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FOOD & DRINK

Sac's Tasty Hot Dogs leads the way

When locals think of the best food and drink spot — they think about Sac's Tasty Hot Dogs as the hot dog house retained its dominance as the best place to get a hot dog, according to readers of the Times-Herald's 2018 reader's poll.

For the second year in a row, Sac's Tasty Hot Dogs also received the most votes in the Food & Drink category in the Best of Solano for 2019.

"At the end of the day, it's about people and the community, not the money in the cash register" said George Maichel.

George and Karolyn Maichel have owned the business for over 20 years after George's uncle, who began the shop in 1976, retired.

"We use the best ingredients we can buy," George Maichel explained. "I think people like that - we've kept the recipe pretty simple."

Everyday a long line usually snakes its way outside the modest business, which has become a staple in the Vallejo community. Nearly three years ago, a sign in the restaurant's window explaining that the hot dog house would be closed for New Year's caused fear to ripple throughout the community that the business was closing.

At the time, George Maichel said he fielded at least 100 calls asking if the business was closing. That's how much the business is an institution in the city of Vallejo.

"They are the best dogs I've ever eaten and I've had them all over the world. The flavor burst when your teeth snap through the skin of the dog is fantastic," wrote Payton Johnson in a Facebook review. "The buns are the best proportion to the size of the dog. The size and flavor of the tomato, onion, relish, and cheese is perfect. Not too big and not too small. And the chilli dogs? Forget about it. They're heavenly but messy as hell. They put me in the state of grace with a smile on my face. Sac's dogs are the best."

Denny Fisher-Sullivan shared his experiences of visiting Sac's Tasty Hot Dogs for the first time.

"I had the regular hot dog and a bowl of chili. The hot dog was really old fashioned...the kind of hot dog that snaps when you bite into it and it was delicious," he wrote. "The chili was great as well. The ladies working there were the best (and) they couldn't have been any nicer. I definitely will go back!!!!"




George Maichel said the most popular item on the menu has to be the cheese dog, which is simply the tasty dog with cheddar cheese. The made-to-order menu includes the Original Tasty Dog (mustard, onions, relish and tomatoes), the Chili Dog (Sac's chili and onions), and the Cajun Dog.

Sac's Tasty Hot Dog is located at 2445 Springs Road in Vallejo. The business is open from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the weekends. The hours of operation are extended to 6 p.m. with Daylight Saving Time.



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BARTENDER (INCL. LOCATION)

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Bottom of the 5th
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FOOD & DRINK



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FOOD & DRINK



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FOOD & DRINK



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THAI RESTAURANT

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RUNNERS-UP
Mai Thai
Maya Thai House

**Congratulations to
all those who were
voted THE BEST
and thank you to
all who voted!**

1st *Solano County's*
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of 2019
Times-Herald

MEDICAL SERVICES

Kaiser leads the way in Medical Services Category



Kaiser Permanente's Vallejo Medical Center just keeps getting better as the long-time hospital was named the first place winner in five categories in the Times-Herald's "Best Of" reader's poll. Kaiser took home Best Hospital while also receiving the most votes among all the participants in the Medical Services category for the Best of Solano for 2019.

If that wasn't special enough, Kaiser Permanente's Vallejo Medical Center won First Place in the Home Health Care category for their My Care My Home program; First Place in the Acupuncture category; First Place in the Medical Office and Clinic category; and First Place in the Best Optometrist category.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our patients and members. This recognition is extremely meaningful because it's from the people who trust us with their healthcare which is something so deeply personal and crucial to their lives and to the lives of their loved ones," said Norair Jemjemian, senior vice president and area manager for Napa Solano Service Area. "This is a tribute to the care, expertise and

dedication of our team - the physicians, nurses, front line staff, therapists, managers. We could not serve our patients without them and I appreciate the work they do every day."

Jemjemian explained that Kaiser Permanente has sought to make positive impacts in the local community. This includes making grants of nearly \$1 million to more than 40 nonprofit organizations in Solano and Napa counties through its annual community benefit program.

