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Arden Arcade News

VOL 02 • ISSUE 12 *Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years* DECEMBER 5, 2025

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Taking Flight

Mira Loma High School Showcases Aviation CTE Pathway



The upgraded classroom features state-of-the-art flight simulators, 3D printers, drones and airplane engines, giving students the tools to explore aviation in a fully immersive environment. Photo courtesy of the San Juan Unified School District

San Juan Unified School District News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Mira Loma High School recently celebrated the next chapter in aviation education with a showcase of its aviation Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway and newly renovated classroom.

The Nov. 7 showcase offered students, families, staff and community members a firsthand look

at the cutting-edge technology and immersive learning experiences now available in the program.

The upgraded classroom features state-of-the-art flight simulators, 3D printers, drones and airplane engines, giving students the tools to explore aviation in a fully immersive environment.

During the showcase, students led live demonstrations of the equipment, shared their current projects and engaged visitors at each station.

Attendees saw the students' skills in action and heard directly about their experiences and aviation aspirations.

Mira Loma High School Principal Kaden Bahner highlighted the showcase's significance.

"This showcase is especially exciting as we celebrate our newly renovated aviation classroom, featuring upgraded technology and flight simulators that give students a hands-on experience in aeronautics,

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Kiwanis Club Awards Impact Grants to Three Local Projects



By MPG Staff

ARDEN ARCADE, CA (MPG) - The Kiwanis Club of Carmichael has awarded its 2025 Impact Grants to three outstanding projects supporting youth, education and community engagement in the greater Carmichael area, the organization recently announced.

Nearly 30 nonprofit organizations applied for funding in this year's competitive cycle. While there were many very worthy requests, Kiwanis representatives said, awards for this year went to the Aerospace Museum of California, Will Rogers Middle School and Arden Middle School as their projects stood out for their impact to children, sustainability, and creativity.

Eligible projects were required to serve at least one of several priority groups, including children, working adults in need of support, schools and teachers, senior programs, recreation and environmental initiatives, and programs that promote health, well-being and career exploration.

The Aerospace Museum of California was selected for a \$7,500 grant for developing an interactive exhibit called the Mobile Drone Zone. This exhibit will allow youngsters to fly a drone in a specially designed cage and learn about the dynamics of flight. The exhibit will be housed at the museum and can be moved to schools' sites and special events.

"This portable drone cage is more than equipment. It is a gateway to opportunity," said Karen Jones, the museum's vice president of advancement. "By bringing advanced STEM experiences to students and neighborhoods, this exhibit will expand access to emerging technology across our region."

Will Rogers Middle School was awarded a \$5,000 grant to establish an on-campus College and Career Center. The center will provide students and families with information, resources and workshops to help them explore future educational paths and professions.

"We are thrilled with this Kiwanis grant," Will Rogers Middle School Principal Vanessa Adolphson said. "It will allow us to create a new space for students to explore colleges, career

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Vet Center Named for ARC Benefactor

By Susan
Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A veterans' resource facility at American River College (ARC) was recently renamed for the late Carmichael construction giant, Joseph (Joe) Mohamed Sr.

A retired U.S. Army Colonel, Mohamed died in 2023 at age 94. In a career that began as a gardener on the College Oaks Drive college campus, Mohamed developed a fondness for the area and eventually built a home near the school.

Education was a passion for the descendant of a Palestinian family that immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s.

"Dad was proud of America and he wanted to take care of its veterans," son John Mohamed said at a ceremony that marked the facility renaming.

Gardener-turned builder and real estate developer



Friends and family of the late Joseph Mohamed join American River College staff to celebrate the renaming of a campus veterans center in Mohamed's honor. From left are Major General Alice Astafan, Joseph Mohamed Jr., American River College President Lisa Cardoza, Shirley Mohamed, Robert Erickson, John Mohamed, Jenna Snyder, David Miramontes-Quinones, Amanda Carroll and Dr. Metwalli Amer. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

Joe Mohamed attended the college before transferring to California State University to complete

his business degree. His three sons later crossed the street from home to study at American River

College.

"Dad believed in education," said John Mohamed.

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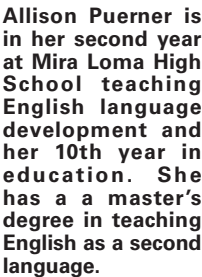
How Allison Puerner Inspires English Learners at Mira Loma

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA

After earning a master's degree in teaching English

During a recent class,

When chatter rose, Puerner lifted her flute and the soft notes brought instant quiet. Sometimes, Puerner playfully called out in Farsi, “ی‌ش‌ب پُچ” (be quiet), a phrase she learned from her Afghan



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From the Dugout to the Vineyard

Baseball Legend Dusty Baker Helps to Produce a Great Pour in Sacramento Area



Major League Baseball legend Dusty Baker is partner and grower in West Sacramento-based B and B Wine Company LLC in West Sacramento. Photos courtesy of B and B Wine

By Kathleen Wheeler

SACRAMENTO REGION (MPG)

- In 2012, baseball manager Dusty Baker teamed up with winemaker Chik Brenneman to create an urban winery brand specializing in handcrafted and limited-production wines.

Starting out as a gentleman's vineyard in Baker's backyard, the wine initially was given away to friends and family. After a consistent level of praise and acclaim for Baker's 2012 Vintage Syrah, the duo decided to expand their production and to "go pro."

In 2013, Baker and Brenneman established B and B Wine Company, LLC, which now produces and bottles their wines in West Sacramento.

All of B and B's handcrafted wines are produced from grapes sourced and harvested through local Northern California vineyards. Its varietals embody

unique characteristics representative of the various microclimates within the regions.

Visit B and B's tasting room in West Sacramento where you can say hello and enjoy these unique wines.

Dusty Baker, Partner and Grower

Dusty Baker played major league baseball for 16 seasons with the Atlanta Braves, Los Angeles Dodgers, San Francisco Giants and Oakland A's.

He went on to be the manager for the San Francisco Giants, Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds, Washington Nationals and has recently retired from the Houston Astros. His record-setting career as a Major League Baseball manager is legendary and has earned him "Manager of the Year," and he now has surpassed 2,000 regular season managerial

wins. In 2022, Baker added a managerial World Series win to his list of baseball accomplishments.

