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# Gold River Messenger

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## Bridging Generations through Music



While he attended Pershing Elementary and Churchill Middle School, Gold River resident Michael Cicelski was a Sacramento Youth Symphony member.

By MPG Staff

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Gold River resident Michael Cicelski, a University of California, Los Angeles senior, combines his passion for music and human connection through Backbeat Bruins, a student-led organization bringing live performances to hospitals, senior centers and communities in need across California.

Cicelski has lived in



Co-founders Michael Cicelski and Aiden Jahangiri speak at Eskaton Village Carmichael in August. Photo courtesy of Michael Cicelski

Gold River since he was 2 and attended Gold River Discovery Center, Pershing Elementary and Churchill Middle School, where he was part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

While in middle school and in the Sacramento Youth Symphony, Cicelski performed as a cellist and formed a small chamber group with his sister and classmates to volunteer at

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## Drop-Off Locations Opening Soon for Operation Christmas Child

**Samaritan's Purse News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Volunteers are preparing to collect Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts during National Collection Week from Nov. 17 to Nov. 24. Nearly 5,000 drop-off locations will open across the country in November and shoebox packers can find their local drop-off locations in California.

This year, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoeboxes to reach another 12-million children.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering gift-filled shoeboxes to children, including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Operation Christmas Child hopes to reach another 12-million children in 2025 with the hope of Jesus.

Shoebox packing is fun for individuals, families and groups. The project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God's love to children in need. Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

"Samaritan's Purse works around the world to help people in need but it's not about good works; it's about the Gospel," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "Please prayerfully consider packing a shoebox this year with Operation Christmas Child. These simple gifts open the door for us to share the true meaning of Christmas."

Participants can find the nearest drop-off location and hours of operation as they make plans to drop off their shoebox gifts at [samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/drop-off-locations/?utm\\_source=OCC-Tool-Kit&utm\\_campaign=m\\_YOCC-PRRE&utm\\_content=OCC-Drop-off-locations](http://samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/drop-off-locations/?utm_source=OCC-Tool-Kit&utm_campaign=m_YOCC-PRRE&utm_content=OCC-Drop-off-locations)

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 232-million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories. ★

## SacSewer Named Utility of the Future Today Recipient

**Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer) News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento region's sewage collection, treatment and resource recovery utility has earned national recognition for its innovative partnerships that protect local waterways and strengthen community resilience.

The Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer) has been named a 2025 Utility of the Future Today by the Water Environment Federation for its leadership in the category of Watershed Stewardship, a distinction that highlights SacSewer's flagship Confluence Regional Partnership Program (Confluence Program).

The Confluence Program was recognized specifically for its Watershed Management, Septic Tank Conversion, Public Education and American River Parkway and River Cleanup categories. By leveraging non-rate, non-fee revenues,



SacSewer accepted the 2025 Utility of the Future Today award at the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference in Chicago on Sept. 30. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Area Sewer District

the program invests in community-driven projects that enhance the region's environmental health, educational opportunities and economic vitality.

Since its inception, the Confluence Program has supported dozens of local efforts that reduce pollution, restore natural habitats and provide hands-on learning

experiences that inspire environmental stewardship throughout the region.

SacSewer leaders recently accepted the award at Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference in Chicago, joining top utilities from across the nation recognized for forward-thinking programs that deliver

lasting community benefits.

Only a select group of utilities worldwide earn the Utility of the Future Today designation each year and SacSewer's fourth recognition, following awards in 2016, 2019 and 2022, highlights its ongoing commitment to advancing sustainability and

*Continued on page 5*

# Annual Stand Down Event Serves Veterans

By Janna Haynes,  
Sacramento County  
Public Information Office

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - At Mather Community Campus, a line of expectant veterans wraps around the building. Men and women donning hats, vests and jackets filled with patches identifying their service history: which branch and which war they survived.

Some are walking with a noticeable limp; others have prosthetic limbs showing. Many are in wheelchairs, having lost a partial or full leg.

The air is heavy with pride and grief at the annual Sacramento Stand Down event. Pride for the service they gave and the brothers and sisters they served beside, grief for the ones they knew and loved who didn't make it home.

Booths line both sides of the streets, filled with agencies and organizations dedicated to helping veterans get back on their feet after returning from service. For some, that means filling out applications for VA benefits and healthcare. Others need more intervention, such as a job, housing and mental health treatment.

But every person there came searching for the same thing: a community of individuals and support that understands what they've been through and are willing to gently guide and love them through the struggle of returning to civilian life.

