



River City Concert Band Presents "Space Journey"

PAGE 2

Lancers Cruising Toward Fifth Straight Championship

PAGE 11



Grapevine Independent

VOLUME 58 • ISSUE 16 PROUDLY SERVING RANCHO CORDOVA & SACRAMENTO COUNTY SINCE 1968 APRIL 19, 2024

SEE INSIDE

NEW HOME SALES REMAINED STRONG



PAGE 12

COUNTY'S INSPECTOR GENERAL SELECTED



PAGE 4

SacRT ORDERS ADDITIONAL LOW-FLOOR LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES



PAGE 12

Student Art Show Bigger than Ever!



Everyone enjoyed looking at the beautiful art.

Story and photos by Rick Sloan

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

- The 5th Annual Rancho Cordova Student Art Show officially opened with a very well-attended reception on Friday, April 12th. This year's show features 551 pieces of artwork by Rancho Cordova kindergarten through high school students and will run until April 27. The artwork is showcased at the Mills Station Art & Culture Center, better known as



A little girl looks at a piece of art she really likes.

The MACC. The MACC is located at 10191 Mills Station Road and shares a parking lot with the Mather

Field/Mills Light Rail Station.

The Student Art Show is the brainchild of Rancho Cordova Arts (RC Arts), a non-profit organization with the main purpose of making Rancho Cordova a more vibrant, artful place to live, work, play and grow. Every year, RC Arts holds an on-line 6" by 6" Micro-Masterpieces Fundraiser auction. Starting bids are only \$20. All the money raised by the auction is used to

Continued on page 3

SETA Director Appointed



Anita Maldonado. Photo Courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors at its April 9 meeting authorized the County Executive's appointment of Anita Maldonado as the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA) executive director. The Sacramento City Council, at its April 9 meeting, also confirmed Maldonado's appointment.

Maldonado's appointment is effective, as of April 10.

"Ms. Maldonado's extensive experience in nonprofit administration, combined with her commitment to understanding community needs and delivering impactful programming, makes her the ideal choice for executive director of the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency," said Sacramento County Executive David Villanueva.

Maldonado has more than 25 years of executive level and administrative management experience. Her experience includes leading nonprofit and public social services agencies that champion policies, programs and efforts to heighten awareness regarding issues that impact youth and underserved communities.

Maldonado also has nearly eight years of teaching experience as an adjunct faculty member of the Franklin University Public Administration Department, where she has taught multiple online courses that cover public and nonprofit governance and leadership.

Since 2020, Maldonado served as the Chief Executive Officer of Social Advocates for Youth, where she was responsible for the oversight of Youth Crisis, Career and Educational, Counseling, and Housing service programs. Prior to her current role, Maldonado served as the Chief Executive Officer of California Human Development. Maldonado also worked for IMPACT Community Action as the Chief Operating Officer.

Maldonado also possesses a Ph.D. in higher education from Kent State University and a master's

Continued on page 12

Pinwheels Planted for Child Abuse Prevention Month



Dozens of Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services staff planted pinwheels outside the department's buildings April 9 to create awareness about child abuse prevention. Photo courtesy Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Sacramento County recognizes April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year, the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS) spread awareness about child abuse prevention by planting pinwheels outside of all the county Department of Child, Family and Adult Services buildings. The pinwheel symbolizes childhood innocence and joy.

The pinwheels will remain planted throughout April as part of an effort to continue to raise awareness about preventing child abuse and neglect. The pinwheel plantings took place on April 9, with dozens of workers participating at each building.

"Together, we can all raise awareness for child abuse prevention," said Child Protective Services Deputy Director Melissa Lloyd.

The recognition month also serves as a reminder that everyone can work together to keep children in the community safe.

The Department of Child, Family and Adult Services offers five tips that residents can do to help prevent child abuse and neglect.

The first two tips are to be a friend to a parent you know and offer support when needed, and to be a friend to a child you know and show you care about their interests and well-being.

The third tip is to talk to neighbors about looking out for one another and the children where you live.

The fourth and fifth tips are to donate items to

families in need to alleviate financial stress, and to volunteer your time and resources for programs supporting children and families in your community.

To learn more about Sacramento County's dedication to preventing child abuse, visit the Child Protective Services webpage at defas.saccounty.net. Call the 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline at 916-875-5437 to report child abuse in Sacramento County and call 9-1-1 in case of an emergency. ★



Scan our QR Code for a direct link to our online edition!



PRSRD STD. U.S. POSTAGE PAID CARMICHAEL, CA PERMIT NO. 350 OR CURRENT POSTAL CUSTOMER

River City Concert Band Presents "Space Journey"



The River City Concert Band performs at a past show. Photo courtesy of the River City Concert Band

Rancho Cordova River City Concert Band News Release

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Cordova River City Concert Band presents "Space Journey" on Sunday, April 28 at the Cordova Performing Arts Center, Rancho Cordova. The concert begins at 3:00 p.m.

Under the direction of Tom Seaton, the Rancho Cordova River City Concert Band will take you on a musical journey through the cosmos with Gustav Holst's "Jupiter", music from "Apollo 13", a Symphonic Suite from "Star Trek", Julie Giroux's "Journey Through Orion", Brian Balmages' "to Dance Among

the Stars", John Williams' "Star Wars" – The Marches, and the band's own Scott Hosner's composition, "Intergalactic Space Tours". Fantastic visual effects will accompany the music.

The band is also very excited to be performing the world premiere of composer Rossano Galante's "Solar Wind", commissioned through the generosity of the Rancho Cordova community through the use of Community Enhancement Funds. Mr. Galante will be present at the concert and conduct the band on his piece. Mr. Galante has over 50 published compositions and served as orchestrator for over seventy-five studio films including,



Widely renowned composer Rossano Galante will be conducting the band on April 28. Photo courtesy of the River City Concert Band

"Rambo: Last Blood", "A Quiet Place", "A Quiet Place 2", "The Mummy", "Ben Hur", "Fantastic 4", "Avengers: Age of Ultron", "The Wolverine",

"3:10 to Yuma", "The Thing", "The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Beginning", "Live Free or Die Hard", among many others.

The band is pleased to be sponsored by the City of Rancho Cordova and is enthusiastically affiliated with the Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band Association (SVSBA) and the Association of Concert Bands (ACB).

Performing an average ten concerts a year, Rancho Cordova RCCB remains true to the American Community Band tradition - all of their concerts and performances throughout its yearlong season are free to the public. Therefore, there is no admission charge.

The Rancho Cordova River City Concert Band is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of approximately 50 volunteer musicians who donate their time and musical talents to present concerts with a broad audience appeal. The band can be followed on Facebook and their web page can also be visited at www.rconcertband.org. Videos of live and virtual performances can be viewed on the band's YouTube channel.

Come join the Rancho Cordova River City Concert Band on Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 p.m. at Cordova Performing Arts Center, 2239 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. ★



Serving more than 4,000 of our Rancho Cordova friends & neighbors every single month!

