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Gold River Messenger

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 10

Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

OCTOBER 2026

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‘Meant to Be’

Mimo Bake Studio and The Brewing Bean create family through food and coffee



Mariam Armenyan, owner of coffee business The Brewing Bean, has recently partnered with the bakery. From left are Armenyan's daughter, Noemi Armenyan, Mirella Maruza and Monique Torres. Photo by Ornella Rossi

By Ornella Rossi

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - “It was meant to be.”

For Mirella Maruza and Monique Torres, the phrase describes more than one moment in the story of Mimo Bake Studio. It reflects a series of connections between two women, their Brazilian roots, their families and, eventually, the Rancho Cordova community they now serve.

Mimo Bake Studio, located at 3581 Mather Field Road, Suite A, was founded by Mirella Maruza and Monique Torres



Mimo's menu reflects the founders' Brazilian backgrounds and the country's diverse cuisine with foods including pão de queijo, coxinha, tapioca sandwiches and açai bowls. Photo by Noemi Armenyan

with the goal of sharing Brazilian food while creating the kind of welcoming environment they grew up experiencing in Brazil.

Even the bakery's name carries pieces of that story.

“Mimo” combines the first two letters of Mirella and Monique. In Portuguese, the word also refers to affection, a thoughtful gesture or a small gift given with care.

The repeated “M” has continued to appear throughout the bakery's journey, from Mirella and Monique to Mimo, and

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Shining a Light on Domestic Violence

Soroptimist
International of
Rancho Cordova &
Gold River News Release

SACRAMENTO, 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, domestic violence is never okay.

Violence Against Women Act

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 had been addressed to our legislation.

Just between the years of
Continued on page 2

Pet Junction Brings Decades of Pet Industry Experience



Pet Junction Pet Supply & Grooming celebrated its grand opening Sept. 12 at 4044 Sunrise Blvd., Suite 100. Photo by Ornella Rossi
Continued on page 2



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Pet Junction Brings Decades of Pet Industry Experience

**Story and photos
by Ornella Rossi**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - After nearly three decades working throughout California’s pet industry, Jim Dempsey is returning to where it all started, a neighborhood pet store.

Dempsey and his wife, Jennie, recently opened Pet Junction Pet Supply & Grooming at 4044 Sunrise Blvd., Suite 100, in Rancho Cordova, offering pet food, treats, toys, grooming services and a self-service dog wash.

The store celebrated its grand opening Sept. 12 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, vendors, raffles, giveaways and local organizations, including Itsie Bitsie Rescue. Community members also brought their dogs to take part in the event.

For Dempsey, the store brings together a career that has largely been spent on the other side of the pet retail industry.

“I’ve been in the pet industry for 25, 30 years,” Dempsey said. “Growing up, my parents had pet stores.”

He later moved into outside sales, traveling throughout California and other states while selling products to independent pet store owners.

“The local community stuff, the local city stuff, the mom-and-pop stores have been who I am,” Dempsey said.

After years on the road, he began looking for a change and saw an opportunity to open a store of his own.

Pet Junction places an emphasis on both services and helping customers better understand the products they buy for their animals.

The store employs full-time groomers and offers self-service washing stations equipped with shampoos, towels, tubs and dryers.

“Come here, make the mess here. Don’t make the mess at home,” Dempsey said. “We



Pet Junction celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, raffles and giveaways for attendees.



Rancho Cordova Mayor Garrett Gatewood welcomed the business and highlighted Dempsey’s background in the industry during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

clean it up, you can go home.”

The store also carries pet foods, supplements, toys, training products, crates and treats. Dempsey said one of his goals is to provide customers with more information about nutrition and ingredients than they may typically receive while shopping at larger retailers.

“We’re going to be able to answer the questions that your box stores can’t,” Dempsey said.

That could include helping customers understand ingredients in pet food or explaining differences between kibble, frozen and refrigerated options.

Dempsey said the store carries some familiar brands found at larger retailers along with products from smaller manufacturers.

“We have kibbles that you will find at PetSmart or the grocery store, but we also have kibbles that we feel are much cleaner,

much healthier, which come from a smaller batch,” he said.

Pet Junction also plans to periodically bring product representatives into the store so customers can speak directly with manufacturers and ask questions.

Several representatives and community leaders attended the grand opening.

Mika Klinsmann, representing state Sen. Roger Niello’s office,

presented the Dempseys with a certificate of recognition.

“We’re so happy to have you here,” Klinsmann said. “As a pet owner myself, thank you for being here.”