As folks amble booth to booth, the strains of a bagpipe ring out and a hush falls. The bagpiper makes his way around the corner, solemnly playing and walking his way through the crowd toward the American flag. At the conclusion of his piece, another veteran steps up to the microphone and sings the National Anthem. My heart squeezed at the reverence and honor in that moment. The weight of sacrifice in the crowd



Pictured are attendees of the Annual Stand Down Event serving local veterans. Photo courtesy of Janna Haynes



Speakers at the annual Stand Up event included members of Volunteers of America, an organization committed to serving veterans and helping support them through the transition back into society. Photo courtesy of Janna Haynes

was so heavy that I could barely breathe.

Sacramento County District 5 Supervisor Pat Hume steps on stage to open the event. His district covers Mather Community Campus, which houses the Volunteers of America (VOA) veteran's service center and

shelter, in addition to several additional shelter programs serving singles, families and transitional aged youth.

Supervisor Hume shared his own family story of sacrifice, losing his father in war. Yet the pride in his voice is evident. He speaks directly to the hearts of



Booths at the annual event offered resources to veterans getting back on their feet after returning from service. Photo courtesy of Janna Haynes

each person in the crowd, "You are not alone. You do not carry this burden by yourself. Do not walk away today without making the connections you need

and the help you need."

As the opening ceremony concludes, the crowd disperses to walk the booths they came to see: dental care, eye exams, haircuts, benefits, basic medical care, lunch tent and more.

The Sacramento County Veterans Services Office staff is onsite to help people get connected to VA benefits. Human Services Supervisor Nick Pulaski shares the challenges of connecting veterans to their earned benefits.

"We see so many people with incomplete paperwork; missing discharge papers or the worst is when private companies take advantage of them by charging them for help," Pulaski said. "We do it for free. We'll never take a percentage of your earned benefits. We work so hard to help and advocate for our clients."

Volunteers of America is committed to serving those who served our country and helping support them through the transition back into society. They serve nearly 1,400 veterans a year at the Mather Campus drop-in center. They provide help with resume building, job applications, mock interviews and job placement with cultivated veteran-friendly employers.

For veterans who need help exiting homelessness, Volunteers of America also has on-site shelter and a housing specialist to help with permanent placements, including paying rental deposits and first and last month's rent.

Don Harper, the Stand Down Event founder and vice president, emphasizes the moniker, "No wrong door" to getting help.

"Our goal is to get veterans off the streets and into the services they need to thrive, whatever that looks like for them," Harper said. "We're here to help." ★

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# Full-Service Hotel Dramatic Transformation Unveiled

By Seth Henderson

## RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

- Rancho Cordova's only full-service branded hotel, the Marriott Sacramento Rancho Cordova, located at 11211 Point E Drive, reveals its \$33 million "floor-to-ceiling" renovation, featuring double rooms with two kings' beds, advanced technological upgrades and an emphasis on communal space.

The hotel's general manager, Robbie Garcia, said whether guests are a sports team gathering, a meeting between business colleagues or a family getaway, the hotel's renovation is designed to accommodate gatherings for an array of occasions with the 265 newly-re-modeled rooms.

Facilitating weddings, San Juan Soccer Club gatherings, as well as an array of tradeshow, the general manager said that the hotel's restaurant, the Formaggio Restaurant and Bar, has also been fully updated, including the outdoor patio and terrace. The hotel's renovation was planned before the COVID-19 pandemic but construction was delayed.

"We started in August of 2023 with all of our public space and then we gradually moved into all of the guest rooms. So we transformed every guest room that we have," Garcia said. "We did a bathtub to shower conversion. Except for the second floor, because we had to core through the floor below to change out the drainage."

According to a hotel press release, the hotel has been updated with "a cool palette of soft greys with pops of soothing lavender and regal purple hues."

The Marriott Sacramento Rancho Cordova is also equipped with a fully-renovated fitness station available to guests around the clock, 65-inch smart televisions capable of streaming access that Director of Operations Mia Mendez said guests can connect to their personal accounts to watch their favorite shows.

The hotel prides itself in its



An open lobby concept features multiple communal seating areas and plugs, as well as all throughout the hotel. Photo courtesy of the Marriott Sacramento Rancho Cordova

ability to check in a football team up to their rooms in under five minutes, Garcia said, and that it is the city's only hotel with double rooms, featuring two king beds.

"Our chef will work with their nutritionist to ensure that the food that we're putting out follows within their dietary needs," Garcia said. "Whether it's the amount of protein, starches, along those lines, to kind of enhance their performance on the field and what they're doing."

The hotel is especially prepared to handle and accommodate sports groups coming in, accommodating a significant number of charter buses, Garcia said, whether they are professionals, club sports teams or collegiate athletes, so that the teams can focus on winning.