"Organizations serving Vallejo including Fighting Back Partnership and The Robby Poblete Foundation will use the grants to fund projects that will improve the health and well-being of underserved communities in our area," Jemjemian added. "Our physicians and staff have also volunteered their time throughout the year, aiming to impact the lives of young people in Vallejo in profound and lasting ways.

"In one instance, they painted and beautified Vallejo schools," Jemjemian said. "On another day, our physicians and employees spent the day with local teenagers, who will be the future leaders in our community, and they

talked about critically important topics like how to deal with bullying and how to navigate difficult interpersonal relationships. I'm proud of the multifaceted and varied support we've provided the Vallejo community throughout the year."

The Vallejo Medical Center provides comprehensive health care services, including cancer care, interventional cardiology, and the acute rehabilitation center, where patients recover from stroke, brain or spinal cord injuries, or other conditions that affect the ability to move, think, or speak. The center received the 2019 Get with The Guidelines Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award, said Jemjemian.

"Kaiser Permanente is a unique system. Our integrated structure allows the health plan, the hospital and the physicians to work together in a way that ultimately benefits the patient and helps provide the best outcomes. We drive innovation, we champion prevention, we work to eliminate health disparities, and we celebrate wellness," Jemjemian said.



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Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center is proud to be recognized as the **Best of Solano** by the readers of The Vallejo Times Herald. Our entire team of dedicated doctors, nurses, and caregivers are all committed to your health. With a great team like this, it's no wonder our members thrive.

To learn more, visit kp.org/napasolano.

MEDICAL SERVICES



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RUNNERS-UP
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RUNNERS-UP
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Alma Bella Manor



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www.thrive.kaiserpermanente.org/care-near-you/northern-california/napasolano/departments/mycaremyhome-program/

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Amso Healthy Chiropractic



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RUNNERS-UP
Sutter Solano Medical Center
North Bay Medical Center



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American Canyon 94503
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www.americancanyonkidsdentist.com

RUNNERS-UP
Artmond G. Louie, DDS Inc.
Buchanan Chun Orthodontics



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Tune Up Massage Works



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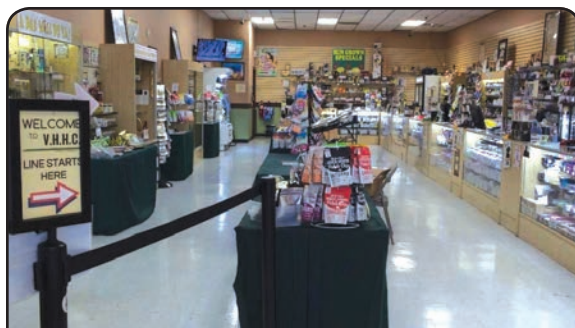
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 Dr. Gregory Coe
 Dr. Walter Zaks



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 707-644-7401
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RUNNERS-UP
 Heartwood
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 707-652-5018
www.vhcc420.org/

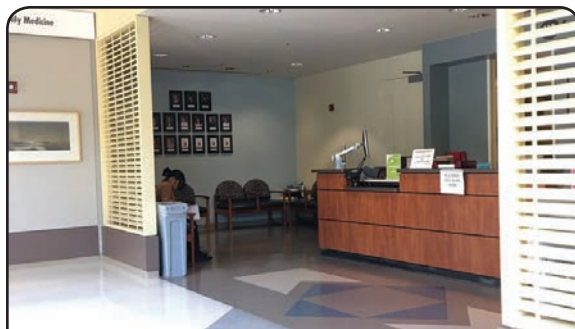
RUNNERS-UP
 HTP Group
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FIRST
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RUNNERS-UP
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 Ebright and Liberman Optometry



MEDICAL OFFICE/ CLINIC

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www.healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/northern-california/facilities/Kaiser-Permanente-Vallejo-Medical-Center-100316

RUNNERS-UP
 La Clinica Vallejo
 North Bay Pediatrics



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 Buchanan Chun
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 Orthodontics



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RUNNERS-UP
 Kaiser
 CVS



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VALLEJO HOLISTIC



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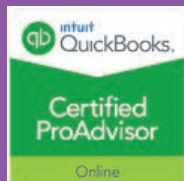


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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Hot Ink Tattoo makes their mark in Professional Services

Hot Ink Tattoo knows how to leave a mark as the longtime tattoo shop was once again voted best Tattoo Parlor in the Times-Herald's annual "Best Of" reader's poll. The parlor also received the most votes among all the participants in the Professional Services category of the Best of Solano County for 2019.