Rancho Cordova Mayor Garrett Gatewood also recognized Dempsey’s experience in the industry and his family’s history with pet stores.

“Pet Junction is a culmination of Jim’s lifelong passion with animals, beginning with his parents’ pet store, where he developed a love for animals and customer service,” Gatewood said.

While Pet Junction offers the products customers expect from a pet supply store, Dempsey said the larger goal is to provide information and services for owners who increasingly consider their animals part of the family.

“The dogs and cats are more like family members,” Dempsey said, “and that’s what this is set up for.” ★



Pet Junction employs full-time groomers and offers self-service washing stations where customers can use the store’s tubs, shampoos, towels and dryers.

California Writers Week in the Capitol Region

California Writers Week News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - California Writers Week, an annual recognition of the talents and contributions of writers in our state, takes place the third week of October. Established in 2003 via Joint Legislative Resolution 2170 and sponsored by Assemblyman Tim Leslie, California Writers Week was initiated by the California Writers Club.

The resolution mentions founders of the club in 1909, including Jack London, Ina Coolbrith and George Sterling and traces California’s literary tradition back to the writing of Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Mary Austin, John Steinbeck, among others. The sponsors of the resolution encourage all Californians to honor the contributions that California writers make to humankind.

During Oct. 11-17, members of the Sacramento branch of



The goals are to entertain, generate awareness of the writing of local authors, and encourage residents of the facilities in their own reading and writing endeavors. Photo courtesy of California Writers Week

California Writers Club will provide readings of their work to seniors living in five of the area’s assisted living facilities. The goals are to entertain, generate awareness of the writing of local authors, and encourage residents of the facilities in their own reading and writing endeavors. More information can be found at California Writers Club, Sacramento.

In addition to the readings offered to seniors, Sacramento CWC branch board member Julie Snider is offering a public reading and book signing. Julie is a retired teacher living

near Sacramento, and she writes both fiction and nonfiction. Her heartwarming stories, often centered on themes of social justice, help readers from diverse backgrounds find common ground.

The event will take place from 1-2 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Fair Oaks Library, 11601 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks.

Julie will read short selections from her debut novel, Chapel Bay Secrets, published in January 2026. You can find more information about Julie and her writing on her website, <https://juliesniderauthor.com/> ★

Shining a Light on Domestic Violence

Continued from page 1

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.

When is Domestic Violence Awareness Month?

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.

Be an Advocate

Another alarming statistic for us to look at is that as many as 3 out of 4 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, where an advocate is willing to speak up when others cannot.

If you know of someone that 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 to get the word out about the destructive threat that domestic violence has on so many homes across America.

Domestic violence is never okay, no matter the circumstances. If you or someone you know is in desperate need of help, call 911 or 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/>, or Sacramento Family Justice Center Support Line 916-875-4673, <https://www.sacramentofjc.org/>.



Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River supports survivors as they reclaim their lives by providing Comfort Kits and offering goal-setting and career entry and re-entry workshops through the Sacramento Family Justice Center. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River

How Soroptimist Int’l of Rancho Cordova & Gold River Helps Survivors

SI of Rancho Cordova helps survivors reclaim their lives by providing Comfort Kits, providing goal setting and career entry/re-entry workshops via the Sacramento Family Justice Center, 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 them finish their higher education.

Soroptimist is an international 501(c)3 non-profit organization who 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. Please email sircgr2009@gmail.com to receive more information about Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River, how to become a member, or just learn how you can volunteer with our club members, or visit <http://www.soroptimistranchocordova.org/> ★

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‘Meant to Be’

Continued from page 1
most recently Mariam Armenyan, owner of The Brewing Bean, whose coffee business has partnered with the bakery.

But long before the Rancho Cordova storefront or new partnerships, Mimo began with the connection between its two founders.

Maruza and Torres came from different professional backgrounds. Maruza had experience in marketing, while Torres had worked in civil engineering and shopping center management. Together, they combined those skills with a shared connection to Brazil and a desire to introduce the foods and traditions they knew to customers in Northern California.

Their differences eventually became part of how they describe their partnership, with Maruza serving as Mimo’s “heart” and Torres as its “brain.”

The business grew through farmers markets and pop-up events before reaching the point of opening a permanent storefront in Rancho Cordova.

Mimo’s menu reflects the founders’ Brazilian backgrounds and the countries diverse cuisine with foods including pão de queijo, bolo de rolo, tapioca sandwiches and açaí bowls. But for Maruza and Torres, the experience they want to create extends beyond what is served on the plate.

Hospitality, Maruza said, is deeply connected to Brazilian culture.