Garcia spoke about Koz Pure's announcement of the Cordova City Center project, a community-based transformation of Rancho Cordova's downtown atmosphere to centralize public spaces, including the addition of a Major Arena Soccer League stadium with a men's and women's team.

"I hope it's a renaissance for

Rancho Cordova and honestly, kind of puts us on the map," Garcia said. "I hope people will see that we are a destination and that they can come, they can enjoy, they can stay here, they can play here and shop."

As a resident of the city, Garcia said the hotel's job is to drive the economy within the city and that most of the hotel employees are also city residents.

"This is their livelihood, this is how they put food on the table and put a roof over their head and that's very important to us to drive as much business as we can, because ultimately, that's why they're here," Garcia said.

Mendez said that hotel updates have been impactful, especially as Rancho Cordova makes its way further into the tech sector.

"At the end of the day, you can come downstairs, have a nice glass of wine, have an excellent meal because our restaurant is fantastic," Mendez said, "and so, that's what we're trying to be, an all-inclusive area here."

Juliet Arledge, a Rancho Cordova resident and Marriott

employee, said that she has been a banquet server for three years at the hotel and that the renovation made her job easier, receiving the tools necessary to be more successful. The renovation was much needed, Arledge said, and has made everybody happy, guests and staff alike.

Growth in the city as a result of the "DOVA" project, as it is known according to <https://dovanow.com>, is something Arledge said that she is most excited for. She said it means that the Marriott grows as well, praising the hotel's quality and amenities, saying "We have a nice hotel and we accommodate quite a lot of people."

As a board member of the Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce, Garcia said, the hotel tries to be as active in the community as possible.

"With the DOVA project coming in, that would just provide a whole other entertainment district that we could send our guests to," Garcia said, "and again, keep them within the city of Rancho Cordova, rather than them going up to Folsom or to downtown Sacramento."

Travel and tourism drive the city economy, the general manager said, and they are both important aspects of revenue generation. She said that a decrease in corporate travel since the pandemic is missed by not only business but the employees as well.

"I feel that bringing people together at a meeting, that collaboration and that networking is a really important piece of business and the success and generating ideas," Garcia said. "I think that's something that's kind of missing and I hope that it comes back."

Approximately 13,000 square feet of meeting and banquet space features catering options to accommodate an array of gatherings and 1GIG wireless high-speed internet is available in meeting or breakout rooms, in addition to public areas. Catering menu options feature multiple variations of breakfasts, lunches and dinners, including buffet, plated and a la carte options with most options priced per person.

Technology packages include basic and additional internet services, including Wi-Fi and high-speed bandwidth for individuals as well as businesses. Supporting basic file sharing, streaming, web-based training or conference apps, the hotel has capacity to support more than 225 connections with more than 40 Mbps.

"From our fully redesigned guestrooms to our exceptional new meeting and dining spaces, every element of this renovation was crafted to meet the needs of today's group and business traveler," Garcia said. "This investment allows us to provide a sophisticated, full-service experience unmatched in Rancho Cordova and we hope that visitors will see the property as an attractive alternative in the market."

To learn more about the Marriott Sacramento Rancho Cordova, visit [www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/sacmc-sacramento-marriott-rancho-cordova](http://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/sacmc-sacramento-marriott-rancho-cordova) or call 916-638-1100. Follow the property on Instagram. ★

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# If Walls Could Talk

*'The People vs. The Golden State Killer' Reveals Lead Prosecutor's Official Account of 40-Year Cold Case*



Thien Ho is the author of "The People vs. The Golden State Killer." He was elected Sacramento County district attorney in 2022 and took office in 2023. Courtesy photo

By Seth Henderson

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - For the first time, the story of a cold case that lasted more than 40 years plaguing the Sacramento area and various communities throughout California was officially recounted by the then lead prosecutor in "The People vs. The Golden State Killer" (Third State Books, Nov. 11, 2025). The book was written by Thien Ho, Sacramento County's current district attorney.

Joseph DeAngelo, better known by monikers such as the East Area Rapist, Visalia Ransacker, the Original Nightstalker and the Golden State Killer, wreaked havoc throughout six counties in California, committing more than 120 burglaries, more than 50 rapes and 13 murders. DeAngelo's first victims murdered in Rancho Cordova were a couple, Brian and Katie Maggiore.

"Nothing compares to (DeAngelo's case) for me personally of any case I've worked on and it's just because of the scope and the volume and the challenges that came with prosecuting a cold case that was 40 years old," Ho said.

During the time of DeAngelo's investigation, capture and conviction, Ho was the assistant chief deputy district attorney and lead prosecutor of the team that successfully achieved a conviction of the notorious killer.