Open every Mon, Wed, & Fri: 9:30 am - 12:30pm

Visit www.ranhocordovafoodlocker.com for more information

There's Nothing Small About Giving Back



DONATE MAY 2

Protect and Heal your whole family with Affordable Chiropractic Memberships

All-inclusive monthly memberships from \$35-\$55 per visit. CALL or TEXT us today!



- Affordable memberships - plan for your health
- All inclusive - services and therapies
- Relieves pain from head/back/neck/sciatica
- Improves mobility, maintains flexibility
- Family owned and operated
- 20+ years experience serving the community

AMERICAN RIVER CHIROPRACTIC

2280 Vehicle Drive, Suite 110 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

916-776-6362

americanriverchiropractic.com

CALL or TEXT today!

Rosie's Country Kitchen

Best food in town!

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE WEEKDAYS

With an entrée at regular menu price and purchase of 2 drinks. No holidays. Dine-in only. Steak and seafood not included. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts. Expires 4/30/2024

BUY ONE GET ONE 1/2 OFF WEEKENDS

With an entrée at regular menu price. No holidays. Dine-in only. Steak and seafood not included. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts. Expires 4/30/2024

\$6.99
Ham & Eggs Special Mon-Fri All Day!

Served with 2 eggs, potatoes and toast

916-361-1647

rosiescountrykitchen.net

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 6AM-2PM
10273 Folsom Blvd, Rancho Cordova, CA



Student Art Show Bigger than Ever!

Continued from page 1
 purchase art supplies to hand over to the teachers of Rancho Cordova schools. Last year, RC Arts raised \$14,000 for much needed art supplies for all the K-12 classes that signed up with their wish list. This year's auction will be June 3 to June 8.

The opening reception featured a wonderful performance by the Cordova High School Jazz Band led by Cordova High's music director Kevin Sims. There was plenty of great art, good food, fantastic music and tons of happy kids surrounded by proud parents. Special thanks to The MACC curator Cheryl Gleason and her RC Arts volunteer members for putting together the show.

This year's show is bigger and better than ever and is certainly worth the trip to The MACC to see the artwork of Cordova's future artists. "Because Rancho Cordova Arts has given art supplies to teachers in Rancho Cordova schools, more teachers and students can and want to participate in our annual student art show," said Gleason.

The MACC will be open Thursday and Friday from 2 to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through April 27. For more information, call (916) 273-5712 or visit www.RCMACC.org. For information about RC Arts or to become a member, visit www.RanchoCordovaArts.org ★



A proud father holds up his daughter as she points to her work.



Two artists pose with their teacher in front of their work.



Three little artists stand proudly by their artwork.



A little artist points at his artwork.



KP International MARKET
 FOOD COURT NOW OPEN
 10971 Olson Drive
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
 916.853.8000
 Market: 7 Days: 8am - 9pm
 Food Court: 7 Days: 11am - 7:30pm
 Korean/Mex/West: 7:30pm last call
 Chinese/Japanese: 7:00pm last call

NOW OPEN
 ENJOY OUR FRESHLY BAKED BREAD & CAKE
 10971 OLSON DR. RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670



FRESH PRODUCE

Lemon 3 lbs \$2.99/bag	Cleaned Nopales 1 lb \$2.29/ea	Murcott Tangerine 4 lbs \$3.59/bag	Pineapple \$3.99/ea
Russet Potato 10 lbs \$2.29/bag	English Cucumber 99¢/ea	Baby Spinach 2.5 lbs \$4.99/bag	Kiwi \$1.29/lb

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

EED Absorbent Paper Towel 6 rolls \$11.99/ea	Rosita Refried Beans Traditional, Spicy Non Fat 16 oz \$1.99/ea	Bob's Red Mill Chia Seeds Organic 12 oz \$3.99/ea	Pasta Roni 6 Flavors 47-62 oz \$1.99/ea	Sunny D Tropic Original 1 gallon \$3.49/ea
----------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------

ASIAN GROCERY

Excellent Flour Stick Pancake 16 oz \$3.99/ea	Charo Chuan Quail Eggs in Brine 15 oz \$2.79/ea	Green Life Coconut Milk 13.5 L oz 99¢/ea	Three Ladies Spring Roll Sauce 30 oz \$2.99/ea	Cha Cha Jumbo Sunflower Seeds 3.45 oz \$2.49/ea
-----------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------

EUROPEAN GROCERY

Rabbit Roasted Sunflower Seeds 500 gr \$5.99/ea	Ritter Sport Marzipan 100 gr \$2.49/ea	Curtis Tea 8 Flavors 20 1/2 \$2.49/ea	Traditional Flavored Green Peas 24 oz \$2.79/ea	Royal Eggplant Spread 500 gr \$4.99/ea
-------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------

KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

Red Pepper Powder (Kimchi) 1 kg \$8.99/ea	Korean Cooking 100 g \$1.29/ea	Fire Bull Stir-Fried Ramen 10.44 oz \$3.99/ea	Food Lanchon Meat 340 g \$2.99/ea	Tamagari Drink 4 kinds 300 ml 99¢/ea	Hi Yamato Curry 3 kinds 230 g \$2.99/ea	Udon Soba Sauce 11.5 oz \$2.99/ea
-------------------------------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

HOUSEWARES

BIGEN SPEEDY HAIR COLOR (REFILL ONLY) \$5.99/ea	ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL \$39.99/ea	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (4 CUPS) \$49.99/ea	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (6 CUPS) \$54.99/ea	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (10 CUPS) \$59.99/ea
-------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Frozen Roasted Eel 7 oz REG. \$9.99/ea \$5.99/ea	Frozen Black Cod lb REG. \$6.99/lb \$4.99/lb
---------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------

WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef New York Roast - Boneless \$5.99/lb	Beef New York Steak - Boneless \$6.99/lb
Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast - Bnls \$4.99/lb	Pork St. Louis Ribs - Single Pack \$3.99/lb
Chicken Drumsticks \$1.79/lb	Pork Chops Bone-In \$2.99/lb
Pork Tenderloin \$3.99/lb	

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Breaded Fully Cooked Shrimp 10 pcs REG. \$8.99/ea \$5.99/ea

EUROPEAN DELI

Pan Roasted Turkey Breast \$11.99/lb	Green Cracked Olives \$3.99/lb
Oven Roasted Turkey Breast \$10.89/lb	Greek Black Olives \$4.99/lb

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE APRIL 17 - APRIL 23, 2024.

Sacramento County's Inspector General Selected



Kevin Gardner, Sacramento's new inspector general. Courtesy photo

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on March 26 to approve the selection of Kevin Gardner as the County's new Inspector General and authorizes the County Executive to sign a contract with Gardner for that position, effective April 2, 2024.

The nationwide search commenced with two collaborative interview panels that were convened for the Inspector General search. One panel was comprised of members appointed by the Community Review Commission, as well as representatives from both the Law Enforcement Management Association (LEMA) and the Sacramento County Deputy

Sheriff's Association (SCDSA).

The second panel included the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff, and representatives from LEMA and SCDSA.

All panel representatives expressed their support of moving forward with recommending Gardner's appointment.

