



Rio Americano Girls Volleyball Advance

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Hornets Thrill Homecoming Crowd in Win

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Carmichael Times

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JERRI PEFLEY PASSES



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LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL



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El Rancho's Proud Birthday



Pupils and staff of Carmichael's oldest private school celebrated their 57th birthday last week. Granddaughter of the founders and Principal is Holly Olson (left). Assistant Principal is Rosalia Avila (back row, right).

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Fifty-seven years and a pandemic after its founding, one of Carmichael's oldest private schools is still going strong.

Beneath century-old mulberry trees, students and staff at El Rancho School celebrated the milestone last week with dancing and a Happy Birthday song. Principal Holly Olson – third generation principal of her grandparents' school – told 80 students: "We're proud of our past and excited about our future."

One of few local educational establishments that stayed open during most of the pandemic, El Rancho survived through loyalty to

student families and strict adherence to health protocols. "Our families needed us to stay open," says Olson. "We needed our children to thrive academically and socially. If we'd closed, families had no options for child care. They needed... us to stay open so they could pay bills and feed their kids."

"We had a 27-page COVID policy that changed every week. But we kept everyone healthy with masks and air purifiers. We disinfected playground structures, tables, doorknobs – constantly."

"Hardly anyone got sick. I wore the skin off my hands through bleach dipping toys. I thought we'd never make it. So many businesses were failing. I was so worried we might

be closed – and I might have lost my grand parents' business, forever."

Her grandparents were Allie Brown Ritchie and husband William, who purchased one of Carmichael's original adobe farmhouses from the pioneer Geist family in 1964. At the time, there were no academic pre-school options in the area. "My grandmother began the school with the idea that every day should be wonderful for kids," says Olson.

"She wanted students to learn something new and exciting every day. We still believe in that."

Holly attended the school as a child. She got teaching credentials at Stephens College, Mo., and taught at El Rancho for many years before

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CHP Receives Grant to Reduce Teen Distracted Driving

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) announced today that it received a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to help promote safe driving behaviors for teens.

The Teen Distracted Driving (TDD) II grant announcement coincides with National Teen Driver Safety Week October 16-22. The number one killer of teens in America is car crashes. Using cell phones, eating, drinking, changing the music, or simply talking with friends are all activities teens engage in every day, but these activities become life-threatening hazards while driving. Distracted or inattentive driving presents a significant danger to all motorists.

The grant-funded Teen Distracted Driving campaign consists of an education component that will allow CHP officers and traffic safety partners to make appearances at schools and community events throughout the state. Distracted driving enforcement operations will be conducted during National Teen Driver Safety Week in October and National Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April.

According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, there are nearly 792,970 licensed teenage drivers in California, which increased by 6 percent since last year. Data from the CHP's Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System indicated that in 2020 there were 6,644 fatal and injury crashes involving teen drivers between 15 and 19 years of age. This age group has the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted at the time of the fatal crashes.

"The combination of inattention and inexperience behind the wheel can lead to tragedy," said CHP Commissioner Amanda Ray. "This grant will assist our officers in keeping California's roads safe, while addressing California's distracted driving crisis among the state's teens."

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ★

Sheriff-elect Cooper speaks at Carmichael Luncheon

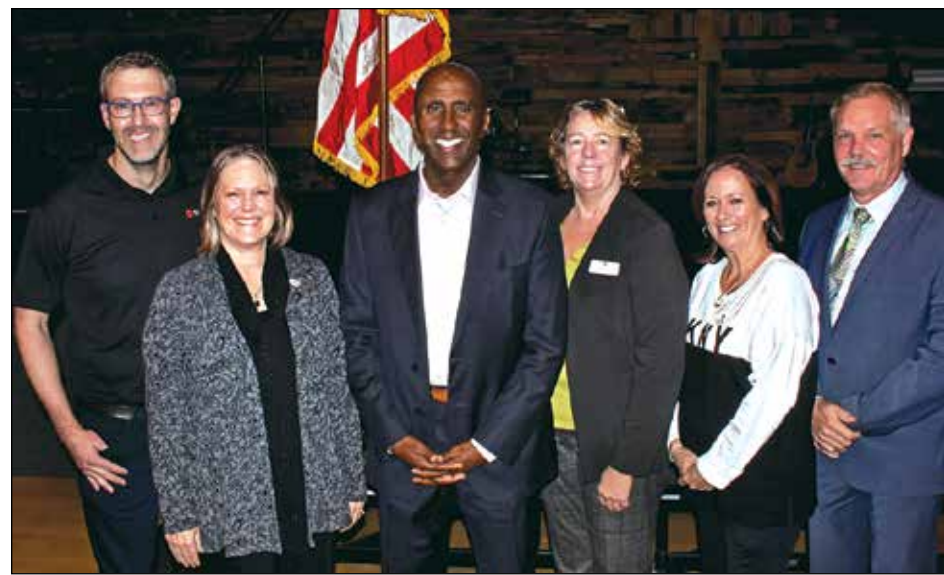
Story and photos by Shaun Holkko, assistant editor

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County Sheriff-elect Jim Cooper spoke recently at the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on Tuesday, October 25 in Carmichael.

Cooper was elected in June as Sacramento County's first Black sheriff. He served in the California State Assembly for eight years since 2014 before being chosen as the next sheriff.

The first issue that Cooper addressed Tuesday was how to deal with those who are unhoused.

"At some point, someone has to be the adult in the room and that's really been my number one priority, I ran on that, to make sure we deal with the homeless issue and fix it," Cooper said. "We still want to help people, we want to be compassionate,



Assembly Member and Sheriff-Elect Jim Cooper (center) lunched with the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce. Chamber members are SMUD President Brandon Rose and Vice President Heidi Sanborn, Chamber President Kelly Foley and Vice President Katie Pexa and incoming Under Sheriff Mike Ziegler. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

but we're also going to be firm in dealing with those folks."

According to Cooper, things in California's Capitol have shifted a lot since he was a child when it comes to the homeless population.