"There's one thing to arrest somebody but there's another thing to build a case and present it in a court of law," Ho recently told Messenger Publishing Group. "And building a case is like building a house; you have to build a foundation first."

When presenting a case for trial, Ho said, he first questions how he wants to tell the story and creates an A layer, B layer and C layer that cohesively converge throughout its duration.

The A layer was the overarching case, Ho said, going through the investigation, capture and prosecution of the Golden State Killer. The B layer was Ho's personal story, a Vietnamese refugee who studied at McGeorge School of Law, taught there and rose through the judicial ranks, elected to district attorney in Sacramento

in 2022. The C layer was conveying the voice of the survivors, a tremendous responsibility that Ho said he felt out of respect.

"There were literally three-million pages of documents that had to be reviewed, organized and turned over," Ho said "And so part of the challenge of any case is telling the story but before you can do that, you have to understand it and the challenge here is that this is a cold case, where the crimes happen 30 to 40 years prior."

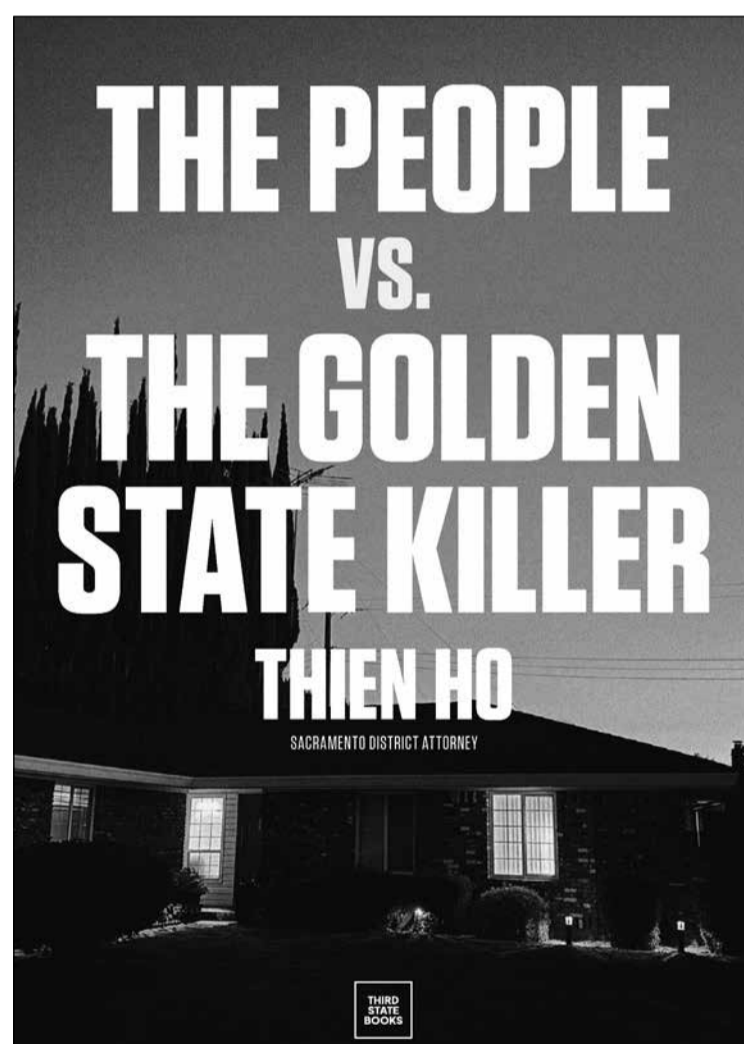
Facing lost witnesses, discarded evidence and faded memories, Ho said, rebuilding the case was a meticulous process that was taken one case at a time. He said that DeAngelo's pursuit was aided by investigative genetic genealogy (IGG), a process that builds a genetic family tree to profile suspects. Nearly 1,000 cases have been solved so far because of investigative genetic genealogy, according to Ho.

Tens of thousands of suspects were identified over the cold case's four decades before DNA evidence eventually tied DeAngelo to the string of crimes that captivated six counties throughout California. Leaving bodily fluids and other DNA at multiple crime scenes during his criminal career, Ho said that DeAngelo's crimes were consistent, his actions served as a signature, tying him to the nearly 200 crimes he was convicted of through his genetic family tree.

Ho outlined the obstacles to be overcome during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the creation of a courtroom at the Sacramento State Ballroom to accommodate roughly 200 people while social distancing, a term that Ho said was foreign to most up until spring 2020.

"Those victims deserved to be there," Ho said. "So we looked around at the Golden One Center here in Sacramento where we looked at the Memorial Auditorium. We even looked at an airport hangar."

