October 20, 2022 | www.valcomnews.com

East Sacramento News

— BRINGING YOU COMMUNITY NEWS FOR 30 YEARS —

Joan Didion tribute event coming to Golden 1 Center Nov. 10

See Page 3



ECRWSS EDDM
POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ELK GROVE CA
PERMIT NO. 16



Cal Expo CEO Rick Pickering announces his retirement

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com

After nearly a decade of service as CEO of the California Exposition and State Fair (Cal Expo), Rick Pickering announced that he will retire on Dec. 30.

The CEO of Cal Expo, which is a self-sufficient state agency, has the year-round responsibility of overseeing the planning, operations and the administration of Cal Expo and the annual California State Fair.

Cal Expo consists of about 800 acres, half of which is developed and includes more than 100 buildings and other structures, three RV campgrounds, the Miller Lite Racetrack, the 11,569-seat Heart Health Park stadium, the iconic water tower, and Rock & Brews restaurant. The undeveloped portion of Cal Expo is part of the American River Parkway.

With the upcoming departure of Pickering, the Cal Expo Board of Directors recently selected Tom Martinez to replace him in an interim CEO role. Martinez has served as chief deputy general manager of Cal Expo since 2016.

In a recently released statement, Pickering expressed his support for Martinez.



Photos courtesy of Cal Expo
Cal Expo CEO Rick Pickering will retire from his duties as CEO of the California Exposition and State Fair on Dec. 30.



Rick Pickering has served as CEO of the California Exposition and State Fair since December 2012.

"I will greatly miss working with dedicated leaders in the capital region, but my trust in Tom as the interim CEO is deep, and his work over the past seven years has been transformational," he wrote.

During Pickering's years as Cal Expo's CEO, more than $270 million has been generated and reinvested into the programming and operations of the facilities. Those reinvestments included $44 million in upgrades to infrastructure at Cal Expo.

It was also with Pickering at the helm of Cal Expo that many new events and activities emerged, such as a statewide, youth mariachi competition, the U.S. National Drone Racing Championship, the first state-recognized cannabis competition, a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Sacramento NAACP, and the inaugural Out at the Fair programming.

Although he is approaching a decade as CEO of Cal Expo – which is also home of the Sacramento County Fair – Pickering has a much lengthier background with fairs and fairgrounds.

Prior to beginning his work at Cal Expo in early December 2012, Pickering served for 14 years as the CEO of the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

Under his leadership, the Alameda County Fair experienced an attendance increase of 22% in 2009, leading to it being recognized as the "Fastest Growing Fair in America."

Before his time with the Alameda County Fair, Pickering served for five years as the deputy general manager of the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa.

Pickering's success in the fair industry led him to being named "One of the Most Creative Fair Managers in the Nation" by the now-defunct, trade magazine, Amusement Business. He is also a inducted into the Western Fairs Association Hall of Fame in 2013.

Beyond his work with fairgrounds, Pickering also spent 12 of his working years in city management service in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Pickering, a Texas native who moved to California in 1968, mentioned that his entire career has been based on "seeking to build stronger communities."

"Coming to the State Fair 10 years ago, that was the same concept, to continue to help celebrate the communities and various peoples of the state of California – their achievements, accomplishments, not only their past and present, but also showcasing the future of the communities," he said.

Pickering mentioned that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 3 million patrons per year were entering the gates of Cal Expo for a combination of events and activities such as the State and County fairs, the Christmas light show, the Raging Waters water park, the horse races, and Sacramento Republic FC soccer matches at Heart Health Park

Given the number of people

See PICKERING on page 5

EAST SACRAMENTO NEWS
WWW.VALCOMNEWS.COM

Email stories and photos to: vcneditor@gmail.com
Editorial questions: (916) 267-8992

East Sacramento News is published on the first and third Thursday of the month in the area bounded by Business 80 on the west, the American River on the north and east and Highway 50 on the south.

Publisher ..... Bonnie Rodriguez
Editor ..... Lance Armstrong
Advertising Executives: ..... Melissa Andrews, Linda Pohl

Copyright 2022 by Valley Community Newspapers Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Vol. 31 • No. 20

1109 Markham Way
Sacramento,
CA 95818
t: (916) 429-9901
f: (916) 429-9906

Cover by: Courtesy of Sacramento Historical Society

Joan Didion tribute event coming to Golden 1 Center Nov. 10

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com



Photos courtesy of Sacramento Historical Society
Maurice Read, left, and Gregg Lukenbill stand with the recently completed sculpture of the Sacramento-born author Joan Didion.



