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Development Proposal Found Inconsistent



A confusing array of signs on the Kassis property proclaim no equestrians, no trespassing, and also designate the area as trail access. Photo by Shaunna Boyd

Story by Shaunna Boyd

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

- Trumark Homes has spent several years planning the development of the former Kassis property – 41 acres of undeveloped open space along the American River in Rancho Cordova. Their initial application was submitted in April 2019, proposing the development of 245 single-family homes. There was some opposition to the project because the property is beloved by many locals in the area, as public access easements traverse the site, and it provides habitat for



The lower basin provides important habitat for local wildlife along the American River. Photo by Mark Berry

various species of wildlife. Trumark withdrew its initial application, citing

“inaction” by the Planning Department of the City of Rancho Cordova. Rancho Cordova’s Communications and Public Affairs Director Maria Kniedstedt explained that City staff was “in the process of reviewing the technical studies and preparing the environmental document required by CEQA [California Environmental Quality Act]” when the application was withdrawn.

Trumark then submitted a new application – now proposing 441 homes on the site (of which 242

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FBI Warns of Charity Scams in Israel, HAMAS Conflict

FBI News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Sacramento Field Office is warning the public that criminals are soliciting donations during the Israel-HAMAS conflict. These charity scams victimize both well-meaning, local communities, and the vulnerable populations impacted by life-changing catastrophes.

Scams are especially prevalent during times of increased conflict such as war, natural disasters, or epidemics. Criminals often use these crises as opportunities to exploit individuals seeking to support humanitarian efforts. Perpetrators claim to be associated with established charities or creators of new charities associated with emergent conflicts.

Local communities may be targeted by individuals claiming to collect funds for victimized families while using the donations for their own personal gain or in support of domestic or international criminal enterprises.

Foreign terrorist organizations often establish fake charities using social media platforms to misdirect unwitting donors to subsidize their operations. Solicitations are then coordinated via social media posts, e-mail, cold calls, or crowdfunding website requests.

To avoid becoming a victim:

Approach all unsolicited communication including direct messages, calls, and e-mails with suspicion;

Visit the official website of a charitable entity directly to obtain contact information rather than clicking on links in e-mails or assuming the unsolicited call is from an official source;

Thoroughly research new charities online and verify phone numbers or e-mail addresses before donating. Be sure the named charity is not associated with scams and uses funds as they claim;

Ensure that you are using the official website of a well-known charity. Criminals may create look-alike, “spoofed” websites with URLs similar in appearance to those of known organizations;

Visit the Attorney General’s Charitable Registry Search tool to ensure a charity is registered in the State of California;

Visit the IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search to see if a charity donation to the

Continued on page 5

Retired Assemblyman Cooley Awarded at Council of State Governments West

Special Release
from Former
Assemblymember
Ken Cooley

LOS ANGELES, CA (MPG)

- On Monday, November 13th, The Council of State Governments West (CSG West) conferred its prestigious Bettye Fahrenkamp Award for Distinguished Legislative Leadership on behalf of Western States to retired California Assemblymember Ken Cooley.

The honor was bestowed amidst the first day’s proceedings as CSG West kicked off its 76th annual meeting in Los Angeles.

The annual Fahrenkamp Award presentation recognizes leaders whose legislative careers display an ability to see and work beyond the border of their own states in the interest of the West. The award honors Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp of Fairbanks, Alaska, who served with distinction in the Alaska State



Ken Cooley was bestowed the prestigious Bettye Fahrenkamp Award for Distinguished Legislative Leadership on Monday, November 13, at the Council of State Governments West 76th Annual Mtg in Los Angeles, Calif. In the image with him is the Presiding Officer at this year’s main sessions, California Assemblymember Mike Gipson of Carson, California, making the official presentation. Photo courtesy of CSGWest

Senate from 1979 until her untimely death in 1991.

During Ken’s time in the California Assembly, he was regularly active in CSG West and in 2015 was among the

“by-invitation-only” participants in its Western Legislative Academy. (The WLA is held annually at conference facilities in Colorado Springs, Co.)