A makeshift courtroom during a pandemic was unprecedented, Ho said, and the ballroom's back entrance had to facilitate an armored vehicle, in addition to 200 individuals. He said it was a challenge to protect the victims' health as well as his own and that



Joseph DeAngelo worked as a police officer and then a mechanic while committing horrific crimes in secret. DeAngelo's ability to meticulously compartmentalize allowed him to evade detection and reminds us that evil doesn't always look like a monster. Courtesy photo

of his family, while continuing to move the case along in court. Ho said that a traditional courtroom fits about 40 people without social distancing, so a larger venue was sought to accommodate courtroom victims capacity while social distancing.

"If you know your why, you will find your way," Ho said. "We knew our why, we were doing this for the victims, we were doing it to bring them justice. That was our why."

Ho said that the prosecution team created a profile on DeAngelo from his birth in Bath, New York to his post-arrest as a camera was placed inside DeAngelo's cell without his knowledge. DeAngelo's cell footage showed him obsessively pacing around, Ho said, but he was rolled into the courtroom via a wheelchair to seem frail and weak. Ho said that the prosecution saw right through DeAngelo's feeble act because his timing was

too deliberate. He said it seemed as if DeAngelo was attempting to create a narrative of mental instability.

"DeAngelo was meticulous. He compartmentalized his life with surgical precision. He was not impulsive, he planned, he stalked, he adapted. That is how he avoided capture for so long," Ho said. "It was chilling to realize that someone could commit such evil while maintaining the appearance of normalcy. But evil does not always look like a monster. Sometimes, it looks like your neighbor."

With modern technology, Ho said, the likelihood of serial killers living "normal" lives is not as high as when DeAngelo's criminal career was at its peak. Ho said there's too much forensic and electronic evidence to connect the dots of a case plus the plethora of security cameras and cellphone cameras in this modern age.

DeAngelo's God complex, the

feeling of unstoppable control, revealed how weak he truly was in his own life, hunting his victims like prey, Ho said. DeAngelo's actions displayed his manipulative compulsion throughout his crimes.

"He was playing God. When he tied him up and he put a bedsheet over them and glasses on top of them, he was being God over them," Ho said. "He held their lives in the palm of his hand when he was committing his sexual assault."

Ho writes about sleepless nights in anticipation of new developments in the DeAngelo case. Asked about the crimes' dark nature and how it affected him, Ho said that the darkness remains a part of him but does not consume him as much.

"Maybe it doesn't creep over your consciousness as much or often but it's always there," Ho said. "It's never completely gone. It becomes a part of you in some way."

"The People vs. The Golden State Killer" is set to be released on Nov. 11 in the Nonfiction/True Crime section. Ho said he woke up at 5 a.m. to write the book two hours every day for seven months. Ho started with a 30-page outline. The book's cover depicts the Rancho Cordova neighborhood in which the first couple murdered by the Golden State Killer took place.

Ho will have a book launch party from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 12 at the Sacramento Public Library's Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 828 I St., Sacramento. Ho will also travel to St. Louis, Houston, Seattle, the Bay Area and Southern California for a book tour throughout the fall.

To learn more about the district attorney's book launch event at the Sacramento Public Library, visit <https://engage.saclibrary.org/event/14608224>. The book is for sale online at Third State Books' website at [thirdstatebooks.com](http://thirdstatebooks.com), Barnes and Noble, and Amazon.

"The People vs. The Golden State Killer" is \$30. A portion of the book's proceeds will be donated by Ho and Third State Books to Phyllis's Garden, a non-profit organization advocating for sexual assault survivors' rights begun in honor of a DeAngelo survivor. ★

# Bridging Generations through Music

*Continued from page 1*

local senior communities, including Eskaton Village Carmichael, Eskaton Gold River and Eskaton Fair Oaks.

His connection to these communities is deeply personal. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Cicelski's grandfather was an Eskaton Fair Oaks resident. Because of health restrictions, Cicelski could not visit his grandfather. This experience deepened Cicelski's awareness of how isolation affects older adults and inspired his later commitment to reconnecting generations through music.

While attending Folsom High School, Cicelski decided to test out of high school early during the pandemic. Cicelski continued his studies at Folsom Lake College and American River College before transferring to UCLA, where he is majoring in sociology and pre-med.

This past spring, Cicelski founded Backbeat Bruins and joined with fellow UCLA students Aiden Jahangiri and Nupur Gupta to bring the organization to life. Jahangiri, an El Dorado Hills resident and Folsom Lake College alumnus, shares Cicelski's passion for using music as a bridge between generations. The group's mission is to bring comfort, joy and genuine human connection through live performance. Their first concert took place at Santa Monica Hospital, featuring student musicians and a UCLA faculty member.