The sculpture includes the likeness of a decorative chair.

A special event to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the famous Sacramento-born author Joan Didion will be held at the Golden 1 Center on Nov. 10.

Didion, a renowned novelist, essayist, journalist and screenwriter, died last December at the age of 87.

Among Didion's many notable books are "The Year of Magical Thinking," "The White Album," "Blue Nights" and "Slouching Towards Bethlehem."

Prior to obtaining her fame in the literary world, she lived in Sacramento and attended local educational institutions, including C.K. McClatchy High School and Sacramento Junior College – today's Sacramento City College (SCC).

The Sacramento Historical Society, the city and county of Sacramento, the Sacramento Public Library, Sacramento City College, and the Sacramento Kings, invite people to join them in this evening of celebration of this fifth generation Sacramento native daughter.

The upcoming event, the Golden Land Joan Didion Celebration, will begin at 6 p.m. and will feature the unveiling of the Joan Didion statue, which will later be installed in the Sacramento Room of the Sacramento Public Library's Central Library at 828 I St., where Didion spent many hours during her youth.

A bust of Didion will also be unveiled. It will later be installed at Sacramento City College to serve as a longstanding inspiration and motivation for that institution's students.

Lisa Reinertson, the sculptor who created these artworks, will give a brief talk.

Other confirmed speakers for this event are Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Virginia McReynolds, a retired SCC English professor and Joan Didion expert, Sacramento City College Interim President Albert Garcia, and Sacramento City Historian Marcia Eymann.

There will also be pictures and videos of Didion, a question-and-answer session with Eymann, displays of art from Sacramento City College artists, a quote display by Women's Wisdom Art, music, food and drinks. A Sacramento literary luminaries painting by artist Jerald Silva that includes an image of Didion will also be on display at the event. The painting will later be placed on permanent display in the Sacramento Room.

Sacramento Historical Society Vice President Gregg Lukenbill, who worked with Sacramento resident Maurice Read on both the Joan Didion statue project and the creation of a Joan Didion Sacramento City College literary scholarship, spoke with this paper last week about the event and the importance of Didion to Sacramento.

"This (event) is going to be incredible," he said. "It's all about Joan Didion, who she is and who she was and her whole persona that we are going to identify, because it has everything to do with the history of Sacramento. She is the personification of the history of Sacramento, in my opinion.

"(The event is intended to be) a unifying, uplifting, enlight-

See DIDION on page 4



A typewriter image is featured on a side of the chair portion of Julie Reinertson's Joan Didion sculpture.

Didion:

Continued from page 3

enment celebration to honor (Didion's) life's work."

Tickets for this event are $100 for the premium package, $50 for standard package (general admission), and $25 for students.

The premium package will include premium seating, a reception and discussion with Sacramento historian Marcia Eymann; food, wine and beer; a one-year Sacramento Historical Society membership, and a raffle ticket for the opportunity to win a 15-inch-tall Didion maquette – a small model of Reinertson's Didion statue.

The standard package includes entry into the Golden 1 Center for the event and free snacks and drinks.

To purchase tickets in advance and obtain further information about this event, visit the website, www.sachistoricalsociety.org. Tickets will also be available to purchase at the Golden 1 Center on the day of the event.