"I grew up my whole life here in Sacramento, things have really changed

and it's not ok with me," Cooper proclaimed. "Sometimes you can't be afraid to go out and say things or rub folks wrong when it comes to it because it's affecting our quality of life. We have to do something about it. It hasn't worked so it's time for something new and to be very firm with it."

One of the first things Cooper plans to do as sheriff is to clean up the Sacramento Northern bike trail and remove any homeless people who have their camps set up on it, which drew applause from the Carmichael audience in attendance. The next issue that he discussed is crime.

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Father Eduino Silveira blesses Carmichael Park's new bocce courts. Supporters are: Nick Bloise (left) Teri O'Sullivan, Linda Martin, Bob Cesario, Phyllis Cupparo and Sharon Ruffner

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - With a reading from Genesis, Father Eduino from Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church recently blessed Carmichael Park's new bocce courts. The occasion marked the official opening of a facility built by community partnerships during the pandemic.

A \$5000 bequest from the estate of Italian-American bocce booster Shirley Pennington Simi got the ball rolling in 2020. Spearheaded by her children and friends, community fundraising aided the

project. A Carmichael Parks Foundation contribution was icing on the tiramisu.

Although the ADA-compliant amenity boasts synthetic surfaces that allow all-weather play, the sun shone on opening day play. Free lessons and brunch were offered to more than 200 visitors. Adjacent to the courts, the Italian Cultural Center threw open doors to share food, music and folkloric dancing.

Carmichael Park is located at 5750 Grant Avenue. The courts are situated near the North Avenue park entrance. Learn more about CRPD amenities at www.carmichaelpark.com. ★

Rio Americano Girls Volleyball Team Advances to Semifinals of D2 Playoffs



Rio Americano junior defensive specialist Ava Kaufman dives for a dig during the first round of the 2022 Division II CIF Sac-Joaquin Girls Volleyball Playoffs, a three-set sweep of Golden Valley, on Tuesday, October 25 in Sacramento. Photo courtesy of William J Carroll III Photography

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Following home playoff wins against Golden Valley and Tracy, the Rio Americano girls varsity volleyball team is moving on to the semifinals of the 2022 Division II CIF Sac-Joaquin Girls Volleyball Playoffs.

The Raiders (34-7, 12-0 Capital Athletic League) have won seven matches in a row dating back to a midseason tournament played on October 8. In that tournament, Rio was swept in two sets by Vacaville, who the Raiders played on Tuesday, November 1 in the semifinals of the D2 playoffs.

After securing its eighth CAL championship with a 12-0 record in league play, Rio entered the postseason tournament as the No. 3 seed. The Raiders faced off against No. 14 Golden Valley (23-10, 10-2 Central California Conference) of Merced in the first round on October 25.

Rio swept the Cougars in three-sets. However, the win did not come easy. The Raiders narrowly won the first set, 25-22. The second set was not as close, but still competitive, with Rio prevailing 25-19. The Raiders won the third and final set by the slimmest of margins at 25-23, which was just enough to move them onto the second round.

Senior outside hitter Nikita Rogaski led the way for Rio with 12 of its 29 total kills. Junior setter Grace Stone tallied two game-highs with eight serving aces and 28 assists.

In the quarterfinals two nights later, the Raiders matched up against No. 6 seed Tracy (20-11, 8-2 Tri-City Athletic League). The Bulldogs matched up against Rio earlier in

the season in the midseason tournament on October 8, a match in which the Raiders were victorious two sets to one.

On Thursday night in Sacramento, Rio and Tracy played a grueling five set match and the victor remained the same.

Just like in their first meeting 19 days prior, the Bulldogs won the first set by a score of 25-23. The Raiders stormed back and took the next two sets 25-18 and 25-21. Tracy controlled the fourth set with its season on the line, winning 25-16 to even the score and send the match into a decisive final set.

With the home crowd at Rio behind them, the Raiders took the fifth set 15-10 to advance to the semifinals of the D2 playoffs. Stone tallied 56 assists on Thursday night, giving the junior over 1,000 total assists on the season.

Senior outside hitter Lulu Voss, who had a team-high 24 kills, combined with Rogaski for two-thirds of Rio's total kills with 44 of 66. Junior defensive specialist Livia Bacchi finished with a team-high 15 digs. Bacchi and Rogaski nearly combined for two-thirds of the Raiders' digs with 29 of 45. Voss followed closely behind with eight digs of her own.

Rio not only be played for a berth into the section title game on Tuesday night, but the Raiders also eyed revenge. Vacaville (23-6, 14-0 Monticello Empire League) swept Rio in two sets on October 8, winning 25-22 and 25-16.

The result of the match against Vacaville on Tuesday night was unavailable as of press time. The Raiders have seven CIF SJS championships in school history and could be close to obtaining number eight very soon. ★



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Cooper speaks at Luncheon Community Figure Jerri Pefley Passes

Continued from page 1

“Besides the economy right now, homelessness and crime are polling very high,” Cooper explained. “People are fed up. There’s not a lot of accountability (in the criminal justice system) right now and bad guys know that. What’s interesting (is) if you go downtown, the folks who are in jail right now average five felony convictions. There are no low-level offenders in jails and prisons.”

Cooper explained that the change in the demographic of jails and prisons started with Assembly Bill 109 which was passed in 2011. The bill places defendants with less serious felonies in county jails rather than state prison.

“We’re struggling with our kids in education, yet the inmates down in both jails, the one downtown and the one in Elk Grove, have iPads, they have tablets to do things on,” Cooper said. “So here you are, you have inmates who have tablets, and you have kids that don’t have tablets and have no connectivity in their homes. You only have so much capacity so we should be putting more effort on our children with that.”

Proposition 57 was passed in California in 2016. Prop. 57 allows low level offenders early parole hearings and eventual release. Cooper pointed out the flaw with the proposition is what the state of California classifies as “nonviolent.”

“If it’s a nonviolent crime, you get out of jail or prison early,” he said. “What’s nonviolent in California is drugging and raping a woman, raping someone developmentally disabled, drive by shootings, domestic violence (and) human trafficking of a child. I tried five or six times in the last eight years to try and push that bill to change it. I couldn’t get it changed.”