This year’s Fahrenkamp

Award presentation highlighted Ken’s leadership role in Chairing, during 2019-2020, the inaugural Legislative Oversight Working Group at CSG West. In December 2020, the working group published for use by the CSG West member states a first-ever Western Legislative Oversight Handbook. (The western states making up CSG “West” are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.)

Ken is often quoted to the effect “effective oversight is the most vital superpower the Legislature must exercise on a bicameral and bipartisan basis to fulfill its “People’s House” duty.” He believes legislative bodies must be the eyes and ears of the public they represent to perform their “check and balance” role ensuring executive

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Kassis Property Found Inconsistent with City Standards

Continued from page 1
would be designated as low-income housing): “The Kassis property’s location near the river, regional recreation, and light rail direct to downtown Sacramento, makes the site ideal for new home construction, bringing new families to an area that needs retail and community support.”

The new formal application was submitted under the protections of Senate Bill (SB) 330 – State legislation that attempts to address the lack of affordable housing by mandating a streamlined review process for new housing. SB 330 restricts local governments from downzoning properties and from attempting to apply subjective design standards when considering new projects.

Trumark also asserted that because the site was zoned to meet the City’s low-income housing obligations under the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) as determined by the State, their application must be allowed “by right.” Under that provision, Trumark proposed that while design review could still be required, the City could not require discretionary approval for the project under CEQA.

Trumark’s application package was deemed complete on August 25, 2023, which triggered an accelerated 60-day timeline for the City of Rancho Cordova to review the project and determine if it complies with the City’s adopted objective standards.

While the City was conducting their review, a group of concerned homeowners adjacent to the site, Tiffany Farms Homeowners’ Association, hired the law firm Soluri Meserve to assess the project proposal. Attorney Patrick M. Soluri submitted a letter on their behalf, outlining various instances of inconsistencies between the proposal and the City’s codes and standards.

Specifically, and most glaringly, Soluri wrote, “The Project



The 20-acre lower basin of the Kassis property is within the 100-year floodplain, and fishermen use the public easements to access the river. Photo by Shauna Boyd

is inconsistent with the City’s General Plan by constructing homes in a floodway and 100-year floodplain.” The Trumark proposal acknowledges that the lower terrace of the site, closest to the American River, is within the 100-year floodplain, and they propose to use infill to raise the ground level, removing that section of property from the floodway. But Soluri contends first that the General Plan specifies that the City shall “preclude development within the 100-year floodplain,” and further that the City will “discourage the use of fill to create buildable area within the 100-year floodplain, except in extreme circumstances consistent with all other applicable policies and regulations, and after review to determine potential impacts on wildlife, habitat, and flooding on other parcels.” Soluri states that any such “‘extreme circumstances’ are not met by the Project.”

In the City’s Review, released on October 24, Senior Planner

Arlene Granadosin-Jones wrote that Trumark’s assertion that their proposal should be processed by right was “incorrect,” as Trumark was attempting to apply legal provisions for which the site was not eligible. “The City will process your application in accordance with the requirements of the Rancho Cordova Municipal Code, SB 330, and the Housing Accountability Act. As part of that process, the application is required to undergo complete and thorough environmental review as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA),” wrote Granadosin-Jones.

The Review concluded that Trumark’s proposal was inconsistent and not in compliance with many standards and policies of the City of Rancho Cordova. In particular, the Review found Trumark’s proposal to be inconsistent with adopted General Plan policies because part of the site is located within the 100-year

floodplain, where development is precluded by the City and infill use is discouraged.

The Review also found that the project is not consistent with the City’s objective zoning, development, and design standards – citing 40 different issues with parking allowances, bicycle facilities, outdoor lighting, walls and fencing, pedestrian pathways, seating, various landscaping guidelines, etc. Further issues were identified in the proposal’s street standards, bicycle standards, drainage requirements, and traffic standards – all of which were not consistent with the City’s objective design standards.

The Kassis site is located within Erosion Zone 4 of the Parkway Overlay Zone, and the City’s Review found that the proposal did not meet various building requirements that would ensure erosion risks are mitigated. The proposal was also inconsistent with the City’s

requirements for the preservation and protection of trees, because the proposal did not include an updated arborist report or meet the necessary tree replacement guidelines. The project would require a conditional use permit from the City, for which Trumark has not applied. And finally, the project did not comply with the City’s parkland dedication requirement for new developments.