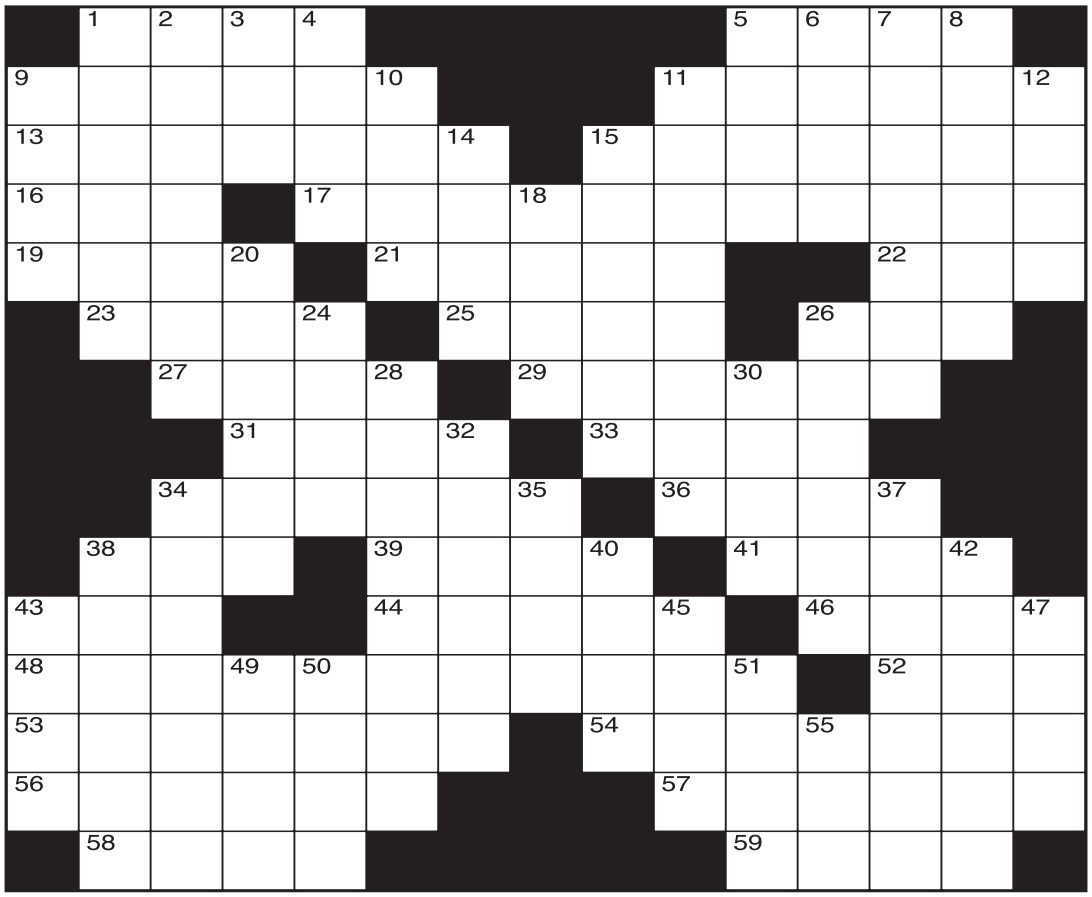


Pictured is the head of the Joan Didion ceramic sculpture created by Lisa Reinertson.



Sculptor Lisa Reinertson's Joan Didion sculpture will be installed in the Sacramento Room of the historic, city library building at the southwest corner of 9th and I streets.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. A way to communicate
5. Historic city
9. Not the same
11. Hitting a horse to clear a jump
13. One hurt the Titanic
15. Fine dense cloth
16. Architectural structure
17. Where Serena works
19. Stringed instrument
21. Estimate
22. Where sailors work
23. Popular Terry Pratchett novel
25. Popular slow cooked dish
26. Twisted Sister's Snider
27. "Office Space" actor Stephen
29. Put the ball in the net
31. Ancient Greek city in Thrace
33. High school math subject
34. Looked into
36. Rhode Island rebellion
38. A pea is one type
39. You can put it on something
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Beheaded
52. A place to stay
53. Inanely foolish
54. Most unnatural
56. "Dennis" is one
57. Soothes
58. Exam
59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN

1. Triangular bone in lower back
2. Building toy
3. Pointed end of a pen
4. Insect repellent
5. College army
6. Highly spiced stew
7. Exploited
8. Main course
9. A bottle that contains a drug
10. The most worthless part
11. Everyone needs one nowadays
12. Japanese wooden shoe
14. Antelopes
15. A way to cut
18. Brooklyn hoopsters
20. Gradually receded
24. Ripped open
26. College grads get one
28. Amino acid
30. Unruly gathering
32. Legislative body
34. Resembling pigs
35. Russian assembly
37. Take over for
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
45. Witnesses
47. Some build hills
49. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
50. Ancient people of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unwell

Crocker Holiday Artisan Market coming to Scottish Rite Center Nov. 25-27

The Crocker Art Museum will partner with the Creative Arts League of Sacramento to present the 15th annual Crocker Holiday Artisan Market from Nov. 25-27.

This event will be held at the Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H St. in Sacramento.