Cooper also mentioned that hate crimes, like recent physical attacks on the Asian community, are considered nonviolent in California. He also mentioned that the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office is currently understaffed by 100 deputies.

One audience member asked Cooper about his opinion on private gun ownership, which has been a hot topic for him in the past. In 2020, the California Rifle and Pistol Association graded Cooper an “F” on his Second Amendment position.

“I support (carry concealed weapons), it’s one of those things (where) people should be able to protect themselves and their families,” Cooper responded. “If something happens, law enforcement is not going to be there. A lot of folks are saying, ‘Hey, you shouldn’t have these people carrying guns.’ The numbers aren’t there, we have never had problems with CCW owners. They wanted to ban guns, but the issue is, the folks who are carrying guns, (like) the K Steet mall shooting, those folks are all felons prohibited from carrying guns. They carry them anyways.”

“A lot of the issues are not responsible gun owners, it’s the illegal gun owners who don’t give a damn.”

One of the final audience members, who requested to remain anonymous, decided to make a statement rather than ask a question when he was handed the microphone.

“I just wanted to say that Jim Cooper is a man of his word,” the Carmichael resident stated while citing previous experiences.

Cooper will be beginning his new role as Sacramento County sheriff in December. ★

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

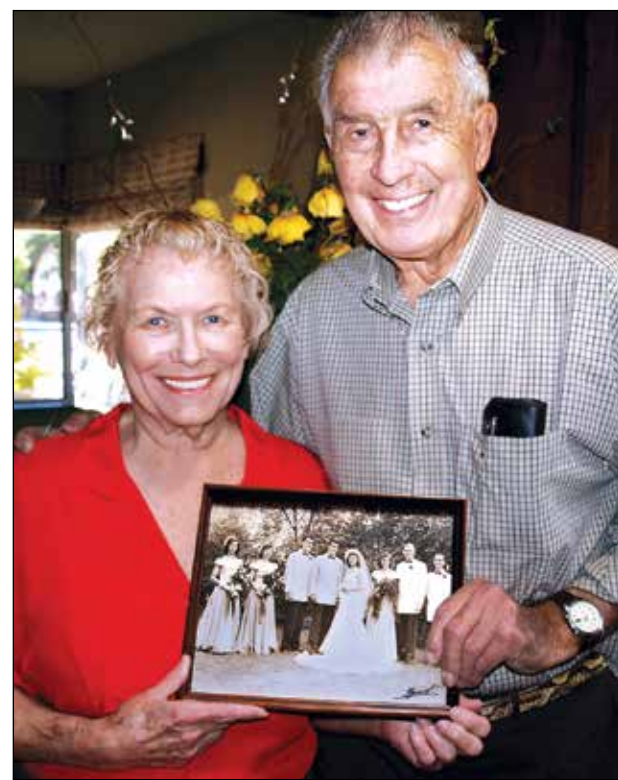
CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - A matriarch of one of Carmichael’s pioneer descendant families, Gertrude (Jerri) Pefley died recently at 94 years old.

She was predeceased by husband Jack Pefley, a former military and community leader and Navy test pilot.

Jerri Kratz was born in Hatboro, PA and met visiting Californian Jack Pefley at her hometown church. Their 1948 marriage lasted almost 74 years and knew many long separations; Jerri also traveled to support Jack’s career and raised their kids on bases in Japan, the Philippines, Berkeley, Monterey, Morocco and France.

Home base was nevertheless Palm Drive, Carmichael. The property they called the ‘Rockin’ KP Ranch’ was originally part of Daniel Carmichael’s earliest colonial subdivision, purchased in 1910 by Jack’s parents.

Jerri was known for energetic support of the arts. Favoring the Sacramento Symphony League and its Music in



Pictured on their 65th anniversary, Jerri and Jack Pefley were Carmichael pillars. Jerri’s recent passing came four years after husband Jack died.

the Schools Program, she produced and performed puppet shows for young pupils. The activist mom also helped establish Jensen Botanical Gardens’ garden for the blind.

She and her husband served the community through dedication to Carmichael’s Chamber of Commerce, its Park District and Presbyterian Church. In sunset years, the Pefleys moved to

Carmichael Eskaton Village; later to Mercy McMahon Terrace, Sacramento. The couple is survived by three children and three grandchildren.

Jerri Pefley’s memorial service will be held at the Dixon National Cemetery on November 11, at 9:15 am. In Lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Carmichael Presbyterian Church and Carmichael Parks Foundation. ★

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The Future of Carmichael Recreation and Park District is Measure G!

Hello Carmichael Community,

On November 8th, the Carmichael Recreation and Park District (CRPD) will reach a critical point in its history. Although CRPD has been responsible with its budget, the aging infrastructure is outdated and needs significant renovations. While the limited staff work hard to maintain parks and facilities, the need is greater than revenue from property taxes, rentals and programs can provide. It is important to note that surrounding recreation and park districts have all passed supplemental bonds or assessments to maintain their infrastructure. I am asking the Carmichael community to vote **Yes** on Measure G to provide a better future allowing everyone to enjoy our parks and facilities.

To better understand how the District arrived at Measure G, it is important to provide some history. Most of the Carmichael Recreation and Park District's facilities were built in between the 1950s and 1960s with the oldest, Veterans Memorial Hall at Carmichael Park erected over 70 years ago. Outdated and inadequate park facilities and grounds are in need of major renovation and upgrades as well as new projects to accommodate a larger population and community needs.

Over the last 18 months, using input from the community, staff, and the Board of Directors, the District prepared a Facilities Needs Analysis. Specific projects identified include:

- Making safety and security improvements, including lighting and fencing;
- Providing new playgrounds and park equipment;
- Improving park amenities, including installing picnic tables, trash receptacles, and benches;
- Improving disabled accessibility throughout the District;
- Constructing and/or renovating aging restroom facilities.

Public input was gathered in 2020-2021 to update the Districtwide Master Plan. During the process, 900+ people participated in one form or another passionately sharing the needs for their parks and facilities. Utilizing this input, approximately \$90 million in renovations and upgrades were identified and the Master Plan was updated. Upon being presented with several funding options by the District's financial advisor, the Advisory Board voted to move forward with a General Obligation Bond (GO Bond).