"As both a parent and a music teacher, I loved seeing how much Michael enjoyed playing music with others, especially chamber music with his sister and my piano students," said his mother, Eric Cicelski. "It's heartwarming to see him continuing that same spirit through his outreach program."

This past summer, while home from UCLA, Cicelski and Jahangiri organized a performance at Eskaton Village Carmichael, the same senior community where Cicelski first played as a middle-school volunteer. Local musicians joined the ensemble, volunteering their talent and time to make the event possible.

"We were amazed by the support from the local musicians who joined us," Cicelski said. "It was inspiring to see how many people were willing to come together for such a meaningful cause."

Beyond the music itself, Cicelski emphasizes the importance of personal interaction. "Many residents in senior and health-care communities experience loneliness or go long stretches without visitors," Cicelski

said. "Live performances offer something deeper than entertainment. There's real human connection, smiling, talking, clapping together; and that can make a big difference. Music has been shown to lift moods, reduce stress and help people feel more connected, even for a short time."

Cicelski's studies in sociology and global health have helped shape his understanding of these effects. He has shadowed physicians at UC Davis Medical Center and at Metropolitan General Hospital in Athens, Greece, and volunteered with neurodivergent children in Jakarta, Indonesia. While volunteering abroad, Cicelski recognized that communication through music is universal, transcending language and cultural barriers.

"Music is a universal language," Cicelski said. "It crosses borders and brings people together in ways words often can't. My friends from different communities and countries immediately understood what Backbeat Bruins is about and they wanted to bring that same experience to their own areas."

These experiences have broadened Cicelski's perspective on how culture and context shape mental health care and how creative approaches such as music can adapt to diverse settings. He plans to pursue a career in psychiatry that blends music, cultural understanding and global perspectives on care.

Interest in Backbeat Bruins has already spread beyond California. A family friend in Austin, Texas, who is a music teacher, has invited the group to host a performance and offered to perform alongside her students. In the Philippines, another friend expressed excitement about organizing a similar volunteer event and said she could recruit musicians from her church.

"It's really something that can be done anywhere," Cicelski said. "Music has a universal appeal and our goal is to help others see how easy and rewarding it can be to create those moments of connection in their own communities."

The group plans additional performances this year throughout the Los Angeles area, with growing interest from musicians and healthcare communities in other parts of California and beyond. Highlights from the Carmichael performance can be viewed on their YouTube channel at [youtube.com/watch?v=xght5nYOk4](https://youtube.com/watch?v=xght5nYOk4).

You can also visit their website at [www.backbeatbruins.org](http://www.backbeatbruins.org). ★

# SacSewer Named Utility of the Future Today Recipient

*Continued from page 1*

community-focused initiatives.

"This recognition underscores how community partnerships can make a lasting difference," said SacSewer General Manager Christoph Dobson.

"Being named a Utility of the Future Today reflects how deeply SacSewer's work is woven into the fabric of the communities we serve through programs like the Confluence Program that strengthen those communities, protect the environment and create long-term benefits for the Sacramento region," Dobson said.

Since 2016, the program's founding

partners, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, Water Environment Federation, Water Research Foundation, WaterReuse Association and the U.S. Water Alliance; have celebrated utilities that are redefining what it means to be sustainable, community-focused and forward-looking. Honorees are selected after a rigorous review by a committee of industry leaders and experts.

With ongoing investments in innovation and sustainability, SacSewer continues to set the bar for utilities nationwide working to safeguard public health and the environment. ★



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Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

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**MEALS ON WHEELS**  
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# Snoopy Has Landed in Sacramento

## Aerospace Museum of California Unveils Freeway Sign, Traveling Snoopy Exhibit

Story and photos by Seth Henderson

**NORTH HIGHLANDS, CA (MPG)** - Snoopy Flying Ace traveled to the Aerospace Museum of California as the organization opened its "Snoopy and the Red Baron" exhibit to the public on Oct. 18 and announced the pending placement of a sign for Interstate 80 to promote the museum.

The traveling exhibit is on display in the museum until Dec. 31, complimenting the array of artifacts from World War I and memorabilia on display in partnership with the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa. Schulz was the creator of the character, Snoopy, in addition to the Peanuts characters and some of the comic strips or artifacts at the exhibit were signed by him.

Tom Jones, the president and CEO of the aerospace museum, said during the VIP opening ceremony on Oct. 17 that Snoopy and the Red Baron was one of Schulz's most popular personas of Snoopy and that Sacramento is quite fortunate to have this exhibit during Snoopy's 75th anniversary.

"Who doesn't love Snoopy? And then the kids see Snoopy and all of his different adventures that he goes on and his different personas that he assumes," Jones said. "I just think it's a fabulous way for kids to connect not only to Snoopy, but with aviation and aerospace."