She pointed to the expression “passar um cafezinho” — essentially, to make or offer someone a little coffee.

In Brazil, Maruza said, offering coffee communicates something larger: You are welcome in this home. Sit down. Stay for a while.

“This is what we want our customers to feel,” Maruza said.

Asked what she wants someone visiting Mimo for the first time to leave with, her answer



The Brewing Bean, founded by Mariam Armenyan, recently began operating inside the bakery after Armenyan met Mirella Maruza and Monique Torres through Rancho Cordova’s MBARK small-business program. Photo by Noemi Armenyan

was simple.

“Memories, experience and feeling special,” she said.

That focus on personal connection has become a defining part of the bakery.

Maruza said customers have formed relationships with the owners beyond simply purchasing food. Some return with their families. Others bring cards, gifts or messages for the women behind the counter.

Running the business can also mean sacrificing time elsewhere, she said, including time with their children and husbands.

There are difficult moments when the demands of operating Mimo can make them question the time and energy required.

Then, Maruza said, their customers remind them why they continue.

That idea of expanding family has also shaped Mimo’s newest partnership.

The Brewing Bean, founded by Mariam Armenyan, recently began operating inside the bakery after Armenyan met Maruza and Torres through Rancho Cordova’s MBARK small-business program.

Armenyan’s daughter, Noemi Armenyan, said the relationship quickly became more personal than a typical business arrangement.

“They’re like my second moms,” Noemi said of Maruza and Torres. “I feel like we’re all just like a big family.”

The collaboration brings another culture into the space as well.

Mimo reflects Maruza and Torres’ Brazilian heritage, while the Armenyan family brings its Armenian background. Noemi, who was born and raised in Rancho Cordova, said she knew little about Brazilian culture before beginning to work



Apart from the bakery, customers can browse the Mimo Market, where Mimo creations, authentic Brazilian products and local small businesses come together to bring a little more of Brazil to their homes. Photo by Ornella Rossi

alongside the Mimo founders.

She soon began noticing similarities.

Both cultures, she said, place importance on welcoming people warmly, feeding them, talking with them and showing affection.

“The first thing we want to do is hug them and kiss them and say, ‘How are you?’” Noemi said.

That shared approach can now be seen inside the bakery. Mimo’s team prepares the food, The Brewing Bean prepares drinks and the businesses serve customers together.

For Noemi, the goal is not simply to hand someone a cup of coffee and move on.

“I don’t want to just serve a customer. I want to get to know them,” she said.

That sentiment mirrors what Maruza and Torres have worked to build through Mimo,

a business where Brazilian food serves as an introduction, but relationships encourage people to return.

For the founders, the Rancho Cordova storefront represents another stage in a journey shaped repeatedly by unexpected connections.

Two women became business partners. Their names became Mimo. A bakery became a gathering place. Customers became familiar faces and familiar faces became what Maruza describes as an extended family.

And now another “M” has joined the story.

Through each change, the idea behind Mimo has remained much the same as the Portuguese word that inspired its name: something offered with affection.