Gardner has 31 years of sworn law enforcement experience, including service with the City of Vacaville and City of Sacramento police departments. During his time with the City of Sacramento, Gardner rose through the ranks, ultimately becoming an Acting Deputy Chief.

Beginning in 2017, Gardner served two years as the Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement for the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. Most recently, he served as the Interim Director for the City of Sacramento's Office of Public Safety Accountability.

Gardner has a bachelor's degree in administration of justice from Union Institute and University and a master's degree in leadership from Saint Mary's College.

The Office of the Inspector General was created to facilitate the

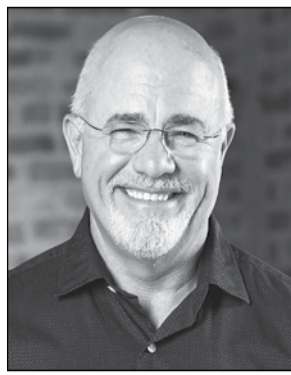
Board of Supervisors' responsibility to oversee without interfering with the Sheriff's investigation of personnel deployment functions.

The Inspector General ensures the integrity of the citizen complaint process and the thoroughness and fairness of related Sheriff's Office investigations, while fostering positive relations with the community. The Community Review Commission acts in a supporting role to the Office of Inspector General and acts as a conduit between the community and the Office of Inspector General.

Sign up to receive email or mobile text messages when new Community Review Commission meeting information is available.

The Inspector General works independently on items detailed in the scope of services. The Inspector General will present recommendations relating to these examinations to the Board of Supervisors, County Executive, and the Sheriff.

The Office of the Inspector General is a contract position. The contract, once executed, will be effective beginning April 2, 2024, through March 31, 2026, with the option to renew the contract for one additional two-year term. ★



You're a Great Big Brother

Dear Dave,

My mother died about a year and a half ago, and she left me and my younger sister \$75,000 each. My sister is 16, and she plans on enlisting in the military after high school, then using the G.I. Bill to pay for college afterward. She won't receive the inheritance money until she's 18. What advice can I give her to ensure she makes good decisions with the money?

- Davis

Dear Davis,

I'm truly sorry to hear about your mom. At the same time, I'm so proud of you for stepping up to help your little sister. You know, \$75,000 sounds like a lot of money—especially to a teenager. But that kind of cash can disappear in a heartbeat if she's not careful. And

Dave Ramsey Says

then, all she'd have left where her inheritance is concerned is a lifetime of regret.

If she'll be smart with this money, and by that, I mean investing wisely and having a little bit of fun, she could end up a rich, little old lady one day. Not only that, but she can honor the memory of your mother and change her family tree forever. Her family will think differently, and be able to live differently, all because she had the maturity to not blow the money.

You said she'll get \$75,000, right? Think about this. She could just have fun with \$15,000 or so, and invest the rest in good, growth stock mutual funds. If the stock market continues to average what it has since its start, she'll be a multi-millionaire—and then some—by retirement. Even if I'm half-wrong on the math, the advice still stands. She'd have millions waiting for her. The point is that investing a big lump sum of money, and leaving it there for her golden years, is a great idea.

Now, I'm going to give

you some homework, Davis. I want you to talk to a bunch of rich, old folks. Learn what they did to build wealth and hang onto it. Also, make sure the friends and family you both have around you are quality people—the kind who have your best interests at heart. Remember, the Bible says, "In the multitude of counsel there is safety."

Your sister is very lucky to have a big brother like you. Walk her through this advice. Be there for her. Look out for her. She needs you right now, and she'll need you in the years to come.

God bless you both!

- Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions ★

Development Process Improvements Six-Month Update

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - At the Board of Supervisors Meeting on March 26, Dave Defanti, Deputy County Executive for Community Services, along with representatives from the County Departments of Water Resources, Transportation, and Community Development, gave a report back on progress made on the County's Development Review Process (DRP) Improvement efforts over the last six months.

"I am so incredibly proud of the work County staff from all the Community Services Agency departments have put into these efforts," said Dave Defanti. "We all know that we still have work to do but our staff have made incredible strides, and Sacramento County is well on its way to becoming the best place to build in the region for all of our customers."

Goals of the DRP Improvements include addressing the housing supply and affordability crisis; investing in existing communities, particularly within aging commercial corridors and Environmental Justice communities; facilitating responsible development of new, complete communities to meet the needs of current and future generations while addressing State and local goals to address climate change; providing exceptional customer service and having processes in place that are efficient and easy to navigate while being a trusted and helpful partner to all of our customers.

Two primary themes from the report revolved around staffing and public-private partnerships.

Staffing:

The Department of Transportation (DOT) highlighted their collaboration with the

Department of Personnel Services to host a career fair in fall 2023. The career fair resulted in the hiring of four associate engineers, three assistant engineers, two interns and one bridge operator, and has become a successful model for other County departments to follow for future hiring events.

Partnerships:

DOT also featured a few recent strategies that have been employed to understand the needs of the community and help address solutions for meeting those needs. Examples included utilizing updated data over older projections, where applicable, as well as partnering to design and construct roadway infrastructure projects where delivery and timing were critical.

The Department of Water Resources highlighted recent process streamlining improvements made in collaboration with industry partners, which included updates to submittal requirements for drainage plans and drainage studies.

The Community Development team, particularly the Building Permits and Inspection division, has stepped-up efforts to work closely with the Affordable Housing development community to understand the unique circumstances surrounding the construction of Affordable Housing projects.

Our Chief Building Official shared some recent examples of specific efforts where partnership and understanding resulted in meaningful outcomes and new homes for Sacramento County residents.

In an effort to keep the Board of Supervisors and members of the public up to date on our Development Review Process efforts, these reports back to the Board of Supervisors will continue to occur on a semi-annual basis. ★

Man Arrested in Zinfandel Drive Homicide

Rancho Cordova Police Department News Release

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Just after 10:15 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, officers from the Rancho Cordova Police Department and Deputies from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office responded to a gas station parking lot on the 2800 block of Zinfandel Drive for a fight in the parking lot. Upon their arrival, Officers discovered an unresponsive adult male lying on the ground. They immediately began to administer first-aid until Fire Department personnel arrived on scene.

Simultaneously, Deputies located a suspect nearby, matching the description

given by callers. The suspect, later identified as 38-year-old Anthony Cervantes, was detained without incident.

Unfortunately, the victim was pronounced deceased a short time later at the scene. Sheriff's Homicide Detectives and Crime Scene Investigators responded to the scene, began their investigation, interviewed witnesses, and gathered evidence. Upon completion of their investigation, Detectives formally arrested Cervantes for murder. The victim's identity will be made available by the Coroner's Office.

Cervantes was transported to the Sacramento County Main Jail, where he remains ineligible for bail, as of press time. ★

LEGAL ADS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY?

We Can Do That!

MPG 916-773-1111

All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing



Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



If you knew nothing about the Sacramento Kings and went to Golden One Center for the first time Sunday, and watched the Kings dismantle the Portland Trailblazers, you would probably think this team is headed straight to the playoffs.

Well, maybe not straight to the playoffs, but a one game, win-or-go-home game against the Golden State Warriors is going to answer a lot of questions many Kings fans have had all season.