With a GO Bond taxes are not based on a flat per parcel tax or SFE rate, but rather ad valorem; meaning the tax rate is calculated based on a property's assessed value. This uses the same methodology that is currently in place for the 1% county levy (assessed value is the value placed on a property by the county assessor and typically lower than market value). Similar to a home loan, GO bonds are typically repaid over 30 years.

Ambassadors were then selected to gather additional input over a two-month period regarding a possible improvement measure. Stakeholders and voters included:

Neighborhood Associations; Business Leadership; Sacramento Taxpayers Association; Faith based Groups; Elected and Appointed Officials (present and former); Local media; Community Organizations; Youth Sports Leagues; School District.

As a result of feedback from these groups combined with results from a community survey, the rate of \$19 per \$100,000 of assessed value per year was selected. To reiterate, this rate is based on **assessed** value, not market value or what Zillow says your property is worth!

The Carmichael Recreation and Park District Advisory Board and the County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved placing a \$31.9 million GO bond on the November 2022 ballot. Measure G is intended to address the District's need to upgrade and renovate existing parks, grounds, and recreational facilities in the Carmichael Recreation and Park District, while also providing new opportunities to residents.

Following are a few of the most Frequently Asked Questions:

How can I be sure that all funds will be spent on improving our Park and Recreation facilities?

By law, all bond funds must be spent locally and cannot be taken by the state and can only be spent on parks and facilities and not on salaries of staff or administrators. In addition, a local independent citizens' oversight committee will be established.

Why can't the District make these repairs and upgrades with the money it already receives?

The District is primarily funded from property taxes, which are rightfully capped by Prop 13. The need to invest additional resources is because our property taxes do not grow at the rate of inflation. The District has been extremely frugal and conservative with its resources, but the time has come for our community to reinvest in itself. Additionally, in the 1990's the State pulled funding from Special Districts to pay for shortfalls in the State's budget. The program named Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF), resulted in CRPD not receiving significant revenue. In 2022 alone, CRPD did not receive \$580,000. While there has been strong effort to restore this funding, there is no indication the State will do so. Measure G funds cannot be touched by the State.

What will happen if Measure G does not pass?

If Measure G does not pass, existing grounds and recreational facilities will continue to deteriorate. Major repairs will need to be postponed and as a result, will potentially be more expensive to make.

I urge you to vote Yes on Measure G.

Sharon Ruffner
Carmichael Parks Foundation President
Co-chair of Measure G – Great Parks in Carmichael

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California DAs to CDCR: Explain Early Release of Violent Criminals

CDAA News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) wants the prison system (CDCR) to explain why it is releasing violent prisoners who haven't earned sufficient rehabilitation credits early from prison. In some cases, they have re-offended and committed even more serious crimes.

To qualify for release, prisoners are supposed to earn credits for good behavior under Prop 57, but that often does not appear to be the case. In a series of reports, Julie Watts of CBS News revealed the process by which CDCR is releasing prisoners is hidden from the public, arbitrary, and dangerous.

"They're doing it in secret because they don't want to be called out," El Dorado County District Attorney Vern Pierson told CBS.

"The public has a right to know what these people are doing to rehabilitate themselves," said Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reising.

Watts reported that Sacramento mass shooting suspect Smiley Martin had earlier been denied parole after a fight with a fellow inmate and other criminal activity while behind bars. Yet because his domestic violence conviction did not qualify as a violent crime, the CDCR deemed him qualified for early release. A year after

he was denied parole, police said Smiley was caught on camera opening fire into a crowd of gang rivals near the state capitol.

"CDAA calls upon CDCR officials to immediately explain the system for releasing violent criminals—especially those who have not fully engaged in rehabilitation programs," said Greg Totten, CDAA Chief Executive Officer. "It needs to stop now. This is not reform. This is an anti-transparent experiment that is gambling with public safety."

SB 1391, a separate piece of legislation related to Prop 57, also frees prisoners, specifically those who were juveniles convicted of crimes as adults.

One possible beneficiary is convicted murderer Daniel Marsh who said he got "an exhilarating feeling" after he stabbed an elderly Davis couple 120 times to death. He may now be eligible for early release, according to the Davis Enterprise.

Marsh was just days shy of his 16th birthday at the time of the double homicide. He was sentenced to 52 years to life in prison, but he could get out after only serving 10 years. The case is being heard by the Third District Court of Appeal in Sacramento.

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California's Chronic Housing Shortage Explained



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

At its best, journalism sheds light on important issues in hopes that a more informed public will press officialdom to confront and resolve them.

California's chronic shortage of housing is one such issue and two very recent articles, one in the Los Angeles Times and the other in the New York Times, delve into how the crisis developed and why dealing with it is extraordinarily difficult.

The Los Angeles Times details its city's history of encouraging sprawling single-family neighborhoods while packing the poor into confined neighborhoods, where deadly diseases such as COVID-19 run rampant.

It begins with the death of Leonardo Miranda, "who rented a shed and shared the kitchen, bathroom and dining room in the main house."

After COVID-19 attacked Miranda, "it spread to a man who slept on three red cushions in the laundry room. Then to a grandfather and grandson who wedged two mattresses into one room. By the time COVID-19 was finished with the three-bedroom home, shared by eight, Miranda and the grandfather were dead."

The article continued,

"More homes are overcrowded in Los Angeles than in any other large U.S. county, a Times analysis of census data found — a situation that has endured for three decades, with no sign of abating."

"In places like the Pico-Union neighborhood, where Miranda lived, generations of families squeeze into tiny apartments. Construction workers, seamstresses and dishwashers live in close quarters. Day laborers bunk with half a dozen or more strangers in living spaces intended for one or two people."

"Within these confines, COVID-19 advanced without mercy: orphaning children, killing breadwinners and shattering families."

One of the article's most poignant passages describes how the city's "leaders bulldozed Mexican neighborhoods in Chavez Ravine, forcing out thousands with the promise of new, low-cost, public housing to meet the needs of a city exploding in population after World War II. Then real estate interests exploited the communist paranoia of the Red Scare to defeat the housing projects, and instead, the city gave the land to the Dodgers for a stadium to entice the team's move from Brooklyn."