He has carried his passion and desire for excellence from the baseball field to the winery.

Baker's combined efforts with Chik Brenneman in establishing Baker Family Wines has given him great pride and he's looking



Chik and Polly Brenneman have been making wine in both amateur and commercial settings together for 25 years.

forward to the future of producing more great wine for clients to enjoy.

Chik and Polly Brenneman, Winemakers and Partners

In 1998, Chik Brenneman graduated with a Master's degree from the University of California, Davis school of Viticulture and Enology, a school

internationally respected for innovation in grape growing and winemaking. He has worked for Amador Foothill Winery, Terre Rouge-Eason Winery in Amador County and then at Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi in Lodi. In 2006 he became winemaker and winery manager for the Department of Viticulture and Enology at UC Davis.

Polly Brenneman joined the B and B team after she retired from a local hospital as a clinical laboratory scientist. She is an excellent chef and complements the duo with her strong palate and analytical skills.

Chik and Polly Brenneman have been making wine in both amateur and commercial settings together for 25 years. At Baker Family Wines, the Brennemans ensure that every handcrafted wine is of the highest quality and will absolutely delight B and B's customers. Their motto is, "If we're not going to make good wine, why bother?"

B and B Wine Company's tasting room is at 2568 Industrial Blvd. Suites 110/120, West Sacramento. It's six minutes or 2.6 miles from Sutter Health Park, home of the River Cats and Athletics. Learn more at bakerfamilywines.com. ★

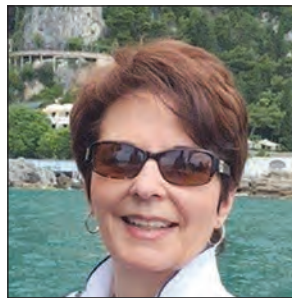
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Writer and travel professional Kathleen Wheeler, left, is partner, with Patti Palamidessi, right, in Wine Chic River Cruises, a travel agency focusing on local wineries through river cruises in Europe. Their love and passion for travel allows clients to experience unique adventures.

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City Offers \$1M in Startup Grants

City of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The City of Sacramento’s Office of Innovation and Economic Development is accepting applications for the 2026 Innovation Grant Program, which provides \$1 million in funding to organizations that support local entrepreneurs and start-up businesses.

“A prosperous Sacramento needs new ideas and thriving local businesses,” said Mayor Kevin McCarty. “We are working to support entrepreneurs right here in our city.”

The program is designed to create a pipeline of support for entrepreneurs at different stages of their journey, offering three grant categories that help founders to build skills, access resources and advance to the next stage of growth.

“Sacramento is home to bold entrepreneurs and scalable small businesses ready to grow,” said Assistant City Manager Michael Jasso. “These grants will connect them with the training, mentorship, and resources they need to turn ideas into thriving companies that drive our local economy.”

Category A: Entrepreneurship Education and Access Grants

This category funds standalone or progressive workshops, business training series or open lab coaching hours that help entrepreneurs develop ideas or strengthen skills, with an emphasis on tech-enabled and scalable businesses.

Companies and nonprofits can apply for up to \$15,000, with a maximum of \$3,000 per workshop or training hosted within the city limits.

Category B: Innovation Incubator and Accelerator Grants

This category funds programs that support cohorts of early-stage business participants to start or grow their businesses, spur innovation and stimulate economic development.

Companies and nonprofits can apply for up to \$100,000 to host incubator or accelerator programs in the city of Sacramento. Programs may include mentorship and coaching, training sessions, product



development support, marketing and branding support, strategic connections, access to funding and office space.

Category C: Innovation and Investment Readiness Grants

This category funds programming that connects established startups and tech businesses to funding opportunities and customers. Programs may focus on technology commercialization, access to capital or customer acquisition for businesses ready to grow.

Companies and nonprofits can apply for up to \$100,000 to host programs in the city of Sacramento that connect high-growth startups and companies to capital or customers.

By structuring funding across these three categories, the program creates a continuum of support that enables entrepreneurs to build skills and advance toward high-growth ventures that strengthen Sacramento’s economy.

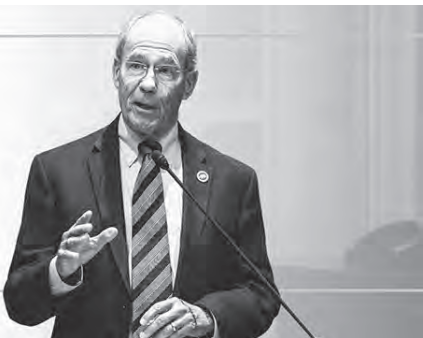
Programs must be completed within a 12-month contract period. Applicants for an Innovation and Investment Readiness Grant are not eligible to also apply for or receive an Entrepreneurship Education and Access Grant or an Incubator and Accelerator Grant.

Grant funding comes from the City’s Innovation and Growth Fund. Complete program guidelines are available at cityofsacramento.gov/city-manager/oied/business/innovation-and-entrepreneurship/innovation-grants.

Applications will be accepted until 3 p.m. Dec. 22. ★

Roger’s Review

By State Senator Roger Niello



Holiday Edition

As the end of the year approaches, I am deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in me to represent our communities. I have five bills that passed the legislature and were signed by the governor this year, and here is the list.

With the support of the County of Placer, I authored Senate Bill 359. This measure establishes clear guidelines for the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration and confirms that the existing tax exemptions for fuels, such as diesel and compressed natural gas, used by public transit operators also apply to counties that operate their own transit services directly.

When engaging in a home improvement contract, consumers should be informed about who will be providing the service. I proposed Senate Bill 517 to allow consumers to make an informed decision regarding their home improvement project by requiring a home improvement contract to provide a disclosure if subcontractors are being used on a project.

I introduced Senate Bill 568 to make sure that the requirement to have epinephrine available in public schools is applied in

school programs including preschool. Epinephrine is currently required in public schools, and our school health professionals have the medication on hand to provide lifesaving treatment. My bill provides the necessary clarification to this requirement so that our public schools and their programs are prepared to assist any student who might need epinephrine.