Personally, I have been a die hard, and predicted that the Kings would equal or exceed last year's win total of 48 wins. Obviously, I was wrong, as the Kings took two heart-breaking losses on the chin, leaving them two short of last year's win total.

Although I never like whining about poor officiating, what the Kings have had to endure in losses to the Celtics and Oklahoma City Thunder in the past two weeks has been reprehensible.

The NBA came out and issued apologies to the Kings organization for the blatant missed calls that in both cases cost them a critical win. This should not happen in an environment where the highest caliber of players perform, and what is needed are officials that measure up to the same standard.

But those losses are in the loss column and that is where they stay, regardless of apologies.

After a disappointing week, the Kings rose to the occasion Sunday against the Trailblazers and finished off a roller coaster season with a convincing win. It was good for the Kings, and definitely good for the fans.

Should-be all star Domantas Sabonis missed a triple-double by one assist, but still led the entire NBA with an eye popping 26. Besting Nikola Jokic by just one triple-double, Sabonis also led the entire league in rebounds, an astounding feat.

For the many Kings fans that lived through 16 years without a playoff appearance, having an opportunity to make the playoffs with just two wins in a row, must seem like the impossible dream.

A win tomorrow night against the arch-rival Golden State Warriors would give the Kings one more chance to make

the playoffs when they would meet the winner of the Pelicans/Lakers game.

So, what are the positive/negatives that we have to look back on, now that the 2024 season is in the hopper?

Number one is a highly competitive team that brings 100% effort every night, and that is something that no fan should ever take lightly.

Number two for me is a team that is growing together and loves to play together. For the first time in the past 20 years, I'm convinced the Kings are truly one player away from making a real championship run.

This coming off season will answer a lot of questions, and will tell the fans if Monte McNair's acquisition of Domantas Sabonis was an anomaly, or what we can expect from a young GM. I like what I see in this guy, but operating efficiently in the draft, and having the ability to lure an attractive free agent to Sacramento, is paramount if we are to be a true championship contender.

On the negative side, this was not a good season for coach Brown, who continued to tinker with his lineup for the entire season.

Whether Colby Jones, Chris Duarte, or Kessler Edwards, Brown could not make up his mind what he had or how to play them.

Trey Lyles was the real recipient of Brown's inability to assess his talent, and never received the quality minutes on the hardwood that he deserved. I am a firm believer that Lyles is not just a stalwart bench player, but someone who should be occupying a starting role.

Lastly, I don't believe Brown did the job of growing young players like Davion Mitchell and Keegan Murray. It's not just the time on the court, but how you grow the confidence in the young players you have, and without a doubt there was a missed opportunity here.

The Kings gave me an entertaining season, with a team spirit that only further enhances my love for this group of never-say-die players.

Like all of you I will be rooting beyond measure for a victory Tuesday night.

Go Kings, and a big thank you to all of you that have read and supported Kings Korner! ★



And Another Thing

Memorial Day Reminds Us That Freedom Isn't Free

By Bob McGarvey

I was glad that some elected officials and some of our Rancho Cordova staff members were in the article about Phase 4 of the Mather Veterans Village will take more Veterans off the streets and give them a roof over their heads. There are thousands of homeless Veterans in California, and I am very glad that the Mather Veterans Village I began in 2008, is expanding again. It will add 70 more apartments which and that means at least 70 more Veterans will be off of the streets and will live just one block from the VA Hospital at Mather.

We will be honoring our fallen Veterans next month on Memorial Day, May 27, 2024. That day reminds us that freedom isn't free. We also have a duty to support those who have become paralyzed or disabled after fighting for our nation. We are honoring them all in your prayers and in our community. Every day you truly enjoy the many blessings of freedom secured for us by the sacrifices of American's Veterans. It will only be about 5 weeks before Memorial Day, so if you can come to our ceremony in the Cordova High Performing Arts Theater, please come to thank our Veterans and their families.

Millions of Americans watched the solar eclipse outside of their homes, in their cities, and many went across the country so they could see the sun being completely blocked by the moon. We used the special sunglasses my wife

ordered so we could see the eclipse without damaging our eyes. The next total eclipse will not happen until 2044.

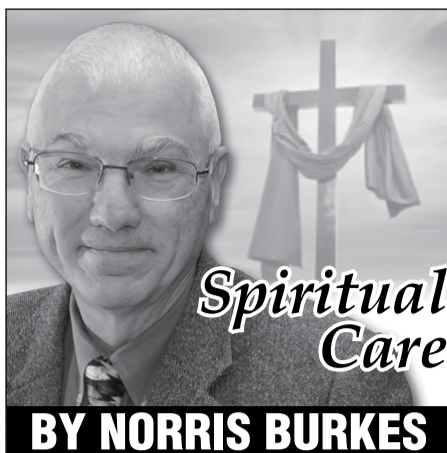
I learned how to make a pinhole projector by making a sheet of paper and make a tiny hole in the middle of it with a pin. You have to make sure that the hole is round and smooth. That pin hole paper above your shoulder allows the Sun to shine on the other paper. That is done in schools sometimes, and it allows the students to see the Sun any time. It is a quick inexpensive way to have students see the Sun's image.

When we were incorporating there were quite a few in Rancho Cordova who could see the benefits of becoming a city. The vote for city hood was 78 percent. The voters could see Rancho Cordova being a much better community when it could make it's own decisions. When we began gathering signatures so we could be on the ballot, I was asked by a reporter from one of the TV stations if we could question city hall. I told them you can question city hall, but we had to have a city hall in Rancho Cordova first, before you could ask or question city hall.

I thought then that we would be much better off as a city rather than continuing as just part of an unincorporated community of Sacramento County. I believe that everyone who lives in Rancho Cordova has been able to see how much better off we are as a city today and will be in the future.

From Bob McGarvey, God bless, and see you next time. ★

Lost in the Translation



BY NORRIS BURKES

Anytime I tell people that I'm a chaplain, I can never be sure they understand the title, much less spell it. (I'm not a Chaplin, like Charlie.)

Some people think a chaplain is just like a church pastor. Some think chaplains are exclusive to the military. Some assume chaplains are always Christians.

After I encourage them to disavow these assumptions, they still aren't sure what chaplains do.

Chaplains serve in many roles, but during the years I was fully employed as a hospital chaplain, I often told folks that I was a religious translator. When they cocked their heads for better understanding, I offered this story.

In the early 1990s, I was working at Houston Northwest Medical Center when I found the ICU nurse manager, Grace Heffron, madly flipping through a patient's chart.

Grace was five feet three inches of green-eyed Italian. She charged her work with a no-nonsense approach and didn't fancy interruptions. Nevertheless, I asked her to suggest which patients might need to see a chaplain.

Grace shot me a look over the top of her glasses. She didn't see her job as bird-dogging problem-patients for me.

"How about bed number two," she suggested. Her voice was baited with East Coast sarcasm, but I bit nevertheless.

"Why, what's going on?"
"Oh, nothing really," she said, her volume increasing. "Nothing except for a bill passing two million and their religious family is calling us 'liars.'"