Current owner Mario Cruz said it's "always an honor" when the community supports the business, which has won the best Tattoo Parlor eight times.

"That's pretty awesome, too," Cruz added when asked for his reaction regarding receiving the most winning votes in the Professional Services category.

Established in 1999, Cruz bought the business from the original owner in 2007. The shop has six artists: Brandon Ingle, Greg Santos, Austin Green, Mishayla Ingle, Alex Iaccarino, and Cruz.

"We really are a family and I think that sets us apart," Cruz explained.

Google reviewer Zachary Davis said he wanted to get his first tattoo to honor his mother but had "chickened out" in going to a shop until he did his research on Hot Ink Tattoo.

"This shop was clean and welcoming. I didn't feel nervous about going in at all. All the staff was professional and courteous. I was very excited they were able to see me without an appointment," he wrote. "I am absolutely thrilled with this shop and with Brandon. He made me feel at ease and took the time to explain the process and let me be a perfectionist on sizing and placement because he understood that this was a permanent thing and wanted me to be happy."

Janet Kersten left a review on Facebook, praising Alex Iaccarino.

"When I wavered, he gave recommendations, while making sure I knew the ultimate decision was up to me and he would do whatever I wanted," she wrote. "When I wasn't quite sure, he printed out 5 different options, I picked the first one, which was also his favorite, and



me and my family absolutely love it! He seriously is the best!"

Cruz said the atmosphere in the shop is a big reason why the business continues to receive recognition. There isn't any competition, only a friendly and supportive team. Cruz said about 80 percent of his business comes from repeat customers.

"We really are a family and I think that sets us apart," he said. "There is a family vibe, open air theme here, where customers can talk

to each other. There's a sense of togetherness and that get outs and people want to experience that."

Hot Ink Tattoos is located at 818 Marin St. in downtown Vallejo. It's hours are noon to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and closed on Sunday. For more information, visit www.hotinktattoos.com/, or call (707) 648-2070. Examples of work can be found on Hot Ink Tattoos' Facebook and Instagram pages by search for: HOTINKTATTOOS

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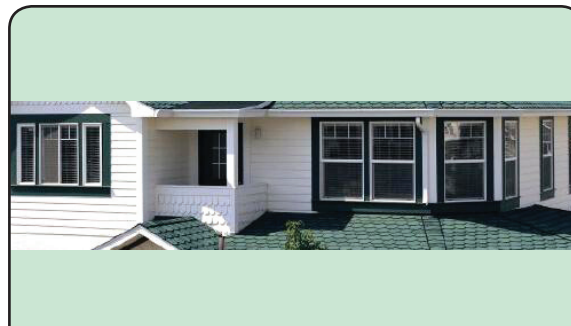


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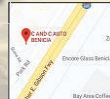
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RETAIL AND SHOPPING

Who says bookstores are dead?



Vallejo's only general bookstore was voted the No. 1 Book Shop in Solano County for 2019 by readers of the Vallejo Times-Herald. The locally owned shop also received the most votes in the Retail and Shopping category.

Not bad for a store which opened in June of this year.

"We're happy but are pleasantly surprised about it," said Jon Burchard about the honor.

Burchard and his wife Karen Finlay opened the book shop on June 1 and named it in recognition of the Alibi Clock, which is located on Georgia Street. The timepiece exonerated a person of accused of setting off a bomb that killed 10 people during San Francisco Preparedness Day Parade in 1916.

"People have been so supportive of us, people are realizing that to keep us downtown they need to shop here and not online," Finlay said. "They are finding community here."

The couple said the store sells a lot of mystery, and science fiction books, but it's also becoming the spot to get the latest books.