Senate Bill 765 establishes the giant garter snake as the official state snake. The giant garter snake can only be found in California. Declaring the giant garter snake as the official state snake of California acknowledges the important place of the species in the ecology, agriculture and water resources and reinforce the state’s commitment to protecting endangered species. It has been my honor to work on this legislative proposal with the California Rice Commission and Save the Snakes, a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to conserve snakes around the world through education, research and community support.

Having spent my early career as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), I have great respect for the

accounting industry and am pleased that Senate Bill 788, which eliminates unnecessary regulatory overlap and confusion, was also signed by the governor. This bill reduces compliance burdens and costs for Certified Public Accountants and Certified Public Accountant firms, and California consumers can continue to access the trusted tax professionals they need to meet their compliance needs.

You can review a more extensive list of the bills I introduced this year on my website at sen.ca.gov/niello, and happy holidays to you and your family!

State Sen. Roger Niello represents District 6, which includes Antelope, Arden-Arcade, Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Clay, Fair Oaks, Folsom, Foothill Farms, Franklin, Galt, Gold River, Herald, Mather, Orangevale, Rancho Cordova, Rancho Murieta and Wilton in Sacramento County. The district also includes Auburn, Granite Bay, Lincoln, Loomis, Newcastle, Penryn, Rocklin, Roseville and Sheridan in Placer County. To reach the senator, call 916-772-0571 or email senator.niello@senate.ca.gov. ★

Kiwanis Club Awards Impact Grants to Three Local Projects

Continued from Page 1

pathways and their future goals. We can’t wait to see our Mustangs dream big and plan for their future.”

Arden Middle School received a \$2,500 grant to continue its School-Wide Novel program, an initiative that unites students, teachers and families around reading a selected book together. The project aims to build excitement for reading and strengthen community through a shared learning experience.

“The project creates a learning community with a shared experience,” said Maryn Morano-Moore, Arden Middle

School English department chair. “The Kiwanis Club of Carmichael is wonderful in helping us continue this engagement and learning.”

Kiwanis Club of Carmichael will continue to offer the Impact Grants Program for 2026 and will announce the application period after the first of the year.

Kiwanis Club of Carmichael is a 100% volunteer organization and all monies raised from its various fundraisers are returned to the community to help children, families and the quality of life in Carmichael and the surrounding community. ★

Vet Center Named for ARC Benefactor

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“He wanted to give back to this college.”

As the patriarch’s fortunes expanded through business and construction, Joe Mohamed donated land and funds to his alma mater. He sat on the American River College board for 18 years. His widow, Shirley Mohamed, has continued her husband’s mission to aid veteran students.

The school now has more than 700 veterans enrolled. Its resource center provides access to computers and a lounge for socializing. Staff assist students in VA (Veterans Affairs) outreach; trained counselors address post-traumatic stress. The center will receive a \$2.5-million state-funded makeover next year.

“The Mohamed family is excited ARC has expanded its role in helping our vets on campus,” said John Mohamed. “Our family has a strong tradition of Army service. Dad insisted all his sons served. My brother, Joe Jr., retired as a lieutenant colonel. James served for 35 years and I was a drill sergeant before I went into public



Col. Joseph Mohamed Sr wears the dress uniform of the United States Army, circa 2010. Photo courtesy of Shirley Mohamed.

an important building.”

Student and non-student veterans can visit American River College Veterans Resource Center. The facility is located at 4700 College Oak Drive, Sacramento. ★

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Restored Locomotive on Display

California State Railroad Museum News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - In partnership with Friends of No. 9, the California State Railroad Museum is excited to announce the beautifully restored No. 9 steam locomotive and companion exhibit are now on display inside the museum’s historic Roundhouse. No. 9 is the only surviving locomotive of the Mount Tamalpais Scenic Railway, a tourist railroad in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that enabled tourists to leave the city and enjoy the scenic beauty of Mount Tamalpais and, later, Muir Woods.

In addition to seeing No. 9 up close, museum visitors can learn more about the history of the Mount Tamalpais Scenic Railway and the prized locomotive by watching a special 8-minute video that is part of the exhibit. The Mount Tamalpais Scenic Railway, built in 1896, was known as the “Crookedest Railroad in the World” based on its 8.2-mile route with 281 curves that climbed from Mill Valley (70 feet) to the summit (2,353 feet). At the top, visitors enjoyed sweeping views of San Francisco and the Pacific as they danced and dined at the Tavern of Tamalpais. Despite its popularity, rising automobile travel,

mounting debt and a 1929 wild-fire ended operations by 1930. The Heisler locomotive No. 9 dates to 1921 when it was purchased by the Mount Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway of Mill Valley to operate on the rails of the scenic tourist railway. In 1924, the locomotive was sold and spent the next two and a half decades working for lumber companies in Siskiyou and Humboldt counties. In 1953, the Pacific Lumber Company bought the locomotive for display next to its new museum in Scotia, California. The locomotive was later put up for auction in 2018 when a group of dedicated rail fans joined



Restored No. 9 Steam Locomotive is on display through next January at the California State Railroad Museum. Photo courtesy of California State Railroad Museum/Kim Whitfield

together to raise funds to secure No. 9 and begin restoration. The dedicated group was steadfast in their focus to return No. 9 to its Mt. Tamalpais roots and viewed it as the “last piece of a lost era.” Carefully researched, the meticulous restoration work began in 2019 and was completed this year. The historic locomotive remains an important piece of logging, tourist and rail

history. The prized No. 9 steam locomotive and companion exhibit will remain on display in the museum’s Roundhouse until next January. Daily viewing hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$6 for youth (ages 6 to 17) and free for children 5 and under. For more information, visit www.californiarailroad.museum. ★

Taking Flight

Continued from page 1
engineering and flight technology. These resources help prepare students for real-world careers in aviation and STEM fields.” Students were enthusiastic about the new classroom and the educational experience that it provides.

“My favorite part of the newly renovated classroom is the flight simulators,” said 11th-grader Amy Lu. “I think they are such a cool piece of technology that opens a lot more opportunities to learn and get hands-on experience in flying planes. They are really realistic and I think that’s really valuable.”