"That actually makes some sense," I said. Grace slapped the chart down. None of it made sense to her.

"Give me a few minutes and I'll come back to say more."

Having her undivided but somewhat undesired attention, I retreated into the patient's room to find a 75-year-old man, suffering

from a massive stroke and nearly brain-dead. Now, sixty days after admission, he was on a ventilator and radiated a nauseous aroma from multiple bedsores.

His daughters greeted me with suspicion, but when I offered a prayer, they instantly raised their open-palmed hands and began shouting a prayer something like this:

"God, we believe you've already healed our father! These doctors are liars. Our father will walk again because Romans 3:4 says, 'Let God be true but every man a liar!'"

It's a bit disconcerting to hear people quote the Bible back to God. It's as if they found a contractual loophole that forces God to act as they say.

Nonetheless, I quickly recognized their prayers were coming from "Word of Faith" theology. So after the final amen, I excused myself to the nurses' station. Grace had obviously overheard the prayer because she was fit with her best told-you-so expression.

"I don't think they are literally calling you liars," I said.

Grace leaned forward, so I offered more.

"They come from a faith tradition better known by the less flattering terms of 'name-it-and-claim-it' or 'Prosperity Gospel.' It's a Pentecostal-like group that believes a miracle only has a chance to work when believers publicly proclaim the desired outcome to be true; despite it being obvious to all others that it isn't true.

"Just think of it as a coarse expression of Norman Vincent Peale's Positive Thinking," I said. "The word 'liar' is a faith expression."

With Grace starting to see the connection, I offered a translation. "I know it's like trying to buy a yacht by telling the salesman, 'I'm a millionaire who's waiting for my lotto check to clear the bank,' but they are sincere in their expression."

"So what do I do?" she asked. Like most supervisors, she appreciated solutions, not problems.

"If you'll listen to the daughters, and not react or take it personally, I think they'll be ready to disconnect life support in a few more days."

When Grace relayed my translation to the nursing staff, they began responding to the daughters with a new understanding. And once they realized that faith finds translation in all different kinds of words and rituals, they were able to obtain consent to remove the patient from life support.

Three days after my translation, the daughters held hands, prayed and watched their father go home to his final miracle. ★

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

CHURCH DIRECTORY

SUN RIVER CHURCH
11223 Trinity River Drive • Rancho Cordova • (916) 635-9000
9:00 am Sundays: Youth and Adult classes • 10:30 am: Worship Gathering
Nursery and Children's programs available at both 9:00 and 10:30 am

NEW LIFE CENTER A-G
2451 Zinfandel Drive • Rancho Cordova • (916) 635-8287
Lead Pastor Lance Feliciano
Sunday Service is 10:30 am • Wednesday Night Bible 6:30 pm
www.newliferc.net

SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH
RANCHO CORDOVA
Meets Sundays, 12:30 pm at New Life Center
2451 Zinfandel Drive, Rancho Cordova • (916) 710-0142
Senior Pastor Roy Leos
Sunday: 12:30 pm in person and Facebook Live
Wednesday: 7 pm via Zoom • www.rcsunrise.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
10720 Coloma Road • (916) 635-4672
Morning Worship 10:00 am Sunday – Children's Church & Nursery
Live Stream on www.fbcrancho.org
Bible Study Senior Ladies 8:45 am, Adults & Children 11:30 am
Midweek Bible Study, Prayer, & Encouragement
6:30 – 8:00 pm Wednesday with Pastor Tom Jones

Place Your Church Services Ad in the Grapevine Independent Church Directory. Call us at 916-773-1111

SEASON 28 FINALE

SACRAMENTO CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA

Donald Kendrick Artistic Director

Rodgers & Hammerstein Celebration

SATURDAY | MAY 4 | 3PM

Experience a delightful afternoon of classic songs from *Oklahoma*, *Carousel*, *The Sound of Music*, *The King and I*, *South Pacific* and more.

Broadway's Dynamic Duo

Jana McIntyre, Soprano
Krista Wigle, Mezzo
Sam Faustine, Tenor
Jerry Lee, Baritone

SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center
1301 L STREET, SACRAMENTO

Box Office | Tues – Fri 10am–4pm | 916.808.5181
or Ticketmaster.com

SACRAMENTOCHORAL.ORG

Grapevine Independent

Serving Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County Since 1968

It is the intent of the *Grapevine Independent* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

The *Grapevine Independent* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of the *Grapevine Independent* are copyrighted. Ownership of all advertising created and/or composed by the *Grapevine Independent* is with the publishing company and written permission to reproduce the same must be obtained from the publisher.

Subscriptions should be mailed to *Grapevine Independent*, 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #5, Carmichael, CA 95608. Subscription rate is \$42 per year within Rancho Cordova. \$62 within Sacramento County.

The *Grapevine Independent* is published weekly. Call 916-773-1111 for more information.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.

Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

The *Grapevine Independent* is a member of **Messenger Publishing Group**

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: Publisher@mpg8.com.

Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

Social Security Matters

Can I Claim Social Security and Still Work?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I will be turning 63 soon. Can I apply for Social Security and continue to work? Would I be limited to how many hours or how much I could make? I know my monthly SS amount would be cut by 30%, or somewhere around there, but how would working affect me? I was trying to read up on this, but the \$1 and \$2 thing confused me. I have an offer to take a work-at-home position and need to decide soon, but it is a cut in income. The cut would be okay if I could draw my Social Security too. **Signed: Wanting Work at Home**

Dear Wanting: If you claim your Social Security to start in the month you turn 63, you'll be claiming 4 years before your full retirement age (FRA) of 67, which means your monthly benefit at 63 will be about 25% less than it would be if you claimed SS at age 67. And if you are working before your FRA, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

The 2024 earnings limit for those collecting early Social Security benefits is

\$22,320 (this limit changes annually). If your annual earnings exceed the limit, Social Security will assess a penalty of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. They will recover that penalty amount by withholding future benefits until they recover what you owe. If your work earnings are under the annual limit, you will get all your monthly SS benefits. But if you exceed the limit, they will find that out after you submit your income tax return (the following year) and issue you an overpayment notice, telling you how much you owe for exceeding the limit last year. They will then withhold your benefits until they get back what you owe, or you can repay them in a lump sum. To avoid the overpayment notice, it is best to inform Social Security in advance that you will exceed the annual earnings limit, and they will simply withhold your monthly SS benefits during the year for enough months to avoid overpaying you.

So, what you should do depends largely on how much your earnings from your new work-at-home position will be. If your earnings are below the annual limit, no penalty will be assessed. If you only exceed the annual limit by a little bit, then you can still work and earn and simply repay them what is owed for exceeding the limit (or have your SS benefit temporarily withheld). If you only exceed the earnings limit by a little, you'll

still get benefits for most months of the year. But if you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you could even be ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your full retirement age (the earnings limit goes away at your FRA).

So, what you should do depends on what "a cut in income" means in terms of your expected annual earnings amount. If your total annual earnings will be under the annual limit, your SS benefit won't be affected. If you only exceed the limit by a little bit, then you will get SS benefits for most months of the year. But if your annual earnings are significantly over each year's annual earnings limit, then you won't get SS benefits for most months of the year and may even be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits.