Trumark still has the option of modifying their proposal to bring it into compliance with the City’s applicable standards, as specified in their Review. Then the City would again have 60 days to review a modified application. If the proposal were deemed consistent, the CEQA review is still required to determine the project’s environmental impacts; as Granadosin-Jones wrote in the Review, “Complete environmental review is necessary before the City will make a decision regarding the project.” ★

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Local United Way Takes on Sacramento Housing Crisis

Kristin Thébaud Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - United Way California Capital Region is now directly addressing Sacramento's housing crisis with the formation of its new Community Support Services department that will include housing navigation services through the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal program (CalAIM) for people on Medi-Cal who are unhoused or at risk of losing housing.

"Our local United Way has always focused on our community's biggest needs, and currently the housing predicament we are in is so great that we know we have to do our part to help those impacted by rising rent costs and increased risks of being unhoused," said Dr. Dawnté Early, President and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. "We are investing in our families and utilizing this program as another tool in our box, ensuring those who are unhoused, or at risk of being unhoused, and on Medi-Cal, can get the help and resources they need to find or maintain housing."

United Way's housing navigation program works with local individuals and families currently unhoused or at risk of being unhoused to help them find housing, receive deposit assistance and sustain their housing. Through referrals, the program's housing navigator works with each eligible client to identify barriers and housing needs,

find housing options, assist in the application process, and obtain assistance for move-in costs such as security deposits, first and last month's rent, utility deposits and medically necessary aids. Once suitable housing is determined, United Way works with newly housed clients to identify the root causes of them being unhoused or at risk of being unhoused, and then addresses their needs and goals to maintain stable housing, including health care, education, substance use treatment, financial literacy or counseling services.

"United Way is proud to enter this important space helping Sacramento residents embark on a path of sustainable housing," Early said. "We understand that to eliminate poverty, education is key to building a stronger, healthier and more compassionate Capital Region. For kids to excel in school, they cannot be worried about where they are going to sleep at night. That's why this investment in local families is important both in the fight to end this housing crisis and to build future opportunities for children to break the cycle of poverty."

Housing navigation program participants must live in Sacramento County, be unhoused or at risk of losing housing, and be a Medi-Cal member with Health Net, Molina Healthcare or Anthem Blue Cross. For more information or to make a referral, visit <https://www.yourlocalunitedway.org/our-work/invest-in-families/housing-navigation/>.

Sheriff Jim Cooper's Open Letter Regarding Retail Theft and the CRA



Sheriff Jim Cooper

Dear Constituents,

The California Retailers Association (CRA) has made several misleading and inconsistent statements regarding a pending ballot initiative to address California's retail theft crisis.

CLAIM: On August 22, 2023, the CRA president, joined prosecutors in filing a ballot measure to address retail theft. Details of the proposed ballot measure can be found at

<https://www.action.goldenstatecommunities.com/pages/prop47>

The CRA president was an officer of the committee supporting the ballot measure and has repeatedly stated her support for this initiative. As recently as November 10, 2023, she told local media that she has been working "so hard" to fix Proposition 47 and put this initiative on the ballot.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRcilB5JLsQ>

watch?v=SRcilB5JLsQ

FACT: In direct contradiction of this claim, in a November 15th Sacramento Bee article, the CRA president stated, "passing a ballot initiative isn't the solution," suggesting that the crisis can be cured by simply making retail theft misdemeanors subject to a mandatory appearance in court.

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/crime/article281796698.html>

Anyone with experience in this realm should know that a misdemeanor approach will solve nothing. Existing law already requires individuals to appear in court when cited or arrested for misdemeanor crimes. In fact, thousands of individuals in jurisdictions across California fail to appear on misdemeanor crimes following the issuance of a citation, arrest, or even court order. In Sacramento County alone, we have over 33,000 outstanding misdemeanor warrants. The volume of misdemeanor warrants issued for those who fail to appear is enormous and already unmanageable for law enforcement.