San Juan Unified School District Board President Ben Avey addressed attendees, highlighting the broader impact of hands-on



During the Nov. 7 showcase, students led live demonstrations of the equipment, shared their current projects and engaged visitors at each station.

learning opportunities such as the aviation Career Technical Education pathway. “Aviation is so much more; it is engineering, it is problem solving, it is teamwork, it is an area of work that is so complex,” Avey said. “When we teach children and teens about

aviation, we are teaching them life skills that are going to help them in innumerable career paths and paths for education.” The aviation classroom’s renovation was made possible through voter-approved bond funds, which allow the district to modernize classrooms and



The upgraded classroom features state-of-the-art flight simulators, 3D printers, drones and airplane engines, giving students the tools to explore aviation in a fully immersive environment. Photos courtesy of the San Juan Unified School District

create learning environments that equip students for the future. Mira Loma High School was proud to showcase the achievements of its aviation Career Technical Education pathway and the unique learning experiences that it provides. The program is part of a

broader district-wide commitment to career and technical education. San Juan Unified District offers more than 30 pathways across 13 industry sectors at its high schools, giving students practical learning experiences and skills that prepare them for life beyond the classroom.

San Juan Unified District remains dedicated to expanding innovative Career Technical Education programs that empower students with knowledge, experience and confidence. To learn more about the Career Technical Education programs, visit sanjuan.edu/cte. ★



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Arden Arcade News

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Will the real Sacramento Kings please stand up. Yes, Kings fans, it’s been a conundrum to say the least, and in spite of a 5 and 16 record to start the season, bright spots have actually surfaced.

Stuck with 3 paltry wins just one week ago, the Sactown boys went into the city of Denver, and handed the first place Nuggets a surprising 128-123 defeat. Perhaps equally surprising was the 117-112 win over the Timberwolves just 2 nights later before a roaring crowd at Golden One Center. Both victories came with big man Domantas Sabonis sidelined with a knee injury, leaving fans and pundits wondering what can these guys do if they play like this at full strength?

Well, that’s certainly a good question, but we can all remember what the team looked like 3 seasons ago when Domantas arrived in Sacramento and led the Kings to 48 wins and a playoff berth. That team led the NBA in scoring but also had a vaunted point guard by the name of DeArron Fox.

I think it’s important to take a closer look at these back-to-back wins that the Kings recently put together and try to find a common thread. It’s actually very obvious. In both wins the Kings shot remarkably well from the free throw line, something that has been seemingly impossible for this team to do. Against the Nuggets the Kings went 22-23 missing amazingly only one shot the entire night. Two nights later against the Timberwolves the Kings went 26-28 from the line missing only 2 shots.

Now compare that with Sunday night’s game against the Grizzlies. 59% from the free throw line in a tight game converting on only 13 of 22 attempts in a 115-107 loss.

Unfortunately, the game against the Grizzlies has been the pattern we’ve seen all too often when the Kings put together that alarming 8-games losing streak.

So, even with Domantas Sabonis sidelined, the Kings are capable of taking down some of the best teams in the NBA, but making their free throws is absolutely critical!

Unfortunately, the Kings are among the worst shooting NBA teams when it comes to free throws, and as we’ve seen, if wins are to come that pattern has to change.

Doug Christie can talk all he wants to

about defense and playing for 48 minutes, but if his team can’t convert from the line the stats don’t lie.

But the Sacramento Kings can only play the players on the court, and this year’s pattern of substitutions has been a head scratcher. Last year’s first round draft choice Devin Carter has been all but forgotten as he sits game after game on the pines. A solid defender, good rebounder, and efficient scorer around the rim, Devin appears not to be in the Kings future and fans want to know why.

The coaching staff talks about a youth movement while second year player Isaac Jones was recently cut from the team. 6’9” with a huge wingspan, Isaac was scooped up by the first place Detroit Pistons almost immediately, and it won’t surprise me to see them utilize Jones moving forward.

The number 1 problem has been identified and it’s the inability to shoot free throws with any consistency, but what is #2?

The coaching staff and entire franchise can’t evaluate talent! Drafting talent over the years, and talent that resides already on the team.

Allowing Jonas Valanciunas to get away was a huge mistake, and one that has benefited the Denver Nuggets greatly.

No one could see or even imagine a Kings team with Domantas at the #4 and moving Valanciunas to the #5.

Any way you look at it, the Kings shot themselves in the foot when they let Jonas walk away.

Defensive standout Keon Ellis is getting less and less playing time, logging all of 6 minutes in the loss to the Grizzlies, and fans attending home games have taken to collectively calling, “we want Keon, we want Keon!”

This is not a good look, but it begs the question, why? Why do fans have to beg the coach to play a player that could obviously help the team?

Player evaluation, it’s as simple as that.

Don’t put all the blame for a 5-16 record solely on the players and give the coaching staff a pass.

All the best!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.

New Studies Gives Lowdown on California’s Sky-High Living Costs



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

We Californians know, or should know, that while living in this state has many positive aspects, we are paying through the nose for the experience.

A flurry of recent studies drives home how deeply California residents must dig to meet costs of living that are either at or near the highest of any state.

One comes from the Legislative Analyst’s Office, the Legislature’s advisor on the state budget, delving into the astronomic costs of buying a home.

The LAO study found “California home prices far exceed the rest of the country.” Mid-tier homes, those roughly in the middle of the price range, are more than twice as expensive as the typical mid-tier home elsewhere in the U.S. Monthly payments for such homes run about \$5,500 in California, 74% more than what they were 25 years ago.

The study also found that the annual household income needed to qualify for a mortgage on a mid-tier California home in September was about \$221,000 — more than two times the median California household income in 2024, which was \$102,000.

For a bottom-tier home, about \$136,000 in annual income is needed to qualify for a mortgage — about 33%

higher than median household income was in 2024.

The data illustrate why California has the second lowest rate of home ownership in the nation. Just 55.3% of Californians live in homes they or their families own, slightly higher than New York’s ownership rate.

It’s not surprising that hundreds of thousands of California residents, unable to aspire to home ownership, have decamped for more affordable states, such as Texas, where home prices are a fraction of California’s.

Those who do migrate to other states find not only are houses much less expensive but fuel for their cars and utilities to light, heat and cool their homes are markedly less expensive.