Out of Schulz's nearly 7,000 comic strips, Jones said that he grew up reading those comics and some of the funniest ones were enlarged to be viewed at a distance. He said that the collaboration between the two museums was meaningful and allowed the aerospace museum to tie in other artifacts from World War II, showing how far Snoopy's influence had spread.

"We've got great photo stations and all kinds of fun ways to engage with this exhibit," Jones said. "Bring your kids, bring your grandkids, you know, just come see the museum. It's a beautiful space and it's super engaging for kids from 2 to 102."

Jones said that the museum was able to incorporate artifacts from famed aviator Clay Lacy, who is actively encouraging aviators and a donor to the aerospace museum. The museum's collection also featured artifacts from other aviators, such as Bud Anderson, Vicky Benzin and others.

Lacy flew his P-51 Mustang with a giant Snoopy in the cockpit, Jones said, winning the Reno Air Races in 1970, encouraging youth to become involved with aviation. He said Anderson, as a Boy Scout in 1934, became a World War II Triple Ace nine years later because of what he had learned. Artifacts depicting Snoopy's tenure as a Beagle Scout pay tribute to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and military members.

The Aerospace Museum of California also celebrated the approval of a new sign to be placed on Interstate 80 by way of legislation that Jones wrote to define how museums are categorized with



Awaiting the real sign, weather permitting, the Aerospace Museum of California celebrates the approval of a highway sign for the museum on Interstate 80.



City Councilman Roger Dickinson poses with Snoopy at the opening ceremony of "Snoopy and the Red Baron," a traveling exhibit making a pit stop at the Aerospace Museum of California on Oct. 16.



President and CEO of the Aerospace Museum of California, Tom Jones (left), stands with Mika Klinsmann from Senator Roger Niello's office, holding a certificate commemorating the museum's approval of a highway sign on Interstate 80 on Oct. 16.

Caltrans. Jones said that museums were previously categorized with locations such as the Golden One Center or Levi's Stadium, making the museum slightly beyond the scope of allowing signage on the interstate.

Jones said Assemblymember Josh Hoover asked him to write a piece of legislation, which became Assembly Bill 1320 and was unanimously approved by the state assembly. Jones said that not a word was changed from what he originally wrote.

"Governor Newsom signed it into law about two and a half years ago and then we thought, 'OK, great. We're going to get signs now,'"

Jones said. "But Caltrans had to change its manual."

Before the aerospace museum's inception, City Councilmember Roger Dickinson said that he has been involved with the organization, as he was the county supervisor for the area at the time. Dickinson helped get signs placed on Watt Avenue.

"This has been an outstanding facility with tremendous offerings and great programs for kids, particularly in STEM subjects," Dickinson said. "But as you can see by the location, it's a little hidden, so I think the significance of the freeway sign in particular is to let people know that it's here and what

direction to go to get here."

Dickinson said that the aerospace museum is a great opportunity to honor Sacramento's aviation and military history, as well as everything that goes along with it. He said it is one of those wonderful assets that the city has to help inspire young people to think about science, technology, engineering,

museum years ago because of its wheelchair accessibility.

Bernau said he is glad to see how much it has grown, including partnerships with schools or other organizations to keep children motivated. He said that a museum as high quality as the Aerospace Museum of California deserves a sign on the freeway.

"There's so many things competing with people's time today," Bernau said. "And so to have that sign for going up and down the freeway, and it's like, 'Oh, what's that?' I've never been there before. I didn't even know that existed." So that's a big deal to have that."

The Aerospace Museum of California is located at 3200 Freedom Park Drive in McClellan Park and was founded in 1986. The organization is a nonprofit organization and features a 40,000 square-foot exhibit hall with 40 aircraft and rockets, as well as a four-acre outdoor air park. The museum is also a Smithsonian Affiliate and a member of the North American Reciprocal Museum Association.

The "Snoopy and the Red Baron" exhibit at the museum will feature special weekly pop-up activities for visitors of all ages that bring Snoopy and the other Peanuts characters to life, according to the museum.



A young guest at the "Snoopy and the Red Baron" exhibit poses for a photo with Snoopy at his doghouse during the exhibit's opening day at the Aerospace Museum of California on Oct. 16.

arts and math (STEAM), such as the California Railroad Museum or the Crocker Art Museum.

Being exposed to the different facets of life through opportunities such as the aerospace museum, philharmonic or the symphony are experiences that help shape a person's development, Dickinson said.