"There has been so much demand for new books," Finlay said. "People are requesting special orders through us and not Amazon. They are understanding that buying here puts money back into the community - something you can't do online."

Facebook reviewer Leslie Janik said that nothing compares to having a local bookshop "owned by book lovers who love their city and their patrons."

"Alibi Bookshop shines with good lighting, broad smiles, and beautifully organized sections," she wrote. "They respond to specific requests and dropped hints in conversation. Book club, local author features, author events, reader highlights and more. Go, seriously, just go; and buy too, please. I selfishly want them around for as long as I am!"

Local downtown business owner Nicole Hodge also left a Facebook review stating that "having a bookshop downtown is a game changer."

"I've walked over almost everyday to pick up a little gift for someone," she wrote. "This store is perfect. So glad they are here and I urge everyone to come support them, order your books with them not amazon!!!! Win for this great little town."

Finlay said the shop receives a mixture of regular customers and people who walk in and say "we didn't know you were here."

"We want to keep building our customer base," she added. "While also supporting the downtown and the city."

Located at 624 Marin St. in downtown Vallejo, the bookshop is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 on Saturdays, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays. Call (707) 563-5179 for more information.

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for voting us
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Alibi Bookshop

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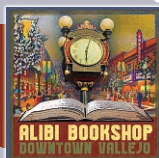
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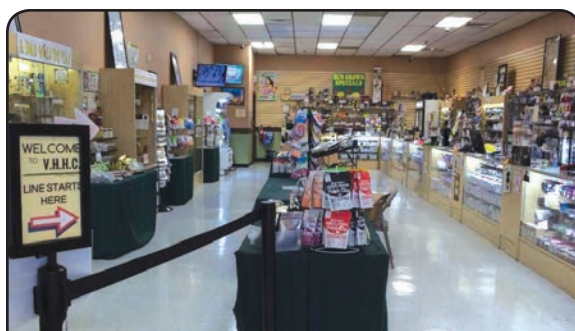


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RETAIL AND SHOPPING



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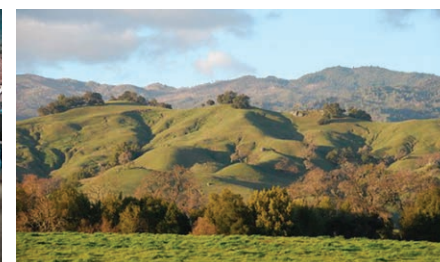
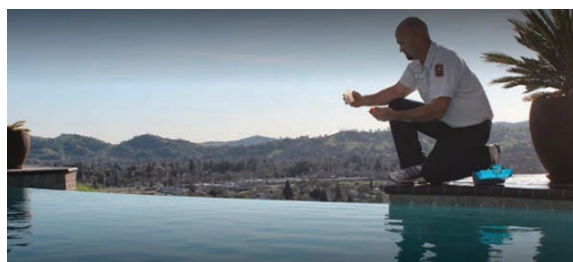
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Margaret A.

THINGS TO DO

Fun things to do at Vallejos Tae Kwon Do Academy

For the 10th year in a row Vallejos Tae Kwon Do Academy in Benicia has been voted the best Martial Arts School in Solano County by the readers of the Vallejo Times-Herald. They also received the most votes among all the participants in the Things to Do category of the Best of Solano for 2019.

"Our goal is simple and never changes: to give you the best martial arts in Benicia! We will instill the core values and life skills such as respect, discipline, self-esteem, self-control, mental focus, agility and fitness into all of our students," said Debbie Vallejos, who opened the school with her husband Ruben Vallejos in 1982.

From taekwondo to karate to jiu jitsu, the school caters to both children and adults, Vallejos said.

"Our school is dedicated to building a strong community one student at a time," Debbie Vallejos added. "We do this by developing students with strong, healthy bodies, the ability to defend themselves and loved ones not only physically, but more important mentally. While instilling a core value structure that will enable a student to succeed in anything they set out to do in life through the Martial Arts."

Praising the school, Jelayn and Len Sansone provided a review thanking the staff for providing the couple's two children with self-defense.