The Center for Jobs & the Economy, an offshoot of the California Business Roundtable, continuously monitors energy costs in California and other states. Its latest report says gasoline, averaging \$4.64 a gallon in California, is as much as \$1.50 a gallon higher than in Texas and other states. California’s electrical power rates are roughly twice as high.

Another take on California living costs comes from the Transparency Foundation, a conservative economic think tank.

It gathered a wide variety of factors and calculated living costs for an upper-middle class California family with a \$130,000 annual income. It concluded the family would pay \$29,753 more per year than the national average for housing, utilities, health care, taxes and other costs of living.

“This report should be a wake-up call to all Californians, that they are

being unfairly punished by the bad policies imposed on them by their politicians — and they are literally paying the price for it,” Dave McCulloch, the foundation’s chairman, said in a statement about the report.

A new poll by the Public Policy Institute of California confirms that Californians worry about living costs. Nearly a third of those polled said they, or someone in their household, have reduced food purchases to save money.

The California Farm Bureau revealed that a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for 10 people will cost a California family \$72.61, well above the national average of \$55.18.

Finally, there’s a new report from WalletHub, a website devoted to personal finance, implying that Californians are taking on more debt to pay their rising bills.

In this year’s third quarter — July through September — the average California household added \$880 in new debt, increasing the total owed to \$259,773, second only to residents of Hawaii.

All together, Californians’ personal debt increased by \$11.8 billion during the quarter.

Now it’s nearly \$3.2 trillion, just a bit lower than their \$3.6 trillion in annual personal income.

A truly staggering number.

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. ★

Social Security Matters

Is Social Security Really a “Good Deal?”



By Russell Gloor, [AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor](http://AMAC.org)

Dear Rusty: You’ve said in the past that most people recoup their SS contributions within five years of starting benefits, thus Social Security “is an exceptionally good deal.” Your calculation is correct but misleading; if it were not, SS would have been insolvent long ago. I will, in fact, get “my” contributions back in about five years, but my employer’s contributions will take another five years, and that is money that my employer could have been paying me, so they are really “my” contributions. But even that ignores the time value of money. I did a calculation as if my contributions, along with those of my employer, were invested in an account earning 5% per year. That would provide me the equivalent of SS income for 24 years, approximately what my life expectancy was when I retired. So, it’s not a bad deal, but it is hardly exceptional. It is roughly the equivalent of me investing that money throughout my career and using the total to buy an annuity.

Of course, Social Security does have the advantage of certainty, at least until it goes broke. My portfolio

would not earn a steady 5% every year, though that is at the low end of what financial managers would expect over a long period. And it does force people to save, many of whom would otherwise make no provision for retirement. **Signed: Realistic Senior**

Dear Realistic: Thanks very much for your feedback on my previous article. I think it’s important to draw a distinction for SS contributions made by an employer, because that is not money the individual personally pays, but rather an obligation for employers to help fund the Social Security program. Without that federal obligation, it is doubtful that employers would, instead, provide employees with equivalent additional compensation, so the thought that these are really your contributions is not a fair assessment. Indeed, they are contributions which happen to be tied to your earnings level (to a cap), for which employers receive relief on their corporate income tax, and likely would not make if not required by law.

As you have noted, Social Security has the advantage of certainty, something which is lacking when it comes to investing the equivalent amounts in the financial markets. And, as you have hinted, there exists a substantial failure by future American retirees to save adequately for their retirement, a problem well known in most financial circles. Thus, the certainty of Social Security makes it a crucial part of everyone’s retirement planning – and it will be there! Despite all the

angst attributed to the current financial issues facing the program, there is little doubt that Social Security is here to stay. The question is - what reform is needed to make the program fully solvent for generations of future Americans? The Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) has developed a proposal to sensibly reform Social Security and avoid the currently projected 2033 date that the SS Trust Funds are expected to be depleted (which will necessitate an across-the-board cut for everyone). We have little doubt that the reform needed will happen (it would be political suicide for Congress if it did not), and hopefully soon. You can read about AMAC’s proposed solution at this link: www.amac.us/social-security-guarantee.

Again, thank you for your feedback and commentary. Please know that we very much appreciate your thoughts and are always willing to discuss these issues.

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. ★



The Epstein Conspiracy in Plain Sight

Regardless, populists have a different narrative at hand that is consistent with the known record. Namely, that some of the most privileged members of our society -- at the very top of the financial, academic, political, media and social worlds -- had no standards or ethics, and embraced Epstein as a friend and consigliere.

Epstein knew influential people, so influential people felt that they should know him. They considered him fun, and useful -- for advice, for banter, for introductions, for information and for donations. The emails suggest that Epstein missed his calling as a high-level, seamy advice columnist to the rich and powerful.

Want to know more about the reputation of the woman you are having an affair with? Seeking advice on how to gain political influence in Europe? Wondering how you’re handling your interactions with a potential mistress? Looking for insights about Donald Trump? Trying to survive sexual harassment allegations? Need a reference for a gastroenterologist? Well, then, ask Jeffrey Epstein.

He emailed with former Harvard president Larry Summers, the linguist Noam Chomsky, venture capitalist Boris Nikolic, Emirati businessman Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Trump activist Steve Bannon, the journalist Michael Wolff, the artist Andres Serrano, the department store scion Jonathan Farkas and former White House counsel Kathryn

Ruemmler, among others. It’s not as though Epstein was particularly insightful, but if he knew so many important people, he must know something, right?

As for his scrape with the law, clearly all had been forgiven and forgotten. If he was in the good graces of the social wrangler Peggy Siegal, whose job was to get bold-faced names to accept invitations, he must be OK. For some of Epstein’s correspondents, it was part of his appeal that he was disreputable. Larry Summers, who leaned on Epstein for romantic advice, asked him at one point: “How is life among the lucrative and louche?”

Epstein’s social currency is one reason that he got off so easily the first time he was prosecuted -- he hired the best, most connected defense attorneys, who outclassed and intimidated his prosecutors.