By happenstance, the New York Times article by Ezra Klein picks up where the Los Angeles Times' article ends. Klein lays out in detail why current state and local government policies make it so infuriatingly difficult to build the low-income housing that would relieve deadly overcrowding and the homelessness it

spawns. In 2016, Klein notes, Los Angeles voters approved a \$1.2 billion ballot measure to build 10,000 new apartments for the homeless and Mayor Eric Garcetti boasted, "The voters of Los Angeles have radically reshaped our future, giving us a mandate to end street homelessness over the next decade."

However, "Six years later, neither the mandate nor the money has proved to be nearly enough. In 2016, Los Angeles had about 28,000 homeless residents, of whom around 21,000 were unsheltered (that is, living on the street). The current count is closer to 42,000 homeless residents, with 28,000 unsheltered."

The 2016 ballot measure produced just 3,357 units "and the most recent audit found the average cost was \$596,846 for units under construction — more than the median sale price for a home in Denver. Some units under construction have cost more than \$700,000 to build."

Klein details the impediments to building cost-effective housing and concludes, "This is the paradox of housing development in Los Angeles and so many other cities. The politics of the affordable housing crisis are terrible. The politics of what you'd need to do to solve it are even worse."

Both articles should be mandatory reading in the Capitol

Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

Now or Later?

Dear Dave,

Dear Dave,

My husband lost his job last week. The good news is we're completely debt-free, and we have a six-month emergency fund saved up. I work part-time, since we have young children, and I've been bringing home about \$800 a month. Should we cut our budget down to bare bones now, or do you think we could continue living as usual for the time being since we have so much money saved?

— Jayme

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job. At the same time, I'm really proud of you two for saving and preparing yourselves financially for this kind of scenario. Eight hundred dollars a month isn't bad for a part-time job, but it's not nearly enough to run a household — even one that's debt-free — when there are kids in the picture.

You should already be living on a little as possible in order to make the money in your emergency fund last as long as it can. It's beans and rice time in your house. That means no restaurants, no vacations, and no movies. In other words, no spending on anything but bare necessities until your husband finds another good job, and you guys are back on your financial feet again. Right now, your priorities are keeping the lights on, the water running, and

making sure there's food in the pantry.

This is a textbook definition of an emergency, Jayme. Use your emergency fund. It's there for times just like these. But be wise, and spend as little as humanly possible. God bless you all.

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of *The Ramsey Show*, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on *Good Morning America*, *CBS This Morning*, *Today Show*, *Fox News*, *CNN*, *Fox Business*, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

El Rancho's 57th Birthday

Continued from page 1

taking over the principal's desk from her mom, Anne Ritchie. Beyond administration, Olsen still teaches daily lessons.

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Is the reverse mortgage right for me?

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- Type of mountain goat
- Nest for an eagle
- Plant and animal lover
- Dapple animal mark
- Conform, according to Darwin
- Battleship game success
- Summer shoe
- Famous Roman historian
- Don McLean: "A long, long time _____"
- Diaphragm spasm
- Reluctant
- Whatchamacallit
- "Days of ___ Lives" soap opera
- Like Halloween
- On a deck, perhaps
- Assembly of all members
- Card with single pip
- Hindered
- Unfortunate outcome
- Business master
- Soil for cultivation
- Highlands hillside
- Host's unwelcome guest
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- Pro's opposite
- Hang around
- Bit of binary code
- Festival of Lights
- Fundamental
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- Montana's neighbor
- Accident
- Long stories
- To take in and feed livestock for payment
- Like Curious George
- Zig or zag
- Synagogue scroll
- Carthage's ancient neighbor
- First animal clone
- *-blooded, like a snake
- Prompter's line
- "Orca and elephant, but not crow or fish"
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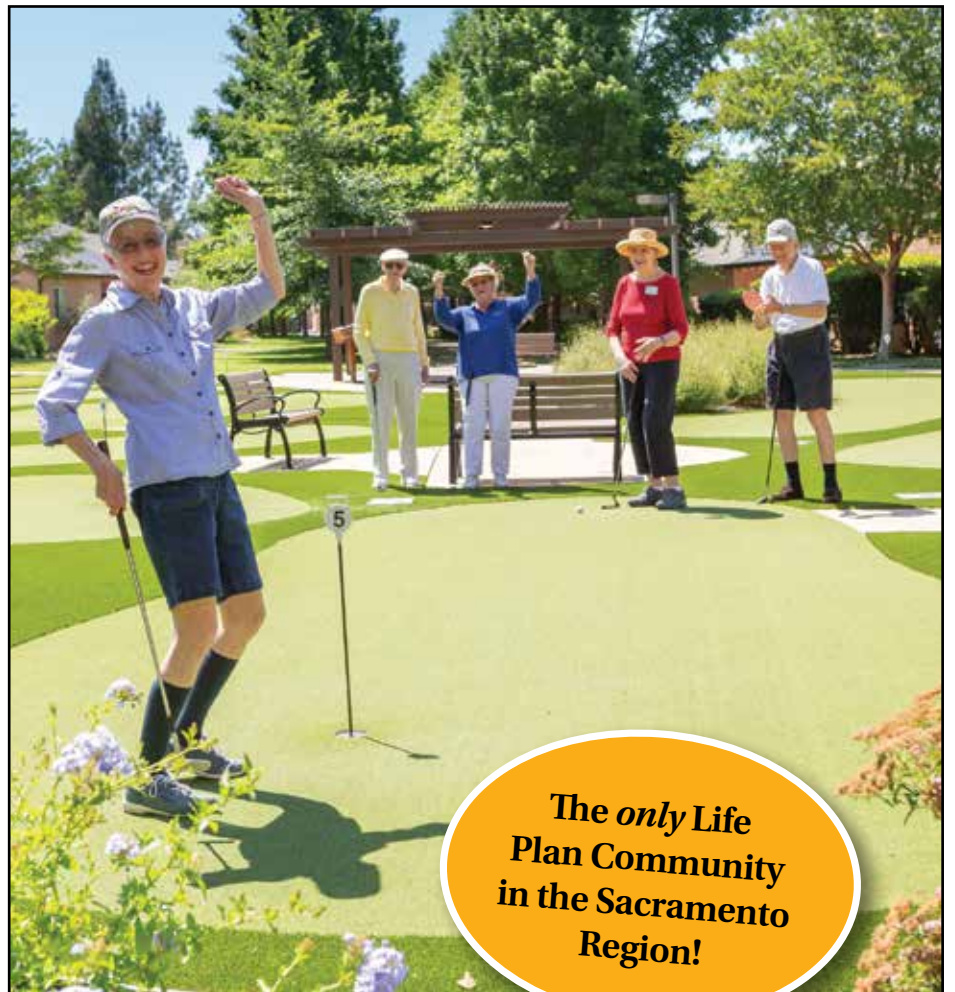
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Student Test Scores Plunge