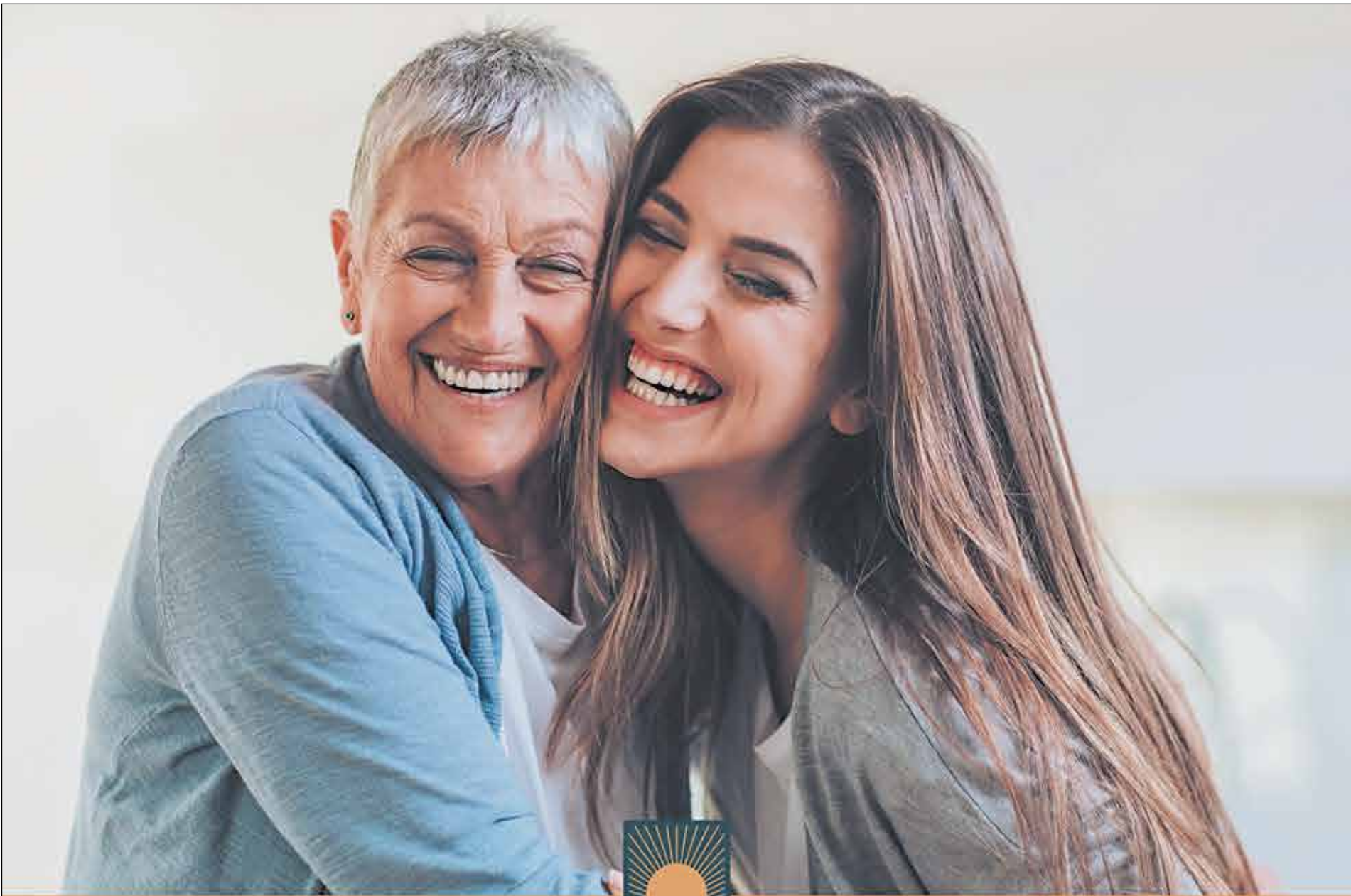
Or, as Maruza described through the tradition of passing a cup of coffee, an invitation to come inside, sit down and fee at home.★

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SacSewer Warriors Take Second Place in Division 3

Team earns first place in Maintenance and third in Safety, highlighting the people and expertise behind SacSewer’s essential services

Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer) News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer) is demonstrating the depth of operational excellence behind one of the region’s largest essential service providers, as its Warriors earned second place overall in Division 3 at the Water Environment Federation’s (WEF) Operations Challenge at WEFTEC in New Orleans Sept. 28-29.

Competing against 26 teams in Division 3, the SacSewer Warriors earned first place in the Maintenance Event and third place in Safety. Made up of employees from SacSewer’s collection and treatment operations, the team also posted some of its fastest competition times to date after months of preparation and practice leading up to the event. Operations Challenge brings together skilled water sector professionals competing in events designed around technical skills, and real-world scenarios involved in utility operations including collections, process control, maintenance, laboratory and safety.

While the results are a point of pride for the Warriors, the competition also offers a visible look at the people and expertise behind SacSewer’s essential services. The skills demonstrated in the competition – technical knowledge, safety awareness, teamwork, communication and problem-solving – are the same skills employees rely on every day to operate and maintain critical infrastructure and provide reliable service to the community.



Competing against 26 teams in Division 3, the SacSewer Warriors earned first place in the Maintenance Event and third place in Safety. Photo courtesy of SacSewer

“The Warriors give us an opportunity to showcase the people behind the services our community depends on,” said Christoph Dobson, general manager of SacSewer. “Their performance reflects the professionalism, dedication and pride that our employees bring to their work every day. We’re proud to see the Warriors represent SacSewer and demonstrate the caliber of talent we have throughout our organization.”

The Warriors also represent the interconnected nature of a modern sewer utility. While each area of the organization brings specialized knowledge and expertise, it takes people working together across



Preparing for Operations Challenge gives employees an opportunity to sharpen their technical and leadership skills, practice working under pressure, learn from colleagues in different areas and exchange ideas with other utilities. Photo courtesy of SacSewer

disciplines to safely and reliably collect, treat and recover resources from sewage.