It now will have no effect on the survivor benefit she will get as your future widow.

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). To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

Business Groups and Lawmakers Battle Over Ballot Measure to Limit Tax Increases



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

Californians will be coughing up many billions of dollars this month as they file their federal and state income tax returns and pay the second installment on their property taxes.

How much? Annually, individual Californians and California-based businesses pay roughly a half-trillion dollars in federal taxes – personal income taxes, Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes, primarily. They also pay at least another half-trillion dollars to state and local governments – personal income taxes, sales taxes and property taxes, primarily.

By any measure, California is a high-tax state.

The Tax Foundation, a Washington-based organization that tracks nationwide tax trends, recently reported that California's state government levies the nation's highest taxes per capita at \$7,200, which translates into about \$280 billion a year. As a portion of California's \$4 trillion economy, its \$540 billion in state and local taxes rank fifth highest at 13.5%.

These numbers – and the state's multibillion-dollar budget deficit – set the stage for a monumental, multi-front war over taxation this year, including three statewide ballot measures that could dramatically alter the

politics of taxation.

The Democratic Party's progressive wing, strongly backed by public employee unions, contends that new taxes are needed to maintain vital welfare, education and health care services. However, Gov. Gavin Newsom has publicly rejected tax hikes and proposes a budget that closes the deficit, at least on paper, with spending deferrals, book-keeping maneuvers, loans and an injection of money from the state's rainy day reserves.

Two years ago, California's two most authoritative polling organizations, UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies and the Public Policy Institute of California, asked residents about their tax burdens and both found increasing discontent, in part because they were feeling the pinch of other costs of living.

The polling punctuated voters' rejection of a tax increase measure on the 2020 ballot that would have changed Proposition 13, the iconic property tax limit approved by voters in 1978, by increasing taxes on commercial property.

Hoping to leverage popular resistance to tax increases, business and anti-tax groups led by the California Business Roundtable have qualified a measure for the November ballot that would make raising state and local taxes much more difficult.

If passed, the measure would require two-thirds votes for any local tax increases, effectively overturning a state Supreme Court ruling that local taxes proposed via initiative require only simple majority votes. It also would subject any state tax increases to voter approval as well as two-thirds votes by the Legislature.

The measure's qualification has touched off a legal and political war with Newsom, the Legislature and pro-tax interests, such as unions. Newsom and the Legislature have filed suit, hoping to persuade the state Supreme Court that the measure is a constitutional revision, rather than an amendment, and thereby cannot be enacted by initiative.

The contending interests have filed written arguments with the court, which has not formally decided whether to accept the case. If it does, it will have only a few months to declare whether or not the measure goes on the ballot.

The Legislature has also placed its own measure on the ballot that, if passed, would require the business tax limit measure itself to get two-thirds voter approval. And it passed another ballot measure to reduce vote margin for local tax and bond measures that increase spending on housing and infrastructure to 55% from the current two-thirds, potentially nullifying the Business Roundtable measure.

It's a showdown that's been building for nearly five decades, ever since Prop. 13 won approval. With countless billions of dollars at stake, hundreds of millions of dollars are likely to be spent for and against the three interrelated measures.

Dan Walters has been a journalist for more than 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. He began his professional career in 1960, at age 16, at the Humboldt Times in Eureka, while still attending high school, and turned down a National Merit scholarship to continue working as a journalist. ★

CALL A PRO BUSINESS DIRECTORY

SLS Superior Landscape Services
Landscaping and Maintenance

- Sprinkler Repair/Install • Pruning
- Mowing/Trimming • Fertilizing

Insured
Lic#794551

(916) 728-5812 • Cell (916) 761-0999
Dave Cochran Owner • dave_SLS@surewest.net

A-1 AFFORDABLE ROOFING SERVICES, INC

- New Roofs • Certifications • Roof Repairs
- Dry Rot Repairs • Roof Inspections • Gutters

John Fleenor, Contractor
1741 L Street, Rio Linda, CA 95673

Cell: (916) 206-1613
Contractor Lic. #1064966

GREENWAY TREE SERVICE

Specializing in Expert Tree Pruning,
Tree Removal & Stump Grinding

Free Estimates
Competative Prices
Licensed and Insured

(916) 224-9750

All American Pro Construction
Family-owned & operated.
We offer Veterans & Senior Discounts
Great Craftsmanship & Customer Service

Specializing in Kitchen & Bath
Remodels, plus Much More

BIG or SMALL, We Do It All. Give Us a Call.
916-504-0188

CSLB# 1089369, Licensed, Bonded & Insured

Patch Masters Drywall
Acoustic Removal & Drywall Textures

- Acoustic (popcorn) ceiling removal
- Water damage & drywall repair
- Sheetrock installation
- Machine applied textures
- Hand applied texture
- Retexturing & Painting
- BBB Accredited

Mike Church
Owner
CA Lic# 1004984
Bonded & Insured

(916) 847-7783
PatchMastersDrywall@yahoo.com
www.DrywallPatchMasters.com

Rio Linda Eye Care

Laser Surgery • Eye Glasses • Contact Lenses
• Eyewear for Computer Users

Dr. William Fleischmann
(916) 991-8444

Saturday Appointments Available
6716 RIO LINDA BLVD., SUITE B, RIO LINDA

THE MASON MAN
LICENSE # 810329

**VISUALIZE & CUSTOMIZE
MASONRY / FENCING / CONCRETE**

CALL FRED FRANKLIN - THE MASON MAN
916.826.9796
VCMASONRY@ICLOUD.COM

Just Send It Postal

justsendit11@yahoo.com
Phone: (916) 723-8855 • Fax: (916) 723-0208
Mon.-Fri. 10 - 5 Sat. & Sun. CLOSED
7250 Auburn Blvd. #C Citrus Heights, CA 95610
www.justsenditpostal.com

NOTARY * PRINTING * SHREDDING

RETIRED COUPLE
HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE*

V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY
Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING
Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker
WWW.VIPLoan.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217
Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

DRAINS ONLY
THE DRAIN & SEWER
CLEANING CO.