By Joe Hong and Erica Yee, CALMatters.org

California’s Education Department released student test scores showing a statewide decline that nearly wiped out the academic progress made since the state overhauled how it funds education in 2014.

The gist of the scores, the most extensive measure so far of the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on student achievement: The percentage of California students meeting state math standards plummeted 7 percentage points to 33%, and the percentage meeting English language standards dropped 4 percentage points, to 47%.

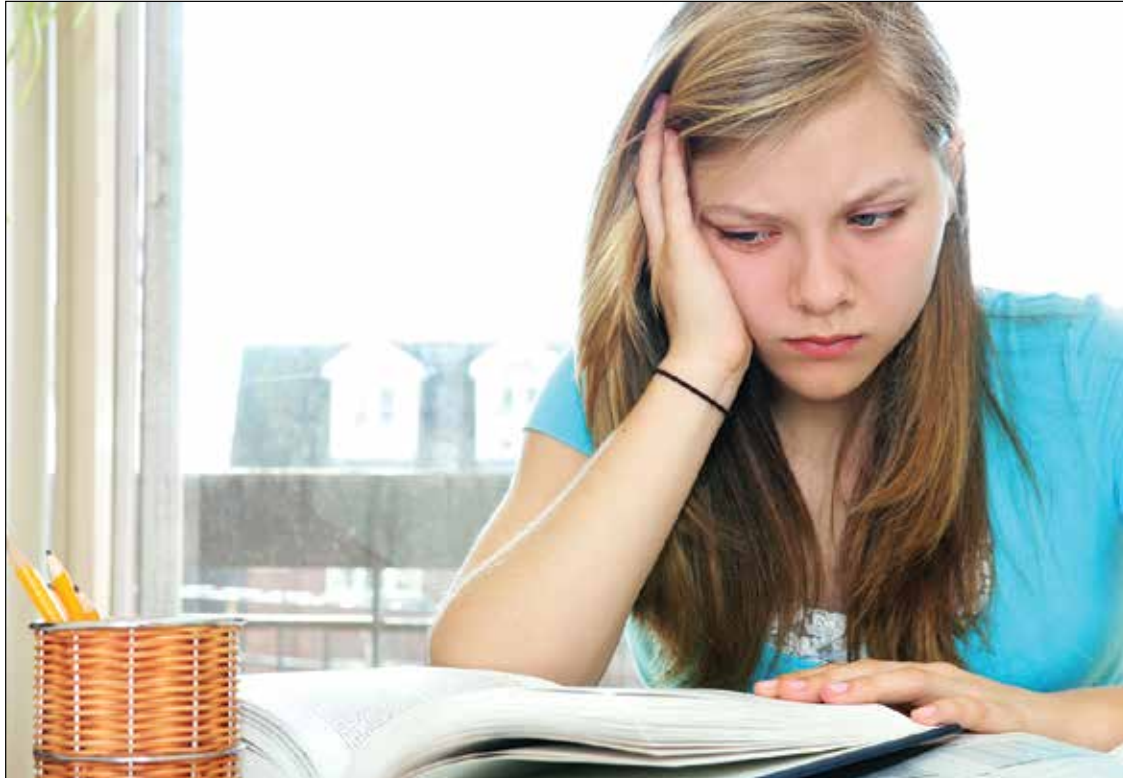
Some scores for students of color and those from low-income households dropped less dramatically than their counterparts, an indication that the state’s funding formula, which sends more money to high-needs districts, worked to soften the blow of two years of disrupted learning.

As if to prove that pandemic learning loss is not just a California problem, officials released the state data to the public on the same day that results of a different test, nicknamed the Nation’s Report Card, revealed an unprecedented score dive among a sampling of students nationwide.

Gov. Gavin Newsom swiftly issued a press release headlined “California outperforms most states in minimizing learning loss....” Various state officials credited the state’s investments in summer school and other recovery efforts for minimizing the blow to pupils. Yet the national test, in contradiction to the state test, indicated that the achievement gap among students of color widened in California.

“California focused on keeping kids safe during the pandemic,” Newsom said in a statement, “while making record investments to mitigate learning loss and transforming our education system.”

The test upon which the



State test results show California students overall performed much worse in math and English language arts than pre-pandemic. Photo by Elena Elisseeva@Dreamstime.com

Nation’s Report Card is based is older and was given to only about 4,000 California students, while the state’s Smarter Balanced tests are administered every spring to virtually all Californians in grades three through eight and grade eleven. The states set those tests, prompting some criticism that they encourage “teaching to the test”. The goal of those Smarter Balanced tests: to measure how well students have mastered the state’s Common Core standards.

The initial reluctance of state officials to promptly share the Smarter Balanced test data raised questions about whether elected state schools superintendent Tony Thurmond and others were trying to minimize the impact of bad news landing before voters cast November ballots.

“Democrat policies get an F,” Senate GOP leader Scott Wilk of Lancaster declared in a statement. “It is no wonder these scores were kept under lock and key. They are a clear referendum on the failed policies advocated by the

governor, legislative leaders, and the state superintendent of public instruction for years – not just during the pandemic. After shuttering schools for the better part of two years, student failure is on steroids.”