Fine and functional work will include glass, textiles, wood, ceramics, paper, photography, painting, sculpture, textiles, jewelry and chocolates. There will be plenty of free parking.

Other attractions will include opportunities to meet the artists, a Victorian Santa, live music, and face painting and artistic balloons for kids.

For more information, visit the website, www.CrockerHolidayArtisanMarket.com.

Pickering:

Continued from page 2

who have entered the gates of Cal Expo during his service as its CEO, Pickering believes he was a natural fit for his role the past 10 years as a board member of Visit Sacramento, which promotes tourism in this capital city.

Also fitting, he noted, is his service on the board of the Sacramento Sports Commission.

"Cal Expo is (home to) the oldest professional sport in Sacramento, which is horse racing, and perhaps the newest professional sport with the Sac Republic being here," he said. "Then we're home to the Sacramento Mile international motorcycle race each year."

He added that Cal Expo includes the only harness racing track west of the Mississippi.

Recalling the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pickering noted that Cal Expo was the site for vaccinating and testing millions of Californians.

After two years of cancellations due to the pandemic, the California State Fair, under Pickering's leadership, made its successful return last July.

Although Pickering is retiring from the state, he told this paper that he is not fully retiring, noting that he has accepted the role of president of the California-based nonprofit organization, Lead Like Jesus.

"I've been helping them out on their board of trustees for a number of years, so I was quite honored when they asked me to take over as president of the organization," he said.

Pickering mentioned that with his presidency role with Lead Like Jesus, he will be moving with his wife, Dawn, to Southern California.

"Our house has sold; it closed escrow last night, (Oct. 3)," he said. "We're moving, relocating to Southern California. We have children and grandchildren, and my wife has sisters and nieces and nephews and brother-in-laws and her mom (down there). So, we will be relocating where we have lots of family."

Adding timeliness to Pickering's upcoming move to Southern California is his sons' progression in the fair industry.

"My sons, in 2021, during COVID(-19's height), they started their own fair business as a private, for-profit company, called Pickering Events LLC," he said. "Over the last year, they went through a competitive process and they won the bid to manage the Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio year-round."

As he moves on to his newest position, Pickering plans to continue his service-oriented approach.

"All of (his work experience) ties in with serving in the community," he said. "Bloom where you're planted."



Cal Expo CEO Rick Pickering is shown during a California State Fair award presentation in 2019.

Writers guild to present holiday seminar

The Elk Grove Writers Guild will present a holiday seminar in Elk Grove on Nov. 5.

Featuring three published authors, this event will be held at the city of Elk Grove's District56 center, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Ste. 140, from noon to 4:45 p.m.

Among the participating authors will be Elaine Faber, whose published works include nine mystery novels, an anthology of cat stories, and multiple short stories in 22 independent anthologies.

She will speak on the "Do's and Don'ts of Writing."

Gini Grossenbacher, a novelist, poet, certified editor, educator and publisher, will speak on "Descriptive, Dynamic Settings."

Judith Starkston, who has degrees in classics from the University of California, Santa Cruz and Cornell University, has written about fantasy and magic in the Bronze Age world.

She will speak on "Writing Better Dialogue."

Those who are interested in attending this seminar can register at www.egweg.org/holiday.

For additional information, write to egwg2020@egweg.org.

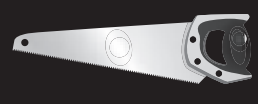
Puzzle Solutions

	S	E	N	D					R	O	M	E	
V	A	R	I	E	D				P	O	L	I	N	G
I	C	E	B	E	R	G		B	A	T	I	S	T	E
A	R	C		T	E	N	N	I	S	C	O	U	R	T
L	U	T	E		G	U	E	S	S			S	E	A
	M	O	R	T		S	T	E	W		D	E	E	
		R	O	O	T		S	C	O	R	E	D		
			D	R	Y	S		T	R	I	G			
		P	E	E	R	E	D		D	O	R	R		
	P	O	D		O	N	U	S		T	E	E	S	
E	R	R			S	A	M	A	S		E	L	E	A
D	E	C	A	P	I	T	A	T	E	D		I	N	N
A	S	I	N	I	N	E		E	E	R	I	E	S	T
M	E	N	A	C	E				S	A	L	V	E	S
	T	E	S	T					B	L	E	D		

YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



Call a sales representative today for great advertising rates: 916.429.9901



ADDITION SPECIALIST

LYTLE CONSTRUCTION INC.
Remodeling and Design
LIC# 480492

Award-Winning Design/Build Firm
Serving Sacramento for more than 25 years

- Additions
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Custom Cabinetry

FREE Consultation
916-422-6639

Certified Kitchen & Bath Remodeler

www.lytleconstruction.com

CLEANING

Prime Quality Maintenance

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

Free Estimates
Licensed & Insured

CSL# 996271

Call or Text Jesse: 916 417-4231



ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

CAPITOL ELECTRIC
Reasonable Residential & Commercial Work since 1960
Repairs, Trouble Shooting
Custom Lighting/FREE Est.
Excellent ref from Angie's List
(916) 451-2300
Cell: 213-3740
Neil McIntire — C.S.L.# 394307

HANDYMAN

Fall Yard Clean-up Specials!

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

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

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



SPECIALS FOR SENIORS/*SERVING THE AREA FOR OVER 20 YRS*

HANDYMAN

FREEDOM HANDYMAN SERVICE
I specialize in all areas of home improvement !
Quality work the first time, guaranteed!
Co2 & Smoke Alarms - Light Bulb Replacement - Door Bells
Grab Bar Instalations - Security Doors - Sprinkler Repair & New Valves
Carpentry Electrical - Plumbing - Sheetrock - Ceiling Fan Installation
Fix leaks of all types
Accepts All Major Credit Cards "Senior Discount"
NO JOB TOO SMALL! **Call Eric (916) 470-3488**

PAINTING

COOK PAINTING
Full Service Company - Start to Finish



CSL#432951

- Custom Painting
- Super clean, neat & fast
- Interior/Exterior
- Cabinets

Specializing in custom trim & moulding!
Color Consultants
FREE ESTIMATES

As seen on yelp

(916) 591-5056



PAINTING

GARY'S PAINTING

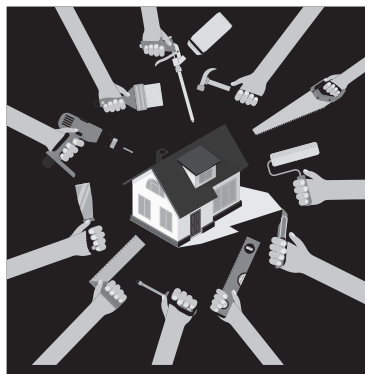
- Warranty
- Senior & VET Discounts
- Professional & Reliable
- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Using only Kelly-Moore Paint!

FREE Estimates!

McClatchy '67

CSL #734323

(916) 725-8781



YOUR SERVICES ARE NEEDED!

4 papers, 1 low price!

(916) 429-9901
and reserve your space in this section, today!



Advertise
your company ONLINE, today!
Call 916-429-9901 for more information.





YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE

Call a sales representative today for great advertising rates: 916.429.9901

PEST SERVICES



Creature Catchers Wildlife Management

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

Humane and non-toxic solutions for both animals & man

Live Trapping • Humane Removal • Dead Animal Location/Removal
Exclusion Work • Repair
Bats • Snakes • Rats/Mice • Squirrels • Raccoon • Skunk • Opossum • Birds

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

California State Trapping License #7781 - Insured by Markel

PEST/TERMITE SERVICES

DEFENDER TERMITE & PEST MANAGEMENT
WINNING THE WAR ON PESTS!®

Protect Your Investment

Initial Start-Up ~~$159~~

NOW ONLY *$49

We Defend Against: Ants, Spiders, Earwigs, Wasps, Rats/Mice, Cockroaches and More!

(916) 389-BUGS (2847) • www.defenderpest.com

PLUMBING

ROONEY'S PLUMBING

FULL SERVICE PLUMBING

456-7777

rooneysplumbing.com

License #683668

Do you have an interesting story to tell? Unusual hobby, collection or job? Do you have fun or unusual photos you would like to share with the readers? Do you know someone who deserves recognition for volunteering/ service? We want to hear from you.
VCNEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

TILE WORK

BAXTER TILE

EXPERT INSTALLATION REMODELING & REPAIR

Ceramic • Marble • Granite • Floors • Counters • Walls

42 Years Experience • FREE Estimates

916-213-4669

License #668100

TILE WORK

NIETO'S TILE & LANDSCAPING
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Frank Nieto
(916) 480-9512

Sprinkler Systems (Install & Repair)
Fencing • Plumbing
Electrical • Painting
Concrete • Tile Installation
Granite Fabrication
Laminate/Wood Floors

NietosTile@sbcglobal.net **www.nietostile.com** Lic. #917883

Advertise

your company ONLINE, today!