As for Trump, he is guilty of enjoying Epstein’s company a couple of decades ago, presumably for the same reason so many others did. But he had a falling out with Epstein long ago. Trump didn’t have anything to do with him at the time that so many others in these emails were socializing with Epstein, confiding in him and asking him for insight on Trump. That’s a disgrace, and it’s always been in plain sight. In the Epstein story, it’s not so much follow the money -- although that’s important and still mysterious -- as follow the social network.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

Sacramento Superior Court Hosts Adoption Day Event

Sacramento Superior Court News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Superior Court finalized and celebrated the adoptions of children from foster care on Adoption Day, Nov. 15.

Adoption Day is an opportunity to increase public awareness of the need for adoptive parents and educate prospective adoptive parents about the adoption process. It is also a time to celebrate local families who have opened their lives to children needing permanent homes.

“Courthouses are often stressful places to visit but this is a special opportunity to witness love and joy, and we are delighted to host this annual adoption day event,” said Juvenile Court’s Presiding Judge Kristina Lindquist.

Adoption Day in Sacramento County is a collaborative effort between multiple agencies.

“I am proud of the hard work our court staff and community partners put into this successful event, as well as the collaboration, dedication and care they put into every single case throughout the year,” Lindquist said.

During Adoption Day, judges



The Sacramento Superior Court finalized the adoptions of 26 children from foster care at the Juvenile Courthouse on Nov. 15. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Superior Court

and court staff were joined by community partners, including the Department of Child and Family Adult Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Sacramento (CASA), Parent Cooperative Community, Sacramento Sheriff’s Department Youth Services Unit, Sacramento Public Library, Zeta Phi Beta and Wayfinder.

“All children deserve to have a family and strong connections for life. Adoption is a great work of love and provides a child the

opportunity to develop secure attachments and be supported to achieve optimal physical and emotional growth and health overall,” Sacramento County’s Deputy Director of Child Protective Services Melissa Lloyd said about adoption.

Adoption Day festivities included adoption proceedings, refreshments and children’s activities, such as face painting and balloons.

The Nov. 15 event from 9 to 11:30 a.m. was at the Juvenile

Courthouse, 9605 Kiefer Blvd., Sacramento.

“We are glad to celebrate the adoptions that are occurring on Adoption Day but we should also take this time to reflect that there are many more children and youth who are still looking for permanent homes,” Lindquist said. “It is important to raise awareness of the need in our community for additional foster and adoptive families. Every child deserves the love and connection of a supportive family.”★



Adoption Day in Sacramento County is a collaborative effort between multiple agencies. Lend a Heart is an all-volunteer organization that provides animal-assisted therapy to the Sacramento area and surrounding counties with teams of certified handlers and therapy dogs. An adoptee plays with one of the therapy dogs on Adoption Day. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Superior Court

Keeping Your Peace Through the Holidays



A group sits at a table for a holiday feast. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - While many residents spend the season preparing Thanksgiving meals, lighting the menorah, decorating their homes or planning festive gatherings, others experience the holidays as a period of heightened stress.

Feelings of overwhelm stemming from financial strain, social pressures, loneliness or challenges related to substance use are common this time of year.

To support residents navigating these emotional ups and downs, the Sacramento County Department of Health Services is sharing guidance to promote behavioral health and help the community cope with

holiday-related pressures.

Health officials say that the first step is acknowledging how you feel. Recognizing signs of stress or disruptions to normal routines can make it easier to respond early. Maintaining consistent sleep schedules and mealtimes can also support emotional stability during a busy season often filled with additional events.

The Sacramento County Department of Health Services also encourages residents to make a plan for managing stress. Whether it’s taking a walk, relaxing in front of the television or connecting with friends through online games, identifying enjoyable activities provides a reliable outlet when

emotions run high.

Connecting with others is another key recommendation. A quick phone call, text message or social media check-in can lift both your spirits and the recipient’s. Officials emphasize that reaching out, no matter the method, helps strengthen support systems.

County health professionals also urge residents to remain mindful of alcohol and substance use. For individuals in recovery or those who find holiday gatherings triggering, planning ahead can be critical. Strategies such as having an exit plan, contacting a trusted person or choosing a nonalcoholic drink can help prevent setbacks. Resources are available for anyone concerned

about their use or their ability to cope.

Knowing when and how to seek support is essential. Residents experiencing serious feelings of depression, anxiety or isolation are encouraged to reach out for help. The 9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline connects callers to local crisis centers, and in situations requiring in-person support, Sacramento County’s Community Wellness Response Team could be dispatched.

The Behavioral Health Services Screening and Coordination Team operates a 24/7 hotline offering brief screenings and referrals to appropriate mental health services at 916-875-1055 or 888-881-4881. The Mental Health

Urgent Care Clinic at 2130 Stockton Blvd., Building 300, in Sacramento provides walk-in crisis services for all ages and can be reached at 916-520-2460.

Sacramento County officials remind residents that holiday stress is common and that it is acceptable and encouraged to seek peace wherever possible. They emphasize that no one needs to face these challenges alone and recommend turning to friends, family members or professionals for support.

More information and additional behavioral health resources can be found on Sacramento County’s Behavioral Health webpage at dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/Pages/BHS-Home.aspx. ★

Help Pets Safely Enjoy Holidays

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The holidays bring gatherings, festive décor and plenty of special meals but the season can also present hazards for household pets, according to Sacramento County’s Bradshaw Animal Shelter.

Shelter officials are encouraging pet owners to plan ahead to ensure that celebrations remain safe for cats and dogs.

Food is among the most common holiday risks. While some seasonal dishes are safe for pets in small portions, such as plain turkey or chicken without skin or bones, plain sweet potato or pumpkin, simple fruits and vegetables, and xylitol-free peanut butter, many traditional items should be kept out of reach.

Chocolate, onions, garlic, grapes, raisins, sugar-free foods containing xylitol,

cooked bones, alcohol and raw dough are dangerous and life-threatening for pets. The shelter urges owners to stick with pet-specific treats when in doubt and to secure trash bins to prevent scavenging.

Decorations also pose potential dangers. Tinsel, ribbon and string can cause intestinal blockages if swallowed. Glass ornaments can break and injure pets, while holiday lights and electrical cords might tempt chewers. The shelter recommends keeping candles out of reach or opting for flameless versions to avoid burns or fires.