Sherrie Everhart, the owner of Hart 2 Hart wineries, made a sizable donation to the Aerospace Museum of California, providing funding for high quality display cases. Jones said that he was friends and members with Sherrie's husband Jim Everhart, a member of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron. Jones said that Jim Everhart unfortunately died suddenly a few years ago.

El Dorado Hills resident Jerry Bernau said that he was friends with Jim Everhart and attended the VIP opening ceremony in honor of his friend. Bernau said he has a handicapped son who enjoyed visiting places such as the aerospace

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays to Sundays and admission to the Snoopy exhibit is included in the museum's general admission. General admission is \$15 and to purchase tickets online, visit <https://www.aerospaceca.org/purchase/p/adult-general-admission>.

To learn more about the museum, visit its website at <https://www.aerospaceca.org> or call 916-643-3192 for more information. The Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center is at 2301 Hardies Lane in Santa Rosa. The museum's website is <https://schulzmuseum.org/> and its phone number is 707-579-4452. Follow the museum online at @schulzmuseum.

"I don't think there has been an animal character in a long time that has done the different things that Snoopy has done," Schulz once reflected. "He's an attorney. He's a surgeon. He's the World War I Flying Ace." ★

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# Domestic Violence Awareness Month

**Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova and Gold River News Release**

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Domestic violence takes place in our nation every minute of every day, occurring just about every 15 seconds. Most Americans do not realize just how real domestic violence is and how many lives are affected by it.

Most of these cases are left behind closed doors. That is why the Domestic Violence Awareness Month was introduced to not only educate and raise that awareness but bring the support and strength that domestic violence victims need.

The Domestic Violence Awareness Month was first introduced back in 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic violence. It was created not only to bring more awareness to others but to connect and unify the millions of affected victims that had been battered due to domestic violence. Its hope is to break the chains of violence that currently have such a strong grip on our nation.

Every year, approximately 10 million people become victims of domestic violence, which equates to just about 20 people every minute. Those are startling numbers. It affects not only women but men and children of all different races, status, religions and culture. No one is immune to it.

Domestic violence shows itself in several different forms, whether it is punching, slapping, choking or threatening, manipulating, yelling and many others. No matter the situation,



Soroptimist is an international nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova

domestic violence is never OK.

Huge strides have already taken place ever since 1994 when the Violence Against Women Act was put in place. So many programs, services, and shelters have been made available to domestic violence victims, thanks to the issues that have been addressed to our legislation.

Just between the years of 1993 and 2010, the overall domestic violence rate had dropped dramatically by nearly two-thirds and that is not all. State legislation and laws have been reformed to tackle certain issues such as dating abuse in the workplace, employment discrimination, stalking and more.

Ever since 1987, October has been the month where

domestic violence and its victims are observed. The purple ribbon is used for several other important causes but it is also in honor of domestic violence victims and support for the growing awareness.

Domestic violence is usually done in secret but let us shout it from the rooftops. For the whole month of October, we can make a change by informing others and providing our resources to go towards services that help domestic violence victims.

Another alarming statistic for us to look at is that as many as three out of four Americans know of another person that has or is being abused by another individual but a lot of times, nothing is done about it. Action needs to take place,



Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova and Gold River helps survivors reclaim their lives by providing Comfort Kits to survivors and their children and by giving cash awards to head of household women, called the Live Your Dream award, who have overcome challenges to help survivors complete higher education. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova

where an advocate is willing to speak up when others cannot.

If you know of someone who is being abused, are you willing to be their voice? It is time to stand up to domestic violence and tell it enough is enough. Especially during the month of October, make sure that you support domestic violence survivors and help get the word out about the destructive threat that domestic violence has on so many homes across America.

Domestic violence is never OK, no matter the circumstances. If you or someone you know is in desperate need of help, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or TTY 1-800-787-3224. Just a

few local resources are My Sisters House: 24-Hour Multi-lingual Help Line (916) 428-3271, <https://www.my-sisters-house.org>; WEAVE: Support Line (916) 920-2952, <https://www.weaveinc.org>; and

Sacramento Family Justice Center, Support Line (916) 875-4673, <https://www.sacramentoofjc.org>.

Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova and Gold River (which includes Carmichael) helps survivors reclaim their lives by providing Comfort Kits to survivors and their children and by giving cash awards to head of household women, called the Live Your Dream award, who have overcome challenges, which domestic violence certainly is, to

help survivors complete higher education.

Soroptimist is an international nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. The name, Soroptimist, means "best for women," and that is what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimists are people at their best, working to help other women to be their best. Email [sirgr2009@gmail.com](mailto:sirgr2009@gmail.com) to receive more information about Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova and Gold River, how to become a member or how you can volunteer with our club members, or visit <http://www.soroptimistranchocordova.org>. ★

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