“The beauty of SacSewer’s work is the way all of these people with diverse skills come together to serve our community,” Dobson said. “The Warriors are one example of that collaboration. Whether someone works in collections, treatment, the laboratory, engineering or another part of the organization, every role brings a different area of expertise to the work we do. Together, those contributions allow us to safely and reliably serve our community.”

Preparing for Operations Challenge gives employees an opportunity to sharpen their technical and leadership skills, practice working under pressure, learn from colleagues in different areas and exchange ideas with other utilities. SacSewer has captured the Warriors’ preparation, competition and experiences through a series of videos that offer a behind-the-scenes look at the skills and teamwork required to compete – and the benefits Operations Challenge brings to SacSewer and the community we serve. To watch a video demonstrating why Ops Challenge matters, visit: youtube.com/watch?si=Rh-GHvV8g1ZCsRL5F&v=yn-LU-UoG5Js&feature=youtu.be

The experience also provides an opportunity for employees to learn from one another and bring new ideas and perspectives back to their work at SacSewer – an added benefit of participating in a competition that celebrates the expertise and professionalism of utility operations.

FAA Awards Contract for New Air Traffic Control Tower at SMF

Sacramento International Airport News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has awarded a design-build contract to Walsh Federal LLC for a new air traffic control tower at Sacramento International Airport (SMF), marking a major milestone in the long-planned replacement of the airport’s existing tower, which has been in service since 1967.

The contract was awarded Sept. 19, with work scheduled through early 2030. The new tower is expected to become fully operational around 2030.

“This contract award is a significant step forward for the long-term safety, efficiency and resilience of our airspace operations at Sacramento International Airport,” said Harry Barrett Jr., assistant director of airports for Sacramento County. “We have been ready for this investment for many

years, and we are excited to see the project move from planning toward construction.”

The FAA previously identified SMF as a priority site for tower replacement in 2016. SMF is one of eight airports nationwide selected for new tower construction as part of a broader FAA initiative to modernize aging air traffic infrastructure. The program is supported in part by funding from the \$5 billion allocated to the FAA Air

Traffic Organization through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The current SMF control tower presents operational and accessibility limitations as well as challenges associated with aging facility systems. The replacement tower will be located on the airport’s north campus and will provide improved sightlines and a modernized working environment designed to better support FAA air traffic controllers. The

new location will also enhance security by relocating critical operations away from public-facing airport areas.

The FAA contract with Walsh Federal covers design and construction of the replacement tower, with a period of performance extending through February 2030. Construction is currently expected to begin in summer 2027. The new tower will remain FAA-owned and FAA-operated upon completion.

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Hello, Dolly – Let’s Do It!

**Story and photos
by Susan Maxwell Skinner**

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - More than 1200 teenage girls last week flocked to the Aerospace Museum of California’s annual ‘We Can Do It Together’ open days.
Free to middle school and high school students, the event introduces young women to options in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) careers. In six years, more than 6000 girls have attended.

The date coincided with national appreciation for the late Dolly Parton, whose Imagination Library loaned a larger-than-life cutout of the star. “Dolly’s people told us this was an event she would have loved,” said Museum Advancement Director Karen Jones. “We thank Dolly for inspiring us to be life-long readers.”

Other open-day opportunities included meeting mentors from STEAM fields. Architects, aviators and women making waves in energy, medicine and construction fields discussed their careers.

Neuro-surgeon Dr. Kawanaa Carter said she grew up with a love of medicine fueled by her drive to help children. “I wanted to be useful,” said Carter. “I never wanted to be bored, so it’s great my career allows me to practice medicine, to teach, to operate and do research.”

The surgeon told girls how STEAM capability was everywhere in their day-to-day activities. Food preparation, she explained, was about chemistry. Household budgeting required math. “Choosing makeup that suits your face - that’s science,” Carter told the girls. “We take our use of science for granted. Don’t say you can’t do it. It is already inside you.”

The teens had free range of museum exhibits, including artifacts from the early years of flight. They also got handy in STEAM-based activities: making solar system bracelets, paper airplanes and wind turbines.

The expo this year saluted Dolly Parton as an example of what can be achieved through hard work and mentorship.



Role models at the Aerospace Museum of California “We Can Do it Together” open days include education administrator Linda Martin (left), Dr. Kawanaa Carter (center) Dolly Parton (in effigy), pilot Zahra Hosseini and education specialist Karla Rojas.