Call 916-429-9901 for more information.



CLASSIFIED ADS

BOOKKEEPING

#1 CONCIERGE BOOKKEEPER
38 years exp. in industries like Auto, Mechanics, Restaurants, Caterers, Massage, Doctors, Chiropractors, Non-Profits, Retail, Marshal Arts, Barber, Construction, Wholesale, Investment Clubs, Corp, Partnerships, Small Business. We are experts in General Ledger, Payroll, Profit & Loss & Quarterlies. Call for your concierge appt. Same low 1990 rates. Ask for Irene Senst a.k.a. "Mama Bear" (916) 640-3820.
www.taxirene.info • taxireneinfo@gmail.com

BUSINESS SERVICES

#1 CONCIERGE BUSINESS SERVICES
Put our 38 years in Concierge Business Support Service to work for your business. We provide support in: Licensing, Business & Corp Start-ups or Closures, Basic web design, Set-up social media. Business Concierge Shopping, Marketing and much more. Please contact Irene Senst a.k.a. "Mama Bear" (916) 640-3820.
www.taxirene.info
taxireneinfo@gmail.com

HANDYMAN

CLEAN-UP SPECIALS!
FALL Yard Clean-Up Special– Yard clean-up. Rain gutter cleaning, pressure washing/power spray, hauling, yard work, painting, tree & shrub removal, clean-up, fence repairs, light tree trimming, & more. Ref avail. Call Les at 838-1247.
22 yrs. exp. Specials for seniors. Licensed



Sell your car in the classifieds!

SPECIAL ALZHEIMER'S LIVING

REVERE COURT
MEMORY CARE Lic. #347001338/342

Do you enjoy making people smile?

Do you want to work with people who care? Are you ready to join a team that makes a difference every day? If so, you may be interested in becoming a caregiver!

Stop by Today!

www.reverecourt.com

(916) 392-3510

7707 Rush River Dr. Sacto, CA 95831

TAX PREPARER

#1 CONCIERGE TAX PREPARER

38 yrs. exp. We specialize in Business Tax returns including Corp & Partnerships. FREE Pick-up & Delivery to those who qualify. We prepare expertly **all past tax returns** including all State returns. Get the most deductions allowed to you by law. CTEC + IRS Registered & Bonded. Please call for your appt. today. Irene Senst a.k.a. "Mama Bear" (916) 640-3820 CA. Same low 1990 rates.
www.taxirene.info
taxireneinfo@gmail.com

Call a sales representative today for great advertising rates: 916.429.9901

74th ANNIVERSARY SALE

EVERYTHING IS ON SALE!*

Come Join our Celebration with Huge Savings in Every Department!



made in usa marshfield furniture

MARSHFIELD

REPRESENTATIVE, **ALLAN ANDREIS**
WILL BE IN OUR STORE ON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND!

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
ON ALL PURCHASES FROM THIS VENDOR OVER $1500**

In 1948 the Keyes family opened Naturwood with a vision to provide quality home furnishings with the best value, selection, and service. 74 years later, the family vision continues!



Naturwood® HOME FURNISHINGS

Mon 10am – 8pm • Tue – Thu 10am – 6pm • Fri 10am – 8pm
Sat 10am – 6pm • Sun 11am – 6pm
Halloween Hours • 10am – 6pm

12125 Folsom Blvd.
Rancho Cordova
916-351-0227
www.naturwood.com

"Tell 'em Brooklynn sent you!"



Largest Selection of

PROUDLY MADE IN THE USA with U.S. & imported Materials

Products

*Sale applies to all indicated items except all "Clearance", "Special Buys", Serta Arctic and iComfort mattresses. Sale price not available in conjunction with any other offer or discount.
**Free Local Delivery ($129 value) requires a $1500 minimum purchase on that day. For delivery outside of local area $129 will be deducted from that area's delivery charge. Allow time for delivery on some items. Sale Ends 10/31/22.