In spring of 2020, the first year of the pandemic, the state canceled its testing. In 2021, only one in four eligible students took the tests because not all students were back on campuses. In 2022, nearly all eligible students participated, making these results a key data point for understanding widespread pandemic-triggered learning loss in California.

There had been concern that the pandemic would completely undercut California’s efforts to close a persistent achievement gap among certain groups of students. The results show that all students and economically disadvantaged students dropped the same 4 percentage points in English language arts, although that leaves economically disadvantaged students lagging their peers, with just 35%

meeting standards. The rates for English learners and students with disabilities both dropped less than a single percentage point, from 12.8% to 12.5% and 16% to 15% respectively.

For math, rates for economically disadvantaged students actually dropped slightly less than the average drop for all students, falling 6 percentage points but still resulting in an abysmal 21% meeting standards. English learners went from 13% to 10%. Students with disabilities went from 13% to 11%.

When separated by grade level, third-grade students saw the largest drops in both subjects. In 2019, 48.5% of third graders met English language arts standards. Compare that to 42.2% in 2022, a 6.4 percentage-point decline. For math, the rate for third graders meeting standards dropped by 6.7 percentage points.

Megan Bacigalupi is the executive director of CA Parent Power, a parent advocacy group that rallied parents to fight for school reopenings earlier in the pandemic. She

said these scores aren’t just the reckoning for prolonged school closures but a wake-up call for parents. California’s test scores were always abysmal, and they couldn’t afford to sink any lower, she said.

“We’re not a state that’s performing well, so for kids to backslide ... We were never in a good place,” Bacigalupi said. “What I hope is eye-opening to parents is that, guess what, prior to all this, our kids weren’t doing that well.”

The Local Control Funding Formula gives additional money to school districts and charter schools for their English learners, foster children and students from low-income households. Districts with high percentages of students who fall into at least one of these student groups get an additional pot of money called a “concentration grant.”

The state’s funding model also gives districts more control over how they spend their money. Lance Christensen, who’s running against incumbent state superintendent Tony Thurmond, said the state needs to play an even smaller role.

“The state has done enough to destroy our kids’ education,” he said. “I think the state needs fewer education programs and more getting out of the way.”

But this surge of funding won’t last forever. And the recent increases to state education funding might not be enough to make up for the disappearance of the federal money.

Bacigalupi, the parent advocate, said there’s been little explanation to parents when it comes to how districts are spending this money. She said the lack of transparency has been an alarming trend throughout the pandemic, from the rationale behind prolonged school closures, to even the release of these test scores.

“It’s a pattern that parents are very aware of when it comes to public education,” Bacigalupi said. ★

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In 1980 Ken began to study law at night at UOP’s McGeorge School of Law. They believed it would help their future. Upon graduation, Ken was admitted to the practice of law in 1984. While the hard work of studying law did indeed reshape Ken’s career, it turned out his McGeorge connection would influence his approach to public service in a wholly unforeseeable way..

That influence came unexpectedly in the form of a very small envelope from the biggest court in America.



In 2003, US Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, (who had taught constitutional law at McGeorge) sent Ken a short note in anticipation of the day Ken would take his Rancho Cordova oath of office.

Justice Kennedy words were inspiring to the Cooley’s in 2003, coming as they did just before he began his public service. Re-reading them today, they still are. They express a remarkable clarity about both the privilege, and the inherent obligation, of life in a democracy which is profound. That clarity has centered Ken’s approach to public service for almost two decades:

“Congratulations to you and all of your colleagues for working to reinvigorate the principle of participatory democracy. Self-government must not be an abstract ideal, but must be a reality, and we must be unceasing in our efforts to make it more effective and more respected by our people.”

In striving to follow Justice Kennedy’s advice in the City of Rancho Cordova, Ken worked hard to turn the page on the city’s past of too much crime and neglect by the County. During 10 years on the City Council, he was Mayor twice. Although California has almost 500 cities, Ken quickly became known and respected for his skills and collegiality in the League of California Cities, and in just 4 years was advanced to its number two officer statewide.

In the Assembly the last ten years, Ken’s efforts to make government “more effective and respected by our people”, has earned him the respect and support of California’s Police Chiefs, Crime Victims United, and the California Small Business Association. They have supported him and his commonsense approach to lawmaking, which has included increasing law enforcement’s ability to do their work to keep our communities safe, protecting Prop 13, and by steadfast opposition to spending billions more on High Speed Rail.



Congratulations to you and all of your colleagues for working to reinvigorate the principle of participatory democracy. Self-government must not be an abstract ideal, but must be a reality, and we must be unceasing in our efforts to make it more effective and more respected by our people.

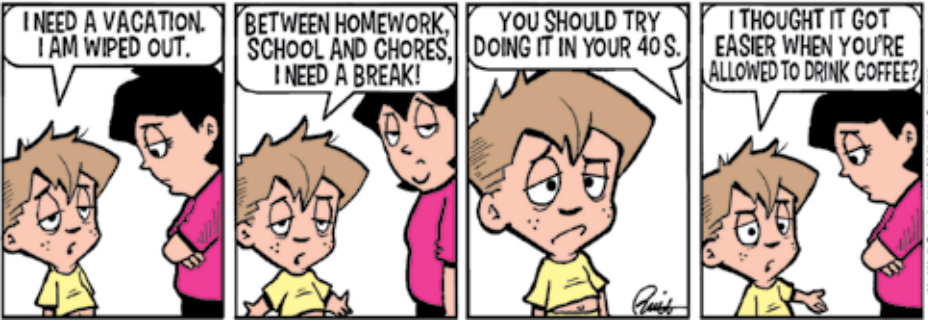


Read more at www.kencooley.com

Re-elect Assemblymember
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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