“We want girls to know they can be anything they want to be,” said Museum Director Karen Jones. “Dolly Parton said that when girls follow their dreams, the sky was the limit. We tell young people the limit is the sky and far beyond it. We want them to aim high and dream big.”

Event supports included: SMUD, Carmichael Kiwanis, San Juan and Twin Rivers School Districts; SAFE Credit Union and County Supervisors Rich Desmond and Phil Serna. Learn about Museum events at www.aerospaceCA.org ★

Left: A jet engine display gets a thumbs-up from Twin Rivers Unified School District students at the Aerospace Museum’s expo for young women.

More Than 11,470 Pounds of Trash Removed During River Clean-Up

The American River Parkway Foundation’s largest clean-up of the year spanned 13 sites along the American River Parkway



Almost a thousand volunteers removed 11,470 pounds of trash, pulled 6,801 invasive plants, laid 900 cubic feet of fresh mulch, and painted 35 infrastructures on the American River Parkway. Photo courtesy of American River Parkway Foundation

American River Parkway Foundation News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Almost a thousand volunteers removed 11,470 pounds of trash, pulled 6,801 invasive plants, laid 900 cubic feet of fresh mulch, and painted 35 infrastructures on the American River Parkway (Parkway) during the Great American River Clean-Up (GARCU) on Saturday, Sept. 19.
“Every year, it amazes me to see how the community shows up to help conserve the American River Parkway. We are so grateful to our passionate volunteers, who took time out of their Saturday to pick up trash, pull invasive plants, lay mulch, and paint infrastructure, like metal poles, wooden posts and parking curbs, across 13 sites along the Parkway,” said Dianna Poggetto, Parkway Foundation executive director. “Each year,



The American River Parkway Foundation manages programs like volunteer clean-ups, infrastructure improvements, trail maintenance, fire mitigation and education. Photo courtesy of American River Parkway Foundation

the amount of trash removed decreases, which really shows cases how our community has

come together to keep one of our region’s greatest civic amenities clean and beautiful.”

The Great American River Clean-Up is part of the California Coastal Cleanup Day,

which is California’s largest annual volunteer event to remove trash from beaches and inland waterways. The American River Parkway Foundation has partnered with the California Coastal Commission since 1993 to bring GARCU to the community.
Today, GARCU is recognized as one of the largest interior clean-ups in California and, since 2011, has helped removed over 271,000 pounds of trash and harmful debris from the American River Parkway.
For more details about the American River Parkway Foundation and the incredible work thousands of volunteers complete each year to conserve the American River Parkway, visit www.ARPF.org/ or watch the Discover the Parkway series on the ARPF YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/AmericanRiverParkwayFoundation. ★

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Informing, Empowering & Engaging Readers With Their Community



By Patsy McGavock

Like many of you, I’m watching gas prices fluctuate and rise. Our first thought may be the burden that price reflects in our own life, alongside other financial concerns. But behind that price may be a why reflecting something far more challenging for people caught in conflict in the Middle East. A conflict that often affects the price of oil.

Our minds make associations — connections between what we experience and what it brings to mind. Those connections shape how we feel and what we do next. Within ourselves — and toward others.

Looking beyond ourselves can help us see a larger whole — changing not only what we see but also what we feel and do.

When I see the prices rise, I think of the people in the crossfire and say a prayer. I cannot personally fix it, but I believe God, among other things, can help.

But the point isn’t the prayer. It’s that the price prompted me to turn outward toward others rather than inward toward my own frustration.

That reflection prompted a memory — a time a friend online shared criticism of those who say, “I will pray for you,” when they want to help but cannot directly influence the situation. At first I did not understand the criticism.

Association, Perception and What We Do Next: The Seeds of Community Impact

I only felt the sting. So I asked why, seeking to understand.

Through that exchange, I came to understand a different perspective. Saying “I will pray” may be meaningful to me, but others may wonder what direct action accompanies it.

That is worth considering. When a problem is bigger than we can solve, we reach toward something bigger than ourselves. For me, that includes faith. For others, it may mean community, government or advocacy. The two are not in competition. Either can move us beyond ourselves and toward action.

Psychology notes that association – the connection between experience and feeling - is a powerful driver of our perceptions. Some express this as, “Neurons that fire together wire together.” In our brain, those firings can tie emotions to experiences, shaping how we perceive a similar experience next time.

Yet powerfully, if we recognize the connections we’re making, we can be intentional about what we tie to the next experience. We retain neuroplasticity as we age — our brain’s capacity to physically change and adapt those connections through experience and learning. But it takes intention.

We can choose.