As a result of Proposition 47 ("Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act"), individuals

who repeatedly commit theft and drug crimes suffer no consequences. People with drug and mental health issues, therefore, have no incentive to get treatment. Proposition 47 clearly states that any effort to increase penalties related to theft or drug crimes requires voter approval.

https://repository.uclawsf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2328&context=ca_ballot_props

Per Proposition 47, the legislature has no power to make any meaningful change to address the retail theft crisis California faces. Given the extraordinary losses suffered by the retail industry and the significant impact it has on the consumer, I express my deepest concerns about California Retail Association President Rachel Michelin's willingness to misrepresent to the public the facts on these critical matters.

While I still have my reservations because of their past history, I am hopeful we can find some common ground with the big box retailers and work together to resolve the crisis of retail theft.

Jim Cooper
Sacramento County Sheriff

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smud.org/DriveElectric



Mary Lynn Perry of DOVIA Recognized for Exemplary Leadership

DOVIA News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Mary Lynn Perry, Chair of the Board of Directors at Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA), Sacramento has received national recognition for exemplary leadership in volunteer engagement. Ms. Perry earned the Impact Award, presented in October of 2023 by the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement (AL!VE) in the Exemplary Leader category, for their efforts to provide quality volunteer engagement programs, a willingness to network, mentor or collaborate with their peers, advocate for the profession, and involvement at the national and local level with volunteer engagement professionals. Because of Ms. Perry's efforts, all volunteer engagement professionals and the programs and communities they serve are all enhanced and supported to provide a robust, engaging, and meaningful volunteer experience.

AL!VE Board President Michelle Raymer, CVA is excited about presenting the award to three recipients in two different categories. "This is our fourth year presenting these awards and the selection committee had many nominees of committed and talented volunteer engagement



Mary Lynn Perry, Chair of the Board of Directors at Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA). Photo courtesy of DOVIA

professionals nationwide."

AL!VE will provide a cash award to Ms. Perry that she may use for professional development expenses, such as continuing education, books, resources, or pursuing the Certified Volunteer Administrator credential (CVA), an international professional credential for those who manage volunteers and/or programs.

AL!VE is the national professional association for those who manage or lead volunteer engagement programs. The leadership organization seeks to enhance and sustain the spirit of volunteering by fostering collaboration and networking, promoting professional development, and providing advocacy for leaders in community engagement. For more information, visit, www.volunteeralive.org.

To view the 2023 AL!VE Impact Award recipients, visit, https://www.volunteeralive.org/alve_impact_awards_sponsor.php

Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA), Sacramento provides a forum for exchange of information on relevant issues for professional volunteer managers and leaders of volunteers. Through collaborative efforts, DOVIA Sacramento is committed to promoting service and emphasizing professional growth and development of the volunteer administration profession. Since 1978, DOVIA Sacramento has served to broaden community awareness of volunteerism by furthering communication among DOVIA, its member agencies and institutions, and the general public. ★



What Does Christmas Really Mean?

What does Christmas mean to you? I know its holiday festivities and yummy treats, presents galore and parties to the MAX. And it meant that to me for decades until the pandemic hit big time in 2020. This year especially because so much can change in a blink of an eye to make us see life and celebration so differently. We still do Christmas cards...incredible huh...because I still think a card that arrives via mail and not an email or text has so much more meaning with that little message that you actually took time to write yourself, and not just the generic saying in the card. It can really give life to the holiday. We'll still have some goodies to go with the phone calls and expressions of love to family and friends, but for me, it has really made a big change in my life. I have not shared this with you, but now it seems the right time. You see my husband Rick of nearly 53 years married was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer in March of 2020 just before the pandemic became a reality for us all. It was a shock, but we held out hope for all this time with clinical trials and new drugs etc. but now we really don't know what is going to happen. You see he is now in hospice at home. He decided after so many hospital stays that home is where he wanted to be. Don't get me wrong Sacramento Hospice has been great. They are caring and give all the comfort that they can with nurses, health

aides, social workers, even a chaplain for comfort and more.