Several popular holiday plants can be toxic as well. Poinsettias can cause mild stomach upset, while mistletoe and holly can lead to vomiting and diarrhea. Lilies are especially dangerous for cats and should be avoided entirely. Artificial greenery can offer a festive alternative

without the risk.

In addition, the shelter notes that the holiday season’s busier household routines can be stressful for animals. Visitors, parties and frequent door openings could overwhelm pets or create opportunities for escape. Officials advise providing a quiet retreat, reminding guests not to feed pets table scraps and ensuring collars, ID tags and microchip information are up to date.

If a pet ingests a potentially harmful substance, owners should contact their veterinarian immediately or call the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435.

Bradshaw Animal Shelter staff wish the community a safe and happy holiday season and encourage residents to keep their pets in mind as they celebrate. ★

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento International Airport (SMF) has prepared for another busy holiday travel season, with passenger volumes expected to exceed last year’s total.

Between Thanksgiving and the New Year, hundreds of thousands of travelers will pass through the Sacramento International Airport.

During the Thanksgiving period, the busiest day was expected to be Sunday, Nov. 30.

For the winter holidays (Dec. 24 to Dec. 31), 30-percent more seats are available compared to the same week in 2024, which means the potential for even more travelers at the Sacramento International Airport.

“We know how important these trips are for our passengers,” said Sacramento County Department of Airports’ Airport Operations and Public Safety Deputy Director Sheri Thompson-Duarte. “We’re ready for a safe, efficient and festive holiday season and we encourage travelers to plan ahead so they can start their journeys stress-free.”

In addition to preparing for higher passenger volumes, travelers will find new dining options throughout the terminals.

Sidewalk Juice and West Coast Sourdough are now open in both terminals, offering fresh sandwiches, soups and smoothies, while Terminal A welcomes Golden Grove Market and a new Starbucks location.

Travelers can make their holiday trips smoother by arriving early and allowing extra time for the busiest travel days. Airport officials recommend getting to the terminal at least two-and-a-half hours before domestic flights and three hours before international departures to accommodate parking, check-in and security screening.

Drivers should check parking availability in advance, as the parking garage and daily lot often fill quickly during peak morning hours. Officials suggest using an Economy lot and taking a shuttle to the terminal. Real-time parking updates are available on the Sacramento International Airport website at flightsmf.gov.

Those picking up arriving passengers can avoid curbside congestion by using the airport’s free cell-phone waiting lot until the passengers are ready for pickup.

Travelers are also encouraged to pack smart and review Transportation Security Administration (TSA) guidelines for carry-on items, especially when bringing food, gifts or liquids. ★

Watt/I-80 Transit Center Phase Change Underway

Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is announcing the next major phase of the Watt/I-80 Transit Center Improvement Project, with important changes beginning in December.

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, after press time, construction was set to shift to the northbound (east side) of Watt Avenue. This shift marked the project’s next phase start, which includes demolition and reconstruction of the east side bus plaza, stairway and pedestrian connection under Watt Avenue.

During this phase, the northbound bus stop (upper level) will close. Riders will use the temporary bus stop near the Wendy’s at Watt Avenue and Longview Drive. Pedestrian detour signage will guide riders to safely cross at Longview Drive. The east side elevator and stairs will remain open through Sunday, Dec. 14.

On Monday, Dec. 15, the southbound (west side) of Watt Avenue will reopen to the public, marking the

completion of the construction’s first major phase.

Key improvements and changes effective Dec. 15 include the reopening of southbound bus stops serving Routes 1, 26, 84 and 93. The west side elevator and stairs will be back in service. A new open-air stairway connecting Watt Avenue to the transit center will open.

Also, on Dec. 15, the east side elevator and stairs will close for construction. These changes will remain in effect through summer 2026.

Riders are encouraged to plan ahead and follow posted signage for temporary bus stop locations.

For the latest updates, visit the Watt/I-80 Transit Center Improvement Project webpage at sacrt.com/WattI80.

The Watt/I-80 Transit Center Improvement Project, which began in July 2024, is a comprehensive effort to modernize one of the region’s busiest transit hubs.

Improvements include widening of the Watt Avenue Bridge, new open-air stairwells, upgraded bus and pedestrian plazas, enhanced safety features and accessibility, improved on-ramp infrastructure and new landscaping. ★



Construction on the Watt/I-80 Transit Center Improvement Project was set to shift to the northbound (east side) of Watt Avenue on Dec. 3, after press time. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT)

Submit Textbook Feedback by Dec. 17, San Juan Requests

By Patsy McGavock

SACRAMENTO AREA, CA (MPG) - Through Dec. 17, San Juan Unified School District asks parents and community members to provide feedback on textbook choices that the district’s adoption committees will soon make that will be used for the next seven years.

The proposed textbooks, used by students in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade include TK-8 math to high school history, psychology, ethnic and language studies.

To review the proposed

textbooks, visit SanJuan.edu/curriculum. Find materials being considered, tips for how to review, feedback forms and other resources. To review physical books, schedule an in-person appointment at Choices Charter School by emailing loretta.naas@san-juan.edu.

While selection committees of teachers and community members review rubrics, hear publisher presentations, narrow options and try materials in pilot classrooms, public review is a final piece to the selection process. Recommendations

move to the district Curriculum and Standards advisory committee and ultimately to the district’s Board of Education.

In early November, district staff gave an update to the district’s public Curriculum and Standards advisory committee, sharing the large teacher interest specifically in math adoptions and excitement in selecting which history and language texts to review. Staff hope that more families and community members match that excitement and provide input.

“Whether you join us in

person or review online, your feedback is important,” states the district’s Sept. 29 announcement. It helps guide final decisions.

Participation is growing but is still small. While selection committee applications rose from 32 last cycle to 92 this year, only 22 public reviews had been submitted by early November. While up from 12 last year, it’s still a small response in a district of nearly 40,000 students.

Why take the time? Because these materials are part of your child’s learning experience. Research consistently shows that

student achievement improves when families engage collaboratively in their children’s education, even in acts such as reviewing curriculum.

Strong home-school partnerships support stronger outcomes. When you review materials, whether as a parent, grandparent, mentor or neighbor, you’re telling a child, “I’m part of your learning team.”