What do we see and what do we associate it to?

This is a precursor to effective advocacy. Do we see only a problem — or do we see people? Do

we ask questions that put the two together in human understanding?

In community, it takes willingness to look beyond ourselves, to see the why through a human lens.

So I will continue to let the price of gas, as I drive by, remind me of those who are suffering much more than I, and I will let it empower my heart to act. Here at home, I can reach out to neighbors carrying the weight of conflicts affecting those they care about far from home — Israeli or Palestinian, Russian or Ukrainian. Or other neighbors carrying conflicts we rarely see in the headlines. I can acknowledge, “I know these things are going on. How are you?” You are seen. You are not alone.

I cannot directly affect all the conflicts in the world for good, but I can lift neighbors and understand the situation better. That understanding can give me something better informed to bring to people who do have influence — and help me advocate more effectively for positive change.

Beyond that, having spent that time in reflection and with others, I will walk more whole and complete.

Because peace is found in presence.

Patsy McGavock is a volunteer writer and community advocate “informing, empowering and engaging readers with their community.” and can be reached at PatsyMcGavock. JustServe@gmail.com. ★



BY JOSH F.W. COOK

★ CALIFORNIA ★
POLICY
AND
ETHICS

Proposition 43: Close the Two-Thirds Loophole

By Josh Cook

Proposition 43 would restore the two-thirds voter threshold for every local special tax in California—no matter who puts it on the ballot.

Starting January 1, 2027, cities, counties, school districts, community colleges, and special districts could not impose, extend, or increase an earmarked tax without that supermajority. It would also bar new value-based property taxes except Proposition 13’s 1 percent rate and voter-approved bonds. Taxes already passed by simple majority would stand.

California has two kinds of local taxes. A general tax goes into the general fund and needs only a majority. A special tax is earmarked for a specific purpose—schools, parks, fire protection, transit, or other programs—and traditionally requires two-thirds voter approval. That higher bar was intentional: voters should reach broad consensus before imposing a tax dedicated to a particular purpose.

Today, however, a special tax can be placed on the ballot through a citizen-initiative process, allowing it to pass with a simple majority. The purpose remains special, but the voting threshold can be reduced to 50 percent plus one. Public-employee

unions and other organized interests have used this approach to advance earmarked taxes that otherwise would face the two-thirds requirement.

In San Francisco, for example, a district and teachers’ union drafted a parcel tax and used individual residents as the formal proponents, allowing the measure to avoid the higher threshold. At a time when so many families are struggling to make ends meet, wouldn’t it be better to be upfront with them and say, “We need two-thirds of you to do this,” instead of finding some sneaky way to add some other tax on top of all the other taxes that have sneakily been added over the years?

At some point, those in government should consider what happens when you erode people’s trust that the government is transparent, honest, upfront, and forthright. Special interests that drive these mechanisms to keep getting more money may find they run out of goodwill if voters always feel like they’re being played at the ballot box.

Prop. 43 responds to a nonstop carousel of mechanisms that people in Sacramento have used for the last 20 years to do nothing but grow government faster than the population. If it passes, it will send a message to the people planning the next 22 ballot measures designed to fund the thing they love. ★

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Protecting Yosemite
for Future Generations



Josh Hoover

By Assemblyman
Josh Hoover

There are some places in California that belong to all of us. Yosemite is one of them.

More than 160 years ago, in the middle of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act of 1864. That law transferred Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias to California for public use, recreation and preservation. Among its most important provisions was a simple but powerful promise: the land would be “inalienable for all time.” That promise is worth remembering now.

Unfortunately, a proposed land exchange at Yosemite National Park would give a private developer access across federal park land to connect an adjacent property to a road inside the park. Kingsbarn Realty Capital owns an 83-acre parcel outside Yosemite’s western boundary and is seeking that access to facilitate development. The Department of the Interior has said no final decision has been made and that any exchange

would have to comply with federal law and environmental review. Those assurances do not settle the larger question: whether Yosemite land should be on the table at all.

I do not believe it should. Earlier this month 61 members of the California Legislature — more than half of the state’s 118 lawmakers — sent a bipartisan letter to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum urging him to halt and reject the proposal. I was proud to sign it. Our message was straightforward: Yosemite belongs to no one and to everyone. It is held in trust for generations yet to come and this deal would break that promise.

The idea is not new. A previous owner sought private road access through park land beginning in the 2000s. The National Park Service refused. The owner sued. In 2012, a federal appeals court upheld the rejection. That should have ended the matter. Instead, after the current developer purchased the adjacent parcels in 2024, the same underlying request returned — not through the courts this time, but through a land exchange negotiated with federal officials.