Charles Mitchell
916-868-5771
CMJR6348@GMAIL.COM
4 Picket Ct. Sacramento, CA 95823
SPB12018-00953

**To ADVERTISE
CALL**
916.773.1111

TRACTOR SERVICE

- Mowing • Rototilling
- Discing • Scraper/Loader

Call
(916) 991-8431

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

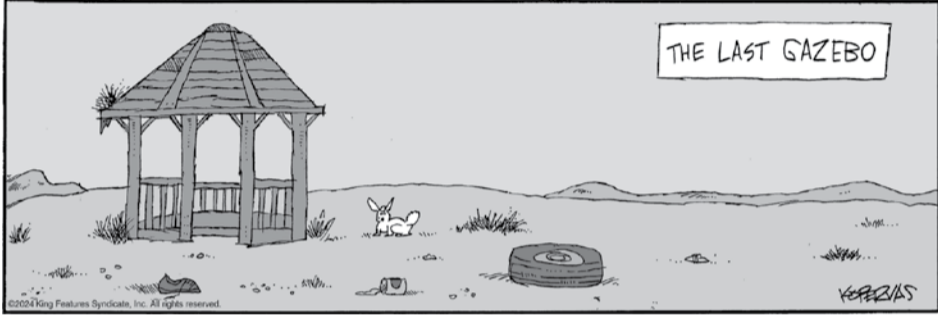


Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb



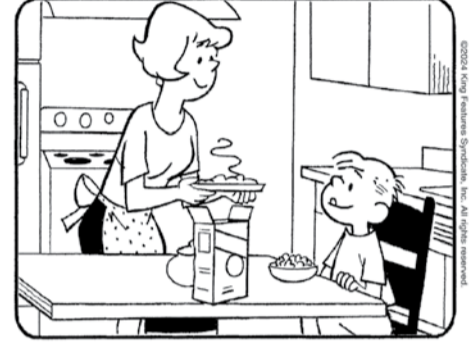
by Gary Kopervas

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Spoon is missing. 2. Box is missing. 3. Collar is missing. 4. Mouth is different. 5. Refrigerator handle is not as long. 6. Oven handle is missing.

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

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

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • GRADUATION

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Accumulate
 - Popular pickup
 - Johnny Depp's 2001 biopic
 - Jouic
 - Graduating pole
 - Mozart's "L___ del Cairo"
 - Figure of speech
 - Oak nut
 - Be off base
 - Less typical
 - *Graduating class
 - *S in BS
 - *Graduating NCAA player's goal?
 - FedEx, verb
 - "I Want My ___" television channel
 - Daytime drama
 - Online business
 - Fleur-de-lis
 - Dart
 - Planktonic tunicate
 - Not naughty
 - Break of day
 - Last row
 - Vardi's opus
 - Lion's do
 - D.E.A. agent
 - Sell again
 - Penny
 - To the ___ degree
 - Prep for certain potatoes
 - Metered ride
 - *Final reward
 - *Academic ___, a.k.a. Cap and Gown
 - Gibson garnish
 - Rocks, to a bartender
 - Angry
 - Lieu
 - Not solid or liquid
 - Post-it user
 - Of two minds
 - Bldg unit
 - Opposite of friend
- DOWN**
- "Oh, woe!"
 - Riot spray
 - At another time, archaic
 - Substitute for tender
 - Misters in Spain
 - Fish eggs, pl.
 - Acronym, abbr.
 - Wet land
 - Highlands hillside
 - Forsaken
 - Oil org.
 - "The Way We ___"
 - *Finals at Cambridge University
 - Building toppers
 - El ___, Spain's national hero
 - Popeye's fuel
 - *Major's partner
 - Beef ___, dim sum choice
 - Moral weaknesses
 - *Grad
 - Mountain lake
 - As a whistle?
 - 1960s abstractionism
 - **"Pomp and Circumstance," e.g.
 - Dried up
 - Adjust the pitch, with "up"
 - Previous VP
 - Marcona nut
 - Skedaddle
 - Moroccan spiced stew
 - Eurasian antelope

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12			
13						14				15						
16						17				18						
19						20				21	22					
						23				24						
25	26	27				28	29			30	31	32	33	34		
35						36				37				39		
40						41				42				43		
44						45				46				47		
48						49				50				51	52	
						53				54				55	56	
57	58	59	60							61				62	63	64
65										66	67			68		
69										70				71		
72										73				74		

SWITCH & GET \$25

Off First Month of New Service! USE PROMO CODE: GZ590

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

Classified Advertising

Sell Your Stuff! Reach 1000's of Readers Every Week!

MPG

916.773.1111

3	6	2	8	4	5	7	9	1
7	8	9	1	2	6	5	3	4
5	4	1	7	3	9	6	8	2
6	9	8	5	7	1	4	2	3
4	1	7	2	9	3	8	6	5
2	5	3	4	6	8	9	1	7
1	3	4	6	8	7	2	5	9
9	7	6	3	5	2	1	4	8
8	2	5	9	1	4	3	7	6

SUDOKU

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SAFE-STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

			8					
8	9					5	3	
4	7		9			8	2	
9			7					3
					3			
2				6			1	
1	3		6		7		5	
7	6					1	4	
						4		

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

LEGAL ADS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY?

We Can Do That!

Call to place your legal advertising **916-773-1111**

All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing **MPG**

Lancers Cruising Toward Fifth Straight Championship

Softball Team Currently in First Place



Addison Bradybaugh with the put out at first against Monterey Trail.

Story and photos by Rick Sloan

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

- With 10 games under their belt and only seven remaining, the Cordova Lancer girls' softball team is currently 6 - 4. Ironically, all their wins have been in league play as they sit comfortably in first place. If the girls can keep up with this success they will achieve what very few teams are able to achieve and that's to celebrate their fifth straight Sacramento Valley League championship. Being superstitious, I'm not going to say this fifth championship is going to be a cake walk, but the closest any of their

Morgan Sebastien. The fourth senior is Abigail (Abby) Perona who played catcher on the varsity team as a freshman, but decided



to play travel ball the last two years and focus on her schoolwork.

Perona has transitioned to pitching and has been a major factor in most of

in batting average at .667 (second in league), on base percentage at .733 (third in league) and slugging percentage at .916 (fourth in league).

According to the head coach Kim Little, now in her eighth year at the helm, this year's team is very balanced. "There's not just one star or certain individuals to point out on this year's team as each are all thriving in the direction of our overall success", said Coach Little. Coach Little credits this year's success with such a young team to her staff of assistant coaches. This season welcomes new faces with long time assistant Mark Beamish moving away. "My new



Abby Perona delivers a pitch against West Campus.



Briel Brookins slides safely into third base against West Campus.

set of assistant coaches are a tremendous addition to the program. The well of knowledge and passion for the game and athletics is one I am most grateful for," said Coach Little. Assistant Coach Derek Gonzalez is the only returning coach this year. New to the program are assistant coaches Jenny Knippschild, Matt Hedrick and Steve Perona.

Coach Little says this

year's team theme is unity. She believes with unity you are going to be successful. "Unity is strength and division is weakness. We can win not just games but everything with unity", said Coach Little. Coach Little is very excited for the future of this roster, because it is filled with tremendous talent for the next few years. I totally agree with Coach Little. For what I've witnessed, the

team is playing like a seasoned team: making good plays in the field and coming up with timely hits at the plate.

Come on out and cheer your Cordova Lancers on to their next victory. The next two home games are April 25 against Valley and April 30 against Johnson. Game time is 4 p.m.

★ GO BIG RED!

league challengers have come is nine runs behind. Next year Cordova will move to the more competitive Metro League.

Now lets look at the makeup of this year's team. I'm not sure if you remember, but last year's team had no juniors. It was made up of six very talented seniors and the rest freshmen and sophomores. This year's team does have four seniors on it, but none of whom played on last year's championship team. Because the team was so strong last year, three of the seniors on this year's team decided to play on the junior varsity team. These three seniors are Alyssa Lacayo, Selena Maya, and

the team's victories. She is currently seventh in league play with a .588 batting average and second in league with 14 runs batted in (RBI's). Abby also has 5 doubles.