Reviewers don’t need to be experts or to read the whole book. Pick and compare one or two aspects or sections of each text.

Ask: does this help my child learn and stay

engaged? Does it help them practice and master standards? Could I see myself supporting learning at home using these materials? Give specific feedback.

Set 30 to 40 minutes to review a course that matters to your family and help shape a better learning experience for all.

Patsy McGavock is a Curriculum, Standards & Programs Advisory Committee member in San Juan Unified School District, supporting family and community engagement. ★

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A Push of a Button, A Gift of Hope

By Ornella Rossi

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - With holiday shoppers looking on, community leaders and non-profit representatives gathered Nov. 21 at the Westfield Galleria at Roseville to cut the ribbon on the annual Light the World Giving Machines, vending-style kiosks that allow visitors to purchase symbolic gifts for people in need.

Installed Nov. 17 and available through Dec. 8, the machines offer items such as hygiene kits, meals, school supplies and even baby goats, with 100% of every purchase going to designated charities. Each nonprofit participates for one year only, rotating annually.

“It’s my pleasure to host this again,” said Jeff Richardson, senior general manager of the Galleria. “Our community keeps growing, our center keeps growing and we are significantly up in traffic this year, and I think the Giving Machine has something to do with that.”

Shoppers choose gifts by tapping a touchscreen and paying by card or mobile wallet. A card representing the selected item drops into the display box, symbolizing the purchase.

Santa J. Claus made a festive entrance, handing out baby-goat plush toys to children who gathered near the machines.

“Isn’t it just wonderful when we can listen to our heart and that little voice that says we should think of others in need?” Claus said. “The secret to being on the nice list is kindness. Choosing kindness toward others and toward ourselves.”

Five local nonprofits are featured in this year’s Roseville machines, along with two global organizations.

Jake’s Journey Home focuses on veterans and community members facing homelessness. Founder Jeanne Shuman said the organization was established in



Santa J. Claus made a festive entrance, handing out baby-goat plush toys to children who gathered near the machines. Photo by Ornella Rossi

2019 after the death of her son, Jake, a Seabee veteran.

“We’re finding a way to honor and remember his legacy,” Shuman said. “This initiative collaborates with a lot of nonprofits, which is amazing, but it also allows us to keep doing our mission. We are small, we are mighty and we are all volunteers.”

Stand Up Placer, which supports survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking, is offering donors the chance to fund therapy sessions, children’s crisis support and emergency food.

“Our partnership with the church and their community is a blessing,” said executive director Gary McDonnell.

Sunrise Christian Food Ministry, serving families throughout Sacramento County, gives shoppers the option to purchase meals, hygiene kits and student food packs.

“We are so blessed to be a part of this amazing experience,” said President April Jacek.

Volunteer Allia Adams made the season’s first purchase, a pantry pack, hygiene kit and pajamas. “It’s exciting,” Adams said.



Attendees at the ribbon-cutting browse the donation cards, each representing a gift they can give through the Giving Machines. Photo by Ornella Rossi

“It doesn’t take a lot of effort to shine a light on what people can do.”

The Salvation Army’s offerings include summer camp, Christmas dinner and job training.

Major Osei Stewart said the partnership is “an opportunity to bring light into the darkness” and “serve those who need it the most.”

Sacramento Children’s Home, serving children and families for nearly 160 years, offers donors the chance to purchase baby food,

pajamas or parenting classes. CEO David Becker said their mission aligns with the event’s spirit.

“A community of people coming together and saying, ‘we are going to make a difference,’” Becker said. “We are going to be a light in the world.”

Global nonprofits United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Mentors International provide international gift options such as school kits, malnutrition treatment

and supplies for small family businesses.

“These gifts remind us that generosity here can ripple outwards across the globe,” said “Thank you for helping lift lives not only in our local communities and neighborhoods but also in communities far beyond our own.”

Retired Sacramento County Sheriff John McGinness, who served as emcee, highlighted the program’s impact and efficiency.

“Everything that is given to the Giving Machine goes to the intended recipient,” McGinness said Nancy Pinney, a Giving Machine committee member. “Some of the things that are requested, most of us view as the most basic essentials.”

Local officials echoed the spirit of unity.

“We are very proud of our mall,” said Roseville Vice Mayor Karen Alvord. “It gives us an opportunity to focus on the true meaning of the season, to give hope, care and comfort.”

Karen Wilkes, a Giving Machine committee member, noted that the program has grown from 26 locations to 126 worldwide in four years.

“It’s such a blessing to us and to the people who will receive donations,” Wilkes said.

Wilkes also noted one “secret feature” of the giving machines.

“If you punch in 777, it will purchase every single gift. Thirty cards will drop, and it comes to about \$1,800. So come out, bring your friends, coworkers and families,” Wilkes said.

The Light the World initiative, sponsored globally by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, encourages giving during the holiday season. This is the fourth year the Roseville Galleria has hosted the machines.

“They connect our community,” McGinness said, “not only to our neighbors here in the Sacramento area but also to families around the world.” ★

ABOUT TOWN

Breakfast with Santa Dec. 21

Elks Lodge 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd., invites families to take photos with Santa Claus during its Sunday breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 21.

The Elks breakfast will include a ham-carving station. Cost is \$20 adults, \$10 for ages 6 to 10 and under 5 free. For parties four or more,

reservations are requested; call 916-422-6666.

Area Museum Experiences

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

Aerospace Museum of California – “Snoopy and the Red Baron,” through Dec. 31. On loan from

the Charles M. Schulz Museum, this national traveling exhibit brings the full story of the World War I Flying Ace to life. Featuring original comic strips, vintage toys and rare memorabilia, it’s a fun, family-friendly look at one of Peanuts’ most iconic storylines.

The exhibit will delight fans who grew up with Snoopy the Flying Ace

and introduce new audiences to Snoopy’s adventures in the sky. Details at aerospaceca.org.

California Automobile Museum – Sunday Drives. The third Sunday of every month, enjoy a free ride (with paid museum admission) in one of the museum’s many beautiful cars from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There’s no better way to enjoy history than to experience it firsthand down the streets of downtown Sacramento.

Details at calautomuseum.org.

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.

Details at californiamuseum.org. ★

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