But now is the time that we have left to look back at the wonderful experiences we had together with cruises, family get-togethers (very small family) all the events we attended over the years from theatre to concerts to, well, you name it. But the best part of it was being together. And that includes the special times I have had over some 48 years in radio and television. Rick and I have enjoyed so many great celebrities all the way back to Rock Hudson, Marian Ross of Happy Days fame) and so many more I can mention from movies to television, even some political. And Rick was always my rock. He was cameraman for many of my TV shows and was behind the camera on locations. Always wanted him on my camera. Why? Because he always made me look good. And he was always there for me through good times and bad. Together we made it through thick and thin. So now comes the challenge in the commitment we made on that sacred day so many years ago...in sickness and in health.

Why do I share this journey with you? Because I urge you to cherish every single day with the one you love. You never know when the good Lord will make the call. Please keep us in your prayers and have a BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL AND TO ALL GOOD CHEER!!! ★

SacRT Unveils 2023 Holiday Bus



The 2023 Holiday Bus commemorating 50 years of SacRT service. Photo courtesy of SacRT

SacRT News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - It is a festive milestone as the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) proudly unveils the 2023 Holiday Bus. The 40-foot holiday-themed bus celebrates SacRT's 50 years of service and is aimed to bring the spirit of the holiday season to riders throughout the Sacramento region. From Friday, December 1, 2023, to

Tuesday, January 2, 2024, the SacRT Holiday Bus will traverse a different route each day.

Adding to the excitement, the SacRT Holiday Bus will be featured in the Santa Parade in downtown Sacramento on Saturday, December 9.

To plan your holiday ride and catch a glimpse of the SacRT Holiday Bus in action, visit sacrt.com/holidaybus for the complete schedule. ★

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Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Desire



How badly do you want to see your aspirations turn into reality? Do you have a burning desire or just casual thoughts of “that would be nice if it happens”? Whether you reach your goals or not depends on the intensity of your desire.

If you really want something, you have to go out and make it happen. Taking a passive approach by waiting for your ship to come in doesn't work. Transforming dreams into reality requires a burning desire. Then you have to be willing to expend the necessary effort.

Desire is the fuel that powers your engine of accomplishment. Without fuel, the most powerful racing engine won't even start. Without enough fuel, an engine won't take you to your destination. If you attempt to increase the quantity of fuel by watering it down, your engine will stop running. Both the quality and quantity of your fuel are important.

Just as you have to continuously refuel your car to maintain your ability to travel, your desire must be continuously fanned to keep it burning. Negativity will sap your desire. Negativity can come from within you or from others. What matters is not the source, but rather whether or not you pay attention to it.

If you believe something is impossible, you will not attempt it. Your desire will rapidly fade as you dismiss your dreams as unattainable. However, if you sincerely believe there is a way, you will find it. You will need persistence, patience, perseverance, and determination. Desire gives you the strength to overcome obstacles.

Discouragement has the potential to extinguish your desire. When results don't materialize soon enough, or the results are not as substantial as hoped for, it's normal for you to feel frustrated. If your desire abates, you may even consider giving up. Only when you stop trying do you fail.

When you feel discouraged, fan

your desire by visualizing success. Imagine yourself as having reached your destination. Think about how you will feel when you are successful. Keep yourself moving forward. Don't sit and worry. Maintain your momentum by taking one step at a time.

Ridicule can smother your desire. The derision of others has caused far too many people to abandon their plans. The need for acceptance is an extremely strong emotion. You need a strong belief in your quest. It doesn't matter if you are laughed at. What is critical is that you don't pay attention to ridicule.

Your physical condition improves with regular exercise. Your desire is strengthened in the same manner; through consistent mental conditioning. Each morning, review your goals in your mind. Imagine how you will feel once they are attained. Reaffirm your ability to succeed along with your willingness to do what is needed.

There is no magic formula for success. A strong desire motivates you into action. Hope is not the same as desire. Hope is passive while desire is active. Someone with a burning desire is unstoppable. Their desire creates such strong determination that they go over, under, around, or through all roadblocks.

A burning desire is wanting something so badly you can taste it. When you have a strong desire you are constantly thinking about ways to reach your goals. You may even be obsessed by attaining your dreams.