Another talented player to watch this year is sophomore catcher Briel Brookins. Brookins is also getting some play at shortstop and is the team's leadoff batter. Freshman Becca Lee has primarily played shortstop this year and has shown great improvement with each game. Lee is third on the team for batting average at .541. The most improved player in my book is senior Morgan Sebastien. Sebastien leads the team



Freshman Becca Lee hits double against Monterey Trail.

SacRT Orders Nine Additional Low-Floor Light Rail Vehicles

SacRT News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is adding to its order of new low-floor light rail vehicles from Siemens Mobility (Siemens) with an additional order of nine S700 vehicles. This order builds on the previous order of 36, bringing the total number of trains ordered to 45. SacRT's contract with Siemens is for the purchase of up to 76 new low-floor light rail vehicles.

"As we continue to prioritize the enhancement of our transit system, I am thrilled to announce the purchase of nine additional new low floor light rail vehicles," said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. "By investing in these state-of-the-art trains, we are not only elevating the transit experience for our riders but also reinforcing our dedication to a sustainable future for the Sacramento region."

"We are grateful to

Sacramento Regional Transit for this latest order of nine light rail vehicles, and excited to continue our long-standing partnership," said Michael Cahill, President Rolling Stock Siemens Mobility North America. "Bringing SacRT's fleet of S700 LRVs to 45 new low floor vehicles is an exciting feat that highlights our dedication to the region. These American made trains built right here in Sacramento by our team of more than 2,500 will help to elevate rail travel in our community."

"Once again, Sacramento is at the forefront of innovation in public transit, thanks to the collaborative efforts of SacRT and Siemens Mobility," said Congresswoman Doris Matsui. "This investment underscores the importance of federal support for our region's transportation infrastructure. By leveraging resources from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are creating job



Nine additional light rails are making their way to Sacramento. Photo courtesy of SacRT

opportunities and paving the way for a more sustainable and efficient transit system."

"This order for nine additional light rail trains will enhance the rider's experience and improve accessibility for all members of our community," said Congressman Ami Bera. "I applaud SacRT's proactive approach to investing in the future of transportation, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact these new trains will have on our region."

"Securing this additional

order of light rail trains marks a significant milestone in SacRT's ongoing efforts to modernize its fleet and provide reliable, accessible transportation options for Sacramento residents," said SacRT Board Chair and Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy. "We are not only improving the quality of service for our riders but also reaffirming our commitment to sustainability and inclusivity. These new trains will play a vital role in enhancing the overall transit experience and

supporting the continued growth and development of our region."

The S700 low-floor vehicles have platform boarding at every doorway and allow riders in mobility devices to board using a deployable ramp at the two center doors instead of having to use a mini-high ramp. Each vehicle features four dedicated wheelchair locations. The spacious seating design with larger windows allows for better light and views. In addition, the vehicles have better temperature control for heating and cooling and improved reliability with remote diagnostics and predictive maintenance.

Siemens has already delivered 20 new S700 low-floor light rail vehicles to SacRT's light rail facility in north Sacramento where they are undergoing rigorous testing procedures. These tests are vital to ensuring the trains meet stringent safety and performance standards before being integrated into

service, which is expected to begin on the Gold and Green lines in summer 2024. The Blue Line will continue to operate the current high-floor light rail trains, which still require riders in mobility devices and those unable to climb stairs to use the mini-high ramps at the ends of the station platforms. SacRT will begin construction on Blue Line station platforms to meet the height requirements of the new low-floor trains in late 2024 and construction is expected to be completed by 2027. Learn more about SacRT's Light Rail Modernization Project at sacrt.com/modernization.

The S700 vehicles for SacRT are manufactured by Siemens Mobility in south Sacramento, keeping jobs in the region. The plant is one of the largest and most sustainable facilities in the U.S. and is part of Siemens Mobility's larger U.S. manufacturing network of eight facilities, nearly 4,500 employees and 2,000 suppliers. ★

New Home Sales Remained Strong in March

North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- New homes continued to be a popular choice for prospective homebuyers in the greater Sacramento region in March, the North State Building Industry Association reported on April 10.

Association members reported selling 604 new homes in March. While that total trailed both February of this year and March of 2023, both of those months had

five weeks while there were only four weeks during this March. On a weekly basis, March sales were virtually identical to February and 8% above March 2023.

Building Industry Association President and CEO Tim Murphy attributed the continued strong sales to the advantages that new homes have over existing homes and the continued reduction in the supply of existing homes on the market.

"New homes are built for today's lifestyles and are far more energy-efficient than most

existing homes, which can mean a big savings on energy costs," Murphy said. "And while the number of existing homes for sale remains much lower than normal, there are 193 new-home communities currently active, giving buyers a wide choice of styles and locations."

But, Murphy added, state and local policymakers should do more to reduce the fees and red tape that keep production well below demand and costs higher than they should be.

"It still takes far longer than

it should to get all the approvals builders need to actually begin construction and government fees averaging around \$100,000 per home in our region drive up the cost of a new home significantly," Murphy said. "The only way to solve the state and local housing crisis is to consistently build enough homes so that supply and demand will be in balance for the first time in decades."

The most new homes during March were sold in Roseville (144), followed by Elk Grove with 112, Folsom with 58,

Rancho Cordova with 47 and Lincoln with 37. The vast majority of new homes sold between \$500,000 and \$750,000.

Building Industry Association statistics include sales by members in Sacramento, Placer, Yuba, Yolo, El Dorado, Amador and Sutter counties.

The North State Building Industry Association represents more than 500 members who provide 55,000 industry jobs in the greater Sacramento region.

For more information, visit www.northstatebia.org. ★

Do You Need Your Legal Ads Published?

WE CAN HELP



CALL US NOW TO PLACE YOUR LEGAL ADVERTISING!

916-773-1111

All legal ads published by Messenger Publishing Group.

SETA Director Appointed

Continued from page 1

degree in public administration and Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Akron.

SETA, a joint powers agency of the City and County of Sacramento, was formed in 1978. SETA connects residents to jobs, business owners to employees, education and nutrition to children and assistance to refugees. For more information, visit the SETA website at www.seta.net.

"We are thrilled that after a national recruitment, Dr. Maldonado has been appointed as SETA's new executive director," said Sacramento City Manager Howard Chan. "SETA plays a pivotal role in our community providing workforce development and serving family and early-childhood needs. Dr. Maldonado's extensive experience, as well as her vision for this position, will benefit her greatly as she leads this important organization into its next chapter." ★

LEGAL ADS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY?

We Can Do That!

MPG 916-773-1111

All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing



\$5.00 OFF!

WITH PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE

VALID MONDAY - FRIDAY 6AM - 2PM - DINE IN ONLY

Not valid with any other offer or discount. Not valid with Groupon. One coupon per table per visit. Some restrictions apply. Must have coupon. Expires 4/5/2024.

916.631.8888

10433 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Menu Online at: Sunrisewaffle.com/menu



Open M-F: 6 am - 2 pm • Sat. & Sun.: 6am - 3 pm