We are also concerned by reports that the Department has considered using the Land and Water Conservation Fund in connection with the exchange. That fund

exists to acquire and protect public land, not to underwrite its handoff to a private developer. Earlier this year, the Legislature adopted AJR 9 urging full funding and staffing for the National Park Service and opposing the transfer of federal park lands. We write in that same spirit.

The existence of a land-exchange mechanism does not make this appropriate use of it. Protecting Yosemite requires no creative reading of federal law. It requires the judgment to say no.

Californians disagree on many things. Protecting the places that belong to all Americans should not be one of them. Our national parks are not ordinary parcels of government property. They are part of the nation’s heritage. When Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant, he was not thinking about the next news cycle. He was thinking about a future he would never see. It is now our responsibility to protect Yosemite for future generations.

Assemblyman Josh Hoover represents the 7th Assembly District in Sacramento County, which includes the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova and the unincorporated communities of Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms, Gold River, Mather, McClellan Park, North Highlands, Orangevale and Rosemont. You can follow him on X @joshua_hoover or contact his office at Assemblymember.Hoover@assembly.ca.gov. ★

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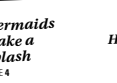


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California Capital Airshow Returns with Night Show and World-Renowned Performer Lineup

California Capital Airshow News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The 20th annual California Capital Airshow (CCA), presented in partnership by Sacramento County and the City of Rancho Cordova, returns Oct. 10-11 from noon to 8 p.m. daily at Mather Airport in Sacramento.

The two-day event will recognize CCA's 20th anniversary alongside the nation's 250th with an extraordinary lineup of performers, including the United States Air Force Thunderbirds and the Canadian Forces Snowbirds. The event will feature miles of aircraft on display and hands-on exhibits for all ages, and conclude with nighttime aerial performances and a massive pyro-musical fireworks show.

This unique show features nonstop aerial performances running from 3:30-8 p.m. each day, culminating with the night show. In addition to the two headlining jet teams, the USAF Thunderbirds and Canadian Snowbirds, airshow highlights include performances from the U-2 Dragon Lady and T-38 Talons of Beale Air Force Base, the United States Air Force C-17 Globemaster III Demonstration Team, and the United States Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet Demonstration Team. As the sun sets, the show will continue with maximum afterburner followed by aircraft lighting up the night sky with pyrotechnics, walls of fire, spectacular fireworks and hundreds of drones.

"This year's show is a milestone celebration that offers a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Darcy Brewer, CEO of California Capital Airshow. "We're bringing the Thunderbirds and Snowbirds to Sacramento to celebrate our 20th anniversary and the nation's 250th, with a night show and fireworks finale to match."

Airshow tickets are on sale now at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com.



The Airshow team is grateful to its 1,000 passionate volunteers that keep the airshow running. Photo courtesy of Mark E. Loper/California Capital Airshow

Each adult General Admission ticket includes free admission for up to six youth (age 15 and under) and free parking. A variety of upgraded tickets and experiences are also available for purchase. Tickets are available online only and will not be sold at the gate. They are expected to sell out, so attendees are encouraged to purchase their tickets soon.

Special thanks to our generous partners Sacramento County, the City of Rancho Cordova, Sutter Health, Wilton Rancheria, Modern Aviation, SMUD, Teichert, Roseville Auto Mall, Sky River Casino, Kaiser Permanente, Sacramento Republic FC, Five Star Bank, Southwest Airlines, Atlas Disposal, UPS and iHeart Media.

In addition, the Airshow team is grateful to its 1,000 passionate volunteers, a long list of committed community supporters, as well as the teams of law



The event heavily relies on volunteers to assist with admissions, guest services, ramp and flight line security and more over the two-day event at Mather Airport. Photo courtesy of Mark E. Loper/California Capital Airshow

enforcement and emergency services that give their time and energy to keep everyone safe. Tickets and more information can be found at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com.★



The event will feature miles of aircraft on display and hands-on exhibits for all ages, and conclude with nighttime aerial performances and a massive pyro-musical fireworks show. Photo courtesy of Mark E. Loper/California Capital Airshow



The USAF Thunderbirds will headline the California Capital Airshow on Oct. 10-11. Photo courtesy of Mark E. Loper/California Capital Airshow



The Thunderbirds and Snowbirds are coming to Sacramento to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the airshow and the nation's 250th, with a night show and fireworks finale to match. Photo courtesy of Mark E. Loper/California Capital Airshow