A lack of desire is the most common cause of abandoned dreams. If you don't want something, you won't get it. Where there's a will, there is a way. A burning desire will give you an edge in your quest for success.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. ©2023 Bryan Golden ★

Sac County Health Center Earns Three Quality Awards

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Health Center is now proudly displaying three Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Community Health Quality Badges, exemplifying the strong dedication of our Primary Health Services team to providing exceptional healthcare for our community. These awards from HRSA recognize the County's commitment to delivering high-quality healthcare, prioritizing patient-centered services, and continuously striving for improvement. They serve as acknowledgement of the collective efforts and dedication of our entire team in ensuring that our patients receive the highest standard of care. Over the last year, we have made significant progress in enhancing accessibility, refining operations, and elevating the quality of our healthcare services, these awards are the results of the tirelessly hard work of the Primary Health Services team.

"I couldn't be more proud of our team and their relentless dedication to providing exceptional healthcare services to our community," says Tim Lutz, Health Services Director. "Receiving three HRSA Community Health Quality Badges is a testament to the hard work and commitment of every staff member, provider, partner, and volunteer. It is a recognition of the outstanding care they provide to our patients each day."

The HRSA Community Health Quality Badges represent a significant milestone in the Health Center's journey towards excellence in healthcare. It underscores Health Service's ongoing commitment to improving healthcare outcomes, reducing health

disparities, and serving the community with the highest standards of care. CHQR badges recognize Health Center Program awardees that have made notable achievements in the areas of access, quality, health equity, health information technology, social risk factors screening, and COVID-19 public health emergency response. For more information on CHQR badges, visit the CHQR Overview page and the CHQR FAQ page.

This achievement is a collective effort, a result of the steadfast work of every individual involved in the Health Center's operations. The awards are not just a recognition but a reminder of the responsibility the Health Center holds towards the community. It is a call to continue the mission to provide top-notch healthcare services, promote community health, and ensure that everyone has access to the care they deserve.

The Sacramento County Health Center is a County operated Federally Qualified Health Center that provides primary care and behavioral health services to low-income residents of Sacramento County. Services provided at the health center include: adult primary care, family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatric primary care, preventative health care, psychiatry and mental health counseling, specialty care, chronic disease management, communicable disease screening, on-site laboratory and radiology, and assistance with obtaining health care coverage.

With these three HRSA Community Health Quality Badges proudly displayed, the Sacramento County Health Center looks forward to a future of continued growth, improved services, and even greater achievements in providing exceptional healthcare to the community. ★

Sacramento Kings and SMF Announce Historic Partnership

Sacramento County Department of Airports News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Kings and Sacramento International Airport (SMF) announced a groundbreaking partnership, marking one of the first formal partnerships between a U.S. airport and an NBA franchise. Over the next three seasons, SMF will serve as the official airport partner of the Sacramento Kings.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Sacramento International Airport and provide fans and travelers exclusive touch points to the Kings," said Sacramento Kings President of Business Operations John Rinehart. "Through unique co-branded experiences, we will magnify what it means to be Sacramento Proud while creating impactful moments for all who travel to and from the airport."

"SMF has proudly served as the departure point for Kings road games for many years, so this partnership represents an evolution for our respective teams," said Sacramento County Department of Airports Director Cindy Nichol. "This collaboration provides us an opportunity to work with one of the most creative marketing teams in the NBA."

This partnership holds importance for the Sacramento community as it represents a fusion of two influential entities dedicated to enhancing the local experience. The historic collaboration opens doors to innovative initiatives that will directly benefit the local

population, allowing them to engage with their favorite basketball team in unique and exciting ways including opportunities to win exclusive Kings prizes, interact with Kings personalities at select events at the airport and view franchise memorabilia. From exciting game-day activations to social media content and community-driven programs, this partnership aims to generate lasting memories for fans while fostering a strong sense of unity and pride among Sacramento residents.

Beyond the local impact, this collaboration also marks a significant milestone in the realm of sports partnerships in California showcasing the innovative spirit of both SMF and the Sacramento Kings. By pioneering this unique partnership, SMF and the Kings are not only breaking new ground in the state but also inspiring other organizations to explore unconventional collaborations that can enrich communities and create memorable experiences for fans.

