Lic#128758/Ref

SPECIALS FOR SENIORS*/SERVING THE AREA SINCE 1996*

SMOOT LANDSCAPING

- Drought tolerant landscape
- Low voltage lighting
- Garden renovations
- Concrete and stone
- Consultations available

Celebrating 45 years

916.454.1300
www.SmootLandscaping.com • Contractor License #633224

ROONEY'S PLUMBING
FULL SERVICE PLUMBING

916-456-7777
rooneysplumbingco.com

License #683668

Prime Quality Maintenance

- GUTTER CLEANING
- Window Cleaning (inside/out/screens washed)
- Pressure Washing (all surface areas)
- Junk Removal/Hauling
- Landscape Maintenance

Free Estimates
Licensed & Insured

CSL# 996271

Call or Text Jesse: 916 417-4231

CAPITOL ELECTRIC
Reasonable Residential & Commercial Work since 1960

Repairs, Trouble Shooting
Custom Lighting/FREE Est.
Excellent ref from Angie's List

(916) 213-3740
Neil McIntire — C.S.L.# 394307

RESTORE YOUR FLOOR HARDWOOD FLOORING
Revive • Restore • Refinish
Hardwood, Laminate, and Vinyl

New Installation & Repairs
Family Tradition Since 1957
Lic. #794448

- Sand & Finish
- Repairs
- New Installations
- Recoating

sacramentohardwood.com
1.800.725.3320 916.342.6596

AFFORDABLE TRENCHLESS & PIPE LINING
Install a Water/Electric line under your existing driveway!

SEWER PROBLEMS? WATCH OUR VIDEO.
www.ydig.com

We're #1 in the #2 business
Off (916) 488-1215 Lic #754886

LEGAL ADS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY?
We Can Do That!

Call to place your legal advertising
916-773-1111

All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing Group

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 Installations - 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

Visit our website for more news!

MPG

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

MPG Messenger Publishing Group



ESKATON

VILLAGE CARMICHAEL

Your Next *Best Move*



Live in a vibrant community that takes care of the details of daily life. Eskaton Village Carmichael allows you to live life fully—with less chores and more choice.

Schedule a tour today!

916-900-1221

eskaton.org/evc



Live a Maintenance-Free Lifestyle

Eskaton Village Carmichael offers older adults a maintenance-free lifestyle with delicious dining options, housekeeping, 24/7 security and a community of engaged residents—all while knowing support services are available if needs change.