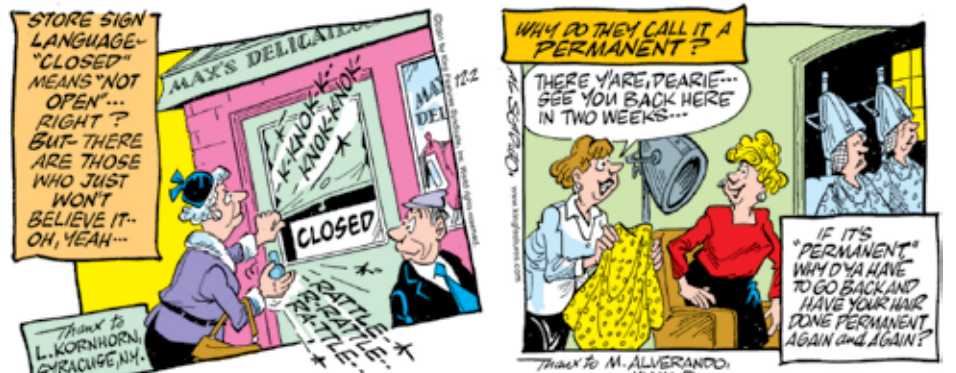
by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



GRIN and BEAR IT



LAFF-A-DAY

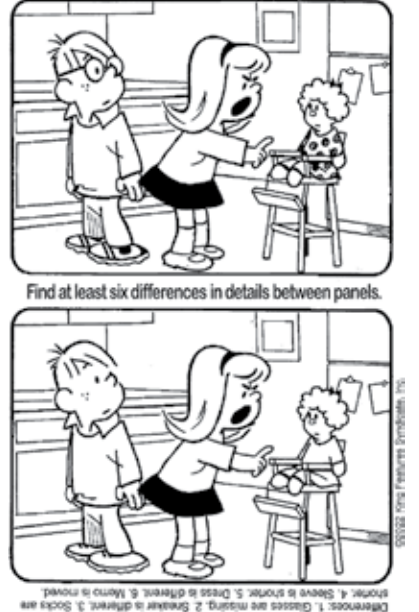


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by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS



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Hornets Thrill Homecoming Crowd in Win

Sac State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - For the second consecutive week, Sacramento State football left fans at Hornet Stadium on the edge of their seats before prevailing with a dramatic victory. On Saturday, Asher O'Hara spun over the goal line with 1:46 remaining and the defense got the stop it needed in the Hornets' 31-28 win over Idaho in front of 17,241 Homecoming fans.

The victory improved No. 2 Sacramento State to 8-0 overall and 5-0 in the Big Sky Conference. The No. 14 Vandals dropped to 5-3 overall and suffered their first conference loss (4-1).

After Idaho erased a 17-point deficit, Sacramento State got the ball back with just over six minutes to play, trailing 28-24. The Hornets turned to their ground game where quarterback Asher O'Hara and running backs Cameron Skattebo and Marcus Fulcher accounted for all 75 yards on the way to the game-winning touchdown. O'Hara had the first three runs during the drive to take the ball to the Vandal 45. Skattebo then had rushes of 5, 3 and 8 yards. O'Hara converted a 3rd-and-2 and after Fulcher rushed for 8 yards, O'Hara set up 1st-and-goal at the 8 with a 5-yard rush.

Skattebo received the carry on first down and was ankle tackled at the 2-yard line. The team turned back to the sophomore on second down, but he was met at the line of scrimmage. After Idaho used its final timeout, O'Hara kept it himself with a 360-degree spinning leap into the end zone for his 14th rushing touchdown of the game.

Idaho had 1:48 remaining with a chance to tie the contest with a field goal or win with a touchdown. The Vandals picked up 18 yards on first down with a pass from Gevani McCoy to Jermaine



Sacramento State senior quarterback Asher O'Hara dives into the end zone for the game-winning touchdown during a 31-28 win against No. 14 Idaho on Saturday, October 29 at Hornet Stadium in Sacramento. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

Jackson. Sacramento State stuffed a run for a 1-yard loss on the ensuing play and the second and third down passes landed incomplete. Facing 4th-and-11, McCoy was strip sacked by Armon Bailey and the ball was recovered by Ayodele Adeoye to secure the win.

Sacramento State finished the game with 299 rushing yards against an Idaho defense which had allowed only 78 rushing yards per game against FCS teams this season. Skattebo tallied 137 on 17 carries (7.9 ypc) to earn his fourth-straight 100-yard game and O'Hara added 129 yards. The team's passing game had its lowest output of the year, finishing 8-of-19 for 92 yards and two touchdowns with two interceptions.

Sacramento State jumped out to a quick lead, taking the

opening drive and marching 80 yards for a touchdown. The points came on a 31-yard strike from Jake Dunningway to Chris Miller for his first receiving score of the year. Those points were the only ones in the first quarter and the Hornets added to their advantage with a 26-yard field goal from Kyle Sentkowski early in the second period.

Idaho got on the board with a 16-yard rush from Elisha Cummings to cut the deficit to 10-7 but Sacramento State answered with a 13-play, 75-yard drive with 1:36 left in the half to take a 17-7 lead into halftime after a 7-yard run from Fulcher.

The Hornets tacked on seven points midway through the third quarter when O'Hara scrambled and then threaded an 8-yard pass to Pierre Williams in the back of

the end zone.

Idaho quickly erased the 17-point deficit with three unanswered touchdown passes all of which were caught by Hayden Hatten. The first came with 2:54 left in the third quarter on an 11-yard pass from McCoy. The Sacramento State defense recorded a huge third-down sack on the last play of the third quarter, but the offense turned it over on its first play of the fourth quarter.

The Vandals methodically drove 67 yards on 12 plays with Hatten catching a 4-yard pass in the middle of the end zone. Sacramento State started its next drive with a pass over the middle of the field that was juggled by the receiver and intercepted by Idaho. The team then needed just four plays to travel 45 yards and take the lead with an

over-the-shoulder pass from McCoy to Hatten.

McCoy completed 18-of-33 passes for 207 yards and three scores with Hatten leading all players with seven receptions for 113 yards and three scores. The Vandals used a balanced run game which pounded out 144 yards led by Anthony Woods and Cummings who each had 62.

Bailey matched his career high with nine tackles, including a career best three sacks. He became the first Hornet to have three sacks in a game since George Obinna had three at Idaho in 2017.

Sacramento State will next play at Weber State on Saturday, Nov. 5, at 12 p.m. PT. The Wildcats defeated Montana on Saturday and are now 7-1 overall and 4-1 in league games. ★

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