As this partnership unfolds over the next three seasons, SMF and the Sacramento Kings are committed to delivering unparalleled experiences, both within the airport premises, Golden 1 Center and throughout the Sacramento region. Together, they are set to redefine the way communities interact with sports and travel, setting a new standard for partnerships that prioritize community engagement, creativity, and shared enthusiasm. Sacramento can look forward to a bright future, filled with exciting events, innovative initiatives, and a sense of camaraderie. ★

FBI Warns of Charity Scams in Israel, HAMAS Conflict

Continued from page 1

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Retired Assemblyman Cooley Awarded at Council of State Governments West

Continued from page 1

branch accountability. To this end, in 2014 he led the creation of a California Assembly Oversight Handbook which is now online.

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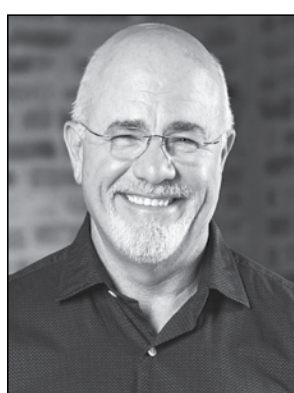
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Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show." He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has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

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21. *Coming, in Latin
23. ___ easter
24. "Begone!"
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28. Fur-dwelling parasites
30. Lacrosse stick
35. Kiln for hops
37. Feline vibration
39. Little Richard's "___ Frutti"
40. Cream-filled treat
41. *Number of candles in kinara
43. Mountain goat terrain
44. *Prancing and pawing of each little hoof," e.g.
46. Carpenter's joint
47. Drug-induced state
48. Make lovable
50. "Cheers" regular
52. *Max to #57 Across
53. Overwhelming defeat
55. Thailand native
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60. *Santa chute
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11. 90 degrees, on compass
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15. Romp around
20. Key ___ on a movie set, pl.
22. Med school grad
24. Passepartout to Phileas Fogg
25. *Popular traditional holiday entree
26. Home run hero
27. Impostor
29. Prompted
31. "That hurts!"
32. Vegas' main drag
33. Coach-and-four
34. *Number of days in Hanukkah
36. Muscle quality
38. Word processor command
42. *Like Santa's pole
45. Repaired, as in socks
49. Mythical giant bird
51. Unmarried woman, archaic
54. Affirmative interjection
56. What timidest and poly-imide have in common
57. Clarified butter
58. Theater seat arrangement
59. Wraths
60. Burn to a crisp
61. "___ your chance..." contraction
62. Make changes
63. Yearnings
64. "Be quiet!"
66. Don't waste

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Roller Derby Community has Bright Future Ahead

By Tamara Warta

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - While speaking with Amanda Dunham and Christina Watts from Sacramento Roller Derby, one theme was consistent throughout the entire conversation – Roller Derby isn't just a sport – it is a family with so many positives for Sacramento youth and women.

The two skaters, who always go by their derby names LOLZ Lemon and Jessamine Killawatts at the rink, are passionate about roller derby in a way that is so contagious it compels the listener to want to strap on some skates and give it a go.

Now, Sacramento Roller Derby is gliding towards a new era of excellence – rebuilding its teams post-COVID, and looking forward to their future home facility.

Sacramento Roller Derby was founded in 2018 as the result of two different leagues merging after skating as separate entities for over ten years. The leagues realized that they were better together both functionally and financially, and united to form the current team. The current league welcomes over 100 participants, of which approximately 50 are adults and the rest children and various officials including referees.

The group currently uses the Andy Morin Sports Complex in Folsom for their practices, but there are big dreams ahead.

"We have a facility in downtown Sacramento that we are working on," says Dunham. "We purchased it with a donation someone made to us."

That donation was no small gift – the donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, gifted the group up to \$2 million to build their facility. The excitement and relief of finding a permanent home was evident from both women.

"It's been a struggle – Sacramento doesn't have a lot



Roller derby players become family at Sacramento Roller Derby games and practices. Photo by Liz Marchiondo

of affordable facilities. The landscape of Sacramento has changed – the town is so much larger and venues we have rented in the past have quadrupled their prices," said Dunham.

The new rink will be located near the Blue Diamond almond factory.