"Both our children have been a part of this institution since our son was 7 and our daughter started at age 8. He attained his Black Belt several years ago when he was 12. Our daughter is on her way to achieving her Black Belt this year," they wrote. "We can't express how proud we are of our children for their accomplishments, hard work, commitment and dedication."

Another review left by Yer B. offered similar sentiments.

"This is a wonderful family oriented organization with a great history in Benicia. My boys have attended this school for a year and a half and have grown exponentially both physically and mentally since they first began," the person wrote. "Master Vallejos and his team of black belt instructors are excellent with students of any age. I cannot express how grateful I am to have Master Vallejos and



Mrs. Vallejos in my boys lives. This is a serious school that will teach you lessons for a lifetime."

Debbie Vallejos saved her special thanks for the readers and community supporting the school for all these years.

"We are always dedicated to building a strong community one student at a time," Debbie Vallejos said. "We will do this by developing students with strong, healthy bodies, the ability to defend themselves and loved ones not only physically, but more important mentally. While instilling a core value structure that will enable a student to succeed

in anything they set out to do in life through the Martial Arts."

The school is located at 425 Military E. in Benicia. Hours of operation are 3 to 9 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, and 4 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays. The school is closed Friday through Sunday.

For more information, visit vallejostaekwondo.com/ or view the school's fan page of Facebook: [vallejostkdxfanpage](https://www.facebook.com/vallejostkdxfanpage). Contact the school via email at vallejostaekwondo@pacbell.net or by calling (707) 746-1795.

THINGS TO DO



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RUNNERS-UP
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www.theinnatbeniciabay.com

RUNNERS-UP
Jefferson Street
Mansion Bed & Breakfast
Shorelight Inn



MARTIAL ARTS

FIRST **Vallejos TaeKwonDo Academy**

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707-746-1795
www.vallejostaekwondo.com

RUNNERS-UP
William Kim's
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Combat Fitness-
Rapacon's Martial Arts



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RUNNERS-UP
Hiddenbrooke Golf Club
Eagle Vines Golf Club

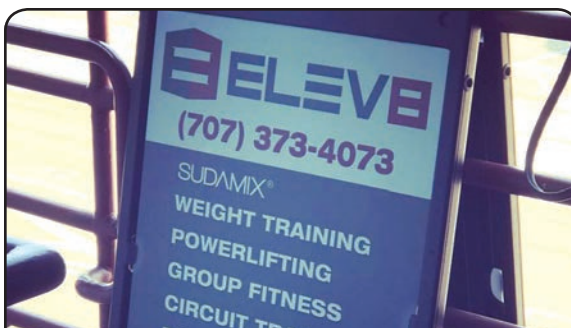


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FIRST **Children's Wonderland Park**

360 Glenn St., Vallejo 94590
707-980-8004
www.gvrd.org/classes/childrens-wonderland/

RUNNERS-UP
BrickSpace
Pizza Pirate

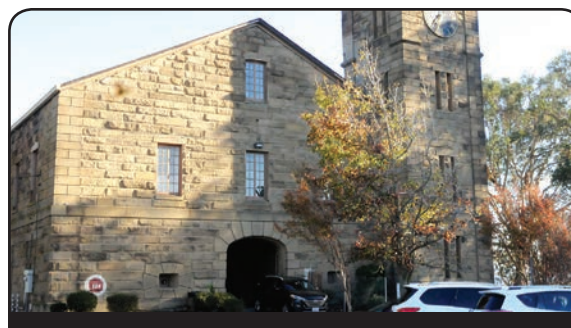


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RUNNERS-UP
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at Mare Island

THINGS TO DO



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RUNNERS-UP
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at Mare Island
Benicia Clock Tower



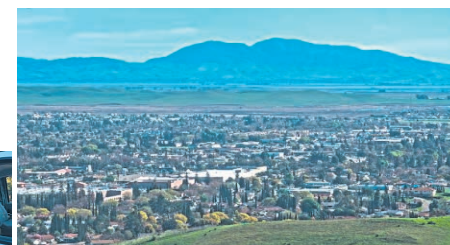
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