Both the generous donation and influx of new participants post-COVID are two examples of how the Sacramento community is embracing a sport that once had a reputation in popular media for being aggressive and less than ladylike. Today, roller derby carries a reputation of strength, togetherness, and courage for many.

Watts, who is a board member for the team, recently lost her husband and found support within the derby community.

"The whole derby community helped me to find a new normalcy," says Watts. "Everybody

has been really positive and will check up on me. Everybody in the community binds together to help people in a time of need."

Dunham seconds the fact that roller derby isn't just about the game. "That's the most rewarding thing – the growth and the community that supports that growth. A lot of people come to roller derby during a hard time in life. They know the community of roller derby will be there."

Sacramento Roller Derby has no paid employees and finances are always a challenge. A lot of the players within the league are also the ones running the entire show.

"There are challenges on and off the track when you play roller derby," explains Dunham. "We have both the typical athlete struggles plus business struggles. Most recreational sports don't have both. For us, it's really serious – it is comparable to minor

league sports. But there's the added pressure of running it. Most sports have administrative oversight – that's not us. We are off the track running the game and then we put on our skates and play the game. You're always doing two things at the same time."

But is it worth it? Dunham absolutely believes it is.

"It makes you grow in ways you never thought you could. In myself I've grown a lot in confidence."

She also mentions that derby skaters not only grow in what their bodies are capable of, but also personally and professionally. Confidence found in roller derby can lead to the courage for everything from pursuing job promotions to leaving harmful relationships.

Also notable is Sacramento Roller Derby's junior program. Children as young as eight years

old can join the team. "The kids find their own way there," says Dunham when asked how they recruit children to the program. Current league kids share with friends via word-of-mouth, and the league's numbers have also benefited from a popular graphic novel featuring a roller derby girl.

However, the junior program is hardly new. "We've had a juniors program for as long as Sac Roller Derby has been around."

Safety comes first, and just like the adults, junior skaters wear helmets, mouth guards and pads. And they aren't afraid to completely wipe out and try again.

"The kids are super resilient and dedicated," says Dunham. "They are just like Gumby and fall in weird ways that make my heart stop and then get up and skate away."

"They are all amazing," adds Watts. "They are always striving to do better."

Perhaps that's the true magic of roller derby. Beyond the sport itself, skaters are inspired to do better both on and off the rink.

Those who would like to watch a game can head out to the Andy Morin Sports Complex on December 2 for the Red Red Tournament – a chance to see not only Sacramento Roller Derby but other leagues play on mixed teams. Or, take things a step further and consider trying out for the league next spring. Anyone can try out, and skating experience isn't necessary. The tryouts include everything from skating lessons to teaching the rules of the game. The junior program is for boys and girls aged eight through seniors in high school. Females aged 18+ make up the main league.

Sacramento Roller Derby is located at the Andy Morin Sports Complex on 66 Clarksville Rd, Folsom, Calif.

For more information call (916) 461 6650 or visit sacramentorollerderby.com. ★

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Safal Raw Wildflower Honey Comb 400 gr REG. \$12.99 \$9.99	Goodwill Premium Backsheet 15 kg REG. \$9.99 \$6.99	Moussyrady Kava Classic 2 liters REG. \$7.99 \$2.79	Bonnamy Biscuits 150 gr REG. \$5.99 \$4.99	Rojstchev Condensed Milk 8.5% 380 gr REG. \$3.69 \$2.99
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Korean Pancake Frying Mix 1 kg \$2.49	Organic Chestnut 500 g \$4.99	Onion Ramen 4 x 110 g \$2.99	Wang Red Pepper Powder 16 oz \$3.99	S & B Golden Curry 4 kinds 220 g \$3.99	Handal Soup Stock 2.2 liter \$17.99	Kudaya Roasted Sesame Oil 56 oz \$15.99

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Pork Neck Bones (Huesos de cuello de Cerdo) \$1.99/lb	Boneless Pork Loin Chops (Chuletón de Cerdo sin Hueso) \$2.99/lb	

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Kimchi Pancake 10.58 oz REG. \$5.99/ea \$3.99/ea	Columbus Pan Roasted Turkey Breast \$11.99	Olive Medley \$4.99	Hot Pined Green Olives \$4.39
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